

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK
30 APRIL 2017



An open community united in love and justice

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

“Ubuntu is the essence of being human.

It speaks of how my humanity is caught up and bound up inextricably with yours.
It says, not as Descartes did, ‘I think, therefore I am’ but rather ‘I am because I belong.’

We are created for a delicate network of relationships, of interdependence
with our fellow human beings.”

- Archbishop Desmond Tutu

*Please stand in body or spirit. Please silence cell phones.

GATHERING MUSIC

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
Aria

Paul Manz

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Please sign and pass the red pew pad.

Britt Cox

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Lydia Mulkey

God who is One, You call us to be one,

May we be one with all who are made in Your image.

God who is Three, You call us to be community,

May we find community with all who are called by Your name.

God who calls us all by Your name,

May we find our place in Your eternal family.

* HYMN 84

This Is the Day

THIS IS THE DAY

black hymnal

CALL TO CONFESSION

Lydia Mulkey

We do not stop enough to listen to the still-speaking God. And like the people of Jerusalem long ago, we often misunderstand the Spirit’s movement among us. In this moment, let us draw near to God and listen while we also pray aloud together:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We confess to you, Renewing Spirit, that we confuse unity with uniformity, and diversity with divisiveness.

We speak and behave as if being a part of your family means assimilating others to our way of living.

We deny and destroy the beauty you created in each person.

We long to change these patterns, O Creator, but we do not know how.

Teach us to value challenge. Help us to see strength in difference. And empower us to build your kingdom in creativity and love.

SILENCE IS KEPT.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news! God's Spirit has been poured out upon all flesh, and we have been made one. **We are no longer scattered or divided, but gathered together to build up the kingdom on this earth. Thanks be to God!**

*PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

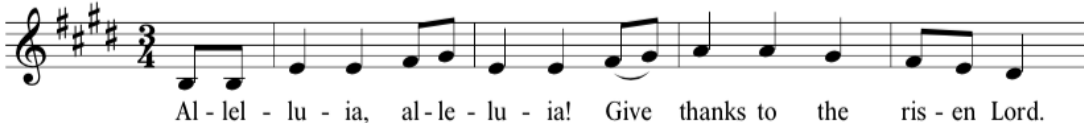
TIME FOR SHARING

John Cole

SONG OF ILLUMINATION *Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks to the Risen Lord*

ALLELUIA NO. 1

Refrain



Verse



READING

Psalm 133

John Cole

Behold, how good and pleasant it is
when brothers and sisters
dwell in unity.

It is like vistas seen from
atop a mountain one has climbed...
after a long day's work.

Or like the stillness of a sunset
It is like a shimmering rainbow,
breaking through a summer rain.
When men and women dwell in harmony,
the star of Truth appears.
May it be so.

READING

Acts 2:42-47 (NT p. 120)

SERMON

Koinonia Community

Britt Cox

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* HYMN 311

Renew Your Church

ALL IS WELL

black hymnal

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Britt Cox

Offerings are a sacred act of worship. We invite you to use the green giving cards in the pew rack to celebrate what you've already given or to make an additional donation.

OFFERTORY

Finale, *Chichester Psalms*

Leonard Bernstein

Let Israel hope in the Lord from henceforth and forever. (Ps. 131, v.3)

Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. (Ps. 133, v.1)

*DOXOLOGY

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Christ, all people here below. Alleluia, alleluia.

Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God whom we adore.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lydia Mulkey

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

GOING FORTH IN DEDICATION AND SERVICE

* HYMN 391

In the Midst of New Dimensions

NEW DIMENSIONS

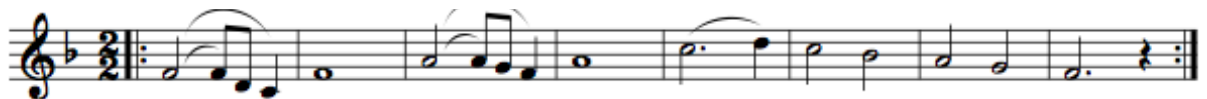
black hymnal

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Amen, Amen

African-American Spiritual



A - men, a - men, a - men, a - men, a - men!

SENDING MUSIC

Prelude in Classic Style

Gordon Young

TODAY AT FIRST UNITED

BULLETIN ARTWORK is by Geoff McPetridge.

LAST CHANCE! MAKE A FLOWER POWER DONATION IN THE LOUNGE TODAY; suggested tax-deductible amount is \$10-\$15. The Sunday School classes will plant the pots for tots next Sunday, May 7. Additionally, this year they will assemble welcome baskets containing basic supplies with things like soap, paper towels, toilet paper and toothpaste. The baskets will be presented to new clients as they enter this life-changing program.



PLEASE RECYCLE your bulletin in one of the bins near the Sanctuary exits.

JOIN THE DEACONS for prayer and anointing in the chapel following Worship.

HEARING AMPLIFICATION DEVICES--INCLUDING T-COIL CABLES, LARGE PRINT BULLETINS, BIBLES AND HYMNALS are available for use during worship. Please talk to a greeter to obtain these items and return the amplification device to the greeter. Large print bibles and hymnals should be returned to the table behind the middle pews.

EVENTS AND UPDATES

NEXT WEEK IN ADULT ED

Have you ever wanted to learn about the spiritual practice of walking the labyrinth? Ellen Bintz Meuch, a certified facilitator with the labyrinth organization Veriditas, will join us. Ellen has helped people all over the world get labyrinths into jails and prisons. We will meet outside at the labyrinth, weather permitting. Seating will be available.

GOSPEL CONCERT TO STOP GUN VIOLENCE!

Featuring Dexter Walker & Zion Movement

Saturday, May 6, 2017, 7 p.m. at First United

A free-will offering will support BUILD Chicago in the Austin neighborhood. Challenged by the tragic violence in our neighborhoods, BUILD accomplishes its mission to build lives and futures through violence interruption/prevention, youth development, and coalition building.

Come, enjoy and invite your friends!

Our Faith in Action justice team, "WAGING PEACE - Working together to stop gun violence," extends this invitation.

MAY 5-6: FUSH will be having their End-of-Year Lock-In to plan for Youth Sunday and celebrate this last lock-in for the seniors!

DINNERS-FOR-EIGHT IS OUR ALL-TIME FAVORITE PRIMETIME GATHERING!

Folks 60-plus are invited to gather in a host home for a memorable dinner. Four dinners will be held on May 13 and two dinners will be held on May 20 from 6- 9 p.m. This is a shared dinner with guests contributing to the meal. The reservation deadline for both dinners is Friday, May 5. Your quick response is important since seating is limited. Please join us for this special evening that will enhance your appreciation for the people who make this such a wonderful church.

Reservations: annahadowski@gmail.com Questions: marciaashton@msn.com

DINNER AND A MOVIE: *RADICAL GRACE*

Friday, May 5

Living according to the Word of God but balking at some of the Catholic Church's age-old positions, a trio of nuns risks running afoul of the Vatican with their pursuit of social justice while refusing to capitulate. Dinner at 6 p.m. (\$5 donation) movie (free) at 6:30. Call Nancy Pennington 708.386.9195.

COUNCIL, DEACONS AND NOMINATING COMMITTEE CANDIDATES

The following First United members are nominated for Church Council, Deacons and the Nominating Committee at the Annual Elections Meeting to be held May 7, 2017.

For Council: Adam Alonso, Gene Armstrong, Melinda Haag, Janet Haisman, Cate Readling

For Youth Members of Council: Matt Aeschelman, Lily Alter

For two year terms on Nominating: Patricia Feeley, Sue Saliny, Betsy Samore, Brian Shamhart, Art Spooner, Tom Wolford

For Deacons: Rose Buckner, Clara Kearley

BUYING BOOKS FROM MAGIC TREE HELPS CLUSTER TUTORING!

Why not shop for great children's books at the Magic Tree Bookstore, 141 N. Oak Park Ave., to benefit Cluster Tutoring? Magic Tree will donate 20% of books' costs to Cluster if you shop on May 6 and 7 and show them a flyer, available at both sanctuary entrances.

SALZBURG: *THE SOUND OF MUSIC* CITY, PRESENTED BY EVENING DIVISION

Lecturer Al Popowits' multimedia presentation takes us to Hohensalzburg, largest preserved fortress in central Europe; St. Peterskeller, oldest wine bar in the world; palaces and filming locations for *The Sound of Music*; and other significant places in this fascinating city. Thursday, May 11: Supper (\$15 donation) at 6 p.m., program (free) at 7, Centennial Hall. Call 708.848.2757 to reserve. All ages welcome – join us!

Moving from

words to witness
in our relationship with God,

individualism to intimate
fellowship in our relationship with other members of the church community,

charity to changing
structures in our relationship with the world.

WELCOME- We're glad you joined us for worship. Learn about First United:

- Visit the welcome desk in the lounge or the visitor table in the narthex to receive more information about the church and a gift to take home with you.
- Sign the registration pad when it's passed. Include your email to receive our weekly e-news and devotional!
- Speak with any greeter or minister or join us for coffee hour following worship.
- Contact Britt Cox at 708.386.5215 or bcox@firstunitedoakpark.com for information about Newcomers Gatherings and any additional questions.

ABOUT US - We are a union church of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the United Church of Christ. We seek to be an inclusive expression of Christ's body celebrating our diversity while finding our unity in Christ. We are a More Light/Open and Affirming congregation, committed to full inclusion of GLBTQ people in membership & ministry.

ABOUT WORSHIP - Worship is our time to praise and grow closer to God. Worship each week includes song, prayer, learning, silence and giving. If you have any questions about what we do, please ask a minister or a member.

WORSHIP WITH CHILDREN - We welcome all children to participate fully in worship. Age-appropriate worship activities and books are available as you enter the sanctuary. We offer safe, quality childcare and quiet play for children five and under in our nursery (just off the lounge). Accompanied by a parent, these children may leave after Time for Sharing.

RESTROOMS & WiFi - Accessible restrooms are located off the church lounge. Free Wireless Internet is available in all areas except the Sanctuary. Network: 'FirstGuest', password: 'FirstUnited'.

GIVING - Offering envelopes are in the pew racks. You can also give one time or recurring gifts online at www.firstunitedoakpark.com/giving.



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an open community united in love & justice

848 Lake Street, Oak Park IL 60301 | 708.386.5215

www.firstunitedoakpark.com | [facebook.com/firstunitedoakpark](https://www.facebook.com/firstunitedoakpark)

SUNDAY, APRIL 30

9:30 am Church School and Adult Ed
 11:00 am Worship
 6:00 pm FUJI/FUSH

MONDAY, MAY 1

6:30 pm Pack 16 meeting
 7:00 pm Deacon meeting

TUESDAY, MAY 2

1:30 pm Cooking Matters: Heart Health
 6:00 pm Communications committee meeting
 7:00 pm Children's Ministry meeting
 7:00 pm Troop 16 Monthly committee meeting
 7:00 pm Planned Giving committee meeting

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3

11:00 am Wednesday Small Group
 6:00 pm Handbell Choir rehearsal
 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir

THURSDAY, MAY 4

1:00 pm CROP Walk team meeting
 6:30 pm Cluster Tutoring
 7:00 pm Troop 16 Eagle Board of Review

FRIDAY, MAY 5

3:00 pm Piano Recital Rehearsal
 6:00 pm FUSH Lock-In
 6:00 pm Dinner and a Movie: Radical Grace
 6:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 16 Meeting

SATURDAY, MAY 6

8:00 am Sanctuary piano tuning
 11:30 am Piano Recital and Set-Up
 7:00 pm Gospel Concert

SUNDAY, MAY 7

9:00 am Flower Power planting
 9:30 am Bridgebuilder Focus Group
 9:30 am Church School and Adult Ed
 11:00 am Worship
 12:30 pm Safe Church team meeting
 6:00 pm FUJI/FUSH

**CONTACT THE FIRST UNITED OFFICE MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY 9 AM TO 5 PM
 708.386.5215**

John Cole, Lead Pastor (ext. 101)

Britt Cox, Associate Pastor (ext. 105)

Lydia Mulkey, Director of Christian Education (ext. 103)

Alicia Reese, Coordinator of Youth & Children's Ministry (ext. 104)

William Chin, Director of Music (ext. 108)

Michael Surratt, Organist

Donna Montgomery, Church Administrator (ext. 102)

Amanda Swanson, Administrative Assistant (ext. 100)

LynToya Pate, Financial Assistant (ext. 106)

Keith Liesse, Head Custodian

First United Church Nursery School

Prevail/Housing Forward

Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry

The Kid's Closet, children's clothing ministry

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