

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK
19 MARCH 2017 - LENT THREE



 *Sanctified Art* | Illustration by: Lauren Wright Pittman | Inspired by: John 9:1-41 | sanctifiedart.org

An open community united in love and justice

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

“When it comes to ultimate truth, the most appropriate posture is modesty, silence, reverence, not propounding, shouting, condemning, excommunicating.” - Rev. John Buchanan

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

GATHERING MUSIC *O Guiltless Lamb of God* J. S. Bach

OUR LIFE TOGETHER Please sign and pass the red pew pad. John Cole

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

* CALL TO WORSHIP Steve Pederson

God does not see as humans see. God looks upon the heart.

We come seeking eyes to see!

Once we lived in darkness, but now we are children of the Light.

For God in Christ has given us eyes to see! Let us worship God!

* HYMN 263 *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* ST. DENIO
blue hymnal

CALL TO CONFESSION Joanne Despotes

As God's children, we seek to follow in the Light of Christ. We confess our sins so that what is hidden in us becomes visible, and our hearts are cleansed by God's mercy and grace. Let us pray...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we are people who still seem to love the darkness rather than your Light. We keep secrets, we flaunt our acts of virtue. We rationalize our own shortcomings while passing judgment on others. We have failed to stand firmly with those who are vulnerable, instead protecting only ourselves and those we love. Forgive us. Bring us into your Light. Help us to see as you see. In Jesus' name, Amen.

SILENCE IS KEPT.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news! God's goodness and mercy follows us, even pursues us, all the days of our life. In Christ, we are forgiven, and called to a new way of life.

We will live as God's children, for Christ shines in us. 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

Britt Cox


SONG OF ILLUMINATION

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

TAIZE



O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call, an-swer me. O



Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis-ten to me.

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HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING 1 Samuel 16:1-13 (OT p. 259)

GOSPEL READING

John 9:1-41 (OT p. 102) Joanne Despotes and Steve Pederson

SERMON

Seeing Straight

John Cole

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN 339

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

blue 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

Open My Eyes Marty Haugen; Soloist: Michael Espinoza

Open my eyes, O God, help me to see, break through the shadows, heal the blindness in me. Come, dawn on my darkness, make me holy and wise, O Light of the world, come open my eyes.

1. Just as the blind man that Jesus gave sight, I want to live as your child of the light. Awaken this sleeper, from death set me free, so that Christ shines upon me, and I truly might see.
2. Grant me the joy of abiding in you, a life that is holy, a heart that is true; proclaiming your mercy, my joy and delight, you who called me from darkness into wonderful light.

***DOXOLOGY**

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below.
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God whom we adore. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Britt Cox

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 363**

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

SOJOURNER

blue hymnal

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

God to Enfold You

Iona Community



God to en - fold you, Christ to up - hold you, Spi - rit to
keep you in hea - ven's sight; so may God grace you, heal and em -
brace you, lead you through dark - ness in - to the light.

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SENDING MUSIC

Prelude and Fugue in E minor

J. S. Bach

TODAY AT FIRST UNITED

THIS SUNDAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS are from Carole Ferguson in loving memory of Thomas D. Ferguson.



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

BECOME ACQUAINTED WITH OUR PARTNER UNITED POWER TOMORROW AT 7 P.M. IN THE CHAPEL

We will discuss several of our current issue campaigns including mental health/criminal justice reform and reducing gun violence. We will also look at other issues that have come to our attention and determine whether we should be pursuing at this time and begin the process of determining next steps as applicable to the Oak Park, River Forest, Forest Park area.

INTERESTED IN WORKING TO END GUN VIOLENCE?

First United has a newly re-named justice group called "Waging Peace: working together to end gun violence." For more information, contact co-chairs Pete Todd (ToddFamily@msn.com) or Lois Thiessen Love (lois@thiessenlove.com)

2017 EVENING DIVISION MEMORIAL GRANT

Applications for the 2017 Evening Division \$1500 Memorial Grant are available on the lounge desk. Please pick one up for any organization that would benefit. Award presentation is June 8.

FIRST UNITED HONORED BY HOUSING FORWARD

First United Church and four other congregations were honored by Housing Forward for their founding roles and continued support. Since 1992, First United has provided housing space for homeless individuals served by Housing Forward, as well as teams of volunteers, facilities, supplies and donation funds. First United's Sallie Smylie, Rick Pollock and Bob Hahn serve on its Board of Directors.

NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 26 - LENT THREE

Shame – Isaiah 43:16-21, John 8:1-11

ADULT ED NEXT SUNDAY - A LOOK INTO THE ARCHIVES

Dan Pietrini will present an overview of what has been accomplished in organizing and maintaining the historical records of First Congregational, First Presbyterian and now First United Church. He will bring with him artifacts of our church history for your viewing and a history lesson you won't want to miss!

REFUGEE PROJECT FOLLOW-UP MEETING

SUNDAY, MARCH 26, AFTER WORSHIP AT 12:15 IN CENTENNIAL HALL

We'll share information about current opportunities for working with refugee families who have been here for a short time and do not have a sponsor. Please come if you are interested in getting involved. Even if you have not signed up previously, it's not too late to join the project! For more information, see Leah Beckwith, John Chapman-Reinstra or Charlie Morris.

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.



FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK

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, MARCH 19 - LENT THREE

8:30 am Church School Leader Breakfast
 9:30 am Kinder Creation Play
 9:30 am Church School and Adult Ed
 11:00 am Worship
 11:00 am O.W.L. Worship
 6:00 pm FUSH

MONDAY, MARCH 20

8:30 am FUNS Staff meeting
 6:30 pm Pack 16 meeting
 7:00 pm 2017 CROP Team meeting
 7:00 pm United Power Planning meeting
 7:00 pm Nominating committee meeting

TUESDAY, MARCH 21

4:00 pm Pro Musica Youth Chorus
 7:00 pm Council meeting

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

11:00 am Wednesday Small Group
 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir
 7:00 pm Cluster Tutoring Board meeting
 7:00 pm Housing team meeting

THURSDAY, MARCH 23

6:30 pm Cluster Tutoring

FRIDAY, MARCH 24

6:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 16 meeting
 6:30 pm Boy Scout Troop 16 Presentation

SATURDAY, MARCH 25**SUNDAY, MARCH 26 - LENT FOUR**

9:30 am Church School and Adult Ed
 11:00 am Worship
 12:00 pm Evening Division meeting
 12:15 pm Refugee Project meeting
 3:00 pm PFLAG 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

jcole@firstunitedoakpark.com

bcox@firstunitedoakpark.com

lmulkey@firstunitedoakpark.com

areese@firstunitedoakpark.com

bill@firstunitedoakpark.com

msurratt@firstunitedoakpark.com

donnam@firstunitedoakpark.com

office@firstunitedoakpark.com

lpate@firstunitedoakpark.com

kliesse@firstunitedoakpark.com

708.848.4910, www.firstunitedschool.com

708.386.1946, www.housingforward.org

708.386.1324, www.oprffoodpantry.org

sjaruba@yahoo.com