

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK
26 MARCH 2017 - LENT FOUR



An open community united in love and justice

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

“Shame is the intensely painful feeling that we are unworthy of love and belonging.” - Brené Brown

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

GATHERING MUSIC

Liturgical Improvisation
Adagio

George Oldroyd
Frank Bridge

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Please sign and pass the red pew pad.

Lydia Mulkey

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Alicia Reese

O God, you are the Gathering One who calls us into community with each other;

to love and work, to support and heal.

You are the Gathering One who calls us into community with all people;

to bring justice and hope, freedom and truth.

You are the Gathering One who calls us into community with the whole creation;

to live in harmony, to cherish and renew.

Let us worship the God who makes us one.

* HYMN 43

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

BEECHER

black hymnal

CALL TO CONFESSION

Alicia Reese

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Comforter and Healer, in this season of Lent, may we find the freedom to live as whole-hearted people with the space to be guided by your love and mercy.

Transform our shame into a humble space of healing and hope, for us and the world we live in. Free us of tired images that separate us from you, so that our hearts would simply open to each other to receive your forgiveness and grace.

SILENCE IS KEPT.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God refuses to stand far off, but comes close to us—to hear our prayers, to touch our hearts with forgiveness, and to walk with us during this holy season and beyond.

We have no need to go any place else, but into the comforting and restoring heart of the One who loves us. **Thanks be to God. We are forgiven. Amen.**

***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

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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READING

Genesis 3:7-13 (OT p. 3)

John Cole

READING

John 7:53-8:12 (NT p. 100)

SERMON

A Stone's Throw Away

Britt Cox

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

***HYMN 554**

Out of the Depths, O God, We Call

FENNVILLE

black hymnal

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

John Cole

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

Jesu, Joy of Our Desiring

J. S. Bach

Jesu, joy of our desiring, Holy wisdom, Love most bright,
Drawn by thee, our souls aspiring; Soar to uncreated light.
Word of God, our flesh that fashioned; With the fire of life impassioned,
Striving still to truth unknown, Soaring, dying round thy throne.

Through the way where hope is guiding, Hark, what peaceful music rings,
Where the flock, in thee confiding, Drinks of joy from deathless springs.
Theirs is beauty's fairest pleasure, Theirs is wisdom's holiest treasure.
Thou dost ever lead Thine own, In the love of joys unknown.

***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

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 570**

We Shall Overcome

WE SHALL OVERCOME

black 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

Nicolaus Bruhns

TODAY AT FIRST UNITED

THE BULLETIN COVER is a coloring page for all ages to color during or after worship.

REFUGEE PROJECT FOLLOW-UP MEETING - TODAY WITH PIZZA!

A Meeting will be held TODAY after Worship at 12:15 in Centennial Hall (with pizza!). Information about current opportunities for working with refugee families who have been here for a short time and do not have a sponsor will be shared. 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.



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

DR. PETER STEINKE'S CONTACT INFO

Church Council has engaged Rev. Dr. Peter Steinke, a noted church consultant, to help us learn about how we can become a healthier congregation. At the workshop Peter presented on March 18, he encouraged all interested members to contact him directly, and provided the following contact information:

11713 Astoria Drive

Austin TX 78738

512.263.7861; hcongregations@austin.rr.com

Peter will return to First United on Saturday, April 22, with a report of his analysis so far.

Interested in reading Dr. Steinke's book? We have two copies of *Healthy Congregations: A Systems Approach* available for church members to check out from our First United library. It's a quick read, full of anecdotal stories. We expect there to be a waiting list, so we request copies be returned within four days.

SERVICE OF ORDINATION FOR DIRK LABUSCHAGNE

We are thrilled to announce that one of our FUSH youth advisors will be getting ordained here at First United! Saturday, April 1, 10 a.m. in the Chapel.

MUSIC AT FIRST PRESENTS:

RHONDA SIDER EDGINGTON, ORGAN, AND BRIAN REICHENBACH, TRUMPET, IN CONCERT!

Sunday, April 2, at 4 p.m.

Music at First presents Rhonda Sider Edgington, Organ, and Brian Reichenbach, trumpet, in concert. Rhonda (formerly the organist at First United) and Brian offer music in a range of styles from Baroque to jazz, including Bach and young American composer Carson Cooman's Solstice Sonata. A freewill offering is appreciated.

DINNER AND A MOVIE, FRIDAY APRIL 7: RADICAL GRACE

Living according to the Word of God but balking at some of the Catholic Church's age-old positions, a trio of nuns risks run afoul of the Vatican with their pursuit of social justice while refusing to capitulate. Dinner 6 p.m. (\$5 donation) movie (free) 6:30. Call Nancy Pennington 708-386-9195

THREE PREMIER CHICAGO CHILDREN'S CHOIRS COME TOGETHER TO SING AT FIRST UNITED

Three Choirs Live brings together Pro Musica Youth Chorus, Evanston Children's Choir and Anima (Glen Ellyn Children's Choir) for an amazing day of singing, culminating in a community concert. Pro Musica is honored to be hosting the event this year, so let's pack the house for this wonderful collaboration!

Saturday, April 8, 3 p.m. in the First United Sanctuary
\$10 at door

INTERESTED IN WORKING TO END GUN VIOLENCE?

First United has a newly-named justice group: "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.

FLOWER POWER - it's back! Help us help New Moms. See the April newsletter for details.

LOSE SOMETHING? Check out the lost and found bin under the coat racks. All items still remaining in the bin will be donated to the Economy Shop by April 15.

OUR DONATION BINS HAVE MOVED! Kids Kloset and Food Pantry book donations now have designated shelves across from the kitchenette and lounge bathrooms.

NEXT SUNDAY, FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (COMMUNION)

"Awakened" – John 11:1-45

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 26 - LENT FOUR

9:30 am Church School and Adult Ed
 11:00 am Worship
 12:00 pm Benefits Study group
 12:15 pm Refugee Project meeting (with pizza!)
 1:00 pm Bluegrass rehearsal
 3:00 pm PFLAG
 6:00 pm FUSH

MONDAY, MARCH 27

9:00 am CPM Meeting (Presbytery)
 6:30 pm CMA Justice & Witness Ministry mtg.
 6:30 pm Pack 16 meeting

TUESDAY, MARCH 28**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29**

11:00 am Wednesday Small Group
 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir

THURSDAY, MARCH 30

6:30 pm Cluster Tutoring

FRIDAY, MARCH 31

3:00 pm Coppage-Shauner Wedding rehearsal
 6:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 16 Meeting

SATURDAY, APRIL 1

9:00 am Organ Concert practice
 10:00 am Ordination Service & Reception
 2:00 pm Coppage-Glauner Wedding

SUNDAY, APRIL 2 - LENT FIVE

9:30 am Church School and Adult Ed
 11:00 am Worship
 12:00 pm Evening Division planning meeting
 1:00 pm Bluegrass rehearsal
 4:00 pm MAF: Organ & Trumpet Concert
 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

sjzaruba@yahoo.com