

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK

February 15, 2026



Living God's All-Inclusive Love

Consecration Sunday/Transfiguration

11:00 A.M. Worship

Bold text indicates congregation participation

*Indication to stand in body or spirit

Prelude Sally Sloane

Adagio from Toccata, Adagio & Fugue BWV 564 by J S Bach

Welcome Lydia Mulkey

***Call To Worship** Don Sibley

God has a new dream for us!

We are listening for God's calling.

We have seen the light of God

On high mountains of celebration and in the gifts we bring.

We have come to commit again to the work of this community.

May God's dream for us be our reality!

***Passing the Peace**

***Opening Hymn**

We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding (Black hymnal no. 182)

Online worshippers: the words to hymns listed in the hymnal are now available as a supplement at the end of this bulletin.

Prayer for Wholeness Michael Jones

O Holy Presence, we come together on this day to celebrate First United in offering our gifts. You call us up the mountain and into the light. Forgive us for the times when we have been complacent and comfortable and didn't want to share what we have with those in need. Today we delight in the gifts we are giving, the pledges we are making, and the future we are creating together. May we dream your dream of a just world for all. Amen.

Time for silent prayer.

Assurance of Love

Whether we hear a voice from the heavens or a still small voice in our hearts, we listen carefully for the love of God. Hear the good news of the Gospel of Jesus, the Christ: We are invited to be part of God's dream and work in the world, whether we give much or little, no matter who we are or where we are on life's journey. Amen.

Invitation to the Children

Lydia Mulkey

Musical Response

This Little Light of Mine (Black hymnal no. 524 v.1)

Time for Sharing

Lydia Mulkey

*Hymn of Illumination

Dream God's Dream (see insert)

Stewardship Testimony

Porter Luckett

Special Music

Laura Loveless, Keely Tyson,

Dream God's Dream with lyrics by Mark Smylie John Zaruba, &

Once again it's pledging time. 'Tis sweet commitment time.

 Craig Bechtel

When we gratefully consider all we must do.

We must pay the bills, salaries, and maintenance, too.

But there is so much more that God asks of me and of you.

God shining bright above you. In breezes God whispers "I love you."

God calls out the best we can be. Dream the dream of God with me.

So won't you give, plant the mustard seed, five thousand mouths to feed.

Grow caring community. Dream the dream of God with me, you see.

Give to share the stories of old. Now give to grow a faith that's bold.

To bring God's flock to the fold. Just praying this:

God dreams sunbeams to find you.

God dreams you leave all worries behind you.

However hard your hardships may be.

Dream a little dream, dream a little dream, dream the dream of God with me.

Dream Parade

Hebrew Scripture Reading

Exodus 24:12-18

The Lord said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain and wait there; I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up onto the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, “Wait here for us, until we come back to you. Look, Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.” Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the Israelites. Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

New Testament Scripture Reading

Matthew 17:1-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

Don Sibley

Sermon – A Mountain of Gifts

Michael Jones

*Sermon Response

Come Let Us Dream (TUNE: O WALLY WALLY, Black hymnal no. 362)

Come, let us dream God's dream again.

Come, one and all, let us ascend

the mountain top where those of old

saw God's new day on earth unfold.

**The lame shall walk, the blind shall see,
the doors swing wide, all prisoners free,
the lowly raised, the proud brought low.**

This is God's dream: let justice flow.

**When hatred ends and war shall cease,
so all may dwell in deepest peace,
then be assured the time is near
when perfect love casts out all fear.**

Invitation to the Offering

Michael Jones

Offertory

E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come by Paul Manz Sanctuary Choir

Peace be to you and grace from him who freed us from our sins,

Who loved us all and shed his blood that we might saved be.

Sing holy, holy, to our Lord, the Lord Almighty God,

Who was and is and is to come; Sing holy, holy, holy Lord!

Rejoice in heaven all ye that dwell therein, rejoice on earth, ye saints below,

For Christ is coming, is coming soon, for Christ is coming soon!

E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more;

They need no light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their All!

*Doxology

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

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer Lydia Mulkey

Our Creator, Our Mother, and 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, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

*Closing Hymn

God Whose Giving Knows No Ending (Black hymnal no. 565)

*Invitation to Join the Circle

Benediction

Response

**Go now in peace, go now in peace.
May the love of God surround you.
Everywhere, everywhere you may go.**

Postlude

Sally Sloane

Someone's Singing, Lord arr. John Behnke

Events and Updates

Below is just a sampling of the news and events at First United. You can find our full calendar at firstunitedoakpark.com/calendar. Follow us on Facebook (facebook.com/firstunitedoakpark) for our weekly newsletter and lots more.

Celebration Potluck TODAY After Worship

After today's worship service ends, meet in Centennial Hall for an all-church potluck celebrating this year's Stewardship season.

Adult Ed Speaker Series Next Week

We are honored to invite Sahar Vardi, an Israeli Jew and peace activist, to First United. Ms. Vardi is sponsored by the American Friends Service and is traveling across the United States to discuss the ongoing conflict in the Middle East. She will draw upon her personal experiences as an Israeli citizen with dear friends in Gaza.

Building Closed for Presidents' Day, February 16

First United will be closed on February 16 in observance of Presidents' Day. Staff will not be available on February 16.

Ash Wednesday, February 18

Lent comes early this year. Gather in the Sanctuary at 6:30 p.m. on February 18 for a family-friendly worship service for Ash Wednesday.

OPRF Empty Bowls, February 20

Support First United mission partners Beyond Hunger and Housing Forward at OPRF's 2026 Empty Bowls on February 20 from 6-8 p.m. in the OPRF main entrance. Purchase a student-made bowl for \$20 and enjoy soup from local restaurants.

Save the Date: Michael Jones' Installation on February 22

Michael will be officially installed as the Lead Pastor of First United on February 22 at 3 p.m. in a special worship service in the Sanctuary with representatives from our denominations. A reception will follow in the lounge.

Sign up for Dinners for Eight or Nine

Dinners for Eight or Nine returns on Saturday, March 7. Get more details and sign up in the lounge before or after worship.

Family Day of Service: Feed My Starving Children, March 7

Mark your calendars for our next Family Day of Service on March 7. Use the QR for more information and to register.



Welcome to First United!

We are a union church of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the United Church of Christ, dedicated to sharing Christ's radically inclusive love. We welcome all, regardless of who you love, where you've come from, what religious background you have, or where you are on your faith journey. As a More Light/Open and Affirming congregation, we are committed to the full inclusion of LGBTQ+ people in membership and ministry.

Learning More About First United Interested in learning more about First United Church? Look for members wearing gold buttons, talk to one of the pastors, or join us for a Newcomers class held three times per year.

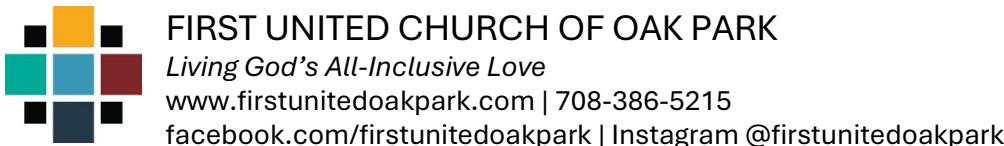
Adult Education Faith formation doesn't end after Church School. Adult Education takes a variety of forms, from small, group Bible studies to Sunday morning Speaker Series. Weekly Bible Study and Speaker Series meet at 9:45 a.m. September through May.

Children In Worship & Our Nursery We love to have children in worship! Age-appropriate worship activities and books are available as you enter the sanctuary. We also offer safe, quality childcare and quiet play for children five and under in our nursery. Ask an usher for directions.

Church School Church School is for children ages birth through 8th grade. Meeting Sundays at 9:45 a.m., September through mid-May, we tell stories of the Bible using a lens of love and justice with singing, praying, and creating.

Music Ministries Our Sanctuary Choir leads worship most Sundays and rehearses on Wednesday from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. during the season and is welcoming new members! You don't have to commit to sing every week. Our Handbell Choir rings a few times per year and rehearses on Wednesday from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Youth Programs FUJI (Jr. High) & FUSH (Sr. High) The youth groups meet on Sunday evenings from 5 – 7 p.m. here at the church, September through mid-May.



Lead Pastor: Michael Jones – mjones@firstunitedoakpark.com

Associate Pastor: Lydia Mulkey – lmulkey@firstunitedoakpark.com

Church Administrator: Heather Vanderberg – hvanderberg@firstunitedoakpark.com

Financial Administrator: Patricia Morales – pmorales@firstunitedoakpark.com

Choir Director: Sally Sloane – ssloane@firstunitedoakpark.com

Organist: Bobby Nguyen – bnguyen@firstunitedoakpark.com

Opening Hymn: We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding

We have come at Christ's own bidding to this high and holy place,
Where we wait with hope and longing or some token of God's grace.
Here we pray for new assurance that our faith is not in vain,
Searching like those first disciples for a sign both clear and plain.

Light breaks through our clouds and shadows, splendor bathes the flesh-joined Word,
Moses and Elijah marvel as the heavenly voice is heard.
Eyes and hearts behold with wonder how the Law and Prophets meet:
Christ with garments drenched in brightness, stands transfigured and complete.

Strengthened by this glimpse of glory, fearful lest our faith decline,
We, like Peter, find it tempting to remain and build a shrine.
But true worship gives us courage to proclaim what we profess,
That our daily lives may prove us people of the God we bless.

Hymn of Illumination (two pages)

Dream God's Dream

Bryan Sirchio
www.sirchio.com

Chorus

Dream God's Dream! Ho - ly Spir - it help us

dream of a world where there is

jus - tice and where ev - 'ry - one is free to

build and grow and love and to sim - ply have e -

- nough the world will change when we dream God's

Dream.

Verses on the next page

Dream God's Dream, p.2

C G D C
 Verses I'm dream - ing of a world where the is
 I'm dream - ing of the call God that is
 I'm dream - ing of the way that is I

G D C
 col - or of one's skin will mean less than what's with -
 of - fer - ing to me; how to use my en - er -
 want my life to go. I've got hopes and I've - got

Em⁷ D C G
 in gy goals the and per - son's best heart. A to
 and I'd my like best to gifts meet. I'm

D C G
 world where wa - ter's clean and where air is safe to
 do the work of Christ, to say God, please use my
 reach - ing for the stars, but I won't for - get the

D Em⁷ D/F#
 breathe. And ev' - ry chi - ld born has e -
 life scars to of spread Christ your who heal - ing to love show and that to the

Em⁷ G Asus D.S. al Coda D C G D
 enough to eat. dream.
 live your Truth. Dream's for all.

Closing Hymn: God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door:
Gifted by you, we turn to you offering up ourselves in praise;
Thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.

Skills and time are ours for serving, that your will on earth be done:
All at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the Church made one.
No direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone;
Born with talents make us servants fit to answer at your throne.

Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through powers your grace conferred;
Ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel Word.
Open wide our hands in sharing as we heed Christ's ageless call,
Healing, teaching, and reclaiming, honoring you by loving all.

Lend your joy to all our giving, let it light our pilgrim way;
From the night of anxious keeping, loose us into generous day.
Then when years on earth are over, and we've lived our human span,
God, fulfill beyond our dreaming, all our stewardship began.