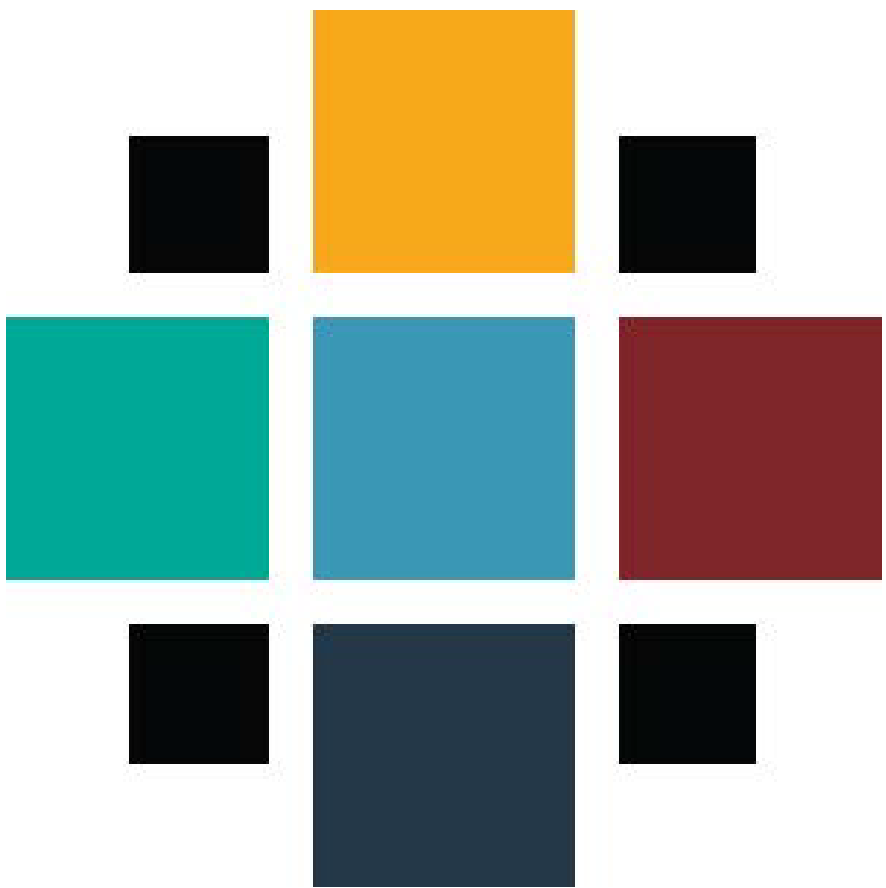


FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK
September 14, 2025



Living God's All-Inclusive Love

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Bobby Nguyen

Echo Fantasia in C Major by J. P. Sweelinck

WELCOME

Pastor Phil Price

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Joann Despotes

*PASSING THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

God Is Here! As We Your People Meet (Black hymnal no. 70)

God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer,

May we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.

Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts

Wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.

Here are symbols to remind us of our lifelong need of grace;

Here are table, font, and pulpit, here the cross has central place.

Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speech,

Here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.

Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold;

Here as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us as of old.

Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore

What it means in daily living to believe and to adore.

Sovereign God, of earth and heaven, in an age of change and doubt

Keep us faithful to the gospel, help us work your purpose out.

Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive;

We, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!

PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS

Pastor Phil

O God of our deepest memories and our most fervent dreams, be with us and in us as we seek to be one with You and with each other. Forgive our patterns of judging, shaming, and condemning. Lead us on the pathways of reconciliation and radical unity that celebrate true diversity. May our hearts beat to the rhythm of Your love. May our feet be swift in carrying the message of good news. May our hands be busy doing the work of love.

Time for silent prayer.

ASSURANCE OF LOVE

The good news is that God isn't finished with us! We continue to be nurtured, guided, taught, led, and inspired. We claim forgiveness and we offer grace and kindness.

INVITATION TO THE CHILDREN

Pastor Lydia Mulkey

MUSICAL RESPONSE

This Little Light of Mine

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. (x3)

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

TIME FOR SHARING

Pastor Lydia

*HYMN OF ILLUMINATION

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us (Black hymnal no. 252)

**Savior, like a shepherd lead us, much we need your tender care;
In your pleasant pastures feed us, for our use your folds prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us, yours we are;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us, yours we are.**

**We are yours, in love befriend us, be the guardian of our way;
Keep your flock, from sin defend us, seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear your children when we pray;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear your children when we pray.**

**Let us always seek your favor; let us always do your will;
Jesus Christ our only Savior, with your love our spirits fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us, love us still;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us, love us still.**

*SERMON RESPONSE

Guide My Feet (Black hymnal no. 497 v. 1)

Guide my feet while I run this race. (x3)

For I don't want to run this race in vain.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Pastor Lydia

OFFERTORY

Sanctuary Choir

Out of the Depths by John Carter

*DOXOLOGY

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 & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor Phil

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.**

GOING FORTH IN DEDICATION & SERVICE

*CLOSING HYMN

My Shepherd Is the Living God (Black hymnal no. 247)

My shepherd is the living God, I therefore nothing need;

In pastures fair, near pleasant streams you settle me to feed.

You bring my wandering spirit back when I forsake your ways,

And lead me for your mercy's sake in paths of truth and grace.

**When I walk through the shades of death, your presence is my stay;
A word of your supporting breath drives all my fears away.
Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my table spread;
My cup with blessings overflows, your oil anoints my head.**

**The sure provisions of my God attend me all my days;
O may your house be my abode, and all my work be praise.
There would I find a settled rest, while others come and go—
No more a stranger or a guest, but like a child at home.**

INVITATION TO JOIN THE CIRCLE

Pastor Lydia

***BLESSING**

Pastor Phil

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

Go Now in Peace

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

POSTLUDE

Bobby Nguyen

Postlude on "Old Hundredth" by Fred Bock

EVENTS AND UPDATES

Below is a sampling of the news and events at First United. We invite you to subscribe to receive our monthly "Messenger Bell" newsletter and our weekly "News & Events" eblast by visiting firstunitedoakpark.com.

House to Home 2025 Kicks Off Today

The Housing Justice Group invites you to contribute to our 12th annual House to Home Project benefitting Housing Forward. Visit the tables in the lounge for the next several Sundays or use the QR code and sign up to donate NEW household items to our House to Home kits. Questions? Reach out to Ann Tanner (847-977-5932; awtanner@gmail.com) or Ann Armstrong (708-212-2400; geneann1113@yahoo.com).



Let's Gather Again! Small Group Signups Happening Now

Small Groups are returning this fall for a six-week journey of faith and fellowship. Groups will meet once a week, beginning the week of October 5 and continuing through the week of November 9. Sign up in person in the lounge today or September 21 or look for the electronic signup in the eblast.

Adult Ed Next Week

Join Adult Ed on September 21 at 9:45 a.m. in Centennial Hall. Vanessa Matheny, Community Service Administrator for Oak Park, will discuss Oak Park's brand-new program known as ECHO, which reimagines traditional emergency response.

Parents' Night Out Benefitting FUNS, September 19

Parents, enjoy a night out and do some good at the same time. First United is hosting the fall Parents' Night Out on September 19 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Use the QR code to get all the details and to register!



Free Webinar on Community Solar, September 21

The First United Environmental Justice Team invites you to learn more about Community Solar programs in Oak Park. Participate in a free webinar on Sunday, September 21 from 3-4 p.m. on Zoom to learn more. Visit bit.ly/opcan-solar to register.

First United Supper Club, September 27

Enjoy cooking and eating with friends while being of service to our community. On September 27 from 4:30-7:30 p.m. in Centennial Hall, we will cook and enjoy supper together and then deliver a meal to the Housing Forward Emergency Shelter. The cost is \$30 per person, which will cover your meal and meals for five shelter guests. Use the QR code to register now.



Fall Colds, Flus, and Covid

Reports of Covid and other illnesses are on the rise both in the Oak Park community as a whole and, specifically, among our First United family. If you are not feeling well, please do not come to church. Worship is available on our YouTube channel. For those who are vulnerable, we encourage you to wear a mask to church or any time you are in a crowded space.

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 Pastor Lydia, or join us for a Newcomers class held three times per year. Contact Lydia Mulkey (lmulkey@firstunitedoakpark.com).

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. Contact Lydia Mulkey (lmulkey@firstunitedoakpark.com).

MUSIC MINISTRIES

Our Sanctuary Choir leads worship most Sundays and rehearses on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. during the season. Our Handbell Choir rings a few times per year and rehearses on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Both programs run September through May. Contact Sally Sloane (ssloane@firstunitedoakpark.com).

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. Contact Lydia Mulkey (lmulkey@firstunitedoakpark.com).



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