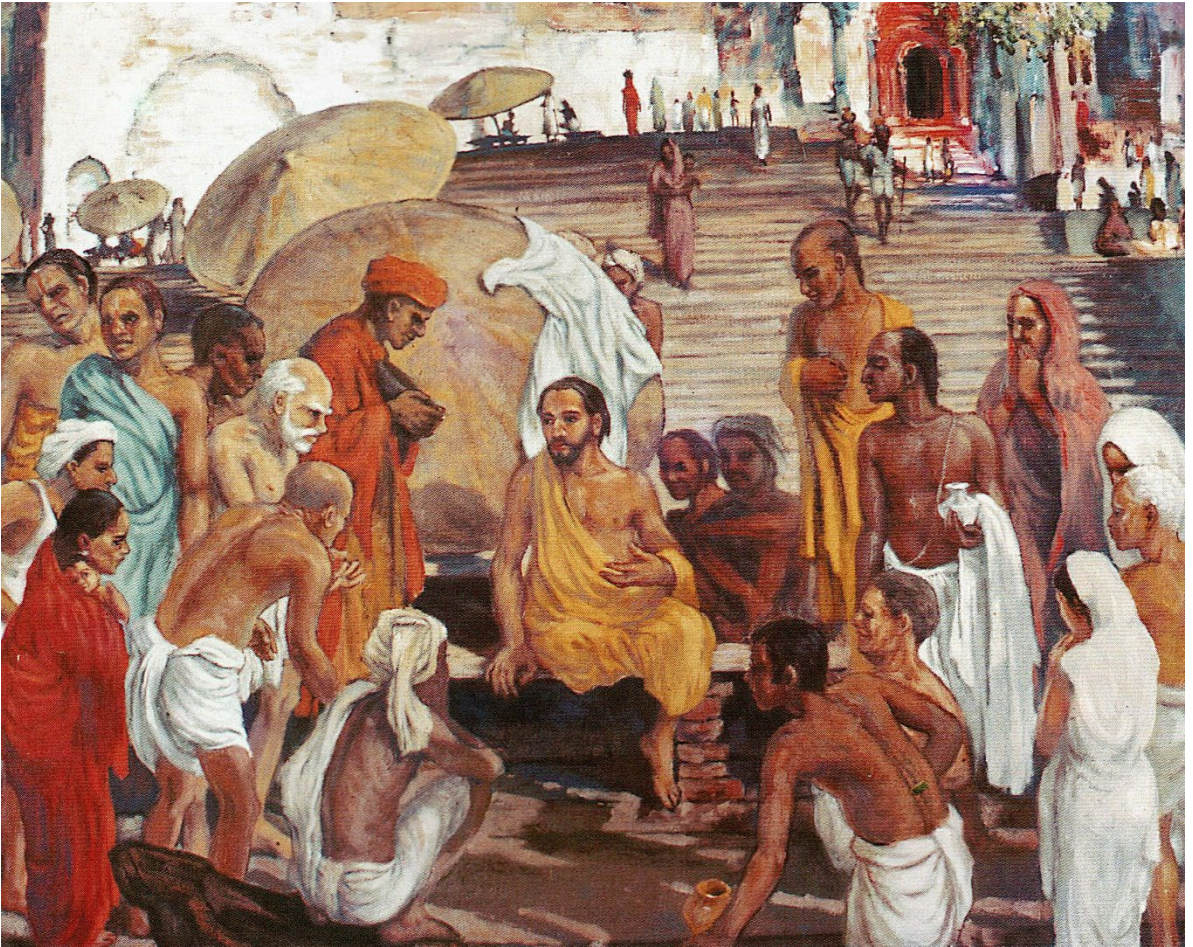




FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK

Living God's All-Inclusive Love



Eighteenth Sunday of Pentecost

11:00 A.M., Sunday, September 27, 2026

Service for the Worship of God

Prelude

Welcome

Rev. Lydia Mulkey

***Call To Worship**

Elaine Labuz

The Spirit of Christ moves freely through the world.

She makes herself known wherever She desires.

In sources of pain, in the shocking and the scandalous, in the hauntings of the past and the promises of the future,

She speaks through humble prophets of the way the world should be.

No doctrine or institution can contain or confine our God.

We rejoice in a God whose Wisdom roams free.

***Passing the Peace**

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

***Opening Hymn #303 (Black hymnal)**

Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing

Prayer for Wholeness

Lydia Mulkey

Faithful One, we long to see the world transformed through your love. You know of our desire to do good in the world. Lead us in humility and compassion, even when we are at a loss for what to do next. We turn to you for guidance, knowing that you will continue to speak your love into our lives and the world. Amen.

Assurance of Love

Rev. Michael Jones

The Holy One meets us with compassion and care even when we do not embody our best or strive for the goodness of God. Let us follow in the path of the humble Christ, empowered and embodying God's love. **Amen.**

Invitation to the Children & Time for Sharing

Lydia Mulkey

Siyahm' ekukhanyen' kwenkos' (Black Hymnal #526)

We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.

**Those who choose to do so may rise in body or spirit and sing.*

*Hymn of Illumination #539 (Black hymnal)

Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?

New Testament Reading

Elaine Labuz

Philippians 2:1-11, Red Pew Bible, p. 197

Gospel Reading

Matthew 21:23-32, Red Pew Bible, pp. 23-24

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon *Where Are All the Prophets?*

Michael Jones

Song of Response *God Calls You Good* by Paul M. Vasile

God calls you good, beloved child. You are a treasure deeply prized.

And you can say to every doubting voice: "God calls you good, beloved child.

God calls you good, beloved child."

God calls me good, beloved child. I am a treasure deeply prized.

And I can say to every doubting voice: "God calls me good, beloved child.

God calls me good, beloved child."

Invitation to the Offering

Lydia Mulkey

During the offering all are welcome to use the two center aisles to bring offerings to the offering plates and/or pink prayer cards to the basket at the front of the sanctuary on the communion table or at the back of the sanctuary on the table behind the center pew. Prayer requests will be read during the Prayers of the People. If you are unable to move to an offering plate, please ask a neighbor in the pew to take it or lift a hand, and we will make sure there is someone to bring it forward for you.

Fourth Sunday Offering

New Moms, Lydia Mulkey

Offertory

Sanctuary Band

My Sweet Lord by George Harrison

*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

Lord, You Teach Us To Be Humble ("Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing")

**Lord, you teach us to be humble in the things we do and say
So that others will not stumble or—discouraged — turn away.
For a faith that's lived for glory — full of bragging, full of show —
Cannot tell the gospel story that your people long to know.**

**How do other people greet us as we journey through our days?
Do we hope that they will meet us with a word of thanks or praise?
Do we seek congratulations for the kind of life we lead?
Do we want their admiration for the things that we believe?**

**May we never burden others with a faith that's hard to bear.
Make us kind to one another; make us humble in our prayer.
As we give up seats of honor, may we give you glory, too.
Lord, you teach us to be humble; may we humbly follow you.**

*Blessing

Michael Jones

*Blessing Response

Go Now in Peace (Sleeth)

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

Postlude

Sanctuary Band

Give a Little Bit by Rick Davies and Rodger Hodgson.



FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK

Living God's All-Inclusive Love

848 Lake St. | Oak Park, IL 60305 708-386-5215 | firstunitedoakpark.com

Hymn Supplement: September 27, 2026

Opening Hymn – Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing

Rejoice, give thanks and sing; your sovereign God adore!
For Christ has robbed death' sting and triumphs evermore.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.

Our Savior Jesus Christ reigns, the God of truth and love;
The Lamb who purged our stains is crowned with power above.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.

Christ Jesus cannot fail to rule both earth and heaven;
The keys of death and hell are to the Savior given.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.

Rejoice in glorious hope, for Christ the Judge shall come,
And take the faithful up to their eternal home.
We soon shall hear a heavenly voice above the trumpet's sound, "Rejoice!"

Hymn of Illumination – *Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant*

Won't you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.

We are pilgrims on a journey, we are travelers on the road;
We are here to help each other go the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you in the shadow of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven we shall find such harmony,
Born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.

Won't you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.



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. Visit our website to read our **land acknowledgment** and **open and affirming statement**.

Learn more about First United Church

Look for members wearing gold buttons, talk to one of the pastors, and watch for the next Newcomers class.

Worship Assistance

Assistive Listening - speak with a greeter to access to the assistive listening system.

Large Print Bulletins - available from our ushers.

Transportation to Worship - Call or email: 708-334-2512; (FUCOP848@gmail.com).

Adult Education Bible Group and Speaker Series meet at 9:45 a.m. September through May. Watch the e-blast for other opportunities.

Children In Worship & Our Nursery We love to have children in worship! Enjoy the **Pray-Ground** throughout worship or take an activity bag to the pews. **Childcare** is available for children five and under in our nursery. Ask a greeter for directions.

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

Music Ministries Interested in singing or ringing with our choirs? We rehearse on Wednesdays September through May. Contact Music Director Sally Sloane for more information.

Youth Programs The junior and senior high youth groups meet on Sunday evenings from 5 – 7 p.m. here at the church, September through mid-May.

Today in Worship

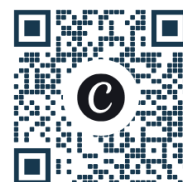
Today's Liturgist Today's Liturgist Elaine Labuz and her late husband Ed became aware of the United Church of Christ when wintering in Florida. They joined Community Church of Vero Beach for its numerous programs and service opportunities, both on campus and in the community.

Ways to Give

Your offering helps support the mission and ministry of First United Church. There are many ways to make your contribution:

- **In-Person** Place offerings in the offering plates, before or after worship, or during the Offertory.

- **Online** www.firstunitedoakpark.com/give or scan the QR Code



- **By Mail:** Mail checks to the church 848 Lake Street Oak Park, IL 60301.

Thank you for your generosity!

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Cover art Wesley, Frank, 1923-2002. Jesus in Benares, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt University Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://act.library.vanderbilt.edu/artworks/59243> [retrieved September 21, 2026]. Original source: Estate of Frank Wesley, http://www.frankwesleyart.com/main_page.htm.

Call to Worship adapted from enfleshed.com
Prayer for Wholeness and Assurance of Love adapted from the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.

Song of Response "God Calls You Good"
 ©2017 Paul Vasile www.paulvasile.com.

'Sign Up for News From First United'

First United publishes a weekly eblast on Thursdays and a monthly electronic newsletter on the first Wednesday of each month. Use the QR code or email the office to join the list!



TODAY, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

- 9:45 a.m. - Adult Ed Speaker Series
- 9:45 a.m. - Bible Group
- 9:45 a.m. - Church School
- 9:45 a.m. - Confirmation Class
- 11 a.m. - Worship, In-person / YouTube
- After worship - Social time and House to Home signups
- 1 p.m. - Cub Scouts
- 3 p.m. - Herta Lisic Memorial Service
- 5 p.m. - FUJI/FUSH

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

- Noon - Council Leadership
- 5:30 p.m. - SMEF Task Force
- 7 p.m. - Personnel Team

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

- 1:30 p.m. - Ministers' Text Study
- 4 p.m. - Pro Musica Youth Chorus
- 5:30 p.m. - Grief Care and Support Group
- 7 p.m. - Scout Troop 308

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

- 10 a.m. - Building Management Meeting
- 11 a.m. - Wednesday Bible Study
- 1:30 p.m. - All-Staff Meeting
- 2 p.m. - Worship Planning Meeting
- 3:30 p.m. - Beyond Hunger Distribution
- 6:30 p.m. - Sanctuary Bell Rehearsal
- 7:30 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1

- 6 p.m. - Staffing Task Force
- 6:30 p.m. - Learning Edge
- 7 p.m. - Sanctuary Band Rehearsal

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

- 7 p.m. - Scouts Troop 16

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

- 9 a.m. - Beyond Hunger Distribution

Announcements and Save the Dates

Sign up for House to Home

Donate new household items to create kits for Housing Forward clients who are moving into permanent housing. Sign up in the lounge or use the link in the eblast to sign up electronically.

Memorial Service for Herta Lisic Today

Today at 3 p.m. there will be a celebration of the life of Herta Lisic. Reception to follow.

Environmental Justice - Watch Party

Join Faith in Action on Sept. 29 at 6 p.m. at Unity Temple to watch *Faithful Resistance in a Warming World: Climate Courage, and Collective Action*, a keynote by author Bill McKibben.

Family Day of Service, Oct. 3

Join us for a day of service at Feed My Starving Children. Depart First United at 8 a.m. and return at 1 p.m. (after lunch at Portillo's). Use the link in the eblast to register

Adult Ed Speaker Series Oct. 4

Oak Park President Vicki Scaman will address affordable housing in Oak Park. Buying a home has become elusive for many, and Oak Park is no exception. Is the fundamental zoning reform proposed by the Village the answer to this vexing problem? Meet in Centennial Hall at 9:45 a.m.

First United Movie Night, Oct. 9

Dinner and a Movie is now known as First United Movie Night. Movies will be shown at 6:30 p.m. but there will not be a dinner. On Oct. 9, we remember Dolly Parton with a showing of *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*. Watch the eblast for more details.

Register for OWL Today

Today is the last day to register for the OWL retreat open to 7th-9th graders. Visit tinyurl.com/FUCOPOWL to register.

Phone: 708-386-5215

Email: office@firstunitedoakpark.com

Website: firstunitedoakpark.com

Socials: facebook.com/firstunitedoakpark | [@firstunitedoakpark](https://instagram.com/firstunitedoakpark)

Lead Pastor: Michael Jones

Associate Pastor: Lydia Mulkey

Music Director: Sally Sloane

Organist: Bobby Nguyen

Church Administrator: Heather Vanderberg

Financial Administrator: Patricia Morales