

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK



Living God's All-Inclusive Love

May 3, 2026

Fifth Sunday of Easter

11:00 A.M. Worship

Bold text indicates congregation participation – *Indication to stand in body or spirit

Prelude

Bobby Nguyen

Prélude by Louis Vierne

Welcome

Michael Jones

Introit

The Voices at BGSU

There Is a Meeting Here Tonight's arr. Cantus

*Call To Worship

Susan Buchanan

From the beginning, all life has been connected.

There is a holy thread that weaves our lives together.

At times, we hide from this truth.

Other times it is hidden from us.

But there is a place where we find ourselves in each other.

A place where every living is valued.

Let us go there together. Love has shown us the way.

Jesus shows us the way.

*Passing the Peace

The peace of the Risen Christ be with you.

And also with you.

*Opening Hymn#17 (Black hymnal)

Stephen Faust, Timpani

To You, O God, All Creatures Sing

Prayer for Wholeness

Lydia Mulkey

Loving One, we follow the path of Jesus, who showed the way to a life of fullness, mercy, and justice for all. Just as for Jesus, in times of uncertainty, you are the ground that steadies us. When nothing feels stable or secure, the knowledge of your abiding presence is our strength and our comfort. Remind us, O God, that we need not look far for you. As close as our breath, our neighbor, and every creaturely thing - you reach for us. Thanks be to you. Amen.

Assurance of Love

Michael Jones

We receive the mercy of God, who calls us from despair into hope, from suffering into repair, from hopelessness into resolve. Jesus modeled a life and path that we also can follow; we have the capacity for strength and compassion. This is the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Gloria #759 (Black hymnal)

**Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three-in-One;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.**

Invitation to the Children

Lydia Mulkey

Musical Response #524 v.1 (Black hymnal)

This Little Light of Mine

Reciting of The Lord's Prayer

Preschool

Reciting of the 23rd Psalm

Kindergarten-2nd Grade

Musical Response

Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Reading

Susan Buchanan

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

In you, O Lord, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me. Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily. Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me. You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake lead me and guide me; take me out of the net that is hidden for me, for you are my refuge. Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God. My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors. Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.

Gospel Reading

John 14:1-14

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

*Hymn of Illumination #51 (Black hymnal)

O Sing a Song of Bethlehem

Sermon

Michael Jones

Sermon Response

The Voices at BGSU

Deep River arr. Norman Luboff

Invitation to Communion
& the Offering

Michael Jones & Lydia Mulkey

God be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to God.**

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Communion Prayer

First United Church welcomes all to come forward when an usher invites your pew for Communion. You are welcome to bring your offerings and/or pink prayer request cards and place them in the offering plates on the pedestals. Bread, crackers that are free of gluten and the nine major allergens, and grape juice are available. Feel free to take your time in receiving the bread and the cup. You may eat and drink as soon as you receive the elements or take them with you to the pew. Please return to your pew by the outside aisles.

If you are unable to come forward, an usher will bring Communion to you and will also be willing to bring forward your offering and/or pink prayer request card.

Online worshipers can give by going to firstunitedoakpark.com/give, you can share a prayer request in the live chat, and please join in Communion.

Offertory

The Voices at BGSU

I Opened My Mouth to the Lord arr. Lela Anderson

*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 #349 (Black hymnal)

I Come with Joy

*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

The Voices at BGSU

Way Over in Beulah Lan' arr. Stacey V. Gibbs

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Today's Liturgist: Susan Buchanan is an occupational and environmental medicine physician at University of Illinois Chicago. Her favorite pastimes are knitting and playing with the Farmer's Market Band.

Welcome to The Voices at BGSU choir! The Voices is under the direction of Corban Hutchins is a diverse choir on the campus of Bowling Green State University in Ohio that sings a variety of music specializing in spirituals. Their mission is to spread the culture and history of spiritual music in a joyful manner, through hard work, discipline and collaboration.

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.

Loving with Books Continues

Look for the Loving with Books table after worship in the lounge to support First United Mission Partner New Moms. We will continue collecting funds through May 17.

Baby Shower This Afternoon

Please join us on May 3 at 2:30 p.m. in Centennial Hall to honor Pastor Lydia and her wife Sam as well as First United member Vivian Gama. Cake and punch will be served!

Adult Ed Next Week

Adult Ed will not meet next week in observance of Mother's Day.

CROP Walk – May 3

Support the walkers heading out this afternoon to fight hunger! Use the QR code to donate electronically.



Sanctuary Choir Looking to Swell the Ranks!

Join the Sanctuary Choir Wednesday evenings from 7:30 - 8:30 pm to rehearse "How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place" from the Brahms Requiem for worship on Sunday, May 17. We would love to swell our ranks! (That's an organist's joke.)

Transportation Assistance

In need of a ride to church? Call or email: 847-801-9459 / FUCOP848@gmail.com.

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.

Interested in learning more about First United Church? Look for members wearing gold buttons, talk to one of the pastors, or watch for the next Newcomers class.

Assistive Listening System If you are in need of assistance in hearing during the worship service, please speak with one of the greeters.

Adult Education 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! Kids are welcome to use our Pray-ground throughout worship or take an activity bag to the pews. We also offer safe, quality childcare and quiet play 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. 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 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.



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facebook.com/firstunitedoakpark | Instagram @firstunitedoakpark

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Music Director:	Sally Sloane – ssloane@firstunitedoakpark.com
Organist:	Bobby Nguyen – bnguyen@firstunitedoakpark.com

Hymn Supplement: May 3, 2026

Opening Hymn – To You, O God, All Creatures Sing

To you, O God, all creatures sing, and all creation, everything sings your praises, alleluia!
Your burning sun with golden beam, your silver moon with softer gleam sing your praises,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Your wind that blows the tempest by, your clouds that sail across the sky sing your praises, alleluia!
Your morning rises with a song, and lights the evening sing along, sing your praises,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Your flowing waters, crystal clear, make melodies for you to hear, sing your praises, alleluia!
Your fire, bountiful and bright, remembering your warmth and light, sings your praises,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

To you, O God, day after day, your planet earth in every way, sings your praises, alleluia!
As savory fruit and fragrant flower show forth your glory and your power, signing praises,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Musical Response – This Little Light of Mine

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine. Let it shine. Let it shine.

Hymn of Illumination – *O Sing a Song of Bethlehem*

O sing a song of Bethlehem, of shepherds watching there,
And of the news that came to them from angels in the air;
The light that shone on Bethlehem fills all the world today;
Of Jesus' birth and peace on earth the angels sing away.

O sing a song of Nazareth, of days of joy and sun,
O sing of fragrant flowers' breath, and of the sinless One;
For now the flowers of Nazareth in every heart may grow;
Now spreads the fame of Jesus' name on all the winds that blow.

O sing a song of Galilee, of lake and woods and hill,
Of One who walked upon the sea and bade its waves be still;
For though, like waves on Galilee, rough seas of trouble roll,
When faith has heard the Savior's word, fall peace upon the soul.

O sing a song of Calvary, its glory and dismay,
Of One who hung upon the tree, and took our sins away;
For Christ who died on Calvary is risen from the grave;
God' sovereign Child, who reconciled, is mighty now to save.

Closing Hymn – *I Come with Joy*

I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved, and free,
The life of Jesus to recall, in love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed,
The new community of love in Christ's communion bread, in Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends, and strangers now are friends.

And thus we meet, and better know the Presence, ever near,
And join our hearts and sing with joy that Christ is risen here, that Christ is risen here.

Together met, together bound, in friendship we will stay,
And go with joy to love the world and live the way we pray, and live the way we pray.