



FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK

Sunday, August 2, 2026

www.firstunitedoakpark.com

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Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 A.M. Worship

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

Prelude

Bobby Nguyen

Petit Canon by Nadia Boulanger

Welcome

Rev. Michael Jones

*Call To Worship

Anne Koerber

What miracles of God might unfold among us?

We gather in shared hope and possibility.

Concerned with exploitation of land and people,

We are weary with empire's greed.

In faith, we trust the Spirit is with us.

There will be a breaking open.

Let the people come together in solidarity of struggle.

God will rise among us.

*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

Holy Provider, though your abundance was meant for the flourishing of all life, your resources are hoarded among the few. Your people are worked to the bone. Left without healthcare or food. Abandoned to suffering in isolation and without homes. Do not let us be deceived by crumbs doled out by death-dealing systems. Help us create communities built upon redistribution, rest, and repair. Teach us how to care for each other in these days of struggle. Amen.

Assurance of Love

The God of abundance has created enough for all, including us. The bread of life has been given to us freely, and in that gift, we confess and are forgiven. This is the Good News of the Gospel. **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

Gathering Response #524 v.1 (Black hymnal)

This Little Light of Mine

Time for Sharing

***Hymn of Illumination (Tune: HOLY MANNA 8.7.8.7 D, same as Black Hymnal #556 "God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens")**

Christ Our Lord, You Had Compassion, text written by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

**Christ our Lord, you had compassion on the crowds that needed bread.
As you taught of God's good blessings, you made sure that all were fed.
Bread to eat and bread from heaven, bread for blessing, bread to share —
You proclaimed God's great abundance for God's people everywhere.**

**Some saw only what was missing. "Jesus, send them home!" they said.
Sometimes we, too, lack the vision in a world that cries for bread.
In a world that cries for justice, we are overwhelmed by need.
What can we put into practice when the crowd's too big to feed?**

**God of love, we know our limits; show us what your love can do.
Love can help us work together; love can build a world that's new.
Love can lead us to be faithful; love can give us gifts to share.
Love can welcome in the stranger; love can seek a way that's fair.**

**Christ our Lord, you offered blessings — bread and fish — more than enough.
As you multiply our offerings, teach again the power of love.
Bread of Life, you give us plenty — your salvation, gifts of bread.
Thank you for your wondrous bounty! May we share till all are fed.**

Hebrew Bible / Old Testament Reading

Anne Koerber

Isaiah 55:1-5

Hear, everyone who thirsts; come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread and your earnings for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. Now you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

Gospel Reading Matthew 14:13-21

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” Jesus said to them, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” They replied, “We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.” And he said, “Bring them here to me.” Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled, and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

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

Sermon

*Sermon Response #349 (Black hymnal)

I Come with Joy (Verses 1, 2, & 3)

Invitation to Holy Communion and the Offering

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 & Sanctus #793 (Black hymnal)

Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, Holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you!

My heart is glad to say the words: you are holy, God.

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

Solomon Rodgers

Arabesque by Claude Debussy

*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

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 #332 (Black hymnal)**

As We Gather at Your Table

***Blessing**

***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

Bobby Nguyen

Prince of Denmark's March by Jeremiah Clarke

Today's Liturgist: Anne Koerber relocated from Ames, Iowa to Chicagoland 50 years ago, but followed the Unitarian Universalist tradition of her mother and father, an Iowa State professor, until joining First United 10 years ago.

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-Call to Worship and Prayer for Wholeness adapted from www.enfleshed.com.

-Hymn of Illumination Text: Copyright © 2024 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.

From the Deacons

As a reminder, you can report care concerns for yourself or others at any time by emailing the Deacons (deacons@firstunitedoakpark.com), using the Google form accessible by link in the eblast (or this QR code), or picking up a paper form at the Welcome Desk.



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.

Blessing of the Animals and Outdoor Worship, August 16

Worship moves outdoors on August 16. Bring Fido and Mittens with you to worship for a special pet blessing. Bubbles and Tweety don't travel well? Bring a picture and we can bless them, too.

Backpack Blessing, August 23

The 2026-27 school year will be upon us before you know it. Student and teachers are invited to bring their backpacks to worship on August 23 for a special blessing as we pray for a happy, healthy, and safe school year!

Save the Date: Prime Time Breakfast on August 27

Mark your calendars for August 27 when Prime Time will once again gather at Al's Grill in Oak Park for their annual breakfast. Watch the eblast as the date gets closer for full details.

Church School Registration Now Open!

God Is With Us. Rain or Shine. The 2026-27 Church School year begins on Gathering Day, September 13. Classes are available for children ages birth through eighth grade. Use the QR code to register so that we can plan for you!



Church School Carnival, August 30

Come to the lawn after worship on August 30 for games, prizes, food and fun as we get ready for the start of Church School! Register for Church School before the carnival and there will be a special prize waiting for you.

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.

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. 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! 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.

Transportation Assistance In need of a ride to church? Call or email: 708-334-2512 / FUCOP848@gmail.com.



FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK

Living God's All-Inclusive Love

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

Hymn Supplement: August 2, 2026

Opening Hymn – Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing

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

Our Savior Jesus 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

Gathering 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.

Sermon Response – *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 no are friends.

Closing Hymn – *As We Gather at Your Table*

As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word,
Help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;
Teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's victory known.

Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life;
Send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave;
May we still behold your image in the world you died to save.

Gracious Spirt, help us summon other guests to share that feast
Where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least.
There no more will enby bind us nor will pride our peace destroy
As we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.