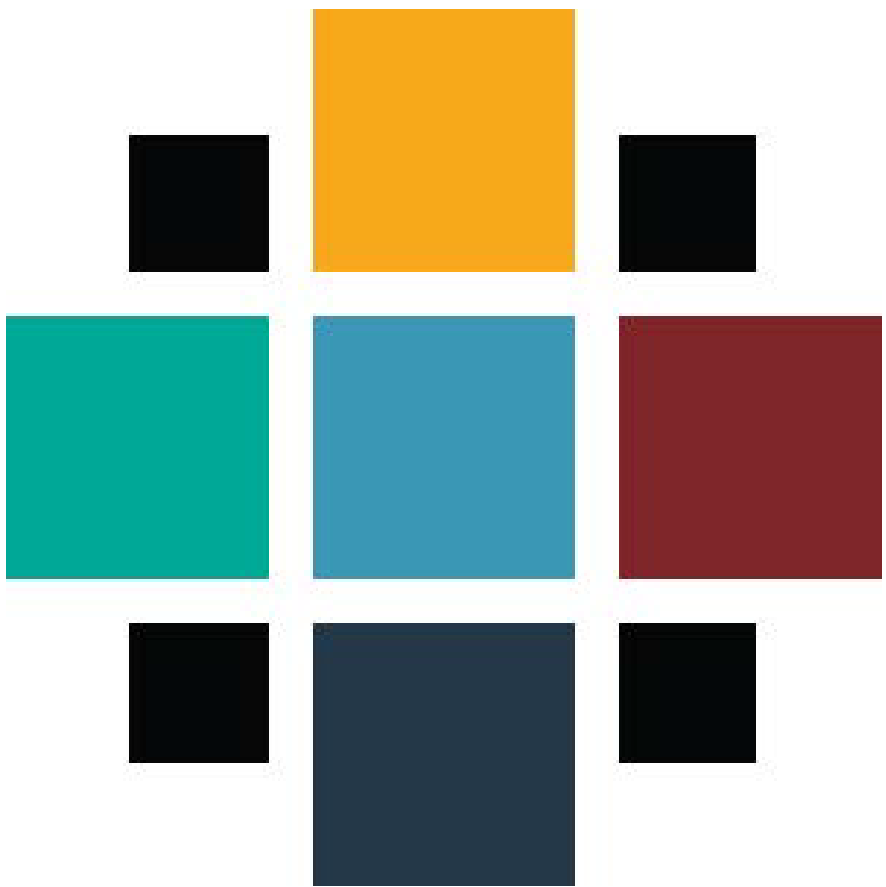


FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK

August 10, 2025



Living God’s All-Inclusive Love

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Vivian Johnson

Prelude – Notturmo P. 44 #3 by Ottorino Respighi

WELCOME

Pastor Lydia Mulkey

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Holy Compassion—

Make our thoughts like Your thoughts.

Holy Wisdom—

Align our actions with Your actions.

Holy Love—

Breathe Your Breath through our lungs.

Holy Rest—

Flow Your peace through our bodies.

Holy Justice—

Animate Your dreams with our lives.

*PASSING THE PEACE

Pastor Lydia

*OPENING HYMN

God, We Thank You for Our People (Black hymnal no. 376)

God, we thank you for our people, roots dug deep within the soil,

Hardy spirits, rich in loving, strong for struggle, bold for toil.

Faithful Rock of generations, you whom parents' parents praised:

Here in hope as we remember may our song to you be raised.

Thank you, God, for gentle pleasure: lessons learned and secrets told,

Hopes and memories saved as treasure, passed to young ones by the old,

Pranks and glories, songs and stories, food by loving hands prepared.

God, we bless you for your presence in our tears and laughter shared.

Still we must confess before you, sometimes, Savior, we have failed;

Though we worship and adore you, sometimes love has not prevailed.

Tempers racing, devil chasing, hearts estranged by ice or flame

You transform by ways forgiving. Grace amazing! Grace, your name!

**By your Spirit of creation keep us bold for risking still,
Eager in anticipation, ever strong to do your will.
Bind us close to one another, sharing life and death and birth,
Welcoming as sister, brother, all your children on the earth.**

PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS

Pastor Lydia

God of the joyful morning and of the dark night of the soul, thank you for your sustaining love. Sometimes it feels easy to be connected to your compassion. Other times, we grapple for ways to be faithful to the path of love. Unjust systems distract and divert us. Ground us in your steadfastness, Living Christ, that we have clarity and courage to live by your example.

Time for silent prayer.

ASSURANCE OF LOVE

One fact remains that does not change. God has loved you, loves you now, and will love you always. **Amen!**

INVITATION TO THE CHILDREN

Pastor Lydia

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

My Faith, It Is An Oaken Staff (Black hymnal no. 418)

**My faith, it is an oaken staff, the traveler's well-loved aid;
My faith it is song of trust, sustains me undismayed.
I'll travel on and still be stirred by silent thought or social word;
By all my perils undeterred, a pilgrim unafraid.**

**My guide is Jesus Christ whose steps, when travelers have trod,
Whether beneath was flinty rock or yielding grassy sod,
They carried on, their joy unspent; through pain and trial they onward went,
Unstayed by pleasure, still the bent their zealous course to God.**

**My faith, it is an oaken staff, O let me on it lean.
My faith provides the ground of hope, supports a purpose keen.
Your Spirit, God, upon me send, that I may be what you intend.
With patient courage, we'll contend as radiant saints serene.**

SCRIPTURE READING – HEBREWS 11:1-3, 8-16

SERMON -- FAITH

Pastor Lydia

*SERMON RESPONSE

Teach Us Your Ways

**Teach us Your ways, teach us Your ways/As we learn from one another
Learn to love each other/Teach us Your ways.**

**Hallelujah, hallelujah/Let us learn from one another
Learn to love each other/Teach us Your ways.**

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Pastor Lydia

**We welcome you into this community and promise to journey together with you in faith.
We offer ourselves as siblings in Christ, committing ourselves to care for one another.
We offer ourselves as partners in ministry and mission, working to further God's work
everywhere. We offer ourselves as companions, joining each other as the Body of Christ,
growing together in Christian faith and practice. By God's grace we share this covenant
in the name of Jesus Christ who calls us to gather in God's name.**

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Pastor Lydia

OFFERTORY

George Kazarian and Pete Todd

Soundscape #1

*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 Lydia

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

Forward Through the Ages (Black hymnal no. 377)

Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,
Move the faithful spirits at the call divine;
Gifts in differing measure, hearts of one accord,
Manifold in service, one the sure reward.

Refrain: Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,
Move the faithful spirits at the call divine.

Wide grows God's dominion, reign of love and peace;
For it we must labor, till all strivings cease.
Prophets have proclaimed it, teachers testified,
Poets sung its glory, martyrs for it died. R/

Not alone we conquer, not alone we fall;
In each loss or triumph, lose or triumph all.
Bound by God's far purpose in one living whole,
Move we on together to the shining goal. R/

INVITATION TO JOIN THE CIRCLE

Pastor Lydia

*BLESSING

*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

Tocata in F Major by D. Buxtehude

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.

Communications Survey

Periodically, the Communications Team reviews the various ways that First United communicates with our membership. Please use the QR code to take a brief survey. Your answers will help us refine and improve our communications.



When did you last read the U.S. Constitution?

We think reading the U.S. Constitution aloud with members of our faith community can be a grounding practice. Join us in the Chapel on Tuesday, August 19, 2-3:30 p.m. For the first hour we will read straight through (without discussion). For more information and to RSVP please reach out to Pete Todd (ptodd@firstunitedoakpark.com) or Sara Stevenson (Destevensonsa@comcast.net).

Outdoor Worship and Pet Blessing, August 17

August 17 will be our final outdoor worship for the summer and we will go out in style as we invite you to bring your pets (or pictures of your pets) for a special blessing during worship.

Blessing of the Backpacks, August 24

With back-to-school just around the corner, bring your backpacks to worship on August 24 for a special blessing for a safe, happy, and healthy school year! Teachers, bring your bags, too!

Church School Registration Carnival, August 24

Join the fun after worship on August 24 for food, carnival-style games and fun on the church lawn. We will also have Children’s Ministry volunteers around to help you get registered for the upcoming year in Church School!

Church School Registration Is Open!

You don’t have to wait for the carnival to register for Church School! Use the QR code to register kids (birth-8th Grade) for church school. Please note that you will also need an up-to-date Realm profile for your registration to be complete. If you do not have a Realm profile (or are unsure), please contact Heather Vanderberg (hvanderberg@firstunitedoakpark.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.

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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