

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK

Sunday, August 30, 2026

www.firstunitedoakpark.com

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Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 A.M. Worship

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

Prelude

Sanctuary Bell Ensemble

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot from 12 Bells arr. Patricia Cota

Welcome

Rev. Michael Jones

*Call To Worship

Chris Damon

From the midst of our lives, vibrant and troubled,

God longs to connect with us.

They meet us with compassion and call us to courage.

God entices us all toward deeper relations.

With land and creature, neighbors and strangers,

we find our lives entangled and entwined.

For the sake of all life, God summons our attention.

*Passing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

*Opening Hymn #27 (Black hymnal)

From All That Dwell Below the Skies

Prayer for Wholeness

Michael Jones

Holy One, we do not always understand you or what you ask of us. But in your presence, there is something that entices us. That comforts us. That challenges us toward the world we desire. Though you inevitably call us toward the risky and unfamiliar, may we not let our fears deter us. May curiosity and openness be our practices of faith. Amen.

Assurance of Love

Rev. Lydia Mulkey

Beloved, Creator has crafted a world full of all we need. Embrace abundance as an act of faith and trust in the God who provides, who redeems, and who repairs. The kingdom will come as we insist upon it, and the Holy One meets us in our commitments. **Thanks be to God: Amen.**

Invitation to the Children

Lydia Mulkey

Gathering Response #524 v.1 (Black hymnal)

This Little Light of Mine

Time for Sharing

Lydia Mulkey

*Hymn of Illumination #309 vv. 1-4 (Black hymnal)

We Are Your People

Hebrew Bible / Old Testament Reading -- Exodus 3:1-15

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness and came to Mount Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight and see why the bush is not burned up." When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. Now go, I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of

Egypt?” He said, “I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.” But Moses said to God, “If I come to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” God said to Moses, “I am who I am.” He said further, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘I am has sent me to you.’” God also said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you’: This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations.

New Testament Reading -- Romans 12:9-21

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord.” Instead, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.” Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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

Sermon

Rev. Ally Vertigan

Sermon 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 ev’ry 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 ev'ry doubting voice: "God calls me good, beloved child.
'God calls me good, beloved child.'
God calls me good, beloved child."**

Invitation to the Offering and Fifth Sunday Offering

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 lifted up 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.

Fifth Sunday Offering

Lydia Mulkey

Offertory

Sanctuary Bell Ensemble

Steal Away to Jesus arr. Patricia Cota

***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.

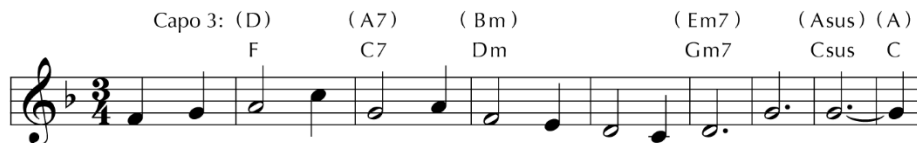
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*Closing Hymn

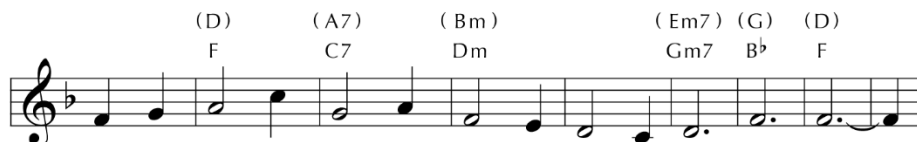
DISCIPLESHIP AND MISSION

726 Will You Come and Follow Me

The Summons



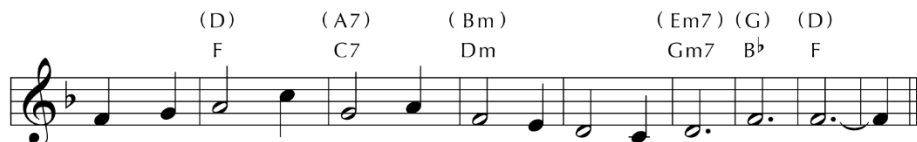
- 1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
- 2 "Will you leave your-self be-hind if I but call your name?
- 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?
- 4 "Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
- 5 Lord, your sum-mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.



Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?
 Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?
 Will you set the pris-oners free and nev - er be the same?
 Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?
 Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at-tract or scare?
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,
 Will you use the faith you've found to re-shape the world a - round,
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and foot-steps show.



will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"
 Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?"
 and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?"
 through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"
 Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

*Blessing

Ally Vertigan

*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

Humoresque "L'organo Primitivo" by Pietri Yon

Today's Liturgist: Chris Damon was raised Greek Orthodox, graduated from a UCC college, and was married in a Presbyterian church. And he is the rare Baby Boomer who actually likes that era's "circus peanut" orange-color marshmallow candy.

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

-Assurance of Love written by was written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.

-Sermon Response: "God Calls You Good" ©2017 Paul Vasile www.paulvasile.com.

Save the Dates

Please mark your calendar with these dates and watch the eblast for more information. The eblast is published on Thursday afternoons. To get on the list, please send an email to office@firstunitedoakpark.com

Church School Carnival - TODAY after worship on the Church lawn

BUILD: Austin Peace Ride – September 5; gather with First United friends at Columbus Park golf course entrance at 10 a.m. OR meet at BUILD at 10:30

Labor Day Holiday; Church Closed – Monday, September 7

First Day of Church School – September 13 at 9:45 a.m.

Register using the link in the eblast.

Gathering Day – September 13

Worship returns to 11 a.m.; root beer float celebration after worship

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

www.firstunitedoakpark.com | 708-386-5215

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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 23, 2026

Opening Hymn – From All That Dwells Below the Skies

From all that dwell below the skies let the Creator's praise arise;

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let the Redeemer's name be sung through every land, by every tongue.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Eternal are your mercies, God; your truth stands ever high and broad;

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Your praise shall sound from shore to shore till suns shall rise and set no more.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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.

Hymn of Illumination – *We Are Your People*

We are your people; Spirit of grace,

You dare to make us Christ to our neighbors

Of every culture and place.

Joined in community, treasured and fed,

May we discover gifts in each other,

Willing to lead and be led.

Rich in diversity, help us to live

Closer than neighbors, open to strangers,

Able to clash and forgive.

Glad of tradition, help us to see

In all life's changing, where Christ is leading,

Where our best efforts should be.