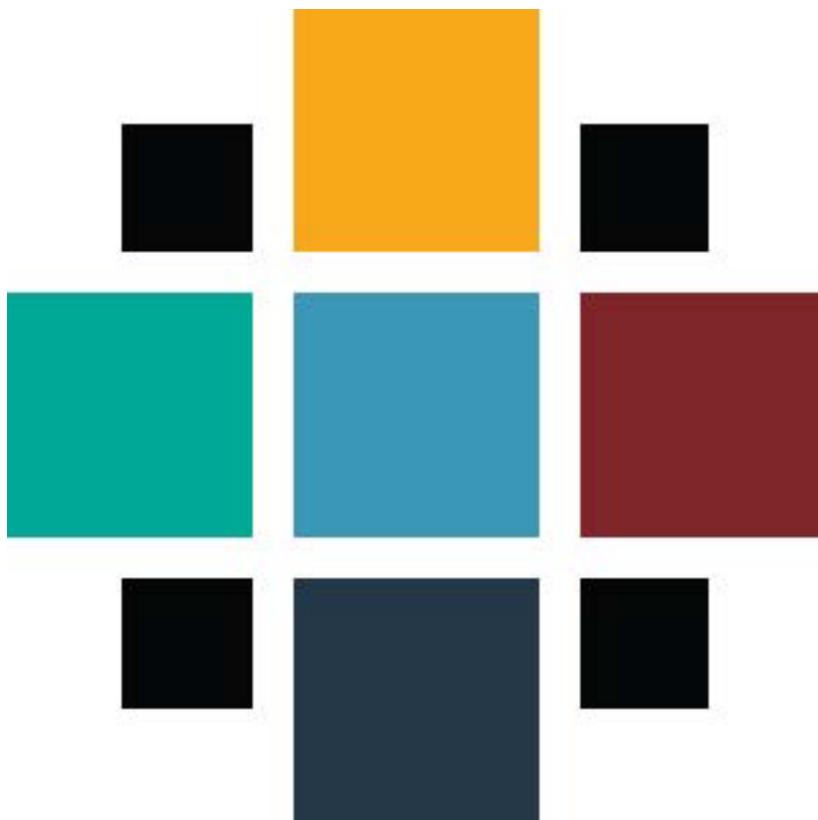


FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK  
March 8, 2026



Living God's All-Inclusive Love

# Third Sunday in Lent

11:00 A.M. Worship

**Bold text indicates congregation participation**

\*Indication to stand in body or spirit

Prelude

Sanctuary Bells

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* arr. Joel Raney

Susan Macaulay,  
piano

Welcome

Michael Jones

\*Call To Worship

Walter Miller

Let all who yearn for connection, all who hunger for justice and thirst for bodily renewal, come and be replenished.

**With hope and expectation, we bring all that our souls desire.**

Let everyone weary from isolation or overwhelmed by life's troubles come and find rest in God's care.

**All those who come seeking community are received in Holy Embrace.**

May the presence and provision of God be manifest among us that all may have what they need.

**We come to give, we come to receive, we come to grow in love.**

\*Passing the Peace

\*Opening Hymn #307 (Black hymnal)

*Glorious Things of You Are Spoken*

*Online worshippers: the words to hymns listed in the hymnal are available as a supplement at the end of this bulletin.*

Prayer for Wholeness

Michael Jones

**God Who Knows, all that we experience is held in your care. Nothing is hidden from you - not the burdens we bear in public or the quiet pain felt only in secret. Your love for us welcomes everything that aches. You give water that sustains body and spirit. Crack our hearts open and let your love flow from them like a spring. With hearts open to your Spirit, we bring all our hopes and fears to you. Amen.**

Kyrie (Black hymnal no. 751)

**Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.**

Assurance of Love

Lydia Mulkey

God's love for us is as abundant as the water that flows throughout the oceans, streams, rivers, and depths of the earth. New mercies are granted daily, and every day we have an opportunity to be changed forever and for good. Amen.

Invitation to the Children

Lydia Mulkey

Musical Response #524 v.1 (Black hymnal)

*This Little Light of Mine*

Time for Sharing

Lydia Mulkey

\*Hymn of Illumination #196 (Black hymnal)

*When, Like the Woman at the Well*

Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Reading

Walter Miller

Responsive Psalm 95:1-7, adapted

O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

**Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!**

For the Lord is a great God and a great King above all gods. In God's hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.

**The sea is God's, for God made it, and the dry land, which God's hands have formed.**

O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

**For God is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand.**

# Gospel Reading

Walter Miller

John 4:5-15, 39-42

So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

## Sermon

Michael Jones

## Sermon Response

*Loosen* By Aly Halpert

**Loosen, loosen, baby/You don't have to carry**

**The weight of the world in your muscles and bones**

**Let go, let go, let go**

**Holy breath, and holy name**

**Will you ease, will you ease this pain?**

# Invitation to the Offering

Lydia Mulkey

*During the offering all are welcome to come down the two center aisles to bring offerings and/or pink prayer cards forward to the offering plates at the front of the sanctuary on the communion table. Prayer requests will be lifted up during the Prayers of the People. If you are unable to come forward, please ask a neighbor in the pew to bring it forward or lift a hand and we will make sure there is someone to bring it forward for you.*

## Offertory

Sanctuary Choir

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* by Gilbert M. Martin

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the prince of glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save the death of Christ my God!  
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down!  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were preset far too small;  
Love, so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all! Amen!

## \*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 #326 (Black hymnal, sung to tune of #325)  
*Crashing Waters at Creation*

\*Blessing

Michael Jones

Postlude

Sanctuary Bells

*Do Lord* arr. Valerie Stephenson

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Call to worship and Prayer for Wholeness adapted from *Enfleshed: Liturgy that Matters*.  
Assurance of Love adapted from *Enfleshed: Liturgy that Matters* and liturgy written by  
Rev. Teña T. Nock, Associate Pastor of Digital Ministry, First United Church of Tampa,  
United Church of Christ

# 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](http://firstunitedoakpark.com/calendar). Follow us on Facebook ([facebook.com/firstunitedoakpark](https://facebook.com/firstunitedoakpark)) for our weekly newsletter and lots more.*

## **Open Sanctuary in Lent, Wednesdays**

Take a midday break on Wednesdays in Lent. The Sanctuary will be open from noon to 1 p.m. every Wednesday for prayer, meditation, and reflection. Spiritual practice guides will be available and meditative music will play in the background.

## **Adult Ed Speaker Series Next Week**

We will conclude our Adult Education series on world religions on Sunday, March 15, with a presentation by Alice Dan. She will speak about the Beliefs and Practices of Buddhism.

## **Fourth Sunday Offering Benefitting Learning Edge Next Week**

Learning Edge Tutoring will be the recipient of the March Fourth Sunday Offering. Learning Edge provides free one-to-one tutoring and academic enrichment to students who live in underserved communities. Visit [learningedgetutoring.org](http://learningedgetutoring.org).

## **March Dinner and a Movie, March 13**

The March Dinner and a Movie gathering will feature a showing of “Ugly Stepsister.” Dinner is at 6 p.m. (\$5 donation); movie at 6:30 p.m. RSVP using the button in the eblast or email Ron Haas ([haas.inchicago@comcast.net](mailto:haas.inchicago@comcast.net)).

## **Songs for These Times: A Community Song Circle, March 15**

All are welcome to this easy-to-join group sing focused on the pleasure and power of raising voices in community. March 15 from 3:30 to 4:30 in the First United chapel. Contact Laurie Jolicoeur ([magistra.jolicoeur@gmail.com](mailto:magistra.jolicoeur@gmail.com)) for more information.

## **MIDPOINT Game Night, March 21**

MIDPOINT invites you to a game night and dinner on Saturday, March 21, at 6:30 p.m. at the O’Shea residence. Main dish provided; bring a beverage and a side or dessert to share. Text Barbara Metric (708-834-8072) with any questions.

## **Dream God’s Dream: Pledging Continues**

Thank you to the 112 households that have already pledged for 2026-27. Did you know that two-thirds of our church budget is dependent on pledge income? We are grateful for the support of all pledging households. If you have not yet pledged, you can still make a difference in the life of our church. Pick up a pledge card at the welcome desk and hand your completed card to any staff member.

# 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 one of the pastors, or join us for a Newcomers class held three times per year.

**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 8<sup>th</sup> 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** Our Sanctuary Choir leads worship most Sundays and rehearses on Wednesday from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. during the season and is welcoming new members! You don't have to commit to sing every week. Our Handbell Choir rings a few times per year and rehearses on Wednesday from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

**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.



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Organist:	Bobby Nguyen – <a href="mailto:bnguyen@firstunitedoakpark.com">bnguyen@firstunitedoakpark.com</a>

## Hymn Supplement: March 8, 2026 (Lent 3)

### Opening Hymn – *Glorious Things of You Are Spoken*

Glorious things of you are spoken, Zion, city of our God;  
One whose word cannot be broken formed you for a blessed abode.  
On the Rod of Ages founded, what can shake your sure repose?  
With salvation's walls surrounded, you may smile at all your foes.

See! The streams of living waters, springing from eternal Love,  
Well-supply your sons and daughters, and all fear of want remove.  
Who can faint, while such a river ever will their thirst assuage:  
Grace which, like our God, the Giver, never fails from age to age?

'Round each habitation hovering, see the cloud and fire appear  
For a glory and a covering, showing that their God is near!  
Thus deriving from their banner light by night and shade by day,  
Safe they feed upon the manna which God gives them when they pray.

Savior, if of Zion's city we through grace apart may claim,  
Let the world deride or pity, we will glory in your name.  
Fading is all worldly pleasure, all earth's boasted pomp and show;  
Solid joys and lasting treasures, none by Zion's children know.

### Hymn of Illumination – *When, Like the Woman at the Well*

When, like the woman at the well, I lived with broken dreams,  
Christ came to me, good news to tell, of ever-living streams.

Christ knew my heart, my wayward ways, yet gave me hope, not fear.  
The God I once thought far away, I could approach, draw near.

I learned I could forever live and worship God aright,  
Could trust the power the Spirit gives to guide me in truth's light.

Each day I lift my cup above, and I again receive  
The living water of God's love, revealed for my belief.

Since now I am in grace immersed, set free, forgiven, whole,  
I share with those who are athirst the well-springs of my soul.

### Closing Hymn – *Crashing Waters at Creation*

Crashing waters at creation ordered by the Spirit's breath,  
First to witness day's beginning from the brightness of night's death.

Parting water stood and trembled as the captives passed on through,  
Washing off the chains of bondage – channel to a life made new.

Cleansing water once at Jordan closed around the One foretold,  
Opened to reveal the glory ever new and ever old.

Living water never ending, quench the thirst and flood the soul.  
Wellspring, Source of life eternal, drench our dryness, make us whole.