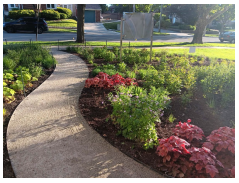

Welcome to the Memorial Garden

United Lutheran Church

409 Greenfield St at Ridgeland
Oak Park, IL 60302
unitedlutheranchurch.org

In 2025, United Lutheran Church transformed its spacious north grounds into a welcoming memorial garden. Designed and planted by Leaf & Spade Garden Design of Oak Park, the naturalistic garden features native, drought-tolerant species selected to provide year-round beauty and sustainable upkeep. The garden is designed to provide color, fullness, and texture throughout the seasons. Landscaping plans for the total property will be phased in over the coming years.

The installation work began in spring 2025. In preparation for planting, existing turf grass, invasive shrubs, yews, boxwoods, and other plants were removed, and hardscape and watering equipment were added. Then the vast array of perennials, sedges, grasses, shrubs, and several trees were planted in the 3,000 sq ft space. Scheduled watering for this first year was handled by the timed watering system and church volunteers.

A Wild Ones West Cook *Garden for Nature* grant generously supported purchase of hundreds of Midwestern native-species perennials to promote biodiversity and healthy native habitat.

The garden features a walking path, benches, and a historic stone finial from the former church tower, creating a peaceful space for reflection. As a public space, the intent is to be a welcoming place to sit, watch bees and butterflies, and enjoy the peace in the beautiful setting. Members and neighbors have commented that the garden enhances the church's architecture, and they appreciate the inviting nature of the space. The garden welcomes visitors to enjoy its natural beauty as it continues to mature. We look forward to the seasonal changes in the coming years and invite neighbors and the general public to enjoy the beauty.

Bless and sanctify this memorial garden; bless the memories of ancestors and loved ones whose presence this space holds dear; bless the feet that walk upon this path; bless the bees and butterflies and birds that pollinate these plants and flowers; bless the hands, eyes, and hearts of all who care for this garden; and make us a blessing to our wider neighborhood; make us one as you are one.

Thank You

Leaf & Spade Garden Design leafandspade.com

Wild Ones West Cook *Garden for Nature 2025* grant westcook.wildones.org

Members of United Lutheran Church unitedlutheranchurch.org

Oak Park River Forest Garden Walk 2026 fopcon.org/garden-walk/

2025 Memorial Garden Plantings

Trees and Shrubs

*Cercis canadensis (*Redbud - Replacement)
Cornus alternifolia (Pagoda Dogwood)
*Aesculus parviflora (*Bottlebrush Buckeye)
Clethra alnifolia 'Hummingbird' (Summersweet)
Diervilla lonicera (Northern Bush Honeysuckle)
Diervilla rivularis 'Kodiak Black' (Bush Honeysuckle)
Fothergilla gardenii 'Mt Airy' (Dwarf Fothergilla)
Hydrangea arborescens 'Annabelle' (Smooth Hydrangea)
*Lindera benzoin (*Spicebush)

Sedges and Grasses

*Carex albicans (*White-tinged Sedge)
*Carex plantanigea (*Plantain-leaved Wood Sedge)
*Carex sprengell*i (Long-beaked Sedge)
*Schizachyrium scoparium (*Little Bluestem)
Sporobolus heterolepis (Prairie Dropseed)

Herbaceous Perennials

Achillea millefolium "Moonshine' (Yarrow)
Agastache 'Blue Fortune' (Anise Hyssop)
Allium lusitanicum 'Summer Beauty' (Allium)
Amsonia hubrichtii (Threadleaf Blue Star)
Amsonia tabernaemontan 'Blue Ice' (Blue Star)
Aquilegia canadensis (Wild Columbine)
Aruncus 'Misty Lace' (Goat's Beard)
Asarum canadense (Wild Ginger)
*Baptisia australis (*Blue Wild Indigo)
Calamintha nepeta ssp *nepeta* (Calamint)
*Dalea Purpurea (*Purple Prairie Clover)
*Dryopteris marginalis (*Marginal Wood Fern)
*Echinacea pallida (*Pale Purple Coneflower)
Echinacea purpurea (Purple Coneflower)
Echinacea 'Pixie Meadowbrite' (Coneflower)
Echinacea purpurea 'White Swan' (Coneflower)
Eryngium yuccifolium (Rattlesnake Master)
*Eurybia macrophylla (*Big-leaved Aster)
*Eutrochium maculatum (*Spotted Joe Pye Weed)
Gillenia trifoliata (Bowman's Root)
Geranium maculatum (Wild Geranium)
Geranium sanguineum 'Max Frei' (Bloody Cranesbill)
Heuchera villosa 'Autumn Bride' (Coral Bell)
Heuchera x *villosa* 'Carnival Watermelon' (Coral Bell)
*Gillenia trifoliata (*Bowman's Root)
Liatris spicata (Marsh Blazing Star)
Lobelia siphilitica (Great Blue Lobelia)
Monarda bradburiana (Eastern Beebalm)
Penstemon digitalis (Foxglove Beardtongue)
Polemonium reptans (Jacob's Ladder)
Pycnanthemum muticum (Clustered Mountain Mint)
Rudbeckia fulgida var. *deamii* (Black-eyed Susan)
Salvia nemerosa 'Caradonna' (Woodland Sage)
Salvia nemerosa 'Wesuwe' (Meadow Sage)
Tiarella cordifolia (Foamflower)
Vernonia 'Summer's Swan Song' (Ironweed)
Veronica 'Wizard of Ahhs' (Spike Speedwell)
*Zizia aurea (*Golden Alexander)

LEAF & SPADE
CHICAGO • OAK PARK
NATURE-INSPIRED GARDEN DESIGN

WILD ONES
West Cook

FRIENDS OF THE OAK PARK CONSERVATORY

United Lutheran Church

Join Us for Worship 9:30 am Sunday

"God's Work, Our Hands"

UnitedLutheranChurch.org
office@unitedlutheranchurch.org
Rev. Ole Schenk, Pastor

United Lutheran Church welcomes you to our Sunday service and our faith community.