



CALLED TOGETHER



First Church of Lombard
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

220 S. Main Street Lombard, Illinois

www.FCOL.org facebook.com/FirstChurchLombard

MINISTRY CATALOG

First Church of Lombard

September 2021

MISSION STATEMENT

*First Church of Lombard
United Church of Christ*

First Church of Lombard, United Church of Christ, is called together by a vision of God's shalom, God's wholeness, justice and peace. We commit to model a community of faith and spirit that works toward unity, openness, understanding and peace, offering love, justice, healing and wholeness for all people.

We covenant together to be God's faithful people by:

becoming partners in a pilgrimage of faith, creating an environment that encourages worship, growth, and exploration;

providing quality Christian Education experiences for everyone;

sharing ourselves and our resources to become compassionate, effective ministers, striving to be supportive of and caring for those in need both locally and globally;

recognizing, celebrating, and giving thanks for the many diverse gifts of God among and around us;

declaring ourselves to be an Open and Affirming congregation that welcomes into the full life and ministry of the church persons of every race, culture, gender, sexual orientation, ability and economic status, believing that through our diversity we all can grow in a unity of faith.

declaring ourselves to be a faith community that works to bring about God's vision of Shalom by promoting justice and peace.

*Adopted December 7, 2008
Amended April 28, 2019*

As a church where all are welcome, we are called together to live out our mission statement in all that we do. At First Church of Lombard, all are called to participate in the ministry of the church... but it's not always easy to know where your gifts and passions are most needed. This guide is intended to help members and newcomers alike more fully take part in the many ways that the people of First Church of Lombard worship, grow, serve and live together.

Take some time to look through the enclosed information about a wide array of ministry areas — from Fellowship to Wider Church; from Administration to Education and Faith Exploration, Worship, Service and Outreach — and so much more!

As you discover how you might lead, participate, or serve in various ways here at First Church of Lombard, please fill out the form located at the back of this booklet. When you submit this form to the church office or place it in the offering plate, the church leadership will help ensure that your gifts are connected to ministries and missions that interest you!

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.

(1 Corinthians 12:4)

If you find yourself agreeing with the following statements. . .

- When I do something, I like to see tangible results for my efforts, such as a finished project or measurable progress.
- I am fulfilled by performing routine tasks in the church.
- I keep my personal and business affairs well organized.
- I can clearly communicate goals in a way that others can fulfill them.
- I constantly search for better ways to do and say things.
- I believe I am a very practical, pragmatic person.
- I am more fulfilled when I work behind the scenes, out of the public eye.
- I am goal-oriented, as opposed to being people- or content-oriented.
- I enjoy working with my hands.

. . . Then your gifts may be in the area of ADMINISTRATION.

Church Council

Council Member

Council meets monthly to guide the church between congregational meetings. Members include officers (moderator, vice-moderator, clerk, and treasurer) and representatives of our various ministry teams, but could also include members-at-large. Terms vary, from one to two years.

Lilac Time Auction Planner

This annual fundraising event is held on the third Saturday of each May, bringing our congregation together for an evening of fun, food, and fundraising. Planners begin each year in January to coordinate the entire auction, dinner, and more.

Lilac Time Auction Helper

Not ready to be an auction planner, then how about helping out with preparations, set-up, clean-up, or in another way? There are many roles you could fill to make the auction a success!

Finance Team

Team Member

The Finance Team meets monthly to monitor and strengthen the financial ministry of the church. Financial policies, stewardship programs, and the annual budget are often on the agenda.

Investment Team

The Finance Team manages the church's Endowment Fund, but needs "expert" help to guide the policies and decisions about the Fund. Investment Team members meet as needed by the Finance Team.

Financial Stewardship Campaigns

The Finance Team manages the annual stewardship campaign for our operating budget. If a capital campaign is required, the Finance Team manages that campaign as well. You could help with these campaigns without being part of the Finance Team. The bulk of this work is done between June and October.

Sunday Morning Offering Counter

After worship a team counts the money that is put in the collection plate and fills out the paperwork for the administrative secretary and church treasurer. It takes no more than an hour after worship, no more than once per month.

Management Team

Team Member

The Management Team meets monthly to plan, implement, evaluate, and budget for the building and grounds needs of the church, including any rental contracts.

Sunday Morning Church Opener

On Sunday, church members open the church building “for business,” including setting up tables and chairs for coffee hour. If you could occasionally open the church two hours prior to worship on Sunday, training and keys are provided!

Twice-Yearly Clean-Up Volunteer

Twice a year after worship in the fall and spring, everyone is welcome to come together to clean-up the church—inside and out! Food and drink is included!

Lawn Care, Gardening and Weeding

Did God give you a green thumb? We need help all around our property with mowing, weeding, watering plants, and more. Mower, gas, hoses, etc. provided.

Snow Removal

Most of our snow is removed by a paid provider, but we occasionally have “emergency” needs for snow removal before the snow service can get to us. Volunteers clear sidewalks and patio areas only, on an as-needed basis.

Light Construction/Minor Repairs

Some people have the gift of being handy! If you are willing and able to help with painting, simple plumbing or even electricity, let us know so we can call on you.

Office Administration

Tech Team

Attention computers techies! Help is needed to update the website and work throughout the church building, in the Chapel, and at the Outreach House for hardware, wi-fi, Internet, printers, sound systems, and other electronic infrastructure.

Site Host for Outside Groups

Occasionally, someone is needed to unlock the church and be present as a liaison for outside groups using the church building; does not include table set-ups.

General Office Volunteer

Available on an as-needed basis to prepare mailings, answer phones, and more.

If you find yourself agreeing with the following statements. . .

- I like to have visuals to support me when I learn or even when I speak to a group of people.
- I have a compelling desire to see others learn and grow.
- I often think back upon portions of the worship service or the sermon as I go throughout my week.
- I find music speaks to me in a way that words cannot.
- I delegate whenever and wherever possible, but I know when and where I cannot.
- I am uplifted by music in a worship setting.
- I experience my faith primarily as an emotional activity; I strive to feel God's presence in my heart.
- I have the ability to organize and harmonize the people with whom I work.

**. . . Then your gifts may be in the
area of MUSIC AND WORSHIP.**

Worship Team

Team Member

The Worship Team meets monthly to plan, implement, evaluate, and budget for the worship life of First Church of Lombard, including Sundays and special services such as Lent, Good Friday, Maundy Thursday, Ash Wednesday, and any other special event or service. The worship team will take care of logistics for worship such as preparation for communion and baptisms, as well as decorating.

Usher

First Church has six teams of ushers, each of which serves once every six weeks. On the job training – and a training booklet – are provided!

Greeter

Each week, two smiling and welcoming greeters are scheduled at the west door, in addition to two in the lobby and two in the narthex. Each time you are scheduled, you get to work with a new person at a new location. On-the-job training provided!

Liturgist

Every Sunday a lay member starts worship with words of welcome and announcements, leads the opening prayer, and reads the scripture.

Sound & Multimedia Team

A rotating team makes sure that sound, audio, and videos are just right every Sunday at First Church. Training is provided.

Music Ministry

Choral Musician

People of any age who love to sing — even those who don't read music — are always welcome to our choir.

Josiah Reade Ringers

First Church's beloved handbell choir is always looking for more experienced and inexperienced ringers.

Vocal Soloist

We are always looking for vocal soloists for our ensembles, as well as for weddings, funerals, and other special services.

Instrumentalist

Drummer? Saxophonist? Bassist? Guitarist? Bassoonist? Cow bell? More cow bell? No matter what instrument you play, there's a place for you!

Child or Youth Musician

We are creating a database of the musical gifts of all First Church children and youth so we can call on them to share their talents throughout the year.

If you find yourself agreeing with the following statements. . .

- I am people-centered; I need many relationships.
- I have a heartfelt desire to comfort others.
- I am sensitive to other people's financial and material needs.
- I am socially active and always get along well with others.
- I attempt to show love and concern in all I do.
- When I do something, I like to see tangible results for my efforts, such as a finished project or measurable progress.
- I am capable of making quick decisions and sticking to them.
- When faced with human need, I am motivated to pray and offer spiritual comfort.

. . . Then your gifts may be in the area of FELLOWSHIP.

Parish Life

Team Member

The Parish Life Team meets monthly to plan, implement, evaluate, and budget for coffee hour, social events, new members, congregational care ministries and more.

Coffee Hour Helper

Help is needed to serve refreshments after service! Drinks and food items are already purchased and available. Volunteer as often as you would like, even sharing the task with multiple households. Training is provided. Helpers arrive before worship starts and stay after coffee hour to clean up.

Social Events/Dinners

First Church hosts several church-wide dinners per year. Helpers are needed to organize each event, cook, set up, serve, clean up, etc. Recent events include a January soup supper, a St. Patrick's dinner, the annual Rally Day picnic in September, and the "Gourmet Guys" in October.

Called to Care Ministry

Members of First Church's lay caregiving ministry assist the minister with pastoral care for the homebound, hospitalized, those in short-term rehab, long-term care, retirement homes, and people who are unemployed, grieving, new members, and who need meals and transportation. Training is provided, and you choose the ministry you want to perform.

New Member Ministry

We need help filling visitor packets and new member folders, hosting new member orientations and new member breakfasts, taking and posting new member photos, keeping track of visitors and prospective members, and contacting people who are interested in joining First Church.

Marketing and Communications

What's our "brand" in the community? How can we get the word out about First Church? We occasionally run display ads in the newspaper, but might want to move into other forms of branding and advertising both internally, externally, or online. If you are interested in helping increase our church's public profile, this might be the right ministry for you!

Women's Fellowship

Circle Member

First Church has three women's "Circles": Esther, Sarah, and Mary. Each has different fellowship, learning and service activities. If you are interested in knowing more about each group, a Women's Fellowship Board Member will contact you and help you decide upon the right "Circle" for you!

Crafter

Part of Women's Fellowship is coming together to create together. Whether you are an experienced quilter, an amateur glue-gunner, or an absolute novice when it comes to handicrafts, there is a place for you. Indicate your interest to be contacted by a Women's Fellowship Board Member who will tell you more about our on-going and annual crafting sessions.

Rummage Sale Helper

Twice a year, in fall and spring, the Women's Fellowship of First Church raises money for mission by means of a two-day rummage sale in Hatfield Hall. As you can imagine, LOTS of help is needed! Women AND MEN are needed to help with set-up, tear-down, and other tasks. Membership in a Circle is not necessary.

Funeral Lunch Helper

The Women's Fellowship ministers to families of church members who pass away by providing luncheons immediately after the funeral or memorial service. Many hands are needed to shop, make and serve food, set up, and clean up.

Mistletoe Mart Helper

On the first Saturday of each November, First Church joins with other churches and public buildings along Maple Street for the annual Christmas Mart. Crafts, food, and other holiday items are on offer. It's a festive day, but the Women's Fellowship needs help to make it a success.

If you find yourself agreeing with the following statements. . .

- I am willing to attempt impossible tasks for God.
- I am very sympathetic and sensitive of others. I can “put myself in their shoes.”
- I like to meet needs quickly.
- I am impressed and motivated when encouraged to serve.
- Some people may think I neglect spiritual needs because of my focus on physical and practical needs.
- When faced with human need, I am motivated to provide practical, material assistance.
- I am capable of making quick decisions and sticking to them.
- People tell me that I have an energizing and encouraging spirit.

. . . Then your gifts may be in the area of OUTREACH AND SERVICE.

Outreach House

The Outreach House provides assistance to families and individuals in our community with a focus on families with children under three. It began as a collaboration of local clergy that sought to coordinate support for neighbors in need and was housed on the campus of First Church of Lombard, UCC. Today, The Outreach House is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit operating four programs. Walk-in Ministry and First Things First are located inside the little gray house in the parking lot of First Church at 24 W. Ash St, Lombard. The Food Pantry and Clothes Closet are located inside located at First United Methodist Church, 155 S. Main St, Lombard.

Walk-in Ministry Program

Our volunteers couple their compassion for their neighbor with a practical knowledge of community resources. When there is need, we can provide assistance with food, transportation, personal care items, and utilities. Outreach House collaborates with other social service providers and share their information with our guests for food pantries, clothes closet and other supportive and emergency assistance agencies in the area.

First Things First Program

Supports families with children 3 years of age or younger by supplying diapers and clothing. Volunteers work one-on-one with First Things First clients to inform them of our services, listen to their needs, and provide basic baby supplies. They also maintain the children's clothing closet, accept donations and replenish inventory. Some volunteers work once or twice a month, others work 1 or 2 days each week. It is dependent on each individual's circumstances. Volunteers learn how diaper need impacts low-income families and help make a difference in the lives of babies and toddlers in need in our community.

Lombard-Villa Park Food Pantry

In our community, one in thirteen people and one in seven children lack enough food to live an active, healthy life. First Church is part of a group of dedicated volunteers who work together in serving our neighbors in need with nutritious food. The pantry welcomes volunteers to help with guest registration, preparing boxes and bags of food, assisting in handing out food directly to families as they drive up, sorting donated goods, and picking up food from retail locations like Mariano's, Aldi's, and Pete's Market. Contact foodpantry@theoutreachhouse.org or call 630-627-2508, ext. 5 if you can help.

Community Clothes Closet

This clothes closet is located at First United Methodist Church. Offering free clothing, shoes and other accessories to children and adults. Winter apparel is provided to anyone in need. Volunteers sort donated goods and restock the "shopping" area.

Outreach Ministries

Community Table

“CT” offers a meal every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. from September through June to anyone in the community, targeting those in need of sustenance and company. The free meal is shared in a safe environment, prepared by caring people, served in an atmosphere of love and friendship. It takes many hands to make it happen: food prep, cooks, servers, clean-up, shoppers, organizers, etc. Can you lend a helping hand?

Prairie Path Adopt-a-Trail

First Church of Lombard has adopted a mile of the beautiful Illinois Prairie Path. We gather four times each year to clean up as much trash and debris as possible from “our mile.” This is a great activity for individuals, and families work together, to promote the health and well-being of our trail, our environment and our community. If you like being outside and want to help take care of the trail, this team is for you.

Maple Street Chapel Preservation Society

Board Member

Meets monthly to oversee the endowment, operating budget, policies, upkeep, and program of the historic Maple Street Chapel.

Upkeep and Repairs

A 146-year-old structure needs a lot of maintenance! Your work would be guided by the facilities manager of the Chapel.

Concert Series Helper

The Maple Street Concerts makes good use of the Chapel multiple times a year for the presentation of wonderful live music, while raising money for the Chapel.

If you find yourself agreeing with the following statements. . .

- I am more relationship-oriented than task-oriented.
- I experience my faith primarily as an intellectual activity.
- I strive to know God and think through issues of faith.
- I am able to provide helpful solutions and advice to others when they have personal problems.
- I like tasks that are broken down into simple steps.
- I find it easy to express my feelings to others.
- I have a compelling desire to see others learn and grow.
- Impractical teaching upsets and frustrates me.
- I enjoy helping children and youth develop and mature.
- I find joy in seeing people come to understand new ideas.

. . . Then your gifts may be in the area of EDUCATION AND FAITH EXPLORATION.

Faith Exploration

Christian Formation Team

The Christian Formation Team shepherds the church's educational ministries for children through 5th grade and adults. This team meets monthly for planning, implementing, evaluating and budgeting. We strive to provide a safe, nurturing and loving environment to learn, grow, question and strengthen our community.

Nursery Volunteer

The nursery, when open, is for children from birth through age 3. A paid nursery coordinator needs an adult to assist in the nursery each Sunday. Help once a month... or more!

Special Events Volunteer

Several large-scale events for children and families are held throughout the year, including Vacation Bible School (VBS) in July, Fall Fest in October, and Advent Night in late November/early December. Volunteers are needed for each event to plan and develop new ideas, do set-up, and clean-up. In addition, VBS needs volunteers available during the day to lead, teach, or guide groups of kids.

Retreat Planning Team(s)

First Church of Lombard takes three annual retreats to Tower Hill Camp & Retreat Center in Sawyer, Michigan. All three retreats need a planning team to develop ideas and take care of logistics. Please indicate whether you are interested in helping with the October Fall Retreat, the November Women's Retreat, or the April Men's Retreat.

Adult Faith Exploration

Team Member

This team meets quarterly to evaluate, brainstorm, and work through the logistics of faith development opportunities for adults at First Church of Lombard.

Adult Education Facilitator

Leaders are needed to provide education opportunities to adult church members. Help is needed both for studies already being planned... and for new ideas/topics!

"Beyond Words" Book Discussion

Gather every other month to discuss a book chosen by the group. Group members can even choose to lead a discussion if they choose. No sign-up required!

Sunday School

Sunday School Teacher

During the program year, all children in preschool through 3rd grade are invited to Sunday School, held during the worship service at 10:15 a.m. Using a “Rotation” model allows children to explore Bible stories and lessons in a variety of creative ways like art projects, science experiments, and even cooking!

Each month, Sunday School children in preschool through 3rd grade learn a new story or teaching from the Bible. On the first week of that teaching, children remain in the classroom for a lesson prepared just for their age group. Sunday School teachers for these younger students only volunteer on this single Sunday each month, which is an opportunity to be creative with teaching methods and approach. Students in 4th and 5th grade have a special curriculum developed just for them, providing an overview of the Bible and faith practices like prayer and service. The 4th/5th Grade class has dedicated “home room” teachers with whom students meet every week. Two teachers are needed for this duty.

Sunday School Shepherd

On the Sundays following the Teacher teaching in their classroom, children arrive at Sunday School and find a Shepherd present instead. Shepherds check students in and escort them to activities designed to reinforce the month’s lesson. There is no preparation needed to be a Shepherd; volunteer once a month (or more!).

Sunday School Rotation Activity Leader

Help reinforce the monthly Bible lesson through art, games, science, cooking, and more. You choose what activity you would like to explore! Lessons, materials, and support are provided for a simple lesson, only taught two Sundays in the year.

Sunday School Substitute

Substitutes step in to help on an as-needed basis.

Youth Ministry

Youth Ministry Team Member

The Youth Ministry Team meets quarterly to plan, implement, evaluate, and budget for all youth ministries for students in Middle School and High School (Grades 6 through 12), including 6th Grade Explorers, Confirmation, and Youth Community.

Explorers Leader

Explorers is our ministry for 6th graders to help them transition from Sunday School to Confirmation. Classes meet Sundays from 9:00-10:00 a.m. At least two dedicated adults teach a unique weekly curriculum for the school year. Training, curriculum, and support provided; this one-year commitment is renewable.

Confirmation Leader

Ideally, three adults are needed to lead Confirmation classes Sunday mornings from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. (plus weekend retreats and other activities). Adult leaders commit to work with the same confirmands from the beginning of the program until they are confirmed two years later. Training, curriculum, and lots of administrative and pastoral support are provided for this two-year commitment.

Youth Community Adult Leader

Youth Community is First Church's fantastic high school ministry! Adult leaders attend as many Youth Community events as possible (typically one per weekend, plus the annual summer mission trip if possible). Adult leaders mentor and build strong relationships with youth, providing a safe space for high schoolers to feel loved, express themselves, and explore new ideas and experiences.

Youth Community SWAT Team

Often, adults are interested in serving with our high school program but are not available for a weekly commitment. As it happens, drivers and chaperones are often needed for Youth Community events and retreats! The SWAT Team "Serves Willingly Albeit Temporarily" to help ensure that every student can attend every event by providing safe drivers and supervision.

If you find yourself agreeing with the following statements. . .

- I am goal-oriented.
- I dream big dreams and have great hopes, although I do not always share them with others.
- I am sensitive to other people's financial and material needs.
- I have the ability to motivate others.
- I feel compelled to work when faced with societal issues.
- I enjoy speaking in public, and do it with boldness.
- I experience my faith primarily as an intuitive activity; I have a deep conviction of God's reality.
- I develop several steps of action to solve every problem.
- I want to know my financial gift is being used properly; I believe in accountability.

. . . Then your gifts may lead you to the ministries of the WIDER CHURCH.

Wider Church

Team Member

Wider Church team members meet monthly to plan, implement, evaluate, and budget for the outreach and social justice ministries of First Church, as well as coordinate our connection to the United Church of Christ with a vision to be servants in the service of the whole human family. The team oversees budget allocations to several ministries which, in 2018, included Teen-Parent Connection, CUE (Chicago/United/Eden) Seminaries, Community Renewal Society, Lombard/Villa Park Food Pantry and CROP Hunger Walk, LOVE Christian Clearinghouse, and the U.C.C.'s Our Church's Wider Mission. They have from time to time raised funds for scholarships for UCC students attending Elmhurst College and sent money to support disaster relief.

Adult mission trips to supply help for disaster relief and housing assistance both within the U.S. and to Costa Rica are also supported by Wider Church.

Amos Project

The mission of our social justice ministry is to work together as Christians to build relationships, educate, and take action in our community and beyond. The Amos Project strives to work in an interfaith environment as demonstrated by our participation in DuPage United. If your passion is to change the social systems that cause homelessness, poverty, and other wrongs, reach out and a team member will set up a “1-on-1” with you to get you started.