

**First Church of Lombard
United Church of Christ
April 28, 2024 – Fifth Sunday of Easter**



Children in preschool through 5th grade begin worship with their families and will be dismissed to Sunday School shortly. For parents who need a quiet, calm place to go with smaller children, the Nursery is available across from the main office. The audio of the service -- as well as activities for infants and toddlers -- are accessible, but the room is not staffed.

PRELUDE

All Things Bright and Beautiful

arr. Mark Hayes

TIME OF SHARING & CONNECTING WITH THE COMMUNITY

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

GATHERING FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

***OPENING SONG**

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian (NCH #454)

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart.

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart,

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart,

Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart,

Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.

*Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart.
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.*

***OPENING PRAYER (UNISON)**

Creating God, we are grateful for the hope that you offer to us and all creation. Prune us so that we may have a cleansed heart. Help us to grow your garden of love. Water our despair so it can be transformed into your hope. Feed our minds so that all may glean from your wisdom. Nurture our spirits so that we can become more fruitful in our lives. Give us new life, we pray. Amen.

*Children in preschool through 5th grade are now dismissed to Sunday School; a teacher will be on-hand to guide them to their class.
Sunday School students should be picked up by a parent or other responsible adult at 11:30 a.m. at the Resource Room
(on the lower level).*

THE WORD OF GOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD

through an anthem

*Oh Word of God
Voices of Peace*

arr. Craig Courtney

through a scripture reading

John 15:1-8

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

through a sermon

Hang in There

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

***HYMN**

Abide with Me (NCH #99)

*Abide with me: fast falls the eventide;
The shadows deepen, Lord, with me abide;
When other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.*

*Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see;
O Christ who changes not, abide with me.*

*I need your presence every passing hour.
What but your grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who like yourself my guide and strength can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.*

*I fear no foe, with you at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness;
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, your victory?
I triumph still if you abide with me.*

*Hold now your cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies;
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Christ, abide with me*

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR GIFTS

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER SONG Alleluia (NCH #765)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

*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.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for
Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*



First Church of Lombard
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

SENT FORTH TO PROCLAIM GOD'S GRACE

***PARTING SONG** *Sent Forth by God's Blessing (NCH #76)*

*Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The service is ended, O now be extended
the fruits of our worship in all who believe.
The seed of the teaching, receptive hearts reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.
God's grace did invite us, And love shall unite us
To work for God's realm and to answer the call.*

*With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,
The tasks of our everyday life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
Embracing God's children of each tribe and race.
With your grace you feed us, with your light now lead us,
Unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
Give honor to Christ and that name which we bear.*

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *Look Ye Saints, The Sight is Glorious* arr. Larry Shackley

***As you are able, please stand in body or in spirit.**

First Church of Lombard, UCC – Song Select and Broadcasting License # 48259180
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**On this Music Appreciation Sunday, we'd like to thank all our musicians
for everything they do.**

Everyone is welcome to Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall after worship.

If you would like to hear about upcoming events and receive the News and Notes via email, please email Bea Castillo at bcastillo@firstchurchoflombard.org. A limited number of hard copies are available in the narthex.

NEWS AND NOTES

FIRST CHURCH OF LOMBARD
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Published Weekly

April 28, 2024

20 South Main Street
Lombard, Illinois 60148
No.1247

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY- MAY 5

Join us next Sunday as we congratulate the youth who will be joining the church through Confirmation. We are proud of them (and their families) for their dedication to our rigorous two-year Confirmation program. We also thank the adult and youth leaders, who guided the students on this journey.

LILAC PARADE – WALKERS & RIDERS NEEDED

A group from First Church will march in Lombard's Lilac Parade on Sunday, May 19 at 1:30 PM. All ages and abilities are welcome (a car will be available for riders). The parade is a great way to represent our church to the community and to advertise for the Pride Fest coming up on June 2. Please indicate your interest in being in the parade on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Foyer and mark your calendars for Sunday, May 19!

LET'S TALK ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH

The evidence is all around us -- people of all ages are struggling with their mental health like never before. FCL's Amos Project and Adult Faith Exploration teams are inviting everyone to come talk about four essential questions about mental health with honesty, compassion, and hope. Come any Sunday morning in April and/or Wednesday evenings (April 10 through May 1). Sunday morning discussions start at 9:00 a.m.; each following Wednesday will be on the same topic as Sunday and will be held at 7:00 p.m. All sessions meet via Zoom and/or in-person in the North Conference Room. For Zoom links and details, email vsutton@firstchurchoflombard.org.

MENTAL HEALTH SUNDAY

On Sunday, May 19 we will recognize Mental Health Sunday with a special guest speaker-Geri Kerger, Executive Director of NAMI DuPage (National Alliance on Mental Illness). Please plan to attend to hear Executive Director Kerger speak about this important topic and plan to stay after worship for a time of Q&A.

CALLED TO CARE

While not a very visible ministry at First Church, Called to Care works to maintain contact with members who are not able to attend, need rides to medical appointments, enjoy a card in the mail, need a meal, and other needs as they arise. If you would find involvement in this ministry meaningful, please contact one of the Called to Care leaders: Pastor Jill, Carole Dankers, or Dan Jares.

BOOK DISCUSSION ON THE UNIVERSAL CHRIST COMING SOON!

Greetings Fellow Readers! We will meet on Wednesday, May 15 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss *The Universal Christ: How a Forgotten Reality Can Change Everything We See, Hope For, and Believe* by Richard Rohr. All are welcome... even if you don't finish the book! Copies are available in the church office for a cost of \$12 each. Please contact vsutton@firstchurchoflombard.org to arrange pick-up of the book if you can't stop by on a Sunday morning or if copies are not available when you do!

AMOS PROJECT

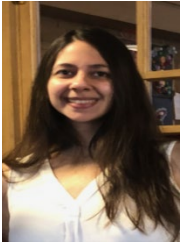
Amos Project would like to invite anyone who is interested to come to their next meeting to be held on Sunday, May 26th at 11:30 AM in the Art Room. For more information, please contact Jeri Shaw at jeri.shaw@me.com.

ESTHER'S CIRCLE ANNUAL SPRING FLING

Ladies, join in the fun by attending the Annual Spring Fling on Tuesday, June 4th at Fellowship Hall from 6:00-9:00 pm. This event is sponsored by Esther's Circle and admission is free; all we ask is that you bring a plate to share and bring a friend. There will be wine tasting with several rounds of Bingo. Yes, there will be prizes, including a chance to win thousands! Come for the food, fun, and sisterhood. For more information call Susan Steinmiller at (773)710-4545.

IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY

MEET SOME OF OUR NEW MEMBERS!



Sohni Mallhi first came to First Church after being invited by a neighbor. She works for a non-profit focusing on criminal justice and civil rights. Sohni (pronounced Sony) enjoys reading, archery, calligraphy and baking. She came to FCL because of a neighbor but she says "Authenticity made me stay."



Reggie Fleck came to First Church because she was looking for a church that fit with her beliefs. She works as a dietician and enjoys baking and gardening. She has 5 adult children.



Gabie Hawkins was interested in First Church because of the connection to the UCC. Gabie works as a sales rep and enjoys reading, working out, cycling, and spending time with her husband and dog. Fun fact—Gabie's uncle is a UCC pastor in Beecher, IL!

We will continue to highlight a few of the new members weekly so we can get to know one another better!

IN OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

The Amos Project along with Immigrant Solidarity Dupage & ComeUnity are collecting donations for refugees entering the Chicago area. Please bring to church and put in the **big blue bins located outside the sanctuary** the following:

Diapers – all sizes
Dishes, bowls, silverware
Paper goods

Kids clothes – all sizes (including underwear & socks)
Cleaning items

If you have any questions, please contact Jeri Shaw at 630-936-6668.

SAVE THE DATE

If you are interested in joining The DuPage United Housing team to learn & discuss ideas for the NEXT Accessible, affordable, supportive housing initiative please let Jeri Shaw know at 630-936-6668. The meeting will be held on May 9 at 7:00 pm-8:15 pm in Glen Ellyn.

Volunteers for Sunday, April 28, 2024	Volunteers for Sunday, May 5, 2024
<u>Liturgist</u> Chris Kaufman	<u>Liturgist</u> Christine Tani
<u>Ushers</u> Kevin Lattner Kathy Underwood	<u>Ushers</u> Jason Cooper Dave Ivey Marianne McGuire Mike Rodak
<u>Coffee Hour</u> Jamie & Fritz Geiger	<u>Coffee Hour</u> Jean & Russ Reneau
<u>Church Opener</u> Tony Oakson	<u>Church Opener</u> Rick Hennessey
<u>Sound</u> Thomas Hammerschmidt	<u>Sound</u> Andrew Eckhart
<u>Video Streaming</u> Eric Wilson	<u>Video Streaming</u> Charlie Peterson

Church Office Hours

Tuesday & Thursday

8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Sunday

8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Monday & Wednesday

Available by appointment

Friday & Saturday

CLOSED

STAFF

Rev. Dr. Jill Terpstra - Senior Minister

Val Sutton - Director of Educational Ministries

Janette Rodriguez - Director of Music Ministries

Lawrence Underwood - Children and Youth Music Coordinator

Charlie Peterson - Porter

Bea Castillo - Administrative Secretary

Phone: 630-629-2630

www.FCOL.org



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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST