

**First Church of Lombard  
United Church of Christ  
December 22, 2024 - Fourth Sunday of Advent**



*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**

*Carol of the Bells*

arr. Jarod Radnich

**TIME OF SHARING & CONNECTING WITH THE COMMUNITY**

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**GATHERING FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER**

**\*GATHERING SONG**

*Away in a Manger (NCH #124)*

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.*

*The cattle are lowing, the poor baby wakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus; protect me, I pray,  
and stay by my side until night turns to day.*

*Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
and fit us for heaven to live with you there.*

**\*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

Second Year Confirmation Class

Reader: When I look around, I see people wandering in the wilderness. When I look around, I see too many of our conversations laced with conflict and bitterness. Because people all over the world are suffering, and we're often too distracted to notice or offer compassion, we light the candles of hope, peace, joy and love. (Light candles of hope, peace, joy and love.)

Congregation: May the light from these candles overwhelm the world. May the light from these candles say to all that God's love is coming, on earth as it already is in heaven.

Reader: Friends, be not afraid, God's love is at hand!

## **BAPTISM OF CHLOE THORSELL**

### **BAPTISM SONG**

*Jesus Loves Me (NCH #327)*

*Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong.*

*Refrain:*

*Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.*

*Jesus loves me! This I know, as he loved so long ago,  
Taking children on his knee, saying, "Let them come to me." [Refrain]*

*Jesus loves me! Still today, walking with me on my way,  
Wanting as a friend to give light and love to all who live. [Refrain]*

### **THE WORD OF GOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD**

through a video from the Sunday School

Val Sutton

through the children's music presentation

*The Little Drummer Boy*

by Katherine Davis, Henry Onorati and Harry Simeone

arr. Lawrence H. Underwood

*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).*

through scripture

Luke 1:46-55

“And Mary said, ‘My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name; indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.’”

through a sermon

The Promise of Justice

## **RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

### **HYMN**

*Angels We Have Heard On High (NCH #125)*

*Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply, echo back their joyous strains. [refrain]*

*Refrain:*

*Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

*Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
Say what may the tidings be, which inspire your heavenly song. [Refrain]*

*Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing;  
Come adore on bended knee, God, our world now entering. [Refrain]*

*See the babe in manger laid whom the choirs of angels praise;  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise. [Refrain]*

### **INVITATION TO SHARE OUR GIFTS**

### **SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS**

### **PRAYER SONG**

*O Little Town of Bethlehem (NCH #13, vs. 4)*

*O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray;  
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!*

### **PASTORAL PRAYER & PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

### **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.*

## SENT FORTH TO PROCLAIM GOD'S GRACE

### **\*PARTING SONG**

*Go Tell It on the Mountain (NCH #154)*

*Refrain: Go tell it on the mountain, over the hill and everywhere.  
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

*While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. [Refrain]*

*The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. [Refrain]*

*Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,  
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. [Refrain]*

### **\*ADVENT BLESSING**

*A Blessing for the Coming of Justice*

Kate Bowler

*Blessed are we, starting to see the height and depth and breadth  
of God's love that includes all of us, even the not-so-perfect.*

*Blessed are you, Mary, for saying yes to the big risk  
of being God's dwelling place.*

*Blessed are we, like Mary, starting to sing our own songs of joy  
at the thought that maybe this Advent we too can start to trust it,  
to risk it, to live it out, the love that decides to love first,  
before it is earned or deserved, the love that your incarnation  
embodies to the full.*

*Blessed are we, breathing in the truth that we belong,  
and so does everybody else.*

### **POSTLUDE**

*The First Nowell*

arr. David Schwoebel

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

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**Please join us for Christmas Eve worship, here on Tuesday, December 24 at 5:00 PM**

We acknowledge that First Church of Lombard UCC  
is located on the traditional native lands of the  
Kikkaapoi, Peoria, Bodewadmiakiwen,  
Miami and Oceci Sakowin peoples.



**First Church of Lombard**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

# NEWS AND NOTES

FIRST CHURCH OF LOMBARD  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Published Weekly

December 22, 2024

20 South Main Street  
Lombard, Illinois 60148  
No.1281

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## **UPCOMING SERVICES**

“The thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, and yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!”

These lyrics from the Christmas carol “O Holy Night” remind us amid the weariness of our lives, God’s hope and love breaks through. As you journey through the Christmas season this year, acknowledge all that makes you tired and weary while also anticipating the excitement that comes at Christmas.

Please join us, for one of our upcoming services:

### **Sunday, December 22, 10:15a.m.**

The Sunday School will share a song and video to help us experience Christmas through the eyes of children.

### **Tuesday, December 24, 5 p.m. in the Sanctuary**

Come to the Christmas Eve Service to hear the story, sing traditional carols, listen to beautiful music, receive communion and bask in the glow of candles.

## **COFFEE HOUR**

This Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, there will be something for everyone! All are welcome to come and enjoy some hot cocoa and apple cider after worship. We hope to see you there!

## **PARKING LOT**

As we approach the holidays our parking lot is getting full on Sunday mornings (hooray!). If you are able, please consider parking on the street or in the commuter lot next to the historical society (it’s free on Sundays). This will leave spaces open for visitors and those with less mobility. Thank you!

## **CHURCH LIBRARY OPEN HOUSE - JANUARY 5, 2025**

After worship on Sunday, January 5, gather for a special Church Library Open House! The Faith Exploration Team is excited to unveil the newly re-vamped library, and what better way to celebrate than with coffee and fellowship during our regular Coffee Hour... albeit in the Resource Center, just down the hall from Fellowship Hall! This is a wonderful opportunity to explore the updated collection of books, resources, and materials available. Come enjoy a cup of coffee, browse the library’s new offerings, and connect with fellow members. Whether you’re looking for spiritual inspiration or resources to deepen your faith, there’s something for everyone!

Contact [vsutton@firstchurchoflombard.org](mailto:vsutton@firstchurchoflombard.org) with questions or if you are interested in joining the team that will be keeping our newly updated library in order!

## **GIVING BAGS NOW AVAILABLE TO HAND OUT!**

Advent Giving Bags are NOW AVAILABLE to pick up from the Narthex! Be sure to pick up one of these bags, which are filled with a variety of items to help those in need during this cold season. Grab a bag or two to have in your car so that you are ready to hand out a simple gift when you see someone in need!

A HUGE thank you to the Confirmation Class and the Youth Community for "stuffing" our Advent Giving Bags... and to all those who donated the items we included!

## **VETERANS OF THE CROSS**

As a reminder, the Wider Church team is still accepting donations for the UCC Special Mission Offering entitled The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund. According to the UCC website, "The offering is administered through the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance, the charitable arm of the Pension Boards. Funds provide direct financial support to those who serve the church and are facing financial difficulties. Active and retired clergy, lay employees, and their surviving spouses may be eligible for the Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and/or Christmas 'Thank You' Gift Checks." If you wish to contribute, make checks out to First Church of Lombard with "Veterans of the Cross" in the memo line. You may also make a donation online by going to [www.FCOL.org](http://www.FCOL.org). Go to the top right and hit the "DONATE" button. Under the fund, select "UCC Offerings" and then type Veterans in the Cross in the memo box.

## **BOOK DISCUSSION COMING WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15**

The top vote-getter for the Beyond Word Book Discussion is in! All are invited to come discuss Tattoos on the Heart by Gregory Boyle at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 15 either in the North Conference Room or via Zoom. Copies of the book are available in the church office for a cost of \$12 each. Please contact [vsutton@firstchurchoflombard.org](mailto:vsutton@firstchurchoflombard.org) for Zoom link, 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!

## **IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY**

### **BAPTISM**

Today we celebrate Chloe Thorsell's baptism. Chloe is the daughter of Katherine and Jonathan Thorsell and is part of the Vandon family. Welcome, Chloe!

### **CONGRATULATIONS**

Our Director of Music Ministries, Janette Rodriguez's husband Andres recently successfully defended his doctorate dissertation following 7 years of hard work. We offer him and his supportive family our best wishes!

## **IN OUR WIDER COMMUNITY**

### **CELEBRATE EPIPHANY BEYOND FIRST CHURCH**

On Sunday, January 5, at 2:30 p.m. at Wentz Concert Hall at North Central College in Naperville (171 E. Chicago Avenue) the 20th Annual Naperville-DuPage World Peace Day assembly will take place. This is truly an interfaith event of music and spoken word. If you'd like to carpool, be in our parking lot by 1:30 to travel to our neighbors or make the trip on your own. All are welcome.

### **BEER & HYMNS**

The next Beer & Hymns at Manny's Tavern on St Charles Road in Villa Park will be on Friday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM. No purchase necessary and all are welcome to join the singing in the back room.



**First Church of Lombard**  
**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

<b>Volunteers for Sunday, December 22, 2024</b>	<b>Volunteers for Sunday, December 29, 2024</b>
<b><u>Liturgist</u></b> Chris Kaufman	<b><u>Liturgist</u></b> Mark Meyer
<b><u>Ushers</u></b> Kevin Lattner Mike Rodak	<b><u>Ushers</u></b> Dave Ivey Mike Rodak
<b><u>Coffee Hour</u></b> Christine Esposito Larry Hebert Kevin Lattner	<b><u>Coffee Hour</u></b> Christine Esposito Larry Hebert Kevin Lattner
<b><u>Sound</u></b> Charlie Peterson	<b><u>Sound</u></b> Thomas Hammerschmidt
<b><u>Video Streaming</u></b> Eric Wilson	<b><u>Video Streaming</u></b> Eric Wilson

**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](http://www.FCOL.org)