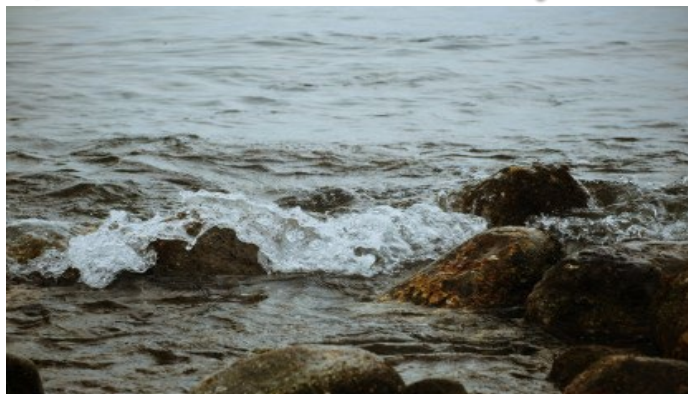


**First Church of Lombard
United Church of Christ
January 12, 2025 – First Sunday after Epiphany**



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

Like a River Glorious

arr. Timothy Shaw

TIME OF SHARING & CONNECTING WITH THE COMMUNITY

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

GATHERING FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

***GATHERING SONG** *Shall We Gather at the River (NCH #597)*

*Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod,
with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?*

Refrain:

*Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river,
Gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.*

*On the margin of the river, washing up its silver spray,
we will walk and worship ever, all the happy golden day. [Refrain]*

*As we reach the shining river, lay we every burden down;
grace our spirits will deliver, and provide a robe and crown. [Refrain]*

*Soon we'll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage will cease;
soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace. [Refrain]*

***OPENING PRAYER (unison)**

Holy One, in your never ending grace, you shower us with words of blessing. When we doubt ourselves, you envelop us with the wings of the Spirit's compassion. When we falter, your mercy restores us and makes us whole. You name us your Beloved. Open our ears to hear your blessings. Teach us to trust in your abiding love, a holy love that calls us and welcomes us home. In the name of the Christ, your Word made flesh to live among us, 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

There's Honey on the Rock
Voices of Peace

Spiritual

through scripture

Isaiah 43:1-7

But now thus says the Lord,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name; you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you,
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.
For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
Cush and Seba in exchange for you.
Because you are precious in my sight
and honored and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.
Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;
I will say to the north, "Give them up,"
and to the south, "Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth—
everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made."

through a sermon

Created for My Glory

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

***HYMN**

Come O Fount of Every Blessing (NCH #459)

*Come, O Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing your grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of endless praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unfailing love.*

*Here I pause in my sojourning, giving thanks for having come,
Come to trust, at every turning, God will guide me safely home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God,
Came to rescue me from danger, blessed body, precious blood.*

*O to grace how great a debtor daily I am drawn anew!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to you.
Prone to wander, I can feel it, wander from the love I've known;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your very own.*

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR GIFTS

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER SONG

In Solitude (NCH #521 vs. 1)

Lyrics: Ruth Duck

*In solitude, in solitude, I come to God in prayer.
In silence and simplicity, my spirit blossoms there.*

PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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** *I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry (NCH #351)*

*I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;
I'll be there in case you wandered off and find where demons dwell.*

*When you found the wonder of the Word I was there to cheer you on;
You were raised to praise the living God, to whom you now belong.
Should you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk till rising sun.*

*In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been, with just one more surprise.*

*I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold.*

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

How Firm a Foundation

arr. Mark Hayes

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

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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

January 12, 2025

20 South Main Street
Lombard, Illinois 60148
No.1284

THANK YOU FOR "CHECKING OUT" THE LIBRARY!

Thank you to EVERYONE who stopped by last Sunday for the Open House for the newly re-vamped FCL Lending Library! The Library is located on the lower level in the Resource Center and will be open on Sunday mornings or by request. All materials are available on an honor system, with patrons trusted to return books when they are done with them. Contact vsutton@firstchurchoflombard.org to request access during the week or if you would like to be on the team of those keeping our library neat and up-to-date!

STAR WORDS

Once again we will begin the new year with Star Words being handed out on January 12. Just as the Magi followed a star on an unknown journey, reflect on the word you received to guide your spiritual journey in 2025. Be sure to place the star somewhere where you will see it often! If you are unable to attend worship on January 12, star words will be in the narthex through the end of January, or get one here: <http://www.wordoftheyear.me/>

BLOOD DRIVE

Be a superstar this January and donate blood! Every donor will save up to three lives. The Village of Lombard will be hosting a Blood Drive on Tuesday, January 14th from 1:30 PM – 7:00 PM in Fellowship Hall. Appointments are appreciated, but walk-ins are welcome.

Sign up to donate [HERE](#).

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 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!

First Church of Lombard resumes our "Dinner, Documentary, and Discussion" series on Friday, January 24 with "Tig." Comedian Tig Notaro announced her cancer diagnosis at what became a legendary stand-up set in 2012. Follow her search for humor amid devastating news. Bring your dinner and gather at 6:00 p.m. either in the North Conference Room or via Zoom. Contact vsutton@firstchurchoflombard.org with questions or to be sent Zoom links.

HONOR DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 19!

Gather at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, January 19 in the North Conference Room (lower level) for an intergenerational opportunity to honor the Martin Luther King holiday with "Reflections on Dr. King." This is for people of ALL ages! Also available via Zoom; link will be sent the week before this special learning opportunity. Contact vsutton@firstchurchoflombard.org with questions.

EXAMINING "THE CHOSEN" WEDNESDAY NIGHTS AT FCL!

All are invited to "Examining The Chosen," a five-week Wednesday evening series starting January 22 at 7 p.m. in the North Conference Room (Lower Level) or via Zoom. Each week, we'll watch a clip from an episode of the hit series "The Chosen," which brings the story of Jesus to life in a fresh and engaging way. Participants will receive a link to watch the full episode beforehand, and during our time together, we'll discuss the themes, characters, and insights from that week's episode. This is a great chance to explore the life of Jesus in a new way while connecting with others. Don't miss out on this inspiring experience, whether in person or online! Zoom link will be sent the week before our first session; contact vsutton@firstchurchoflombard.org for more information.

NEW ADULT FAITH EXPLORATION SERIES COMING: "NO LAUGHING MATTER"

Come be a part of "No Laughing Matter: How Humor Guides, Teaches, and Transforms," an engaging Adult Faith Exploration class beginning Sunday, January 26 at 9:00 a.m. in the North Conference Room (Lower Level) or via Zoom. Come explore the powerful role humor plays in our lives — guiding us through difficult situations, teaching us important lessons, and transforming our perspectives. Whether in person or online, this class promises insightful discussions and a fresh look at how laughter can deepen our faith and understanding! Zoom link will be sent the week before our first session; contact vsutton@firstchurchoflombard.org for more information.

FCL'S SOUP & TRIVIA NIGHT – FRIDAY, JANUARY 31ST!

Get ready for a souper good time on Friday, January 31st, starting at 6 p.m.! Join us for an evening packed with delicious soup, friendly faces, and a brain-boosting trivia showdown. Everyone's welcome, whether you're here to test your trivia knowledge, chow down on some tasty homemade soups, or just enjoy the company of friends.

We're calling all soup lovers! If you've got a favorite recipe, bring it along to share with the crowd! No soup? No problem! You can still join in the fun – come donate, eat, or play trivia (or do all three!). The Parish Life Committee will provide drinks, bread rolls, and sweet treats. Sign up on the bulletin board at the top of the stairs or contact Val Sutton (vsutton@firstchurchoflombard.org) or Amy O'Callaghan (amyandjohn1999@yahoo.com).

CHILI COOK-OFF IS COMING... AND COOKS ARE NEEDED!

The Annual Chili Cook-Off Fundraiser will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 8 in Hatfield Hall! This fun, delicious event raises funds for our Youth Community Summer Mission Trip (location TBA). As always, this event will feature a huge array of chili just waiting to be taste-tested...

Do YOU have what it takes to be voted the best? We are now seeking cooks/chefs to submit a delicious chili! Sign ups to enter a chili begin Sunday, January 19 after worship... and will continue on January 26 and February 2. You can also email vsutton@firstchurchoflombard.org to sign up.

Tickets for the event on February 8 will be available at the door for \$8 each or \$30 per family.

IN OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

MECCA & FCL INTERFAITH BOOK GROUP

Everyone is invited to the Interfaith Book Group on Saturday, January 25th at 2 PM in the North Conference Room at First Church where the book *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates will be discussed. We hope you can join us.

Any questions, please contact Jeri Shaw at jeri.shaw@me.com.

UPDATE FROM ILLINOIS COMMUNITY FOR DISPLACED IMMIGRANTS (ICDI)

Chicago has the largest number of people seeking asylum. Immigration & Customs Enforcement, (ICE) has 4K people in its Alternatives to Detention program in LA, & 4,000 in New York City. There are 19 K people in program in Chicago. ICDI is now housing & providing case management to more people than at any time in its history.

Please join us for the Road Ahead on Immigration – How Can We Help event to be held on Sunday, January 26th at 3:30 PM at Bethel United Church of Christ, 315 E. St. Charles Rd., Elmhurst. Come and hear what still needs to be done this year and how faith institutions can help.

For more information, please contact Jeri Shaw at jeri.shaw@me.com.

Volunteers for Sunday, January 12, 2025	Volunteers for Sunday, January 19, 2025
<u>Liturgist</u> Lynda Wilson	<u>Liturgist</u> Deb Rodak
<u>Ushers</u> Jason Cooper Kevin Lattner	<u>Ushers</u> Becky Kirsh Matt Kirsh
<u>Coffee Hour</u> Corinne Flemm Judy Kline Lynda Wilson	<u>Coffee Hour</u> Christine Esposito Larry Hebert Kevin Lattner
<u>Sound</u> Andrew Eckhart	<u>Sound</u> Thomas Hammerschmidt
<u>Video Streaming</u> Eric Wilson	<u>Video Streaming</u> 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