

**First Church of Lombard
United Church of Christ
January 4, 2026 - Second Sunday of Christmas**



All God's children — of all ages — are welcome in worship at First Church of Lombard. This morning, children are invited to participate in worship with their families. Sunday School will resume next Sunday. There are a number of quiet activities and books in the "Quiet Corner" for older children who just need busy hands. 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

Gesú Bambino

arr. Cindy Berry

TIME OF SHARING & CONNECTING WITH THE COMMUNITY

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

GATHERING FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

***GATHERING SONG** *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear (NCH # 131)*

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold;
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, great news of joy we bring."
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way, with painful steps and slow,
Look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;
O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing!

For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
And all the world send back the song which now the angels sing.

***OPENING PRAYER**

Holy God, in this season when the days are short and the nights seem long, we gather as people who have known both darkness and light. You meet us in every season — in our celebrations and in our fears, in our weariness and in our hope.

As we enter this time of worship, open our hearts, and remind us of the deep truth woven through Scripture and through all of human history: that even in the bleakest times, your light shines; even in scarcity, your grace overflows. Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD

through an anthem

Heaven's Child

Janette Rodriguez

through scripture

John 7:37-38, 40-44

On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.'"

When they heard these words, some in the crowd said, "This is really the prophet." Others said, "This is the Messiah." But some asked, "Surely the Messiah does not come from Galilee, does he? Has not the scripture said that the Messiah is descended from David and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David lived?" So there was a division in the crowd because of him. Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him.

through a sermon

The Light That Stays When Christmas Fades

Val Sutton, Director of Educational Ministries

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR GIFTS

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

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**

In the Bleak Midwinter (NCH #128)

*In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.*

*Our God transcends all heaven, earth, and its domain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when Christ comes to reign;
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the sovereign God almighty, Jesus Christ.*

*Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim thronged the midnight air;
But his mother only, in her maiden bliss,
worshiped the beloved with a kiss.*

*What can I offer, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise one, I would do my part;
but what I can I offer: all my heart.*

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Joy to the World

arr. Lloyd Larson

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

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**Everyone is welcome to celebrate the 1st Birthday of the
Church Library, where coffee hour will be held.**

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

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



NEWS AND NOTES

FIRST CHURCH OF LOMBARD
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Published Weekly

January 4, 2026

20 South Main Street
Lombard, Illinois 60148
No.1335

HAPPY FIRST BIRTHDAY TO OUR CHURCH LENDING LIBRARY!

First Church's Lending Library is turning one year old! To celebrate, we're throwing a "1st Birthday Party" Coffee Hour right in the library THIS Sunday, January 4. Stop by after worship (about 11:15 a.m.) to enjoy treats and explore the shelves! If you haven't visited yet, this is the perfect moment to take a peek—no overdue notices, just warm hospitality! Come on down, raise a mug to year one, and help us look forward to many more chapters together.

CELEBRATE STAR SUNDAY ON JANUARY 11!

As part of our Star Sunday tradition, each worshiper will receive a Star Word — a word chosen to guide, inspire, and bless you throughout the year. This meaningful service will include Holy Communion (instead of on 1/4). As we reflect on the journey of the past year, we hope this service will be a source of wisdom and encouragement for the year to come.

START THE NEW YEAR WITH A NEW BOOK!

This January, be sure to check out the special display in the Narthex of books about nonviolence and peaceful protest. This theme acknowledges the work of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Gandhi, and so many others! Selections are from the First Church Lending Library, located on the lower level. All are welcome to browse and borrow -- and to head downstairs to check out many more!

AMOS MEETING

Grab your coffee or tea and join the discussion January 11 in the North Conference Room around 11:30am. All are welcome!

FAITH EXPLORATION: CIVIL RIGHTS HOLY TROUBLEMAKERS & UNCONVENTIONAL SAINTS

On Sunday, January 18, 2026 at 9:00 a.m., all are invited to gather in the North Conference Room (lower level) for an inspiring, all-ages learning opportunity as First Church Lombard honors the spirit of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. Together, we'll explore the "Holy Troublemakers and Unconventional Saints" of the Civil Rights Movement. The bold witness of these courageous leaders—familiar and lesser-known—shaped the Civil Rights Movement and continues to challenge and inspire us today. This intergenerational gathering, appropriate for people of ALL ages, will include stories, conversation, and shared reflections as we remember Dr. King and the many justice-seekers who walked alongside him. Gather in person downstairs in the North Conference Room. Questions? Contact vsutton@firstchurchoflombard.org.

BEYOND WORDS BOOK DISCUSSION COMING IN JANUARY!

Greetings Fellow Readers! FCL's Beyond Words Book Discussion will meet on Wednesday, January 21 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss *The Gift of Anger: And Other Lessons from my Grandfather Mahatma Gandhi* by Arun Gandhi (a description of the book is below). All are welcome... even if you don't finish the book! Copies are available in the church office for a cost of \$8 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!

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our church nursery will be reopening on Sunday, January 11, and we're gathering a joyful team of volunteers so we'll be ready to welcome our littlest members with plenty of smiles and snuggles! Volunteers can serve once a month or even once a quarter, assisting Kathy Underwood, our wonderful new Nursery Coordinator. The commitment is simple: Sundays from 10:00–11:15 a.m. If you'd like to be added to the rotation, please contact vsutton@firstchurchoflombard.org or sign up on the bulletin board at the top of the stairs. Come join the fun as we create a safe, happy space for our church's infants and toddlers!

FCL'S SOUP & TRIVIA NIGHT – FRIDAY, JANUARY 23!

Get ready for a souper good time on Friday, January 23rd, 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).

GENDER IDENTITY SERIES COMING SOON

All are invited to gather at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays January 28, February 4 and February 11 for the return of First Church's series about Gender Identity. Our hope is to ensure that discussions about gender and identity at First Church are informed by a baseline of shared language and information. All sessions will be held in the North Conference Room (on the lower level). Each week will have a new presentation with new information so you are encouraged to join us for as many sessions as your schedule allows. Please contact Val Sutton, Educational Ministries Director, at vsutton@firstchurchoflombard.org with questions or if you would like to participate in our panel of people who are gender variant on February 4.

"A FORCE MORE POWERFUL" AT FCL'S DOCUMENTARY SERIES

First Church of Lombard resumes our "Dinner, Documentary, and Discussion" series on Friday, January 30! Starting at 6:00 p.m., all are invited to come watch "A Force More Powerful: A Century of Nonviolent Conflict." Based on the book of the same name, this nationally-acclaimed film shows how popular movements used nonviolent action to overthrow dictators, obstruct military invaders and secure human rights in country after country, over the past century. Bring your dinner and gather at 6:00 p.m. in the North Conference Room (lower level). Unfortunately, this viewing cannot be held via Zoom for copyright reasons. Contact vsutton@firstchurchoflombard.org for more information.

ONCE-MONTHLY STUDY ON SPIRITUAL AGING

A study on Spiritual Aging, based on Carol Orsborn's book of the same name, meets once a month on the 4th Sunday in the North Conference Room (lower level). Each month's discussion will focus on the weekly readings from the book. Copies are available in the church office for \$10. For questions or more information, please contact vsutton@firstchurchoflombard.org

RAINBOW FAITH LGBTQIA+ ADULT FELLOWSHIP

Join us at Rainbow Faith, a ministry at First Church of Lombard created as a safe and affirming space for adult members of the LGBTQIA+ family (and occasionally, allies and advocates). Whether you're looking for meaningful conversation or simply a place to belong, all are welcome to gather on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. For questions or more information, please contact vsutton@firstchurchoflombard.org

GREEN TEAM – WEEKLY ARTICLE

From WTTW...the Field Museum's largest exhibit isn't its grand dinosaur hall...It's the Rice Native Garden: 100,000 square feet of plantings that wrap around the museum's exterior. Installed in 2016-17, the garden replaced swaths of lawn and impermeable pavement with a more sustainable living exhibit...And the Field gives away pieces of this display to the public, for free...Every fall, Field staff brings groups of volunteers into the Rice garden to harvest ripened seed, collecting roughly one-third to donate and leaving the remainder for wildlife and for the plants to reproduce.

Volunteers for Sunday, January 4, 2026	Volunteers for Sunday, January 11, 2026
<u>Liturgist</u> Deb Rodak	<u>Liturgist</u> Karen Eckhart
<u>Ushers</u> Liz Stramaglia Greg LeBreux	<u>Ushers</u> Dave Ivey Kevin Lattner
<u>Coffee Hour</u> 1 st Birthday Celebration of Church Library	<u>Coffee Hour</u> Deb & Greg Young
<u>Sound</u> Thomas Hammerschmidt	<u>Sound</u>
<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

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