

# First Church of Lombard United Church of Christ March 1 – Second Sunday in Lent



*“I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.” – C.S. Lewis— The Weight of Glory*

*Children in preschool through 5th grade begin worship with their families and will be dismissed to Sunday School shortly. For families with infants and toddlers, a volunteer-staffed nursery is available across from the main office, offering a calm, welcoming space with age-appropriate activities and audio of the worship service.*

## PRELUDE

*Prelude on “O Sacred Head”*

J. Pachelbel

## TIME OF SHARING & CONNECTING WITH THE COMMUNITY

### \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

## GATHERING FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

### \*GATHERING SONG

*Joy*

Rend Collective

*We're choosing celebration, Breaking into freedom  
You're the song, You're the song, Of our hearts*

*We cast aside our shadows, Trust You with our sorrows  
You're the song, You're the song, Of our hearts*

*We're dancing to the rhythm of Your heart  
We're rising from the ashes to the stars*

*You're the joy joy joy lighting my soul  
The joy joy joy making me whole  
Though I'm broken, I am running  
Into Your arms of love*

*The pain will not define us, Joy will reignite us  
You're the song, You're the song, Of our hearts*

*The dark is just a canvas, For Your grace and brightness  
You're the song, You're the song, Of our hearts*

*We're dancing to the rhythm of Your heart  
We're rising from the ashes to the stars*

*You're the joy joy joy lighting my soul  
The joy joy joy making me whole  
Though I'm broken, I am running  
Into Your arms of love  
[x2]*

*You're the joy The song in my heart  
The hope of my soul*

*In the shadows In the sorrows  
In the desert When the pain hits  
You are constant Ever-present  
You're the song of my heart  
[x2]*

*You're the joy joy joy lighting my soul  
The joy joy joy making me whole  
Though I'm broken, I am running  
Into Your arms of love  
Into Your arms*

**\*OPENING PRAYER (unison)**

O God, who makes all things new, new stars, new dust, new life; take my heart, every hardened edge and measured beat, and create something new in me. I need your newness, God, the rough parts of me made smooth; the stagnant, stirred; the stuck, freed; the unkind, forgiven. And then, by the power of your Spirit, I need to be turned toward loving joy again. Amen.

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

through an anthem

*Plenty Good Room*  
Voices of Peace

arr. Kevin Boesiger

through scripture

John 3:1-17

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes

from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?”

“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.

through a sermon

Joy Beyond Certainty

### **RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD**

#### **\*HYMN**

*In the Bulb there is a Flower (NCH #433)*

*In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;  
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter there’s a spring that waits to be,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

*There’s a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;  
there’s a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.  
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

*In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;  
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.  
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

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

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

#### **PRAYER SONG**

*Spirit Open my Heart (refrain)*

Ruth Duck

*Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.  
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving.  
Spirit, open my heart.*



First Church of Lombard  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## 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

*Great is Your Faithfulness (NCH #423)*

*Great is your faithfulness, O God, Creator,  
with you no shadow of turning we see.  
You do not change, your compassions they fail not;  
all of your goodness forever will be.*

*Refrain:*

*Great is your faithfulness! Great is your faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed your hand has provided,  
Great is your faithfulness, God, unto me!*

*Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
to your great faithfulness, mercy, and love. [Refrain]*

*Pardon for sin and a peace so enduring,  
your own dear presence to cheer and to guide.  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine with ten thousand beside. [Refrain]*

#### \*BENEDICTION

#### POSTLUDE

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

arr. Vicky Collingsworth

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

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***Everyone is invited to the Youth Community Pancake Breakfast  
immediately after worship in Fellowship Hall.***

# NEWS AND NOTES

FIRST CHURCH OF LOMBARD  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Published Weekly

March 1, 2026

20 South Main Street  
Lombard, Illinois 60148  
No.1343

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## **PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

This year's Annual Pancake Breakfast will be held THIS Sunday, March 1! Come to Fellowship Hall to get pancakes, sausage, fruit, coffee, and more from 9:00 a.m. through 12:00 noon. The Pancake Breakfast benefits the 2026 Youth Community Summer Mission Trip through your free-will donations.

You can also "Pledge Per Plate" for this "dirty dish" challenge to give . . . even if you aren't able to be present for the breakfast! Go to <https://tinyurl.com/FCLPancakes2026> for more information about pledging per plate, or to make a flat donation you can head directly to <https://onrealm.org/firstchurchoflombard/-/give/now>. (Scroll down to choose the "Miscellaneous" fund, and put "Pancake Pledge" on the memo line) You may also donate using the QR code below:



## **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 at 11:30 AM 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, but you are welcome to attend even if you have not read. While these discussions are generally held on the 4th Sunday of the month, the February gathering has been moved one week later to this Sunday, March 1. For questions or more information, please contact [vsutton@firstchurchoflombard.org](mailto:vsutton@firstchurchoflombard.org)

## **AMOS PROJECT MEETING**

Amos meeting. Grab your coffee or tea and join the discussion March 1 in the Art Room around 11:30am. All are welcome!

## **LENT WORSHIP SERIES**

We often think of Lent as a somber time of penance. But what if we can be surprised by joy even in the most challenging times? Lent teaches us that joy doesn't arrive by avoidance or optimism. It appears when truth is faced, love is chosen, and God refuses to let death have the last word. From now through Easter Sunday on April 5, we will uncover hidden joy in unlikely places as we discover together - Surprised by Joy: A Lenten Journey.

## **LENT STUDY**

This Lent, you're invited to join a small-group study using An Unlikely Lent by Rachel Billups. This thoughtful and accessible book invites us to walk through the season of Lent by reflecting on unexpected people, places, and stories in Scripture—and how God meets us in surprising ways along our own journeys. We will meet on Wednesday nights at 7PM through March 25 in the North Conference Room and on Zoom. Books will be available in the office. Contact Pastor Jill or Val Sutton with questions.

## **SUNDAY MORNING ADULT FAITH EXPLORATION SERIES: BRIEF TALKS, BIG IDEAS**

First Church of Lombard invites you to spark your curiosity and deepen your faith at our Adult Sunday Morning Faith Exploration series: "Brief Talks, Big Ideas." At 9:00 a.m. through Sunday, March 22, we'll gather each week to watch and discuss a thought-provoking talk from TheoEd.com, featuring scholars, theologians, and storytellers who bring fresh insight to today's most meaningful spiritual questions. Each week's topic will be selected by a volunteer or staff facilitator, ensuring a lively mix of themes and perspectives—and plenty of rich conversation. There's no need to attend every week—come whenever you can! Come to the North Conference Room (lower level) or gather via Zoom (contact [vsutton@firstchurchoflombard.org](mailto:vsutton@firstchurchoflombard.org) for Zoom links, weekly reminders, and more!). Come for the talk, stay for the dialogue, and discover how a brief idea can open the door to big, transformative thinking.

## **TIME FOR MARCH MADNESS**

Join the friendly competition and help a good cause. March Madness for Elmhurst University Scholarship Fund. Sign-ups March 1 through 15th. \$20 to enter 1<sup>st</sup> prize \$50, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize \$30, 3<sup>rd</sup> prize \$20. You can sign up at Coffee Hour; online through REALM (Make a miscellaneous donation with memo for March Madness); or, send a check to church with note for March Madness. A generous matching donation has been offered so help us reach our goal of 30 participants. Contact Patty Bruzek with questions [Bruzekkp@comcast.net](mailto:Bruzekkp@comcast.net).

## **HELP WRITE POSTCARDS**

On March 8th and 15th, during coffee hour, Amos will be at a table preparing postcards for a Non-partisan Wisconsin Supreme Court election. You will get all supplies and directions. This is part of a campaign for "Reclaim Our Vote". We plan to send them to 150 voters. Join us in this action to encourage people to exercise their right to vote. If you can't stay to write, we can give you some supplies to take home.

## **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](mailto:vsutton@firstchurchoflombard.org)

## **BEYOND WORDS BOOK DISCUSSION IN MARCH!**

Greetings Fellow Readers! FCL's Beyond Words Book Discussion will meet on THURSDAY, March 19 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss Thoreau's God by Richard Higgins. Please note that this gathering will be on a Thursday night, not our regular Wednesday. 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](mailto: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!

## **SAVE THE DATES FOR SUMMER FUN!**

Summer will be here before we know it, and we have some special events planned.

Make sure to save these dates:

Sun. May 31 - Sabbatical Send-Off Ice Cream Social - Coordinated by Parish Life

Sun. July 26 - Trip to the Morton Arboretum - Coordinated by Jason Cooper

Fri. Aug. 28 - Mon. 31 - All Church Retreat to Tower Hill - Coordinated by Lynda and Eric Wilson

## **GREEN TEAM – WEEKLY ARTICLE**

From the Environmental Working Group: It's important to remember to look out for toxic pesticide residues. From apples to pears and kale, EWG found more than 75% of non-organic produce contains harmful pesticide residues, even after thorough washing!

## **CHAPEL VARIETY PROGRAM SERIES FOR 2026**

There are three programs coming up:

- ZAZZ presents Movie Magic, Sunday March 8 3:00
- Jenny Riddle appears as Sally Field Sunday March 29 3:00
- The American Heritage Concert Sunday April 19 3:00

**Movie Magic** creates magical memories and enhances emotional impact. ZAZZ puts its own spin on the iconic masters of movie music, from Henry Mancini to Michel Legrand to John Williams, and many in-between. ZAZZ takes you to a unique creative and imaginative world of movies. First Church friend Debbie Zelman is a member of this group.

Admission \$20

**Jenny Riddle** is a professional storyteller, keynote speaker, and consultant. She brings Sally Field to life, her career from Gidget to Norma Rae to Mary Todd Lincoln, going beyond the characters to show the shy and anxious girl Sally was in her offstage life.

Admission \$20

**The American Heritage Concert** “America's 250th and Wicked” will be highlighted by the music from Wicked, and will pay tribute to the nation's 250th birthday. It will also include Music from Pirates of the Caribbean, Pavane for a Dead Princess, Tribute to Henry Mancini, and World Showcase - favorites from worldwide countries.

Admission \$25

Admission to all 3 programs is \$55, a \$10 savings over the individual prices.

For more information or to purchase tickets visit [MapleStreetChapel.org](http://MapleStreetChapel.org) or call 630-627-0171.

## **IN OUR WIDER COMMUNITY**

### **DONATIONS NEEDED**

The Illinois Community for Displaced Immigrants is asking for:

Men's clothing in small and medium sizes as well as shirts size large

Men's pants waist sizes 28 to 36 with an emphasis on smaller sizes

Boys clothing from size 3 to 16

Girls clothing from size 2 to 16

New underwear and socks, all genders and sizes

Bed linens--sheets, blankets, pillows all sizes

Towels

Cookware items especially pots and pans. (Please make sure they are scrubbed clean.)

Dishes and glassware

Items may be put in the blue bin outside sanctuary doors.

Contact Jerri Shaw with any questions at: 630-936-6668



<b>Volunteers for Sunday, March 1, 2026</b>	<b>Volunteers for Sunday, March 8, 2026</b>
<b><u>Liturgist</u></b> Judy Andersen	<b><u>Liturgist</u></b> Matt Kirsh
<b><u>Ushers</u></b> Marianne McGuire Mike Rodak	<b><u>Ushers</u></b> Becky Kirsh Matt Kirsh
<b><u>Coffee Hour</u></b> Youth Community Pancake Breakfast	<b><u>Coffee Hour</u></b> Christine Esposito Barb Sorgatz
<b><u>Sound</u></b> Thomas Hammerschmidt	<b><u>Sound</u></b> Charlie Peterson
<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)