

**First Church of Lombard
United Church of Christ
March 29, 2026 – Palm Sunday**



*Who said anything about safe? 'Course he isn't safe. But he's good. He's the King, I tell you.
— C.S. Lewis, The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*

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 April 12. 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

*Canonic Processional
Voices of Peace*

arr. Lon Beery

TIME OF SHARING & CONNECTING WITH THE COMMUNITY

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

GATHERING FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

***GATHERING SONG** *All Glory Laud and Honor (NCH #216)*

*All glory, laud, and honor to you, O Christ, we sing.
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!
The people of the Hebrews with palms adorned your way;
Our praise and prayer and anthems we offer you this day.*

*O Promised One of Israel, of David's royal line,
The one called "God's beloved," of flesh and yet divine,
To you, before your passion, they sang their hymns of praise;
To you, now high exalted, our melody we raise.*

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna (NCH#213)

*"Hosanna, loud hosanna," the little children sang;
through pillared court and temple the lovely anthem rang;
To Jesus, who had blessed them close folded to his breast,
the children sang their praises the simplest and the best.*

*From Olivet they followed amid a cheering crowd,
the victor palm branch waving, and chanting clear and loud.
The one whom angels worship rode on in lowly state,
and glad to see the children, slowed down the donkey's gait.*

*"Hosanna in the highest!" That ancient song is ours,
We hail our great Redeemer and sing with all our powers;
"Hosanna, Christ, we praise you with heart and life and voice.
Hosanna! In your presence forever we'll rejoice!"*

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.*

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**

Lift High the Cross (NCH #198)

Refrain:

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim;
Let all adore and praise that sacred name.*

*Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod,
the Lamb victorious, Christ, the Son of God. [Refrain]*

*Each newborn servant of the Crucified
bears on the brow the seal of Christ who died. [Refrain]*

*O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
your death has brought us life eternally. [Refrain]*

*Set up your throne, that earth's despair may cease,
beneath the shadow of its healing peace. [Refrain]*

*So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory. [Refrain]*

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Lead On O King Eternal

arr. Lloyd Larson

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

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Everyone is invited to coffee hour after worship in Fellowship Hall.



NEWS AND NOTES

FIRST CHURCH OF LOMBARD
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Published Weekly

March 29, 2026

20 South Main Street
Lombard, Illinois 60148
No.1347



INTERFAITH SERVICE FOR TRANS DAY OF VISIBILITY SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 5:00 PM

Join with us to raise awareness and celebrate the Trans community with other faith communities in DuPage County. With more visibility comes more understanding. Join us to pray, sing, and celebrate God's love in this festive interfaith worship service. This year's service will be held at Congregation Etz Chaim 1710 S. Highland Ave, Lombard IL 60148. If you are unable to attend the service, it can be viewed online here: <https://www.youtube.com/live/MNWiKTavAHI>

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.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Join us as we journey through the most sacred week of the Christian year, remembering Christ's surprising journey from suffering to joy.

- **Palm Sunday, March 29 at 10:15 AM** – Wave palm branches recalling Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.
- **Maundy Thursday, April 2 at 6:30 PM** in the Maple Steet Chapel- Remember Jesus' last meal with his disciples and his command to love one another.
- **Seder Experience, April 2, at 7:15 PM** in Hatfield Hall – Participate in this this meaningful tradition commemorating Jewish Passover (led by Matt & Becky Kirsh).
- **Good Friday, April 3 at 7:00 PM** at First United Methodist (155 S. Main St) - A shared contemplative service of scripture, silence, and reflection.
- **Easter Sunday, April 5 at 10:15 AM** - Celebrate the resurrection with joyful music, an uplifting message and holy communion.

DISCOVER, LEARN, AND CELEBRATE: WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH AT FCL

Celebrate Women's History Month in March by visiting the special book display in the Narthex. All books are available to borrow from the display or from FCL's own Lending Library, located on the Lower Level.

2026 PASSOVER SEDER: PRESENTED BY PARISH LIFE

Pharaoh! Plagues! Miracles! The Exodus story has it all. The Old Testament requires every Jew to observe the Seder each year and retell the story of God's deliverance of the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt. Please join us at our Seder and get a glimpse into what many Jewish people feel is the most important holiday of the year.

Sign up today to reserve your spot at the Passover Seder. On April 2, after Maundy Thursday service head over to Hatfield Hall for this wonderful tradition.

Advance sign-up is not required but is greatly appreciated on the bulletin board/email.

Estimated start time is 7:15 PM. Dinner will not be served. Wine is a part of the ceremonial retelling of the story and, while not required, we encourage you to BYOB. Grape juice will be provided. All are welcome - invite your friends!

Contact Matt Kirsh mkirsh@kirshfamilylaw.com or Andi Cooper andicooper35@gmail.com if you have any questions.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: "BEST PIZZA IN LOMBARD" YOUTH COMMUNITY MISSION TRIP FUNDRAISER!

All are invited to Hatfield Hall on Friday, April 10 at 6:30 p.m. to try dozens of pizzas provided by our local Lombard pizzerias—and be part of HISTORY by voting for your favorites in several categories! The cost to sample all pizzas, as well as enjoy desserts and drinks, is \$8 per person (max. \$30 per family). All funds raised benefit the 2026 Youth Community Summer Mission Trip! Contact vsutton@firstchurchoflombard.org for more information!

SAVE THE DATE - MARSHA STEVENS-PINO CONCERT

The singer-songwriter Marsha Stevens-Pino will be in concert on Saturday, April 11 at 5PM in the Maple Street Chapel. Masha's music and powerful story are sure to inspire you. Save the date and help spread the word.

YOU – AND ALL THE CONGREGATION ARE INVITED!

You may have seen photos of the big hot air balloon gathering each fall in Albuquerque, N.M. If you'd like to learn more about it, you're invited to join Esther Circle in Hatfield Hall at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 14, to hear Dan Jares talk about his trip to the International Hot Air Balloon Fiesta last October--unless you're still working on your taxes, that is!

Hope to see you on April 14th, 7:00pm!

NEW EVENT: PUZZLES AND POTLUCK!

Join us in Hatfield Hall on Sunday, April 26, immediately following worship (around 11:15 a.m.) for an All Ages "Puzzles and Potluck" event! Bring a favorite dish to share and come enjoy a fun jigsaw puzzle competition—or simply come for the meal and fellowship. The Faith Exploration Team will be providing drinks and desserts, so just bring your appetite and your competitive spirit (or just come ready to relax)! We look forward to seeing everyone there for this wonderful time of food, fun, and community.

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

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

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

CALLED TO CARE:

The Called to Care ministry has had two "asks" come up recently:

First, we may have a church family that could use two or three meals delivered to them over the next few weeks. If you'd be able to help with this, please contact Pastor Jill, Carole Dankers, or Dan Jares

Second, if you'd be willing to transport someone who lives in southwest Lombard to and from worship, please contact Dan Jares.

GREEN TEAM – WEEKLY ARTICLE

Did you watch Olympic curling? From WTTW's Urban Nature: "...the rock used in Olympic curling stones is all quarried from the same small, uninhabited Scottish island called Ailsa Craig. The granite from this island is particularly resistant to chipping and cracking — an important feature for stones that take hard knocks during competitions. What makes this rock superior to other granites — at least in terms of curling — is the presence of some unusual minerals, including one called arfvedsonite. This distinctive granite is so unique to Ailsa Craig that whenever boulders of it turn up somewhere else, like Wales or Ireland, scientists use these points to map the past movement of glaciers across the British Isles....

CHAPEL VARIETY PROGRAM SERIES FOR 2026

JENNY RIDDLE SALLY FIELD

AND AMERICAN HERITAGE CONCERT

There are two programs remaining:

- Jenny Riddle appears as Sally Field Sunday March 29 3:00

- The American Heritage Concert Sunday April 19 3:00

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

For more information or to purchase tickets visit MapleStreetChapel.org or call 630-627-0171.

SPRING RUMMAGE SALE & DIAPER DRIVE - IN FELLOWSHIP HALL!

Start saving your best items today to donate for the upcoming rummage sale! Proceeds benefit local community nonprofit organizations. Give your treasures a new life and help others in the process. All items donated should be clean, without stains or holes.

NOT ACCEPTED: car seats, cribs, high chairs, desktop computers, mattresses, or furniture of any kind. There will be volunteers on site to help you unload!

Donation Drop Off:

- Sunday, April 19th, 11:30am-12:30pm
- Monday, April 20th, 12pm- 6:30pm
- Tuesday, April 21st, 12pm- 6:30pm

Sale:

- Presale: Thursday, April 23rd, 4pm- 6:30pm (\$5 to enter presale)
- Friday April 24th, 9:30 am- 6 pm
- Saturday, April 25th, 9am-12pm (1/2 price day!)

Diaper Drive:

- When you drop off, please consider bringing a box of diapers and/or wipes to be donated to Teen Parent Connection. Huggies (size 3-6) preferred.

Refer any questions to Lynda S. Wilson, 630-707-1868, lswilson411@gmail.com

ILLINOIS PRAIRIE PATH CLEAN UP

We will be meeting at 8:30 AM on Saturday, April 25th at the white garage in the FCL parking lot for the IPP clean-up for our mile. First Church is an IPP adopter, so we are doing our own sign-up for our section.

There are also plans for cleaning up the Villa Park post office grounds, which you're welcome to stay after and help with this as well.

Come dressed for work. Rain date is Sunday after church@ 11:30 am!

Please contact Jeri at jeri.shaw@me.com to sign up or with any questions. If you'd like to help with a different trail, please sign up using the QR code found on [THIS](#) flyer.

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 Jeri Shaw with any questions at: 630-936-6668

Volunteers for Sunday, March 29, 2026	Volunteers for Sunday, April 5, 2026
<u>Liturgist</u> Christine Tani	<u>Liturgist</u> Judy Andersen
<u>Ushers</u> Jason Cooper	<u>Ushers</u> Marianne McGuire Kevin Lattner
<u>Coffee Hour</u> Judy Kline Lynda Wilson	<u>Coffee Hour</u> Jean & Russ Reneau
<u>Sound</u> Charlie Peterson	<u>Sound</u> Andrew Eckhart
<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



First Church of Lombard
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST