

**First Church of Lombard
United Church of Christ
March 8, 2026 – Third Sunday in Lent**



“If you want to get warm you must stand near the fire: if you want to be wet you must get into the water. If you want joy, power, peace, eternal life, you must get close to, or even into, the thing that has them.”
C.S. Lewis— *Mere Christianity*

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

Andante et Allegretto
Emelia Underwood & Lawrence Underwood

Guillaume Balay

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]*

*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)**

Into the stream of those who have labored before us, Spirit, let us flow. Into the river that rolls down with justice, Spirit, let us step. Into the well that is deeper than our divisions, Spirit, let us draw. In this moment, in every moment, we pray: give us this water, Jesus, so we will never be thirsty again. Amen.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SONG

Arky, Arky (Rise and Shine)

*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 scripture

John 4:3-30, 39-42

He left Judea and started back to Galilee. But he had to go through Samaria. So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,' for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" They left the city and were on their way to him.

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

through a sermon

Joy That Quenches

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

***HYMN**

Pass Me Not O Gentle Savior (NCH #551)

*Pass me not, O gentle Savior, hear my humble cry;
While on others you are calling, do not pass me by.*

Refrain:

*Savior, Savior, hear my humble cry;
While on others you are calling,
do not pass me by.*

*Let me at your throne of mercy find a sweet relief;
Kneeling there in deep contrition, help my unbelief. [Refrain]*

*Trusting only in your merit, would I seek your face;
Heal my wounded, broken spirit, save me by your grace. [Refrain]*

*Be the Spring of all my comfort, more than life to me;
Not just here on earth beside me, but eternally. [Refrain]*

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**

With Joy Draw Water (NCH #109)

*With joy draw water from the spring; salvation's living well.
The Holy One is in your midst; glad praises sing and tell!*

*A shoot has sprung from Jesse's tree; of God the chosen One.
A branch of knowledge and of truth; a gift of love has come!*

*With love the poor will be received; the proud will turn aside;
And faithfulness will be a path, and righteousness the guide!*

*The wolf shall lie down with the lamb; the calf and lion play.
God's peace shall dwell within the land; a child shall show the way!*

*With joy draw water from the spring; salvation's living well.
The Holy One is in your midst; glad praises sing and tell!*

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

I Love to Tell the Story

arr. Lloyd Larson

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

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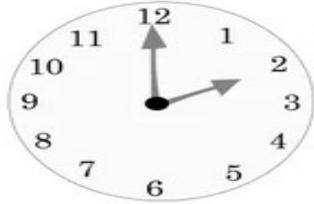
Everyone is invited to Coffee Hour immediately after worship in Fellowship Hall.

NEWS AND NOTES

FIRST CHURCH OF LOMBARD
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Published Weekly

March 8, 2026

20 South Main Street
Lombard, Illinois 60148
No.1344



Spring Forward

Set your clocks ahead 1 hour

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.

COMMUNITY TABLE

Come on out to Community Table on Wednesday, March 11th at 5:30 PM in Fellowship Hall to enjoy good food and fellowship. All are invited. We hope to see you there!

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 1st prize \$50, 2nd prize \$30, 3rd 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.

HELP WRITE POSTCARDS

On March 8th and 15th, during coffee hour, Amos will be at a table preparing postcards for a Non-partisan Wi-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.

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 ST. PATRICK'S DAY LUNCH

On Sunday March 15th Parish Life is hosting FCL's Annual St. Patrick's Day Lunch! Come to Hatfield Hall and enjoy corned beef sandwiches, festive lemonade & light treats! All we ask is that you sign up on the bulletin board and bring a side dish to share. All are welcome - invite your friends too! And don't forget to wear green or else you WILL be pinched!

Contact Andi Cooper, andicooper35@gmail.com or Jenny Franz jfranz621@gmail.com if you have any questions.

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 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!

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 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.

CELEBRATE WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH AT FCL'S DOCUMENTARY NIGHT

First Church of Lombard will continue our "Dinner, Documentary, and Discussion" series on Friday, March 27 with "Jane" from National Geographic. Starting at 6:00 p.m., all are invited to come watch a trove of never-before-seen footage telling the story of Jane Goodall's early explorations and research in Tanzania, focusing on her groundbreaking field work, her relationship with her cameraman and husband Hugo Van Lawick, and the chimpanzees that were the subject of her study. Bring your dinner and gather at 6:00 p.m. in the North Conference Room (lower level). Contact vsutton@firstchurchoflombard.org for more information.

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.

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.

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

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

As we move into more hours of daylight, you might want to check out EWG's free guide to safe personal care products like sunscreen.

CHAPEL VARIETY PROGRAM SERIES FOR 2026

There are three programs coming up:

- ZAZZ presents Movie Magic, **THIS** 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 consult-ant. 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 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

Volunteers for Sunday, March 8, 2026	Volunteers for Sunday, March 15, 2026
<u>Liturgist</u> Matt Kirsh	<u>Liturgist</u> Karen Eckhart
<u>Ushers</u> Becky Kirsh Matt Kirsh	<u>Ushers</u> Kevin Lattner Liz Stramaglia
<u>Coffee Hour</u> Christine Esposito Barb Sorgatz	<u>Coffee Hour</u> St. Patrick's Luncheon
<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