

**First Church of Lombard  
United Church of Christ  
July 12, 2026**



*All God's children are always welcome in worship at First Church of Lombard. This summer, children and adults are invited to enjoy the "Pew Pocket Storybooks" in every pew as well as the "Coloring Project" in the back of the worship space. In addition, a variety of quiet activities are available in our Quiet Corner to keep hands busy. For families with younger children, 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. We ask that children not remain unsupervised in the Narthex or Nursery.*

**PRELUDE**

*Mr. Blue Sky*

Jeff Lynne  
Lawrence Underwood

**TIME OF SHARING & CONNECTING WITH THE COMMUNITY**

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**GATHERING FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER**

**\*GATHERING SONG**

*Rejoice Ye Pure in Heart (NCH #55)*

*Rejoice, you pure in heart; lift praises to the sky;  
Your festal banner wave with joy, the cross of Christ raise high!*

*Refrain:*

*Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.*

*Bright youth and seasoned age, strong souls and spirits meek,  
Raise high your free, exulting song, God's wondrous praises speak. [Refrain]*

*With voice as full and strong as ocean's surging praise,  
Send forth the hymns the saints have loved, the psalms of ancient days. [Refrain]*

*Yes, on through life's long path, still chanting as you go,  
From youth to age, by night and day, in gladness and in woe: [Refrain]*

*Praise God who rules all worlds, the risen Christ adore.  
Praise God the Spirit, Holy Fire, one God for evermore! [Refrain]*

**\*OPENING PRAYER (unison)**

God of mercy and abundant love, we have gathered here this day to hear your healing words of compassion and to be transformed by your love. Help us to become more faithful servants in our thoughts, words, and deeds. It is in Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

## THE WORD OF GOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD

through an anthem

*Nessun Dorma – Puccini*

arr. Austin Ralphson

through scriptures

Romans 8: 1-11

Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. If you have ears, hear!"

"Hear, then, the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

through a sermon

*"If You Have Ears, Hear!"*

Rev. Scott Matheney, Elmhurst University Chaplain, Retired



## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

### \*HYMN

*Open My Eyes, That I May See*

*Open my eyes, that I may see  
glimpses of truth Thou hast for me;  
place in my hands the wonderful key,  
that shall unclasp and set me free.  
Silently now I wait for Thee,  
ready, my God, Thy will to see;  
open my eyes, illumine me,  
Spirit divine!*

*Open my ears, that I may hear  
voices of truth Thou sendest clear;  
and while the wave-notes fall on my ear,  
ev'rything false will disappear.  
Silently now I wait for Thee,  
ready, my God, Thy will to see;  
open my ears, illumine me,  
Spirit divine!*

*Open my mouth, and let me bear  
gladly the warm truth ev'rywhere;  
Open my heart, and let me prepare  
love with Thy children thus to share.  
Silently now I wait for Thee,  
ready, my God, Thy will to see;  
open my mouth, illumine me,  
Spirit divine!*

### INVITATION TO SHARE OUR GIFTS

### PRAYER SONG

*Holy, Holy, Holy (NCH #793)*

*Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you!  
My heart is glad to say the words: you are holy, God.*

### HOLY COMMUNION

*For communion you are invited to come down the center aisle to receive a piece of bread and a cup of juice.  
Gluten free elements are available in the Narthex or from an usher. Our table is open to all.*

### 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**

*O God, Our Help in Ages Past (NCH #25)*

*Our God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast,  
and our eternal home:*

*Under the shadow of your throne  
your saints have dwelt secure;  
Sufficient is your arm alone,  
and our defense is sure.*

*Before the hills in order stood  
or earth received its frame,  
From everlasting you are God,  
to endless years the same.*

*A thousand ages in your sight  
are like an evening gone,  
Short as the watch that ends the night  
before the rising sun.*

*Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
soon bears us all away;  
We fly forgotten, as a dream  
fades at the opening day.*

*Our God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
Still be our God while troubles last,  
and our eternal home!*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

*Life on Mars*  
Lawrence Underwood

David Bowie

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

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**Thank you to Rev. Scott Matheney for leading us in worship today!**

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

Pastor Jill is on sabbatical through September 7. If you have a pastoral concern or need assistance during this time, please contact Bea in the church office at [bcastillo@firstchurchoflombard.org](mailto:bcastillo@firstchurchoflombard.org). She will connect you with the pastor providing coverage. Submit prayer requests to [info@firstchurchoflombard.org](mailto:info@firstchurchoflombard.org).

# NEWS AND NOTES

FIRST CHURCH OF LOMBARD  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
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20 South Main Street  
Lombard, Illinois 60148  
No.1362

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## **ALL CHURCH RETREAT COMING IN AUGUST!**

Sign-ups are going on NOW for EVERYONE who wants to come and be "Surprised By Joy!" on First Church of Lombard's All Church Retreat, coming Friday, August 28 through Monday, August 31 at Tower Hill Camp and Retreat Center in Sawyer, Michigan. Activities will include: Hikes to God's mailbox! Sliding down Mount Baldy! Archery! Cheese Tasting! Volleyball! Nature Walks! Drum Circles! Root Beer Making! Bags Tournament! Sunrise Walks to the Beach! Foraging in the Woods! AND MORE! Come when you can, stay however long you can!

Space is limited! Register by August 2 on Sundays at Coffee Hour or online at <https://tinyurl.com/FCLAllChurchRetreat>. The cost of \$60 for adults, \$50 for children (12 years old and under) includes up to 3 nights' stay, 7 meals, and all activities. The cost is the same no matter how long you stay! Questions? See Lynda or Eric Lee Wilson, Meredith or Chris Meder, or email [info@firstchurchoflombard.org](mailto:info@firstchurchoflombard.org)

## **THE SUMMER COLORING PROJECT IS RETURNING TO FCL THIS SUMMER!**

This summer, we are bringing All God's Children together in worship by coloring together, offering people of all ages a unique way to engage with the words, music, and prayers at our worship services. A large coloring page will be available in the Narthex at every indoor worship service this summer. Remember — the goal is not to finish a picture each Sunday. We are hoping that a variety of people at a variety of times will help us create some true masterpieces this summer.

## **PEW POCKET STORYBOOKS**

Don't miss the children's books available in the pews this summer! These books, from our children's library on the lower level, offer thoughtful entertainment for children as they join their families in worship throughout the summer.

## **NEXT BEYOND WORDS BOOK DISCUSSION COMING WEDNESDAY, JULY 15!**

Greetings Fellow Readers! FCL's Beyond Words Book Discussion will meet on Wednesday, July 15 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss Me and Earl and the Dying Girl by Jesse Andrews. This book was chosen off of the "Banned Books" list as part of the UCC's resistance to censorship. 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!

## **DOCUMENTARY SERIES IN JULY: HAIL SATAN?**

All are invited to gather for a special screening of the acclaimed documentary "Hail Satan?" the next in FCL's Dinner, Documentary, and Discussion series. Meet The Satanic Temple, a provocative group whose crusade for religious freedom includes challenging corruption and having a devilish sense of humor. Bring your dinner and come learn more on Friday, July 24 at 6:00 p.m. in the North Conference Room (lower level).

## **CELEBRATE LOVE WITH VAL & STEPHEN AT A PRE-WEDDING POTLUCK!**

All are invited to a special "Love is Sweet" Pre-Wedding Potluck Brunch immediately following worship on Sunday, August 16 (around 10:30 a.m.). Come shower FCL's own Educational Ministries Director Val Sutton and her fiancé Stephen Frank with our love and best wishes before their wedding later this year. Val and Stephen will be providing breakfast casseroles; drinks and a cake will also be provided (with thanks to Women's Fellowship and the Parish Life Committee!). Please bring a favorite dish to make our brunch complete!

While your presence is the only present needed, if you have been wondering about a gift or how to contribute to their honeymoon, you can contact Bea Castillo at [bcastillo@firstchurchoflombard.org](mailto:bcastillo@firstchurchoflombard.org) for details. "How Sweet It Is" to celebrate together!

## **5TH ANNUAL BAGS TOURNAMENT FUNDRAISER AND PICNIC**

***Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> After Worship*** - Join us for a time of friendly competition and good food from the grill. \$20 per person to participate and free will donation for the picnic (\$5 per person suggested). *It's a delicious and fun time even if you don't want to compete.*

All donations will be used to support **Illinois Community for Displaced Immigrants (Elmhurst Group)**. ICDI works with the Chicago Chapter, a nonprofit dedicated to supporting immigrants and asylum seekers as they navigate the U.S. immigration system and build new lives in our community. The Elmhurst Group supports immigrants in our local communities. <https://icdichicago.org/our-story/>

Sign up now both online, on the bulletin board and during coffee hour. Online donations should be identified as "Miscellaneous" and in Memo line "***Bags Tournament Playing or Picnic Only***" <https://fcol.org>

## **LOOKING FOR A GOOD SUMMER READ?**

We've got you covered! Visit the special display at the Usher's Table in the Narthex, filled with beloved books from FCL's Beyond Words Book Discussion Group. All are welcome to browse and borrow—then make your way to the Resource Center on the lower level for even more treasures!

## **VOTE FOR FCL'S SUMMER MOVIE!**

On Friday, August 21, all are invited to come for a family-friendly movie night right here at FCL! And now, YOU can vote for which movie we will watch! Head to <https://tinyurl.com/FCLSummerMovie2026> to vote for your favorite of the options. Movies will be held outdoors if possible; begin gathering at 7:30 p.m. More details coming soon! Contact [vsutton@firstchurchoflombard.org](mailto: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 after worship. 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](mailto:vsutton@firstchurchoflombard.org)

## **LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR DAY**

**The 12th annual Love Your Neighbor Day will take place on September 19, 2026.** Each year, a lot of great work is accomplished by the volunteers in just a single day. Last year, 145 volunteers helped 35 homeowners in doing yard work and making repairs to their homes.

**Love Your Neighbor Day** is an ecumenical day of service in our community sponsored by the Christian Church of Villa Park in cooperation with other local churches including the First Church of Lombard. It brings together volunteers who want to help their neighbors in need. We seek out members of our community who need help

maintaining or repairing their yards and homes, but do not have the physical or financial ability to do so themselves. By coming together as one body, and with God's help, our team of volunteers accomplish miracles in one day for these homeowners. We form friendships with one another that will help us strengthen our community and lay the groundwork for future service to our neighbors in need. **Homeowner Applications are due August 16, 2026** Please contact the church office for a homeowner application, or click [HERE](#)

Volunteers are what make this day a success. At First Church, we are putting together a team or two. Come together to help homeowners in need in Lombard and Villa Park. We are always looking for more help, are you willing to reach out to someone in need? Please join the "First Church Team" by contacting the church office or Rick Hennessy at 630-962-2533.

You can also fill out and return the Volunteer Sign-Up Application found [HERE](#) and return it to the office.

### **GREEN TEAM – WEEKLY ARTICLE**

Have you heard of "warming stripes?" From Katharine Hayhoe's newsletter: Created by climate scientist Ed Hawkins from the University of Reading, the warming stripes show how a place's temperature has changed over time. Each stripe represents a year. A cooler-than-average year is blue; an average year is white; a warmer-than-average year is pink; and you can guess what red means. Want to find the warming stripes for the place where you live? Visit Ed's website "[Show Your Stripes](#)" to see how any place in the world has warmed.



<b>Volunteers for Sunday, July 12, 2026</b>	<b>Volunteers for Sunday, July 19, 2026</b>
<b><u>Liturgist</u></b> Lynda Wilson	<b><u>Liturgist</u></b> Christine Tani
<b><u>Ushers</u></b> Dave Ivey Marianne McGuire	<b><u>Ushers</u></b> Mark Meyer Mike Rodak
<b><u>Coffee Hour</u></b> Jean & Russ Reneau	<b><u>Coffee Hour</u></b> Mary & Chris Kaufman
<b><u>Sound</u></b> Bob Cochran	<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)