

# First Church of Lombard United Church of Christ August 2, 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**                      *Wayfarin' Stranger – Traditional African-American Spiritual*  
Lawrence Underwood

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

### **\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

## **GATHERING FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER**

**\*GATHERING SONG**                      *For the Beauty of the Earth (NCH #28)*

*For the beauty of the earth,  
for the splendor of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies,*

*Refrain:*

*God of all, to you we raise this hymn of grateful praise.*

*For the wonder of each hour  
of the day and of the night,  
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,  
sun and moon, and stars of light, [Refrain]*

*For the joy of human love,  
brother, sister, parent, child,  
Friends on earth, and friends above,  
for all gentle thoughts and mild, [Refrain]*



*For the good that love inspires,  
for a world where none exclude,  
For a faith that never tires,  
and for every heart renewed, [Refrain]*

**\*OPENING PRAYER (unison)**

God of light and life, you have called us this day to open our hearts, our minds, and our spirits to hear your words of encouragement, healing, and hope. Give us patience and willingness to serve you in all that we do. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen

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

through an anthem

*Two Piece for Piano*  
Aileen Flores

Octavio Pinto

through scripture

Ezekiel 37: 1-14

The power of the Lord came on me. His Spirit brought me away from my home. He put me down in the middle of a valley. It was full of bones. He led me back and forth among them. I saw a huge number of bones in the valley. The bones were very dry. The Lord asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?"

I said, "Lord and King, you are the only one who knows."

Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones. Tell them, 'Dry bones, listen to the Lord's message. The Lord and King speaks to you. He says, "I will put breath in you. Then you will come to life again. I will attach tendons to you. I will put flesh on you. I will cover you with skin. So I will put breath in you. And you will come to life again. Then you will know that I am the Lord."'"

So I prophesied just as the Lord commanded me to. As I was prophesying, I heard a noise. It was a rattling sound. The bones came together. One bone connected itself to another. I saw tendons and flesh appear on them. Skin covered them. But there was no breath in them.

Then the Lord said to me, "Prophecy to the breath. Prophecy, son of man. Tell it, 'The Lord and King says, "Breath, come from all four directions. Go into these people who have been killed. Then they can live."'" So I prophesied just as he commanded me to. And breath entered them. Then they came to life again. They stood up on their feet. They were like a huge army.

Then the Lord said to me, "Son of man, these bones stand for all the people of Israel. The people say, 'Our bones are dried up. We've lost all hope. We are destroyed.' So prophecy. Tell them, 'The Lord and King says, "My people, I am going to open up your graves. I am going to bring you out of them. I will take you back to the land of Israel. So I will open up your graves and bring you out of them. Then you will know that I am the Lord. You are my people. I will put my Spirit in you. And you will live again. I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I have spoken. I have done it," announces the Lord.'"

Matthew 28: 16-20

Then the 11 disciples went to Galilee. They went to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him. But some still had their doubts. Then Jesus came to them. He said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. So you must go and make

disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And you can be sure that I am always with you, to the very end.”

through a sermon

*Are We Dried Up?*

Rev. Calvin Bloesch

### **RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD**

#### **\*HYMN**

*O Day of Radiant Gladness (NCH #66)*

*O day of rest and gladness,  
O day of joy and light,  
O balm of care and sadness,  
most beautiful, most bright;  
on thee the high and lowly,  
through ages joined in tune,  
sing "Holy, holy, holy,"  
to the great God Triune.*

*On thee, at the creation,  
the light first had its birth;  
on thee, for our salvation,  
Christ rose from depths of earth;  
on thee, our Lord victorious,  
the Spirit sent from heav'n;  
and thus on thee, most glorious,  
a triple light was given.*

*Today on weary nations  
the heav'nly manna falls;  
to holy convocations  
the silver trumpet calls,  
where gospel light is glowing  
with pure and radiant beams,  
and living water flowing  
with soul-refreshing streams.*

*New graces ever gaining  
from this our day of rest,  
we reach the rest remaining  
to spirits of the blest;  
to Holy Ghost be praises,  
to Father, and to Son;  
the church her voice upraises  
to Thee, blest Three in One.*

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

#### **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 For a Thousand Tongues to Sing (NCH #42)*

*O for a thousand tongues to sing  
my great Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and King,  
the triumphs of his grace!*

*My gracious Master and my God,  
assist me to proclaim,  
to spread thro' all the earth abroad  
the honors of your name.*

*Jesus! the name that charms our fears,  
that bids our sorrows cease,  
'tis music in the sinner's ears,  
'tis life and health and peace.*

*He breaks the power of cancelled sin,  
he sets the prisoner free;  
his blood can make the foulest clean;  
his blood availed for me.*

*To God all glory, praise, and love  
be now and ever given  
by saints below and saints above,  
the Church in earth and heaven.*

### \*BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

*Will the Circle Be Unbroken*  
Lawrence Underwood

Charles H. Gabriel

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

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**We thank Rev. Calvin Bloesch for leading our worship service today.**

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  
Published Weekly

August 2, 2026

20 South Main Street  
Lombard, Illinois 60148  
No.1365

## **LAST CHANCE - ALL CHURCH RETREAT**

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)

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

***THIS 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 online. Online donations should be identified as "**Miscellaneous**" and in Memo line "**Bags Tournament Playing or Picnic Only**" <https://fcol.org>

## **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!

## **THE VOTES ARE IN!**

Can you guess this summer's secret film? Think: bicycles flying past the moon, a glowing heart, and a very long-distance call. Plan now to gather on Friday, August 21, at FCL to see if you're right! Free popcorn, family-friendly fun. Bring a chair, a drink, and a pal. Gather at 7:30 p.m. outdoors (weather permitting -- we will move indoors if the weather doesn't cooperate). For more info, email [vsutton@firstchurchoflombard.org](mailto:vsutton@firstchurchoflombard.org).

## **YOUTH COMMUNITY CAR WASH COMING SOON**

Mark Your Calendars for the Annual Youth Community Car Wash, coming Sunday, August 23! Invite friends, family and neighbors to bring their dirtiest cars to the FCL parking lot from 10:15 a.m. to 12:00 noon! Funds raised at this car wash will be used to subsidize the costs of this year's youth activities. Free will donations accepted.

## **A SPECIAL GUEST, A POWERFUL BOOK, AND A SEAT SAVED JUST FOR YOU**

Greetings Fellow Readers! FCL's Beyond Words Book Discussion will meet on Wednesday, September 16 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss *How to Begin When Your World Is Ending: A Spiritual Field Guide to Joy Despite Everything* by Molly Phinney Baskette. Rev. Baskette will be joining First Church of Lombard in worship on Sunday, October 18! 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!

## **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.

## **JOIN THE SUMMER COLORING PROJECT**

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 is 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.

## **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!

## **SAVE THE DATES**

Mark your calendars for these exciting events coming up this fall! We hope you'll join us as we worship, learn, serve, and celebrate together.

### **Saturday, September 19**

Love Your Neighbor Day – Join us for a day of service as we come together to make a difference in our community. We hope to have a wonderful turnout this year as we put our faith into action by serving our neighbors.

### **Saturday, October 17 (Afternoon)**

Workshop with The Rev. Molly Baskette – Don't miss this special opportunity to learn and be inspired during an afternoon workshop led by Rev. Molly Baskette.

### **Sunday, October 18**

Guest Preacher: The Rev. Molly Baskette – Rev. Molly Baskette will lead worship and share the morning message, followed by a special talk after the service.

### **Sunday, November 8**

175th Anniversary Celebratory Worship – Join us as we celebrate 175 years of ministry, faith, and community with a special worship service honoring our church's rich history and looking forward to the future.

## **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)

## **GREEN TEAM – WEEKLY ARTICLE**

From Katharine Hayhoe's reports: Two summers ago, Lew Blaustein, the founder of EcoAthletes, guest-edited a Talking Climate edition on **green sports**. Lew built EcoAthletes around a simple idea: athletes are among the most trusted voices we have, and the climate fight needs them on the field.



| <b>Volunteers for Sunday,<br/>August 2, 2026</b>          | <b>Volunteers for Sunday,<br/>August 9, 2026</b>                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b><u>Liturgist</u></b><br>Mark Meyer                     | <b><u>Liturgist</u></b><br>Karen Eckhart                                 |
| <b><u>Ushers</u></b><br>Kevin Lattner<br>Marianne McGuire | <b><u>Ushers</u></b><br>Mark Meyer                                       |
| <b><u>Coffee Hour</u></b><br>Jean & Russ Reneau           | <b><u>Coffee Hour</u></b><br>Corinne Flemm<br>Judy Kline<br>Lynda Wilson |
| <b><u>Sound</u></b><br>Thomas Hammerschmidt               | <b><u>Sound</u></b><br>Bob Cochran                                       |
| <b><u>Video Streaming</u></b><br>Eric Wilson              | <b><u>Video Streaming</u></b><br>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)

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