First Church of Lombard
United Church of Christ
November 15, 2026 – Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
10:15AM



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 *Faith of Our Fathers* arr. Olive Huisman
Lawrence Underwood

TIME OF SHARING & CONNECTING WITH THE COMMUNITY

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

GATHERING FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

***GATHERING SONG** *We are One in the Spirit*

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
And we pray that all unity will one day be restored.

Refrain: And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land.[Refrain]

We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
And we'll guard each other's dignity and save each other's pride. [Refrain]

***OPENING PRAYER (unison)**

Present God, we worship you and honor your name. Open our hearts with thanksgiving, awe, and possibility. Make your word be written on our hearts and your purpose ignite a fire within our souls. As we gather as a community, may our faith be renewed, our trust strengthened, and our courage increased. Be glorified in our midst, O God. Amen.

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 **11:15 a.m. in the Art Room** (on the lower level).

THE WORD OF GOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD

through an anthem	Come, Follow Me Lawrence Underwood	by Samuel McBurney arr. Sally DeFord
through scripture	Luke 17: 15-16	

Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus's feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan.

through a sermon	The Miracle of Thank You	Pastor Andres Flores

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

HYMN** *Abide with Me* ***(NCH#99)

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
The shadows deepen, lord, with me abide;
When other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see;
O Christ who changes not, abide with me.

I need your presence every passing hour.
What but your grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who like yourself my guide and strength can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

I fear no foe, with you at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness;
Where is death's sting? where, grave, your victory?
I triumph still if you abide with me.

Hold now your cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies;
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Christ, abide with me.

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR GIFTS

SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE 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** *Amazing Grace* ***(NCH #547)

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

My God has promised good to me, whose word my hope secures;
God will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *Thanksgiving Medley* arr. Olive Huisman
Lawrence Underwood

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

First Church of Lombard, UCC – Song Select and Broadcasting License # 48259180
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We thank Pastor Andres Flores for leading us in worship today!

Everyone is invited to Coffee Hour after worship.

STAFF

Rev. Dr. Jill Terpstra - Senior Minister
Val Sutton Frank - Director of Educational Ministries
Janette Rodriguez - Director of Music Ministries
Lawrence Underwood - Children and Youth Music Coordinator
Charlie Peterson - Porter
Bea Castillo - Administrative Secretary



First Church *of* Lombard
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

NEWS AND NOTES

FIRST CHURCH OF LOMBARD
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
20 South Main Street
Lombard, Illinois 60148
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A HUGE THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who helped make our 175th Anniversary Worship service such a joyful and moving celebration! Believe it or not, there were 175 people in attendance! Help us to continue to celebrate by participating in The Giving Wall fundraiser. Simply choose an envelope from the wall located in Hatfield Hall, each labeled with an amount between $1 and $175, then return the envelope with at least the amount on your envelope inside. Every gift, no matter the amount, will help offset some of the costs of our anniversary celebration AND a portion will be donated to help individuals and families in DuPage County who are struggling with medical debt. We ask that you leave the smaller amounts (less than $20) for children. As an incentive for taking an envelope or even more than one—vouchers for prizes from area businesses are in many of the envelopes. Whether you choose an envelope for $1, $25, $75, or $175, every contribution matters. Together, we can celebrate our church's anniversary by sharing our blessings, supporting our community, and making a meaningful difference in the lives of our neighbors!

COFFEE HOUR TEMPORARILY MOVES TO HATFIELD HALL!

For the next two weeks, we invite you to join us for coffee and fellowship in Hatfield Hall! Our 175th Anniversary Giving Wall will still be on display, so if you haven't had a chance to select an envelope, this is a wonderful opportunity to participate. We hope you'll stop by, enjoy some conversation, and help us celebrate 175 years of faith and community!

SPECIAL THANKS

Thanks to Scott and Eric and any others who contributed to the project to replace the steps going from the FCL property to the parking lot by the Lombard Historical Museum. Good job!

GIVING BAG COLLECTION HAS BEGUN!

First Church of Lombard is once again collecting items to create "Giving Bags" for those in need as the winter draws near! A box for collection is located in the Narthex for socks, hats, gloves, scarves, personal hygiene items, small snacks and more. The goal of these "Giving Bags" is to supply every driver with one or two bags in the car for use when they see someone in need -- an easy way to give out a drawstring bag filled with items to help those in need stay warm, clean, and fed. Items should be NEW and must be received by Sunday, November 29! See the bulletin board for a more complete list of needed items.

VETERANS OF THE CROSS

The Veterans of the Cross, one of four annual Special Mission Offerings of the United Church of Christ, has been supported by congregations and individual members for over a century. Funds raised provide vital support to those who serve (or have served) the church and who are facing financial difficulties. Active and retired clergy, lay employees, and their surviving spouses may be eligible for the supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, emergency grants, and/or Christmas "Thank You" gift checks. To contribute, you may make your check out to First Church of Lombard with "Veterans of the Cross" in the memo line. If you prefer to donate online, go to www.FCOL.org and click on the "DONATE" button at the top right. Under the fund, select "UCC Offerings" and then type "Veterans of the Cross" in the memo box. The gifts received demonstrate appreciation for those who have faithfully served the church and now find themselves in times of need.

BEYOND WORDS BOOK DISCUSSION

Greetings Fellow Readers! FCL's Beyond Words Book Discussion will meet on Wednesday, November 18 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss The Kingdom, the Power and the Glory by Tim Alberta. All are welcome... even if you don't finish the book! We will meet both in-person or via Zoom. Copies are available in the church office for a cost of $12 each. Please contact vsutton@firstchurchoflombard.org for Zoom links, 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! ALSO, PLEASE NOTE: We are now looking for books to read at our 2027 Beyond Words Book Discussions! If you have a suggestion for next year's selections, email them to vsutton@firstchurchoflombard.org so I can add them to the ballot!

SAVE THE DATE! HANGING OF THE GREENS

Help us get ready for the Advent season! Join us on Sunday, November 22, beginning at 11:30 AM, as we decorate the sanctuary and bring a little holiday cheer to First Church!

Whether you love decorating or just enjoy being part of the fun, we'd love to have you join us. Sign up on the bulletin board. See Lorinda Ivey if you have any questions.

INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Begin Thanksgiving week with neighboring faith communities on Sunday, November 22 at 4:00PM at York Center Church of the Brethren (1S071 Luther Avenue, Lombard). This year's interfaith service will reflect on the question, "How does giving thanks change things?" Pastor Jill will be participating in this interfaith celebration.

JINGLE BELL JUBILEE – LET'S GET INTO THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT!

Get in the Christmas spirit at the Jingle Bell Jubilee on Saturday, December 5! The Josiah Reade Ringers handbell choir will be playing in the Maple Street Chapel from 4:30 - 5 PM and then head over to Hatfield Hall for hot cider, cookie decorating, and a craft from 5-7 PM. Be sure to also check out other downtown churches and businesses participating. The tree Lighting at Lilacia Park will be at 5:30 PM and a complimentary trolley will be running from 4:30-8:30 PM.

Feeling Kris Kringle-y and able to help? Join Parish Life with the cider and cookie decorating activity. Email Andi Cooper at Andicooper35@gmail.com.

TOYS/GIFTS TO A GOOD HOME…

We (First Church of Lombard and Outreach House) are partnering with Love Christian Connection Center and Toy Express for the 14th year in a row to help families in need during our Christmas season. These toys/gifts are given to children throughout DuPage County who may not otherwise receive anything. Please consider donating gifts for our Annual Toy Express Program. Simply bring the gifts to First Church, and drop them in the giant gift box, located in the narthex. Gifts should be new, unwrapped, and age appropriate for children 12 years old or younger. You can donate these gifts from now through December 6th .

Love Christian Connection Center will collect the gifts and deliver them to Toy Express in the name of First Church of Lombard/Outreach House.

If you have any questions, contact Lynda S. Wilson at church, 630-707-1868, or lswilson411@gmail.com
Thank you in advance, for your generous hearts!

HOLIDAY BAKE SALE FUNDRAISER FOR THE YOUTH!

Mark Your Calendars! Sunday, December 13 will be the Holiday Bake Sale hosted by FCL's Youth Community! Plan now to come after worship to buy a plate (or several!) and help fund the 2027 Youth Community Summer Mission Trip!

IT'S TIME TO VOTE! BEYOND WORDS BOOK DISCUSSION IN 2027!

Thank you to EVERYONE who suggested books for our reading list! Please head to https://tinyurl.com/FCLBookDiscussion2027 to vote for your top SIX choices for 2027. We will meet in January, March, May, July, September, and November, almost always on the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

LOOKING FOR STAR WORD STORIES

Were you influenced by your Star Word throughout this year? Maybe the word inspired, surprised or annoyed you. If you have a Star Word story you would like to share, please reach out to Pastor Jill (pastorjill@firstchurchoflombard.org). Star Words will be distributed on Sunday, January 3.

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

NARTHEX BOOK DISPLAY

All are invited to explore the special book display in the Narthex, where you're sure to find something that catches your eye. All books are available to borrow right from the display or from FCL's own Lending Library, located on the Lower Level. Stop by, take a look, and let us help you discover your next favorite read!

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

YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING CAN GIVE BACK!

What if checking off your holiday shopping list could also help support First Church? Well, here's some good news—it can! With our ongoing RaiseRight Gift Card Fundraiser, everyday purchases can make a difference without costing you anything extra!

And with the holidays right around the corner, now is the perfect time to get started! Think gift cards for teachers, coworkers, friends, family, stocking stuffers, or even those impossible-to-shop-for people on your list. (We all have at least one!)

Planning a holiday dinner? Buying groceries? Dining out or booking a getaway? You can do all of that while helping raise money for First Church!

Here's the best part: You're already spending the money anyway, so why not make those purchases count twice? Participating retailers give a percentage of eligible purchases back to First Church. No extra spending, no extra effort, just everyday shopping with a little extra purpose! **Orders will be placed weekly through December 8th** for everyday use and holiday gifts.

Visit RaiseRight.com and use our enrollment code 3175LEFE9427, or simply scan the QR code below to get started.

Still have questions? Contact Bea Castillo at bcastillo@firstchurchoflombard.org to learn more!

IN OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF VILLA PARK HAS MOVED!

The church has invited us to their service of dedication and celebration at their new location (507 E. St. Charles St. Villa Park) on Sunday, November 22 from 2-3PM. We have partnered with this congregation for mission trips, Love Your Neighbor Day, inter-faith services and more. We congratulate them on their move and look forward to continuing to work together.

PLANNING AHEAD: DONATIONS FOR ICDI

The Illinois Community for Displaced Immigrants (ICDI) is collecting several items in the coming months to support local immigrant families.

For those who like to plan ahead, here's what will be needed:

- Clothing — Late Summer & Early Fall
  Boys' clothing and men's clothing in sizes Small and Medium.
- Thanksgiving — Due November 16
  Grocery store gift cards to help families with their Thanksgiving meals. Please place gift cards in an envelope labeled "ICDI GC" and bring them to the church office for safekeeping.
- Christmas — Due December 3
  We'll once again be collecting specific wrapped gifts for individual families. A Christmas wish list with more information will be coming soon! Clothing and Halloween costume donations may be placed in the blue bin outside the narthex.

Questions? Please contact Jeri Shaw at jeri.shaw@icloud.com. Thank you for helping ICDI support families in our community throughout the upcoming season.

Volunteers for Sunday, November 15, 2026	Volunteers for Sunday, November 22, 2026
Liturgist Kim Perkins	**Liturgist** Judy Andersen
Ushers Dave Ivey	**Ushers** Marianne McGuire
Acolyte Mara Anderson	**Acolyte** Mara Anderson
Coffee Hour Jean & Russ Reneau	**Coffee Hour** Jean & Russ Reneau
Sound Thomas Hammerschmidt	**Sound** Bob Cochran
Live Stream Eric Wilson	**Live Stream** 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 Frank - 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

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