First Church of Lombard
United Church of Christ
November 22, 2026



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 *Let All Things Now Living* arr. Joel Raney

TIME OF SHARING & CONNECTING WITH THE COMMUNITY

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

GATHERING FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

***GATHERING SONG** *Agape, Christ Alive in Us* Janette Rodriguez

Verse 1
We heard Your call and answered here,
To serve our neighbors where they are;
To walk beside the cast aside,
And make Your mercy come alive

Pre-chorus
Not only words, but what we do;
Your call becomes our witness too.

Chorus
Agape, love that moves our hands,
Agape, love that takes a stand;
A -ga pe, Christ alive in us,
Your love in action, bold and just.
Agape, Christ alive in us

Verse 2
We choose the road where justice leads,
We speak when voices are denied;
We share our bread, we bear the load,
And make a place for all inside.
[Pre-Chorus, then Chorus]

Bridge
Where there is hunger, we will share;
Where hope grows faint, we will be there;
Where voices fail, we still will speak,
Till mercy flows through every street.

Chorus 2
Aga-pe, love that moves our hands,
Aga-pe, love that takes a stand;
A -ga pe, Christ alive in us,

Chorus 3
Aga -pe, calling us to serve,
Aga - pe, giving love a voice;
Aga - pe, here for everyone,
Together, we become Your love.

Tag
Agape, Christ alive in us
Agape, Christ alive in us

***OPENING PRAYER (unison)**
Gracious God, we come together today, led by your Holy Spirit, to worship you—to sing your praise, to confess our mistakes, and to receive your love and mercy. Be present among us as we worship you, and as we open ourselves to your love. To You be all glory, now and forever. 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. at the Resource Room (on the lower level).

THE WORD OF GOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD

through mission moment — Lisa White

through blessing of the musicians

through an anthem — Thank You, Lord — Don Moen
Voices of Peace

through scripture — Matthew 25:31-40

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.'

through a sermon — When Did We See You?

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

HYMN** — *We Gather Together* ***(NCH #421)

We gather together to ask for God's blessing,
to live in community, seeking God's will.
We come now, as sisters as brothers, confessing
the sins that divide and the wrong in us still.

Beside us forgiving, enabling, sustaining,
You call us, O Savior, to life that is new.
You draw us away from self-centered complaining.
You lead us and guide us in ways that are true.

All praise to the Spirit, provider, defender.
You offer us freedom, to follow or stray,
Empowering all by the hope you engender.
Grant wisdom and courage to follow your way.

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR GIFTS

HAUDENOSAUNEE THANKSGIVING ADDRESS Amos Team

At the end of each litany when you hear 'we send our greetings and our thanks' please respond: ***Now our minds are one.***

SENT FORTH TO PROCLAIM GOD'S GRACE

PARTING SONG** *Now Thank We All Our God* ***(NCH #419)

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices,
Who, from our parents' arms, has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
And keep us still in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God our Maker now be given,
To Christ, and Spirit, too, our help in highest heaven,
The one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore.
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

***BENEDICTION**

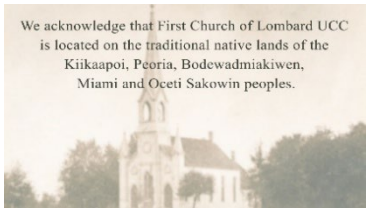
POSTLUDE *A Mighty Fortress* arr. Joel Raney
Kristen Fuller - Flute

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

Everyone is welcome to Coffee Hour in Hatfield Hall after worship.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 6th following the worship service in the Sanctuary. Childcare will be provided.

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
Published Weekly
November 22, 2026
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HANGING OF THE GREENS

Help us get ready for the Advent season! Join us this 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. 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.

OUR 175TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION CONTINUES!

Coffee Hour will be held in Hatfield Hall this week, where The Giving Wall will remain on display. Help us to continue to celebrate our 175 Anniversary 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. Your donation will be used to offset the costs of our anniversary celebration activities AND the rest 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.

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!

A BIG THANK YOU

This year's growing season saw wet, dry, hot, and chilly weather. A group of dedicated people kept the pots of flowers watered and thriving. Thanks to Marianne McGuire, Christine Esposito, Judy Kline, Ken Bruzek, Kevin Lattner, and Dan Jares for their efforts.

A SPECIAL THANKSGIVING COMMUNITY TABLE!

There's something special about gathering around a table, sharing a delicious meal, and enjoying the company of friends and neighbors! Everyone is welcome to a special Thanksgiving-inspired Community Table on Wednesday, November 25th at 5:30 PM in Fellowship Hall as we celebrate the season of gratitude, friendship, and togetherness. Come hungry, bring a friend, and enjoy a wonderful evening of good food and even better company!

Here's what's on the menu:

First Course - Autumn Harvest Salad, Cornbread Muffins with Honey Butter
Main Course - Roasted Turkey, Sage Stuffing, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Thyme-Roasted Parsnips and Carrots, Cranberry Sauce
Dessert - Warm Apple Crumble

There's always room for one more at the table, and we'd love to save a seat for you!

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.

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.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Please join us for our Annual Congregational Meeting immediately following worship on Sunday, December 6, in the Sanctuary. We'll be discussing the upcoming year's budget and sharing important information about the year ahead. Your presence and participation are valued, and we encourage everyone to attend! Childcare will be provided.

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.

RECOGNIZING OUR GREAT STAFF

We appreciate the way that our church staff serves our membership and the Christmas Season offers us a way to express our gratitude to them.

As in past years, the Church Council will be accepting contributions for a monetary gift that will be shared with all staff. Those contributions may be sent to the church, attention Church Council, or given to a member of the Council: Jeff Cook, Lisa White, Bill Esch, Andi Cooper, Jenny Franz, Lynda Wilson, Garett George, Tony Oakson, Scott Garrett and Barb Sorgatz. Contributions may also be made on REALM by selecting "Miscellaneous" as the fund and indicating, "staff gifts" in the memo line.

Donations will be accepted starting November 22nd and it is hoped that all contributions will be received by December 13th for distribution prior to Christmas.

The Church Council wishes to thank everyone for their generous support and their wish for a safe Christmas season filled with love and happiness.

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.
- 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 22, 2026	Volunteers for Sunday, November 29, 2026
Liturgist Judy Andersen	**Liturgist** Mark Meyer
Ushers Marianne McGuire	**Ushers** Elliott Cooper Jason Cooper
Acolyte Mara Anderson	
Coffee Hour Jean & Russ Reneau	**Coffee Hour** Christopher & Meredith Meder
Sound Bob Cochran	**Sound** Charlie Peterson
Live Stream Eric Wilson	**Live Stream** Eric Wilson

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Charlie Peterson - Porter
Bea Castillo - Administrative Secretary

COUNCIL

Jeff Cook - Moderator
Lisa White - Vice-Moderator
Jonathan Walsh - Treasurer
Bill Esch - Clerk
Lynda Wilson - Faith Exploration
Scott Garrett - Management
Andi Cooper & Jenny Franz - Parish Life
Tony Oakson - Wider Church
Barb Sorgatz - Worship
Garett George - Youth Community
Rev. Dr. Jill Terpstra – Senior Minister & Staff

Church Office Hours

Tuesday & Thursday
8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Sunday
8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Monday & Wednesday
Available by appointment

630-629-2630
www.FCOL.org