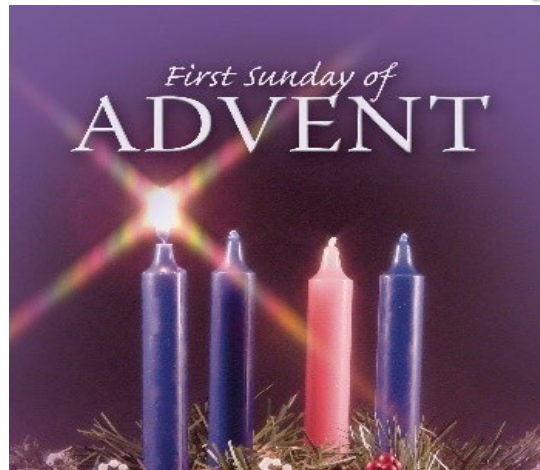


**First Church of Lombard
United Church of Christ
November 27, 2022 – First Sunday of Advent**



Children in preschool through 5th grade begin worship with their families and will be dismissed to Sunday School shortly. For parents who need a quiet, calm place to go with smaller children, the Nursery is available across from the main office. The audio of the service -- as well as activities for infants and toddlers -- are accessible, but the room is not staffed.

PRELUDE

Here We Come a Wassailing

arr. Kurt Bestor

TIME OF SHARING & CONNECTING WITH THE COMMUNITY

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

GATHERING FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Chaplain Susan Steinmiller

OPENING PRAYER

CS: Thank you for allowing us to gather together, both in person and through the airwaves.

All: We give you thanks and praise for your goodness and for your blessings over us.

CS: Thank you for giving us the opportunity to celebrate Thanksgiving with family and friends in person or in our hearts & memories. We are glad to give you thanks and praise for all of our blessings

All: Thank you for your great love and care. Thank you for your mercy and grace!. Thank you!

CS: Help us now get ready for the Advent; the season of preparation in celebration of one of our greatest gifts, the birth of Your Son, Jesus Christ.

All: Hear our praises in your name. Amen.

***GATHERING SONG**

O Come, O Come Emmanuel (NCH 116)

*O come, O come Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Child of God appear. [Refrain]*

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to you. O Israel!

*O come, O Wisdom from on high,
and order all things far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And help us in that way to go. [Refrain]*

*O come, O come, O Adonai,
who came to all on Sinai high,
And from its peak a single law
proclaimed in majesty and awe. [Refrain]*

*O come, O shoot of Jesse,
free your own from Satan's tyranny.
From depths of hell your people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave. [Refrain]*

*O come, O Key of David, come
and open wide your heavenly home;
Make safe the path to endless day,
To hell's destruction close the way. [Refrain]*

***LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

First Year Confirmation Class

Reader: Psalm 122 says, "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!' We are glad to be here in this community, with this family. It is a place of joyful hope, of radical welcome.

People: It is a place where, together, we wait in wondrous anticipation of the kingdom to come.

Reader: We light this candle today as a sign of our hope. (First candle on the Advent wreath is lit) We hope that we can be restored – our faith restored, our strength restored, our confidence restored, our joy restored as we watch and wait with all God's people for the promise to be fulfilled.

People: We celebrate this candle, which proclaims the light of God coming into the world with hope.

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 a mission moment

Veterans of the Cross

through an anthem

Gratitude

One Step Closer

through scripture

Mark 1:1-3 & Psalm 3:24

through a sermon

Anticipation & Participation

Chaplain Susan Steinmiller

HYMN

Mary Did You Know?

*Mary, did you know that your Baby Boy
would one day walk on water?*

*Mary, did you know that your Baby Boy
would save our sons and daughters?*

*Did you know that your Baby Boy
has come to make you new?
This Child that you delivered,
will soon deliver you.*

*Mary, did you know that your Baby Boy
will give sight to a blind man?*

*Mary, did you know that your Baby Boy
will calm the storm with His hand?*

*Did you know that your Baby Boy
has walked where angels trod?
When you kiss your little Baby
you kissed the face of God?*

Mary did you know. (Ooo Ooo Ooo)

*The blind will see, the deaf will hear.
The dead will live again.
The lame will leap. the dumb will speak
The praises of The Lamb.*

*Mary, did you know that your Baby Boy
is Lord of all creation?*

*Mary, did you know that your Baby Boy
would one day rule the nations?*

*Did you know that your Baby Boy
is heaven's perfect Lamb?
The sleeping Child you're holding
is the Great, I Am.*

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR GIFTS

PRAYER SONG

O Little Town of Bethlehem (*vs. 4, NCH#133*)
O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND PASTORAL PRAYER

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

Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates (NCH # 117)

*Lift up your heads, O mighty gates;
Behold the glorious Ruler waits!
The Sovereign One is drawing near;
The Savior of the world is here.*

*Fling wide the portals of your heart;
make it a temple, set apart
From earthly use for heaven's employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.*

*Redeemer, come! I open wide
my heart to you; here, Christ, abide!
Let me your inner presence feel;
Your grace and love in me reveal.*

*So come, my Sovereign; enter in!
Let new and nobler life begin;
Your Holy Spirit guide us on,
Until the glorious crown be won.*

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Sing We Now

arr. Cindy Berry

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

We thank Chaplain Susan Steinmiller for leading us in worship today.

First Church of Lombard, UCC – Song Select and Broadcasting License # 48259180
Onelicense.net license A-725370

**The 2022 Annual Congregation meeting will be held on
Sunday, December 4th, 2022, after worship.**

NEWS AND NOTES

FIRST CHURCH OF LOMBARD
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Published Weekly

November 27, 2022

220 South Main Street
Lombard, Illinois 60148
No.1175

INFORMATIONAL MEETING - BUDGET

The 2023 Budget has been completed! The Finance Team is hosting an informational meeting about the 2023 Budget on Sunday, November 27th at 9:15 am in the North Conference room. This is your opportunity to ask questions and get clarification before the Annual Congregational meeting on Dec. 4th. This will be the only informational meeting before the Annual Congregational meeting. We hope to see you then!

DECEMBER WORSHIP

The Holidays will be here before we know it and we are excited to celebrate together. Mark your calendars!

- ❖ Sunday, December 4 at 10:15 AM Welcome new members into the church, followed by our Annual Congregational Meeting
- ❖ Sunday, December 11 at 10:15 AM Cantata and Youth Community Bake Sale
- ❖ Wednesday, December 21 at 7 PM Blue Christmas Service in Maple Street Chapel (Joint service with First UMC)
- ❖ Saturday, December 24 at 5 PM Christmas Eve Service in the Sanctuary with candlelight, communion and carols
- ❖ Sunday, December 25 at 10:15 A Christmas Day in the sanctuary – Wear your pj’s, sing carols and hear Christmas stories

RECOGNIZING OUR GREAT STAFF

We appreciate the way that our church staff serves our membership, and the holiday offers us a way to express our gratitude for the way that they have kept us running smoothly and continue to be the “serving” church that we have always been.

The Church Council will be accepting contributions to a monetary gift that will be shared by all staff, and those contributions may be sent to the church, attention Church Council, or given to a member of the Council: Becky Kirsh, Jason Cooper, Marianne McGuire, Lisa White, Amy O’Callaghan, Eric Wilson, Fritz Geiger, Bob Urbain, Scott Garrett, and Judy Kline. Donations will be accepted starting November 27^t and it is hoped that the contributions will be received by December 18th for distribution prior to Christmas.

The Church Council wishes to thank everyone for their generous support during these difficult times, adding their wish for a safe Christmas season filled with love and happiness.

THE TOY EXPRESS IS BACK!

Toy express provides up to three free gifts for families who would otherwise be unable to provide a gift for their children under the age of 12. We will be collecting unwrapped toys starting tomorrow, Sunday, November 6th.

Toys can be brought to the Narthex and placed in the giant gift boxes that will be out for collection through December 11th. The gifts will be donated to Toy Express and families will be able to choose gifts for their children. Help us brighten up the holidays for everyone!

For more information, please contact Lynda S. Wilson, at lswilson411@gmail.com.

ADVENT STUDY

Plan now to join in with our neighbors at First United Methodist Church for an Advent Study beginning Wednesday, November 30. Each week's class will be held via Zoom starting at 7:00 p.m. and will look at Mary Had a Baby: An Advent Bible Study Based on African American Spirituals. While it is not necessary to read along to attend, companion books are available in the church office for \$10 each.

Be watching for a Zoom link or contact PastorJill@firstchurchoflombard.org for more details. This study will conclude by attending the Blue Christmas Service in the Maple Street Chapel on Wednesday, December 21.

ADVENT NIGHT COMING FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2! SIGN UP TODAY!

Gather for a dinner, crafts, serving projects and more at FCL's Annual Advent Night on Friday, December 2nd! Gather at 6:30 p.m. for dinner and conversations about how each of us can "Be The Light" as we prepare for Christmas this year. Please sign up on the bulletin board at the top of the stairs so we know how much food to provide!

HOLIDAY BAKE SALE

Mark Your Calendars! Sunday, December 11 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 2023 Youth Community Summer Mission Trip!

LAST CHANCE CRAFT SALE

The women's fellowship will be having their last chance Christmas Craft sale on Sunday, December 11th after worship. This is your chance to pick up some cute Christmas gifts and stocking stuffers while supporting the Women's Fellowship.

ADVENT GIVING BAG ITEMS NEEDED!

Once again, the Faith Exploration Team is collecting much-needed items for our friends who are experiencing homelessness and low income. During this time of need, consider giving to others by donating socks/gloves/scarves/hats, toiletries, personal hygiene items, nutritious snacks, etc. Items are needed by Sunday, November 27 can be brought to the Narthex any time and placed in the box marked "Giving Bags." These Giving Bags will be assembled as part of the Advent Night event on Friday, December 2. Afterward, all are invited to pick up and give these bags to those in need while you are out and about prior to Christmas.

UCC PALESTINE/ISRAEL NETWORK BOOK DISCUSSION

The UCC Palestine/Israel Network is hosting its first book discussion on Friday, December 9, 11:00-12:30 Central Time. The book is First Advent in Palestine by Kelley Nikondeha. Register for the Zoom link at the UCC Just Peace Facebook page.

RAISE RIGHT – FORMERLY KNOWN AS SCRIP

The program formerly known as SCRIP is now called RAISE RIGHT! They still have **all your favorite brands** with over **750+ national and regional brands**, and have new additions all the time. You can choose from e-gift cards, physical gift cards, and reloadable card options. Gift cards make great gifts! AND you can use them for so much more than just stocking stuffers.

- Donate to the cause of your choice using a universal gift card (Visa, MasterCard, AMEX)
- Give gift cards to organizations or to families facing hard times and they can purchase what they really need.
- Use cards to buy the items that you plan on donating or to buy gifts.

All rebates earned from the purchase of these gift cards will go directly to FCL Ministries. You can place an order by filling out an order form and turning it into the office. Click [HERE](#) (or ask for one in the church office) or order online directly at: www.RaiseRight.com and use enrollment code **3175LEFE9427** if don't already have an account set up. Place your order by December 4th for any physical gift cards and pick them up on December 8th. Call or email Bea in the church office with any questions.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA'S

This year, First Church continues its tradition of placing poinsettias in the sanctuary for Christmas Eve. Proceeds from the sale of poinsettias (\$15 each) will be used to support Community Table.

You may designate your poinsettia or contribution in honor of, or in memory of loved ones and the information will be included in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

You may take your poinsettia home after the evening Christmas Eve service if you wish. Poinsettias remaining in the sanctuary following Christmas Eve services will be shared with our homebound members.

If you prefer, you may make a donation to Community Table in lieu of poinsettias in honor of or in memory of your loved one. Please send your donation to the church office and make sure you include the information of who the contribution is in honor of or in memory of.

You may also donate online by going to www.FCOL.org. Go to the top right and hit the "DONATE" button. Under the fund, select "Miscellaneous", then type Poinsettia on the memo line along with who the donation is in honor of, or in memory of.

All poinsettia orders **MUST** be received no later than Sunday, December 11th, and all donations in lieu of poinsettias **MUST** be received by Wednesday, December 14th in order to be included in the Christmas Eve bulletin. Order forms can be found in the Narthex or by clicking [HERE](#). Any questions, contact Bea in the church office.

SOCIAL JUSTICE BOOKS

In this season of gift giving, if books are on your list to give especially for children and young adults, you may want to check out Social Justice Books (www.socialjusticebooks.org) for lists by themes. Toward the bottom of each list and reviews are books that are NOT recommended.

IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY

- It is with heavy hearts that we share the passing of Elizabeth Louise Stramaglia on November 18, 2022. Louise was the mother of Susan Steinmiller, Gina Olson, Michaele Till-Cazares, Antoinette Karris and Elizabeth J. Stramaglia. Please keep her family and friends in your prayers.
- We would like to wish Katie Hatfield an early **VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

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

Rae Piper-Coder – Community Engagement Coordinator

Charlie Peterson - Porter

Bea Castillo - Administrative Secretary

Phone: 630-629-2630

www.FCOL.org