

First Church of Lombard
United Church of Christ
In-Person & Virtual Worship

September 20, 2020 – Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost



PRELUDE

Lawrence Underwood

TIME OF SHARING & CONNECTING WITH THE COMMUNITY

GATHERING FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

GATHERING SONG

God Reigns o'er All the Earth

*God reigns o'er all the earth! Green hills and valleys low,
The farms and towns in gold and browns God's grace and beauty show.
God reigns o'er all the earth! Stone banks and spreading plains,
In rainbow hues—reds, yellow, blues—of streams and country lanes.*

OPENING PRAYER

*One: Call all the laborers, O God,
Call your laborers who woke early,
Call your laborers who came late,
Call your laborers who feel wronged,
Call your laborers who feel overlooked,
Call your laborers who have no employment,
Call your laborers who can't feed their children with their wage,
Call your laborers who know they are working in your fields,
Call your laborers who use their wage to increase your love,
Call all your laborers, O God,
Tell us to roll up our sleeves
For we know that we have work to do.
Let us find you in the work we share here and now, Amen.*

SIGNS OF PEACE

THE WORD OF GOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD

through a stewardship moment

Thomas Oakson and Katie O'Callaghan

through a mission moment

Diaper Drive

Kris DeSmedt

through an anthem

Lawrence Underwood

through scripture

Matthew 20:1-16

For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' ⁷They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' ⁹When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

through a sermon

Be the Church: Care for the Poor

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR GIFTS

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

Take my Gifts

*Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,
Gave me light and food and shelter, gave me life and set me free,
Now because your love has touched me, I have love to give away,
Now the bread of love is rising, loaves of love to multiply!*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

March for Full Organ

W. Bracewell

NEWS AND NOTES

FIRST CHURCH OF LOMBARD
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Published Weekly

September 20, 2020

220 South Main Street
Lombard, Illinois 60148
No. 1067

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN FIRST CHURCH 2020-2021



Everyone should have received the beautifully crafted information from our Church Council and Finance Committee regarding the current stewardship drive for the upcoming year, and it's now time for thinking about commitment to what First Church stands for and accomplishes through the participation of all who consider this their church home. We have been diligent in support of pledged amounts, and we are grateful for that. The hope is for a small increase in next year's pledge where it's possible. Understanding that the pandemic has made a difference in a lot of peoples' lives, we understand that an increase may not be possible for everyone. Our goals are to continue to be the caring entity that has led us to be such an outreach church that makes a real difference in our community as well as globally.

Please plan on having pledges back to the church by September 30th so that the budget may be planned with firm numbers for 2020-2021.

DIAPERS, DIAPERS, DIAPERS

While diapers have no time frame, September is an especially important time for gathering diapers for our First Things First ministry. FTF dispenses 6,000 diapers a month! Our goal is to gather at least a month's worth of these essentials for the health and comfort of infants who rely on the Outreach House for making life better. The families who come to us for diapers are low income families, and the cost of diapers is a burden. Diapers may be dropped off at the church on Sundays or at the Outreach House on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, or shopping online at Amazon Smile <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/20-0545709>. All sizes are welcome, but there is a special need for sizes 4, 5, and 6.

CENSUS TIME

Census-Time is running out to complete the 2020 census! The completion deadline for self-response is September 30th, 2020. A complete count for Illinois and Lombard is critical to fund our local schools, health care facilities, roadways, community programs and much more. It only takes a few minutes to complete online at www.my2020census.gov or by phone at (844) 330-2020. Your responses are safe, secure and protected by federal law.

HELP WITH HARVESTING

Cindy Asch, director of the project that has brought fresh produce to us on Thursdays during the summer is in rather desperate need for hands to do the harvesting of the food, due to the influence that Covid has had on the concerns of her workers. Driving to her farm would be a good one-day trip to help her bring the produce to our doors. Please contact Jeri Shaw at 630-886-6668 to let her know of interest in being a part of a one-day (or

more) trip. It can be a fun time and one that introduces us to others from neighboring churches as they contribute time and energy to the harvest.

CROP WALK

This year, the CROP Walk is virtual... but the need is real! For over 35 years, the CROP walk has shown solidarity in feeding the poor and hungry all over the world -- starting right here in Lombard. This year's emphasis is on food pantries, which have been hit extremely hard because of COVID-19. Our own pantry, the Lombard/Villa Park Food Pantry, will benefit from these donations.

While there are no formal sign-up sheets or any official "walker team" to join this year, those who would like to actually walk are invited to join one of two "Walks of Solidarity" with others from First Church of Lombard. On Sunday, October 4th, those who wish to walk together, masked and safely distanced, will meet at the church at 8 a.m. for a 2 mile walk on the Prairie Path. A second Walk of Solidarity will be held at 1 p.m. on that same date.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR EFFORTS to help feed those in our community and beyond by heading to tinyurl.com/FCLCrop2020 today and making a donation. You do not have to join the team to give or to join us for the Walk of Solidarity, so please invite friends and family to donate as well! Questions? Please contact Corinne Flemm at 630-629-4088.

MOVIE NIGHT

Everyone is invited to gather for an outdoor movie night right here at First Church of Lombard on Friday, September 25th. Bring chairs, blankets, and snacks as we watch a family-friendly movie together at sunset (7:15 PM). Movie title will be shared before the event, and we will move inside to Hatfield Hall in case of inclement weather.

A WORD FROM PASTOR JILL

Pastor Jill's "Agape from Afar" continues to bring the scripture for the next Sunday's sermon to us so that we may be prepared to receive the message ahead of time. There are also some thoughts and questions for meditation to make us more receptive to what Pastor Jill has to say.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Zoom makes it possible to be a part of the Wednesday Bible Study which is based on a Biblical verse and looks at the Scripture that Pastor Jill will be using to write her sermon the coming Sunday. Val Sutton, Educational Ministries Coordinator, will facilitate the discussion. Please contact her at vsutton@firstchurchoflombard.org for the Zoom link to connect with the gathering.

FOOD PANTRY

The pandemic has made the Lombard/Villa Park Food Pantry an even greater necessity for families that are struggling financially. Canned meats and prepared dinners are especially desirable as is rice. Please consider adding an item or more to the weekly shopping list so that largesse may be shared with those in need.

There is still a need for boxes for storing or dispensing food, so please bring any boxes to the back doors by the parking lot from 2-5 PM on Wednesday, bringing them in collapsed form for easy transport. There is also a need for some hands to help take the boxes to the Food Pantry at 5 PM. Please contact Val Sutton with willingness to be a part of the transport team.

SUNDAY MORNING FAITH EXPLORATION

"Seeing Through a New Lens" is the theme of Sunday morning discussions at 9 AM gathering in the North Conference Room or via Zoom. There will be a variety of facilitators who will choose a medium for viewing and discussing, and Val Sutton is looking for those who feel moved to lead one of the sessions. Please contact her for further information or to get the Zoom link.

FALL RETREAT

Looking for a safe and fun fall weekend getaway with your church family? There are several spaces available at First Church of Lombard's Fall Retreat, coming Friday, October 2 through Sunday, October 4 at Tower Hill Camp and Retreat Center in Sawyer, Michigan. Each household provides their own transportation and will have space to cook their own meals, in a space set aside for you and your family. Enjoy the lovely fall weather, fun around the campfire, walks along the beach and opportunities to get to know each other! The cost of \$80 per person caps out at \$375 per family. Contact vsutton@firstchurchoflombard.org to reserve a spot today! First come, first served.

OFFICE HOURS

We're back to full time in the office, 8 AM until 4 PM. It is still being requested that anyone wanting to come to the office call first so that the staff knows who is coming in. Either call 630-629-2630 or email bcastillo@firstchurchoflombard.org.

IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Kristen and Paul Fuller welcomed **Abigail (Abbie) Rose** to their family on September 2nd. She weighed 7 pounds 13 ounces and stretched 19½ inches, and everyone agrees that she's beautiful.

Sue (Mary Sue) Robinson Crerar, longtime friend of First Church, passed away on June 27, 2020 in her home in South Carolina. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family.