

**First Church of Lombard**  
**United Church of Christ**  
*In-person and Virtual Worship*  
**April 11, 2021 – Second Sunday of Easter**



*The nursery is closed until further notice. Families with young children are invited to worship in Hatfield Hall, where rocking chairs are available for your use.*

*Children in preschool through fifth grade head directly to Sunday School, rather than starting in worship with their families. A parent or another responsible adult should pick up children at 11:00 a.m., which may be a few minutes after the conclusion of the worship service. A weekly “Virtual Sunday School” will be also be sent via email.*

**PRELUDE**

*Fields of Gold*  
Lawrence Underwood - oboe

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

**GATHERING FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER**

**GATHERING SONG**

*Low in the Grave He Lay*  
*Low in the grave he lay, Jesus my Savior,*  
*waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord!*  
*Up from the grave he arose;*  
*with a mighty triumph o'er his foes;*  
*he arose a victor from the dark domain,*  
*and he lives forever, with his saints to reign.*  
*He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!*

## OPENING PRAYER

**One:** Creator God, we confess that at times we are skeptics. At times, we doubt that You exist because of the evil we have seen in the world. Oppression, marginalization, and plain hate still plague our world, and it is hard to see Your love and light. Sometimes, even those who bear Your name do not walk in Your ways. Help us to see Your goodness in this world. Help us to know Your love. Fill us with Your love and goodness, so that we might love one another, and lift up one another in faith. Amen.

## SIGNS OF PEACE

### THE WORD OF GOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD

through a mission moment      One Great Hour of Sharing

through an anthem      Here I am to Worship  
Stephen Davis - voice and guitar

through scripture      John 20:19-31

*When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."*

*A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.*

through a sermon      "Doubt It!"

## **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**

*Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day  
Joy dawned again on Easter Day,  
the sun shone out with bright array;  
For when the Apostles hid in fear,  
the Risen Christ to them appeared.*

### **BENEDICTION**

### **POSTLUDE**

Viva La Vida  
Lawrence Underwood - oboe

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We acknowledge that First Church of Lombard UCC  
is located on the traditional native lands of the  
Kiikaapoi, Peoria, Bodewadmiakiwen,  
Miami and Oceti Sakowin peoples.



# NEWS AND NOTES

FIRST CHURCH OF LOMBARD

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Published Weekly

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220 South Main Street

Lombard, Illinois 60148

No.1095

## **IN-PERSON WORSHIP**

Today marks the return of worshipping in person in the sanctuary and Hatfield Hall. We are reminded that masks are still required, and social distancing will be observed. In order to make the service be totally safe, participants are asked to fill out an on-line pew pad before coming to church or as soon as they arrive. The safety team will follow through on seating as well as guiding everyone to a safe entrance and exit. The service will still be available online.

## **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**

The One Great Hour of Sharing program partners the United Church of Christ with 8 other denominations in reaching out both nationally and globally to improve the lives of people in need. OGHS has regularly provided funds to ensure quick response to areas suffering from natural disasters.

Additionally, OGHS works daily to improve impoverished communities, as exemplified by teaching women in southern India how to grow mushrooms in their homes, selling the crops for food as well as providing funds for the education of the families' young children. Or the introduction in the Dominican Republic of facilities for purifying water to prevent the parasitic diseases that had been fatal to the youngest of the native population.

First Church is a part of this global outreach through its participation in the One Great Hour of Sharing ingathering the whole month of April. Through generous contribution on this day, we can be a part of world-wide help for those whose fortunes are too often misfortunes.

## **IN TOUCH WITH OUTREACH**

The Outreach House is taking steps toward re-opening the infant needs clothes closet and will host a special event for our neighbors in need on Saturday May 15<sup>th</sup>.

We are looking for the following items:

- Gently used spring and summer clothing: newborn to 5T.
- Like-new board books, read-to-me, and early reader books.
- Infant and early childhood toys (please include all the pieces)
- Baby equipment: high chairs, play mats etc.
- *Sorry, no car seats, strollers, cribs or used stuffed animals please.*

Donations will be accepted by appointment Tuesday and Wednesday mornings between 9:30 AM and noon.

Please contact Kris DeSmedt at [kdesmedt@firstchurchoflombard.org](mailto:kdesmedt@firstchurchoflombard.org) to make other arrangements if those days and times don't fit into a busy schedule. The families we serve work hard to make ends meet, and all donations make a difference.

You may make a donation online by going to [www.FCOL.org](http://www.FCOL.org). At the top right select the "DONATE" button. Under the fund choose "UCC Offerings" then type One Great Hour of Sharing in the memo box.

From Kris DeSmedt, "Thank you."

## **PRAIRIE PATH CLEANUP**

Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, is the first time this year that our cleanup team will gather at 8:15 AM to do a pickup and cleanup of our portion of the Prairie Path. We have "adopted" this portion with the pledge to clean it once a month, and the more hands that show up, the quicker the task will be accomplished. This is a celebration of the 51<sup>st</sup> Earth Day, and everyone is invited to participate. There will be a short safety meeting at 8:15 AM at the west door of the church where participants will be given gloves, safety vests, and garbage recycling bags. If volunteers have not filled out a waiver, they may fill one out that morning. Families, young and old are welcome!

## **AND THE WINNERS ARE....**

Charlie Peterson, first place with 124 points, second place tie: with 100 Points each, Meryl Short. Judy Kline, Ken Bruzek. And some of these added their winnings to the fund so we are able to contribute \$850 to the Elmhurst University Scholarship Fund. Thanks to everyone who participated in this annual boost for students at the university.

## **A GREAT TIME FOR KIDS**

While Vacation Bible School will have to be different again this year, we can count on the creative genius of Val Sutton to make it something special again. The concentration on compassion will be carried out in take-home kits that take the kids on a journey of the heart. Kits may be picked up on Monday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, but parents are urged to go to [tinyurl.com/AdventureVBS2021](https://tinyurl.com/AdventureVBS2021) to register their children *now*.

For the rest of us, we may not be able to be a part of the program, but we can help with providing some of the items that make the time a real deal for the kids by going to [tinyurl.com/FCL2021VBS](https://tinyurl.com/FCL2021VBS) and checking the “wish list” of needed items, choosing something(s) which will be sent to Val. Monetary donations are also welcome and may be accomplished by a check made out to First Church of Lombard, inserting VBS on the memo line.

## **“PILGRIM AT TINKER CREEK”**

Beyond Words book discussion group will meet again at 6:45 PM on Wednesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, to share thoughts on Annie Dillard’s Pilgrim at Tinker Creek winner of a 1975 Pulitzer Prize. The book records the narrator's thoughts on solitude, writing, and religion, as well as scientific observations on the flora and fauna she encounters in the area near Roanoke, Virginia.. Touching upon themes of faith, nature, and awareness, Pilgrim is also noted for its study of theodicy and the inherent cruelty of the natural world.

Books are available in the church office for \$12, or arrangements may be made for those who need an alternate way of getting a copy. Please contact Val Sutton at [vsutton@firstchurchoflombard.org](mailto:vsutton@firstchurchoflombard.org) for the Zoom connection for the gathering.

## **PRAIRIE FOOD CO-OP**

The Prairie Food Coop is working toward raising \$3.1 million by December with a concentrated drive for the goal, the result being a locally owned store that promotes locally grown products. Becoming an “owner” may be done by paying \$200, something that has been done by a number of our church family. That ownership provides discounts, voting rights, and even more. Donating toward the whole goal would be most welcome, and seeing “our” store at the corner of Hickory and Main is a big reward.

Please call Kathy Nash at 630-446-0010 or email [invest@prairiefood.coop](mailto:invest@prairiefood.coop) or send a check to Prairie Food Coop. PO Box 83, Lombard, IL.

For the full story of the growth of this program may be found at <https://www.prairiefood.coop/>.

## **FAITH EXPLORATION**

This Wednesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, at 7 PM will be the first gathering of the new Faith Exploration series with the focus being on “Who Is God?” The same discussion will be at 9 AM on Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, following the video featuring noted theologian Marcus Borg. Please contact Val Sutton at [vsutton@firstchurchoflombard.org](mailto:vsutton@firstchurchoflombard.org) for the Zoom link or to have any questions answered.

## **IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY**

We have lost two long-time active members of our church family, and our thoughts and prayers are with **Doris Schertz** and her family following the death of **Dave Schertz** and also with the family of **Lina Davis** who has been living in Ohio recently.