

**First Church of Lombard
United Church of Christ
November 28, 2021– First Sunday of Advent**



The nursery is closed until further notice. Rocking chairs are reserved for use by families with young children.

Children in preschool through 6th grade are invited to head directly to Sunday School, rather than starting in worship with their families. Each week's location is posted on the church entrance doors. 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.

PRELUDE

Lawrence Underwood

TIME OF SHARING & CONNECTING WITH THE COMMUNITY

GATHERING FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

GATHERING SONG *We Hail You God's Anointed (vs. 1,2 NCH #104)*

*We hail you God's anointed, the long awaited One!
Hail in the time appointed, your reign on earth begun!
You come to break oppression, to set the captive free;
To take away transgression, and rule in equity.*

*You shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth;
And joy and hope, like flowers, spring in your path to birth.
Before you on the mountains shall peace, the herald go,
And righteousness, in fountains, from hill to valley flow.*

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

First Year Confirmation Students

Pastor: The pandemic has laid bare, and widened, economic disparity locally and globally. As we enter the Advent season, how can our church become a house where the Holy will be born anew—offering respite, sustenance and care, opening the doors ever wider to those seeking shelter from the onslaught of life? No one church can do it all, but each can do something. As we study the biblical prophets that call us to care for our neighbors and “make room in the inn,” the lonely and frightened spaces within us are filled with the light of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

Voice 1: Today we offer the Light of Hope to illumine the Door of Welcome.

Voice 2: May this light shine in our hearts, in our lives, and in our church.

Voice 1: May Hope awaken us to possibilities and lead us to greater hospitality.

Voice 2: Because There IS room in this Inn, a House for the Holy.

SIGNS OF PEACE

THE WORD OF GOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD

through an anthem

We Three Kings
Josiah Reade Ringers

through scripture

Jeremiah 33: 14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The Lord is our righteousness.”

through a sermon

Making Room for Hope

through a hymn

Come, O Long-Expected Jesus (vs. 1,2 NCH#122)
Come, O long expected Jesus, born to set all people free;
From our fears and sins release us; grant us your true liberty.

Israel’s strength and consolation, hope to all the earth impart;
Dear desire of every nation, enter every longing heart.

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR GIFTS

PASTORAL PRAYER

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

O Little Town of Bethlehem

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see you lie!
Above your deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
Yet in your dark streets shines forth the everlasting light,
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in you tonight.*

*“Where children pure and happy pray to the blessed Child,
Where misery cries out to thee, Son of the Mother mild;
Where charity stands watching, and faith holds wide the door,
The dark night wakes, the glory breaks,
And Christmas comes once more.”*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

We Gather Together

Arr. Joel Raney

**The 2021 Annual Congregation meeting will be held on
Sunday December 5th, 2021 in the Sanctuary immediately
after worship.**

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.1122

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5TH FOLLOWING WORSHIP

A Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 5th immediately following the service. Childcare will be provided. The meeting will be broadcast virtually, but only in-person members may vote or ask questions. The following items will be presented to the congregation for action (voting) at the meeting:

1. Approval of minutes of prior congregational meetings 12/20 and 2/21,
2. Approval of a 2022 budget,
3. Approval (verification) of Bylaw changes adopted by Council, and
4. Approval of the proposed amendments to the Constitution.

Please use the links found in an email sent out last week to view the documents that will be voted on prior to the meeting. If you did not receive the email or need the links, please email Bea in the church office.

Council members will be in attendance at two meetings prior to the Congregational meeting to answer any questions you may have about the changes to the Constitution and By-laws, or the proposed 2022 Budget. The meetings will be held in-person and via Zoom on Wednesday, December 1st at 6:00pm, and in-person on Sunday, December 5th at 9:15am.

LILAC AUCTION THANKS!

Thank you to all who participated in the Lilac Time Auction! This includes not just purchasing items, but also donating items and services, making phone calls asking businesses for donations, picking up donated items, and other tasks. A huge thanks goes out to all of those involved in any way. Together, we were able to surpass our goal! Information on item pickup details will be coming soon to winners.

A TREE-MENDOUS START TO THE HOLIDAYS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

Mark Your Calendars for a unique, all-family event here at FCL on Friday, December 3! Gather at 6:30 p.m. to help "fill" our Advent Giving Bags with items to help the needy... then stay to enjoy cookies, cocoa, and a documentary film about a Christmas tree farmer!

To be held in Hatfield Hall; contact vsutton@firstchurchoflombard.org with questions.

A HUGE THANK YOU!

Thanks to so many who came out on a cold Monday morning to help unload the various items and get them inside the Food Pantry. Even though the load was not as large as planned, it was clearly an example of "many hands make light work!" The truck from the Northern Illinois Food Bank arrives around 8:00 each 2nd and 4th Monday of the month, so help on those mornings is much appreciated. Perhaps put those on your 2022 new calendars!

TEATIME ON TUESDAYS RESUMES

Haven't had a chance to connect with Pastor Jill? Need a pick me up in your week? Want to see other First Church friends? Then join Teatime on Tuesdays. Every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. connect with Pastor Jill and others via Zoom. This will replace Sunday virtual coffee hour for the time being. Check your email for the Zoom link or contact the office for the link.

ADVENT STUDY COMING WEDNESDAY EVENINGS IN DECEMBER

An Ecumenical Advent Study is coming Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom on December 1, 8, 15 and 22. This study will be held in conjunction with Rev. Luis from First UMC of Lombard and will explore the theme "Keep Watch With Me." A companion book, though not required for the study, is available in the church office for \$8. Mark your calendars today and be watching for details about this unique study in the most extraordinary season of the year! Zoom link to be sent in late November. Contact Pastor Jill for more information at PastorJill@firstchurchoflombard.org

CALLING ALL FCOL WOMEN! YES, THAT IS ALL OF YOU!

Please come and join us for an event at the newly opened National Indo-American Museum just down the road from us at 815 S. Main St.

Come and join Natya Dance Theatre as they perform a dance interpretation at 4:00 p.m. on December 5th at NIAM! The program will include three senior Natya dancers who will perform an interpretation of three different artists exhibited at the museum. The program is expected to be 1.5 hrs. with the artists speaking to the audience upstairs in front of the artwork followed by the dance itself performed downstairs. There will also be a Q&A following the dance.

Tickets cost \$5. You can find more information here: NiamDanceArt.eventcombo.com

YOUTH COMMUNITY BAKE SALE FUNDRAISER

On Sunday, December 12 plan to come to Fellowship Hall for this amazing Youth Community Mission Fundraiser! Come check out a wide array of treats after worship on that date and make your life (and the Youth Community) that much sweeter! All donations will benefit the Youth Community Mission Trip in 2022.

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: Calvin Bloesch, Jason Cooper, Denise Dabisch, Scott Garrett, Becky Kirsh, Judy Kline, Mark Meyer or Bob Urbain,

You may also contribute online on our website at: www.FCOL.org . Click on **DONATE** then in the dropdown menu under **FUND**, go to **MISCELLANEOUS** in the dropdown and then write **STAFF GIFT** in the **MEMO** line. It is hoped that the contributions will be received by December 19th for distribution prior to Christmas.

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

ONLINE CHURCH DIRECTORY

Need someone's phone number from the congregation? Do you have their new address? Would you like to update your own information with the church? You have all of this available for you at your fingertips in REALM. REALM is our online directory and you can login anytime to look-up anybody's contact information or to update your own info or even send a message to a fellow church member among other things. It's a completely secure and private program. There's even a free app you can download to your phone so you can look things up on the fly! (Click here to download -> [Realm Connect - For Our Church - Apps on Google Play](#))

If you don't have or don't remember your login information for REALM, please contact Bea in the church office to help you reset your account.

HOLIDAY SHOPPING MADE EASY

Yes, we're still doing SCRIP orders, and with the holidays coming up, this is an especially good time to order gift cards. Choose cards that would be great gifts without having to go into a store. They're easy to wrap. They're handy to mail. And, they'll be delivered to church with more than enough time for Christmas. The next deadline to order will be December 7th and cards will be ready to be picked up on Sunday, December 12th. Download your order form [HERE](#) or pick one up in the office or order online using enrollment code #3175LEFE9427 at www.ShopWithScrip.com.

BEER & HYMNS RETURNS TO IN-PERSON SINGING

After a long COVID hiatus, there will once again be an opportunity to join together in thankful singing with those of you who are comfortable going inside restaurants. Please plan to wear a mask while singing (though you can remove it to eat or drink).

So that Manny can have the appropriate number of servers on hand, please send a message to dbfritz@comcast.net if you plan to attend,

Beer & Hymns will meet in the back room at Manny's Ale House – 683 St. Charles Rd., Elmhurst at 7 p.n. on Friday, December 17th. The possibility of offering a Zoom option for those unable to join in person is being considered. Stay tuned for more information about this!