

YOU CAN'T LIVE AT Disney World

CONTEMPORARY SERVICE • SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

WELCOME!

We're glad you're here!

A Few Things About Today's Worship

This service is live-streamed

If you want to ensure that you are not seen in the live-stream video, you can sit on the back left (as you look at the stage) side of the sanctuary.

Kids First is where kids worship and learn in their own space. We start the service together to share in praise and worship. At 11, kids will be led to their classrooms. Kids First Baby/Toddler and PreK are open at 10:45 if you prefer your child start there.

Nursery- Room 217 | Preschool- Room 222 | K-5th grade - Community Room

Wesley Cafe

Before service, you'll find coffee and food in Wesley Hall at the end of the hall directly past the sanctuary doors. Arrive a little early to service and have the chance to connect with First Church friends and family. (We put snacks out in the Narthex at the end of service, too.)

**First
Church**
A United Methodist Congregation

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

236 W. Crystal Lake Ave. | Crystal Lake, IL 60014

FirstChurchCL.org | 815.459.0785

Worship Today

OPENING SONG

“Hallelujah (Your Love Makes Me Sing)”

WELCOME

Psalm 138:1-7

Pastor Lisa Kruse-Safford

CONGREGATIONAL SONGS

“See A Victory / What A Beautiful Name”

“Better is One Day”

PRAYER

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

(children are dismissed at this time)

GIFT OF MUSIC

“In The Meantime” by Hannah Kerr

MESSAGE- “You Can’t Live At Disney World”

Tyler Hughes

Mark 9:2-9

CLOSING SONG

“Goodness of God”

BLESSING

Ways To Give

Thank you for supporting the mission and ministry of First Church!

1. Just outside the sanctuary (in the Narthex), you might find a small wooden box on the sign-in table. If you’ve brought an offering, you can drop it there.
2. If you prefer to manage your giving electronically, you can give online at [FirstChurchCL.org/giving](https://www.firstchurchcl.org/giving). There you can set up a one-time or recurring gift.
3. If you’d like to give right now as you’re reading this, text “GIVE236” to 73256 and follow the prompts.

News & Events

Caregiver Support Group | 2nd Mondays, starting Feb 12 | 1 - 2:30 pm

First Church will be hosting a Caregiver Support Group through Independence Health & Therapy on the second Monday of each month from 1 - 2:30 p.m. in our Community Room. In this group, participants have the chance to share experiences, gain practical advice, and find support among those who understand the same challenges. Discover resources, coping strategies, and a caring community to lighten the caregiving journey.

2nd Monday Book Club | February 12 | 1 p.m.

The 2nd Monday Book Club will meet on February 12 at 1 p.m. in the church library (Room 230). We will be discussing *The Venice Sketchbook* by Rhys Bowen. We are always open to new members. For more information, contact Marcia Baker at 815.353.4485.

Ash Wednesday: A Self-Guided Experience | February 14 | Hale Chapel | times below

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, which is a day for us to remember our mortality and our need for divine grace, as well as reflect on the spiritual journey we are on following Jesus Christ as Lord. This year, we will offer the opportunity for a self-guided reflection time and the receiving of the imposition of ashes. There will not be an Ash Wednesday worship service as we've done in the past. Stop by Hale Chapel during one of the following time slots to enjoy your peaceful, contemplative Ash Wednesday experience: **7 - 9 a.m.** | **11 a.m. - 1 p.m.** | **7 p.m. - 9 p.m.**

A No-Rush Lenten Study

This year's church-wide Lenten study is *The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry* by John Mark Comer. This study will challenge us to slow down, seek silence and solitude, remember our Sabbath and simplify life to focus on what matters most. We are launching some new small groups for the Lenten season and encouraging existing small groups to welcome new members for this Lenten experience. Sign up for a group using the links in our weekly e-newsletter or find signups in the Narthex today.

For Seniors: *Shrek! The Musical* | RSVP by Friday, February 16

Join us for a joyous afternoon at Crystal Lake Central High School for a free senior matinee of *Shrek, The Musical* on Wednesday, March 13th at 2 p.m. The show, running about 2 hours and 30 minutes, features creative costumes, sets, puppets, and more. After the show, enjoy complimentary cookies and beverages with the cast. Due to limited parking, we'll carpool from the church. RSVP by Friday, February 16th to secure your free tickets, as seating is first come, first served. Contact Bill at 815-459-0785 x-116 or bmuilkens@firstchurchcl.org for more information.

Adult Bowling Night | Saturday, February 17 | 4-5:30 p.m. | Kingston Lanes, Woodstock

Our Family Ministry is once again hosting its adult bowling night on Saturday, February 17th. Meet us at Kingston Lanes in Woodstock at 4 p.m. for a few games and drinks. We'll grab dinner at the Public House afterward. RSVP on our website, Facebook group or via weekly e-news.

Spring Mission Trip | Information meeting on Sunday, Feb 18 at noon

Let's go to Red Bird Mission! The spring adult mission trip will be a return to Red Bird Mission in Beverly, KY the week of April 7-12. This is a co-ed mission trip and people who have skills of any kind are welcome to come. The projects at Red Bird include everything from home repairs to working with food distribution and the resale ministry. Come to an informational meeting on Sunday, Feb. 18th at noon to hear more. Email Pastor Lisa for more information at: lksafford@firstchurchcl.org.

IT Task Force

The Finance Team & Board of Trustees want to create a small task force for the purpose of examining our IT needs and service contracts. If you can share your knowledge and expertise in this area, please contact Tyler Hughes at thughes@firstchurchcl.org. Thank you!

Loss of a Spouse Seminar | Tuesday, February 20 | 6 - 8 p.m. | Community Room

Please join us for this special seminar dealing with the loss of a spouse. This two-hour, one evening event will be held on Tuesday, February 20th in the Community Room of First Church. You will meet people who are also experiencing a journey of grief. We will have discussion time, watch a video and share together. You will also receive a book with helpful articles and information. There is no charge for the class. Please contact Colleen Blankenhorn at wblankenhorn@sbcglobal.net or call 815.245.7781 to reserve your place in the class.

Donate Items to Savers Through the UWF | Saturday, February 24 | 9 a.m. - noon

If you've been stuck inside lately, you've probably done some decluttering. Don't know what to do with your extra stuff? We can help! On Saturday, February 24th, between 9 a.m. and noon, drop off your items to donate at the church and the United Women in Faith group will take them over to Savers. All proceeds go to the UWF (formerly United Methodist Women) ministry of our church. We aren't taking furniture at this time. Please separate soft and hard goods into bags.

Jewelry Crafting | Sunday, February 25 | 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

The UWF is hosting a jewelry crafting party, open to all mothers, daughters (age 5+), and grandmothers! Join us on Sunday, February 25th from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. in Wesley Hall. There is no cost to attend, as UWF will provide all the materials you need to craft your very own bracelets, necklaces, earrings, or keychains. For registration or if you have any questions, contact Jennifer Rokusek at 815-651-1723 or via email at rokusekj@hotmail.com.

Join Our Easter Jam Team | Easter Jam is Sunday, March 17

Experience Easter like never before at Easter Jam on March 17th! Join us for a celebration big enough for the whole family, filled with the spirit of Easter. We're seeking enthusiastic volunteers to help make this event unforgettable by spreading joy, laughter, and the message of God's greatest gift. Whether you're interested in activities, decorations, snacks, or greeting families with a warm smile, we have a spot just for you! Look for a sign-up link in our weekly e-newsletter.

Ministry Support Teams

The Leadership Committee is excited to introduce Ministry Support Teams, aiming to enhance our church ministries by fostering collaboration between three to five lay members and one to two staff members. These teams will meet periodically to discuss ministry progress, identify challenges, and brainstorm improvements. These roles are more prayerful, observational, and brainstorming-oriented than hands-on ministry positions, although hands-on opportunities are available. The five teams are: Children & Youth Ministries, Adult Development & Spiritual Growth, Worship Ministry, Care & Hospitality, and Invitation Ministry. In the coming days, you may receive a call from a team chair regarding participation. For more information or to express interest, contact either Rich Rowland (richrowland@gmail.com, 815-479-857) or Eric Olson (ebamolson@gmail.com, 847-530-6204). Your prayerful consideration is appreciated.

To sign up to receive e-news, contact Jeanna at jfrancis@FirstChurchCL.org

For news, pictures and more, check out our Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/clumc>

OUR MISSION: Devoted to Christ. Connected to others. Sent to serve.