

# NEWS AND NOTES

FIRST CHURCH OF LOMBARD  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
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## One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday March 14<sup>th</sup>

Whether the goal is for potatoes in the Balkans, purified water in the Dominican Republic, sheep for destitute farmers in Mongolia, schools in Mindanao, pigs for families to earn a living in the Congo, mushrooms for India where women can earn money with mushroom beds in their homes, hospitals in Gaza or many other ways of reaching out to help those in need, One Great Hour of Sharing is there. And through OGHS, we were able to be an immediate responder to the crisis in Haiti after the earthquake. OGHS serves 80 countries, including the United States, in creating ways for people to recover from natural disasters and debilitating privations.

First Church will join with eight other Protestant denominations on March 14<sup>th</sup> with the OGHS ingathering to bring comfort and aid to thousands of people whose lives are affected adversely in so many ways. Please consider giving generously to be a part of serving those we don't see but who rely on OGHS for a better life.

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE OUTREACH HOUSE**

There is a need for additional help for The Outreach House and *first things first* and Walk-In Ministry. The house is open to serve the community on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, needing volunteers from 9:45 AM until noon. It is hoped that volunteers will be willing to be a part of the team for 2 days a month, but even more would be really welcome. Training will be given to make each volunteer feel comfortable with what is required, and nobody works alone. Please call Sandra Hill, Outreach Coordinator, at 630-693-0187 to become a part of the volunteer crew or if there are questions that need to be answered.

### **WEDNESDAY JUBILEE**

Children age 5 to 6<sup>th</sup> grade are enjoying the after-school *Jubilee* program that fills the time between 3:30 and 5:30 PM every Wednesday. Games, activities, crafts, and some active "gym" time make the afternoon go fast for the kids and give parents a couple of hours for their own projects. It works well for parents to pick up the children at 5:30 and head down to Fellowship Hall to enjoy a free meal at the Community Table.

### **FAITH JOURNEY**

This Tuesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Faith Journey group will meet from 6:30-8 PM for further study directed by the video, "Living the Questions II". The goal of each session, complete in itself, is to work toward dealing with the questions that may come from a path of understanding our faith. Everyone is invited, whether there has been a chance to attend previous sessions or not.

### **WEDNESDAY COMMUNITY TABLE**

Everyone is invited to come to Fellowship Hall on Wednesday from 5:30 to 7 PM to receive a healthy, tasty dinner that is shared with members of the surrounding community. It's a good chance to meet community families and share time in getting to know each other and to share the warmth and fellowship that is First Church.

There is always need for help to make this dinner happen, so please contact Sandra Hill at [shill@theoutreachhouse.org](mailto:shill@theoutreachhouse.org) or 630-693-0187 if you can spare some time to help prepare the food, serve it, set up and clean up after the meal.

### **FAMILY GAME NIGHT**

Do you have a favorite game that your family enjoys? Bring it to the MultiPurpose Room this Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30-8 PM and share it with other families. Or plan on learning some new games that will be available during the evening. Board games. More active games. Times to enjoy being together as a family with friends. It's our monthly get-together to enjoy time together as a family.

### **"LUCK O' THE IRISH PARTY"**

The invitation is out for Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, at 6 PM, when the Luck O' the Irish Party will feature food, a contest and live music. Fellowship Hall will be filled with the tantalizing aroma of corned beef and cabbage, with potatoes, carrots, and dessert filling out the menu.

AND...there will be a contest to choose the most outstanding loaf of Irish soda bread, with all entrant loaves being served after the chefs have chosen the winner. Anyone wishing to enter their favorite soda bread recipe is asked to contact Jean Reneau, chair of the Parish Life Ministry, at 630-627-4545 or [jean@reneau.us](mailto:jean@reneau.us) Just to add to the enjoyment of the evening, there will be authentic live Irish music, and the décor of Fellowship Hall will be strictly Irish. All this for just \$5 a person or \$20 for an immediate family. Invite friends, bring the family, and count on having taste buds totally satisfied on March 13<sup>th</sup>.

### **WEDNESDAY NOON STUDY**

Everyone is invited to be a part of the Wednesday noon "Modern Parables" study which will approach familiar parables of Jesus in a more contemporary way. Introduced through a video telling of the parable, the group will engage in discussion and a referencing of Bible portions to enjoy a modern look at the parables so central to the teachings of Jesus.

### **"TOUGH QUESTIONS"**

People are often confronted with questions that seem difficult to reconcile with one's understanding of faith, fairness, justice, good, and evil. Sundays during Lent, from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM will provide an opportunity to address any issue that has seemed thorny and to profit from group discussion of the questions. The meeting will be in the North Conference Room directly after worship.

### **AUCTION**

May 15<sup>th</sup> is a date to prepare for...NOW. Please note the inserts in today's bulletin that suggest talents that would be desirable to offer for the auction. Talent doesn't have to be a professional quality musical capability or the ability to write classical poetry. It can be anything that you can do that someone else would be willing to purchase for their use. Baking. Gardening. Cleaning. Pet sitting. Sewing, or any of the other suggestions on the list or that you can contribute.

And the list of basket themes is posted on the bulletin board, listing suggestions but leaving room for your own creative ideas. Baskets should be delivered to the church office by April 15<sup>th</sup> so that the wrapping committee can work its magic on making them eye-catching and appealing.

And your calendar is marked for Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, isn't it?

### **CALLING ALL CHEFS**

It's time to be planning for the annual Gourmet Guys dinner to be held on Saturday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, and that means that the chef lineup needs to be set into the plan soon. This is one of the most popular dinners of the year, and it gives First Church men a chance to showcase their favorite recipes...entrees, side dishes, desserts. Maybe it's too hard to decide which favorite to share this year, but you know that you'll be in the kitchen on the 10<sup>th</sup>, so please contact Jean Reneau, Parish Life chair, at 630-627-4545 or [jean@reneau.us](mailto:jean@reneau.us) to add your name to the list of chefs du jour.

### **"THREE CUPS OF TEA" SPEAKER**

Would you like to meet the man whose dedication to children has already established 131 schools (especially for girls), in the most remote regions of Pakistan and Afghanistan? On April 3<sup>rd</sup> Greg Mortenson, founder and director of the Central Asia Institute (CAI) and a Nobel Peace prize nominee, will be at the O'Hare Hyatt

Regency where he will be the featured speaker at the gala fundraiser of CAI, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, where he will discuss his new book Stones into Schools: Promoting Peace with Books, not Bombs as a part of the evening that will include music and dinner. Mortensen is well known for his book Three Cups of Tea and his philanthropic dedication to helping those at risk.

Tickets start at \$150 and include dinner, the program, and a complimentary copy of Stones into Schools. Tickets are tax deductible, and the night promises to have a few surprise celebrity guests! For tickets, please go to [www.ikat.org/cai-annual-fundraiser](http://www.ikat.org/cai-annual-fundraiser). Please contact Kristi Carlson at [mapgirl1997@yahoo.com](mailto:mapgirl1997@yahoo.com) or 630-416-7127 if you have any questions.

### **“A WORK IN PROGRESS”**

Working on a project? Wishing it were done? Join the group that is working on quilting, mending, needlework, and other projects this Saturday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, at any time between 10 AM and 2 PM in Room 1 on the lower level of the newer building. Lots of tables for spreading out big projects. Lots of outlets for connecting sewing machines or irons. Lots of laughter to make the time go faster.

### **IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY**

...Our hearts hold **Roberta Bley** following her death last Tuesday. A memorial service is planned for an April date....Our prayers and thoughts are with **Mary Peters** following the recent deaths of her grandmother and father....We're happy that **George Vandon** is back at home after a short stay in the hospital.

### **FEBRUARY 21<sup>ST</sup> - 28<sup>TH</sup> AT FIRST CHURCH**

<b>Sun. 2/21</b>	9:00 AM Explorers/Confirmation 10:15 AM “New Song” Worship- Main Sanctuary 10:15 AM Sunday School 11:30 AM <i>OJV &amp; OGN</i> 11:30 AM “Tough Questions” 11:30 AM Management Team 2:00 PM Chapel Tour 4:00 PM <i>One Step Closer</i> 6:00 PM Youth Community		7:00 PM PRC Class 7:00 PM Quilt Group 7:00 PM 2 <sup>nd</sup> Year Confirmation 9:00 AM Crafts Group 10:00 AM Walk-In Ministry 10:00 AM <i>first things first</i> 6:20 PM <i>Josiah Reade Ringers</i> 7:45 PM Chancel Choir 6:30 PM Family Night
		<b>Thur. 2/25</b>	9:00 AM Council/Ministry Team Retreat 9:30 AM PRC Class 10:00 AM “Work in Progress” 5:00 PM Troop 51 Spaghetti Dinner
		<b>Fri. 2/26</b>	9:00 AM Explorers/Confirmation 10:15 AM Worship-Main Sanctuary 10:15 AM Sunday School 11:30 AM <i>OJV &amp; OGN</i> 11:30 AM “Tough Questions” 3:00 PM Folk Concert 4:00 PM <i>One Step Closer</i> 4:00 PM Middle School Mania 6:00 PM Youth Community
		<b>Sat. 2/27</b>	
<b>Mon. 2/22</b>	12:00 M Love Christian Clearing House Annual Meeting 12:30 PM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM Heart Smart Class 7:00 PM Church Council		
		<b>Sun. 2/28</b>	
<b>Tue. 2/23</b>	10:00 AM Walk-In Ministry 10:00 AM <i>first things first</i> 6:30 PM P.A.D.S. 6:30 PM Faith Journey		
<b>Wed. 2/24</b>	10:00 AM Walk-In Ministry 10:00 AM <i>first things first</i> 12:00 M “Modern Parables” Study 3:30 PM Jubilee 5:30 PM Community Table		

### **SUNDAY FEBRUARY 28<sup>TH</sup>**

**GREETERS:** Jen and Steve VanDam, Gail Vandon, Carol vonHolst, Anne Wanicek, Marlyne Williams.

**USHERS:** Ken Bruzek, Rick Hennessy, Marianne and Kevin McGuire, Jeff Sichz, Steve VanDam.

**COUNTERS:** Dave Gardner, Marianne McGuire, Jake Peters.

**COFFEE HOUR:** Stacy Bouchard, Kris Heimdal.

**NURSERY VOLUNTEER:** Kathy and Lawrence Underwood.

**SOUND TEAM:** Charlie Peterson.

**LITURGIST:** Morgan Meyer.