

First Christian Church

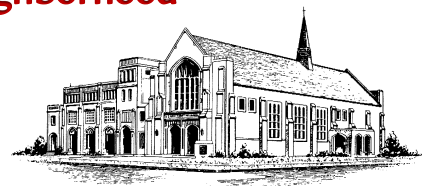
love all • live spiritually • rejoice in hope • show hospitality

A Movement for Wholeness in the Capitol Neighborhood



430 S. 16th St.
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508
402.475.4289

Messenger



Rev. Dr. Karen Moritz, Pastor

Cheryl Judds, Administrative Assistant

Elaine Parman, Care Ministries Volunteer

Mark W. Miller, Director of Music Ministries

Sara Lugn, Stephen Ministry Leader

Church Website: fcclincn.org

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Church E-mail: info@fcclincn.org

This Sunday, Nov. 18

All-Church Thanksgiving Dinner



Join us for our annual Thanksgiving dinner served in the Gym following the 10:30 a.m. worship service this Sunday, Nov. 18. Turkey, potatoes, gravy, rolls and beverages will be provided.

If your last name begins with: **A–J**, please bring a dessert to share; **K–Z**, please bring a side dish to share.

If you haven't already handed in your RSVP form, please contact the church office to let us know how many from your family will be attending.

Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Also on Nov. 18 the annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service will be held at Congregation Tifereth Israel, 3219 Sheridan Blvd. at 3:00 pm. People of all faiths are welcome and encouraged to attend. And if you'd like, you can participate in an interfaith choir! Rehearsal will be at 2:00 pm that day; contact Brian Pfofner at 402-477-6037 or music-dir@fpcclincn.org if you would like to sing in the choir. You are invited to bring a non-perishable food donation for the Food Bank of Lincoln.

FCC BOARD MEETING

This Sunday, Nov. 18 at 6:00 pm Church Parlor

All FCC members and friends are welcome to attend the meeting and join in the discussion.



THANKSGIVING SPECIAL OFFERING

From the very beginning of the movement, Disciples have founded institutions of higher learning, encouraging students in their intellectual pursuits. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is still committed to higher education. Currently, over 50,000 students attend our 14 Disciples-related colleges, universities or one of the seven seminaries and divinity houses. In the past 12 months, over 12,000 students have graduated from these fine schools.

On Sunday, Nov. 25th, please give generously to this year's Thanksgiving offering. Your gifts make a world of difference as Disciples continue our legacy of supporting education and our institutions of higher learning. For more information go to www.DisciplesMissionFund.org.

Order Your Poinsettias for Christmas 2018



Once again we would like to decorate the Sanctuary with poinsettias for the Christmas season. If you would like to help make this possible, please look for the order form in this Sunday's bulletin. The deadline to order is Nov. 25.

Poinsettia plants are \$7.75 each, and checks should be made out to First Christian Church and given to Donna Ruhl. You may specify a person or persons to memorialize or honor with your purchase of a poinsettia. You may also designate your poinsettia to be delivered to a homebound member of FCC. Your plant(s) may be picked up after the Christmas Eve worship service on Monday, Dec. 24.



Pastor's Corner

We Disciples bring the gift of understanding ourselves as a “people of the table.” As a community of Christians who celebrate the centrality of the Lord's Supper, we experience the table of Christ as an open and welcoming table. For us, the table is a meeting place where the inclusive love of God encountered in Jesus Christ gathers together those who confess Jesus Christ as Lord, nurtures them, and seeks to create a sense of community among them and with the larger world. Yet the table is not our own. We encounter God's unmerited grace as guests at the table, and as such, we cannot put limits upon God's grace in different contexts.

Council of Christian Unity: Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
<https://councilonchristianunity.org/>

As we approach Thanksgiving next week, many of us are mindful of the importance of being seated around a table. During these busy holidays we'll spend a lot of time sharing fellowship and food around a variety of tables. Some tables will be in the midst of families, some will be round tables set up here at the church, and some tables may be small ones where we sit alone. Whatever our context, we'll spend some time, with others or alone, eating at a table. For some it will be a long table at which family and friends are seated. For some, it may be as simple as a TV tray. The above quote from the Council of Christian Unity reminds us, as Disciples we gather around a Table every week as we come together for worship. The Table is central for us as a faith community and, often, as individuals and families.

As Thanksgiving reminds us, the Table in the sanctuary isn't the only Table. People of different traditions and faith gather around their own tables as well. Whether it's a Sabbath meal on Friday evening in a Jewish home, a feast table marking the end of Ramadan in a Muslim home, or worship on Sunday morning in a Christian church; we all gather around a table in many different ways and at various times. Cultivating this sense of awareness and respecting the various Christian and interfaith traditions in our world today, is the very heart of why we engage in ecumenical and interfaith dialogue. This willingness to encounter our brothers and sisters of different faiths and traditions is one of the facets of life here at FCC that drew me to serve this congregation. This congregation engages in ecumenical and interfaith dialogue and activities in many different ways. The Wednesday evening adult class has spent time studying Islam (last year) and Judaism (this fall) through reading, watching videos and sharing in conversation. Many of us attend, and some even help plan, the annual Mayor's Interfaith Prayer Breakfast. This coming Sunday, 18 November at 3 pm, we're invited to share in the annual Interfaith Thanksgiving service, this year it will be at one of our Jewish synagogues here in Lincoln (details are on page 1 in this edition of the *Messenger*).

As we gather around our various tables this holiday season, may we do so with true thanksgiving and deeper joy. May we remember all our brothers and sisters who gather around their tables as well. “The Table is prepared, the feast is ready. God invites us all to come with hearts full of joy and thanksgiving.”

With love and joy,

Pastor Karen

Thanks to all my family and friends at FCC for helping me celebrate my birthday with the cards, notes and Facebook greetings. AND, thank you Scott and Monte for the yummy cake during coffee fellowship! Praise God for all the blessings I have received and God bless each of you! - - Roxie Pickel



2018 Outreach Mission Tree



City Impact “Gifts of Love” has been selected by your Outreach Team as our Mission Tree recipient this year. In place of our “Acts of Kindness” monthly Food Barrel collection in November and December we will be collecting gifts for this program. **City Impact** has provided “Christmas with Dignity” to families in need for more than 20 years.

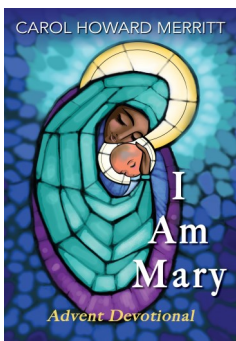
In 2017 more than 3,200 children and their family members shopped the significantly reduced priced items at the **City Impact** store. Children earn shopping vouchers by participating in the programs offered at **City Impact** and the parents must meet certain financial requirements to participate.

Through Dec. 2nd you can select a tag from the Mission Tree in the Narthex, purchase a suggested gift, and return it unwrapped with the tag to the “**Gifts of Love**” collection box. The “**Gifts of Love**” store will be open Dec. 9th - 15th at **City Impact**.

Another way to support “**Gifts of Love**” is to volunteer. This community event takes a lot of volunteers to be successful. There are a variety of needs and time slots to choose from. Visit with Tom and Sally Mason or Elaine Parman about their volunteer experiences last year. Each of them volunteered at different times and in different ways. To look at all the volunteer opportunities go to cityimpact.org/gifts-of-love to select a slot that works for you.



Your Outreach Team appreciates all of your participation and support in our various “**Acts of Kindness**” opportunities.



Advent Devotionals Available

Advent is just around the corner, beginning on Sunday, December 2. You can pick up a 2018 Advent Devotional, "I Am Mary", now available in the parlor. Please consider making a donation of \$3.00 per booklet. Thank You!

Holiday Bake Sales

On Sundays, Dec. 2 and Dec. 16, Disciple Women will have bake sales in the Parlor. Items will be available as they are brought in and after 10:30 a.m. worship. We hope you can satisfy your holiday sweet tooth with knowing we appreciate your support.



It Takes a Community

At a recent Ministry Cabinet Meeting a thank you and praise was given to the Disciple Women of FCC for providing refreshments/light lunches after memorials and funerals. I think it is important to recognize that many people pull together to make the statement of care and love with this action for the deceased and their families. It is an important ministry that the church does and everyone who helps with setup, providing food, serving, cleanup and all the other details are a part of this vital ministry. Thanks to all. -- Sally Mason

Attention Amazon Shoppers!!



Remember to support First Christian Church when shopping on Amazon. Sign on to Amazon using this link, <https://smile.amazon.com/> instead of just amazon.com. The first time only it will ask you to select your favorite charity which is First Christian Church Lincoln. From then on when you sign in to smile.amazon.com, it will look and work like always, except it says AmazonSmile and shows your charity at the top. All of your account information stays the same, but you must change your link to the Smile url. Amazon donates .5% of your order to your charity. It's not a lot but should add up over time. If you have any questions, you can direct them to Gwen Belden.



Way to Go FCC!!

As you saw in an earlier *Messenger* we had five walkers able to participate in a snowy CROP Walk. Our hearts were warm as we walked through the snow, knowing we had many First Christian people supporting us in prayer and knowing money had been given for the hungry here in Lincoln and around the world. With all donated money turned in, the grand total is \$953.70!! The majority of that money came from congregants of the church with \$213.70 raised from other sources. It is



STEPHEN MINISTRY

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him.

Romans 8:28a

Lincoln FCC Calendar of Events

Sunday, Nov. 18

- 9:00 am Boom Team Rehearsal - 2nd floor toddler room
- 9:30 am Children's Sunday School (gr. 2 - 6) - 2nd floor classroom
- 9:30 am Seekers Adult Class - Library
- 10:30 am **WORSHIP** - Sanctuary
- 10:45 am Worship & Wonder (ages 3 - 7) - 2nd floor classroom
- 11 am, 1 pm, 4 pm CCC Meetings - Library
- 11:30 am **All-Church Thanksgiving Dinner** - Gym
- 3:00 pm **Interfaith Thanksgiving Service** (see page 1)
- 6:00 pm **Board Meeting** - Parlor

Monday, Nov. 19 - 5:30 pm CCC Meeting - Library

- 7:00 pm Child Guidance Center Basketball - Gym

Tuesday, Nov. 20

- 11:00 am El Centro Fitness Class - Gym
- 5:30 pm CCC Meeting - Library
- 7:00 pm Child Guidance Center Basketball - Gym

Wednesday, Nov. 21 - Church Office Closes at Noon, No Evening Activities

Thursday, Nov. 22 - Happy Thanksgiving! Church Office Closed

Friday, Nov. 23 - Church Office Closed

Sunday, Nov. 25 - Thanksgiving Offering, Christ the King Sunday

- 9:30 am Children's Sunday School (gr. 2 - 6) - 2nd floor classroom
- 9:30 am Seekers Adult Class - Library
- 10:30 am **WORSHIP** - Sanctuary
- 10:45 am Worship & Wonder (ages 3 - 7) - 2nd floor classroom
- 11 am, 1 pm, 4 pm CCC Meetings - Library

Monday, Nov. 26 - Messenger Deadline

- 5:30 pm CCC Meeting - Library
- 7:00 pm Child Guidance Center Basketball - Gym
- 7:00 pm **Torch Team Rehearsal** - Sanctuary

Tuesday, Nov. 27

- 9:00 am **Staff Meeting** - Conference Room
- 11:00 am El Centro Fitness Class - Gym
- 7:00 pm Child Guidance Center Basketball - Gym

Wednesday, Nov. 28

- 12:15 pm **Disciples Women General Meeting** - Parlor
- 5:30 pm Snack Supper - Parlor
- 5:30 pm **Adult Study "Introduction to Judaism"** - Library
- 6:15 pm Youth Group Meeting - 3rd Floor Classroom
- 6:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal
- 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, Nov. 29 - Messenger Mailed

- 7:00 pm Child Guidance Center Basketball - Gym

Friday, Nov. 30 - 11:00 am El Centro Fitness Class - Gym

- 6:30 pm **Book Club** - Becky Faber's home

Those Serving in December

10:30 am Worship

Worship Leader: Cecilia Burkhart

Elder:

- | | | | |
|---------|--------------|---------|----------------|
| Dec. 2 | Sally Mason | Dec. 23 | Elaine Parman |
| Dec. 9 | Kathy Harris | Dec. 24 | Robert Reddish |
| Dec. 16 | Debby Ortega | Dec. 30 | Donna Ruhl |

Deacons: Kristi Bowker, Doug/Jessica Effle,
Tom Mason, Vince Ortega,
Carla Pinneo, Polly Putney

Communion Prep: Vince Ortega & Tom Mason

Ushers / Greeters:

- | | |
|---------|-----------------------------|
| Dec. 2 | Monte Dietrick |
| Dec. 9 | Wayne & Susan Pallas-Duncan |
| Dec. 16 | Harold & Donna Baker |
| Dec. 23 | Hanna Pinneo Boring |
| Dec. 24 | D'Arcy Blosser |
| Dec. 30 | Scott Dietrick |

Hallway Hospitality:

- | | | | |
|---------|--------------|---------|-------------|
| Dec. 2 | Rich Calver | Dec. 23 | Dick Pickel |
| Dec. 9 | Mike Carlin | Dec. 24 | Rich Calver |
| Dec. 16 | James Berger | Dec. 30 | Mike Carlin |

Coffee Fellowship Hosts:

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Dec. 2 | Reserved |
| Dec. 9 | Stephen Ministers |
| Dec. 16 | Foundation: D'Arcy Blosser, Rich Calver |
| Dec. 23 | Need Volunteer |
| Dec. 30 | Need Volunteer |

Homebound Communion Teams: (Dec. 9)

D'Arcy Blosser & Kristi Bowker
Jim Christ & Doug/Jessica Effle
Debby Ortega & Carla Pinneo
Donna Ruhl & Polly Putney

Snack Supper Volunteers:

- | | |
|---------|-----------------------|
| Dec. 5 | Elaine Parman |
| Dec. 12 | Need Volunteer |
| Dec. 19 | Need Volunteer |



FCC Book Club

Book Club will meet again on **Friday, Nov. 30, 6:30 pm** at Becky Faber's home. Our discussion book is **"My Antonia"** by Nebraska author Willa Cather. All FCC members and friends are welcome to join in any of the book discussions! If you have any questions about the book club, please contact the church office.



Find us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/fcc.lincoln.neb>

Be sure to check out our Facebook page each week for great information about coming events and Sunday worship services, including scripture references.