

First Christian Church

love all • live spiritually • rejoice in hope • show hospitality
A Movement for Wholeness in the Capitol Neighborhood



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Lincoln, Nebraska 68508
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Messenger



Rev. Dr. Karen Moritz, Pastor
Cheryl Judds, Administrative Assistant
Elaine Parman, Care Ministries Volunteer

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Sara Lugn, Stephen Ministry Leader
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Volume 68, No. 23
November 29, 2018
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Advent Celebrations at First Christian Church

Mark Your December Calendars!

Sundays in Advent - Dec. 2, 9, 16 & 23

10:30 am Worship

Sundays, Dec. 2 & 16

Disciples Women Bake Sales

Held in the Parlor following worship.

Sunday, Dec. 16 - 10:30 am

A Festival of Lessons & Carols

Participate with us in a journey toward
Christmas through scripture and music.



Monday, Dec. 24 - 6:00 pm
Christmas Eve Worship

FCC Slate of Nominees for 2019



Our congregation will meet in the Sanctuary immediately after worship this Sunday, Dec. 2nd, to approve the 2019 operating budget and the following slate of nominees for 2019:

Official Board Officers:

Chair	Geoff Putney
Vice Chair	Tom Mason
Secretary	Carla Pinneo
Treasurer	Donna Ruhl
Financial Secretary	Susan Pallas-Duncan

Elders:

Connie Calver	Kathy Harris
Sara Lugn	Tom Mason

Deacons:

Jim Christ	Scott Dietrick
Dick Pickel	Robert Reddish
John Swanson	

FCC Foundation Representative:

Sara Lugn

A Note of Thanks

On behalf of the Membership and Hospitality teams, thanks to everyone for making our annual Thanksgiving Dinner a huge success! The food was plentiful and delicious and the fellowship was wonderful. While everyone contributed greatly, we want to especially thank Bobbi Carlin for roasting the turkeys and Scott and Monte Dietrick for making the mashed potatoes and gravy.



Pastor's Corner

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." Luke 1:41-45

When I was a kid I remember watching the Heinz ketchup ad and hearing the familiar Carly Simon lyrics "anticipation is making me wait." In some ways, this could be the soundtrack for Advent; it's all about anticipation. While there are those, particularly in the market place, who would urge us to jump immediately to Christmas, we know that half the fun is the anticipation. Advent is a season of anticipation and waiting. While our mouths may not water as they do when thinking of Heinz ketchup, there is something to be said for the idea of anticipation and waiting.

We move into Advent gradually and intentionally here at FCC. You may notice something new each week as you enter the sanctuary for worship. We begin with the tree and the Advent wreath. As the season moves on garland and wreaths will appear. As we progress through the season the Nativity set will arrive. The anticipation builds as we move closer and closer to the Nativity. This same movement will be evident in worship, as our scripture lessons will take us on this journey of anticipation. The anticipation will build as we celebrate our service of Lessons and Carols on the third Sunday of Advent, December 16th. We build to a climax at our service on Christmas Eve at 6 pm. Unlike the commercial holiday, things don't end with Christmas Day. Christmas Eve marks the transition into Christmastide which will last until Epiphany on January 6th. This transition will be noticeable as you look at the paraments, as they'll shift from the royal blue of Advent to the pure white of Christmastide.

This year here at FCC we'll be focusing on the perspective of Mary, the Mother of Jesus. You're invited to join us on this journey of anticipation which will be marked in other ways. On Wednesday evenings we'll be working through a study by the noted pastor and author Adam Hamilton entitled **Not a Silent Night: Mary Looks Back to Bethlehem** (see pg. 4 of this issue). You can also pick up your personal devotion in the parlor which is entitled **I Am Mary**. Our Advent Wreath meditations for each Sunday will be coordinated with the Advent devotional. So, journey with Mary as we anticipate the arrival of the Christ Child.

Anticipation is making us wait, and isn't that really one of the most exciting parts of the season? Come join us in this season of anticipation and invite your friends and family to join us.

In joyful anticipation,

Pastor Karen

Welcome Visitors

The following people have recently visited and shared in Sunday morning services:

*Betty Gish
Tamirez Santare
Amanda Weaver*

Please join us again in worship.
You are always welcome!

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 have been collecting gifts for this program. **So just a reminder that all gifts should be returned to the church by this Sunday, Dec. 2.** Thanks to all who have participated!

Collection Barrel Request



The Lincoln High Student Council is in need of gift wrap and ribbon by Sunday, December 9th. They are hosting a gift wrapping fundraiser for Heifer International prior to the school winter concert on Monday, December 10th.

Our Acts of Kindness Collection Barrel will be in the Narthex for you to donate new or leftover gift wrap and ribbon from December 2nd to the 9th.

We will let you know the Heifer International selection the Student Council makes as soon as possible. Carter Hulinsky is the Student Council sponsor and appreciates any assistance we can provide.

Thanks for your support!



Love Your Church

Again this year, our faith giving theme has been to “Love Your Church”. On December 30, we will observe our final 5th Sunday of the year... our faith giving Sunday. Let’s share our love with a special gift to the church at the end of the year. While you’re making your list of gifts to buy, add First Christian Church to the top of your list. Your love can help make a difference in the life of our church!

December Birthdays

- 2nd Will Ernest
- 3rd Ashley Lugn
- 4th Claudia Wheeler
- 5th Karen Moritz
- 7th Kyson Effle
- 14th Tom Mason
- 17th Catrina Kotas
- 21st Kirk Payne
- 30th Sue Hartshorn



If your December birthday is missing from the above list, please contact Cheryl in the church office.

Church Women United Meeting

Friday, December 7 9:30 am

First Presbyterian Church
840 S. 17th St.

Program: Ten Thousand Villages



Inclement Weather Policy

The church office will be closed and all activities cancelled when Lincoln Public Schools cancels classes.

Sunday worship will be cancelled when the pastor, director of music ministries and board chair agree that unsafe weather conditions prohibit safe travel to and from church. An all-church email will be sent out, as well as announcements made on radio station KFOR and television station KLKN (channel 8).

Deborah Group December Meeting



Monday, Dec. 3rd at 7:00 pm
Carla Pinneo’s home



STEPHEN MINISTRY

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.

-- Romans 8:26



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.

Lincoln FCC Calendar of Events

Sunday, Dec. 2 - 1st Sunday of Advent, *SCRIP Orders Due*

- 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
- 11:30 am **Congregation Meeting** - Sanctuary
- 11:40 am **Disciples Women Bake Sale** - Parlor
- 11 am, 1 pm, 4 pm CCC Meetings - Library
- 6:00 pm **Elders' Meeting** - Conference Room

Monday, Dec. 3

- 5:30 pm CCC Meeting - Library
- 7:00 pm Child Guidance Center Basketball - Gym
- 7:00 pm **Deborah Group Meeting** - Carla Pinneo's home

Tuesday, Dec. 4

- 11:00 am El Centro Fitness Class - Gym
- 7:00 pm Child Guidance Center Basketball - Gym

Wednesday, Dec. 5

- 5:30 pm Snack Supper - Parlor
- 5:30 pm **Adult Advent Study, "Not a Silent Night"** - Library
- 6:15 pm Youth Group Meeting - 3rd Floor Classroom
- 6:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal
- 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, Dec. 6

- 7:00 pm Child Guidance Center Basketball - Gym

Friday, Dec. 7 - 11:00 am El Centro Fitness Class - Gym

Saturday, Dec. 8 - 8 am - 3 pm Job's Daughters Fundraiser - Gym

Sunday, Dec. 9 - 2nd Sunday of Advent

- 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

Homebound Communion Teams:

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

Monday, Dec. 10 - Noon **Messenger Deadline**

- 5:30 pm CCC Meeting - Library
- 7:00 pm Child Guidance Center Basketball - Gym

Tuesday, Dec. 11 - 9:00 am **Staff Meeting** - Conference Room

- 11:00 am El Centro Fitness Class - Gym
- 7:00 pm Child Guidance Center Basketball - Gym

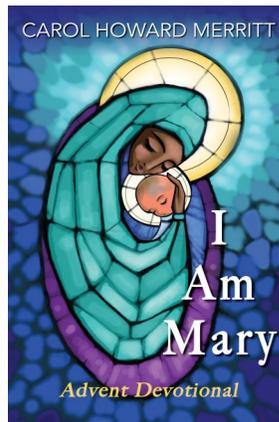
Wednesday, Dec. 12

- 5:30 pm Snack Supper - Parlor
- 5:30 pm **Adult Advent Study, "Not a Silent Night"** - Library
- 6:15 pm Youth Group Meeting - 3rd Floor Classroom
- 6:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal
- 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, Dec. 13 - **Messenger Mailed** (final for 2018)

- 6:00 pm **Stephen Ministry Meeting** - Parlor
- 7:00 pm Child Guidance Center Basketball - Gym

Friday, Dec. 14 - 7 pm **Music Ministries Party** - Blosser's home



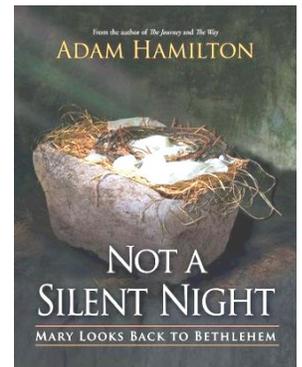
Advent Devotionals Available

If you haven't picked up your 2018 Advent Devotional, "I Am Mary", there are still some available in the parlor. Please consider making a donation of \$3.00 per booklet. Thank You!

Wednesday Night Advent Study

Not a Silent Night: Mary Looks Back to Bethlehem

by Adam Hamilton



Imagine Jesus from Mary's point of view: proud of her son, in awe of his gifts and mission, guided by love for him as a person and so much more. Adam Hamilton begins at the end, with Mary at the crucifixion and resurrection; travels back in time as she witnesses his life and ministry; and ends at the beginning, with the Christ child born in a stable, Mary's beautiful baby. This year, experience Advent and Christmas with Mary.

Join us Wednesday evenings at 5:30 in the library as we watch a DVD presentation by renowned pastor and author Adam Hamilton. His dynamic teaching style brings this study to life.

Dec. 5 Beginning with the End (13:51)

Dec. 12 The Piercing of Mary's Soul (12:23)
Amazed, Astounded, and Astonished (11:51)

Dec. 19 Mary, Full of Grace (10:45)
It Was Not a Silent Night (11:18)

Come watch the videos and share in the discussion. Two copies of the book have been purchased for this study or you can purchase copies for a reasonable price at:

<https://www.christianbook.com/>