



First Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

Messenger

love all • live spiritually
rejoice in hope • show hospitality



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Saturday, February 2 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Honor Our Past and Embrace Our Future

Once again we will be holding a Leadership Retreat for all those in leadership roles at First Christian Church in 2019. This includes our staff, ministry cabinet, board, elders and deacons. It will be held February 2 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at the **Lutheran Family Services Center, 2301 'O' St.**

As a congregational leader it's critical that we take some time to reflect, plan and pray. Come, be a part of this half-day retreat as we begin our 150th year of ministry and service. Please contact the church office with any questions, and to let us know if you plan to attend.

Chili Cook-Off

This Saturday, Jan. 26 11 am - 2 pm
Southview Christian, 2040 S. 22nd St.



Come and compete or just come and eat! If you would like to enter a chili, email juliepulec@hotmail.com or call (402)641-6796. There will be a Free Will Offering.



On behalf of the Hospitality Team, a huge thank you goes to our volunteers hosting the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service on Jan. 20. Greeters, cookie and dessert providers, and hosts and hostesses showed all who attended how much we value hospitality.

Please thank Connie and Rich Calver, Jim Christ, Wayne Duncan and Susan Pallas-Duncan, Kathy Harris, Carter Hulinsky, Cheryl Judds, Sally Mason, Debby and Vince Ortega, Elaine Parman, Robert Reddish, Donna Ruhl, Marj Snodgrass and Beth Zager for all they did to make the service and reception meaningful. If I've inadvertently left someone out, please accept my apologies.

Gwen Belden, Sara Lugn and Mark Miller provided outstanding music as well.

This event was a great way to begin our 150th celebration!

Jim Blosser, for the Hospitality Team

Pastor's Corner

"Honor Our Past, Embrace Our Future"

Happy Anniversary! As the *Messenger* goes out today we mark the actual date of the founding of FCC, January 24, 1869. During our stewardship campaign last fall we had the theme "Honor Our Past, Embrace Our Future." As we officially enter our 150th year we are invited to embody this theme. There will be a variety of ways in which we'll "honor our past." In regular columns in the *Messenger* we'll be highlighting various aspects of our history. The 150th Anniversary Celebration Committee is also working to plan a variety of events throughout the year that will "honor our past." A weekend visit in September from our General Minister and President Rev. Terri Hord Owens will be another way in which we'll "honor our past."

It's not enough to simply "honor our past." We do this as a way of acknowledging our present reality and "embracing our future." One quality that defines us as a Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is our eagerness to be in relationship with other Christians and other people of faith. So, it was intentional that we began our anniversary year by hosting the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service on the 20th of January. As one person put it so eloquently, ecumenism is part of our DNA as Disciples. We honor our past by continuing that tradition and we embrace our future by moving forward with other Christians. The stance of unity is an important witness to our community, our nation and our world. Another opportunity to express our unity with other Christians will come at Pentecost, June 9, when we join with First Presbyterian for a shared worship service and picnic.

We have exciting plans for the coming year, but as they say, every journey begins with a single step. In the midst of all these plans life here at FCC goes on. One small step is to begin with our upcoming Leadership Retreat on Saturday, February 2. We have a beautiful venue for our meeting, as we gather at Lutheran Family Services at 2301 "O" Street in their large meeting room. This will be an important time to "honor our past and embrace our future." And, believe it or not, Lent will be here before we know it. Our anniversary gives us a special opportunity to deepen our walk with God. Lent empowers us to honor our past which has its foundation in God, and to embrace our future led by the Holy Spirit. Once again we'll be inviting everyone to participate in a small group. If you are willing to host and lead a group please let me know or contact the church office. Once we have the group leadership set up, we'll invite people to choose the day and time that works best for them.

As we "honor our past and embrace our future" may we be reminded that this is only possible because God has led us in the past, guides us in the present and ushers us into the future.

With love and joy,

Pastor Karen

Welcome Visitors

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

Marty Messersmith

Matthew Villarreal

Please join us again in worship.

You are always welcome!



**Celebrating 150
Years with Notes
from Our Past**

Four of our congregation's early leaders were quoted in the last edition of the *Messenger* about their opinions on the church's new publication in 1907 called *The Church at Work*.

Here's a bit more information about two of them.

Ashford Bird Critchfield was born in Ohio in 1856 and moved to Cass County after he married. He farmed and taught school and was elected County Clerk for 2 terms. He became a leading lumber man in the state and served as secretary of the Nebraska Lumber Dealers Association. He was a founder of a couple of lumber companies, including Lincoln Lumber and Coal. He served as a deacon here and chaired the building committee for the 14th and M Street church. The window in the North Hall depicting the Parable of the Sower: "Some Fell by the Wayside" was given by him. He died suddenly in 1912 and some of his descendants still reside here in Lincoln.

George Lobinger was born in Pennsylvania in 1832, taught school and practiced law for seven years before preparing for the ministry. He studied at Hiram College in Ohio where James A. Garfield (later president of the United States) was his instructor. He held pastorates in several states and in Canada and preached both in New York City and Washington, D.C. while James Garfield was a member of Congress and a regular attendant. While preaching in Thayer County, Nebraska, he was elected and served four terms as a County Judge before moving to Lincoln. He died in 1909 and the Parable of the Sower: "Some Fell of Good Ground", already installed in the 14th and M St. church, was given in his memory.

Check out the windows given for these leaders next time you're in the North Hall; you'll hear more about these and other members from our past as we continue our 150th celebration.

Now, some more information found in *The Church at Work* - a total of \$8 was collected from 376 people who attended Sunday School on January 17, 1909. "Bible School Paragraphs" included this: "When order is called please come forward and sit down. Don't visit then - don't buzz, don't laugh, don't walk around, don't talk, don't go home. It is too late to get out then. The only way is to drop into a seat and stay for Sunday School. Say, you make so much noise with your feet. We must begin a gum shoe campaign or be lost in the roar. Let us each one take notice to soften down the intensity of our individual personalities - in fee, gesture and voice."

A Story from Your Global Ministries January 2019

"Migrant Journey"

Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me. Matthew 25:40

Traveling as individuals, migrants are vulnerable and exposed to kidnappings, extortion, rape, murder and disappearances. Now they embark on the road in groups to protect themselves and each other.

There are networks of shelters throughout the migrant route. In Guatemala City, one shelter, Migrant House, is close to the Ecumenical Christian Council of Guatemala. It welcomes migrants and offers humanitarian aid (clothing, food, mats, psychologists, pastors, priests, young people, and even a hairdresser), creating an oasis in the desert of this tortuous pilgrimage.

María, mother of a 7-year-old daughter from Tegucigalpa shared, "I bought and sold cucumbers, but many times they did not sell and spoiled. My grandmother raised me and was my only family. Now, I have three daughters. I'm leaving my land to find work and help my grandmother. My two girls, 12 and 9, stayed with my grandmother." Between tears and sobs, María said, "I have to support my grandmother and consider my girls' futures. I want a better life."

"When I saw others leaving, I decided to try, too. So far, it has been difficult. When we reached the border of Guatemala, we crossed the mountain. The hardest part was walking all day. We stopped when it was raining to shelter the children while we got wet in the open," María continued.

The director of Migrant House said that after war, Hondurans, Salvadorans, Guatemalans and Nicaraguans expected their governments to be allies of the needy. Instead, they established a market model that favored private industries. Mass human migration is the cry of the poor and excluded who will no longer endure violence and poverty.

Hope is in awakened people who hear and live the gospel in which Christ, the migrant, announces redemption and invites others to follow. We walk with them, and we accompany María and her daughter on this pilgrimage. Let us unite in this journey and offer what we have to transform the borders of death into bridges of life.

Ricardo Mayol serves with the Ecumenical Christian Council of Guatemala (CECG). His appointment is made possible by your gifts to Disciples Mission Fund, Our Church's Wider Mission, WOC, OGHS, and [your special gifts](#).



Ecumenical Legislative Briefing Day

Saturday, Feb. 9 8:30 am - 2:00 pm

Christ United Methodist Church, 4530 'A' St.



Open to people of all faiths, this Briefing Day is designed to help attendees understand bills related to social justice that are before the Nebraska Unicameral. Attendees choose three social issues in which they are interested and attend those sessions. Rolls and coffee are available during registration, and a full lunch is served. Child care is available at no charge.

The cost is \$20 per person if you pre-register by Feb. 1, student scholarships are available. Registration at the door is \$25, and lunch is as available. Visit nelegisbrief.org for more information and to register. There are flyers and registration forms available in the church office also.



Small Groups for Lent

Lent is almost here! Take some time to get to know God more deeply and to share in fellowship with others. Whether you're willing to host and lead a group or you wish to be a participant, we need you! Please let Pastor Karen or the church office know if you feel called to lead one of the groups. Watch for more details in upcoming *Messengers*.

Disciples Women February Meetings



Deborah Group

Monday, Feb. 4 at 7:30 pm

Hanna Pinneo Boring's home, 129 N. 10th St., #408

Martha Group

Wednesday, Feb. 6 at 1:30 pm - Church Parlor

General Meeting

Wednesday, Feb. 20 at 12:15 pm - Church Parlor

FCC Book Club

Book Club will meet again **Sat. Feb. 16, 9:30 am** (rescheduled from Jan. 12) at Cheryl Judds' home, 3901 Santa Rosa Lane. Our discussion book is **"A Wrinkle in Time"** by Madeleine L'Engle. All FCC members and friends are welcome to join in the discussion!



STEPHEN MINISTRY

Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble. **1 Peter 3:8**



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 First Christian Church Calendar of Events

Sunday, Jan. 27

- 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
- Noon **Elders Meeting** - Conference Room
- 11 am, 1 pm CCC Meetings - Library

Monday, Jan. 28

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

Tuesday, Jan. 29

- 7:00 pm Child Guidance Center Basketball - Gym

Wednesday, Jan. 30

- 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, Jan. 31

- 7:00 pm Child Guidance Center Basketball - Gym

Saturday, Feb. 2

- 9:00 am **FCC Leadership Retreat** - 2301 'O' St.

Sunday, Feb. 3

- 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 CCC Meetings - Library

Monday, Feb. 4 - *Messenger Deadline*

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

Tuesday, Feb. 5

- 9:00 am **Staff Meeting** - Conference Room
- 7:00 pm Child Guidance Center Basketball - Gym

Wednesday, Feb. 6

- 1:30 pm **Martha Group Meeting** - Church Parlor
- 5:30 pm Snack Supper - Parlor
- 5:30 pm **Adult Study "Intro 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, Feb. 7 - *Messenger Mailed*

- 7:00 pm Child Guidance Center Basketball - Gym

Saturday, Feb. 9

- 8:30 am **Ecumenical Legislative Briefing Day** (see pg. 3)
Christ United Methodist Church, 4530 'A' St.

February Act of Kindness



If you have watched local news, read the Journal Star or listened to local radio over the last few weeks, you are keenly aware that the government shutdown is affecting our community and state. One of the local community resources being impacted the most is *The Food Bank of Lincoln*.

We will be collecting non-perishable food items for *The Food Bank* during the month of February to help keep the supply replenished as demands increase. As you shop for your personal use, please pick up whatever non-perishable food items are your favorite and put them in the collection barrel.

Princess Diana once said, "Carry out a random act of kindness, with no expectation of reward, safe in the knowledge that one day someone might do the same for you."

Thank you for supporting our Outreach opportunities each month, helping to make a positive difference in the life of our fellow Nebraskans.

Those Serving in February

10:30 am Worship

Elder:

- | | | | |
|---------|--------------|---------|------------|
| Feb. 3 | Sara Lugn | Feb. 17 | Donna Ruhl |
| Feb. 10 | Debby Ortega | Feb. 24 | Tom Mason |

Deacons: Dan Cowger, Doug/Jessica Effle, Dick Pickel, Polly Putney, Robert Reddish, John Swanson

Communion Prep: Dan Cowger & Robert Reddish

Ushers / Greeters:

- | | |
|---------|----------------------|
| Feb. 3 | Hanna Pinneo Boring |
| Feb. 10 | Donna & Harold Baker |
| Feb. 17 | D'Arcy Blosser |
| Feb. 24 | Scott Dietrick |

Hallway Hospitality:

- | | | | |
|---------|--------------|---------|-------------|
| Feb. 3 | Vince Ortega | Feb. 17 | Tom Mason |
| Feb. 10 | James Berger | Feb. 24 | Rich Calver |

Coffee Fellowship Hosts:

- | | |
|---------|-----------------------|
| Feb. 3 | Need Volunteer |
| Feb. 10 | Stephen Ministries |
| Feb. 17 | Foundation |
| Feb. 24 | Music Ministries |

Homebound Communion Teams: (Feb. 10)

- Sara Lugn & Doug/Jessica Effle
- Tom Mason & Dick Pickel
- Debby Ortega & Polly Putney
- Donna Ruhl & John Swanson