



# Messenger

love all • live spiritually  
rejoice in hope • show hospitality



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## Small Groups for Lent 2019

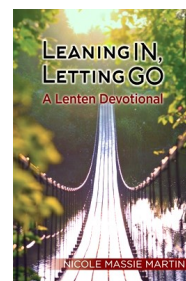
Lent is just around the corner, and we have leaders for five Lenten study groups. By joining one of these small groups, you can take some time to get to know God more deeply and to share in fellowship with others. Each group will meet for a six-week study, with an option to continue for an additional two weeks. You can sign up in the parlor, or contact the group leader to let them know that you'd like to participate. All are welcome!

Tues. 7:00 pm	Hanna Pinneo Boring
Wed. 5:30 pm	Pastor Karen Moritz & Wayne Duncan Church Library
Thurs. 7:00 pm	D'Arcy & Jim Blosser
Sat. Time TBD	Brad Bowker Church Parlor
Weekday TBD	Elaine Parman Location TBD

*If you have any questions about this spiritual formation opportunity, please contact Pastor Karen.*

## Lenten Devotional

The devotional we have ordered for the season of Lent this year is "Leaning IN, Letting GO" by Nicole Massie Martin. The author will take us on a hope-filled journey of letting go of all that keeps us from experiencing the joy of resurrection. It includes daily reflections and prayers that invite us to lean into God's grace and let go of our own agendas. **The books will be available this Sunday, Feb. 24.** Please consider a \$3.00 donation for each copy.



## Ash Wednesday Worship Service

**March 6 7:00 pm**

**Bethany Christian Church  
1645 N. Cotner**

Along with other Disciples of Christ churches in Lincoln, we are planning a joint worship service for Ash Wednesday at Bethany CC. Please mark your calendar! Our regularly scheduled Wednesday evening activities will not take place so that everyone may join together in worship.



**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.

## Pastor's Corner

*Then from the cloud came a voice that said,  
"This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!"*

- - Luke 9:35

Arguments about who can be considered God's Chosen have divided the faithful throughout the ages. In this passage from Luke, which we'll read on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March for Transfiguration of the Lord, we have these memorable words spoken from cloud about Jesus; "This is my Son, my chosen; listen to him!" God chose Jesus, and by extension, God chooses each and all of us. This brings great comfort and great responsibility. We are invited to take comfort in the knowledge that God has chosen each and every one of us. We don't need to worry about who's in and who's not. Just as God has chosen each of us, we know that God does so for everyone. This invites us to be welcoming and hospitable to all.

The challenge for us as God's chosen, is that things sometimes get in the way of our ability to recognize that we, and others, are chosen. In our Lenten devotional this year the author invites us to lean in and let go. We are invited to lean into the awareness that God has chosen us and loves us beyond measure. With that comes the ability to let go of those things that impede our awareness of God's love and presence. We'll also move more deeply into this invitation to lean in and let go in our small groups. We'll be doing a study by Marjorie Thompson called "Learning Forgiveness." Holding onto grudges, anger and hurt feelings often keeps us from the awareness of being chosen and loved by God. Holding onto grudges, anger and hurt feelings also impedes our ability to recognize that others are chosen by God too.

During this holy season of Lent we are all invited to lean in, let go, learn forgiveness and rejoice in the reality that God has chosen us and loves us beyond anything we can imagine.

With love and joy,

*Pastor Karen*

## Welcome Visitors

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

*Ira Elliott & Joseph Welsh  
Marty Messersmith*

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

## A Story from Your Global Ministries February 2019

### "Shared Encounters"



*And do not forget to do good and to share with  
others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.*

- Hebrews 13:16

Displaced from their ancestral homes because of mining, militarization, and other forms of developmental aggression, the Lumads (indigenous people of the Philippines) have sought temporary sanctuary among hospitable communities. Global Ministries partner, Union Theological Seminary (UTS) has been privileged to host the Lumads. The Lumads stayed for a month at the UTS campus, which felt like home because of its beautiful natural surroundings. Through UTS' hospitality, the Lumad children were able to continue their education through the traveling Bakwit (evacuees) School, which provides schooling to the many Lumads who evacuated.

To the surprise of the seminary hosts, the Lumads/strangers became their teachers. In the encounter, the seminary community experienced revelation and transformation.

Seeking to be faithful, as Jesus did, to prophetic boldness and compassionate witness, members of the UTS community, particularly seminarians, have now organized a regular Sunday Worship with a farmers' group that is occupying the nearby agricultural land. The Sunday Worship has been going on for some months now, with students coming home from the day's activity with unspeakable joy, a better understanding of God, and a stronger commitment to the least.

*Eleazar Fernandez serves with the United Church of Christ in the Philippines. His appointment is made possible by your gifts to Disciples Mission Fund, Our Church's Wider Mission, WOC, OGHS, and your [special gifts](#).*



## Our March Act of Kindness Opportunity

Your Outreach Team is continuing “Acts of Kindness” in 2019. In March our collection barrel recipient will be **Lutheran Family Services (LFS)** located at 2301 “O” Street.

In 2019 LFS will be welcoming many new refugee families to Nebraska. As they assist these families there are many items needed to set up their “new home”. One of the most overlooked supplies is cleaning items. In preparation for the families to arrive we will be collecting the following supplies:

Brooms and dustpans	Buckets and mops
Liquid dishwashing soap	Scouring pads
Disinfectant wipes	Large and small plastic trash bags
Paper towels	Sponges/dish cloths
Laundry detergent/bleach	Toilet bowl brushes and cleaner
All-purpose cleaners (Pinesol, Lysol, Mr. Clean, Comet, Soft Scrub, etc)	



So, as you purchase your favorite cleaning supplies pick up an extra to put in our collection barrel during the month of March! *Thank you so much for supporting this Outreach Ministry.*

### Ongoing Outreach

I just wanted to thank you for the incredibly kind and generous donation to Lutheran Family Services! We will be sure to put it to good use and help some much needed people. It was my pleasure hosting you and your church at our location and if you ever are in need of our space again, please do not hesitate to reach out. Thank you, thank you, thank you!!

Blessings,

*Ted Blessing – Volunteer Coordinator, Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska, Inc.*

### FCC Book Club

Book Club meets again **Sat., March 23, 9:30 am** at D’Arcy Blosser’s home. Each of us can share our thoughts about a book we’ve read with the rest of the group. All FCC members and friends are welcome to join in the discussion! For those that like to read ahead, we have two more books scheduled for discussion before we select books for the rest of the year: *The Orphan’s Tale* by Pam Jenoff and *Hillbilly Elegy* by J. D. Vance.

### Foundation Facts

First Christian Church Foundation of Lincoln, Nebraska was formed July 31, 1964, for the purpose of obtaining and investing funds to be put for work for the support of programs of the church.

The bulk of Foundation funds are maintained as Undesignated Endowment. In 1973 a decision was made to contribute an annual pledge to the church from earnings of the Undesignated funds. This practice continues and the current pledge for 2019 is \$19,800. In addition, there are six designated funds — Pekar, Arnold, Hac, McMaster, Wood and Hofmann — payments from which are allocated for specific use upon request.

Contributions to the Foundation now most commonly come in the form of memorials upon the death of a member and bequests designated in wills.



### Celebrating 150 Years with Notes from Our Past

From the February 21, 1919 issue of *The Church at Work*: “Last Sunday evening after a very delightful song service in which the choir and congregation

sang some of the songs familiar to the boys in the home camps and overseas services, Pastor H. H. Harmon continued the series of lectures in which he is relating the story of the war (WW1) as it came under his personal observation.”

After a describing some of his experiences the article continues: “These Sunday night lectures are proving exceedingly popular. Last Sunday our auditorium (sanctuary), balconies and the Young Men’s class rooms were crowded after chairs were placed in the rear of the auditorium. It was estimated that between two and three hundred people were turned away because they were unable to get into the services at all.”





## A Birthday Coffee Fellowship

This Sunday, February 24

This Sunday join us in the parlor after morning worship for a special coffee fellowship! It will be hosted by our folks in the music ministries and the membership and hospitality teams will provide cake - all to help celebrate the birthdays of Rose Dow and Rae-Hope Putney.

## Lincoln FCC Calendar of Events

### Sunday, Feb. 24 - Week of Compassion Special Offering

9:00 am Boom Team Rehearsal - 2<sup>nd</sup> floor toddler room  
 9:30 am Children's Sunday School (gr. 2 - 6) - 2<sup>nd</sup> floor classroom  
 9:30 am Seekers Adult Class - Library  
 10:30 am **WORSHIP** - Sanctuary  
 10:45 am Worship & Wonder (ages 3 - 7) - 2<sup>nd</sup> floor classroom  
 11 am, 1 pm CCC Meetings - Library  
 11:30 pm **Blood Pressure Readings Offered** - Parlor  
 Noon **Elders Meeting** - Conference Room

### Monday, Feb. 25

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

**Tuesday, Feb. 26** - 7 pm Child Guidance Center Basketball - Gym

### Wednesday, Feb. 27

5:30 pm Snack Supper - Parlor  
 5:30 pm **Adult Study "Introduction to Judaism"** - Library  
 6:15 pm Youth Group Meeting - 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Classroom  
 6:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal  
 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, Feb. 28

7:00 pm Child Guidance Center Basketball - Gym

**Friday, Mar. 1** - Cheryl Judds on vacation (through March 4)

### Sunday, Mar. 3 - SCRIP Orders Due

9:00 am Boom Team Rehearsal - 2<sup>nd</sup> floor toddler room  
 9:30 am Children's Sunday School (gr. 2 - 6) - 2<sup>nd</sup> floor classroom  
 9:30 am Seekers Adult Class - Library  
 10:30 am **WORSHIP** - Sanctuary  
 10:45 am Worship & Wonder (ages 3 - 7) - 2<sup>nd</sup> floor classroom  
 11 am, 1 pm CCC Meetings - Library

### Monday, Mar. 4 - Pastor Karen out of office (through Mar. 8)

Noon **Messenger Deadline**  
 5:30 pm CCC Meeting - Library  
 7:00 pm **Deborah Group Meeting** - Bobbi Carlin's home  
 7:00 pm Child Guidance Center Basketball - Gym

**Tuesday, Mar. 5** - 7 pm Child Guidance Center Basketball - Gym

### Wednesday, Mar. 6 - Ash Wednesday

1:30 pm **Martha Group Meeting** - Joan Dietrich's home  
 7:00 pm **Ash Wednesday Worship** - Bethany CC

### Thursday, Mar. 7 - Messenger Mailed

7:00 pm Child Guidance Center Basketball - Gym

## Those Serving in March

### 10:30 am Worship

#### Elder:

Mar. 3	D'Arcy Blosser	Mar. 24	Gary Larsen
Mar. 10	Connie Calver	Mar. 31	Kathy Harris
Mar. 17	Sara Lugn		

**Deacons:** Jim Christ, Scott Dietrick, Wayne Duncan, Vince Ortega, Susan Pallas-Duncan, Robert Reddish

**Communion Prep:** Jim Christ & Scott Dietrick

#### Ushers / Greeters:

Mar. 3	Lindsay & John Swanson
Mar. 10	Monte Dietrick
Mar. 17	Cecilia Burkhart
Mar. 24	Roxie & Dick Pickel
Mar. 31	Nichole & Jared Calver

#### Hallway Hospitality:

Mar. 3	Dick Pickel	Mar. 24	Tom Mason
Mar. 10	Geoff Putney	Mar. 31	Dick Pickel
Mar. 17	Mike Carlin		

#### Coffee Fellowship Hosts:

Mar. 3	<b>Need Volunteer</b>
Mar. 10	Stephen Ministers
Mar. 17	Foundation Members
Mar. 24	Music Ministries
Mar. 31	Baker Family

#### Homebound Communion Teams: (March 10)

D'Arcy Blosser & Vince Ortega  
 Connie Calver & Susan Pallas-Duncan  
 Kathy Harris & Robert Reddish  
 Gary Larsen & Wayne Duncan

#### Snack Supper Volunteers:

Mar. 6	Ash Wednesday Worship, No Snack Supper
Mar. 13	D'Arcy & Jim Blosser
Mar. 20	<b>Need Volunteer</b>
Mar. 27	<b>Need Volunteer</b>

## Disciples Women March Meetings

**Deborah Group** - Monday, March 4 - 7:00 pm  
 Bobbi Carlin's home

**Martha Group** - Wednesday, March 6 - 1:30 pm  
 Joan Dietrich's home



## STEPHEN MINISTRY

Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

-- Ephesians 5:1-2