



First Christian Church Disciples of Christ

Messenger

love all • live spiritually
rejoice in hope • show hospitality



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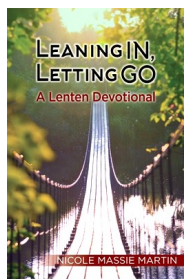
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Small Groups for Lent 2019

Lent is just around the corner, and we now have leaders for at least 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. Please be thinking about whether you would like to participate. As of right now, we will have three studies offered during evening hours, one on Saturday and one on a week day.

In the next *Messenger* we hope to have definite days, times and locations for each of the studies. Everyone is encouraged to participate! You can talk to Pastor Karen or Brad Bowker if you have any questions.



Lenten Devotional

The Lenten 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 by Sunday, Feb. 24.

Ecumenical Legislative Briefing Day

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

Christ United Methodist Church, 4530 'A' St.

Registration at the door is \$25.



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 lunch will be served. Child care is available at no charge.

Registration at the door is \$25, and lunch is as available. Visit nelegisbrief.org for more information and to register.



Week of Compassion Special Offering

Opportunities to give on Feb. 17 & 24

Can you imagine? We sometimes think that "imagination" means something escapist or illusory. Yet, imagination is not something unreal or fake. No, it is essential to God's hope for creation. Hear how the Apostle Paul put it: "Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine..." (Ephesians 3:20-21). And God imagines a world where all are safe, all are loved, all are fed.

For more information about how your gifts to the Week of Compassion Offering can make a positive impact, go to www.weekofcompassion.org.

Pastor's Corner

Then David took his staff in his hand, and chose five smooth stones from the wadi, and put them in his shepherd's bag, in the pouch; his sling in his hand, and he drew near to the Philistine Goliath. - 1 Samuel 17:40

Last Saturday, Feb. 2nd, 20 leaders from FCC gathered in the conference room at Lutheran Family Services for the annual Leadership Retreat. It proved to be a wonderful and energizing time to look at our lives here at FCC and ponder the path forward. It was exciting to have so many in attendance, both leaders and staff. King David was our guide for the day. On the last Sunday in June last year, our scripture lesson told the story of David's encounter with the Philistine Goliath. It's a familiar story and we know that David killed the enemy of ancient Israel with a stone shot from a sling. The passage above tells us that in preparation for this battle, David chose five smooth stones. The beauty of this story is that David came as he was, equipped with a weapon that fit for him. As a shepherd he probably used his sling-shot and stones to fight off the predators that tried to harm his sheep. His story invites us to come as we are, equipped with the gifts that we already have. So, last year I suggested that we come with five smooth stones as well. During our retreat I suggested that we ponder these five smooth stones once again which are: joy, love, hospitality, compassion and hope.

As we move into this year of celebration, in which we are invited to look back and ponder what comes next, I invite all of us to ponder where we have experienced joy, love, hospitality, compassion and love. With this in our hearts and minds, I invite us to then consider where can we foster joy, love, hospitality, compassion and hope in our own lives, here at FCC, and in our neighborhood and community. Debby Ortega created beautiful stones with each of these words on them and I invited everyone at the retreat to take the word that resonated with them the most. Interestingly enough, all of the stones with the word "hope" were taken. As we move into our 150th year may we be filled with joy, love, hospitality, compassion and, especially, hope. I think we were all energized by our time together on Saturday and hopefully that excitement and energy will flow out into the entire congregation. All five stones have been an important part of our legacy here at FCC and they will guide us into an exciting future. Just as God took David as he was and empowered him to do great things, God takes us as we are, equipped with five smooth stones which will propel us into a wondrous future.

With joy, love, compassion, hospitality and hope in my heart,

Pastor Karen

Welcome Visitors

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

*Ira Elliott & Joseph Welsh
Mary Johnson & family
Matthew Villarreal*

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



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

First Christian celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1919. *The Church at Work* reported that Mrs. Julia McCoy Marshall, the first person baptized by the new church, still resides in Lincoln. Her membership dated from August 22, 1869 and was baptized in Salt Creek at the foot of P St.

Rev. H. H. Harmon, in his "Jubilee Sermon" noted that the church, already referred to as "Old First" was established at the end of the Civil War and described how the congregation grew and flourished by the end of the Great War, the one we now know as the first world war. He also reported that First Christian had sent forth some of its best members to establish Eastside (now known as East Lincoln) and Tabernacle (Southview) Christian Churches.

A lunch honoring the church's "old timers" was held after worship. Then, for 2 hours, the group reminisced about the olden days. At this meeting Judge Jesse B. Strode, board chair, introduced a quartet who sang "Shall We Gather at the River". He jokingly said "the combined age of the quartet is 286 years." One of the members quickly shot back "and the combined age would be 400 years if we included the chairman of the meeting!"



Church Women United

World Day of Prayer "Come - Everything Is Ready"

**Friday, March 1
9:30 am**

**Southgate United Methodist
3500 Pioneers Blvd.**

Words of Thanks



To all the wonderful members,

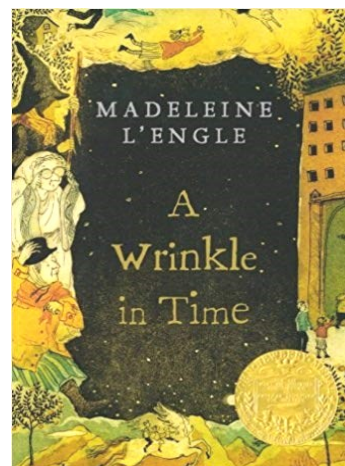
Thank you so much for the luncheon after Nancy's funeral service. All the hard work, the food and the company helped us all as we dealt with her death. The pain is still raw but we will heal with time. And we'll miss her greatly.

Thanks again for everything,
Nancy Wheeler's family

FCC Book Club

Book Club meets again **Saturday, Feb. 16, 9:30 am** at Cheryl Judds' home. Our discussion book is **"A Wrinkle in Time"** by Madeleine L'Engle. Then in March, each of us will individually choose a book to read and share our thoughts with the rest of the group. All FCC members and friends are welcome to join in any of the book discussions!

We generally meet on Saturday mornings, but check the FCC calendar of events for specific meeting times and locations. If you have any questions about book club, please call the church office.



Snack Supper Volunteer Sign-Up

Thanks to everyone who has helped with our snack supper ministry so far this year. The youth group, choir, and adult study group appreciate your meals! But we need quite a few more volunteers between now and the end of May.

Please contact Kristi Bowker (402.560.1389, bkbowker@gmail.com) if you have questions or are willing to serve. **Thank you!**



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.



STEPHEN MINISTRY

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.

Romans 12:10

Lincoln First Christian Church

Calendar of Events

Sunday, Feb. 10

- 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

Homebound Communion Teams:

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

Monday, Feb. 11

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

Tuesday, Feb. 12

- 7:00 pm Child Guidance Center Basketball - Gym

Wednesday, Feb. 13

- Noon **Foundation Board 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, Feb. 14 - *Happy Valentines Day!*

- 7:00 pm Child Guidance Center Basketball - Gym

Saturday, Feb. 16 - 9:30 am **FCC Book Club** - Cheryl Judds' home

Sunday, Feb. 17 - *Week of Compassion Special Offering*

- 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
- 4:00 on **Pastoral Relations Committee Mtg.** - Conf. Room
- 6:00 pm **Ministry Cabinet Meeting** - Parlor

Monday, Feb. 18 - *Presidents Day*

- Noon **Messenger Deadline**
- 5:30 pm CCC Meeting - Library
- 7:00 pm Child Guidance Center Basketball - Gym

Tuesday, Feb. 19 - 9:00 am **Staff Meeting** - Conference Room

- 7:00 pm Child Guidance Center Basketball - Gym

Wednesday, Feb. 20

- 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, Feb. 21 - *Messenger Mailed*

- 6:00 pm **Worship Team Meeting** - Conference Room
- 7:00 pm Child Guidance Center Basketball - Gym



February Act of Kindness

Your Outreach Team is continuing "Acts of Kindness" in 2019. In February, we are supporting **The Food Bank of Lincoln** by collecting non-perishable food items. You can find more information on the bulletin board in the Parlor hallway. Please place your donations in the barrel in the Narthex. **Thank you!**

Ongoing Outreach

From City Impact:

Elaine and the First Christian Church Team,



Artwork by Sharidan, 5th grade

Thank you for your continued support of Gifts of Love. Our partnership provided dignity to 600 families who otherwise would have been unable to purchase meaningful gifts for their children.

Families like the Eloges. Amy Elogé has been shopping GOL for several years. When I spoke with her, she had this heartwarming quote to share, "I want to say thank you; you don't know how much it truly helps to have one less thing to worry about!"

Thank you, First Christian! You are so valued.

Best,

Ashley Murray, Communications Coordinator



*Left to Right:
Sydney, Cedars St. Outreach Staff
Elaine Parman, FCC
Sarah, Cedars St. Outreach Staff*

From Cedars Street Facebook page:

Our amazing team is working around the clock this week to bring access to warmth and safety to vulnerable youth in our community during dangerously low temperatures! Thank you to [First Christian Church of Lincoln, NE](#) for their generous donation of socks, hats, gloves and scarves which will enable us to set up our warming station! [#LNK](#)