



Messenger

love all • live spiritually
rejoice in hope • show hospitality



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Maundy Thursday

Tonight! April 18

Soup Supper @ 5:30 pm

Worship @ 7:00 pm

*Join with other Lincoln DOC congregations
for fellowship & worship.*

Good Friday

April 19 @ Noon

24-Hour Prayer Vigil begins @ 1 pm

Please hold the vigil participants in prayer.

Easter Sunday

April 21

All-Church Breakfast, 8:15 - 10:00 am

Worship @ 10:30 am

*Joyous music-filled worship.
Invite your family & friends!*

Order Your 150th Anniversary T-Shirts

Order forms for 150th Anniversary t-shirts and polo shirts were emailed to FCC members and friends previously, but you can find the form attached to your *Messenger* email today also! If you need a printed copy, there are some on the table in the Narthex and also in the parlor. **The deadline to order is Sunday, April 28.**

The t-shirts are unisex sizes and the polos are men's or women's cuts. When you order, please indicate what gender polo you would like. There are sample t-shirts hanging in the Narthex for you to look at before ordering. The sample t-shirts are black, but are the same material as the t-shirts we are buying in red and white.

Questions? Contact Lindsay Swanson (gangwish@yahoo.com, 402-216-5345) or Jim Blosser (jimblosser51@aol.com, 402-423-1300).

Messenger Emails

Thanks to everyone for being flexible the last few months as we discern the best way to communicate FCC's *Messenger*. **On Easter Sunday during our All-Church Breakfast** you will have the chance to give us your feedback, comments and suggestions on how we should proceed with the *Messenger* emails going forward. We value your input!



FCC Book Club

Book Club will meet again **Saturday, April 27, 9:30 am** at Susan Pallas-Duncan's home. Our book for discussion is *The Orphan's Tale* by Pam Jenoff.

We have one more book scheduled for discussion before we select books for the rest of the year, *Hillbilly Elegy* by J. D. Vance. All are welcome to join in the discussions!

Pastor's Corner

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. Luke 23:33-34

Throughout Lent many of us have worked through a study by Marjorie Thompson entitled "Learning Forgiveness: A Lenten Study." Thompson is an author, teacher, pastor, and retreat leader in the ministry of spiritual formation. She brings the heart of a pastor to this study on this often challenging subject. As we move through Holy Week we are reminded of the importance of forgiveness. Whether we seek forgiveness from another or repent of wrongs done to others, forgiveness is a critical component of the life of faith. Thompson walks us through this process in this 6-session study. If you were unable to be a part of any of the small group this Lent we can provide you with these studies; just contact me or Cheryl in the church office, and we'll provide them for you. You won't have the benefit of conversation with others but these studies can be a worthwhile part of any spiritual discipline.

In the first session, Thompson raises the important question; is forgiveness an individual or communal affair? Often we think of this issue as something with which we only struggle as individuals. While this is true, forgiveness is also very much a process for the community. Whether it is in the context of our family or faith community, dealing with repentance and forgiveness is critical for our emotional, physical and spiritual health. It's often tempting to dismiss or minimize our pain or the pain of others. Or, we may dwell on our pain in such a way that it comes to define us. Thompson guides us through the process of repentance and forgiveness. We are empowered to do this because we are created in God's image and we have God, through Christ, as our model and guide.

In the second session, Thompson invites us to begin this process with self-examination. She invites us to ponder:

- *Where do we feel embarrassed or guilty about what we have done or left undone?*
- *When have our immediate feelings led us into unkind words or actions?*
- *Have we allowed others to influence us toward negative judgments of persons we do not really know?*
- *Do we accept hearsay and gossip without checking facts?*
- *Where does deceit have a hold on us, and how is it expressed in our lives?*

While it is often uncomfortable to acknowledge and admit these feelings, it is critical that we do so. In the third session she invites us to reflect on those we may consider our enemies, those who have wronged or hurt us. Thompson points out: "Each of us secretly harbors despised parts of our own personality, impulses and reactions we are ashamed of: jealousy, greed, rage, self-pity, the need to be right, the desire to win, the exhilaration of feeling superior." Our journey through Holy Week provides an excellent opportunity to look at ourselves and others with the above awareness. Only when we embrace all aspects of ourselves are we able to truly repent and forgive. Jesus knew this, and with this awareness, modelled this process for us.

In my next Pastor's Corner I'll invite us to continue this reflection on repentance and forgiveness. As we move through Holy Week and approach the joy of Easter, may we be empowered to embrace ourselves as we truly are, knowing that God loves us and forgives us. May we find the courage, as individuals and as a faith community, to embark on this journey towards repentance and forgiveness.

In peace and love, *Pastor Karen*

Welcome Visitors

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

Michael Conn

Will & Jennie Ernest, Weston & Rhett

Karen Hywood

Austin Wiese & Jacob Novak

Please join us again in worship.

You are always welcome!

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



As we prepare to celebrate Easter this Sunday it is fitting and appropriate to see how our congregation celebrated Christ's resurrection in past years. So here are some excerpts from the Easter edition of the *Church at Work* in 1923, some 96 years ago:

"We are all very happy over those wonderful services on last Lord's Day, beginning with the prayer meeting hour at 6 a.m., led by George M. Porter and Lois Cordner. We had one of the most helpful devotional services we have ever experienced.

We had 615 in the Bible School with a total offering of \$143.56.

Continuing our morning worship, our house was packed and many turned away. The chorus of seventy voices was an inspiration to our singing, and our pastor's message was appropriate to the resurrection hour. Twenty persons responded to the invitation, most of whom came from the classes of our Church School.

Our house was well filled again for the evening service, and all greatly enjoyed the singing and our pastor's message. Seven more persons united with the church, and we all felt that the day had been one of great helpfulness."

While we don't live in the past, let our past inspire us to once again proclaim the resurrection of our Lord by filling our sanctuary this Sunday. And we promise to not turn anyone away!

A Story from Your Global Ministries

April 2019

"U Sabi Dance O"

*You have turned my mourning into dancing;
you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,
so that my soul may praise you and not be silent.
O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever. Psalm 30:11-12*



Sierra Leonean music makes up the majority of what I listen to. Most mornings, if I sleep through the Islamic Azan at 5:00 am, the unique layering of percussion and rhythms of Salone music awaken me shortly after. Regardless of the genre, hearing music in the streets causes everyone to dance. Wherever there is music in Sierra Leone, dance surely accompanies it. Music and dance together play a significant role in how people interact, celebrate, mourn, tell stories, and worship.

Every Sunday morning at my church in Makeni, we meet in the courtyard of a local primary school. When I arrive, a joyful atmosphere greets me. The scene is vibrant with walls decorated with colors from the national flag, children running and dancing, and congregants dressed in traditional fabrics. Loud worship music is heard from tall speakers and people sing along. The music has a tropical sound and is sung in different languages including Krio, Limba, Temne, and English. I'm greeted by my worship family with a hand squeeze or a hug, then prompted to join in the dancing. Dance, for some churches in Sierra Leone, is how people praise God and pray.

On my first Sunday at church, people assumed that I was from Sierra Leone because of my appearance, but my American accent and my poor Krio language skills revealed that I was an opoto (foreigner). Young children approached me with smiles and laughter, naming me the "black opoto." While introducing themselves, people also started to instruct me on different dance moves. As we danced together holding hands and smiling, women yelled, "U sabi dance Oo! U na Salone titi now." (You sabi dance! You are Sierra Leonian girl now!)

There are several ways to say thank you in the area I live in. The most common phrases are plenti tenki, momo, and inwale. Each expression of gratitude applies directly to me, for I am thankful to God for my time in Sierra Leone.

Nia Sullivan serves with the Council of Churches, Sierra Leone, Girls Access to Education Program (GATE).

Disciples Women May Meetings

Martha Group

Wednesday, May 1 at 1:30 pm

Relda Lathrop's home

Deborah Group

Monday, May 6 at 7:00 pm

Sally Mason's home

General Meeting

Wednesday, May 15 at 12:15 pm

Church Parlor



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

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who... made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant.

Philippians 2:5-7a

Lincoln First Christian Church

Calendar of Events

Sunday, April 21 - *Happy Easter!*

8:15 - 10:00 am **All-Church Breakfast** - Gym
 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 **EASTER WORSHIP** - Sanctuary
 10:45 am Worship & Wonder (ages 3 - 7) - 2nd floor Classroom
 11 am, 1 pm CCC Meetings - Library

Monday, April 22 - *Earth Day*

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

Tuesday, April 23

7:00 pm Child Guidance Center Basketball - Gym

Wednesday, April 24

5:30 pm Snack Supper - Parlor
 5:30 pm **Lenten Study "Learning Forgiveness"** - Library
 6:15 pm Youth Group Meeting - 3rd Floor Classroom
 6:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal
 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 25

6:30 - 8:30 pm Demolay "Snowball" Event - Gym

Friday, April 16 - *Arbor Day*

Saturday, April 27

9:30 am **Book Club** - Susan Pallas-Duncan's home

Sunday, April 28 - *150th T-Shirt Orders Due*

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
 11:30 am **Blood Pressure Readings Available** - Parlor
 Noon **Elders Meeting** - Conference Room
 6:00 pm **Ministry Cabinet Meeting** - Conference Room

Monday, April 29

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

Tuesday, April 30

7:00 pm Child Guidance Center Basketball - Gym

Wednesday, May 1

1:30 pm **Martha Group Meeting** - Relda Lathrop's home
 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, May 2 - *Messenger Mailed*

5:30 pm **150th Anniv. Celebration Comm.** - Conference Rm.
 7:00 pm Child Guidance Center Basketball - Gym

Those Serving in May

10:30 am Worship

Elder:

May 5 Debby Ortega
 May 12 Kathy Harris
 May 19 Gary Larsen
 May 26 Sara Lugn

Deacons: Jim Christ, Scott Dietrick, Wayne Duncan,
 Susan Pallas-Duncan, Polly Putney,
 Robert Reddish

Communion Prep: Wayne & Susan Pallas-Duncan

Ushers / Greeters:

May 5 Hanna Pinneo Boring
 May 12 Doug & Jessica Effle
 May 19 Harold & Donna Baker
 May 26 Cecilia Burkhart

Hallway Hospitality:

May 5 Vince Ortega
 May 19 Rich Calver
 May 12 Dick Pickel
 May 26 Geoff Putney

Coffee Fellowship Hosts:

May 5 **Need Volunteer**
 May 12 Stephen Ministers
 May 19 FCC Foundation; H. Baker, G. Greder
 May 26 Music Ministries

Homebound Communion Teams: (May 12)

D'Arcy Blosser & Jim Christ
 Connie Calver & Scott Dietrick
 Kathy Harris & Polly Putney
 Gary Larsen & Robert Reddish

Snack Supper Volunteers:

May 1 Jim & D'Arcy Blosser
 May 8 Cecilia Burkhart
 May 15 Connie Calver (*Final supper until September*)



April Acts of Kindness

Just a reminder that during the rest of **April** we are supporting "*Lulu's on N*" by collecting items for those less fortunate in the downtown Lincoln area. Find more information in your last *Messenger* or on the bulletin board in the Parlor hallway. Please place your donations in the barrel in the Narthex. **Thanks!**