



# Messenger

love all • live spiritually  
rejoice in hope • show hospitality



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*Rev. Dr. Karen Moritz*, Pastor

*Cheryl Judds*, Administrative Assistant

*Elaine Parman*, Care Ministries Volunteer

*Mark W. Miller*, Director of Music Ministries

*Sara Lugn*, Stephen Ministry Leader

**Church Website:** [fcllincoln.org](http://fcllincoln.org)

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## Disciples of Christ General Assembly

July 20 - 24, 2019

Des Moines, IA

Every two years the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) holds a national General Assembly. Pastor Karen Moritz, D'Arcy Blosser and Tom Mason from our congregation will be attending in a few weeks. Please pray for a meaningful and rewarding assembly for them and all the attendees and speakers.

### Celebrating 150 Years with Notes from Our Past

From the July 13, 1917 issue of  
**The Church at Work:**



"At a called meeting of the board last Sunday afternoon the board voted to agree to grant to the pastor a leave of absence for the duration of the war, if he should find opportunity to serve as chaplain with one of the regiments going to the front. There has been some discussion of the possibility of his being appointed chaplain of the Sixth Nebraska.

Brother Harmon has for some time felt the weight of the responsibility of the church in its relation to the present disturbed conditions in the world, and is willing to offer himself in behalf of the church as a contribution for the good of humanity. There is at present no greater work or more useful that a man can engage in than this work to comfort and sustain the soldiers and administer to their spiritual welfare in the strenuous work on the firing line."

*This moving story about Rev. Harmon's desire to serve humanity fits beautifully with Rev. Moritz's challenging sermon on July 7, 2019 that concluded with the wonderful hymn "Here Am I, Send Me."*

## Foundation Facts

In addition to the annual contribution of \$19,800 to the church from the First Christian Church Foundation of Lincoln undesignated funds, special funds were accessed in 2018 to help with other needs. The Hofmann fund supplied \$2,242 for boiler repair and \$1,614.84 for Stephen Ministry training. Also contributed to boiler repair was \$925 from the Pekar fund. The McMaster fund supplied \$399.07 to the church budget for property maintenance and repair.

The Foundation has approved \$10,900 toward repair of the sanctuary air conditioning system from the Hofmann fund. This payment is pending awaiting final bid selection and approval.

## Pastor's Corner

**Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.** - John 15:4-5

When Regional Minister Rev. Chris Morton visited FCC last year, he described the three expressions of the church; the congregation, the Region and the General Church. Just as the congregation and Region meet regularly, the General Church is called together every two years. So, once again, we gather together as the larger Church. This summer we'll be meeting in Des Moines, July 20<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup>. As an introductory video for the Assembly explained; we gather as a national church for four reasons; worship, education, connection and transaction of business. Our theme for the gathering is "**Abide in Me**" and it comes from the above passage from the Gospel of John. Pastors from all across the denomination will be attending. Each congregation is invited to send lay delegates as well. This is based on size, our congregation has been invited to send two lay delegates in addition to me, as the pastor. D'Arcy Blosser and Tom Mason will be attending as well. I'm looking forward to attending my second Assembly (I'm kind of a General Assembly junkie). It's also exciting to have the GA so close to home, in Des Moines, Iowa. I've lived in Des Moines three different times in my life so I'm looking forward to being back there. I'm also excited about the opportunities for worship, education and connection. I'm also curious to learn what issues will come before the body during our business sessions.

**Worship** is a central component of the Assembly just as it is for us as a congregation. Worship is done on a much larger scale than what we experience here at FCC. It is an inspiring experience in which we'll have a chance to hear some amazing preachers, including the Rev. William Barber. It's also an expression of the diversity of our church. Some of those experiences may make their way back to us here at FCC. **Education** is also a major part of our gathering. There are dozens of workshops and educational opportunities. There were so many that it was difficult to select just a couple. I am planning to do a two-part workshop entitled "Pro-Reconciliation/Anti-Racism Training" and another one called "Disciples History and Polity" (church governance and structure).

But, I have to say, one of my favorite parts of the Assembly is **making connections**. I'm always amazed at how many people I know. Perhaps my favorite place is the Exhibit Hall. I get to meet people and learn about the various ministries of the Church. Our mealtimes also offer wonderful opportunities for connection. I'm looking forward to attending the dinners for Global Ministries and the Council of Christian Unity. I'm also signed up to attend a couple of events sponsored by Disciples Women. However, we're not just there for fun. A portion of our time will be spent in the **Transaction of Business**. This will involve acting on and updating Policies of the Church, receiving reports, electing officers and board members, and acting on Sense of the Assembly Resolutions. Please keep me, D'Arcy and Tom in prayer as we make our way to the Assembly. I also invite your prayers for all those who will be travelling to, attending, and returning home from Des Moines. I trust that we will bear much fruit as we abide in God and God in us.

With a grateful heart,

*Pastor Karen*

## Welcome Visitors

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

*Tony Flack      Debra Krohn*  
*Elian Lazaro    Grayson McGregor*  
*Dona Quimby    Andrew Sensenig*

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

## July Act of Kindness Opportunity



Your Outreach Team is continuing "**Acts of Kindness**" in 2019. In July, we are supporting **Clinic with a Heart** by collecting items to support their free healthcare ministry. Find more information in the June 20, 2019 edition of the *Messenger* or on the bulletin board in the Parlor hallway. Please place your donations in the barrel in the Narthex. **Thank you!**



Dear FCC members,

As some of you may have heard, our administrative assistant, Cheryl, will be retiring at the end of July. She has been with FCC for 15 years and has always gone above and beyond in service to our congregation. We will be celebrating her retirement after worship on July 28<sup>th</sup>. Please join me in contributing to a gift for Cheryl by placing a check or envelope in the offering plate or mailing it to the church office labeled "Love Gift."

Sincerely,

*Geoff Putney, Board Chair*

## Coming this Fall at FCC



### Wednesday, Sept. 4

**Evening Activities Resume;** Sanctuary & Bell Choir Rehearsals, Youth Group, Adult Study, Snack Supper

### Saturday, Sept. 7

**Picnic & Celebration at Wyuka Cemetery** with Terri Hord Owens, DOC General Minister

### Sunday, Sept. 8

**Worship with Guest Speaker, Terri Hord Owens**

### Sunday, Sept. 22

**Praisefest!** In the church parking lot from 5 - 7 pm



## Board Meeting

Sunday, July 28 at 6:00 pm  
Church Parlor

Board reports are due in the office by Wednesday, July 24. All FCC members and friends are welcome to attend the meeting and participate in the discussion.

## Lincoln First Christian Church Calendar of Events

### Sunday, July 14

9:30 am Seekers Adult Class - Library  
10:30 am **WORSHIP**  
11 am, 1 pm CCC Meetings - Library  
**Homebound Communion Teams:**  
D'Arcy Blosser & Jim Christ  
Connie Calver & Dan Cowger  
Kathy Harris & Susan Pallas-Duncan  
Gary Larsen & Wayne Duncan

### Monday, July 15

5:30 pm CCC Meeting - Library

### Thursday, July 18

6:00 pm **Stephen Ministries "Picnic"** - Parlor

**Saturday, July 20 - General Assembly begins in Des Moines, IA**  
**Pastor Karen at General Assembly (thru July 24)**

### Sunday, July 21

9:30 am Seekers Adult Class - Library  
10:30 am **WORSHIP** - Sanctuary  
11 am, 1 pm CCC Meetings - Library

### Monday, July 22

Noon **Messenger Deadline**

### Wednesday, July 24 - General Assembly ends

Noon **Board Reports Due** (for July 28 meeting)

### Thursday, July 25 - Messenger Mailed

### Sunday, July 28

9:30 am Seekers Adult Class - Library  
10:30 am **WORSHIP** - Sanctuary  
11 am, 1 pm CCC Meetings - Library  
11:30 am **Farewell Coffee Fellowship for Cheryl Judds**  
Noon **Elders' Meeting** - Conference Room  
6:00 pm **Board Meeting** - Conference Room

## Prayers & Praises - July 11, 2019

In the Nebraska Region:

- Nebraska City FCC and pastor Michael Schmidt
- North Platte FCC and pastor Jan Ekstedt

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Angel L. Rivera Agosto serving in Venezuela
- Fritz-Gerald Joseph serving in Morocco

Find more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners at [www.globalministries.org](http://www.globalministries.org)



### STEPHEN MINISTRY

"For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. **2 Peter 1:5-7**



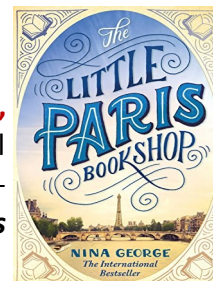
**Find us on Facebook:**

<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.

## Book Club News

Book Club will meet again **Friday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 p.m.** at Carol Lawson's home. Our book for discussion is **"The Little Paris Bookshop"** by Nina George.



Below are some upcoming book selections:

**The Language of Flowers**

by Vanessa Diffenbaugh

**Homegoing** by Yaa Gyasi

**This Blessed Earth** by Ted Genoways

Anyone is welcome to join in our discussions at any time. We usually meet on Saturday mornings, but check the FCC Calendar of Events for specific dates and times.