



**150 years**  
**First Christian Church**  
 Disciples of Christ

# Messenger

love all • live spiritually  
 rejoice in hope • show hospitality



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

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## 2020 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Stewardship time is upon us again. In line with our 150th Anniversary, we are asking First Christian Church to **Embrace our Future**. We have so many amazing forerunners of the faith, and now it is our time to carry the torch of FCC into the future. Your continued generosity to the church is evidence of your faith and trust that God's not finished with us yet!

Our goal this year is to raise \$210,000. If you've already submitted your pledge, **thank you!** If not, you still have until **Pledge Dedication Sunday**, November 17th. Pledge cards are available in the Sanctuary and the church office. Contact Kelly T. in the church office for any questions.

Check the thermometer in the parlor to gauge our progress!

*"I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ."  
 Philippians 1:6*



## Celebrating 150 Years with Notes from Our Past

We are quickly approaching Pledge Dedication Sunday for our annual stewardship drive known as Embrace our Future. As we contemplate how much we will give to support our congregation's essential ministries, it is interesting and informative to look back to where we were at another time.

The October 18, 1929 edition of **The Church at Work** contained the following information about our congregation just a few days before the Stock Market Crash and the beginning of the Great Depression - -

*Church membership had reached 1,142 with an annual operating budget of \$16,281. Pastor Ray Hunt was paid \$4,800, the organist and choir director made \$1,416 and the custodian earned \$1,140. Electric/gas/fuel cost \$1,250 and the church budgeted \$50 for repairs to our brand new building at 16th and K.*

*The most revealing statistics showed that 464 pledges had been received and each person who pledged was listed along with the amount they pledged and how much they had paid on the pledge. Pledges ranged from \$1.75 per year to \$780.00, with the average gift of \$35.00. One hundred thirty four people were in arrears at the end of the church year. A few names on the list will be familiar to some of us today, so stop by the church library and check out who gave what if you're curious.*

Times have changed. We no longer list individual givers, the amount they pledge and how much they actually gave. However, supporting the ministry of our historic congregation has never been more important.

Finally, those of us who yearn for "the good old days" might want to be careful about what we say or our names and the amount we give just might show up in **The Messenger** some day!



## Pastor's Corner

**For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

**I Cor. 11:23-26**

One of the joys of serving this congregation as pastor is presiding at the Lord's Table every week. In many traditions, the Lord's Supper is only shared on a monthly basis. In fact, in the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren in the Czech Republic, many congregations only have Communion on a quarterly basis. So, I really enjoy the practice of sharing Communion weekly. It is intentional that the Communion Table is in a central location in the chancel and is raised up to be visible to all. The lectern and pulpit are on the same level to emphasize the equal importance of the proclamation of the Word and the sharing of the Word tangibly in the Lord's Supper.

Last Sunday, 27 October, we celebrated Reformation Sunday. One of the main issues of the Reformation was the importance of the Lord's Supper and its availability to all. During the Middle Ages only the clergy could partake of both the bread and the wine. Reformers, like Jan Hus in Bohemia, insisted that Jesus shared both the bread and the wine with the Disciples at the Last Supper and so both elements should be shared as we celebrate that feast. The Reformers also insisted that the Church was called to be reformed and always reforming. As children of the Reformation, we are proud to be part of that tradition. We are part of the Reformed tradition and we are also "always reforming." Our practices around the Lord's Supper are often being reformed. We are called to reform as a way of remaining sensitive to the needs of those who worship, and at the same time, being aware of the theological foundations that ground us.

Here at FCC, reformation and change are not taken lightly or done frivolously. This congregation, like most others, has a process in place that oversees our life together. Leaders are elected by the congregation and others step forward to act on behalf of the Body of Christ's expression here at FCC. In consultation with me, as the pastor, and Mark Miller, as the Director of Music, the Worship Team attends to the worship life of this congregation. A great deal of thought and planning goes into worship since it is the very heart of what we do and who we are. In response to the desire to live out our call to be a community with a truly open and welcoming Table, the Worship Team examined our practices around the Lord's Supper. It was determined that it was important to have one type of bread available to all people, so after diligent discussion and searching, a gluten-free bread was chosen that was acceptable to everyone. This eliminated the need for different breads and the

separation of those with gluten allergies and those without. It was also determined that one bread for everyone was a tangible expression of our call to unity at the Lord's Table. The challenge of course, is that change of any type is difficult for many of us. We also came to realize that perhaps we had not as clearly communicated this change as we thought we had. Reform and change are not done simply to shake things up. Reform is a way of striving to remain faithful to God's vision for us as a community of faith and as an expression of Christ's body.

As we gather together weekly to share in the Lord's Supper may we be reminded of all the ways this feast binds us together as the Body of Christ that is FCC and with the Body of Christ all around the world and throughout time.

With peace and love,

*Pastor Karen*

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## New This Fall

First Christian Church is now accepting \$10 donations for parking spots during Husker Football home games. Remaining games are:

- November 16th @ TBD
- November 29th @ 1:30 pm

If you are interested in volunteering to take donations, please contact Susan Pallas-Duncan at 402.880.6967 or [slpallas@gmail.com](mailto:slpallas@gmail.com). Thank you for supporting First Christian Church and Go Big Red!

## Special Sundays in November

### November 3rd - All Souls Sunday

Come to remember our First Christian Friends and Family who have passed away in the last year.

### November 17th - Pledge Dedication Sunday

This Sunday is a joyful celebration to "Embrace Our Future" by dedicating the generous gifts from the 2020 Stewardship Campaign.

### November 24th - Thanksgiving Celebrations

After weekly worship at 10:30am, the Annual Thanksgiving Dinner will be held in the gym. Be looking for RSVP cards soon. Following dinner will be an Inter-Faith Service in the Sanctuary. Join in for fellowship in the parlor, at the cookie and coffee reception after the service.

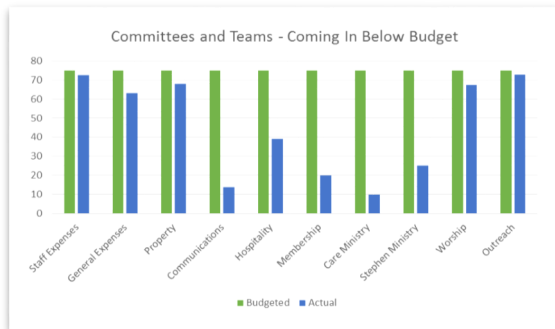
# FINANCE NOTES 2019 BUDGET REVIEW

## 2019 is almost gone!

Here is a review of the 2019 budget. First Christian Church is extremely blessed to have several sources of revenue that help us pay for the budget we put in place each year. Your pledges are a majority - thank you!

As many of you know, running and maintaining the beautiful building that we worship in comes at a price. The 2019 budget was passed with 19% of funds unaccounted for, or what we'd call a built-in deficit.

There are two ways to cut into this shortage: our committees and teams can spend less than expected AND our congregants can give above and beyond. All of our committees have done an excellent job of coming in at or below budget, knocking our \$51,000 deficit to only \$19,800.



As of September 30, 2019, giving is behind nearly 13%. Also, as the cold weather months approach, our heating bills and other expenses will continue to roll in. We expect the deficit to grow to roughly \$25,000 by the end of 2019.



If you feel so moved, please consider an offering to help pay off 2019's budget deficit, so that we can all start 2020 on even ground.

## Snack Supper November Menu



Wednesday night dinners are all new, with all of the fellowship and none of the hassle. The menu for November is:

**Nov. 6:** Lemon basil chicken breast, brown rice, veggies, salad, fruit

**Nov. 13:** Beef lasagna, garlic bread, green beans, salad, fruit

**Nov. 20:** Pulled pork on a pretzel bun, macaroni & cheese, salad, fruit

**Nov. 27:** No Wednesday Night Activities - Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

\$5 per meal, vegetarian options available. All meals provided by Chef au Chef. **We still need helping setting up and cleaning up!** Please sign up to volunteer in the kitchen - thank you!

## Christmas is right around the corner! Order SCRIP

Gift cards make great stocking stuffers, secret Santa exchanges, or gifts for special teachers. When you order SCRIP from local businesses, you help your community AND First Christian Church's ministries. It's a win-win! See Donna after church any Sunday to order SCRIP.



Special order Sundays will be:

November 3, 2019

December 1, 2019

## Welcome Visitors

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

**Brad & Kristie Christianson**

**Tony Flack**

**Deborah Krohn**

Please join us again in worship.

You are always welcome!



# 2019 “Acts of Kindness” Holiday Project

City Impact “Gifts of Love” has been selected by your Outreach Team as our “Acts of Kindness” Holiday Project recipient again this year. In place of our “Acts of Kindness” monthly barrel collection in November, we will be collecting gifts for this program.

City Impact has provided “Christmas With Dignity” to families in need for more than 21 years. In 2018, more than 3,300 children and their family members received gifts purchased from the City Impact store. Children earn shopping vouchers by participating in the programs offered at City Impact and the parents must meet certain financial requirements to participate.

Beginning November 10th, through December 1st, you can purchase a suggested gift and return it unwrapped to the “Gifts of Love” collection box in the Sanctuary. The “Gifts of Love” store will be open from December 8th - 14th at City Impact, 1035 N. 33rd St.

Another way to support “Gifts of Love” is to volunteer. This community event takes a lot of volunteers to be successful. Visit with Kathy Harris, Tom and Sally Mason, or Elaine Parman about their volunteer experiences. Each of them have volunteered at different times and in different ways. To look at the volunteer opportunities, visit [cityimpact.org/gifts-of-love](http://cityimpact.org/gifts-of-love) to select a slot that works for you.

Our collection barrel will take a break during the months of November and December, but we will be collecting hats, gloves, socks, scarves, mittens, and other warm items for Cedars Outreach Program in January 2020.

Your Outreach Team appreciates all of your participation and support in our monthly “Acts of Kindness” opportunities.

## Pre-K through 6th Grade Gift Ideas

- Arts & crafts items
- Baby dolls
- Board games
- Books
- Cars (Hot Wheels, Tonka)
- Disney type movies
- Legos
- Nerf toys
- Play kitchen toys
- Puzzles
- Sports balls
- Squishmallows
- Star Wars toys
- Super hero toys/gear

If you would like to order a SCRIP\*\* card to Target or Walmart, please do so by November 3rd. Donna Ruhl will give them to Elaine Parman when they arrive. City Impact prefers values of \$25 or less as these are purchased by their eligible shoppers.

The Outreach Team will be donating six (6) \$25 Amazon SCRIP cards from our undesignated funds for teens and parents. If you would like to donate money to purchase more, please make your check payable to FCC with “GOL” on the memo line. You can place these in the offering plate on Sunday.

*\*\*Remember, SCRIP cards are a win-win; they are great for both the receiver and First Christian Church.*

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## Poinsettia Orders

Once again we would like to decorate the Sanctuary with poinsettias for the Christmas season. If you would like to help make this possible, please complete this form. Poinsettia orders are due a little earlier this year, so don't miss your opportunity. **Deadline to order is Sunday, November 10.**

You may pick up your plant(s) after the Christmas Eve worship service on Dec. 24. Order forms will be available in your Sunday bulletin on November 3rd and 10th. Please place it in the offering plate along with your check, made out to First Christian Church, or mail to Donna Ruhl. You may also order your poinsettia by calling Kelly T. in the First Christian office at 402-475-4289.



## Answering the 2019 General Assembly's Call to See and Respond

October's Domestic Violence Awareness Month emphasis is just the beginning of learning about the issue that affects people across the spectrum of age, race, and economic status. An estimated 12 million people are hostage in toxic relationships. The dynamics are not logical and the complexities around abuse are not easily understood.

The authors of the 2019 General Assembly Resolution GA-1928: A Call to See and Respond to Domestic and Intimate Partner Violence, Courtney Armento and Rev. Yvonne McCoy, offer this advice:

1. Become educated about abuse specific dynamics and educate your community, especially youth and young adults
2. Take action to bring resources, workshops, and prayer events to your community
3. Stay aware and engaged, become a safer space to those in your midst

The resolution also includes additional actions and links to educational material.

In the final paragraph as adopted by the assembly, all expressions of the Church are called to "increase their spiritual support and efforts to shatter shame, stigma, and silence by preaching and teaching responsibly on the topic of domestic and intimate partner violence; create safe and sanctuary spaces for abuse-specific pastoral care, compassionate conversation, and healing for vulnerable victims and survivors; and work together to dismantle a cultural landscape where domestic violence can thrive and hide."

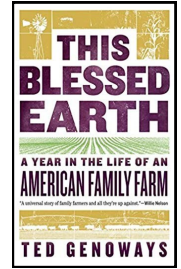


**Did you know you can purchase Disciples of Christ gear online? Just visit [https://stores.inksoft.com/disciples\\_of\\_christ/shop/home](https://stores.inksoft.com/disciples_of_christ/shop/home) to see all of the great styles available!**

## Book Club News

Book Club will meet again **Saturday November 23rd at 9:30 am** at Becky's home. Our book for discussion is:

*This Blessed Earth* by Ted Genoways



Below are some upcoming book selections:

*Death at La Fenice* by Donna Leon

*Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury

*Orphan Train* by Christina Baker Kline

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.

## Prayers & Praises October 31, 2019

**In the Nebraska Region:**

- York FCC and Pastor Penny Schulz
- Nebraska Regional Board, Committees, and Staff

**Our Global Ministries Missionaries:**

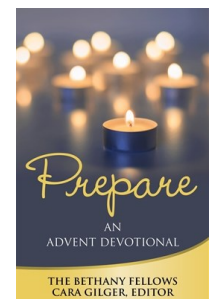
- Phyllis Byrd serving in Kenya
- Martha Mensendiek serving in Japan

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



The Good Life Halfsy half-marathon will be running through downtown Lincoln on **Sunday November 3rd**. This might affect your commute to church that morning. For your convenience, a race route has been posted on the bulletin board outside the parlor. See you Sunday!

Advent Devotionals are coming soon! Be on the lookout in the Parlor after service. Advent runs from December 1st through December 24th.



## Those Serving in November

### 10:30 am Worship

#### Elders:

Nov. 3	Gary Larsen
Nov. 10	Sara Lugn
Nov. 17	Debby Ortega
Nov. 24	Donna Ruhl

**Deacons:** Jim Christ, Vince Ortega, and Dick Pickel

**Communion Prep:** Susan Pallas-Duncan & Wayne Duncan

#### Ushers / Greeters:

Nov. 3	Carla Pinneo
Nov. 10	Hanna Pinneo Boring
Nov. 17	Scott Dietrick
Nov. 24	Lindsay & John Swanson

#### Acolytes:

Nov. 3	Evan Foster & Keaton Bowker
Nov. 10	Evan Foster & Riley Bowker
Nov. 17	Keaton & Riley Bowker
Nov. 24	Christian & Rebecca Swanson

#### Hallway Hospitality:

Nov. 3	Rich Calver
Nov. 10	Mike Carlin
Nov. 17	Geoff Putney
Nov. 24	Tom Mason

#### Coffee Fellowship Hosts:

Nov. 3	Need Volunteer
Nov. 10	FCC Foundation
Nov. 17	Music Ministries
Nov. 24	Thanksgiving Dinner

#### Homebound Communion Teams: (Nov. 10)

D'Arcy Blosser & Jim Christ  
Connie Calver & Dick Pickel  
Kathy Harris & Vince Ortega  
Gary Larsen



### STEPHEN MINISTRY

"We love because he first loved us."

1 John 4:19



The Veterans' Parade  
Hosted by Lincoln Veterans'  
Parade Group  
November 9th, 2pm - 4pm

In previous years FCC has offered hot cocoa and snacks to parade attendees. If you'd like to volunteer, contact Jim Blosser. For more information, see [www.lincolnveteransparade.org](http://www.lincolnveteransparade.org).

## Lincoln First Christian Church Calendar of Events

### Thursday, October 31 - Messenger Mailed

#### Sunday, November 3 - SCRIP Orders Due

9:00 am	BOOM Team - 3rd Floor Youth Room
9:30 am	Seekers Adult Class - Library
10:30 am	<b>WORSHIP</b> - Sanctuary
10:45 am	Worship & Wonder (ages 3-7) - 2nd Fl. Classroom
11 am, 1 pm	CCC Meetings - Library
12:00 noon	<b>Finance Team Meeting</b> - Conference Room

#### Monday, November 4

5:30 pm	CCC Class - Library
7:00 pm	<b>Deborah Group Meeting</b> - Bobbi Carlin's Home

#### Tuesday, November 5

6:00 pm	<b>Welcome Wagon Meeting</b> - Conference Room
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#### Wednesday, November 6

1:30 pm	<b>Martha Group Meeting</b> - Village Inn 48th & Van Dom
5:30 pm	Snack Supper - Parlor
5:30 pm	Adult Study - Library
6:00 pm	Handbell Quartet Rehearsal - Sanctuary
6:15 pm	Youth Group - Meets in Parlor
6:30 pm	Handbell Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary
7:30 pm	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary

#### Sunday, November 10

9:00 am	BOOM Team - 3rd Floor Youth Room
9:30 am	Seekers Adult Class - Library
10:30 am	<b>WORSHIP</b> - Sanctuary
10:45 am	Worship & Wonder (ages 3-7) - 2nd Fl. Classroom
11 am, 1 pm	CCC Meetings - Library

#### Monday, November 11

12 noon	<b>Messenger Deadline</b>
5:30 pm	CCC Class - Library

#### Tuesday, November 12

9:30 am	Staff Meeting - Conference Room
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#### Wednesday, November 13

5:30 pm	Snack Supper - Parlor
5:30 pm	Adult Study - Library
6:00 pm	Handbell Quartet Rehearsal - Sanctuary
6:15 pm	Youth Group - Meets in Parlor
6:30 pm	Handbell Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary
7:30 pm	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary

#### Thursday, November 14 - Messenger Mailed

12:00 noon	<b>FCC Foundation Meeting</b> - Parlor
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**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.