



First Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

love all . live spiritually . rejoice in hope . show hospitality

Messenger

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2020 FCC Membership Directory Updates

Please update your information for the FCC Membership Directory. This Sunday, January 26, will be the last Sunday spreadsheets will be in the parlor for review. If you have any questions, please call Kelly T. at the FCC office. Our goal is to start making new Directories first thing in February. Thank you!!



2020 Leadership Retreat

SAVE THE DATE
Saturday January 25th
9:00 am - 1:00pm
RSVP by Jan. 23rd



Next Sunday, January 26 is the *last chance* to give to Cedars Street Outreach and Youth Opportunity Center! Please leave your hats, scarves, gloves, mittens, and socks donations in the barrel in the Narthex. *Thank you!*



STEPHEN MINISTRY

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

Ephesians 4:32

FINANCE NOTES

SURPLUS CELEBRATION!



As we reported in the last Messenger, 2019 Faith Giving topped out at over \$29,000. As you know, \$14,000 of this total was raised in December. The December giving was made up of 21 different families offering donations ranging from \$3,000 to \$30. What a show of loyalty and faithfulness to the church!

The latest news from the first 2020 Board Meeting, held Sunday, January 19th, is that this Faith Giving pushed the FCC budget to an over **\$6,000 surplus!!!** THANK YOU to all who pitched in to end 2019 in the black! The Finance Team would like to invite everyone for cake at coffee fellowship following service this Sunday, January 26th, to celebrate.

Our 2020 budget is going to rely on nearly \$40,000 of Faith Giving for us to break even. While 5th Sundays are a great time to make these contributions, if we can collect just over \$3,000 per month in Faith Giving, we would be on pace all year. Just some food for thought in the months ahead.



Thank you again for making 2019 a **SURPLUS SUCCESS!**

The Finance Team

Pastor's Corner

“To listen is to lean in, softly, with a willingness to be changed by what we hear.” -- Poet and Spiritual Adviser, Mark Nepo

In my Pastor's Corner for the first Messenger of 2020, I talked about the Benedictine pillars of stability, conversion, and obedience. In that article I focused on the pillar of stability. This time I would like to share some thoughts about the elements of conversion and obedience.

The Oxford Dictionary defines conversion as “The process of changing or causing something to change from one form to another.” The Latin root of this word has to do with change. We often think of conversion as changing from one to faith to another or one faith tradition to another. It's often thought of as a one-time event.

For Benedict, conversion is about our growing desire to connect with God. For Benedict, conversion is about constantly turning to God in faith and trust. The Latin root of conversion is also the same root for the word conversation. Both words imply a willingness to be changed by our interactions with one another and with God. For Benedict, conversion and obedience are closely linked. Our Handbook for Benedictine Oblates states it well and clearly:

Obedience is part of our ongoing conversion, part of that constant turning to God that is conversion. Benedict begins his Rule with the verb “listen.” Obedience, basically, is listening. It is hearing God's word to us.

As we begin a new year and a new decade, I invite us to embrace Benedict's invitation to listen and be continually changed. We are invited to listen to God, to converse with God, and to embrace the change that comes. Listening and genuinely conversing with God empowers us to do the same with one another.

In love and peace,

Pastor Karen

Are you interested in volunteering at First Christian Church? The following teams will be seeking new members in 2020:

Communications
Education
Finance

Membership
Hospitality/Meals
Property



FCC Social Media!



FCC is now on Instagram!

Follow the church to see great photos of services and events. Then check out our Facebook page for information about coming events and Sunday worship services, including scripture references.



**Elders Meeting
Sunday January 26th
12:00 Noon - Conference
Room**



Christ Caring • For People • Through People

You may have noticed a new display on the table in the Narthex. The Stephen Ministry Team is happy to provide a selection of Care Notes. These are little booklets on various topics ranging from "Enriching Your Life Through Gratitude, Giving Yourself Permission to Grieve, When a Family Pet Dies, Dealing with Financial Stress". There are also some for our younger children and older children dealing with "Suicide Prevention, Peer Pressure-Making Good Choices, Bye-Bye Bully, Happy to be Me". We invite you to take one or several. As copies are taken, we will order new titles. We hope you will find these new resources helpful in your everyday lives.



February 2020 Act of Kindness

This month we are partnering with our Youth Group and collecting items from the list below for Matt Talbot Kitchen & Outreach for the **Souper Bowl of Caring**. In March, we will report our collection results along with the national results. Together we can make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate.

- Tuna, Spam, canned chicken
- Canned soups, stews, chili
- Canned fruits in their own juice or water
- Canned vegetables and beans
- Peanut butter
- Macaroni & cheese, scalloped potatoes, and other boxed meals
- Brown rice & long-grain rice (not instant or quick cook)
- Low-sugar, whole-grain cereal or oatmeal
- Granola bars
- Saltine crackers
- Can openers



Whether you are a Chiefs fan or a 49ers fan, the Super Bowl will certainly be exciting this year! But before you settle in for the game on Feb. 2, consider this: while we may plan and excitedly anticipate the big football day, there are many who don't have the resources to even put meals on the table. In the early 1990s, **The Souper Bowl of Caring** began with a simple prayer from a single youth group:

“Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat.”

On February 2nd, our youth will be stationed in the Narthex to collect any loose change, currency, checks, or un-expired non-perishable food items* you would like to donate to help provide meals for those in need. All contributions will go to **Matt Talbot Kitchen & Outreach** here in Lincoln, and food items will be used to kick-start our **February Act of Kindness**.

*The list of most helpful contributions to Matt Talbot Kitchen & Outreach are listed above in the Messenger, will be on inserts in Sunday bulletins, and are listed on the bulletin board outside the parlor.

Thanks in advance for supporting this youth project!
(Dare we say, Go Chiefs ??!)



Worship Team Updates

I would like to thank those who helped decorate the church for Advent and Christmas AND for helping un-decorate. A special thank you goes out to Jim Blosser for adding decorations each week leading up to Christmas, and for putting them away. Thank you!!

Also, there is a new "Activity Sheets" yellow binder and colored pencils on the back table in the Narthex. I encourage our young members, and those young at heart, to take activity sheets to do during church or to take home to do during the week. I am hoping to add at least one new sheet a week that ties to the scripture and message for that week. I am hopeful that this is another way to bring the message to life.

Your worship team leader,

Sara Lugin



When you start your spring cleaning, or if you are going through closets, cabinets, and storage areas during the cold weather months, consider donating any no-longer-used-but-still-in-good-condition household items to the **Kamp Kaleo Rummage Sale**. Dates will be set soon for this annual fund-raising event. All proceeds to go support the maintenance and upkeep of our church camp in Burwell, NE. Kitchen utensils, dishes, cookware, appliance (that work!), office supplies, linens, tablecloths, napkins, sheets, towels, comforters, blankets, baby gear, home décor, sporting goods (but not too big of exercise equipment), tools, pet supplies, toys, books, CDs, DVDs, knickknacks, small furniture items (easily handled by two people), craft supplies, Christmas decorations, artwork, antiques, and collectibles - ALL these and more will be accepted.* We will again be using the classroom at the north end of the 2nd floor to store items you have ready to go!

Questions? Check with Gwen Belden or D'Arcy Blosser.

* Items we cannot accept are: baby cribs, car seats, clothing, exercise equipment, firearms or other weapons, computer monitors, encyclopedias or hymnals, non-digital TVs, or furniture that is heavy and would require more than 2 people to move.

Lincoln First Christian Church Calendar of Events

Thursday, January 23 - Messenger Mailed

Saturday, January 25

9:00 am - 1:00 pm **FCC Leadership Retreat** - Parlor

Sunday, January 26

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

Monday, January 27

5:30 pm CCC Class - Library

Wednesday, January 29

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, February 2 - SCRIP Orders Due

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

Monday, February 3

5:30 pm CCC Class - Library
7:00 pm Deborah Group Meeting - TBA

Wednesday, February 5

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, February 9

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

Monday, February 10

9:00 am **Staff Meeting** - Conference Room
12:00 noon **Messenger Deadline**
5:30 pm CCC Class - Library

Wednesday, February 12

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, February 13 - Messenger Mailed

Those Serving in February 2020

10:30 am Worship

Elders:

Feb. 2 Sara Lugn
Feb. 9 Debby Ortega
Feb. 16 Wayne Duncan
Feb. 23 Tom Mason

Deacons: Vince Ortega, Scott Dietrick, Dick Pickel, John Swanson

Communion Prep: Dick Pickel & John Swanson

Ushers / Greeters:

Feb. 2 Elaine Parman
Feb. 9 Carla Pinneo
Feb. 16 Hanna Pinneo Boring
Feb. 23 John & Lindsay Swanson

Hallway Hospitality:

Feb. 2 Rich Calver
Feb. 9 Tom Mason
Feb. 16 Mike Carlin
Feb. 23 Geoff Putney

Coffee Fellowship Hosts:

Feb. 2 Need Volunteer
Feb. 9 Music Ministry
Feb. 16 FCC Foundation
Feb. 23 Stephen Ministers

Acolytes:

Feb. 2 Christian & Rebecca Swanson
Feb. 9 Christian & Rebecca Swanson
Feb. 16 Christian & Rebecca Swanson
Feb. 23 Christian & Rebecca Swanson

Homebound Communion Teams: (February 9)

Sara Lugn & Scott Dietrick
Debby Ortega & Vince Ortega
Wayne Duncan & John Swanson
Tom Mason & Dick Pickel



Don't Forget SCRIP!

See Donna Ruhl after service any Sunday to see what she has on hand - OR - special orders go in the first Sunday of each month.

Prayers & Praises - January 23, 2020

In the Nebraska Region:

- Ashland First Christian Church
- Aurora First Christian Church and Pastor Penny Schulz

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Victor Makari serving in Israel & Palestine
- John Campbell-Nelson serving in Indonesia

Find more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners at

www.globalministries.org



A review of the Prayers & Praises Process: All prayers and praises received on Sundays will go to the prayer team on Monday mornings, and be added to the Worship Announcements and Messenger. All requests will remain on the prayer list for 4 weeks, then rotated off to allow for new prayer concerns. At any time, if your prayer has been answered, please contact the FCC Office for rotation off the list. Thank you.

HEY LADIES!

Martha Groups for Spring *All Meetings Begin at 1:30 pm*

- February 5th: FCC Parlor - *Roxie Pickel* leading
March 4th: Roxie Pickel's Home
April 1st: Joan Dietrich's Home
May 6th: Jill Carpenter's Home

Book Club News

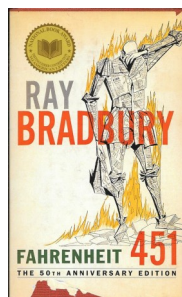
Book Club will be meeting again. More information is coming soon!

Our book for discussion is:
Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury

Below are some upcoming book selections:

Orphan Train by Christina Baker Kline
Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine by Gail Honeyman

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.



FOR GLOBAL PEACE WITH JUSTICE

This year's event is April 24-27 in Washington, DC. The theme of the gathering is "Imagine! God's Earth and People Restored," and will focus on the intersection of the climate crisis and economic injustice. [Registration is now open.](#)

The first two days of the conference are filled with plenary sessions, keynote speakers, and a variety of workshops. On the third day, attendees visit Capitol Hill and meet with their Members of Congress advocating for the causes discussed and championed throughout the gathering. The event ends with a shared worship service.

At the 2020 event, Global Ministries will provide leadership for a plenary panel discussion on the global impacts of climate change, where conference participants will hear from local leaders around the world, including Global Ministries' partner organizations, about the impacts of climate change in their context and creative solutions to combat climate change.

This year's focus on climate change and economic injustice is of particular importance to Global Ministries, explains director of communications Beth Guy. "These are the things our [partners](#) care about. If they tell us these crises are urgent needs, then we should be responsive to those calls – that's our mission to work, listen, and share in life together. Advocating for change is a way to publicly be in partnership together, to say 'We hear you, we trust you, and we're here to walk alongside you.'"