



First Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

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

Messenger

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Church Volunteers



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

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Communications | Membership |
| Education | Outreach |
| Finance | Property |
| Hospitality/Meals | Worship |

FCC asks that you prayerfully consider giving of your time and talents. YOU are the church, and we are all more successful when more people are involved the help our church thrive in creating Disciples of the Lord!

Thank You

The entire staff at First Christian wants to say thank you for the gifts, cards, and poinsettias we received over the Christmas Holiday. It is such a treat to work with such a wonderful congregation each week. We are truly grateful to each of you. We are praying that everyone at First Christian has a Happy New Year!

*Pastor Karen, Mark Miller,
and Kelly Tyrrell*

Coffee Fellowship 2020



Hospitality has always been an integral part of our DNA here at First Christian. One of the most visible ways of expressing this happens each Sunday when we host coffee fellowship after worship for our guests and members.

To make this happen we need volunteers. The job really isn't difficult but requires a small commitment. Some weeks have been reserved by Stephen Ministries, Music Ministries, and the FCC Foundation - but there are open spots each month! We still need volunteers for January 19th & 26th.

There's a sign up sheet in the parlor and you may also call the FCC Office for more details. Since we always have cookies in the freezer you don't have to worry about baking them if that's not convenient. Coffee is also provided, so all you have to do is make it and set out cups.

Thank you for helping make fellowship happen at FCC!



Flowers for Worship

The 2020 sign-up sheet is up now for Sanctuary flowers. Add to the beauty of worship by pitching in for fresh flowers each week. Each bouquet is \$45. If you are interested, please sign up and alert the church office so that we may order the flowers and to write your dedication in the weekly bulletin.

Pastor's Corner

As many of you may know, I recently became a Benedictine Oblate. It is an invitation to deepen the spiritual life by following the Rule of St. Benedict. As a part of this spiritual journey I'm learning a lot about Benedict and his Rule. There are 3 foundational elements to the Rule that I think are applicable to all of us seeking to deepen our spiritual lives; they are: **stability, conversion, and obedience**. Our Handbook for Benedictine Oblates tells us:

Conversion is at the root of it all. It is a promise to keep trying, an explicit commitment to trust God enough to keep turning toward God and away from anything that would make us ashamed of the Gospel. In many ways, then, conversion of heart is a rejection of living in the past. It is a willingness to let things go, to let the future happen, to keep responding to God's abiding faithfulness to us.

These words really spoke to me, personally and in relation to my ministry here at FCC. Personally, I yearn for stability, conversion, and obedience. I think these qualities are particularly relevant in our life together here at FCC. As we move into a new year and new decade, we are invited to nurture a sense of stability. Having just celebrated our 150th anniversary, we also celebrated the stability of being a coherent faith community here in Lincoln. While our location has changed a few times, the congregation has been a stable presence in the downtown area.

As I begin my 4th year as pastor, I am also aware of our movement into a more stable and settled relationship. The honeymoon is over. We know each other better, foibles and all. As we grow together we may find ourselves challenging one another as we move into a new portion of our relationship. Stability enables us to grow and change but remain constant in our relationship with one another. We do not always have to agree, however, to remain steadfast in this relationship. We are able to do this because we have a stable relationship with God as our foundation. Stability does not mean stagnation. We will continue to grow and change, and our foundation of faith will enable us to move forward. As we move into 2020, we will be looking at the ways in which God is calling us to grow and perhaps even change. I am constantly pondering the continued call of God on my

life. I am doing this as a Benedictine Oblate and as a participant in the Pastoral Leadership Revitalization Program. As pastor, I will be inviting the congregation into periods of reflection as well. We'll begin this process with a Leadership Retreat on Saturday January 25. We'll also be setting up a process to help one another discover, or rediscover, the spiritual gifts that we all possess. There will be a variety of ways in which we'll be invited into a process of reflection and growth. I hope you'll join in and discover God's call on your life and on this congregation.

In my next Pastor's Corner I'll talk more about conversion and obedience. May a sense of God's abiding love and presence guide us all as we move into the year 2020.

In peace and love,

Pastor Karen



January 2020 Act of Kindness

Your Outreach Team is continuing "Acts of Kindness" in 2020. This month we are supporting Cedars Street Outreach and Youth Opportunity Center by collecting new hats, scarves, gloves, mittens and socks. You can place your donations in the barrel in the Narthex. *Thank you!*



A Special Thank You

Dear First Christian Church friends,
Thank you so much for the amazing number of gift cards you donated to Gifts of Love! They were exactly what we needed for the store. The tangible items that you donated were much appreciated as well. We are already looking forward to providing Christmas with Dignity to even more families in 2020!

Lisa Guill
City Impact Communications Director



Attendance

First Christian Church had a wonderful 2019. We held church service 52 times, with only one cancellation for bad weather. Wednesday night activities were well attended, youth group was full, and Snack Suppers were updated with a new caterer.

Top 3 Attended Church Services

- April 21 - Easter Sunday
- September 8 - 150th Anniversary Celebration Service
- March 31

Top 3 Attendance Months

- December
- September
- April

Visitors

- 72 Individual Visitors
- 145 Visits

The winner for Best Attendance 2019 (of a non-paid staff person, sorry Mark) is:



Monte Dietrick - 52 visits

Thank you to everyone who came to church, a class, Wednesday night fellowship, or a music ministry during 2019. Thank you for inviting your friends and bringing your family. **You are the church**, and each time you come to worship you add to the spirit of Christ alive in this place.

SCRIP Orders in 2019 Bring in the Bucks!

THANK YOU to everyone who participated in FCC's SCRIP program. In 2019, the SCRIP program contributed **\$4000** to FCC's budget. The church receives a percentage of every dollar you spend on a SCRIP gift card. This program proves to be a great way to support local businesses AND First Christian Church. See Donna after church on any Sunday or order SCRIP for yourself!



Our first ministry spotlight is on First Christian's Music Ministry. The following 2019 recap is from Mark Miller, our Director of Music Ministries.

For me, the biggest highlight was the opportunity to work with such a dedicated number of musicians to create beautiful music that moves those of us making it and leads the congregation in worship. There was excellent fellowship and service of the music ensembles to and among the FCC community. The festival services for Maundy Thursday, Easter, and Lessons and Carols were outstanding. We always learn two or three new pieces yearly to add to our repertoire of favorites. And while I do not enjoy making live recordings of performances, when I do listen to those posted on Facebook or those sent to me of our ensembles, I never fail to be impressed by the sound, quality, integrity, and honesty of our Music Ministry.

Our 150th Anniversary Pentecost worship with First Presbyterian Church in June was a fun and memorable event with a combined choir and First Christian's Handbell Choir providing music. In September, our General Minister and President Terri Hord Owens was here to lead worship and officially commemorate First Christian's 150th Anniversary. She was quite enthusiastic and complimentary about our music.

The congregation received the gift of a fine Steinway grand piano from the family of long-time choir member, Nancy Wheeler. New handbell equipment (music desks and LED lights) were acquired through gifts and non-budgeted funds. Two new Dutch handbells were purchased through the Miller fund.

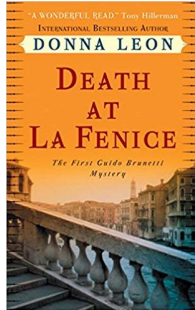
At a time when choirs and musical ensembles are struggling in churches of all sizes, First Christian's Music Ministry remains strong and a particular rarity among Disciples of Christ congregations locally and nationwide. Our congregation enjoys singing, and aided by a fine new hymnal, and the congregation's songs are an expanding highpoint in weekly worship.

Mark Miller

UPCOMING EVENTS

Book Club News

Book Club will meet again **Friday January 10 at 6:30 pm** at D'Arcy Blosser's home, 4648 Happy Hollow Ct. Our book for discussion is:
Death at La Fenice by Donna Leon



Below are some upcoming book selections:

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury
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.

What will be your Legacy? Sunday January 12, 2020

Learn more about the FCC Foundation and planning your finances and estate. To RSVP for the luncheon, call the FCC Office.



**CHRISTIAN
CHURCH
FOUNDATION**

Helping Disciples Make a Difference



Board Meeting Sunday, Jan. 19th 6:00pm Conf. Room

Board reports due to the FCC office by Wed. January 15th.



2020 Leadership Retreat

SAVE The DATE
Saturday January 25th
9:00 am - 1:00pm
More information coming soon!

FINANCE NOTES FAITH ON FIRE

Over the entire year, faith giving topped out at over \$29,000! Of this, December alone was over \$14,000. These numbers make a HUGE difference in the capacity of the church to provide music, education, and worship each week. Below is the list of all contributing congregants:

Harold & Donna Baker
Todd & Rhonda Ball
Gwen Belden
Jim & D'Arcy Blosser
Brad & Kristi Bowker
Vic Burgess
Cellilia Burkhart
Mike & Bobbi Carlin
Jim Christ
Joan Dietrich
Scott Dietrick
Susan Pallas-Duncan & Wayne Duncan
Doug & Jessica Effle
Donald & Jill Everett
FCC Women's Group
Casey & Marcia Foster
Lois Frogge
Greg & Tezra Greder
Phyllis Knosp
Gary & Phyllis Larsen
Relda Lathrop
Sara Lugn
Tom & Sally Mason
Mark Miller
Vince & Deb Ortega
Elaine Parman
Dick & Roxie Pickel
Carla Pinneo
Geoff Putney
Polly & Rae-Hope Putney
Donna Ruhl
Marj Snodgrass
John & Lindsay Swanson

The Finance Team cannot say **Thank You** enough to everyone who participated in Faith Giving in 2019. Be looking for more 2019 year-end communications in the next newsletter.

The Finance Team

Lincoln First Christian Church Calendar of Events

Thursday, January 9 - Messenger Mailed

Saturday, January 11

10:00 am **Take down Advent decorations** - Sanctuary

Sunday, January 12 - Homebound Communion

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 **FCC Foundation Luncheon** - Parlor
 3pm-5pm **Green Chalice Regional Meeting** - Library

Monday, January 13

5:30 pm CCC Class - Library

Tuesday, January 14

9-10:30 am **Faith Partners Meeting** - Library
 11:00 am **DOC Joint Worship Meeting** - Library

Wednesday, January 15 - Board Reports Due

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, January 16

6:00 pm **Worship Team Meeting** - Conference Room

Sunday, January 19

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
 6pm **Board Meeting** - Conference Room

Monday, January 20

12:00 noon **Messenger Deadline**
 5:30 pm CCC Class - Library

Tuesday, January 21

9:30 am **Staff Meeting** - Conference Room

Wednesday, January 22

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, January 23 - Messenger Mailed Out



2020 FCC Membership Directory Updates

Over the next few Sundays, there will be spreadsheets in the parlor for congregants to review. Please make sure your name, address, phone number, and email address are correct and up-to-date. Also, an email survey has gone out asking a few questions about how you utilize the FCC Membership Directory. Please take a few minutes and answer the five question survey before February 1st. If you did not receive a survey, or do not have email, please call Kelly T. at the FCC office for more information. Thank you!!



150 years
First Christian Church
Disciples of Christ

Celebrating 150 Years with Notes from Our Past

Everyone at First Christian would like to extend a "Thank You" to **Jim Blosser** for digging through the archives to bring us such interesting pieces of our past all through 2019. For anyone interested, the archives are available at the church. If you are interested in doing any further research on the past of FCC, please contact the church office.



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.



STEPHEN MINISTRY

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

John 10:10b

Prayers & Praises - January 9, 2020



In the Nebraska Region:

- Trinity Chapel Church and Pastor Brandon Proffitt
- Alliance First Christian Church



Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Michael Joseph serving in Colombia
- Judy Chan serving in Hong Kong

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.

Welcome Visitors

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

Tom & Mary Carpenter

Tony Flack

Edan Hall

Marty Messersmith

Austin Wiese

George Bowker

Widger Family

Bruce, Donna, and Zach Frogge

Robert & Linda Milburn

Please join us again in worship.

You are always welcome!

Those Serving in January 2020

10:30 am Worship

Elders:

Jan. 5	Jim Blosser
Jan. 12	Connie Calver
Jan. 19	Monte Dietrick
Jan. 26	Gary Larsen

Deacons: Doug/Jessica Effle, Dan Cowger, Polly Putney, Jim Christ

Communion Prep: Doug/Jessica Effle & Dan Cowger

Ushers / Greeters:

Jan. 5	Donna & Harold Baker
Jan. 12	Cecilia Burkhart
Jan. 19	Scott Dietrick
Jan. 26	Jessica & Doug Effle

Hallway Hospitality:

Jan. 5	Geoff Putney
Jan. 12	Vince Ortega
Jan. 19	Dick Pickel
Jan. 26	Mike Carlin

Coffee Fellowship Hosts:

Jan. 5	Music Ministry
Jan. 12	FCC Foundation Dinner
Jan. 19	Need Volunteer
Jan. 26	Need Volunteer

Homebound Communion Teams: (January 12)

Jim Blosser & Dan Cowger
Connie Calver & Doug/Jessica Effle
Monte Dietrick & Jim Christ
Gary Larsen & Polly Putney



Wednesday night dinners are all new, with all of the fellowship and none of the hassle. \$5 per meal, vegetarian options available. All meals provided by Chef au Chef. Menu side options are subject to change without notice. **We still need helping setting up and cleaning up!** Please sign up to volunteer in the kitchen - thank you!

January Menu

Jan. 8: Roast beef, cheesy rice, veggies, salad, and fruit

Jan. 15: Lemon basil chicken, roasted potatoes, California blend veggies, salad, and fruit

Jan. 22: Loaded pulled pork potato with creamed corn and BBQ sauce, cheese sauce, salad, and fruit

Jan. 29: Beef tips with mashed potatoes, garlic green beans, salad, and fruit