



First Christian Church
Disciples of Christ

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

Messenger

430 S. 16th St.
Lincoln, NE 68508

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www.fcclincoln.org



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Wednesday February 26, 2020

Come and join us to start Lent in fellowship with the imposition of ashes. There will be two opportunities to participate.

12:10 pm
First Christian Church Chapel
430 S. 16th St.
(402) 475-4289

This will be a short worship service with scripture and hymns. Plan for 30 minutes or less. This is perfect if, in your busy day, you want to take a short break to start Lent. All are welcome.

7:00 pm
Southpointe Christian Church
7010 Helen Witt Drive
(402) 420-2750

This will be a joint worship service with all the Disciples of Christ congregations in Lincoln. All are welcome.

FINANCE NOTES *SHOW A LITTLE LOVE*

It seems that around this time in February, love is in the air. With Valentine's Day just around the corner, now is a good time to remember the kinds of love we strive for in the Christian Church. Of course there is **eros**, or romantic love, perfect for your sweetheart, but not so much for the church. Second is **philia**, or the love of our friends, a brotherly love. Certainly this kind of love is important in the church. It is vital that we truly feel like family with our fellow followers of Christ.

The last kind of love, **agape**, is deeper than the first two. Agape love is the kind of unconditional, never-ending, life-changing love that God has for God's people. This is truly the love that we are called to when we are told to love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Volunteering your time and service work are great ways to show your love for First Christian. Another way to **"show a little love"** is through faith giving. While 5th Sundays are still a great time to give, this year, we ask that you consider giving a little throughout the year as well. A little bit can go a long way when it's done in love.

May the love of God be with you,
The Finance Team

Pastor's Corner

“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.”

Jeremiah 29:11

The above scripture guided us on our recent Leadership Retreat at the end of January. As we move forward into 2020, there is an optimism about what lies ahead. I sense a lot of energy as we move beyond our anniversary year and embrace the next 150 years. As we ponder our movement forward I was struck by an article sent to me recently by a colleague. In **“If You Want to Get Better at Something, Ask Yourself These Two Questions”** by Peter Bregman, he invites the reader to consider these two questions:

“One: Do you want to do better? Two: Are you willing to feel the discomfort of putting in more effort and trying new things that will feel weird and different and won’t work right away?”

Although he is a CEO writing from his experience as a coach, I think his two simple questions are good ones for us here at FCC. As we move forward it might be helpful to genuinely ask ourselves these two questions. Given the energy I feel here at FCC, I believe we have already answered the first question. I do believe we want to get better. What that means may vary from person to person, however, I think we want to be better at sharing the good news of the Gospel in word and deed. We want to reach out and we’re doing so in a variety of ways. We want to be relevant in our neighborhood and world. We genuinely want to serve Christ. Each of the Ministry Teams will be working on setting tangible goals for this year and we’ll work together in the Ministry Cabinet and Board to hold each other accountable for pursuing these goals.

I think the real challenge for us here at FCC is in answering the second question; **“Are we willing to feel the discomfort of putting in more effort and trying new things that will feel weird and different and won’t work right away?”** Embracing change is a challenge for everyone, particularly when we don’t see immediate results. Having just moved to a new apartment, I am keenly aware of this reality. While I love my new place, it is still a challenge to embrace this change in my life. It is a bit easier since I chose to make the change, but change of any type is still challenging.

No matter how challenging things are, we can be sure that God guides us and journeys with us. God has plan for us here at FCC. God promises a future with hope. May we embrace that future, challenges and all, knowing that God is leading us. May we have the courage to answer both questions with a resounding “YES!”

In peace and love,

Pastor Karen

Prayers & Praises February 13, 2020

In the Nebraska Region:

- Beatrice FCC and Rev. David Bigley
- Bellevue Christian Church and Rev. Michael Lincoln

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Ricardo Mayol serving in Guatemala
- Ha-Un Priscilla Yang serving in Hungary



Find more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners at

www.globalministries.org



Attendance Notes for January

Worship Services Held: 4
Avg. Weekly Attendance: 61 people
New Visitors: 3

Book Club News

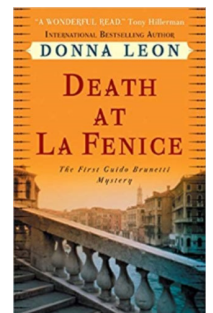
Book Club will meet again **Saturday, February 15th** at 9:30 am at D'Arcy Blosser's home. Because bad weather kept us away in January, we'll be discussing January's book this Saturday, and reading Fahrenheit 451 for March.

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.





This ministry spotlight is an annual update on the Acts of Kindness Collection Barrel.



Throughout 2019, First Christian made a difference in the lives of many through our Random Acts of Kindness Collection Barrel. Below is a monthly recap of who and what FCC supported:

- January - ***Cedars Street Outreach & Youth Opportunity Center*** - warm clothing items
- February - ***The Food Bank*** - helped restock shelves due to high demand
- March - ***Lutheran Family Services*** - cleaning supplies for refugee families
- April - ***Lulu's on N Street*** - personal hygiene supplies for the homeless
- May - ***The Bridge*** - clothing, games, puzzles, and flower planters for patio
- June - ***The Gathering Place*** - various supplies for daily meals
- July - ***Clinic with a Heart*** - personal hygiene items for their homeless clients*
- August - ***Lutheran Family Services*** - school supplies for refugee students
- September - ***The Bay*** - disposable diapers
- October - ***Lincoln High Trunk or Treat*** - Halloween candy
- November - ***City Impact*** - Gifts of Love Christmas Store
- December - ***First Christian Church*** - Faith Giving

*Our Youth Group researched Act of Kindness quotes during their October gatherings and on Nov. 13th, World Kindness Day, the youth put together 15 personal hygiene kits (5 each for men, women, and children) for Clinic with a Heart, using the items collected in July. Each kit included a personal kindness quote selected by the youth group participants. One of the quotes was:

“To the world you may be one person, but to one person, you may be the world.” Dr. Seuss.

Thank you so much for all your collection barrel donations. These Acts of Kindness are helping those in need in our own neighborhood.

Your Outreach Coordinator,
Elaine Parman



Personal Hygiene Kits for Clinic with a Heart



STEPHEN MINISTRY

“Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another.”
Hebrews 10:25a

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.

Update from “Souper” Bowl Sunday, Feb. 2nd



A BIG THANK YOU to all of the wonderfully generous folks who were in church on February 2 and donated to the youth's Souper Bowl Sunday collection!!! An announcement of the total collected will be shared in March along with our February Acts of Kindness total for Matt Talbot Kitchen & Outreach. Here's a hint: the change alone was over \$90!! (we counted for over an hour!) THANK YOU SO MUCH!!



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. In March, we will report our collection results along with the national results of the Souper Bowl of Caring. **Please leave your food items in the barrel in the Narthex.** 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



Feb. 19th: Lent-in-a-Bag

This will be a hands-on Lenten project for the congregation to share in together. All materials will be provided, all you need to bring is YOU!

Feb. 26th: Ash Wednesday

Start lent in fellowship with all the Disciples of Christ in Lincoln. Joint worship will be held at Southpointe Christian Church. All are welcome.

March 4th: Guest Speaker David Olsen

Mr. Olsen is a Forest Health Specialist who will be speaking to the congregation about the Ash borer beetle. Come with any questions you might have about the health of your plants.



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.



Saturday, February 22nd, 2020
11am - 2pm
Come & Compete or Just Come & Eat



2040 S 22nd St | Lincoln | 68502

To compete, please call Julie at 402-402-641-4878 or email juliepulec@hotmail.com

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Service Update!

The 2020 Deacons schedule has been updated. Please see revised schedule in the back of the chapel. Servers for February are:

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

Communion Prep: Elaine Parman & Carla Pinneo

Homebound Communion Teams: (February 9)

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

Welcome Visitors

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

*Luis Lopez
Sara Dexter*

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

Lincoln First Christian Church Calendar of Events

Thursday, February 13 - Messenger Mailed

Sunday, February 16

- 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 17

- 5:30 pm CCC Class - Library

Wednesday, February 19

- 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 20

- 5:30 pm **Worship Team Meeting** - Conference Room

Kelly T. Out of Office Wed. 2/19 through Fri. 2/21

Sunday, February 23

- 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
- 12:00 noon **Elders Meeting** - Conference Room
- 6:00 pm **Ministry Cabinet Meeting** - Conference Room

Monday, February 24

- 5:30 pm CCC Class - Library

Tuesday, February 25

- 9:00 am **Staff Meeting** - Conference Room

Wednesday, February 26 - Ash Wednesday

No Wednesday Night Activities

- 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service - Southpointe Christian Church

Thursday, February 27 - Messenger Mailed

Save the Date

2020 Nebraska Disciples Men Winter Rally
"The Power, Mystery, and
Beauty of Male Spirituality"

March 14, 2020
9:00 am to 4:00 pm
First Christian Church
114 N. 8th Street
Nebraska City, Nebraska



Coming in August – Kamp Kaleo Rum- mage Sale at First Christian Church, Lincoln, NE – Save Your Stuff!

The mild weather we are enjoying gives us a hint that spring will be here before we know it, even if we still have a little over a month of “official” winter to go. With the anticipation of spring comes **SPRING CLEANING!** And with spring cleaning comes the opportunity to get rid of stuff we no longer need or use. And the Kamp Kaleo Rummage Sale can utilize a good many of the things we want to discard.

Here’s a list of treasures we are seeking for the sale: linens, towels, blankets, bedspreads, fabrics & craft supplies, kitchen supplies, dishes, small kitchen appliances in good working order, pots & pans, small furniture items, household items & décor, tools, sporting goods, antiques, collectibles & curios, jewelry, baskets, puzzles and games in good condition, artwork, lamps, office supplies, holiday items, gently used toys, books, lamps, stools, decorative vases...all in clean and reusable condition.

Items we **CANNOT** accept are baby cribs or car seats, clothing, heavy exercise equipment, firearms or other weapons, computer monitors, encyclopedias or hymn books, non-digital TV’s, or furniture that requires more than two people to **EASILY** carry.

Receipts for tax deductions will be available if you need or want them. Tentative dates of the sale will be in early August. We’ll need lots of volunteer help to put it all together so watch for future announcements of dates and put them on your calendars.

Questions?

Contact D’Arcy Blosser or Gwen Belden.