



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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2020 FCC Directories Now Available!

Printed Directories will be left in the parlor each Sunday. If you would prefer an electronic PDF copy, please sign-up with your name and email address on the sheet in the parlor - OR - contact Kelly in the FCC office at 402-475-4289.



Wednesday Night Fellowship has new programming! Join us on Wednesday nights, starting at 5:30 pm, for dinner served by Chef au Chef (\$5) and speakers from various community organizations. Find out what's new and happening in Lincoln!

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.

March 11th: Guest Speaker Ted Blessing

Mr. Blessing is from *Lutheran Family Services*, and organization that FCC Outreach has partnered with for Acts of Kindness.

March 18th: Guest Speaker Ann Heydt

Mrs. Heydt comes to us from *Aging Partners*. She will be sharing information about the various programs they offer for Seniors in Lincoln.

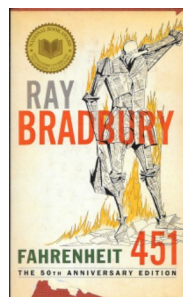
March 25th: Guest Speaker Sara Sunderman

Ms. Sunderman is the Vice Chair of the *Lincoln Homeless Coalition* and the Outreach Coordinator for *Matt Talbot Kitchen & Outreach*. She will be sharing new information about both of the Lincoln organizations she is a part of.

Book Club News

Book Club will meet again **Saturday, March 28, 10:30 am** at Cheryl Judds' home.

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.



STEPHEN MINISTRY

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him."

Romans 8:28a

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.

Pastor's Corner

"I invite you, therefore, in the name of Christ, to observe a holy Lent by self-examination and penitence, by prayer and fasting, by works of love, and by reading and meditating on the Word of God."

Liturgy for Ash Wednesday

The above words are part of the Ash Wednesday service. It is part of the Invitation to the Observance of the Lenten Discipline. On Ash Wednesday, we officially began the season of Lent. Here at FCC we will provide a number of ways to observe the disciplines of Lent.

All of the above disciplines can be done privately, in small groups, and communally in worship. Each Sunday, we will have the opportunity for self-examination and prayer as we share in a corporate prayer of confession, followed by an acknowledgment that we are forgiven in Christ. Worship will provide opportunities to hear and meditate on God's Word. We'll also have an opportunity for "works of love" as we collect our weekly offering.

Worship is a great way to "get grounded" for the disciplines of this season. In addition to our usual worship on Sundays, we'll also have some special services. Many of us attended worship here at FCC at noon yesterday to observe Ash Wednesday. We also had the opportunity to join other Christian Churches in Lincoln for shared worship Wednesday evening at SouthPointe Christian Church. FCC will host the shared service on Maundy Thursday 9 April. This year worship will include a Tenebrae, Service of Shadows. Of course, we'll have our soup supper beforehand, so be sure to come early at 5:30 pm to prepare for worship at 7 pm. Good Friday will include worship at noon in the sanctuary, followed by the opportunity to share in our 24-hour prayer vigil after the Good Friday service. The day we're all preparing for, Easter Sunday, will include breakfast from 8-10 am followed by a joyous worship service at 10:30.

We'll also offer opportunities for self-reflection and service as we gather on Wednesday evenings. We'll hear from people in the community and learn ways in which we can be of service to others. This time of food and fellowship also provides a chance to hear how the Lenten disciplines are going for others. Come and visit about what's working and what isn't. Our Outreach Team has also provided the opportunity to partner with others to be of service. During March, we're invited to contribute items to Voices of Hope, a shelter for those dealing with domestic abuse. Generally, those seeking shelter leave with nothing, so everything we contribute will make a huge difference to our partners there. Details can be found in this Messenger and in bulletin inserts on Sundays.

Lent is a great time to foster various disciplines in our homes and with our families. Be sure to take one of our Lenten devotions "For the Beauty of the Earth" to assist you through this Lenten journey. Read scripture, pray, and ponder God's call on our lives. Our devotional this year invites us to be aware of God's presence in the created world. Another great way to observe the Lenten disciplines on your own or with family and friends is to take a "Lent-in-a-Bag." The brochure inside provides simple guidance for using the items inside the bag.

May this Lent be a time of new life and renewal for us, our families, our congregation, and our world.

With eager expectation,

Pastor Karen

FINANCE NOTES *A LEAP OF FAITH*

As you know, 2020 is a Leap Year, and in just a few days we will get that extra day that only comes every four years. In honor of February 29, the Finance Team wants to invite you to take a **"Leap of Faith"** with your giving.

What is a "Leap of Faith?" One example would be having faith in the leadership of the church. It is trusting that the money collected from the congregation is always being spent wisely. Another example is continued loyalty to financial giving, even when the church budget is in the black.

We never know what is coming around the corner. For instance, First Christian was recently surprised by the energy company with a hefty back bill due to a broken meter. If it were not for your faithful, continued giving, we would not have the funds to pay for these immediate needs. Thank you for your loyalty to the vision of our church!

Remember, that the first 5th Sunday is coming up March 29, but you can give before that, too. Thank you for taking the "leap" with us.

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

Prayers & Praises February 27, 2020

In the Nebraska Region:

- Bethany Christian Church and Rev. Daryl Lauber
- Brownville Christian Church and Rev. Dr. Robert Chitwood

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Abigail Fate serving in Mexico
- Fiyon Kidane serving in Greece

Find more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners at

www.globalministries.org



Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

Psalm 51:10-12



March 2020 Act of Kindness

Voices of Hope is the recipient of our Collection Barrel for the month of March.

Voices of Hope, 2545 N Street, provides services to empower those who have experienced relationship violence, sexual assault, and related forms of abuse. Their services are free and confidential to the victims of these crimes, as well as their family members. Services are available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

Some of their services are safety planning, assistance filling out protection orders, short-term crisis counseling, financial assistance (limited), basic needs provision, and referrals to other community resources. Victims usually leave the home with only the clothes on their back to avoid further contact with their abuser. We can help with providing basic needs by collecting the following items:

SCRIP Cards to

1. Super Saver
2. Russ's Market
3. Walgreens
4. Target
5. Walmart
6. U-Stop

NEW Bedding items: sheets, blankets, throws, baby blankets, bed pillows

Toiletry items: shampoo, conditioner, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant

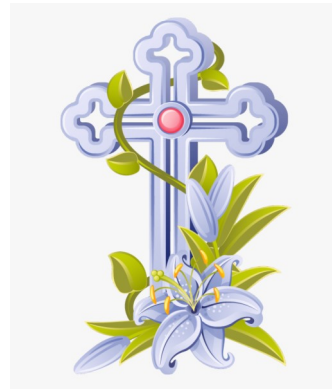
Car travel kits: non-perishable snacks, wet wipes, tissues, bottled water

Remember, ordering SCRIP cards is a win-win for FCC and our community partners. See Donna Ruhl after church in the parlor to order cards. She will collect them and give them to Outreach once they arrive.

Thank you for your continued participation in our Acts of Kindness Collection Barrel.

Your Outreach Team,

Kathy Harris
Gary Larsen
Tom Mason
Elaine Parman



Lent & Holy Week 2020

The Lenten season is upon us. Practice Lent and worship for Holy Week in fellowship with First Christian Church.

Lenten Devotionals are now available in the parlor. \$3.00 suggested donation.

Have you grabbed **Lent-in-a-Bag**? More bags are available in the Narthex. This is a fun, weekly activity bag for the whole family to practice Lent together.

Save the Date

April 9th: Maundy Thursday, Worship 7 pm at First Christian Church

April 10th: Good Friday, Worship 12 noon at First Christian Church

April 10th: 24 Hour Prayer Vigil, 1 pm Friday through 1 pm Saturday (Sign up will be available soon)

April 12th: Easter Sunday

8 - 10 am Easter Breakfast, FCC Gymnasium
10:30 am Easter Worship

Welcome Visitors

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

Luis Lopez
Maritza Guzman
Tanner Cobb

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

Lincoln First Christian Church Calendar of Events

Thursday, February 27 - Messenger Mailed

Sunday, March 1 - 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, March 2

- 5:30 pm CCC Class - Library
- 7:00 pm **Deborah Group Meeting** - Cec. B's House

Wednesday, March 4

- 1:30 pm **Martha Group Meeting** - Parlor
- 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, March 5

- 5:30 pm **Stephen Ministry Meeting** - Parlor

Sunday, March 8

- 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, March 9

- 5:30 pm CCC Class - Library
- 7:00 pm **Capitol Campaign Meeting** - Conference Room

Tuesday, March 10

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

Wednesday, March 11

- 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, March 12 - Messenger Mailed



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.

Those Serving In March 2020

Elders

- March 1 Jim Blosser
- March 8 Connie Calver
- March 15 Monte Dietrick
- March 22 Gary Larsen
- March 29 Sara Lugn

Deacons: Kristi/Keaton Bowker, Polly Putney, Doug/Jessica Effle, Dan Cowger

Communion Prep: Vince Ortega & Jim Christ

Ushers / Greeters:

- March 1 D'Arcy Blosser
- March 8 Nichole & Jared Calver
- March 15 Monte Dietrick
- March 22 Dick & Roxie Pickel
- March 29 Wayne & Susan Pallas-Duncan

Hallway Hospitality:

- March 1 Vince Ortega
- March 8 Dick Pickel
- March 15 Geoff Putney
- March 22 Rich Calver
- March 29 Tom Mason

Coffee Fellowship Hosts:

- March 1 **Need Volunteer**
- March 8 Music Ministry
- March 15 FCC Foundation
- March 22 **Need Volunteer**
- March 29 **Need Volunteer**

Acolytes:

- March 1 Evan Foster & Hunter Christianson
- March 8 Keaton & Riley Bowker
- March 15 Keaton & Riley Bowker
- March 22 Keaton & Riley Bowker
- March 29 Keaton & Riley Bowker

Homebound Communion Teams: (March 8)

- Jim Blosser & Kristi/Keaton Bowker
- Connie Calver & Polly Putney
- Monte Dietrick & Doug/Jessica Effle
- Gary Larsen & Dan Cowger



**Coming in August – Kamp
Kaleo Rummage Sale at
First Christian Church, Lin-
coln, NE – Save Your Stuff!**

Questions?

Contact D'Arcy Blosser, 402-429-6902 or
Gwen Belden, 402-430-8399