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Messenger

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

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Dear FCC Family and Friends,

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Romans 8:38-39

I find comfort in these words from the Apostle Paul. The situation with COVID-19 is changing daily and often rapidly. This situation is new for us all and is producing a lot of stress and uncertainty for everyone. The staff and leadership here at FCC are working together to respond to this ever-changing situation. Please pray for us as we strive to serve you, our church family. Please be patient with us, for we too are stressed and we're doing our best to be of service.

The church staff in cooperation with Executive Committee of the Board has developed a plan as we move forward. Like you, we are striving to plan while knowing circumstances are constantly in flux, so these plans are fluid. In all our planning we strive to discern God's call on our lives to be the church.

- We plan to prepare a Weekly Worship Bulletin that we hope to send out on Wednesday so everyone will have it for the weekend. It will include scripture, prayer, suggested musical pieces, and a meditation by me. We will be sending out snail mail editions, emails, and posting it on our website.
- We plan to prepare a weekly YouTube video that will be available on our website and Facebook page. It will be a companion to the Weekly Worship Bulletin, featuring the same scriptures. Our goal is to include music and a short meditation from me.
- At this point our building is closed to outside groups and activities. The staff is here working, including our custodian. We have not had the opportunity to disinfect and clean our facilities, so we are minimizing use of the facilities. As the situation develops and we make plans for proper cleaning and disinfecting, we may be able to make some changes in how our building is used.
- Since we are not gathering for corporate worship I would invite you to remember that we still have financial obligations to meet. Like you, we still have bills to pay and payroll to meet. The first page of the first edition of our Weekly Worship Bulletin has details on how contribute.

We don't know how long all this will last. We are working hard to keep up-to-date with the rapidly changing situation and to comply with state and federal recommendations. I think it's important that we prepare for a long-term disruption of our lives. If we are fortunate, we may be able to move to less restrictive measures soon; but, until we know more, we should anticipate making these changes for some time. With that in mind, we are exploring other ways to stay connected with God and one another. Please be assured that we are doing our best to serve you and make the realm of God tangible in our lives and in the world in which we live. Please feel free to call me at the church at 402-475-4289 or on my cell at 402-570-7827.

Blessings,

Karen R. Moritz

Pastor's Corner

"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." Mt. 3:17



My 33rd ordination anniversary on 15 March was probably one of the most unique ones I've had. Since it was the first Sunday without corporate worship it felt a bit odd, kind of like a snow day. But now that the weeks are marching on and we are embracing the probability that this will go on for several weeks, the reality of it all is hitting home.

Yesterday I realized that I am experiencing a sense of grief. I miss seeing everyone and being together on Sundays. Perhaps we are getting a taste of what it is like for our homebound members. So, it's important to keep connected and celebrate the signs of our community, even as we are separated from one another. When I came into the office last week I was greeted with a beautiful bouquet of flowers that were intended to be shared in the chancel for worship on the 15th. They were a gift in honor of my ordination anniversary, and as you can tell by the picture, they were beautiful! Thank you for this lovely gift, I am so grateful for you all.

I suspect all of us are using this time in different ways. Things have not slowed down much here, it's just a different pace. All of us here at the church are working to help us stay connected with God and one another. As many of you may know, I am also enrolled in an online course with Phillips Seminary on "Disciples History and Polity." I am taking this course to obtain full standing in the Region. This past weekend I spent my time preparing a paper on baptism. If you're having insomnia issues let me know and I can send you a copy! It has been quite interesting for me to learn about baptism from the perspective of the founders of this denomination. Alexander Campbell gave a great deal of thought to the subject. He looks to the story of the baptism of Jesus (see Matthew 3:13-17, Mark 1:9-11 and Luke 3:21-22).

Although each account is a bit different, all three have God's voice calling Jesus my "beloved son." We are invited to put ourselves in the story and to hear God call each of us by name and God calls us each "beloved." While I am fortunate enough to celebrate another year of called ministry, we are all called as God's beloved children.

In these challenging times, may we remember we are each called by name and cherished as God's beloved.

With joy

Pastor Karen



**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

Welcome Visitors

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

Neici Rodriguez

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

Nation DOC Green Chalice News

Today 180 congregations and ministries (and growing) are part of the [Green Chalice family](#). Disciples congregations everywhere are taking ambitious actions to lower their carbon to meet the goal of [Resolution GA-1723](#) to go carbon neutral by 2030. [Mission Hills Christian Church](#), in Los Angeles, CA, is leading the way by going 100% solar last year.

Green Chalice received an Oreon Scott grant to increase the capacity of our work. [Week of Compassion](#) has become a partner to address the growing need for congregations to prepare for natural disasters. [Disciples Women](#) provided a grant for women clergy to be trained as Climate Ambassadors. In 2020, Scott and I have been invited to teach and preach from California to Michigan and Washington, DC to Texas. Disciples congregations and regions are ready to lead in climate commitment and action. Our partners [Blessed Tomorrow](#), [Creation Justice Ministries](#), and [Interfaith Power and Light](#) are all accelerating their work in faith and climate.

Rejoice? Indeed, we are rejoicing because there is no one better to lead on climate than Disciples. We understand that Jesus calls us to uncomfortable and challenging work. We have a long history of working for justice and peace. We have a long history of ecumenical and interfaith partnerships.

Rejoice? Indeed, for we serve the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, in him all things were created, and in him all things hold together. How can we do anything other than rejoice?

from www.disciples.org



STEPHEN MINISTRY

**"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you
will fulfill the law of Christ."**

Galatians 6:2

March Act of Kindness - It's Not Too Late Voices of Hope

You still have an opportunity to donate SCRIP to the March Acts of Kindness partner Voices of Hope. Still available:

\$20 Russ's Market / Super Saver

\$25 Target

\$25 Walgreens

\$25 Wal-Mart

\$10 U-Stop

Please put Voices of Hope SCRIP in the subject line when you email your request to the FCC office. If you are enrolled in AutoPay, your SCRIP request email will also be considered your FCCCheck payment authorization. Thank you for participating in Acts of Kindness and ordering SCRIP!

Auto Pay Your Church Giving

Tired of writing checks? There is an easy, convenient and secure way to electronically transfer funds from your checking account to donate to the church. Enrolling is easy – a debit authorization form and voided check is all that we need. Forms are available in the FCC office or can be emailed to you upon request. In addition, auto payment can be canceled at any time.

Auto Pay makes life easier for you by:

- Knowing you are faithfully supporting so many important vital ministries
- Realizing the joy in being the faithful steward God calls you to be
- Eliminating the need to write a check regularly helping your personal budgeting process

Auto Pay benefits to FCC:

- Provides a more predictable income flow for better church financial management
- Reduces time and effort in processing collections by FCC staff/volunteers

FINANCE NOTES 5TH SUNDAY

Obviously, things are not like they are normally right now. We will not be worshipping together for the first 5th Sunday of the year. And while we will have a bulletin and a Worship Video, we all know it's not quite the same.

Even though we won't be together this Sunday, the Finance Team wants to remind you that 5th Sunday Faith Giving is still incredibly important to the church finances. So far, in just the first two months of the year, we have spent more than we've earned by just over \$2,500. This does not include the \$2,000 past due energy bill we discussed in the last Messenger.

Though it seems like the world is shut down, unfortunately, our expenses have not. We have minimized use of the boiler to cut down on costs. Please know that Pastor Karen and the staff are working through this unusual period of time to be there for you.

We are accepting checks in the mail to the FCC office. If you haven't already, you can fill out an easy form for debit authorization. Every little bit helps. We can't say how much we appreciate your continued loyalty and faithfulness to the church during this time. Together, we can make it through anything!

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

It's Time!! Summer is coming and Kamp Kaleo Registration is OPEN!!

Kamp is a place for children and youth to grow in faith, to experience God in nature, to make life-long friendships, and to have fun. Kamp Kaleo is offering 6 camps for summer 2020:

Adventures in Community: Designed for adults with developmental disabilities, May 26-29

Junior Kamp: For 4th & 5th graders, June 7-11

Middle School Kamp: For 6th - 8th graders, June 14-19

Kayak Quest: For 6th grade through adults, June 22-25

Little Kamps: For Kindergarten through 3rd grade, July 10-12

Faith & Fine Arts Kamp/High School Kamp (combined): For 7th grade through high school aged youth, July 12-17

You can find more information at kampkaleo.com.

To register, contact D'Arcy Blosser for instructions on utilizing the FCC portal.

Prayers & Praises March 26, 2020

- In Our Church Family:**
- Arlene Heimer
 - William Deterding
 - Betty Ferguson
 - Rose Dow
 - Our sympathy to Tom Mason and his family at the passing of his mother, March 19, 2020
 - Our sympathy to Gene Brockmeyer's family at his passing, March, 20, 2020
 - Marvin Thurber
 - Roger & Jessica Vocasek

Relatives:

- Friends and Family of Vic Burgess
- Friends and Family of Dick & Roxie Pickel
- Herb, *prayers for health and wellness, cousin of Tom Mason*
- Jill Snodgrass, *prayers for upcoming aneurysm surgery, from Marj Snodgrass*
- Stephanie, *prayers for upcoming surgery on a frontal lobe tumor, cousin of Vince Ortega*
- Tony's parents, *prayers for safe international travel, from Tony Flack*
- Stephen Lawrence, in ICU for treatment in Fresno, CA, brother of Lois Frogge

Friends:

- Pam Larsen, *continuing to fight cancer, friend of Marcia Foster*
- Peggy Westburg, *prayers during chemotherapy, friend of Lindsay Swanson*
- Karen, *during cancer treatments, co-worker of Rhonda Ball*
- Dianna Clark, *prayers for health concerns and upcoming tests*
- Prayers for a co-worker, who was paralyzed in an accident, from Carla Pinneo
- Dennis, *battling cancer, friend of the Effle Family*
- Skip & Jo Thomas, *prayers while they make hard medical decisions, friends of Harold & Donna Baker*
- Will Barrett, *for healing with gut issues, high-school aged neighbor of the Blossers*

Our Timothy's:

- Bruce Frogge at Cypress Creek CC in Spring, TX
- Glenda Dietrich Moore, Creative Arts Ministry in Lincoln, NE

In the Nebraska Region:

- East Lincoln Christian Church and Rev. Christy Ahmose
- Elmwood Christian Church and Rev. Jim Gordon
- Elwood FCC

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Debbie Colvin serving in Ghana
- Karen Campbell-Nelson serving in Indonesia

Find more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners at

www.globalministries.org



Don't miss our Weekly Worship Video! Available Friday at www.fcclincoln.org or on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NA59nVCIfbU>

Lincoln First Christian Church Calendar of Events

Thursday, March 26 - Messenger Mailed

Sunday, March 29

Paper/Electronic Bulletins available

YouTube Worship Video online at www.fcclincoln.org

Check Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube for links

Monday, March 30

All CCC Classes are canceled until further notice.

Wednesday, April 1

TBD Martha Group Meeting - Parlor

All Wednesday Night programming canceled until further notice.

Friday, April 3

First Friday Art Walk has been canceled.

Sunday, April 5 - SCRIP Orders Due

Palm Sunday Paper/Electronic Bulletins available

YouTube Worship Video online at www.fcclincoln.org

Check Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube for links

Monday, April 6

TBD Deborah Group Meeting - Sally Mason's home

Tuesday, April 7

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

Thursday, April 9 - Messenger Mailed

TBD Maundy Thursday Service - Sanctuary



Book Club News

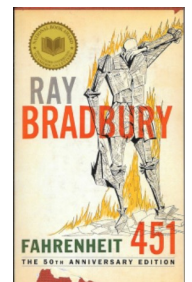
Book Club will meet again **Saturday, March 28, 10:30 am** will be meeting via ZOOM. The ZOOM link is:

<https://zoom.us/j/433887706>

Meeting ID # is 433887706

Our book for discussion is:
Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury

This will be a little new for everyone.
Question? Call Kristi Bowker.



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.