



**First Christian Church**  
Disciples of Christ

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

# Messenger

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**April 9, 2020**



## Holy Week 2020

### Weekly Worship Videos & Bulletins

**April 9th:** *Maundy Thursday*

**April 10th:** *Good Friday*, Special Prayer Video by Wayne Duncan

**April 10th:** *24 Hour Prayer Vigil*, 1 pm Friday through 1 pm Saturday (Sign up available at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0b49ada823a3f49-24hour>)

**April 12th:** *Easter Sunday*

**April 19th:** *Second Sunday of Easter*



***This ministry spotlight is about the NEW video ministry!***

Starting on Monday, March 16, 2020, First Christian Church moved into adaptability mode. Upon the recommendation of the State of Nebraska, large groups were asked to no longer meet. In an effort to continue bringing a worship experience to the loyal members of First Christian, Pastor Karen, music director Mark Miller, and church administrator Kelly Tyrrell pooled their collective efforts to create the Weekly Worship Bulletins and the Weekly Worship Videos.

Each week you should be receiving via mail or email a worship bulletin which includes a community prayer, the weekly scripture, Pastor Karen's reflection, the weekly prayers & praises, and a new spiritual exercise for you to try at home. We are also including links to YouTube videos of worship songs (with lyrics!) for you to enjoy with the Word.

While we know this system isn't perfect, and it's not like worship as usual, we hope that these efforts keep you feeling connected to God and each other. We are here for you!

Your Church Administrator,  
*Kelly Tyrrell*



## Pastor's Corner

**“I am grateful to God-- whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did-- when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. “**

***II Timothy 1:3-4***

Paul wrote this letter to his friend and colleague in ministry Timothy. This letter is one of Paul's most personal and pastoral. The introduction to this letter in the New Oxford Annotated New Revised Standard Version Bible gives us more detail about this letter and reminds us that much of our information about Timothy and Paul comes from the Acts of the Apostles. It is clear in the opening to the letter that Paul is missing Timothy. I resonate a bit with this letter, I too am missing my FCC friends and colleagues in ministry during this interlude with COVID-19. I am blessed to have the collegiality and friendship of the other staff members here at FCC, Mark Miller and Kelly Tyrrell, but I am missing everyone else. I feel a pang of sadness as I enter the church building. Mark, Kelly and I have been working hard to help us all feel connected to God and one another, but, it's just not the same as leading worship in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings. I suspect many of you are feeling the same way. The self-isolation imposed by this pandemic has been a challenge for everyone, all around the world.

I suspect one of the greatest challenges facing us all is the sense of loss and grief. We are grieving a lot these days. Some of our grief is obvious; the deaths of two beloved church members, Gene Brockemeyer and Rose Dow, are painful for us all. However, the inability to gather, for their funerals and celebrations of life, makes these losses even more painful for everyone. We were able to have small graveside services for each of them, but the inability to gather as a faith community was painful for us all.

Grief of this magnitude touches on the more pervasive sense of grief that is a part of life these days. Missing our usual activities and the inability to be with those we love, are tremendous losses. Elizabeth Kubler-Ross articulated the five stages of grief well: Denial, Anger, Bargaining, Depression, and Acceptance.

As we move through these days, weeks, and perhaps months of life with COVID-19, we will move through all five stages. Sadly, it is not an orderly process, we will move through the various stages at different times and at different paces. As Kenneth G. Hauck points out in the first *Journey through Grief* booklet entitled “A Time to Grieve” there are three “N’s” of grief; it is normal, natural, and necessary. Our Stephen Ministries program pro-

vides a set of these booklets to those who have experienced a loss (I got a set when my mom died last year). So, while it isn't always pleasant, we can be assured that the myriad of feelings we are experiencing in these days are normal, natural, and necessary. As we move through-out the five stages of grief may we be reminded that God is with us. Hauck opens the first booklet with this scripture:

*Be merciful to me, Lord, for I am faint; O Lord, heal me, for my bones are in agony.*

*My soul is in anguish. How long, O Lord, how long?*

*(Psalm 6:2-3 NIV)*

May we experience God's love and mercy during these uncertain times and may we be confident that God guides and journeys with us through all stages of grief.

With love and joy,

*Pastor Karen*

### FINANCE NOTES *HAVE A LITTLE FAITH*

WOW! We can't express enough our gratitude for the awesome amount (\$2,125) of Faith Giving in the month of March! Even though we are not physically meeting at church, it is obvious that First Christian is on your hearts and minds. We are so grateful for YOU.

There are so many things we can't do and places we can't go, but for the few that we can (drive-thrus, grocery stores, gas stations) we still have SCRIP! Now more than ever, it is so important for us to do our part in supporting local businesses. If you would like to see what SCRIP is available, contact the church office for an order form. If you know what you'd like, please contact Donna Ruhl, and she will get your order in.

In other finance news, as reported earlier in the Messenger, the FCC office is cutting back on hours. Not only is this improving our compliance with State of Nebraska recommendations, but also will save the church funds that may be needed in the coming months.

Thank you for your continued support of the life and ministry of First Christian Church. YOU are the church!

May the Faith of God be with you,

*The Finance Team*

## April Act of Kindness

Our April 2020 Act of Kindness (AOK) will be remotely collecting monetary donations for the Nebraska Disciples of Christ Region. Since the offering collected at the Maundy Thursday DOC Service would have gone to the Region, this is a way for FCC to make good on this promise.

Last fall when the Executive Committee, the Finance Team, and the Outreach Team agreed to suspend our quarterly funds to the Disciples Mission Fund (DMF), all local designated Outreach recipients, and Global recipients due to our lack of budget, our Region was among that group in two ways. The Nebraska Region receives a percentage of the Disciples Mission Fund and was one of the six local designated recipients. In 2018, the Region received \$1,112.75 from First Christian Church Outreach funds. This loss of revenue combined with the decrease in DMF allocations has greatly affected our Region and the support it provides to a variety of ministries in our state.

Please consider making a donation by mailing a check to the church payable to FCC with April AOK on the memo line. Or if you use AutoPay, put April AOK in the subject line when you email your request to the FCC office. If you are enrolled in AutoPay, your donation request email will be considered your FCC check payment authorization.

Please be kind to yourself, your family, your friends, and your neighbors as we face this unknown virus in our community, state, nation, and world.

Your Outreach Team,  
Kathy Harris, Gary Larsen, Tom Mason,  
and Elaine Parman



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

**Questions?**

Contact D'Arcy Blosser  
or Gwen Belden

## New April Office Hours

In an effort to comply with the State of Nebraska "Work-at-Home" recommendations, we will be changing the FCC Office Hours. If you need something from the office, please call first to see if the church administrator is in. The office WILL BE OPEN from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm on the following days:

Wed. April 1  
Mon. April 6  
Tues. April 7  
Wed. April 8  
Tues. April 14  
Wed. April 15  
Mon. April 20  
Tues. April 21  
Wed. April 22  
Tues. April 28  
Wed. April 29

Emails and voicemails WILL be checked regularly. In addition to complying with state regulations, these new hours will save the church essential funds which may be needed by the end of this pandemic. If you have any questions, please contact Kelly T. in the church office, (402) 475-4289 or [info@fclincoln.org](mailto:info@fclincoln.org).



**Book Club News**



Book Club will meet again **Saturday, March 28, 10:30 am** will be meeting via ZOOM. This will be a little new for everyone. Question? Call Kristi Bowker.

Our book for discussion is:  
**Orphan Train by Christina Baker Kline**

*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.*

# Prayers & Praises April 9, 2020

## In the Nebraska Region:

- Fairbury FCC and Rev. Darlene Novotny
- Faith Christian Church, Omaha and Rev. Lisa Sherman
- Falls City FCC and Rev. FayAnn Blaylock

## Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Phyllis Byrd serving in Kenya
- Michelle McKay serving in Haiti

Find more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners at [www.globalministries.org](http://www.globalministries.org)



## 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



## STEPHEN MINISTRY

“Now about brotherly love we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other.”

1 Thessalonians 4:9

# Lincoln First Christian Church Calendar of Events

## Thursday, April 9 - Messenger Mailed

10:00 am **Maundy Thursday Weekly Worship Video**

## Sunday, April 12 - Easter Sunday

Paper/Electronic Bulletins available

YouTube Worship Video online at [www.fcclincoln.org](http://www.fcclincoln.org)

Check Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube for links

## Monday, April 13

All CCC Classes are canceled until further notice.

## Wednesday, April 15

**Wednesday Night programming** canceled until further notice.

## Sunday, April 19

Paper/Electronic Bulletins available

YouTube Worship Video online at [www.fcclincoln.org](http://www.fcclincoln.org)

Check Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube for links

## Monday, April 20

All CCC Classes are canceled until further notice.

## Tuesday, April 21

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

## Wednesday, April 22

**Wednesday Night programming** canceled until further notice.

## Thursday, April 23 - Messenger Mailed



February 2, 2020 seems like an eternity ago! On that day in time, and throughout the month of February, First Christian Church collected \$209.21 and 150 lb. of non-perishable food for The Souper Bowl of Caring. Our money and food were donated to Matt Talbot Kitchen & Outreach here in Lincoln.

We joined 5,180 other groups, who collectively donated \$10,604,524!!!! YES! Over 10 million dollars in cash and food items were donated to local charities all across the nation. Imagine the impact this mission has for our fellow Americans during this Coronavirus Pandemic.

Way to go America and First Christian Church!