



First Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

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

Messenger

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Public Worship Now Open!

Come worship in the Sanctuary Sunday mornings at 10:30 am. There are several measures put in place to protect the health and safety of everyone who comes. See the back page of the Messenger or our website, www.fcclincoln.org, for details on what to expect during service. If you are not ready to come back yet, that's okay, too! We are continuing with the Weekly Worship Bulletin and Weekly Worship videos at least through August. More decisions will be made for future months and communicated to the congregation. Keep up-to-date with the Messenger to be in the know!

An Update from the Board



The board met May 17th at 6:30pm via Zoom. It was good to get "back to business" as we had cancelled the March meeting. We heard from our staff, who I would like to thank for their continued efforts during these difficult times. They've met weekly to produce our weekly worship, produced communications, stayed in touch with the community, and even done some renovations to the building! The board discussed our small business payroll protection loan and our plans for reopening the church, which we accomplished on June 7th. We did not take this task lightly and spent many weeks planning and preparing. I would like to thank all of you for being patient as we navigate these rapidly changing times. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or suggestions.

Geoff Putney
Board Chair

FINANCE NOTES

Faith Giving In Abundance

As many of you know, we were not in public worship for our normal 5th Sunday, which fell on May 31, 2020. Regardless, the Finance Team is pleased to share that First Christian Church has donated just over \$4,000 in Faith Giving!

This is incredibly helpful, not only to cover the costs incurred while the church was not "open" for business, but will also help with new costs related to COVID-19 safety measures. We can't say thank you enough.

Now that we are back in public worship, we'd like to suggest an "Honorary 5th Sunday" on June 28th, to make up for the day we missed in May. This way we can keep up the great progress we've made towards Faith Giving.

Thanks again to everyone,
The Finance Team

Pastor's Corner

“The Church condemns violence, but it condemns indifference more harshly. Violence can be the expression of love, indifference never.”

Graham Greene

“Violence ends by defeating itself. It creates bitterness in the survivors and brutality in the destroyers.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.

As we move from Pandemic to Protest, one element that disturbs many of us is the violence. Much to the surprise of those of us living in Lincoln, we have seen the outbreaks of anger and violence. The shocking destruction of property has been unnerving. As Greene’s quote suggests, violence needs to be listened to and heard. It is shocking to consider, however, that violence can be an expression of great passion. There have been strong feelings expressed all around. Sadly, violence tends to push many of us away and we become unable to hear the message behind it. However, it is in our willingness to listen that we push aside indifference.

As one who lives near the church on the south side of the capitol, I experienced the violence too close and too personal. My immediate and gut response was fear. Once the violence subsided, the fear did as well. Following the destruction wrought in downtown Lincoln in the early hours of Sunday 31 May, I and many others chose to respond with a peaceful protest around the Capitol later that day. Inspired by “Black Lives Matter,” many pastors from around the city joined others in emphasizing the importance of peaceful protest. However, it is still important that we hear all the voices inspired to speak out. Although it is uncomfortable for many of us, particularly those of white privilege, we must be willing to really hear those crying out for justice. To turn a deaf ear would be to respond with the indifference that Greene decries.

It is critical that we begin by listening, but we must move towards just action. When we celebrate the phrase “Love All” in our vision/mission statement, we take a stand for listening to and embracing justice. Our vision/mission statement also includes “show hospitality.” As we listen to the passionate cries for justice, we are invited to show genuine hospitality and push indifference aside. It is tempting to turn away from the violence and cries for justice, but as people of faith we must lean in and listen. King reminds us that violence ultimately destroys everyone involved. How can we listen and foster genuine

dialog? I’m not sure, but I trust that here at FCC we will explore ways to be in dialog among ourselves and with others in our community.

May we truly be “A Movement for Wholeness in the Capitol Neighborhood” and beyond. If you have ideas about how we might proceed let me know and let’s begin a conversation that brings true peace as we foster real justice for all. Empowered by God’s love, may we continue to “Love All.”

In peace and love,

Pastor Karen



Dani Berger is going away! Recently, we learned that Dani will be moving to Utah to continue her education. While we are so proud of this huge achievement, we will certainly miss her and her contributions to First Christian Church. To wish her well on her way, we are encouraging FCC friends to send Dani cards, gift cards, or other items that may be helpful during her move. You can mail them to Dani (address is in FCC Membership Directory) OR you can send to the church office and we will make sure they get to her before she leaves. Thank you in advance for participating. This is what it is to be a church family!



THANK YOU!

Dear First Christian Church,

Thank you for the cards and memorials we received in honor of our mother, Rose Dow. She was a member of First Christian Church for over 60 years. She loved the church and all the members who were are part of her life.

The Family of Rose Dow

Big Kamp Kaleo Rummage Sale

August 6-9

Thursday, 5 pm - 8 pm

Friday, 1 pm - 7 pm

Saturday, 9 am - 1 pm

Sunday, Noon - 3 pm

The Kaleo on the River Fundraising Committee is holding a rummage sale here at FCC-Lincoln to benefit Kamp Kaleo. We will continue to receive donations for the sale through August 4; a small amount of storage is left on the balcony above the gym or **we will have people available to help unload your donations in the alley on the north side of the church on Sat. Aug. 1 from 8 am to noon, and Sun. Aug. 2 from 1 to 3 pm.** Sorting and pricing will take place Aug. 6-9, daytime and early evening hours.

We Need You! Volunteers Opportunities July 31 - August 11

Volunteers and Trucks / Trailers Needed:

- Sat., Aug 1 from 8 am to Noon to deliver donated items to FCC Gym.
- Sun., Aug. 2 from 1 to 3 pm to deliver donated items to FCC Gym.
- Contact D'Arcy Blosser or Gwen Belden for information and directions.

Volunteers / Sorters & Pricers Needed:

- Monday - Thursday, Aug. 3 to 6 to sort, organize and price items. Help when you can between 9 am and 8 pm.
- Thursday - Sunday, Aug. 6 to 9 to assist at sale organizing and cashiering (see sale times above).
- Contact Sue Shear at 402-730-6541 to schedule times you can work.

Volunteers / Packers Needed:

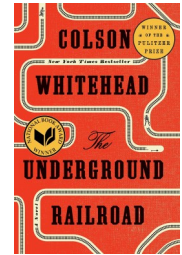
- Sunday, Aug. 9 from 3 to 5 pm (approximately) to pack up remaining items and clean up.
- Contact Gwen Belden or D'Arcy Blosser.

All information is tentative and subject to change. Due to COVID-19, decisions are still being made as to dates, times, and execution of the sale. Keep posted in the bi-monthly Messenger for more information.

Book Club News

Book Club will meet again **Saturday, June 27, 9:30 am** at Susan Pallas-Duncan's home.

Our book for discussion is:
The Underground Railroad
by Colson Whitehead



Some of the upcoming titles to be discussed include:

A Man Called Ove

by Fredrick Backman

Traveling with Pomegranates by Sue Monk Kidd

The Thirteenth Tale by Diane Setterfield

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

"This is the message you have heard from the beginning: We should love one another."

1 John 3:11



Ushers, Greeters, and Hallway Hospitality

Service looks a little different than what we were used to. As such, our Ushers, Greeters, and Hallway Hospitality volunteers are extra appreciated! If you'd be willing to help, please contact Kelly T. in the FCC office. Here is the serving schedule for the rest of June:

Ushers/Greeters

June 14 Monte Dietrick

June 21 *Need Volunteer*

June 28 Wayne & Susan Pallas-Duncan

Hallway Hospitality

June 14 *Need Volunteer*

June 21 Jim Christ

June 28 Tom Mason



Congrats to Brynna!

Help us congratulate Brynna! A 2020 graduate of Lincoln High School, Brynna Madison will head to Mount Mercy University in Cedar Rapids, IA in the fall. At Lincoln High, Brynna was on Honor Roll from 9th-12th grades and was inducted into the National Honor Society in 2019. She earned an academic letter for bowling and was named to the Heartland Athletic Conference Academic All-Conference. Brynna is a nationally ranked bowler, with championships in Nebraska, regional and national tournaments. Brynna has participated in the youth group at FCC for many years and serves as one of our nursery attendants when she is not on the road for a bowling tournament. She will join the Mount Mercy Mustangs women's bowling team this fall.

An Announcement from the Christian Church in Nebraska

Is COVID-19 Effecting the Choices You're Making?

The Choices We Make Today --- Determine the Church of Tomorrow

Join in a Regional DOC Converstaion on June 23rd at 5:00 pm. This is a registration only Zoom Event.

Register in advance at:

<https://us02web.zoom/join/joinme/register/tZlsdeisrDksGt2zldcnL2AJ71j7-bWwhTCx>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



Sanctuary Flowers



Now that we are back to public worship, we'll be looking for Sanctuary Flower sponsors again. Each bouquet is \$45

and will be ordered by the church. With the parlor hallway closed, you can sign up by calling or emailing the FCC office (402-475-4289 or fo@fclincoln.org). Please allow a minimum of 3 business days to receive flowers. Also, let the office know how you would like your flowers to be dedicated in the bulletin. Thanks!

WELCOME VISITORS

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

Nadar Farahbod

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

Prayers & Praises June 11, 2020

In the Nebraska Region:

- Cotner College Educational Lay Ministries
- Lincoln First Christian Church and Pastor Karen Moritz

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Bosela Eale serving in Kenya
- Leda Zakarison serving in Lebanon

Find more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners at www.globalministries.org



FCC Social Media!

Each week FCC is posting new pictures, videos, and links to great worship music. Look for First Christian Church on Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube for new content every week. Get connected!



Lincoln First Christian Church Calendar of Events

Thursday, June 11 - Messenger Mailed

7:00 pm **Reopening Team Meeting** via Zoom

Sunday, June 14

10:30 am **Worship** - Sanctuary

11:30 am **Virtual Coffee Hour** via ZOOM

- Weekly Worship Bulletin
- Weekly Worship Video

Sunday, June 21

10:30 am **Worship** - Sanctuary

11:30 am **Virtual Coffee Hour** via ZOOM

- Weekly Worship Bulletin
- Weekly Worship Video

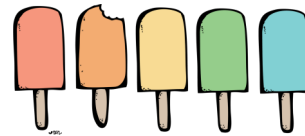
Monday, June 22

12:00 noon Messenger Deadline

Tuesday, June 23

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

Thursday, June 25 - Messenger Mailed



First Christian Church YouTube Channel

Have you missed any of the Weekly Worship Videos? No problem! They are all archived on the First Christian YouTube Channel. Go to:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVejAW8Dmqv8Jmk5rzj43g>

to see all of our videos starting with March 22, 2020.

2020
Going Digital! -
ZOOM Instructions to come -
Regional Assembly
Oneness in Christ
Keynote - Rev. Dr. Tex Sample
Sermon - Rev. Lori Tapia
6 Conversations in Small Groups
OCTOBER 16TH &
17TH, 2020
Artwork by - Glenda Dietrich Moore

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 and FCC. Consider signing up for Auto Pay today!





First Christian Church Reopening Expectations



As many of you know, First Christian Church reopened for public worship on Sunday, June 7th. The church staff, in cooperation with the Re-Opening Team, has developed a plan to make worshipping together as safe as possible. Some changes you will find around the building will be:

- Only the Chapel and Sanctuary doors will be open. NO entrance through the back doors. Even if you have a key or an access code, this door is off-limits. Keep this in mind when choosing where to park.
- Only the bathroom by the Chapel will be open. The fire doors to the hallway will remain closed.
- There will be NO access to the kitchen, parlor, nursery, or second floor. Even if you have a key to these areas, they are still restricted for the health and safety of the staff.
- The Sanctuary will be sanitized by Austin, our custodian, before and after worship.
- Hallway Hospitality volunteers will be assisting in sanitation during Worship, helping everyone maintain physical distancing, and monitoring traffic flow.
- Hand sanitizer will be available for all who attend.

There will also be changes made to Worship itself. Please note that at this time we will only be holding Worship. Sunday School, Worship & Wonder, and Coffee Fellowship will NOT be meeting during this time. The nursery will also remain closed. Some changes to expect during the service:

- We will require a face covering to join in Worship.
- You will need to get your own bulletin from the table in the Narthex. No one will be handing them out.
- We ask that you sit only with your family members. Different family groups will need to stay a minimum of 6 feet apart. Spaces will be marked in the Sanctuary to make this easier for everyone.
- There will be no communal singing. Music will either be instrumental or feature solo singers.
- We will not be "Passing the Peace" for the time being.
- Offertory plates will be set up in the Narthex and back of the Sanctuary. Please leave your offering there. We will not be passing offertory plates during Worship.
- We will not be celebrating communion for the time being.

We want to assure you that we are doing everything we can to make worship safe for you, your families, and the staff. Of course, if you still do not feel ready for public worship, we DO plan to continue our Weekly Worship Bulletins and Weekly Worship Videos. Please make the choices that are right for you and your health care situation. We pray that this may be a time of great celebration and a feeling of God present among us. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me at the church at 402-475-4289.

Blessings,

Pastor Karen R. Moritz