



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 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!

Ongoing Outreach

A note of thanks from our March Act of Kindness Recipient

Dear First Christian Friends,

Thank you for your April 9, 2020 donation of \$560 in gift cards, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and hand soap to **Voices of Hope**. Your support is crucial to our agency's mission. Your generous donations make it possible for us to continue providing services, at no cost, to those who come to use for help at their time of crisis.

We continue to raise community awareness about the reality and impact of domestic violence and sexual assault. None of this would be possible without support from donors such as First Christian Church. You are truly making a difference!

Sincerely,

Stephanie Geery-Zink

Resource Development Coordinator



The Board of Disciples Home Missions (DHM) is thrilled to announce the call of Rev. Sheila Spencer as DHM's Interim President. Spencer's qualities as a connector and advocate for all brought her to the top of the list for consideration: she is passionate about how the life changing

love of god has infused her life and how she has seen it during her time at DHM. Ability to approach leadership from an educator's point of view, which she describes as the ability to facilitate the learning that can happen for both the student and the teacher. "As a teacher, you're always learning," Spencer says. She brings that mindset to the team of DHM, in which everyone should have the opportunity to share their ideas and lead. "Everyone's thoughts and ideas are very important to this season, this completely new season for how we see church and do church. This pandemic season, especially, has reinforced the fact that the church is not confined, and we are able to be the Church in a new and innovative way. God is leading us into this challenge and opportunity."



Pastor's Corner

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. John 1:1-5

One of the many joys of being a parish pastor is the opportunity to participate in continuing education. This week and next week, I'm registered in an online writer's workshop. The above passage came to mind as I listened to the first presentation in the "Writing for Your Life Online Mega-Conference." Author and Episcopal priest Barbara Brown Taylor gave the opening presentation and she talked about "The Sacrament of the Right Word." As I listened to her presentation, I was struck by the power of the word. For us as people of faith, we are keenly aware of the power of the word when we gather for worship. The pulpit (although I don't use it much) and the lectern are both centrally placed in the chancel as a focal point for our attention. The Reformers believed that reading the Word of God and its proclamation are central to the act of worship. Taylor reminded us of the importance of words and invited us to ponder how our words connect to the Word of God.

In these challenging days of Pandemic and Protest, we are invited to consider the importance of words. Words swirl around us every day, often every hour, and they are not always the words we want to hear. Words like "face masks" and "physical distancing" have become part of our parlance and are sometimes politicized. As we face more protests, we are often aware of words flying all around us, often yelled at a fever pitch. I think part of the challenge before us is discerning which words to listen to and what words to speak. The plethora of words sometimes tempts us to turn them all off.

There are undoubtedly times for that, however, it is also important to truly listen to many of those words. Truly listening can be uncomfortable and even frightening, but that is the best way to acknowledge and value the speaker. Sometimes we say to children "use your words" when we are struggling to understand their experience. Sadly,

words can and have been used as weapons. However, I think Jesus, as the Word of God, invites us to find healing in our words. Sadly, healing can be a painful process; treatment sometimes involves pain. As we listen to one another, even when the words are painful, we value the speaker and their experiences. Words help us enter into the experience of others, even those very different from ourselves.

May we have the courage to genuinely hear the words of one another, recognizing that God, through God's Word the Christ, empowers us to do so.

With love and joy,

Pastor Karen

FCC Ministry Cabinet Meeting

The FCC Ministry Cabinet met Sunday, June 21st after worship. We spent some time reconnecting with each other and hearing about one thing each of us has taken as a positive from the last few months. We discussed a different method of budgeting that we had hoped to implement this year, but are holding off until the 2022 budget. Eventually we'd like to move away from using the previous year's budget over and over. Instead, we'd like to take a goal-oriented approach to budgeting, where each team determines its top priorities and we try to either accomplish as much as possible that year, or potentially hold funds back to fund bigger projects over a span of years.

As we look to the future with some level of uncertainty, I encourage you to consider your personal gifts and whether they might align with different ministry teams given our current restrictions. In just a couple months, we'll be looking for leadership for next year, and we will certainly need think outside the box in order to continue fulfilling our ministry to the community. If you feel like you have skills that might help one of the teams or you have the desire to lead a team in 2021, please let Pastor Karen or myself know.

Geoff Putney
Board Chair

Our Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy to Betty Gish on the death of her brother, Monsignor James Dawson, who passed away on June 15th. Services were held on June 19th at Cathedral of the Risen Christ. Father Dawson was involved for many years in ecumenical and interfaith events in the Lincoln area. He was a kind and gentle man.

A Thank You

Thank you to all of my First Christian Church Friends for the condolences sent at the time of my brother, Msgr. James Dawson's death. I truly appreciate your thoughtfulness. I miss you since moving back to Geneva. I will never forget the friendship and love you shared with Jim and me. May God bless you all.

Betty Gish

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!



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 info@fcclincoln.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!



July Act of Kindness Lutheran Family Services

Lutheran Family Services will be the recipient of our July 2020 Act of Kindness.

We have all heard how Covid-19 has affected the meat packing facilities in Nebraska. Many of the 2018-2019 refugee families resettled through Lutheran Family Services work at these facilities in Crete, Grand Island, and Lexington. They have been greatly impacted by this virus.

Ted Blessing, Volunteer Coordinator at Lutheran Family Services, shared the following information with us in an email: *"We have stabilized many of our clients in terms of finances; however, it does look like this will be an ongoing struggle with more issues to come in the future. Any support you can throw our way would be appreciated at absolutely any time. Gift cards would be the most fantastic option, if that is something FCC is willing to do."*

Ted indicated that SCRIP cards to **Wal-Mart** and **Super Saver** would be the most helpful to these families.

Please consider purchasing SCRIP cards by mailing a check to the church payable to FCC with July AOK on the memo line. Or, if you use AutoPay, put July 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 also be considered your FCCheck payment authorization.

Remember, ordering SCRIP cards is a win-win for FCC and the recipients. Donna Ruhl will collect these and give them to Outreach once they arrive.

Thank you for your continued participation in our monthly Act of Kindness opportunities.

Your Outreach Team,

*Kathy Harris, Gary Larsen, Tom Mason,
and Elaine Parman*

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!



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. 3-6, 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 to schedule times you can work.

Volunteers / Packers Needed:

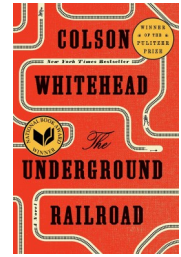
- Sunday, Aug. 9 from 3 to 5 pm (approximately) to pack up remaining items and clean up.
- Contact Gwen Belden or D'Arcy Blosser.

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

"Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord."

Psalm 27:14



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 for any reason you cannot fulfill your date in July, please contact Kelly in the FCC office so that a replacement may be found for you.

Ushers/Greeters

- July 5 Elaine Parman
- July 12 Carla Pinneo
- July 19 Hanna Pinneo Boring
- July 26 John & Lindsay Swanson

Hallway Hospitality

- July 5 Geoff Putney
- July 12 Vince Ortega
- July 19 Dick Pickel
- July 26 Mike Carlin

Prayers & Praises June 25, 2020

In the Nebraska Region:

- Murray Christian Church and Rev. Michael Njus
- Nebraska City FCC and Rev. Michael Schmidt

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Rachel Pellett serving in Jamaica
- Kaitlin Thompson serving in Dominican Republic

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



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. The next special order date is July 5th. Please contact Donna or the FCC office by July 3rd to get your orders. Thank you for continuing to support the SCRIP program.

Seeking Worship Leaders



Now that we are open for public worship, we will be seeking volunteers for Worship Leader. Our Worship Leader will engage the congregation in the call to worship as well as read the scriptures for the service. If you are available any Sunday in July or August, contact Worship leader Sara Lugn. Thank you!

Lincoln First Christian Church Calendar of Events

Thursday, June 25 - Messenger Mailed

Sunday, June 28

- 10:30 am **Worship** - Sanctuary
- 11:30 am **Elders Meeting** - Sanctuary
- Weekly Worship Bulletin
- Weekly Worship Video

Sunday, July 5 - SCRIP Orders Due

- 10:30 am **Worship** - Sanctuary
- 11:45 am **Virtual Coffee Hour** via ZOOM
- Weekly Worship Bulletin
- Weekly Worship Video

Monday, July 6

- 12:00 pm **Messenger Deadline**
- 7:00 pm **Deborah Group** - TBD

Tuesday, July 7

- 9:00 am **Staff Meeting** - Conference Room
- 11:00 am **Filming Weekly Worship Video**

Thursday, July 9 - Messenger Mailed

HELP WANTED

First Christian Church has an immediate opening for custodian. The position is 10 hours per week and offers a flexible schedule. If you or someone you know might be interested, please contact Jim Blosser at: jimblosser51@aol.com.

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!

From the College of Regional Ministers, June 11, 2020



A Call to Action: The Time is Now!

Dear Members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada,

Psalm 89:46-7 *“How long, O God, will you hide yourself from sight? ... Remember that I shall not live forever.”*

These last few weeks the Psalmist’s cry is heard in our land, “How long, O Lord?”

In the wake of the death of George Floyd, the latest African American to die by police violence, the people of the United States, indeed the entire world, moan in grief and burn with anger. George Floyd’s name is added to a long list of unarmed Black and Brown people, including Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery, who have died by actions taken by police officers or vigilantes in the past few decades and indeed centuries.

Because on May 25, 2020, as we heard George Floyd on an 8 minute 46 second video gasping “I can’t breathe” as a police officer kneeled on his neck, we know we must speak to you again with our hearts broken and our resolve strengthened.

This must stop. Black Lives Matter!

As a start we commit to and urge all Disciples of Christ to pledge to:

- ⇒ Hear clearly the cries of our friends and neighbors who weep tears of lament and proclaim their anger at the same time that we all express our pain of racism to those in our circles of influence.
- ⇒ Participate in non-violent actions and conversations/studies/learning opportunities that support Black Lives Matter.
- ⇒ Hold ourselves and the systems, including police departments and other law enforcement agencies and judicial systems, accountable for the health and life of every person in their care.
- ⇒ Speak clearly with the law enforcement leadership in our communities making it known that we believe the killing of People of Color as we have seen in these instances must stop.
- ⇒ Learn about community safety systems that offer alternatives to military like modalities for keeping communities safe, utilizing partnerships with other leadership functions in our communities.
- ⇒ Wrestle openly with what it means to have a community defined by shared justice instead of enforced compliance.
- ⇒ Strengthen the Anti-Racism committees/teams and training networks in our regional churches and make these resources more readily available throughout our regions with training available in multiple languages and modalities.
- ⇒ When you consider a Bible study, what questions will you ask? Will you view the text from the dominant or oppressed cultures within the text?
- ⇒ Learn how to see the world from a perspective other than your own rather than to justify what you already believe and look only for stories that support that perspective
- ⇒ Recommit to and vigorously promote the Reconciliation Offering which supports Pro-Reconciliation/Anti-Racism work in our regions and throughout the entire Christian Church (Disciples Of Christ).

These actions are only a start. In the coming days we will be sharing more specific calls to action for individuals and communities of faith. Consider the healing balm that you can be as the Church by bringing the community together – healing the wounds that divide us, and being a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.

The College of Regional Ministers of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada