



First Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

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

Messenger

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Attendance Recap

ATTENDANCE

Obviously, worship has been a roller-coaster over the last six months, going from in-person worship, to online videos, and now a mixture of the two. But that hasn't stopped First Christian Church from showing up! Here is a recap of our attendance for the last six months:

- January:** 60 avg. visitors
- February:** 61 avg. visitors
- March:** 57 avg. visitors / 71 avg. video views
- April:** 50 avg. video views
- May:** 30 avg. video views
- June:** 28 avg. visitors / 27 avg. video views

As a reminder, we will be continuing online worship options throughout the summer months. Thank you so much for continuing to worship with First Christian, now matter how you are doing so. Your loyalty to the church means everything!

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. Please contact Donna or the FCC office to get your orders. Thank you for continuing to support the SCRIP program.

Communion is Back!

Due to COVID-19 related restrictions, we had not been celebrating the Lord's Supper throughout June. Now however, the staff and Worship Team have worked together to make communion happen! When you come to in-person worship (Sundays, 10:30 am in the Sanctuary) you will received a pre-filled communion cup with juice and a sealed wafer on top. See the picture below for opening instructions. Pre-sealed gluten-free wafers will also be available upon request. We hope that this helps worship feel a little more "normal" while still taking strict sanitation precautions into account.



Pastor's Corner

“This book is ultimately about the basic struggle we’re all in, the struggle to be fully human and to see that others are fully human.”

Ibram X. Kendy

Whenever I want to deal with something, I turn to books. I’ve been described as “bookish” throughout my life and I embrace that description. We find ourselves in difficult times and in my desire to grapple with all that is happening, I turned to a highly recommended book *How to Be an Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendy. Dealing with COVID-19 has put us in uncharted territory. Sadly, dealing with the protests and cries for justice puts us in an all too familiar place. There have been cries for racial justice throughout my lifetime and throughout the lifetime of our nation. As we move past the celebrations of Independence Day, I find myself wondering how things could be different. How can we help create a world of love and justice for all people? I believe this is God’s vision for us, and yet it seems so elusive. I want to be a part of the world God envisions and I suspect many of you feel the same way. Perhaps you turn to other sources, but I turn to the Good Book and good books like Kendy’s.

Part of the power of Kendy’s book is the author’s desire to take us deeper into an often troubling and uncomfortable subject. He uses his own story to share the journey from racism to antiracism. He goes on to say: “This is the consistent function of racist ideas-and of any kind of bigotry more broadly: to manipulate us into seeing people as the problem, instead of the policies that ensnare them.” Kendy invites us to look deeper, beyond individuals and personal preferences. He also encourages us to take an active stance. For Kendy, saying we are “not racist” is a neutral stance and does not equip us to actively respond. He comments that “Denial is the heartbeat of racism, beating across ideologies, races, and nations.” It’s so easy to feel defensive and to respond out of that denial and defensiveness without looking at the heart of the issue. He succinctly describes the difference between a “racist” and an “antiracist”:

One endorses either the idea of a racial hierarchy as a racist, or racial equity as an antiracist. One either believes problems are rooted in groups of people, as a racist, or locates the roots of problems in power and policies, as an antiracist. One either allows racial inequities to persevere, as a racist, or confronts racial inequities as an antiracist. There is no in-between safe space of “not racist.”

Kendy realizes that this is challenging and uncomfortable, but also essential. Kendy goes on to say “the only way to undo racism is to consistently identify and describe it-and then dismantle it.”

I believe that we also face the challenge of confronting the theology that has often supported racism. As people of faith we have a challenge before us, but I strongly believe that with God’s help and support from one another, we can embrace this challenge. I invite you to join me as we name, confront, and challenge racism. I welcome anyone who wishes to join me in reading Kendy’s book. Perhaps you have a book you like better, I’m open to suggestions. I also know plans are being made for a Regional conversation regarding racism and antiracism. Let’s be the agents of change God calls us to be. Let’s be instruments of God’s love and justice for all God’s children. The irony of it all is that as we confront these issues we make the world a better and more loving place for us all.

With love and peace,

Pastor Karen



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.

**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 August, contact Worship leader Sara Lugn. Thank you!



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 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:

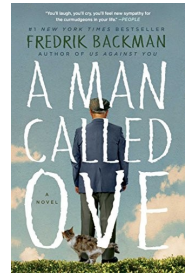
- Sunday, Aug. 9 from 3 to 5 pm (approximately) to pack up remaining items and clean up.
- Contact D'Arcy Blosser.

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, July 25, 9:30 am** Susan Pallas-Duncan's home.

Our book for discussion is:
A Man Called Ove
by Fredrick Backman



Some of the upcoming titles to be discussed include:
Traveling with Pomegranates by Sue Monk Kidd
The Thirteenth Tale by Diane Setterfield
The Dutch House by Ann Patchett

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

"Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality."
Romans 12:13



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

Hallway Hospitality

- July 12 Jim Christ
- July 19 Dick Pickel
- July 26 Mike Carlin

Prayers & Praises July 9, 2020

In the Nebraska Region:

- Nebraska City FCC and Rev. Michael Schmidt
- North Platte FCC

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Eleazar Fernandez serving in the Philip-pines
- Raul F. Santiago serving in Puerto Rico

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



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!

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

Lincoln First Christian Church Calendar of Events

Thursday, July 9 - Messenger Mailed

Sunday, July 12

- 10:30 am Worship - Sanctuary
- 11:45 am Virtual Coffee Hour - ZOOM

Sunday, July 19

- 10:30 am Worship - Sanctuary
- 11:45 am Virtual Coffee Hour - ZOOM
- 6:00 pm Board Meeting - Parlor

Monday, July 20

- 12:00 pm Messenger Deadline

Tuesday, July 21

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

Thursday, July 23 - Messenger Mailed



July Act of Kindness Lutheran Family Services

Lutheran Family Services will be the recipient of our July 2020 Act of Kindness. **SCRIP cards** to **Wal-Mart** and **Super Saver** would be the most helpful to the families served by Lutheran Family Services.

Please consider purchasing SCRIP cards by mailing a check to the church payable to FCC with July AOK on the memo line or pay with Auto Pay.

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.

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!