



First Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

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

Messenger

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Volume 70, No. 15
August 13, 2020



Act of Kindness Update

May Act of Kindness Thank You

Our May Act of Kindness collected \$230.00 for **Give to Lincoln Day**. Our donation to Lincoln Community Foundation on behalf of the [Food Bank of Lincoln](http://www.foodbankoflincoln.org) provided additional funds from their portion of the \$500,000 match fund.

The \$415,068.52 donated to [The Food Bank of Lincoln](http://www.foodbankoflincoln.org) made it the No. 1 recipient of **Give to Lincoln Day, 2020**. This money will undoubtedly help The Food Bank continue to provide critical care and support to our neighbors.

“Thank you for being part of our family of philanthropists on **Give to Lincoln Day, 2020**. Lincoln is a very special city, and we appreciate your generosity.

Barbara Bartle

President of Lincoln Community Foundation.

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

Dial-a-Sermon 402-205-5988



There is a new option to stay connected to First Christian. Just call **1-402-205-5988** to hear Pastor Karen’s sermon for the current week. We are offering this service for all of those who are not yet ready to worship in person but may not have access to our online offerings. Spread the word!

5th Sunday Faith Giving

FCC was blessed to have received payroll protection funds that have helped support our staff for the past few months. But, as those funds are diminished, we are back to our starting budget. Thankfully, we are currently running a small budget surplus.

However, our revenues are down for July, roughly 2/3 of what they were in 2019, and bills are still coming in. Remember, we are missing a significant source of income over the past 5 months as we haven’t had the normal building use contributions we are used to.

Please remember that the 5th Sunday in August (30th) is a Faith Giving Sunday. So far in 2020, Faith Giving is over \$6,800! Every little bit you can give makes a big difference to FCC’s ability to minister to the community. You are the church!

The Finance Team

Pastor's Corner

“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.”
Jeremiah 29:11

During these days and months of dealing with COVID-19, it often seems that the real guiding principle is the common saying “we plan, God laughs.” One of the most challenging parts of living life during a pandemic is the realization that our plans are constantly changing. While this is very frustrating, I think it is critical to remember that God has plans for us. These plans may not be known to us yet, but they are in God’s heart and mind. These plans are for our wellbeing. Most importantly, these plans give us a future with hope.

This scripture was brought to my mind during the Pastors’ Retreat I attended in Omaha last week. Our retreat leaders invited us to create a “travelling book.” It’s a small booklet in which we were invited to place various cards with different sayings, including scripture passages. The above passage from Jeremiah struck me and I put it on the front of my booklet. Below it I placed another card that says “I am enough.” Throughout this booklet I have a variety of other quotes and reflections on issues raised during the retreat.

As we continue to make our way into an uncertain future, I think it is critical to hold both of those thoughts in our hearts and minds. While they are true for each of us as individuals, they are critical for us as a faith community, as well. We do not know what lies ahead. This is the time of year in which we begin making plans for the Fall and early Winter. The Ministry Cabinet will meet this coming Sunday to discuss plans for the upcoming months. We probably will not be able to plan in the ways we have before. We will need to continue to be flexible and responsive to the ever-changing times. While this is very uncomfortable for most of us, especially for your pastor who loves to plan ahead, we must be willing to embrace this time of uncertainty. I believe we can do so if we hold the assurance of God’ guidance and presence before us.

God has plans for each of us and for all of us. What life will look like in the coming months is uncertain. However, God has plans for us that give us a future of hope. We may want to know

the details, but we do not have to know them in order to trust in God’s presence and guidance.

One of the most challenging elements of this time is the fear that we will not have a future. One thing we can count on for sure is that we will be changed. Life will look different for us as individuals and for us as a faith community. We can embrace these changes and move confidently into an unknown future because the future is in God’s hands.

May we all have the courage to trust in God’s promise: “For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.” One of my ministerial colleagues concludes the scripture reading in worship with these words; “This is the Word of the Lord, it can be trusted because it is true.”

In Christ’s Love,

Pastor Karen



Those Serving in August

If for any reason you will be unable to fulfill your requirement, please find a substitute and alert the FCC Office. We can also help find substitutes if necessary.

Thank you in advance for your service to FCC!

Elders

August 16 Jim Blosser
August 23 Connie Calver
August 30 Monte Dietrick

Ushers/Greeters

August 16 Monte Dietrick
August 23 Elaine Parman
August 30 Wayne & Susan Pallas-Duncan

Hallway Hospitality

August 16 Mike Carlin
August 23 Geoff Putney
August 30 Jim Blosser

Communion is Back!

Due to COVID-19 related restrictions, we had not been celebrating the Lord's Supper, but now the staff and Worship Team have worked together to make communion happen! We hope that this helps worship feel a little more "normal" while still taking strict sanitation precautions into account.



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!



STEPHEN MINISTRY

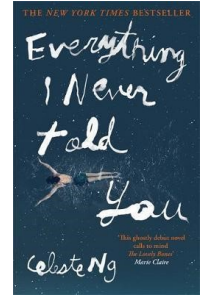
"Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me."

Psalm 51:10

Book Club News

Book Club will meet again **Saturday, August 22, 9:30 am** at Marcia Foster's new home.

Our book for discussion is:
Everything I Never Told You
by Celeste Ng



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.

New SCRIP Opportunity

Billy's Restaurant is considering offering SCRIP to the First Christian Church program. Right now, we are gauging interest to see if congregation members would be interested in Gift Cards to Billy's. If you would be interested, please contact the FCC office.

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!

Prayers & Praises August 13, 2020

In the Nebraska Region:

- Pawnee City FCC and Rev. Duane Westing
- Peru Community Church and Revs. Rey & Becky Girard

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Thomas Smith serving in Korea
- Aura (Violeta) Rocha-Areas serving in Nicaragua

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



Lincoln First Christian Church Calendar of Events

Thursday, August 13 - Messenger Mailed

Sunday, August 16

10:30 am Worship - Sanctuary
1:00 pm Virtual Coffee Hour - Zoom
6:00 pm Cabinet Meeting - Parlor

Sunday, August 23

10:30 am Worship - Sanctuary
11:30 am Elders Meeting - Parlor
11:45 am Virtual Coffee Fellowship - Zoom

Monday, August 24

12:00 pm Messenger Deadline

Tuesday, August 26

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

Thursday, August 27 - Messengers Mailed

FCC Office Closed



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. Next special order will be Sunday, August 2nd. Please contact Donna or the FCC office to get your orders. Thank you for continuing to support the SCRIP program.



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!



Disciples Mission Fund

Thanks to your generosity, [Disciples Mission Fund](#) received more than \$34,000 from over 375 gifts on [DMF Day](#), our annual online giving day.

Even more inspiring than the outpouring of gifts were the outpouring of stories about how much good work happens because of DMF. DMF makes it possible for [Disciples Volunteering](#) to coordinate tornado clean up, outdoor ministry leaders to host virtual camps, [NAPAD](#) to start new churches, and global mission partners to serve their local communities. DMF makes it possible for [Obra Hispana](#) to host weekly conversations with pastors and church leaders, [health and human service ministries](#) to receive support grants, and congregations to access resources to help with online worship. DMF makes it possible for our [General Minister and President](#) to pray with clergy, coordinate communication efforts across ministries, and set a vision for imagining a new church in a new world. Your gifts make all that possible