



First Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

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

Messenger

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Lincoln, NE 68508

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www.fcclincoln.org



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Volume 70, No. 14
August 27, 2020



What will be YOUR Legacy for the next generation?

Join us for a special presentation with Kirby Gould from Christian Church Foundation as we discuss:

- Ways to create a legacy gift for First Christian Church ministries and other charities you love.
- How to create a “pledge replacement” gift.
- Ways to pass assets to children and charity in a tax-efficient manner.
- That God calls us to be good stewards of all our assets.
- Why EVERYONE needs a will.

Our meeting is Sunday, August 30, at 4:00 pm via Zoom. Call the FCC Office (402) 475-4289 to reserve your space. Details to log in or call into the Zoom meeting will be sent to registered participants on Friday August. 28th.

Important Upcoming Dates! Put them on your calendar now!

August 30 - 5th Sunday Faith Giving

We know that church hasn't been quite the same for the last five months, but we still rely on your generous giving to maintain the building and pay the staff. Consider your gift for THIS SUNDAY August 30.

September 15 - Committee Budgets Due

Team leaders - it's time to start thinking about your 2021 budget. We know that groups are not meeting as they normally would be during our struggles with COVID-19, but we would encourage you to think ahead to the future. What are some goals your team/committee has? Come up with a Plan A, B, maybe C. Can you estimate the funds you would need to achieve these goals?

September 20 - FCC Board Meeting

If you are a member of the Board, please come to the meeting Sunday, September 20th. Remember, the Board requires a Quorum for decision-making. Please put this on your calendar.

September 28 - Stewardship Campaign Kick-Off

The 2021 Stewardship campaign, “This I Know,” has a tentative start date of Monday, September 28th. There will be plenty of communications about stewardship, including a gauge of where we stand regarding our 2020 pledges. Be on the lookout for more information.

October 18 - LAST Ministry Cabinet Meeting

Team leaders, be prepared to recap your (albeit strange and unusual) year to the rest of the group. Think about goals for the upcoming year.

Please put these dates on your calendar. YOU are the church, and we couldn't make things run without you!

Pastor's Corner

“...and looking back across the years I can see that you were constantly there.”

Musician and Composer Kemper Crabb
“Doulos” The Vigil

The above words come from an album, yes an album, by the musician Kemper Crabb. It was one of my favorite albums during college, but, it was purged during one of my many moves. Last year it was a gift, along with a portable turntable, from Kelly our Church Administrator and Music Director Mark. Listening to this album brings back fond memories and continues to inspire me today. In this song, Crabb describes the awareness of God’s presence and guidance throughout his life, a sentiment with which I resonate.

Music is powerful and comes readily to my mind, particularly in times of prayer and reflection. I was also struck recently by a wave of nostalgia that took me back to four years ago. As we enter this election season filled with political conventions and inevitable debates, I find myself reflecting on my life then, and how much it has changed in that time frame. Four years ago I was living in an apartment in Louisville, Kentucky set aside for Mission Coworkers. I was there as I transitioned from service in the Czech Republic to life back in the US. I was dealing with a lot of emotions then: sadness and grief in leaving my life and friends in the Czech Republic, anxiety and fear about my uncertain future, excitement about what God had planned for me and my next ministry, and gratitude for my World Missions colleagues who journeyed with me through all these changes. Then the call came that would change my life and the lives of all those connected to FCC. A friend told me about the opening here and a long chain of events began that led me back to Lincoln.

After several months as your Interim Pastor, we joined together to celebrate my installation as your called pastor. Our time together has been eventful for all of us. In these past four years, we have journeyed together through illnesses, surgeries, and grief. We have all seen changes in our lives that affect us still. Many of us have experienced the deaths of loved ones - parents, friends, siblings and spouses. Your love and prayers for me through the illness and death of my mother last year will stay with me the rest of my life. The beautiful peace lily given to me in honor of my mom flourishes in my new home. You have seen me through illnesses and surgeries for which I am truly grateful. We have shared some challenging times. We have also shared many joys, particularly throughout the celebrations for the 150th anniversary of this congregation. We have celebrated many joyous holidays, as well. My life has been enriched by all of you and I hope your lives have been enriched by my ministry with you.

As we move into another campaign season, four years older and perhaps wiser, I invite us to prayerfully reflect on God’s journey with us. These are challenging and unprecedented times. Not only are we dealing with a world-wide pandemic, we are also dealing with our legacy of racism. We will be changed by these times in as yet unforeseen ways. During times of transition, I often hear these familiar words

from Kemper Crabb; they resonate in my head and heart. We do not know what the future will bring, but, we can trust that just as God has guided us in the past, God promises to remain with us now and in the future.

I know that as I look back I see God at work in my life. As a congregation we spent time looking back as we celebrated our 150th anniversary and we rejoiced in the ways in which God had been with us. Looking back and celebrating God’s love and presence gives us courage to make it through these challenging times and empowers us to embrace the future.

I invite us all to take time to celebrate God’s presence and guidance in our lives as individuals, as a congregation, and as part of the universal church. God has always been there, is here for us now, and will be with us into the future. Thanks be to God!

In love and gratitude,

Pastor Karen



Those Serving in September

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!

Worship Leader

Jessica Effle

Elders

September 6	Gary Larsen
September 13	Sara Lugn
September 20	Debby Ortega
September 27	Wayne Duncan

Ushers/Greeters

September 6	Donna & Harold Baker
September 13	Cecilia Burkhart
September 20	Monte Dietrick
September 27	Jessica & Doug Effle

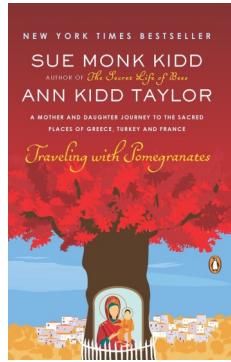
Hallway Hospitality

September 6	Vince Ortega
September 13	Dick Pickel
September 20	Geoff Putney
September 27	Rich Calver

Book Club News

Book Club will meet again **Saturday, September 26th 9:30 am** at Dottie Harrall's home (weather dependent). Joining in by Zoom is also an option to participate

Our book for discussion is:
Traveling with Pomegranates
by Sue Monk Kidd



Some of the upcoming titles to be discussed include:
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, or change of location.

WELCOME VISITORS

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

John & Karen Berg

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

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!

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.

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!

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

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! We hope that this helps worship feel a little more "normal" while still taking strict sanitation precautions into account.



Prayers & Praises August 27, 2020

In the Nebraska Region:

- Scottsbluff FCC and Rev. Winona Hodder
- Shubert Christian Church

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Fiona Kendall serving in Italy
- Mark Knowles serving in Lesotho

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



Lincoln First Christian Church Calendar of Events

Thursday, August 27 - Messengers Mailed

FCC Office Closed

Sunday, August 30

10:30 am **Worship - Sanctuary**
12:00 pm **Virtual Coffee Fellowship - Zoom**
4:00 pm **FCC Foundation Financial Seminar - Zoom**

Thursday, September 3

FCC Office Closed

Sunday, September 6 - SCRIP Orders Due

10:30 am **Worship - Sanctuary**
12:00 pm **Virtual Coffee Fellowship - Zoom**

Monday, September 7 - Labor Day

FCC Office Closed

Tuesday, September 8

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

Thursday, September 10 - Messengers Mailed



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@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!

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.

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 collec-



STEPHEN MINISTRY

"So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."

Romans 12:5