



First Christian Church Disciples of Christ

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

Messenger

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A note of thanks from the Region

Thank you for donating to Designated Operating!

Your gift of \$630.00, in the middle of this pandemic, and the middle of this year, will make all the difference in the world. It is truly a gift!

We are being the Church! Thanks to you, your generosity, and your faith, we are connecting with each other, and serving our communities.

We Are Grateful!

Jo Beil, Treasurer & Chair
Budget & Finance Committee

FCC donated to the Nebraska Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) for our April Act of Kindness.

Important Upcoming Dates! Put them on your calendar now!

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!

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.

Pastor's Corner

There are times I feel really discouraged by all that is happening in the world today. It seems as though division, injustice, and fear rule the day. Many around the country are dealing with unprecedented natural disasters, riots continue to rock major cities, and many people are struggling with unemployment. We also continue to struggle with how to deal with the ongoing worldwide pandemic of COVID-19. As I prepare my Pastor's Corner today, the news broke that Investigator Mario Herrera died early this morning. The bad news seems to wash over us from all sides, As we share many of these burdens it would seem natural that we would be unified in our efforts to deal with it all. Instead, we are more divided than ever. As children of God we are reminded that we are bound together in our shared humanity, but we seem more at odds with one another.

In her recent book "Untamed," author Glennon Doyle explores several issues including the divisiveness in our world today. In her colorful style that mixes personal memoir with reflection, Doyle invites the reader to ponder the joy found in trusting one's inner voice. She explores the idea that we are often bound by external expectations that lead us away from being still and knowing ourselves and experiencing God more deeply. She has had a colorful life that has included wrestling with her faith. Toward the end of the book I was struck by her following remarks:

...to dishonor another's humanity is to bury one's own. If we can find good in those we've been trained to see as bad, if we can find worth in those we've been conditioned to see as worthless, if we can find ourselves in those we've been indoctrinated to see as other, then we become unable to hurt them. When we stop hurting them, we stop hurting ourselves. When we stop hurting ourselves, we begin to heal. The Jesus idea is that justice casts the widest net possible, so that every last one of us is inside. Then there are no others, there is only us.

In these challenging and polarized times, I found her words particularly eloquent and relevant. This does not mean that we ignore or discount our differences. However, as we realize that we are all in the net of justice, love, and mercy cast by Jesus, we become able to acknowledge and celebrate our differ-

ences. It is so tempting to believe the voices that urge us to fear and discount those differences.

In Jesus' time, he was seen as different. He did not align with the powerful, the wealthy, or the influential. Instead, Jesus ministered to the outcasts, the disabled, and the poor. He did not do this in a way that discounted those in power, but he knew that they had power and a voice that so many others did not. He reached out to those seen by the world as bad and worthless. Jesus knew that the best ways to deal with fear was through love, justice, and mercy. Only fear makes it possible for us to experience the world as "us" and "them."

In these challenging times may we have the courage to embrace the awareness that "we" are bound together by our shared humanity. As we share our burdens of grief, sadness, anger, fear, and uncertainty may we embrace the awareness that "we" are all together in Jesus' net of love, justice, and mercy.

With love and joy,
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 13	Sara Lugn
September 20	Debby Ortega
September 27	Wayne Duncan

Ushers/Greeters

September 13	Cecilia Burkhart
September 20	Monte Dietrick
September 27	Jessica & Doug Effle

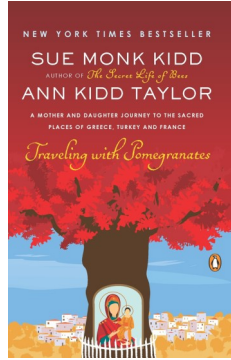
Hallway Hospitality

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 Berry
Truman Robertson

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

A Note from Dani Berger,

Hi FCC Family,

I wanted to thank you all for your warm send-off and let you know that Ari, Owen, and I are settled and enjoying our time in Utah.

Ari and Owen both start school this week. Ari is starting 1st grade at a charter school, and Owen is attending a pre-K program. I get a week of reprieve before my classes start next week, but I have plenty of research to keep me busy.

We've gotten out to do some exploring in our area. The kids have had the most fun trying out new parks with cool playgrounds and petting turkeys at the farmer's market. I'm enjoying hiking in the mountains and seeing some cool new wildlife.

Love,
Dani, Ari, and Owen

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!

WE NEED YOU!

Are you interested in volunteering at First Christian Church? The following teams will be seeking new leadership & members in 2021:

Communications
Education
Finance

Membership
Hospitality/Meals
Property

Leadership is essential for First Christian Church to best serve the community and to follow its call to ministry in the Capitol City. Please ask Pastor Karen, Jim Blosser, or Geoff Putney if you have any questions about what each position involves. Thank you!!



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

Prayers & Praises September 10, 2020

In the Nebraska Region:

- Sidney First Christian Church
- SouthPointe Christian Church and Rev. Steve Mason

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Judy Chan serving in Hong Kong
- John Campbell-Nelson serving in Indonesia

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



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 collections by FCC staff/volunteers
- Increases faithful offerings to the church due to regular automatic donations



STEPHEN MINISTRY

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.”

Matthew 5:4

Lincoln First Christian Church Calendar of Events

Thursday September 10 - Messengers Mailed
FCC Office Closed

Sunday, September 13

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

Pastor Karen Out of Office Sept. 14th - 19th

Thursday September 10 - FCC Office Closed

Sunday, September 13

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

Thursday, September 17

FCC Office Closed

Sunday, September 20

10:30 am WORSHIP - Sanctuary
12:00 pm Virtual Coffee Fellowship - Zoom
6:00 pm Board Meeting - Parlor

Tuesday, September 22

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

Thursday, September 24 - Messengers Mailed
FCC Office Closed

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!