



First Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

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

Messenger

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Stewardship Campaign 2021



This I Know: Trusting A Known God with your Unknown Future

It's a strange time to be considering the 2021 Stewardship Campaign. After a three-month hiatus from in-person worship, and our building still not working at full capacity, it's hard to imagine what God has in mind for our future. This is exactly the time that we need to trust God and do the work of making sure our future is successful. This year's theme is "This I Know: Trusting a Known God with Your Unknown Future," or just "This I Know" for short. We know that God has done amazing things for First Christian Church, and there is no reason to believe the same wouldn't be true for the future. But, it's going to take everyone pitching in and feeling like they are an integral part of the working of the mission and ministry of FCC. Be looking for more information coming soon.

Ministry Cabinet

The last ministry cabinet meeting of the year is fast approaching. Mark your calendars for **Sunday, October 18, 2020, at 6:00 pm**. This will be an opportunity for all of the committee and team leaders to recap their 2020 and review the budgets they have set for 2021. This will also be a time to discuss membership and leadership for 2021. Several committees are seeking not only membership, but leadership also! Have you ever thought of joining a ministry team? The following groups will be looking for new, active participants:

Communications
Education
Finance
Outreach

Membership
Hospitality/Meals
Property

As we move through COVID-19 restrictions, we need to be ready when we are able to move church activities back to full capacity. Leadership is essential for First Christian Church to best serve the community and to follow it's 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!!

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

I have to confess to my brothers and sisters that I have “retirement envy.” As I listen to a couple of my ministry colleagues who are in the process of retiring, I feel a bit jealous. It’s not that I want to leave FCC, but I think it is an expression of my “COVID weariness.” As the pandemic goes on past the 6 month mark, I grow weary of trying to adapt to all the changes swirling around us. In my nearly 35 years of ministry, I have seen a lot of change. There have been many advances that have empowered my various forms of ministry. The advent of new technologies has made it possible for me to serve as a visually impaired person. I used to have to hand copy my worship material in felt tip pen; prayers, scriptures and sermons. Now I have the wonderful Surface Pro provided by the congregation that makes leading worship possible for me. Many of the changes over the past few decades have been amazing!

But many of the changes have been more challenging. As we move into the 21st century, we have had to ask a lot of questions about the place of the Church in our lives and in our culture. Many of the questions asked by the churches in Europe two decades ago are our questions now. What is the Church called to be in these times? What is our purpose? Are we still relevant in the lives of people today? Sadly, the onset of COVID-19 has only accelerated the need to ask and answer these questions.

As I move into my early 60’s I find myself reflecting on retirement. In my ever-present need to plan, I have begun pondering what retirement might look like for me. I am hoping to serve this congregation for at least 5 more years, but I know this time will go quickly and I want to be prepared. My driving concerns are financial, what will be my financial resources and when will be the best time to maximize them? As I ponder these things I’m invited to ponder other things as well.

With this in mind, I began an online course with the Board of Pensions called “Thrive.” As you might imagine, I have also been doing some reading. I began a book called *The Gift of Years: Growing Older Gracefully* by Joan Chittister. She begins her book with the topic of “Regret” and then moves into a chapter entitled “Meaning.” She invites the reader to consider things that I think are relevant for the Church today, as well. As we move through these days of Pandemic and Protest, how do we define meaning for ourselves and for the Church? So often we define ourselves by what we do. For those of us still working, we often find meaning in our jobs and

vocations. As a congregation, we often find meaning in what we do: worship, outreach, caring for others, learning, and growing. Perhaps the challenges we face today invite us to go deeper, to ponder meaning for ourselves and for our congregations. Chittister invites us to consider, “We urgently need people who contemplate on the meaning of life rather than simply the speed, the mechanization, the computerization of it.” Isn’t that really the core purpose of the church? She goes on ask “...what are we when we pass from doing to being?”

For Chittister, retirement “...is a time of coming home to the self. I find myself stripped of all the accessories of life now. I am face-to-face with myself. And the fear is that there isn’t one.” Although the Church is not retiring, COVID has given us some space and time to consider these deeper questions. We have been stripped of many of the things and activities that have traditionally defined us, as individuals and as a congregation. We have an opportunity to ask these deeper questions. We have the opportunity to intentionally shape our future. Her invitation to those considering retirement can also be seen as an invitation to the Church.

She draws this chapter on “Meaning” to a close by saying:

The world has been upside down for so long. It is almost impossible to believe anymore that the meaning of life is not about doing. The notion that it is about being-being caring, being interested, being honest, being truthful, being available, being spiritual, being involved with the important things of life, of living-is so rare, so unspoken of, as to be obtuse. We don’t even know what meaning means anymore. But one thing is sure: to be meaningful to the world around us means that we need to provide something more than numbers. It means that we are obliged to offer important ideas, sacred reflection, a serious review of options, and the suggestion of better ideas than the ones the world is running on now.

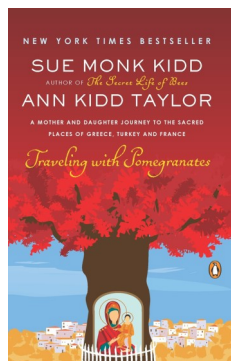
In whatever stage of life we find ourselves, may we have the courage to ponder these challenging questions. These times are unprecedented and difficult, but we have an opportunity to examine the meaning of our lives as individuals and as a faith community.

In peace and love,,
Pastor Karen

Book Club News

Book Club will meet again
Saturday, September 26th 9:30 am at Dottie Harrall's home: 536 West Keating Circle (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.

NEBRASKA DISCIPLES MEN ZOOM RALLY

THEME: "Love Of Neighbor In The Middle Of The Pandemic"

Keynote Speaker

Rev. Bruce Frogge, Senior Pastor, Cypress Creek Christian Church, Spring, TX & Timothy, First Christian Church, Lincoln, NE

**SEPTEMBER 26, 2020
6:45PM – 9:00PM CDT**

**REGISTER NOW! FOR THIS FREE
DISCIPLES MEN'S ONLINE EVENT!**

It was necessary to cancel the August 7-8 Recharge event at Kamp Kaleo. We can still connect and fellowship by zooming with other Disciples Men from across the Nebraska Region. Please join us!

Register at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/61292061292>
**tZwtdu2qqTwuG9G54-
2Rog0jm93UX8zUyNTE**

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!

Those Serving in October

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

Kristi Bowker

Elders

October 4	Tom Mason
October 11	Jim Blosser
October 18	Sara Lugn
October 25	Connie Calver

Ushers/Greeters

October 4	Elaine Parman
October 11	Carla Pinneo
October 18	Hanna Pinneo Boring
October 25	John & Lindsay Swanson

Hallway Hospitality

October 4	Mike Carlin
October 11	Geoff Putney
October 18	Vince Ortega
October 25	Dick Pickel

Acolytes

October 4	Edryk & Hunter Christianson
October 11	Kyson Effle & Christian Swanson
October 18	Katie & Rebecca Swanson
October 25	Evan Foster & Riley Bowker





SCHEDULE of EVENTS

October 16th and 17th

FRIDAY

- 6:00 – 7:30 pm We Gather – The Table Is Set
- 6:00 – 6:40 pm Keynote Speaker and Dessert
Rev. Dr. Tex Sample
- 6:40 - 6:50 pm Break
- 6:50 – 7:30 pm Worship Service with
Communion – Rev. Lori Tapia

SATURDAY

- 9:30 – 9:40 am Welcome and Introductions
- 9:40 – 10:30 am *Common Connections:*
Finding Authenticity
Dr. Kittie Grace
- 10:30 – 10:40 am Break
- 10:40 – 11:30 am Worshipful Business Session

ONLINE REGISTRATION IS
HERE!!!

<https://disciples-ne.org/online-registration-page/>

VIRTUAL REGIONAL
ASSEMBLY 2020



“Virtual” CROP Walk 2020

Due to the COVID pandemic and the possibility of famine in many parts of the world, Church World Services felt compelled to still have the annual CROP Hunger WALK. For the safety of the community, this year's walk will be done virtually.

We hope you will join the First Christian Church CROP Hunger WALK's Virtual Team. It is best if you go online to register on our team. Registration is quick and easy. [Go to \[crophungerwalk.org/lincolnn\]\(https://crophungerwalk.org/lincolnn\).](https://crophungerwalk.org/lincolnn) There is a blue Registration button on the right side of the page to click. When asked about a team, put in “First Christian.” As a part of the team you ask friends, family members, and co-workers if they will sponsor you by contributing to your walk. You can ask for sponsorship in person or through email request. It is super easy from your CROP page and a lot of fun as you raise funds to lessen hunger throughout our community and world.

Our virtual walk can take a variety of forms. You can walk in your neighborhood, walk on a treadmill, or even walk in spirit. There is no need to show up at any particular time or place to participate. So if you've always wanted to try, but wasn't sure about all of the logistics, this is a great year to participate. Go ahead, give it a try! The money you raise will directly result in helping to fight hunger. Remember, 25% of what we are able to raise, helps hunger in our area through support of Tabitha Meals on Wheels, the Northeast Area Food Pantry, the Eastridge Food Pantry, Indian Center, St. Mark's on the Campus Pantry, and the Norris Food Pantry.

If you are interested in the WALK, but you still have some questions, please contact me. Let's use this year as an opportunity to show that we are still a part of this important mission and ministry. Won't you please join the First Christian Church Team!

Thanks – Tom Mason

Prayers & Praises September 24, 2020

In the Nebraska Region:

- Southview Christian Church and Rev. Kerry O'Bryant
- Unadilla Christian Church and Rev. Sandy Denton

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Robert Howard serving in Fiji
- Elena Huegel serving in Mexico

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

"Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins."

1 Peter 4:8

Lincoln First Christian Church Calendar of Events

Thursday, September 24 - Messengers Mailed
FCC Office Closed

Sunday, September 27

10:30 am WORSHIP - Sanctuary
12:00 pm Elders Meeting - Parlor
1:00 pm Virtual Coffee Fellowship - Zoom

Thursday, October 1 - FCC Office Closed

Sunday, October 4

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

Monday, October 5

12:00 pm Messenger Deadline

Tuesday, October 6

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

Thursday, October 8 - Messengers Mailed
FCC Office Closed



Sanctuary Flowers \$45

Call the FCC Office at 402-475-4289 or email to info@fclincoln.org

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!