



First Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

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

Messenger

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CROP Walk Results

2020 has been a rough year for everyone. There has been some glimmers of positive though. Now I have one of those positive moments to report. We had a very successful Crop Hunger Virtual Walk this October! Since we were having the first ever virtual walk, we made the goal lower than we'd set for past year's Crop Hunger Walks. Our goal for First Christian Church Team was \$650.00. When the dust of the walk settled, we had raised a total of \$1,430.00 (\$1,075.00 raised by First Christian Congregants which is higher than last year) to help fight hunger here in Lincoln and Lancaster County, in our country and in the rest of the world! The First Christian Church Team was comprised of the walkers Sally Mason, D'Arcy Blosser, Jim Christ, and Tom Mason.

So I want to give a Great, Big **THANK YOU** to everyone that gave to the First Christian Church Team and to the individual team members. Your generous gifts to this worthy cause gave us true inspiration as we all completed our walks. We really appreciate the support!

Tom Mason

NEW MEMBER

We are pleased to announce that
Leigh Todd
 has joined the First Christian Church family.
 Let's make her feel welcome!

Notes from the Board

The board met via Zoom November 15th at 6pm. We had a full agenda. We heard reports from our staff and committees. We approved paying for the remainder of the roof project with property department budget. We were blessed to receive the payroll protection funds and that has kept our budget from falling into the red. **I'd like to take moment to remind everyone that November 29th is a Faith Giving Sunday and it would be nice to start Advent with a strong Faith Giving offering.**

The board approved the 2021 slate of nominees. This year's slate is unique. I have agreed to serve as the board chair for a 4th year, and the rest of the board officers have also agreed to serve another year. We are hopeful that we will have the opportunity to better recruit and train future leaders next year. If you have a passion for a certain ministry or are interested in a leadership position at FCC, please let Karen or myself know.

The board approved the 2021 budget and we once again have a significant deficit. One factor is that we don't expect all of our typical building use revenues. Another is that we don't have as many pledges. If you'd like to renew or make a new pledge, please contact Susan Pallas-Duncan.

In more exciting news, the FCC Foundation approved funds for FCC to purchase a new video recording and streaming solution that will hopefully be installed in time for Advent! The new system will allow us to stream live on Sunday mornings and we'll be able to pan and zoom across the Sanctuary and it will receive audio from our sound system. Watch for an announcement on how you'll be able to view the service in the near future. FCC was also previously blessed with funds for an improved security video system and we will be moving forward with that project soon.

Pastor's Corner

"Life is not the way it's supposed to be, it's the way it is. The way you cope with it is what makes the difference."
--Virginia Satir

I had only been in the Czech Republic for a couple of months when Thanksgiving rolled around. It was a normal workday in the Central Church Office in Prague, but I knew that my family and friends were gathering in various configurations to mark this holiday unique to the United States. I saw an ad in the local English language paper for a traditional Thanksgiving buffet. Although I had grown accustomed to spending this holiday on my own through years of working away from family and serving as a hospital chaplain who pulled duty on this day, I felt drawn to the advertised buffet. I thought, if nothing else, it would be a good meal and a taste from home. It was a bit pricey since it was at one of the local Hilton Hotels, but I forked out the money and made my reservation. When I arrived there were not many people there and I was shown to a large round banquet table. I have to confess that the buffet was not all I had hoped for, although they did try. But, the most difficult part came when 2 couples were seated at my table and they all spoke to one another in Czech. I had hoped to meet some other English speakers and have a chance to speak in my native language. My table companions were able to speak English and responded curtly to my greeting, but they were not at all interested in conversing with me. I became painfully aware of how lonely and homesick I really was. I went back to my small Prague apartment totally dejected and feeling more alone and lonely than ever.

As we face the Thanksgiving Holiday this year, many of us may feel like a foreigner in a foreign land. We all have expectations and memories for this annual holiday. On one hand, we know it will not be like any other Thanksgiving. On the other hand, we still carry our memories and expectations. The realization that Thanksgiving will not be what we expect or hope for may leave us feeling sad, lonely, and homesick for what has been. I think part of the challenge for me during that first Thanksgiving in Prague was how unaware I was. I was not in touch with my loneliness and my sense of being out of place. I was not aware of my hopes and expectations. I carried a whole set of expectations and hopes with me, but, I had not named them. In later years I decided to treat myself to a nice meal on Thanksgiving Day but I did not carry the expectation that other needs would be

met. I reminded myself that the day was meant for giving thanks and I tried to do that in my own simple way.

As we face Thanksgiving and the following holiday season we can begin by allowing ourselves to be aware of our memories and expectations. Our willingness to admit and name our disappointment and sadness around our current situation will be another helpful step. Perhaps we can take some time to imagine new and meaningful ways to mark this season. Perhaps one of the invitations in this strange time is to find new ways to express gratitude. Instead of being together in large groups, how might we cherish all those who enrich our lives? It will not be easy for many of us, but, it can still be a season of gratitude and joy. As Satir points out, we may learn a lot about ourselves in the ways we cope with what is instead of focusing on what is supposed to be. At least we are not alone, all of us are struggling to find ways to give thanks and celebrate even, and especially, in this time of COVID.

In this season of gratitude I give thanks for each and every one of you here at FCC. May joy and gratitude guide us all in this season of giving thanks.

With a grateful heart,
Pastor Karen

SCRIP For Christmas Gifts

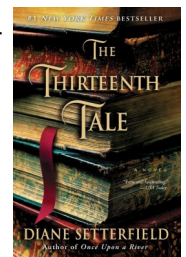


Special Orders for Christmas need to be in by Nov. 29th. There will be no order on Dec. 6th. Please contact Donna or the FCC office to get your orders. Thank you for continuing to support the SCRIP program.

Book Club News

Book Club will meet again Saturday November 21st at 9:30 am via Zoom. Invite information will be coming out soon.

Our book for discussion is:
The Thirteenth Tale
by Diane Setterfield



Some of the upcoming titles to be discussed include:

Midnight in Chernobyl by Adam Higginbotham
All the Gallant Men by Donald Stratton and Ken Gire

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.



Worship & Outreach

“Reverse Advent Calendar”

Special Food Collection for

Matt Talbot Kitchen & Outreach

The Worship and Outreach Teams are joining forces in December to sponsor a special food collection for Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach. We will be doing a “Reverse Advent Calendar.” Each day, starting on Sunday, November 29th through December 24th, you will add each item to a box. On Christmas Eve, or Sunday, December 27th, bring the collected food to church to be donated to help alleviate some of the need for food during the winter.

November 29 - Box of cereal
 November 30 - Peanut butter
 December 1 - Stuffing mix
 December 2 - Boxed potatoes
 December 3 - Macaroni and cheese
 December 4 - Canned fruit
 December 5 - Canned tomatoes
 December 6 - Canned tuna
 December 7 - Dessert mix
 December 8 - Jar of applesauce
 December 9 - Canned sweet potatoes
 December 10 - Cranberry sauce
 December 11 - Canned beans

December 12 - Box of crackers
 December 13 - Package of rice
 December 14 - Box of oatmeal packages
 December 15 - Package of pasta
 December 16 - Spaghetti sauce
 December 17 - Chicken noodle soup
 December 18 - Tomato soup
 December 19 - Can of corn
 December 20 - Can of mixed vegetables
 December 21 - Can of carrots
 December 22 - Can of green beans
 December 23 - Can of chicken
 December 24 - Jar of jelly

If you are unable to deliver the food to the church, call or text Sara Lugn or call the church office at 402-475-4289 and we will make arrangements to have your donations picked up. Please also consider making a donation by mailing a check to the church, payable to FCC, with Advent written on the memo line. OR use AutoPay and put Advent in the subject line when you email your request to the FCC office. If you are enrolled in AutoPay, your donation request email will also be considered your FCCheck payment authorization.

The need is even greater this year due to the ongoing pandemic. Let’s show the Spirit of Christmas during this Advent season to help the less fortunate in Lincoln this year.

Sara Lugn & Elaine Parman



Advent Devotionals are coming soon! Would you be interested in an Advent Devotional Study? The study would be via Zoom and hosted by Pastor Karen. If you would be interested in such a study, let the church office know, 402-475-4289 or info@fcclincoln.org.

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!

December

Those Serving in December

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

Cecilia Burkhart

Elders

December 6	Sara Lugn
December 13	Debby Ortega
December 20	Monte Dietrick
December 27	Jim Blosser

Ushers/Greeters

December 6	Donna & Harold Baker
December 13	Cecilia Burkhart
December 20	Jessica & Doug Effle
December 27	Elaine Parman

Hallway Hospitality

December 6	Mike Carlin
December 13	Geoff Putney
December 20	Vince Ortega
December 27	Dick Pickel

Acolytes

December 6	Hunter & Edryk Christianson
December 13	Kyson Effle & Christian Swanson
December 20	Keaton Bowker & Evan Foster
December 27	Katie & Rebecca Swanson



STEPHEN MINISTRY

"Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others."

Philippians 2:4

WELCOME VISITORS

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

Mary Koehler Brown

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

Save the Date!
2020 Annual
Congregational Meeting
Sunday December 6th
11:30 am after Worship
Sanctuary



Holiday Office Hours

With the holidays approaching, now is a good time to alert you to FCC Office closures for the next two months:

Wednesday, Nov. 25 - Friday Nov., 27
Office Closed

Wednesday, Dec. 23 - Friday, Dec. 25
Office Closed

Wednesday Dec. 30 - Friday Jan. 1
Office Closed

We will be back to normal operations, Monday - Friday, 8:30 am to 2:30 pm starting January 4, 2021

WE NEED YOU!

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

**Membership
Education
Finance**

**Property
Hospitality/Meals
Outreach**

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!!

Prayers & Praises November 19, 2020

In the Nebraska Region:

- Nebraska Chaplains:
 - Rev. Nancy Gillett, NE Medical Center
 - Rev. Melissa Strong, Methodist Hospital Omaha
 - Rev. Jerry Albright, Chaplin St. Croix Hospice
 - Chaplain Rachel Johnson, Lincoln Regional Center
 - Rev. Thomas Williamson, Chaplain/Spiritual Care Coordinator
 - Rev. Stephen Toller, University of Nebraska Medical Center
 - Rev. Susan Ellis, M.Div.

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Andrew Larsen serving in the Philippines

Find more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners at

www.globalministries.org



*Let us give thanks...
A service of gratitude for all faiths*

Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Sunday November 22, 2020

3:00 pm

A Virtual Service



Due to the pandemic, this year's event will be online. To watch to go:

Faith Coalition of Lancaster County
Website: <https://www.lancasterfaith.org>

Or Facebook page:
<https://facebook.com/FaithCoalitionLC/>

This video will remain active for 2 weeks, so you can watch if you are unavailable on Nov. 22nd.

Lincoln First Christian Church Calendar of Events

Thursday, November 19 - Messengers Mailed
FCC Office Closed

Sunday, November 22

10:30 am WORSHIP - Sanctuary
11:30 am Advent Decorating - Sanctuary
12:00 pm Virtual Coffee Fellowship - Zoom

Sunday, November 24th

11:00 am Filming Weekly Worship Video - Chapel

November 25th - 27th

FCC Office Closed

Sunday, November 29 - 5th Sunday Faith Giving

10:30 am ADVENT 1 WORSHIP - Sanctuary
12:00 pm Virtual Coffee Fellowship - Zoom

Monday, November 30

12:00 pm Messenger Deadline

Tuesday, December 1

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

Thursday, December 3 - Messengers Mailed

FCC Office Closed

2021 Slate of Nominees

Board of Directors

Chair: Geoff Putney
Vice Chair: Jim Blosser
Secretary: Carla Pinneo
Treasurer: Donna Ruhl
Financial Secretary: Susan Pallas-Duncan

Foundation Representative

D'Arcy Blosser

Elder

Doug Effle
Cecelia Burkhart

Deacon

Brad Bowker
Rich Calver (1 yr)
Dan Cowger (1 yr)
Susan Pallas-Duncan
Lindsey Swanson (1 yr)