



First Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

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

Messenger

430 S. 16th St.

Lincoln, NE 68508

402.475.4289

www.fcclincoln.org



Rev. Dr. Karen Moritz, Pastor
Kelly Tyrrell, Church Administrator
Mark W. Miller, Director of Music Ministries

Sara Lugn, Stephen Ministry Leader
www.fcclincoln.org
info@fcclincoln.org

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Music Ministry Updates

Many thanks to all who assisted in preparing and presenting services and worship music for the Advent and Christmas seasons! Despite the limitations caused by COVID-19, our annual Festival of Lessons and Carols on December 20th and Christmas Eve Candlelight services were particularly lovely.

The camera system allowing live-streaming of our worship services is up and running with the result being quite good from the stare. I look forward to being able to tweak various aspects to make our worship services the very best they can be - whether experienced in-person or virtually.

I'm in the process of planning music for the remainder of the season after Epiphany into Lent and festival services of Easter.

Mark Miller

Don't Forget SCRIP

See Donna after worship or send an email if you are interested in SCRIP. The next special order will February 7, but we have several cards on hand. Remember, SCRIP is a win-win for local businesses and First Christian Church.



Here's What We Know: A Thank You from Finance

The Finance Team wants to say Thank You!! for your generous support in 2020. It is exciting to announce that 99.97% of all 2020 pledges were received! Because of this, 2020 is the second year in a row First Christian has ended the year in the black. The surplus income we've received will go towards paying back some of the reserve money we've used in the past to make ends meet.

We have accomplished some amazing things this year, including:

- Over \$19,000 in Faith Giving
 - Repairs on the roof
 - Installation of memorial carillon
 - Sanctuary AV System
 - Upgrade to security system
- and much more.

Don't forget, 5th Sunday Faith Giving is coming up soon, January 31st. Maybe you haven't been spending like you used to, or perhaps you have stimulus money that doesn't have a destination. We ask that you prayerfully consider making an offering to Faith Giving. After the fantastic year we had in 2020, we are hoping to make 2021 even better. Thank you for your continued support of the ministry at FCC.

The Finance Team

Pastor's Corner

**"What Jesus wants from us is not admiration but imitation."
Ronald Rolheiser**

In my article for the last Messenger, I mentioned the book *"The Holy Longing: The Search for a Christian Spirituality"* by Ronald Rolheiser. In that Pastor's Corner I wanted to reflect on his thoughts about the incarnation. In this article I want to explore his thoughts about the meaning of discipleship and what that might mean for us here at FCC. I was really struck by his reflections on the essential components of a healthy spiritual life. Rolheiser suggests that there are 4 essential components of a healthy and balanced spiritual life which are found in the life and teachings of Jesus.

1. Private prayer and private morality
2. Social justice
3. Mellowness of heart and spirit
4. Community as a constituted element of true worship

As I reflect on our life and world today, I was really struck by these 4 essentials for a healthy and balanced spiritual life. Rolheiser presents both the personal and communal aspects of the Christian life. So often we tend to move in one direction or the other and it is a challenge to embrace all these elements. While all 4 elements are critical, I was particularly struck by his reflections on community. As we close in on a year in the midst of a worldwide pandemic, we have had to deal with physical distancing and self-quarantine. We have been forced to reflect upon and re-imagine what it means to be part of a community. When we cannot participate in public worship or attend the various gatherings that have traditionally been a part of our shared faith journey, what does it mean to be a part of a community at all? As Rolheiser points out, it is a challenge to be a part of a community. We come to know one another, warts and all. We see each other at our best and our worst. But, it is the willingness to remain connected that enriches our lives. Being a part of a faith community brings depth to our lives and faith. We are regularly challenged and invited to go deeper.

Here at FCC we have intentionally worked to maintain a sense of community. This has impelled us to do things we had been hoping to do, for example, creating a more intentional online presence. We are now able to live-stream Sunday worship and other special services in

addition to being present on our website, Facebook, and Instagram. We send our weekly worship bulletins, send cards, and make phone calls. Even in the midst of all this, I suspect it will be a challenge to return to in-person participation once the pandemic is over. Undoubtedly, we will enter a new hybrid form of community that integrates virtual and in-person components. I invite us to take up the challenge presented by Rolheiser. What does it mean to be part of a community and why is it important for us as a congregation and as individual Christians?

I don't know what the future will look like for us here at FCC, but I invite us all to begin pondering these issues. Both benefits and challenges will be the outcome of these unusual times. Hopefully we can face the challenges and embrace the opportunities that arise for us as individuals and as a community of faith. We are invited to imitate Christ and not simply admire him. With God's help we can and we will.

With a courageous heart,
Pastor Karen



STEPHEN MINISTRY

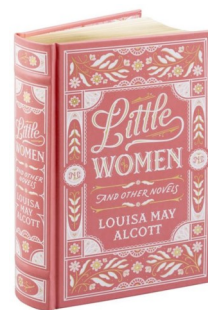
"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."

Galatians 5:22-23a

Book Club News

Book Club will meet again Saturday February 13 at 9:30 via Zoom. Link information will be sent out soon.

Our book for discussion is:
Little Women
by Louisa May Alcott



Some of the upcoming titles to be discussed include:

All the Gallant Men by Donald Stratton and Ken Gire
Abide with Me by Elizabeth Strout

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.



Those Serving in February

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.

Worship Leader

Karl Ahrendsen

Elders

February 7	Jim Blosser
February 14	Connie Calver
February 21	Tom Mason
February 28	Wayne Duncan

Hallway Hospitality

February 7	Jim Christ
February 14	Rich Calver
February 21	Vince Ortega
February 28	Mike Carlin

Ushers/Greeters

February 7	Jessica Effle
February 14	Wayne & Susan Pallas-Duncan
February 21	Elaine Parman
February 28	John & Lindsay Swanson

THANK YOU for volunteering. Your efforts at First Christian Church is what keeps Sunday worship alive and thriving!

FCC Social Media!

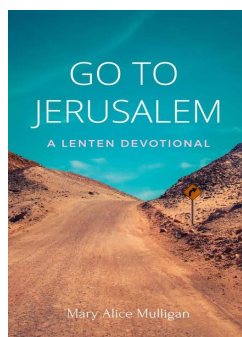


Each week FCC is posting new pictures, videos, and links to great worship music. Look for First Christian Church on Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube for new content every week. Get connected!

Reconciliation Ministry Honors the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with a call to 21 days of prayer

[Reconciliation Ministry](#), in partnership with Disciples Justice Ministries, invites Disciples to join in 21-days of prayer beginning Sunday, Jan. 17 continuing through Feb. 6. This season of prayer is intended to honor our faithful witness and our spiritual conviction to “love one another” as Christ’s has loved us. As we commemorate the life and legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Monday, Jan. 18, we resonate with the vast repertoire of action and advocacy for racial and social justice that continues to inform our ministries of justice and racial reconciliation today. To launch this season of prayer, we will post written and video prayers daily on the social media outlets of Reconciliation Ministry and Disciples Justice Ministries.

Article from www.disciples.org



New Lenten Devotionals
Coming Soon!

This Lent, imagine placing your hand in the hand of Jesus and journeying with him to Jerusalem.

In these daily devotions for the 40 days of Lent and Holy Week, pastor and scholar Mary Alice Mulligan leads us on a self-reflective journey to discover what it really means to follow Jesus. As you journey to Jerusalem, you’ll reflect on the scriptures in which Jesus calls on his Disciples to leave everything and follow him, is baptized and announces his ministry, predicts his own death, clears the temple and pledges to rebuild it in three days, and proclaims God’s love for all.

Lent begins February 17. Booklets will be mailed to all active members of the church, free of charge.

Prayers & Praises January 21, 2021

Our Timothys:

- Bruce Frogge at Cypress Creek CC in Spring, TX
- Glenda Dietrich Moore, Creative Arts Ministry in Lincoln, NE

In the Nebraska Region:

- Aurora FCC and Rev. Penny Schulz
- Beatrice FCC and Rev. David Bigley

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Debbie Colvin serving in Ghana
- Ricardo Mayol serving in Guatemala

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



Lincoln First Christian Church Calendar of Events

Thursday, January 21 - Messengers Mailed

Sunday, January 24

- 10:30 am Worship - Sanctuary
- 12:00 pm Virtual Coffee Fellowship - ZOOM
- 12:00 pm Elders Meeting - ZOOM

Sunday, January 31

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

Monday, February 1

- 12:00 pm Messenger Deadline
- 7:00 pm Deborah Group Meeting - ZOOM

Tuesday, February 2

- 9:00 am Staff Meeting - Conference Room

Thursday, February 4 - Messengers Mailed



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



Working for Justice Ecumenical Legislative Briefing Day

Saturday, February 13, 2021

9:30 am - 12:00 pm

This is a virtual conference

Topics to be discussed include education, immigration, gerrymandering, racial justice, and more. For more information go to www.nelegisbrief.org.



Sanctuary Flowers \$45

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