



First Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

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

Messenger

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FCC Foundation Notes

The FCC Foundation meets quarterly in the months of February, May, August, and November. Our first meeting of this year took place on Feb. 10 by Zoom. As of 12/31/20 the value of the foundation was listed at \$996,509; this includes both designated and undesignated funds. All of the Foundation funds are invested through Morgan Stanley Financial Services with Elisabeth Andreason serving as our lead financial advisor.

In 2020, in addition to the foundation's pledge to the church of \$19,800, the income from two specific funds was used for special projects for the church:

From the Hofmann Fund: purchase and installation of video streaming/recording equipment in the sanctuary. This allows FCC to live-stream weekly worship services with much better quality. It is proving to be a blessing to many who are unable to worship in person during the pandemic.

From the Pekar Fund: installation of a working window in the balcony above the gym allows easy and much safer access to the roof area above the parlor for cleaning and maintenance. Prior to this, our property team folks had to lug a long ladder up to the third floor where it could be lifted through a window, and climb down to clean drainage areas of leaves and other debris.

The 2021 officers and members of the FCC Foundation include D'Arcy Blosser, President; Dick Pickel, Vice President; Monte Dietrick, Secretary; Susan Pallas-Duncan, Treasurer; Sara Lugn, Vince Ortega, Harold Baker, Rich Calver and Donald Everett, Jr., Members at Large. FCC Board Chair, Geoff Putney and Pastor, Karen Moritz serve as ex-officio members.

Donald Everett, Jr., served as Foundation President from 2015-2020 and remains on the Foundation Board as chair of the Investment Committee. We recognize his capable leadership in providing transparency and guiding the Foundation through the last 5 years.

Marj Snodgrass retired from the Foundation Board after serving as a board member for about 27 years, 25 years of which she was the Treasurer (through 2019). We thank her for her long and faithful service! Appreciation is also expressed to Greg Greder who served for the last 3 years on the Board.

In the next few months, the Foundation Memorial Book in the North Hall will be updated through 2020. If you have any questions regarding the Foundation...how it works, how it benefits the church, or how you can contribute to the ongoing work of FCC Lincoln through the Foundation, talk with any of the above named board members.

D'Arcy Blosser
Foundation President

Pastor's Corner

To pray, I think, does not mean to think about God in contrast to thinking about other things or to spend time with God instead of spending time with other people. Rather, it means to think and live in the presence of God. All our actions must have their origin in prayer. Praying is not an isolated activity, it takes place in the midst of all the things and affairs that keep us active. In prayer a self-centered monologue becomes a God-centered dialogue.

Ronald Rolheiser

One of my favorite stage plays made into an award-winning movie is "Fiddler on the Roof." The main character is a milkman named Tevye. Throughout the show he has an ongoing dialogue with God in which he shares all the joys and concerns of his life. Of course, we only hear one side of the dialogue, but one has the distinct impression that God is an active part of the conversation. I thought of Tevye as I read the above quote from the final chapter of the book *The Holy Longing: The Search for a Christian Spirituality* by Ronald Roheiser. This passage came in the final chapter entitled "Sustaining Ourselves in the Spiritual Life."

As we begin the season of Lent, we are invited to be more intentional about deepening and sustaining our spiritual life. Here at FCC we will be doing a number of things with these goals in mind. Unlike last year, this season of Lent will look a bit different. Last year we were able to begin the season in the usual way with in-person worship here at FCC and with other Lincoln DOC congregations by gathering for evening worship at SouthPointe. Unexpectedly, all our plans came to a screeching halt in mid-March when we had to suspend in-person activities, like worship, due to the onset of COVID-19. I suspect I have not been the only one to have animated conversations with God about all that has happened during this past year. As we continue to struggle during these unprecedented times we, like Tevye and Rolheiser, are invited to go deeper into dialogue with God. We are invited to "...think and live in the presence of God." As Rolheiser so powerfully points out: "Praying is not an isolated activity, it takes place in the midst of all the things and affairs that keep us active."

During these unprecedented times, as we make our way through the season of Lent, we are invited into a prayerful way of being. There are ways that we can nurture this thinking and living in the presence of

God. We do this weekly as we gather for worship, whether in person or virtually. We also nurture this sense of living in the presence of God through daily devotion which is supported by use of our daily devotional "Go to Jerusalem." We also invite your participation in the weekly Lenten Zoom study which will rely on lessons from "The Wired Word." These are a few of the ways in which we will be invited to think and live in the presence of God. Undoubtedly, you also have your own ways of resting in God's presence.

May this Lenten season, even and especially in the midst of pandemic, empower all of us to nurture a deeper and more enriching dialogue with God. Hopefully, we will grow in our ability to think and live in the presence of God during all aspects of our lives.

In hope and love,
Pastor Karen

Individual Communion cups are available upon request. If you've been missing the experience of communion, contact the FCC Office, Pastor Karen, or one of the Elders to set up a time to receive communion. All packets are pre-sealed for your safety.



Book Club News

Book Club will meet again Friday March 19 at 6:30 pm at Kristi Bowker's home and via Zoom. Address and link information have been sent, check your email!

Our book for discussion is:
All the Gallant Men
by Donald Stratton and Ken Gire



Some of the upcoming titles to be discussed include:
Abide with Me by Elizabeth Strout
The Tattooist of Auschwitz by Heather Morris

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.

SERVE

What is God calling you to do?

Those Serving in March

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

Kristi Bowker

Elders

March 7 Sara Lugin
March 14 Cecilia Burkhart
March 21 Doug Effle
March 28 Monte Dietrick

Hallway Hospitality

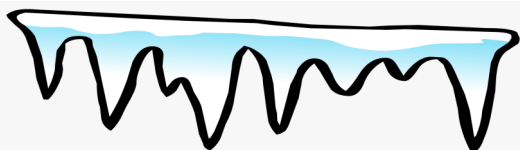
March 7 Geoff Putney
March 14 Jim Christ
March 21 Rich Calver
March 28 Vince Ortega

Ushers/Greeters

March 7 D'Arcy Blosser
March 14 Jessica Effle
March 21 Wayne & Susan Pallas-Duncan
March 28 Elaine Parman

There is a NEW position that we need volunteers for: **live-streaming worship!** So far, Geoff Putney and Brad Bowker have shouldered this task, but they would like to teach others how to run the cameras for Sundays they are unable to come. Please contact Geoff or the FCC Office if you are interested in learning this position. Many hands make light work!

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



Don't Forget SCRIP

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

A thank you note....

Dear Friends at FCC,

It would be impossible to express and adequate thank you to all my wonderful church family at FCC for the beautiful cards, loving words, phone calls, and Birthday Greetings from my church family for my 90th birthday. I've certainly been very aware of how much I have missed being with you on Sundays, but all your greetings were a fantastic reminder of how special all of you are. Since I'm scheduled for my second vaccine on the 4th, perhaps my family and my doctors will feel more comfortable about my getting out fairly soon.

Again my thanks and love to each of you.

Lois Frogge

If you have experienced any difficulties or problems with any of the Church offerings (videos, Worship, etc.) please contact the church office at (402) 475-4289.



Lenten Group Study - Starting Next Wednesday

In addition to the Lenten devotionals provided by the church, Pastor Karen is also inviting everyone to join in a Lenten group study starting on February 24th. This study will be Wednesday nights at 6:00 pm and held via Zoom. The group will be studying from *The Wired Word* periodical. If you are interested in attending, contact the FCC Office so we can get you on *The Wired Word* mailing list. More information and the Zoom link will be coming out soon.



STEPHEN MINISTRY

"But I call to God, and the Lord saves me."
Psalm 55:16

Prayers & Praises February 4, 2021

In the Nebraska Region:

- Brownville Christian Church and Rev. Dr. Robert Chitwood
- Edenton Christian Church and Rev. Christy Ahmose

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- RJ Howard serving in Fiji

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



LENT

WALKING WITH CHRIST

Save the Dates for upcoming Lenten services. We will also be worshipping every Sunday morning at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary - and - live-streaming at www.fcclincoln.org/youtube. We will also be offering a Wednesday Night Zoom study with Pastor Karen. More information coming soon. All are welcome - tell your friends!

Maundy Thursday April 1st
Worship 7 pm

Good Friday April 2nd
Worship 12 noon

24 Hour Virtual Prayer Vigil
1 pm Friday through 1 pm Saturday

Easter Sunday April 4th
Worship 10:30 am

FCC Social Media!



Lincoln First Christian Church Calendar of Events

Thursday, February 18 - Messengers Mailed

Sunday, February 21

- 10:30 am Worship - Sanctuary
- 12:00 pm Virtual Coffee Fellowship - ZOOM
- 4:00 pm Worship Team Meeting - Parlor
- 6:00 pm Cabinet Meeting - Parlor

Sunday, February 28

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

Monday, March 1

- 7:00 pm Deborah Group Meeting - ZOOM

Tuesday, March 2

- 9:00 am Staff Meeting - Conference Room

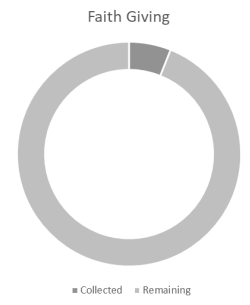
Thursday, March 4 - Messengers Mailed

Growing in our Faith Finance Notes

Lent is often known as a time of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. It is a time for us to slow down and remember that God is in control. As we use this time of Lent to grow in our faith, may our Faith Giving grow, too. We've already collected a great amount towards our goal. Don't forget, our monthly faith giving goal for 2021 is \$4,000. As of February 14, we have received \$2,915 in faith giving. A great start!

The Finance Team

Dark Grey - Collected
Light Grey - Remaining



Sanctuary Flowers \$45

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