



First Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

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

Messenger

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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. All Holy Week services will be held in person and online. All are welcome - tell your friends!

Maundy Thursday April 1st

Tenebrae Service 7 pm

If watching online, feel free to light a candle at home.

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

Don't Forget SCRIP

See Donna after worship or send an email if you are interested in SCRIP. We have several cards on hand. Remember, SCRIP is a win-win for local businesses and First Christian Church.

Church Grounds Ready for Spring

The church gardens and lawn are ready for Spring, thanks to Gwen Belden, Jim Blosser, Jim Christ, and Wayne Duncan. They filled two dumpsters and about a dozen leaf bags with ornamental grasses, perennials, and leaves.

With a little moisture and some warm days our landscape will again come to life and provide a welcoming environment for our community.

Thanks again,
The Property Team



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.



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.

Pastor's Corner

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God.
Psalm 42:11

Surely there is a future, and your hope will not be cut off. Proverbs 23:18

The English word “hope” can be found in the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible about 200 times. The beauty of this word in English is that it can be either a noun or a verb. In these challenging times as we hopefully move closer to the end of COVID-19, we need hope more than ever. We need hope and we need to hope. In his book *The Third Reconstruction: Moral Mondays, Fusion Politics, and the Rise of a New Justice Movement* DOC pastor Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, II shared a story about his beloved Grandmama that embodied the power of hope. She and other women of the church would prepare food on Sundays and take it to the homes of others. As they departed she would say: “We’ll be back shortly. We’ve got to go and hope somebody.” As a boy, Barber was puzzled by this expression and was certain she meant to say “help somebody.” He would come to learn that she said exactly what she meant. She knew they were going out to spread hope. “She and other mothers of the church practiced visitation as a spiritual discipline every bit as important as Sunday worship or Holy Communion. She knew in her bones that faith and works, belief and practice were inseparable.” She knew that love and action were not simply about helping people, it was about sharing hope that enabled people to keep going. While our context is different, we all need to share hope and find it for ourselves.

During a recent Zoom meeting of the Faith Coalition of Lancaster County, we were invited to reflect on the power and importance of hope. We began our discussions in small groups by sharing times when we felt hopeless. Then we were invited to ponder and share what brought us hope in the midst of those challenging times. As our time drew to a close, we were invited to share where we were finding hope in the midst of life with COVID-19. One of the recurring themes was that many of us were finding hope in the creative ways in which people were dealing with these challenging times. Life during a pandemic that requires physical distancing has forced us to rely on old ways of connecting and has necessitated developing new ways as well. I have found hope in the

ways in which people, particularly here at FCC, have connected with one another. We have not been able to rely on in-person contact in worship and during times of fellowship. People have used tried and true ways to connect: phone calls, snail-mail and outdoor gatherings. We have also relied on newer ways of connecting: virtual gatherings and live-streaming worship.

As we move through these challenging times and they come closer to an end, may we continue to find hope and share it when we can. The Apostle Paul said it well in his letter to the Romans “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” (Roman 15:13)

With a hopeful heart,
Pastor Karen

This I Know: Finance Notes

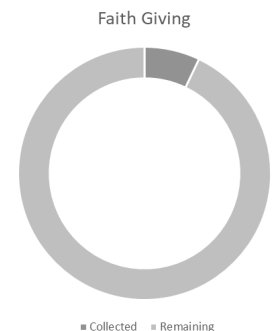
“God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16

This statement sets a model that generosity in God’s people should be sacrificial. Lent is a journey of faith. A journey of self-reflection, self-examination, and sacrifice. A journey that provokes repentance and transformation. Lent is a journey that culminates in the hope of Easter morning.

In 2021, \$4,000 in Faith Giving is needed *every month* to meet our approved budgetary obligations. So far this year, we have received \$3,415 in Faith Giving.

We need you to reciprocate God’s wondrous love by generously supporting the mission and ministry of First Christian Church.

Dark Grey: Collected
Light Grey: Remaining



STEPHEN MINISTRY

**“Rather, serve one another in love.”
Galatians 5:13b**

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.



April Birthdays

1 st	Wayne Duncan
4 th	Vic Burgess, Will Everett
5 th	Megan (Blosser) Hobbs, Hannah Everett
6 th	Sarah Behrens
7 th	Tezra Greder
14 th	Joan Dietrich
16 th	Marvin Thurber
18 th	Roger Vocasek
22 nd	Riley Bowker, Andrew Roberts Anthony Roberts
25 th	Debe Dockhorn, Susan Pallas- Duncan, Robert Reddish
26 th	Scott Calver



Those Serving in April

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 *Need Volunteer*

Elders

April 4	Jim Blosser
April 11	Connie Calver
April 18	Tom Mason
April 25	Wayne Duncan

Hallway Hospitality

April 4	Mike Carlin
April 11	Geoff Putney
April 18	Jim Christ
April 25	Rich Calver

Ushers/Greeters

April 4	Wayne & Susan Pallas Duncan
April 11	Elaine Parman
April 18	John & Lindsay Swanson
April 25	D'Arcy Blosser

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!



The Mayor's Interfaith Prayer Breakfast Committee invites you to attend the **37th Annual Mayor's Interfaith Breakfast, which will be presented online from 7:30 to 8:45 am on Wednesday, April 7.** The theme is "Faith, Spirituality, and the Struggle for Racial Justice."

The program will feature a conversation between keynote speakers Parker J. Palmer and the Rev. Dr. Gregory El-lison II on the influence of Rev. Dr. Howard Thurman, who was a spiritual mentor to Martin Luther King, Jr., and the first civil rights leader to meet with Mahatma Gandhi.

To register and learn more about the free even, visit <http://bit.ly/RSVP-2021-Breakfast>.

Prayers & Praises

March 18, 2021

In the Nebraska Region:

- Elmwood Christian Church and Rev. Jim Gordon
- Elwood First Christian Church

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Abigail Fate serving in Mexico

Find more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners at

www.globalministries.org



Your gift supports college students in leadership development programs, global mission partners, health and social service ministries, the formation of new congregations, support for pastors and chaplains, and so much more. If you are among the leaders in your congregation responsible for planning worship, you can find videos, a speakers bureau, and a communion meditation by Rev. Terri Hord Owens on the [Disciples Mission Fund webpage](#). Your gift has the power to change lives around the world. [Give online now](#) or through your congregation.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Are you interested in History? The History of the Disciples of Christ? The Disciples of Christ Historical Society is looking for people who can do some *remote* indexing and transcribing.

Interested in Volunteering? [>CLICK HERE<](#)

Lincoln First Christian Church

Calendar of Events

Thursday, March 18 - Messengers Mailed

Sunday, March 21

- 10:30 am Worship - Sanctuary
- 12:00 pm Virtual Coffee Fellowship - Zoom
- 4:00 pm Pastoral Relations Committee - TBD
- 6:00 pm FCC Board Meeting - TBD

Tuesday, March 23

- 11:00 am Recorder Consort Rehearsal Sanctuary

Wednesday, March 24

- 6:00 pm Lenten Study - Zoom

Saturday, March 27

- 3:00 pm Bell Tree Rehearsal - Sanctuary

Sunday, March 28 - Palm Sunday

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

Wednesday March 31

- 6:00 pm Lenten Study - Zoom

Thursday, April 1

- 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Worship Sanctuary

Friday, April 2

- 12:00 pm Good Friday Worship - Sanctuary

Sunday, April 4

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

Monday, April 5 - Messenger Deadline

Tuesday, April 6

- 9:00 am Staff Meeting - Conference Room
- 11:00 am Recorder Consort Rehearsal Sanctuary

Thursday, April 8 - Messengers Mailed