



First Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

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

Messenger

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This I Know: Finance Notes

“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good.”
Romans 8:28

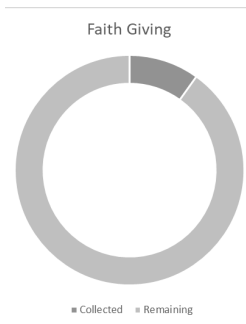
Many of us are probably working on getting our state and federal income tax forms completed and submitted. Compiling all the paperwork, receipts, and expense reports can be a lot of work.

Please consider contributing a portion of your tax refund and/or your recent COVID-19 stimulus payment to support the ongoing ministry and mission of First Christian Church.

Faith Giving is necessary to support and sustain the basic operations and ministries of First Christian Church every week. A monthly average of \$65 per family is all it would take to meet our 2021 Faith Giving Goal. As of April 18, we have received \$4,770 in Faith Giving.

Dark Grey: Received
Light Grey: Remaining

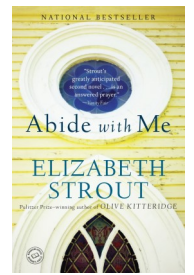
May the Spirit of God be with you,
Finance Team



Book Club News

Book Club will meet again Friday May 1 at 9:30 am at Kristi Bowker’s home and via Zoom. Address and link information have been sent, check your email!

Our book for discussion is:
Abide with Me
by Elizabeth Strout



Some of the upcoming titles to be discussed include:
The Tattooist of Auschwitz by Heather Morris
The Fountains of Silence by Ruth Sepety

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.

WELCOME VISITORS

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

Tina Rabago
Mr. & Mrs. Dietrich Moore

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

If you have had any problems with online worship, please let us know in the FCC Office at 402-475-4289

FCC Social Media!



Pastor's Corner

Life is not made up of crises. Life is made up of little things we love to ignore in order to get on to the exciting things in life. But God is in the details. God is in what it takes in us to be faithful to them. God is in the routines that make us what we are. The way we do the little things in life is the mark of the bigness of our souls. When the mundane things that occupy our time threaten to dull our view of the universe, it is time to slow down.

Joan D. Chittister

As we come down off the high of Easter, I was particularly struck by the above words from Sister Joan Chittister's book *Called to Question: A Spiritual Memoir*. In her chapter "Dailiness: the Gifts of the Mundane" she described the importance of embracing the dailiness of our lives.

During our Pastors Retreat last week, we spent time learning about the Enneagram. This is a tool of discernment that is intended to provide guidance for deepening one's spiritual life. Our presenter Hunter Mobley led us on an exploration of our deeper interior lives. He talked about the difference between the "personality" and the "soul." We need them both to be the people God has created us to be. The personality is the part of ourselves that we present to the world. The soul is the part of ourselves that lies deeper, the part that God touches.

As I reflected on the presentations, I came to realize that my natural abilities enable me to respond effectively to crisis. This has been a real help to me during various times of my life. I was able to harness this ability to respond to crises as a hospital chaplain. However, I sometimes find it a greater challenge to embrace the dailiness of life. We all have mundane tasks that make up our professional and personal lives. Our ability to embrace the mundane makes it possible for us to know ourselves, one another, and God more deeply. Chittister suggested that when we struggle to embrace the dailiness of life there is an invitation to slow down. In some ways, I wonder if this past year with COVID has given us unexpected opportunities to slow down. The mundane and normal aspects of life have taken on a new importance, particularly when we have been unable to enjoy them. Greeting someone with a handshake or hug, spending time with those we love, moving about freely in the company of others; all these events and so many more have taken on a renewed value.

Chittister's words invite us to ponder the dailiness of our individual lives and of our corporate

and shared life. It is much more exciting to prepare for extraordinary worship events like Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter. These are high points for us as people of faith and very important. But, life is made up of the ordinary and daily. Worship is often the high point of our shared life, but we need all the other ordinary and daily events as well.

We need Team meetings to plan worship, education, hospitality, and outreach. Our Property and Finance Teams need to meet to keep up with issues about our building and our financial well-being. The Elders and Stephen Ministers need to meet to plan ways to serve those in our care. The Deacons serve us by attending to Communion preparation in worship and visitation in our congregation. The Board and the Ministry Cabinet must gather regularly to attend to the daily events of our lives as a congregation. We gather for the exciting and ordinary. This past year has given us, as individuals and a faith community, time and space to become aware of and embrace the dailiness of life. As we prepare to re-gather in person for more and more events, we are invited to celebrate the exiting and to embrace the ordinary.

Will we have the courage to embrace the ordinary and the dailiness of our individual and shared lives? This may be more challenging than dealing with the crises that come our way. It is a challenge, but I suspect it will be well worth the effort. With God's help and guidance we can face the ordinari-ness and dailiness of our lives just as we face the many crises that come, have come, and will come our way.

With confidence and hope,
Pastor Karen



STEPHEN MINISTRY

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish each other with all wisdom."

Colossians 3:16a

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.



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

Psalm 23

A Psalm of David.

¹ The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;

³ he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley,

I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff— they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.



Those Serving in May

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 Leaders

5/2 Leigh Lestina
 5/9 Leigh Lestina
 5/16 Jessica Effle
 5/23 Jessica Effle
 5/30 Wayne Duncan

Elders

5/2 Sara Lugn
 5/9 Cecilia Burkhart
 5/16 Doug Effle
 5/23 Monte Dietrick
 5/30 Jim Blosser

Hallway Hospitality

5/2 Vince Ortega
 5/9 Mike Carlin
 5/16 Geoff Putney
 5/23 Jim Christ
 5/30 Rich Calver

Ushers/Greeters

5/2 Jessica Effle
 5/9 Monte Dietrick
 5/16 Wayne & Susan Pallas-Duncan
 5/23 Elaine Parman
 5/30 John & Lindsay Swanson

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!

Prayers & Praises April 22, 2021

In the Nebraska Region:

- Grand Island FCC and Rev. Julie Western
- Hastings FCC and Rev. Dustin Bower

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Carlos Sediles serving in Mexico

Find more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners at

www.globalministries.org



Disciple leader part of Circle of Protection's call on US administration

Posted on April 1, 2021 (www.disciples.org)

WASHINGTON, DC – Rev. Lori Tapia, National Pastor for [Hispanic Ministries of the Christian Church](#) (Disciples of Christ) and 17 other Christian leaders, as a part of the [Circle of Protection](#), have sent [a letter](#) to President Biden and every member of Congress calling for justice for poor and marginalized people in the package released today by the Biden administration. Although Congress passed a massive COVID relief bill earlier this month, more must be done to support recovery from the pandemic in a way that makes our country better than it was before.

Rev. Tapia states, “It is in our collective call to reconcile the world to God that our eyes and hearts are opened to see the inequities that are experienced by far too many, especially in communities of color, and to come together in action to create a more equitable world for all.”

The letter says: “We need to shift toward an economy that allows all people to thrive and protects the environment that sustains us. This will require concrete steps to address the legacy of racial injustice in the U.S. and commitment to rectify the structural inequalities experienced by so many, especially communities of color.” It outlines areas of public investment that would provide livable-wage jobs for workers and keep people out of poverty. It also notes that hunger, poverty, and conflict around the world have surged during the pandemic and recommends funding for international aid.

The Circle of Protection supports paying for some of these public investments with increased taxes on corporations and high-income Americans. “Our shared conviction on this controversial point is grounded in Jesus’ teaching,” the leaders wrote. “The Hebrew prophets were clear that nations sometimes need to make big changes, and we think now is such a time.”

The Circle of Protection is a broad and unprecedented coalition of church and ministry leaders from the main families of U.S. Christianity — Catholic, evangelical Protestant, ecumenical Protestant, the Historic African American churches, and Latino churches — working to address issues of poverty and hunger through advocacy work. Together, the church bodies in the Circle of Protection have close to 100 million members. This letter is the first time since the Circle began that these leaders have outlined a vision for long-term change.

Lincoln First Christian Church Calendar of Events

Thursday, April 22- Messengers Mailed

Sunday, April 25

- 10:30 am Worship - Sanctuary
- 11:30 am Elders Meeting - Library
- 12:00 pm Virtual Coffee Fellowship - Zoom

Tuesday, April 27

- 11:00 am Recorder Consort Rehearsal
Sanctuary

Wednesday, April 28

- 12:00 pm Spiritual Gifts Study - Library

Saturday, May 1

- 3:00 pm Bell Tree Rehearsal - Sanctuary

Sunday, May 2 - SCRIP Orders Due

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

Monday, May 3

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

Tuesday, May 4

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

Wednesday, May 5

- 12:00 pm Spiritual Gifts Study - Library

Thursday, May 6 - Messengers Mailed



Sanctuary Flowers \$45

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