



# First Christian Church

## Disciples of Christ

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

# Messenger

430 S. 16<sup>th</sup> St.  
Lincoln, NE 68508

402.475.4289

[www.fcclincoln.org](http://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](http://www.fcclincoln.org)  
[info@fcclincoln.org](mailto:info@fcclincoln.org)

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### First Christian Church Foundation Notes

At its May 12, 2021 meeting the FCC Foundation met online with Elisabeth Andreason, our account manager with Morgan Stanley. Elisabeth reviewed the foundation's investments and answered any questions we had regarding the investments.

In addition to the Foundation's pledge to the church, the income from two specific funds was allocated for the following projects this year:

- From the Pekar Fund (part of the Foundation Account): Funds will be transferred to the church's property department to help pay for major boiler work which was done at the end of December.
- From the Hofmann Fund: Approved funding for Pastor Karen to attend a Leadership Training program at the end of August as well as to access training materials and peer coaches. Pastor Karen hopes that this training will help her with recruiting and developing leadership in our congregation.

The Foundation was pleased to learn of a bequest from the Bernie and Rose Dow estate that was received last fall. Pastor Karen has sent a letter of appreciation to the family as has the Foundation. This bequest and other memorial funds that have been given will go into the undesignated portion of the Foundation Account fund to build the endowment; interest and dividends from this fund are automatically transferred to the Foundation's checking account to underwrite our monthly pledge, bills for tax work and corporate registration, and any approved requests from the smaller designated funds. Hofmann Fund earnings are automatically reinvested and approved requests from the church are taken from the Fund itself.

Because the stock market has done so well over the last 8-10 years, the Foundation has grown. The Foundation Account holdings are in fixed income investments while the Hofmann Fund has a balanced allocation approach. The overall investment strategy is a conservative one which focuses on income earning but also protects the corpus of the investments. This strategy assures that gifts and bequests to the church will continue to provide income for the church and special projects for years to come. One of the benefits of an endowment is that it allows people to support the church even after they have passed on. The responsibility of the Foundation Board is to oversee, protect and grow this asset so that it will serve the church and her ministries now and for the future.

At the May meeting, the board members reviewed the 2020 tax return that has been filed and approved payment of the accountant fee. Our bi-annual non-profit corporation status has been renewed and registration fee paid. We have received older Foundation records with the turnover of officers which will be gleaned; important documents and mementoes will be kept in the church office.

Our next FCC Foundation meeting will be held on August 11, 2021 at noon; we hope to meet in person at that time.

## Pastor's Corner

**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.**  
--Romans 15.13

In the past I have been told that I am an optimist. I do not think it was meant as a compliment. When I read the following quote from the book *Change Your World* by John C. Maxwell and Rob Hoskins, I understood better why this comment troubled me. They began their book by exploring the foundational concept of hope. As I read this opening chapter, I better understood why I consider myself as a person of hope, not simply an optimist. Maxwell and Hoskins commented that hope is essential to the process of changing our world. They shared the following comments from Jonathan Sacks which appeared in his book *The Dignity of Difference*. Sacks commented that there is an important difference between hope and optimism. **“Optimism is the belief that things will be better. Hope is the faith that, together, we can make things better. Optimism is a passive virtue, hope, an active one. It takes no courage to be an optimist, but it takes a great deal of courage to have hope.”**

As a person of faith, I really resonate with the concept of hope. I think I also struggled to see myself as an optimist because I tend to see things realistically, which does not seem to be part of an optimistic outlook. As I have been preparing our course in Spiritual Gifts, I have also been participating in the process of discernment. Although I was initially shocked, it ultimately made sense to me when I came to realize that one of my top spiritual gifts is “prophecy.” It is not foretelling the future, but it is sharing the message of God that people need to hear. It also means becoming aware of what I need. One need that has become apparent to me is my need to become a better leader. This was not part of my preparation for ministry, but it is clearly a need now as I serve as your pastor.

I shared this awareness with the Pastoral Relations Committee and told them about a couple of options for leadership development. We all agreed that participation in the training offered by the John Maxwell Team seemed to be the best fit. Thanks to funds from my annual Continuing Education allowance from the congregation and a generous grant from the FCC Foundation, I was able to register for this program. So, as a part of this training I began reading *Change Your World*. It is my expectation and hope

that as I become a better leader I will be able to equip the leadership of this congregation.

One foundational element of this program that really attracted me was the emphasis on hope and positive change. Maxwell and Hoskins said it well: “The changes you make within yourself will give you the confidence and credibility and hope to help others.” I believe this positive and hopeful attitude will empower me and you to move forward as individuals and as a congregation. I look forward to bringing you along as we make this hopeful, and not simply optimistic, journey.

The Apostle Paul said it well to the faithful in Rome and I repeat his words once again: **“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.”**

In hope and love,  
*Pastor Karen*

### WELCOME VISITORS

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

*Lori Widger*  
*Jim Welch*

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

### Book Club News

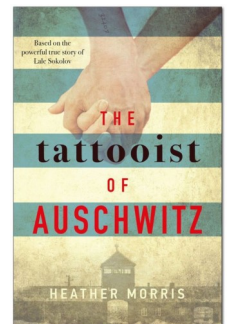
Book Club will meet again Saturday June 12th at 9:30 am at Cheryl Judds home.

Our book for discussion is:  
***The Tattooist of Auschwitz***  
by Heather Morris

Some of the upcoming titles to be discussed include:

*The Fountains of Silence* by Ruth Sepetys

*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.*



## See What's New with SCRIP



Are you tired of carrying all of those plastic gift cards? Do you find yourself at a store without SCRIP? Are you a SmartPhone user? Has COVID-19 prevented you from buying SCRIP?

Now you can purchase Scrip anytime you need it, anywhere, right from your phone! Scrip is literally at your fingertips for gas, clothing, home goods, honey-do projects, and even those late night Amazon shopping excursions! You can even ask your shopper friends and family to enroll!!

Shop With Scrip has just gotten easier as they recently created a free app called **RaiseRight** available at both Apple's App Store and Google Play. You'll be prompted to enter our enrollment code, available in the FCC Office, and then to create your personal family ShopWithScrip account. If you were already using the mobile website, MyScripWallet, all of your information and Scrip will automatically be transferred to the RaiseRight app.

Most of the vendors offer a choice of an eGift card or physical plastic gift card. Many of the physical gift cards are reloadable, meaning you can add money to them rather than buying a new card. To use the eGift or reloadable gift cards you must sign up for their online payment program PrestoPay™ which lets you pay for your mobile orders by securely linking your bank account to your ShopWithScrip account. For a nominal 15 cents per order, PrestoPay connects to your bank account and withdraws the money. A credit card can also be used with a 2.6% fee added. If ordering only plastic gift cards, you can continue to pay Donna Ruhl by check or green electronic transfer form. All orders (paper and online) for physical cards are sent monthly after the first Sunday of the month.

Please note gift cards for local vendors such as Super Saver, Hy-Vee, Russ's, Runza, etc. are not available using the app and must be ordered from Donna.

If you have any questions or need help getting started please contact Gwen Belden, Brad Bowker or Geoff Putney.

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.



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## 2021 Graduate Recognition



The 2021 graduation class includes three young people who are a part of the First Christian Church family:

Chloe Madison, daughter of Reg and Kara Madison, graduates from Lincoln High School. She plans to attend Mount Marty University in Yankton, South Dakota in the fall. Chloe is a nationally ranked archer and will become part of the Mount Marty Lancer Archery team. At Lincoln High, she was part of the marching band and Unified Bowling (a Special Olympics unified sport combining people with and without intellectual disabilities in bowling for training and competition). Chloe plans to major in elementary education with an emphasis in special education. In addition to her studies and archery competitions, Chloe enjoys country western dancing with friends and helping with the dogs that her family fosters through Dolly's Legacy Animal Rescue.

Hanna Jean Taylor and Manton (Manny) David Taylor, daughter and son of Chelle Cox, Sondra Peterson, Shaun and Staci Taylor, grandchildren of Bobbi and Mike Carlin, graduated from Tri-County High School on May 8. Hanna was involved in band and FFA and plays the guitar. She has been involved with horses from a young age and is interested in becoming a horse trainer. She currently works for two different trainers and graduated from horseshoeing school in the summer of 2019. Manny plans to join the Air Force and eventually become a police officer. He was involved in football, basketball, band, chorus (including show choir) and drama at Tri-County. He also enjoys shooting competitions.

We will honor our graduates on a TBA Sunday morning at church; right now they are busy with graduation and post-school activities.



*This I Know: Finance Notes*

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

**Pentecost - Was there every a greater birthday?**

The Apostle Paul calls the church “the body of Christ,” and each person “individual members of it” (1 Corinthians 12:27-28). This body of Christ, born at Pentecost where the gift of the Spirit was first received, is where “to each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good” (1 Corinthians 12:7).

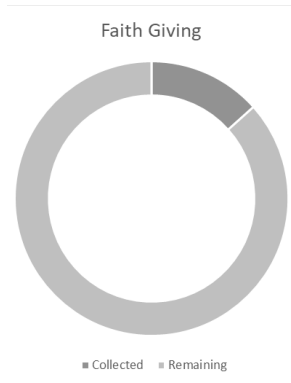
The effective work of the church and the gifts for the ministry and mission of the body are tasked to the individual members. Each member is a significant part of the body. Each one has the responsibility and the flame.

Pentecost - the church’s birthday - is perhaps the best day to share the gift of the Holy Spirit by supporting the mission and ministry of FCC through Faith Giving.

**Faith Giving is necessary to support and sustain the basic operation 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 May 16, we have received \$6,044 in Faith Giving.

Dark Grey: Received  
Light Grey: Remaining

May the Spirit of God be with you,  
*Finance Team*



## Those Serving in June



If for any reason you will be unable to fulfill your requirement, **please find a substitute.** All of these positions need to be filled each morning. If necessary, the FCC office can help find a substitute if needed.

**Worship Leader**

June 6	Wayne Duncan
June 13	Wayne Duncan
June 20	Marcia Foster
June 27	Marcia Foster

**Elders**

June 6	Connie Calver
June 13	Tom Mason
June 20	Wayne Duncan
June 27	Sara Lugn

**Hallway Hospitality**

June 6	Vince Ortega
June 13	Mike Carlin
June 20	Geoff Putney
June 27	Jim Christ


**Ushers/Greeters**

June 6	D’Arcy Blosser
June 13	Jessica Effle
June 20	Monte Dietrick
June 27	Wayne & Susan Pallas-Duncan

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!

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



**STEPHEN MINISTRY**

“May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you.”

**1 Thessalonians 3:12**

# Prayers & Praises

## May 20, 2021

### In the Nebraska Region:

- Kamp Kaleo on the River and their Staff, Campers, and Counselors
- Iglesia Discipulos and Rev. Daniel Zapata

### Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Eleazar Fernandez serving in the Philippines

Find more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners at

[www.globalministries.org](http://www.globalministries.org)



# Lincoln First Christian Church

## Calendar of Events

Thursday, May 20- Messengers Mailed

Sunday, May 23 - Pentecost

10:30 am Worship - Sanctuary

11:30 am Elders Meeting - Library

Tuesday, May 25

11:00 am Recorder Consort Rehearsal  
Sanctuary

Wednesday, May 26

12:00 pm Spiritual Gifts Study - Library

Saturday, May 29

3:00 pm Bell Tree Rehearsal - Sanctuary

Sunday, May 30

10:30 am Worship - Sanctuary

Tuesday, June 1

11:00 am Recorder Consort Rehearsal  
Sanctuary

Wednesday, June 3

12:00 pm Spiritual Gifts Study - Library

Saturday, June 5

3:00 pm Bell Tree Rehearsal - Sanctuary

Sunday, June 6

10:30 am Worship - Sanctuary

Monday, June 7

12:00 pm Messenger Deadline

7:00 pm Deborah Group Meeting - Zoom

Tuesday, June 8

9:00 am Staff Meeting - Conference Room

11:00 am Recorder Consort Rehearsal  
Sanctuary

Wednesday, June 9

12:00 pm Spiritual Gifts Study - Library

Thursday June 10 - Messengers Mailed



### Congregational Singing Is Coming Back

I am guessing we have all missed singing on Sunday mornings. I know I have. Well, the wait is over! At our Worship Team meeting, we decided the time was right to return to singing as a congregation. Pentecost Sunday, May 23rd, seemed like the perfect Sunday to reinstate this dearly missed part of our weekly worship service. We want to continue to be safe, so we will wear our masks when we sing. We hope you will come celebrate the Church's Birthday by lifting your voices to make a joyful noise unto the Lord! We also encourage you to wear red on Pentecost.

### 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.

### FCC Social Media!

