



First Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

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

Messenger

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www.fcclincoln.org



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Thanks Very Mu(I)ch!

Please join me in thanking Jim Christ, Gary Larsen, and Karen Moritz for spreading mulch in the church gardens on June 12th. We're blessed to have a beautiful facility and grounds, so spreading for a couple of hours to protect the plants and enhance our gardens was both rewarding and fun.

Jim Blosser, for the Property Team



Disciples Tech Corp needs you! If you have skills in information technology, video editing, lighting, sound & audio engineering, worship service production & livestreaming, or website & graphic design, and if you are willing to share your gifts with the church, please sign up today. Disciples Tech Corps will provide tech support and resources to Disciples congregations. Don't miss this opportunity to share your gifts and talents. Visit www.DISCIPLES.TECH to learn more and to complete the tech application form.

Sunday Funday!

The Lincoln Saltdogs are playing at 1:30 pm on Sunday, August 1, 2021. If we get a group of at least 20, the tickets are \$13.00, and if not, the tickets are \$15.00. Popcorn and drinks are \$1.00 with additional fun activities at the ballpark. Please contact Connie Calver if you are interested. Please join us for a fun all-church event!



Connie Calver, for the Membership Team

WELCOME VISITORS

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

Gray Fredericks
Derek Sailors

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

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.



Sanctuary Flowers \$45

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

Pastor's Corner

In his book *Attitude 101: What Every Leader Needs to Know*, John Maxwell talks about the importance of dealing with adversity. He described several key reasons to embrace adversity.

1. Adversity creates resilience.
2. Adversity develops maturity.
3. Adversity pushes the envelope of accepted performance.
4. Adversity provides greater opportunities.
5. Adversity prompts innovation.
6. Adversity brings unexpected benefits.
7. Adversity motivates.

Although Maxwell was writing to encourage individuals as they develop as leaders, I was really struck by his discussion about adversity as we move away from the grip of COVID-19. While his words were addressed to the individual, I think there is an application for us as a community as well. We have made it through one of the most challenging times in human history. We have undoubtedly lost a lot individually and as a community. Over 600,000 people have now died from COVID in our nation alone. Many still struggle with adverse effects from the virus. We have lost valuable time with loved ones. The list goes on and on. As we move into the future, Maxwell's words invite us to ponder how the adversity of this experience can make us stronger and more resilient. I invite you to join me during the next couple of months as we consider how adversity impacts us as individuals and as a community.

Maxwell's reasons to embrace adversity struck me personally and as your pastor here at FCC. In a lot of recent literature there has been a great deal of discussion about the quality of "resilience." The noun resilience is defined as the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties, toughness, and the ability of a substance or object to spring back into shape, or elasticity. All of us have been stretched and challenged over these past few months. As your pastor, I have been challenged in every aspect of my ministry. Sermon preparation has totally changed as I have adapted to presenting my sermons in written and oral formats. Adapting to video and live-streaming were not skills taught during my seminary training. Pastoral care had to shift from in-person visits to homes and hospitals to

Zoom, phone calls, and notes only. Administration and congregational gatherings had to be done via Zoom. All the staff here at the church had to make adjustments and adapt during a rapidly changing time. All of us have had to adapt and change and we have been able to do so.

As a congregation we have demonstrated ample resilience. We were one of the first mainline Protestant congregations to resume in person worship last June. We pushed our way through Zoom meetings and hybrid gatherings. The Elders helped with pastoral care. People pitched in to see that things were done. We have a great deal to celebrate as we move forward. In addition to demonstrating resilience, we have also grown and stretch ourselves. We have all matured physically, mentally, and spiritually. Adversity need not bring us down, it can and has led us to a resilience and maturity we did not suspect we had.

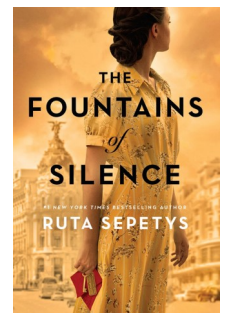
I hope you will join me in celebrating the ways in which adversity has enabled us to be resilient and more mature. Guided by God we can move into the future confident that adversity can make us better and stronger.

In peace and love,
Pastor Karen

Book Club News

Book Club will meet again Sunday, July 11 at 6:30 pm at D'Arcy Blosser's home.

Our book for discussion is:
The Fountains of Silence
by Ruta Sepetys



New books for 2021-2022 will be chosen soon!

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.



IT'S BACK!!!

**Big Kamp Kaleo
Rummage Sale
August 12-15, 2021**

**Thursday, 5 pm - 9 pm
Friday, 10 am - 4 pm
Saturday, 9 am - 1 pm
Sunday, Noon - 3 pm**

FCC Lincoln and Kamp Kaleo friends are holding a big rummage sale to benefit Kamp Kaleo. Since we were not able to have our sale in 2020, our storage areas have filled up completely. So hang on to your "treasures" for delivery to the church on Saturday, August 7 from 8 am until 12 noon. We will continue to receive donations for the sale through August 10. Sorting and pricing will take place August 9-12, daytime and early evening hours.

We Need You!

Volunteers Opportunities Aug. 6-15

Volunteers Needed

- Friday, August 6 from 10 am until 2 pm to help set up tables and begin sorting/placing donations on tables.
- Saturday, August 7 from 8 am to 12 noon to deliver/help unload and sort donated items to FCC Gym.
- Sunday, August 8 from 1 to 3 pm to deliver/help unload and sort donated items to FCC Gym.
- Contact D'Arcy Blosser or Gwen Belden for information, questions, or directions.

Volunteers / Sorters & Pricers Needed:

- Monday - Thursday, Aug. 9 to 12 to sort, organize, and price items. Help when you can between 9 am and 8 pm.
- Thursday - Sunday, Aug. 12 to 15 to assist at sale, organizing, and cashiering (see sale times above).
- Contact Sue Shear to schedule times you can work.

Volunteers / Packers Needed:

- Sunday, Aug. 15 from 3 to 5 pm (approximately) to pack up remaining items and clean up.
- Contact Gwen Belden or D'Arcy Blosser.



This I Know: Finance Notes

"For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love."

Galatians 5:13

The Bible contains much wisdom concerning freedom - the responsibility that comes with being free and the work required to protect and sustain freedom.

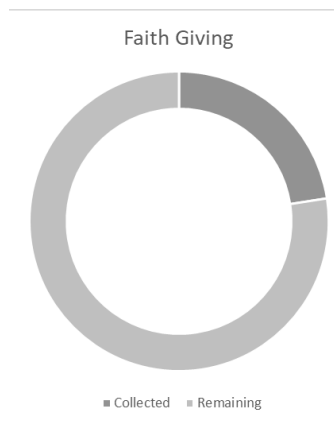
Since 1776, July 4th has been celebrated as the birth of American independence from the colonial subjugation of England. Freedom is a gift that should never be taken for granted.

One of the hallmarks of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is freedom from an overarching body telling us how to serve. We have freedom to create the ministries that best support our community. What a wonderful gift! Celebrate and share in the incredible gift of freedom by supporting the mission and ministries of First Christian Church.

Faith Giving is necessary to support and sustain the basic operation and ministries of First Christian Church every week. A \$65 monthly donation per family is all it takes to meet our 2021 Faith Giving goal. As of June 20, we have received \$10,861 towards our \$48,000 goal for 2021. We have six months remaining to meet this goal.

Dark Grey: Received
Light Grey: Remaining

May the Spirit, Peace, and Freedom of God be with you,
Finance Team





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
- NO fees, so your whole donation benefits FCC

SPCC Men's Breakfast is Back!
Saturday, July 3, 2021 at 9:00 am
The Eatery 2548 South 48th St.

This month's speaker is Heath Kramer. Heath is an on-site personality with Christian based My Bridge Radio as well as an associate Pastor in Malcom. He is also one of the P.A. announcers for NSAA State Championships and the P.A. announcer for the Saltdogs.

RSVP so we can save you a seat,
www.southpointecc.org/men. Walk ups also welcome, so show up if you can!



STEPHEN MINISTRY

"Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."

1 John 4:11

Those Serving in July



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

| | |
|---------|----------------|
| July 4 | Kristi Bowker |
| July 11 | Karl Ahrendsen |
| July 18 | Karl Ahrendsen |
| July 25 | Karl Ahrendsen |

Elders

| | |
|---------|------------------|
| July 4 | Sara Lugn |
| July 11 | Cecilia Burkhart |
| July 18 | Doug Effle |
| July 25 | Monte Dietrick |

Hallway Hospitality

| | |
|---------|--------------|
| July 4 | Jim Christ |
| July 11 | Rich Calver |
| July 18 | Vince Ortega |
| July 25 | Mike Carlin |

Ushers/Greeters

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

There is a NEW position that we need volunteers for: **live-streaming worship!** Please contact Geoff or the FCC Office if you are interested in learning this position. We will also be looking for hosts for **Outside Fellowship** over the next few Sundays. Right now we are offering ice water and lemonade on the patio after church. If you are interested, please contact the church office at 402-475-4289.

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

Prayers & Praises June 24, 2021

In the Nebraska Region:

- Minden First Christian Church and Rev. Joe Tira
- Murray Christian Church and Rev. Micheal Njus

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Phyllis Byrd serving in Kenya

Find more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners at

www.globalministries.org



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.



WE NEED YOU!

Are you interested in volunteering at First Christian Church? The following teams will be seeking new members in 2021:

Membership
Education
Finance

Property
Hospitality/Meals
Outreach

Leadership is essential for First Christian Church to best serve the community and to follow it's call to ministry in the Capitol City. Please ask Pastor Karen, Jim Blosser, or Geoff Putney if you have any questions about what each position involves.

Lincoln First Christian Church Calendar of Events

Thursday, June 24 - Messengers Mailed

Saturday, June 26

3:00 pm Bell Tree Rehearsal - Sanctuary

Sunday, June 27

10:30 am Worship - Sanctuary

11:30 am Elders Meeting - Library

6:00 pm Ministry Cabinet Meeting - Parlor

Tuesday, June 29

11:00 am Recorder Consort Rehearsal
Sanctuary

Saturday, June 3

3:00 pm Bell Tree Rehearsal - Sanctuary

Sunday, July 4 - SCRIP Due

10:30 am Worship - Sanctuary

Monday, July 5- Messenger Deadline

Tuesday, July 6

9:00 am Staff Meeting - Conference Room

11:00 am Recorder Consort Rehearsal
Sanctuary

July 7 - July 24

Karen Out of the Office

Thursday July 8 - Messengers Mailed

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!

