



First Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

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

Messenger

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Lincoln, NE 68508

402.475.4289

www.fcclincoln.org



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Church Clean-Up Day Saturday July 24 9:00 am

As many of you know, our building was closed for much for 2020 due to COVID-19. We are pleased to say that this summer our building is opening up to more events and activities. Before we are ready to welcome guests into our space, we need to clean! Our main focus will be the kitchen, but there are other areas of the building that need attention, too. Help us to take pride in the beautiful building that we are stewards of. Help us prepare the way for more activities and events! To volunteer, please contact Jim Blosser or the FCC office at 402-475-4289. See you there!



WE NEED YOU!

Are you interested in volunteering at First Christian Church? The following teams will be seeking new members in 2022:

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. The Nominating Committee will be assembled soon. Please ask Pastor Karen, Jim Blosser, or Geoff Putney if you have any questions about what each position involves.

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



STEPHEN MINISTRY

"If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, 'Love your neighbor as yourself,' you are doing right."

James 2:8

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.

Pastor's Corner

As I mentioned in my last Pastor's Corner, leadership expert John Maxwell talked about the importance of dealing with adversity in his book *Attitude 101: What Every Leader Needs to Know*. 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.

This month I want to talk about the 3rd, 4th and 5th outcomes of embracing adversity. Maxwell suggested that adversity pushes the envelope of accepted performance, provides greater opportunities, and prompts innovation. As we move past COVID, I suspect it is a challenge for many of us to find ways to embrace adversity, particularly in the ways suggested by Maxwell. So much pain and heartache has arisen in this past year and it is hard to believe that anything positive could arise. However, as Maxwell would remind us, how we move forward has a lot to do with our attitude. We must embrace and acknowledge the pain and heartache, but it need not be the final word.

Personally and professionally, I have been forced to think outside the box. As I mentioned in my last Pastor's Corner, seminary did not prepare me for everything that developed over the past months and year. Several years of experience as a pastor, chaplain, and Mission Coworker did not prepare me either. I have had to learn new things and re-imagine my ministry in almost every way. There were days and weeks when I was sure the envelope would be pushed so far that it would tear and I might tear with it. And yet, I have been able to do things once unimaginable. I joke that I might need to make more money since I'm now on TV. I may need to get bigger house and be more flamboyant. Aside from my strange sense of humor, I have made some essential changes so we can have a written worship bulletin and live-streaming. Life in the midst of a pandemic has pushed the envelope for us all. We have embraced these changes which has created greater opportunities. We

reach out and touch more lives through all the media we employ. Our live-streaming makes it possible for those unable to attend in person to still join us for worship. Here at FCC we have wanted to find ways to reach out and embrace technology and COVID forced our hand. Through the generosity of the FCC Foundation we were able to move forward and install the needed technology to make all this happen. The skills and flexibility of the church staff also made these desires a reality.

We continue to explore what other innovations we can make to share the Gospel with those far and wide. We are exploring other technology updates that will keep us moving forward. The leadership of the congregation and the staff continue to explore what other innovations will help us move forward. Some of this innovation will be technological, but some of it will be found in people power. We continue to ponder ways to equip the members and friends of FCC in ongoing mission and ministry. How we employ the gifts of all will require thinking outside the box and embracing innovation. As the world around us continues to change will be invited to do the same.

May we all have the courage to push the envelope, explore greater opportunities, and embrace innovation as we move forward into a future no longer dominated by COVID-19.

With confidence and love,
Pastor Karen

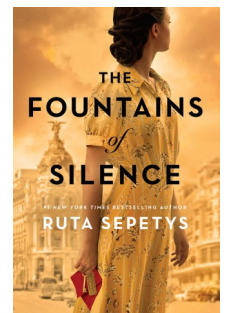
Book Club News

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

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

Vacations, sporting events, concerts, parties, and barbecues are just a few of the many activities going on this summer. With all these activities, it's only natural for members to be less focused on church during the summer months.

Fortunately, God is not distracted by summer activities. Here are a few of the amazing things God is doing among us at First Christian Church:

- New Members
- Visitors in worship most Sundays
- Two Seminary ministry interns to enhance our pulpit, education, and youth ministries
- Vibrant, creative worship
- A growing downtown neighborhood

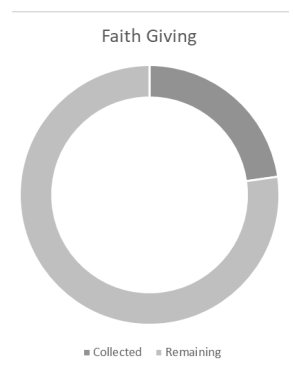
Your continued support of the ministry and mission of FCC during the summer months is greatly appreciated.

Faith Giving is necessary to support and sustain the basic operation and ministries of First Christian Church every week. \$65 per family each month is all it would take to meet our 2021 Faith Giving goal. Our 2021 Faith Giving goal is \$48,000. As of July 4, we have received \$10,956 towards the goal. We have less than six months to make it! Help out as you can, every dollar counts.
Thank you!

Dark Grey: Received
Light Grey: Remaining

May the Spirit of God be with you,

Finance Team



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

Prayers & Praises July 8, 2021

In the Nebraska Region:

- Nebraska City FCC and Rev. Michael Schmidt
- North Platte FCC

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Martha Mensendiek serving in Japan

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



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 11	Karl Ahrendsen
July 18	Karl Ahrendsen
July 25	Karl Ahrendsen

Elders

July 11	Cecilia Burkhart
July 18	Doug Effle
July 25	Monte Dietrick

Hallway Hospitality

July 11	Rich Calver
July 18	Vince Ortega
July 25	Mike Carlin

Ushers/Greeters

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.

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

Lincoln First Christian Church Calendar of Events

July 7 - July 24
Karen Out of the Office

Thursday, July 8 - Messengers Mailed

Saturday, July 10

3:00 pm Bell Tree Rehearsal - Sanctuary

Sunday, July 11

10:30 am Worship - Sanctuary

Tuesday, July 13

11:00 am Recorder Consort Rehearsal
Sanctuary

Saturday, July 17

3:00 pm Bell Tree Rehearsal - Sanctuary

Sunday, July 18

10:30 am Worship - Sanctuary
6:00 pm Board Meeting - Parlor

Monday, July 19 - Messenger Deadline

Tuesday, July 20

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

Thursday July 22 - Messengers Mailed

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.



Sanctuary Flowers \$45

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