



First Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

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

Messenger

430 S. 16th St.
Lincoln, NE 68508
402.475.4289
www.fcclincoln.org



Rev. Dr. Karen Moritz, Pastor
Kelly Tyrrell, Church Administrator
Mark W. Miller, Director of Music Ministries

Sara Lugin, Stephen Ministry Leader
www.fcclincoln.org
info@fcclincoln.org

Volume 71, No. 14
July 22, 2021

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 Capital 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

"Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends."

John 15:13



Sanctuary Flowers \$45

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



Pastor's Corner

In my final reflection on leadership expert John Maxwell's book ***Attitude 101: What Every Leader Needs to Know***, I want to explore his final two comments about the importance of dealing with adversity. As you may remember 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.

I explored the first two reasons for embracing adversity in my Pastor's Corner at the end of June and went on to explore 3, 4, and 5 in my last article. Now we come to the final two invitations that grow out of embracing adversity: finding unexpected benefits and receiving motivation. Without minimizing the pain and suffering that has arisen in the course of life during a pandemic, it is important for us to ponder the unexpected benefits that may arise as well. For me, one of the unexpected benefits has been the reminder of the presence of resilience. I think we are invited to celebrate our resilience, both as individuals and as a congregation. Sadly, many entities will not survive the pandemic. We hear daily of businesses and organizations that have not survived. While this is very sad, the reality is that we have survived. All of us will be forever changed but we continue on. Many things look different and yet the core components of our faith community remain. We continue to worship God weekly and for special occasions. We were one of the first mainline Protestant congregations to resume in-person worship at the beginning of June 2020. We continue to care for our members and reach out in fellowship. We have welcomed new members and greeted our two incoming Seminarians in Residence. In July we will dedicate two of our newest members in worship. In August we will once again hold our Kamp Kaleo Rumage sale and host the Regional Disciple Women's Retreat. Many of these activities will look familiar and, at the same time, may look a bit different. A lot of exciting

things are happening here at FCC.

I think one of the other benefits that has arisen is a sense of gratitude for the people in our lives. Having been separated for months has bred an appreciation for in-person contact. We have also found more ways to keep in touch and keep connected. An additional benefit has been our growing ability to faithfully use technology. This benefit was eagerly anticipated and will require ongoing work. In my mind, another benefit has been the many ways in which all of you have continued to support our mission and ministry here at FCC. Your financial fidelity has kept us going and is greatly appreciated. The many ways in which people have stepped up to keep us going has been truly awesome. As we move forward, I believe we will continue to discern many more benefits from this period of adversity. I would love to hear from others: what are some of the unexpected benefits that have become evident for you personally? What do you see as some of the unexpected benefits for FCC? Perhaps you even have a sense of the unexpected benefits for our community, nation, and world.

Finally, Maxwell talks about the idea that embracing adversity can motivate us as we move into the future. The awareness that we have persevered can empower us to face adversity in our lives and world. Our time in isolation and quarantine can make us more grateful for all the people that gift our lives. This shared experience can also motivate us to reach out to friends, family, and strangers. We can be even more motivated to show care and compassion towards ourselves and others. Again, I would love to hear from others: how has this global experience motivated you? Has this experience moved you in new areas of your life or has it prompted you to reclaim something or some practice from your past?

This has been a challenging time for us all and the effects are still being discovered, for good and for ill. May we allow ourselves to be motivated to care for ourselves, for those we love, and for the strangers in our midst. We have been through a lot and God continues to abide with us and guide us into an often unknown future. Whatever adversity comes our way God is with us and abides with us even, and often especially, in the midst of it all.

With gratitude and love,
Pastor Karen

Those Serving in August

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 Leaders:

Aug. 1	Wayne Duncan
Aug. 8	Wayne Duncan
Aug. 15	Wayne Duncan
Aug. 22	Leigh Lestina
Aug. 29	Wayne Duncan

Elders:

Aug. 1	Jim Blosser
Aug. 8	Connie Calver
Aug. 15	Tom Mason
Aug. 22	Wayne Duncan
Aug. 29	Sara Lugin

Deacons:

Dick Pickel, John Swanson, Elaine Parman, Carla Pinneo

Communion Prep: Carla Pinneo, John Swanson
Homebound Communion: August 8th

Hallway Hospitality:

Aug. 1	Geoff Putney
Aug. 8	Doug Effle
Aug. 15	Jim Christ
Aug. 22	Rich Calver
Aug. 29	Vince Ortega

Ushers / Greeters:

Aug. 1	Jessica Effle
Aug. 8	Monte Dietrick
Aug. 15	Charles and Diane Zabokrtsky
Aug. 22	Wayne and Susan Pallas-Duncan
Aug. 29	Elaine Parman

There is a NEW position that we need volunteers for: **live-streaming worship!** Please contact Geoff Putney 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!



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

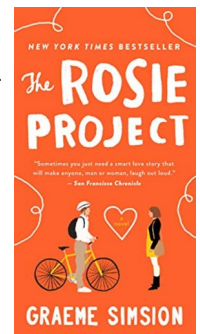
Auto Pay benefits to FCC:

- 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

Book Club News

Book Club will meet again Saturday August 28th at 9:30 am at Susan Pallas-Duncan's home.

Our book for discussion is:
The Rosie Project
by Graeme Simsion



Some of the upcoming titles will be:

Born a Crime by Trevor Noah
This Tender Land by William Kent Krueger

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**

As of June 30th, only eight of the over sixty families at FCC have stepped up to the monthly Faith Giving Challenge. Thank you to those who are supporting the mission and ministries of First Christian Church through Faith Giving!

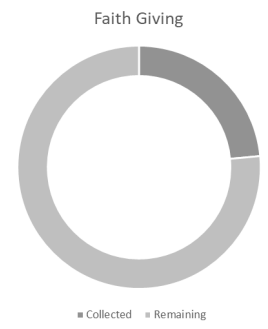
Faith Giving is necessary to support and sustain the basic operation and ministries of First Christian Church every week. \$65 per month per family is all it would take to meet our 2021 Faith Giving goal.

Our 2021 Faith Giving goal is \$48,000. As of July 18, we have received only \$11,331 towards our goal. We have only five months to make up the rest!!

For those of you who are giving, thank you! For those of you who have held back, now is the time to get involved and help us reach this goal. We can't do it without you! We look forward to you showing your gratitude for everything FCC means to you.

Dark Grey: Received
Light Grey: Remaining

May the Spirit of God be with you,
Finance 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 had any problems with online worship,
please let us know in the FCC Office at
402-475-4289**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dedication Service Sunday July 25, 2021

Come enjoy worship with us this Sunday where we will be dedicating Nash Harrison Calver and Jase Eilert Calver as a part of our First Christian Church family.



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.

PraiseFest is Back!

Plan on attending PraiseFest in the First Christian Church parking lot on Saturday August 28th. More details and information will be coming soon. Look in your August Messenger!



Do you love to sing? Are you interested in being in the choir? The FCC Music Ministry is rebuilding its musical team and is looking for someone like you!

Music Ministry is making changes for the fall of 2021. Wednesday nights are now going to be for fellowship and education, which will move music rehearsals. If you are interested in participating, please contact Music Director Mark Miller and indicate to him when you would be available to practice.

Wednesday

Wednesday Night Fellowship is coming back on September 8th. The plan is to have Chef au Chef cater our meal at 5:30 pm followed by educational programming from 6:00-7:00pm. The program schedule will be:

September 8th - October 13th
The Gospel of Matthew

October 20th - 27th
Service Project TBD

November 3rd - November 17th
Native American Spiritual Beliefs & Practices

More information will be coming out as we approach September. Come join in fellowship and maybe learn something new!

Region of Nebraska News:

www.disciples-ne.org

Nebraska Disciples Women's Retreat
Saturday, August 21, 2021

AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST

2 Corinthians 5:20

KEYNOTER, REV. DR. KAREN MORITZ

First Christian Church – 430 S 16th St, Lincoln, NE 68508

Registration: 9 – 9:30 a.m. – Retreat: 9:30 to 3 p.m.

Registration Fee: \$10.00 includes lunch.

Please send your \$10 registrations to:

First Christian Church; Attn: Angie Emons; 114 N 8th St, Nebraska City, NE 68410; Phone: (402) 873-6215

FCC Office Hours are
Changing!

Starting on Monday, August 23, 2021, the FCC Office hours will be Monday - Friday 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. Our Church Administrator, Kelly Tyrrell, is also one of our Seminarians in Residence, and the change in hours will allow her to accomplish both commitments to the church.

Prayers & Praises

July 22, 2021

In the Nebraska Region:

- North Side Christian Church, Omaha and Rev. Susan Ellis
- Omaha FCC and Rev. Josh Sawyer

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Emmanuela Loccident serving in Morocco
- Bosela Eale serving in Kenya

Find more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners at

www.globalministries.org



Lincoln First Christian Church Calendar of Events

Thursday, July 22 - Messengers Mailed

Saturday, July 24

3:00 pm Bell Tree Rehearsal - Sanctuary

Sunday, July 25

10:30 am Worship - Sanctuary

11:30 am Elders Meeting - Library

Tuesday, July 27

11:00 am Recorder Consort Rehearsal
Sanctuary

Saturday, July 31

3:00 pm Bell Tree Rehearsal - Sanctuary

Sunday, August 1 - SCRIP Due

10:30 am Worship - Sanctuary

Monday, August 2 - Messenger Deadline

Tuesday, August 3

9:00 am Staff Meeting - Conference Room

11:00 am Recorder Consort Rehearsal
Sanctuary

Thursday, August 5 - Messengers Mailed

Guest Preachers in July

While Pastor Karen was on a much needed and much deserved vacation in July, First Christian Church welcomed two new faces to the pulpit. Kelly Tyrrell preached on July 11th and member Wayne Duncan preached on July 18th. Thank you to them both for stepping in.



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!

Disciples Virtual Gathering Saturday, August 7, 2021

The Disciples Virtual Gathering is an opportunity for Disciples to connect, learn, worship, and imagine new ways of gathering as church.

Our day together will focus on the covenant we share as Disciples and the promise of Romans 8:38-39 that nothing can separate us from the love of God. The program will consist of bible lectures, educational workshops, and worship service, with invited speakers and presenters focusing on our theme.

For more information visit:
<https://disciplesconnect2021.vfairs.com/>