



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. 16
August 19, 2021

Music Ministry 2021



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.



Sunday Funday August 1, 2021

A fun time was had by a group of 25 at the Saltdogs game on August 1st. We were the recipient of complimentary tickets from one of their sponsors Beatrice Concrete. Thank you for a great Sunday at the ballpark!

Connie Calver for the Membership Team

P.S. August 29th is the 5th Sunday of the month. If you had set aside money for the ballgame and ended up not spending it, you could always put it in for 5th Sunday Faith Giving. It's a great way to "pay it forward" for the kind gesture from Beatrice Concrete.

Join us for **PRAISEFEST** **Saturday, August 28** **5 - 7 pm**

First Christian Church Parking Lot
17th & 'K' Street

Live Praise Music by The Torch
Free Hotdogs & Refreshments
Bounce House

*Spend time with our Capitol area neighbors
and invite your family and friends.*

**The Kona Ice truck will be on site,
and also some very special guests!**



**DOC Apparel Now
Available!**

**Shop now at
www.disciples.org**



Pastor's Corner

For some of us the great transformation from the inside out comes gradually. For some of us it comes swiftly. But for all of us it comes inevitably as we unite more closely to the One who brings the yeast, salt, wind, and fire of the new creation-the deep self we have always longed to be.
--Flora Slosson Wuellner

In my previous Pastor's Corner, I shared the above quote and invited us to ponder: how can we, here at FCC, be a community of transformation and not just one of change? In her article for *Weavings* entitled "Transformation: Our Fear, Our Longing" Wuellner invites the reader to consider the differences between change and transformation. As I reflected on her article, I went on to think: how has God brought about, and is currently bringing about, transformation in our own lives? That question invites us to go on and consider: how do we experience transformation as a community? So many of us want to see an end to COVID-19 and there is a great deal of conversation about "returning to normal." Now a lot of the conversation focuses on the questions "what is normal and what will the new normal look like?" I believe the more faithful consideration would be: how has God brought about transformation in our lives and church? How can God continue to enable us to be a place of transformation as we move into the future? As Wuellner points out,

"For some of us the great transformation from the inside out comes gradually. For some of us it comes swiftly. But for all of us it comes inevitably as we unite more closely to the One who brings the yeast, salt, wind, and fire of the new creation-the deep self we have always longed to be."

Perhaps our transformation has been so gradual that we have not really noticed it. As I think about my own life, this rings true. Much of the long lasting transformation in my life has happened so gradually that I have not always made note of it. I think of my efforts to live a healthier life. There is a reason I am a "Life-long member" of Weight Watchers. I have struggled with weight issues most of my adult life which has meant gaining and losing weight several times. After living in the land of dumplings and pivo, I lost over 50 pounds after returning to the US from my service in the Czech Republic. I also try to exercise regularly and eat fewer dumplings. This has in-

involved adopting new behaviors and has been a slow and gradual process. My efforts continue; some days I do well and some days I struggle. The changes in my body have been slow and gradual. Looking back, I can see the progress I have made which impels me into the future. I also know that I could not have done it alone. I have the support of others who share this journey, here at FCC and in my weekly Weight Watchers meeting. Our leader Joanne inspires us all and our shared community provides ongoing support. I suspect all of us can think of a time when we have experienced slow and steady transformation. At the same time, there may be times in our lives when transformation has been swift and dramatic. Those experiences are often easier to name. Whether the path to transformation has been gradual or swift, it is so important that we take time and make space to recognize and celebrate it.

I think there are also signs of new life and transformation all around us here at FCC. One of the most significant signs for me is the opportunity to work with two different people who are discerning their calls to ministry. These two individuals are concluding their seminary training and will graduate with Masters of Divinity degrees. These two "Seminarians in Residence," Kelly Tyrrell and Leigh Todd Lestina, will be taking active leadership roles in our ministry here at FCC. You will see them leading worship, preaching, teaching, providing pastoral care, and sharing their gifts in our various teams and committees. Part of our responsibility, yours and mine, will be to provide opportunities for them to share their growing pastoral skills and providing substantive and helpful feedback. As we share in their journey of transformation, we will be transformed as well. I suspect their energy and enthusiasm will be contagious.

These opportunities to share in the formation of future pastoral leaders has not come around for some time. We have been, and will continue to be, blessed by their desire to serve Christ in the Church. As we participate in their transformation may we also accept the invitation to be transformed ourselves. In these unique times we have an opportunity to embrace transformation in our own lives, in our faith community, and in our world. We are reminded over and over again that "If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away, see, everything has become new." (2 Cor. 5:17, NRSV)

With a spirit of anticipation and hope for the future,
Pastor Karen



This I Know: Finance Notes

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

As a congregational church, First Christian relies on lay leadership to steer the ship that is our church. What a wonderful opportunity for the average congregant to get involved with the operations of the church!

The Nominating Committee will be convening soon to discuss leadership positions for 2022. Due to the pandemic, our Board leaders from 2020 graciously offered to extend their positions through 2021, while we navigated these rough waters. After this additional year of leadership, these members deserve a break!

Being part of the leadership team at First Christian is always a group endeavor. You will never walk this path alone, but rather the whole team of committee and board members work together for the benefit and momentum of the church. The FCC Staff is also here for support. Don't be afraid! We have some really exciting things starting at FCC, and this is your chance to be a part of the action.

Positions that will be available in 2022 include:

- Board Chair
- Vice Board Chair
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Finance Secretary
- Elders & Deacons
- Committee Chairs & Members

Terms are 1 year, and the by-laws state that no one serve more than 3 consecutive terms.

Many hands make light work, and we are in a season where we need all hands on deck. If you are interested in one of these positions, or just have questions about what it all entails, don't hesitate to contact Pastor Karen, Geoff Putney, or Jim Blosser. We are looking forward to fresh faces in 2022 leadership, who knows, it could be you!

Every year in December, First Christian Church holds its Annual Congregational Meeting. It is a time when everyone plans for the coming year and approves a budget to make that plan a reality. Part of the budget is paid for by pledges, those monetary donations that congregants promise to pay throughout the fiscal year. Our problem at First Christian, however, is that each year the congregation approves a budget that far exceeds the promised pledges. In 2021 alone, the gap between the budget and pledges is \$48,000!

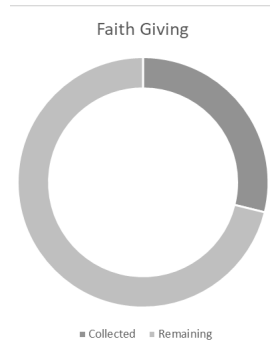
To make up this difference, the church relies on Faith Giving, or free will donations that go above and beyond the pledged donations. This money is crucial for the ministry at FCC. The money pledged to the church barely covers the cost of our building and the staff. That means to have worship materials, education, musical instruments, and everything else that makes FCC your church home must come out of Faith Giving. The only other alternative is to dip into our limited cash savings, which will only last so long.

First Christian is having a re-birth. PraiseFest is back, in-person services are growing in attendance, our live streaming videos are getting over one hundred views a week, the music program is being re-vamped, and Wednesday night fellowship is coming back in September. We need your help to keep the momentum going forward!

To everyone who has stepped up with pledging and Faith Giving, we give a whole-hearted thank you. To anyone who has not financially supported the church, please consider getting involved. Could you skip a fancy coffee each week? Could you go out to eat one less time each month? Every dollar counts. We will need all hands on deck to promise a bright and hopeful future for First Christian.

Dark Grey: Received
Light Grey: Remaining

With hope for the future,
The Finance Team





What's On Wednesdays!

Wednesday Night Fellowship is coming back on September 8th. Chef au Chef will cater our meal at 5:15 pm followed by educational programming for the whole family.

K-5 Education 6:00-7:00 pm

6-12 Youth Group 6:00-7:30 pm

Adult Education 6:00-7:00 pm

September 8th - October 13th

The Gospel of Matthew

October 20th - 27th

Service Project TBD

November 3rd - November 17th

Native American Spiritual Beliefs & Practices

The nursery will also be open from 5:15-7:30 pm. Please let us know if you plan on attending dinner or classes so we can order food and prepare class materials. Contact us also if you are interested in volunteering! We need willing helpers to serve our dinner and help clean up when we are done. Come join in fellowship and maybe learn something new!

FCC Social Media!



Each week FCC is posting new pictures and announcements. Look for First Christian Church on Instagram, Facebook, and You Tube for new content every week. Get connected!

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



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



Sanctuary Flowers \$45

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



STEPHEN MINISTRY

"If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need, but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?"
1 John 3:17

Those Serving in September

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:

Sept. 5	Kristi Bowker
Sept. 12	Kristi Bowker
Sept. 19	Kristi Bowker
Sept. 26	Karl Ahrendsen

Elders:

Sept. 5	Cecilia Burkhardt
Sept. 12	Doug Effle
Sept. 19	Monte Dietrick
Sept. 26	Jim Blosser

Deacons:

Kristi & Keaton Bowker, Jim Christ, Rich Calver, Lindsay Swanson

Communion Prep:

Kristi & Keaton Bowker, Rich Calver
Homebound Communion: **September 13th**

Hallway Hospitality:

Sept. 5	Mike Carlin
Sept. 12	Geoff Putney
Sept. 19	Jim Christ
Sept. 26	Doug Effle

Ushers / Greeters:

Sept. 5	Lindsay and John Swanson
Sept. 12	D'Arcy Blosser
Sept. 19	Jessica Effle
Sept. 26	Monte Dietrick

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!

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.

Nebraska Disciples Women's Retreat Saturday, August 21, 2012

Ambassadors For Christ *2 Corinthians 5:20*

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Dr. Karen Moritz

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

Registration 9:00-9:30 am

Retreat 9:30 am - 3:00 pm

Registration Fee: \$10.00, included lunch

Send your \$10 registrations to:
First Christian Church, Attn: Angie Emons
114 N. 8th St.
Nebraska City, NE 68410
(402) 873-6215



Book Club News

Book Club will meet again Saturday August 28th at 9:30 am at Susan Dallas-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.

Prayers & Praises August 19, 2021

In the Nebraska Region:

- Plattsmouth FCC and Rev. Michael Lincoln
- Scottsbluff FCC and Rev. Winona Hodder

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Rebecca Young serving in Indonesia
- Abigail Fate serving in Mexico

Find more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners at

www.globalministries.org



Help for Haiti

Week of Compassion partners have already deployed volunteers to help with rescue operations and assess the damage. They are working to meet immediate needs, including:

- temporary shelters
- flashlights and emergency power generators
- hygiene kits, clothes, water, and food
- first aid kits, health and rescue workers
- fuel, vehicles

Our partners are also planning for longer term response, including construction; community-based psychosocial support and trauma recovery; reconstruction of damaged water infrastructure; and livelihood support.

Through Week of Compassion and our network of partners, Disciples have long-standing relationships with communities in Haiti. For many years, we have walked alongside the people of Haiti through earthquakes, hurricanes, and other challenges.

To give your support:

Text **WoC** to **41444** Or mail checks to: PO Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206

Lincoln First Christian Church Calendar of Events

Thursday, August 19 - Messengers Mailed

Saturday, August 21

9:00 am-1:00pm Disciples Women's Retreat - Parlor

3:00 pm Bell Tree Rehearsal - Sanctuary

Sunday, August 22

10:30 am Worship - Sanctuary

11:30 am Elders Meeting - Library

Monday, August 23 - New Office Hours

Tuesday, August 24

11:00 am Recorder Consort Rehearsal - Sanctuary

Thursday, August 26

6:30 pm Torch Team Rehearsal - Sanctuary

Saturday, August 28

3:00 pm Bell Tree Rehearsal - Sanctuary

5:00-7:00 pm PraiseFest - Parking Lot

Saturday, August 28th - Wednesday, September 8th

Pastor Karen Out of the Office

Sunday, August 29

10:30 am Worship - Sanctuary

Tuesday, September 7 - Messenger Deadline

9:00 am Staff Meeting - Conf. Room

11:00 am Recorder Consort Rehearsal - Sanctuary

Thursday, September 9 - Messengers Mailed

FCC Office Hours are
Changing!

Starting on Monday, August 23, 2021, the FCC Office hours will be Monday - Thursday 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. The office will be closed on Fridays. 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.