



# 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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## Refurbished Sanctuary Doors

Thanks to faithful stewards from many years ago, we are blessed to have four sets of beautiful entrances to the front of our church building.

While the 2 entrances to the education unit were constructed with solid oak arches and doors, the sanctuary arches had veneered panels inside the solid oak frames. Unfortunately, the veneer panels deteriorated over time and about 5 years ago we knew we had to do something about it.

After about 3 years of research and after on-site consultation with several local woodworking experts, we concluded that removing the veneer within the frame of the arches was the only suitable option. Several months ago we removed the veneer, stained the surfaces, and then sealed the panels with 3 coats of epoxy designed for wooden ocean-going vessels.

Following that painstaking process, we then sanded, stained, and varnished the arches and doors with 7 coats of varnish, also manufactured for ocean going vessels.

The entire project took about 2 months to complete and all supplies and labor were gifts to the church.

Please take a moment to look at the doors and then give thanks for those who designed and constructed a beautiful house of worship dedicated to the glory of God!

*From Jim Blosser*



## Pastor's Corner

**“The future is focused on what one does now, we are not bound by our past.”**

*--John Maxwell Team Member*

Recently I participated in a John Maxwell Leadership Team Zoom meeting focused on the topic “The Law of the Rubber Band.” This topic came from the book *The 15 Invaluable Laws of Personal Growth* by John C. Maxwell. The focus of that law is the importance of stretching oneself. A rubber band must retain some elasticity in order to stretch. If it loses the capacity to stretch it becomes worthless. There is a difference between “stretching” and “straining.” If one strains too much the outcome is often injury, or in the case of the rubber band, breakage. Our leaders for this discussion reviewed the 7 benefits of stretching. While these are written for individuals, I believe they are equally applicable to our community of faith here at FCC.

1. Very few people want to stretch, they want to stay in their comfort zone. So stretching is exceeding what most people would do. One **MUST** move beyond average. Average is over-rated.
2. Settling for the status quo leads to boredom and just settling. We must leave behind normal and average.
3. Stretching always starts from the inside out. We are invited to measure ourselves against ourselves. “The future is focused on what we do now, we are not bound by our past. It’s never too late to become what we might have been.”
4. Stretching always requires change. The rubber band cannot stay the same to do its job.
5. Stretching sets you apart from others. One has to only do 10% more to be above average. Mediocrity is the norm in our country. Mediocrity is doing less than our best. “We want to under-promise and over-deliver.” Show up each day better than you were the day before. When the leader gets better the team gets better too.

6. Stretching can become a life style. We need to be surrounded by people who stretch us.
7. Stretching gives us a shot at significance. There’s a big gap between good and great.

As we reflected on these 7 benefits of stretching we were invited to ponder 2 questions:

- When was the last time you stretched?
- What do you need to do now to do so?

I am asking myself these 2 questions and I invite us all to do the same. As we move into the fall and begin planning for 2022, we must be willing to stretch as individuals and as a congregation.

In peace and love,

*Pastor Karen*

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Fall Youth Retreat is still being planned for October 15-17, 2021 AT KAMP KALEO!! Because the last year and a half has been challenging for so many, YOMC is generously underwriting the cost of retreat, offering every youth a 50% discount, resulting in a final cost to participants of \$45. This will include meals and a t-shirt. Pre-registration and fees must be received by September 30th. We do need a minimum number of participants to make this event viable, so do not hesitate, get your registration ready today!

### FALL YOUTH RETREAT 2021!!

RETREAT WILL BE HELD AT KAMP KALEO!

WHO: 7<sup>TH</sup>-12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE YOUTH

WHEN: OCTOBER 15-17, 2021

COST PER YOUTH: \$45  
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup>

WATCH YOUR EMAIL FOR DETAILS, LINK TO OUR PREREGISTRATION FORM, AND MORE -- OR MESSAGE US AND WE'LL SEND IT TO YOU DIRECTLY!





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.

We have several leaders stepping down this year. 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.

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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.



## A Message from the Board...

With just a few months left in my last year as board chair and nominations for 2022 just around the corner, I wanted to share a little bit about my leadership journey at FCC. It started when I co-chaired the Diaconate with my mom. I coached some of our youth sports teams. I eventually became the property department chair, the secretary of the board, the financial secretary, chaired a pastor search committee, vice-chair, and finally chair of the board.

Do you know what all those positions had in common? I'd never done any of it before. I had never wrangled a bunch of high school kids into a volleyball team, I'd never been responsible for a boiler, I'd never taken official minutes, or been responsible for collecting pledges. I'd never put out a job advertisement or done a background check and I'd never been a board chair. The reason I was able to fill all those various positions is because of the encouragement, mentorship, and friendly reminders that past and present leaders have given me.

Have I made mistakes? Have I been a little lost sometimes? Have there been some difficult decisions? Definitely, but I've always had support when I needed it. Would I say I had a passion for leadership when I started? Not exactly, but I do have a passion for service and that made saying "yes" to the unknown a little easier. If you have a passion, but you're not sure where it fits, let us know and we can help. When someone calls from the nominating committee or when a ministry cabinet team leader calls to ask you to volunteer, please take time to consider, and treat their offer as an opportunity to learn and grow in fellowship and faith with your friends at FCC.

Sincerely, Your Outgoing Board Chair,

*Geoff Putney*

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## FCC Social Media!



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

## Those Serving in October

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.

### **Worship Leaders:**

Oct. 3	Marcia Foster
Oct. 10	Marcia Foster
Oct. 17	Marcia Foster
Oct. 24	Leigh Lestina
Oct. 31	Leigh Lestina

### **Elders:**

Oct. 3	Connie Calver
Oct. 10	Tom Mason
Oct. 17	Wayne Duncan
Oct. 24	Sara Lugn
Oct. 31	Cecilia Burkhart

### **Deacons:**

Karl Ahrendsens, Susan Pallas-Duncan, Brad Bowker, Elaine Parman

### **Communion Prep:**

Kristi & Keaton Bowker, Rich Calver

Homebound Communion: **October 10**

### **Homebound Communion Teams:** (October 10)

Jim Blosser & Karl Ahrendsens  
Connie Calver & Elaine Parman  
Tom Mason & Brad Bowker  
Wayne Duncan & Susan Pallas-Duncan

### **Hallway Hospitality:**

Oct. 3	Jim Christ
Oct. 10	Rich Calver
Oct. 17	Vince Ortega
Oct. 24	Mike Carlin
Oct. 31	Geoff Putney

### **Ushers / Greeters:**

Oct. 3	Charles & Diane Zabokrtsky
Oct. 10	Wayne & Susan Pallas-Duncan
Oct. 17	Elaine Parman
Oct. 24	John & Lindsay Swanson
Oct. 31	D'Arcy Blosser

### **Acolytes:**

Oct. 3	Riley Bowker & Evan Foster
Oct. 10	Rebecca & Katie Swanson
Oct. 17	Hunter & Edryk Christianson
Oct. 24	Christian Swanson & Kyson Effle
Oct. 31	Riley Bowker & Evan Foster

### **VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED:**

Helping to run the live-stream cameras  
Hosting outdoor fellowship after service

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

## **What's On Wednesdays!**



Wednesday Night Fellowship is BACK! 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 nurse 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!

## **Our September Menu**

September 29th - Pulled Pork, BBQ sauce, buns, macaroni & cheese, fresh fruit

*Don't forget to RSVP. We can't wait to see you there!*

## **WELCOME VISITORS**

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

*Katelyn Long*

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



## Auto Pay Your Church Giving

Tired of writing checks? There is an easy, convenient, and secure way to electronically trans-

fer 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:

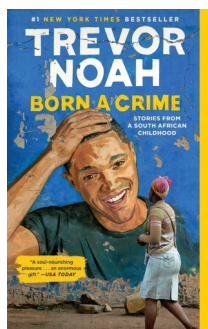
- Provides a more predictable income flow for better church financial management
- Reduces time and effort in processing collections by FCC staff/volunteers
- Increases faithful offerings to the church due to regular automatic donations
- NO fees, so your whole donation benefits FCC

## Book Club News

Book Club will be meeting on Saturday September 25 at 9:30 am at Kelly B.'s home.

Our book for discussion is:

***Born a Crime***  
by Trevor Noah



Some of the upcoming titles will be:

*This Tender Land* by William Kent Krueger  
*The Devil in the White City* by Erik Larson

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.

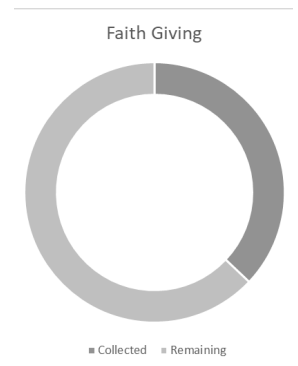
## This I Know: Finance Notes

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

As we approach the end of the year, we are gathering committee and team budgets for 2022. We want the congregation to know that we are working on creating a budget that will set First Christian Church up for success. Unfortunately, most committees have been running on bare bones for the last few years, and there aren't many more cuts we can make. This means two things: First, we will need more pledges for 2022 than what we received in 2021. Second, we will need input from the whole congregation on ways we can make worship, education, and other ministries happen on a smaller budget. With the lack of people stepping up into leadership positions, these decisions will need to be made by the whole church. We are the church which makes it everyone's responsibility to make sure we can worship, share communion, learn together, and be in fellowship. More information will be coming out soon regarding the Stewardship Campaign and how the finances are looking for the end of 2021. Please consider this information prayerfully and think about how you can be an asset to the church we all love so dearly.

With hope for the future,  
*The Finance Team*

Dark Grey: Received  
Light Grey: Remaining



### 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.



### STEPHEN MINISTRY

**“Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.”  
Romans 15:7**

# Prayers & Praises September 23, 2021

## Our Timothy's:

- Bruce Frogge at Cypress Creek CC in Spring, TX
- Glenda Dietrich Moore, Creative Arts Ministry in Lincoln, NE

## In the Nebraska Region:

- Southview Christian Church and Rev. Kerry O'Bryant
- Unadilla Christian Church and Rev. Sandy Denton

## Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Mark Knowles serving in Lesotho

Find more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners at [www.globalministries.org](http://www.globalministries.org)



## Music Ministry 2021

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. We've heard from quite a few people about interest, and we have some updates. Vocal music will be on hold at least through the indoor masking ordinance. Handbells and recorders will be practicing soon. Be watching for more information about rehearsal times.



The Reconciliation Ministry Special Offering is received each year in congregations on the last Sunday in September and the first Sunday in October (in solidarity with World Communion Sunday). Funds generated by this special emphasis are used throughout the year to provide grants to ministries and congregations actively developing and implementing programs that promote our Church's Pro-Reconciliation and Anti-Racist identity.

## NEW FCC Office Hours

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.

## Lincoln First Christian Church Calendar of Events

Thursday, September 23 - Messengers Mailed

Friday, September 27

9:45 am Hand bell Quartet - Sanctuary

Sunday, September 26

10:30 am Worship - Sanctuary

11:30 am Elders Meeting - Library

Tuesday, September 28

10:30 am Recorder Consort Rehearsal - Sanctuary

Wednesday, September 29

5:15-6:00 pm WOW Dinner Fellowship - Parlor

6:00 -7:00 pm K-5 Education - 2nd Floor

6:00-7:00 pm Adult Education - Library

6:00-7:30 pm Youth Group - 3rd Floor

Friday, October 1

9:45 am Hand bell Quartet - Sanctuary

Sunday, October 3

10:30 am Worship - Sanctuary

Monday, October 4 - Messenger Deadline

7:00 pm Deborah Group

Tuesday, October 5

9:00 am Staff Meeting - Conf. Room

10:30 am Recorder Consort Rehearsal - Sanctuary

Wednesday, October 6

5:15-6:00 pm WOW Dinner Fellowship - Parlor

6:00 -7:00 pm K-5 Education - 2nd Floor

6:00-7:00 pm Adult Education - Library

6:00-7:30 pm Youth Group - 3rd Floor

Thursday, October 7 - Messengers Mailed