



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 Lugn, Stephen Ministry Leader
www.fcclincoln.org
info@fcclincoln.org

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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.

PraiseFest 2021

Thank you to everyone who came out for PraiseFest on Saturday, August 28! We want to give extra gratitude to the Torch Worship Team, Connie Calver, and all of those who help to make this event a success every year.



A Thank You

Georgann Jordan wants to extend a thank you to the Elders for their thoughtful card. She would like everyone to know that she is doing much better after spending time in both Bryan Hospital and Tabitha Rehabilitation Center. She is back home and on the mend. Thank you again for thinking of her!



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

"Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another."
Colossians 3:13



Pastor's Corner

We've spent a lot of time talking about the new "Seminarists in Residence" at First Christian Church, so Pastor Karen asked if I could guest author the Pastor's Corner this week to tell you a little more about my program. As some of you may know, I am entering into my fourth year in the Master of Divinity program at Phillips Theological Seminary in Tulsa, OK. At Phillips, we spend our first two years in introductory courses like Intro to Theology, Intro to the Hebrew Bible, and Christian History I & II. I really enjoyed all of these classes, and felt like they prepared me for the upper-level material coming up. My third year, I spent time diving deeper into certain books of the bible; my books were 2 Samuel from the Hebrew Bible and the Gospel of Matthew from the New Testament. I also dabbled, poorly, in New Testament Greek.

All of this was to prepare me for my fourth year of seminary, where I will now focus on pastoral leadership and ministry. My courses include the Theology of Public Worship, Pastoral Leadership and Administration, and a Senior Capstone in Leadership. These are in addition to my Supervised Year in Ministry. Together, they are meant to give me the education and experience I would need if I choose to go into parish ministry after graduation.

I wanted to share with all of you a little more about my Supervised Year of Ministry program, seeing as I will be performing my ministry with you all here at FCC. Phillips has a ****lengthy**** handbook on how we are to proceed through our year, including lots of forms (read Form A through Form H) that we will be recording throughout the year. My first order of business was to choose a mentor and a suitable ministry site. Of course, my ministry site will be here at First Christian. Some of you may know my mentor as well, Rev. Patrick Messer, now living in Kentucky. My next task was to choose members of First Christian to be a part of my On-Site Reflector Team. This is a team of volunteers who will meet with me periodically throughout the year to give me useful feedback on my ministry. My team consists of Pastor Karen, Jim Blosser, Cecilia Burkhart, and Wayne Duncan. Thank you again to my team for being a part of my journey.

We are tasked to perform ten hours of ministry a week for our thirteen-week semester, for a total of one hundred and thirty hours of ministry in the first semester. In our second semester (January - May) we are asked to perform five hours of ministry per week and five hours of service with a community organi-

zation. It is my hope to perform these hours with The Lighthouse after school program, mentoring kids and helping with snacks/dinner. Education is part of my heart for ministry, and The Lighthouse is in First Christian's neighborhood. Ideally, I hope we'll create a relationship with one another that can benefit us all!

In addition to the ministry requirement of the Supervised Year in Ministry, we also have a classroom portion. I attend this class live on Zoom on Tuesday afternoons. We have different papers and reflections that we do along the way, giving us a chance to really think about the importance of the ministerial tasks we are doing. The first paper we write is a Learning Covenant, which specifically sets out our learning goals for the year. Some of the goals I chose for myself include growing in spirituality, discerning my ministerial values, conducting congregational analysis, and leading critical conversations in the church.

For people who know me, you know that I am more of a head person than a heart person. This is an area of my life and ministry I want to focus on. I am also in the process of writing and refining a ministerial mission statement, a measuring stick from which I can gauge if my ministry is on track or not. With the help of the staff and board, I would like to conduct some congregational analysis of First Christian. We can't deny that our demographics are changing, and some statistical data of the church can help us make smart decisions moving forward. In the same vein, this information may lead to some critical conversations that need to happen in the congregation. Between attendance, the budget, and a lack of new leadership, we have several issues that need to be addressed in a faithful and loving way.

From now until May 2022, you can look for me to preach on the last Sunday of each month. I'll be in each liturgical season, which is great experience for me. I will also be offering adult education classes, starting with the Gospel of Matthew (which started yesterday). Classes for the spring have not yet been decided, but I'm sure we'll find something great to study together.

Thank you again to everyone for supporting me through my time of ministerial discernment. I appreciate all of the kind words and feedback that I have received, and look forward to our time together in my new role.

With hope for a bright and productive year,
Pastor Kelly



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.

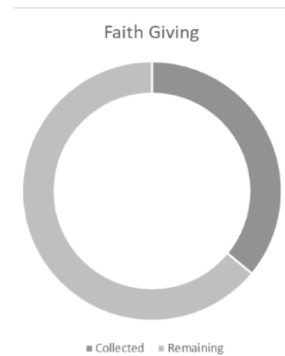
Many hands make light work, and we are in a season where we need all hands on deck. If you are interested in one of these positions, or just have questions about what it all entails, don't hesitate to contact Pastor Karen, Geoff Putney, or Jim Blosser. We are looking forward to fresh faces in 2022 leadership,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

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

A gracious thank you to everyone who participated in 5th Sunday Faith Giving on Sunday, August 29th. We had nearly \$3,500 in contributions! Thank you also to Jim Blosser for speaking to the congregation about Faith Giving on Sunday, August 22nd. If you have yet to get in on the Faith Giving action, there's no need to wait for a 5th Sunday! We are accepting Faith Giving donations at all times. You can send a check to the church, leave it in the plate after service, or give electronically. Just let us know that it is for Faith Giving and you are all set. Thanks again!

Dark Grey: Received
Light Grey: Remaining

With hope for the future,
The Finance Team

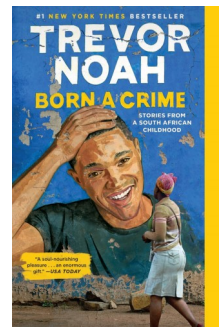


Book Club News

Book Club will be meeting again soon! Stay posted for more information about meeting times and hosts.

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.

WELCOME VISITORS

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

Kindra Foster

Katelyn Long

Please join us again in worship.

You are always welcome!

Our visitor on Sunday, August 29th, Katelyn Long, wanted to share the following information with us after her visit to First Christian Church.

What is a service dog?

A service dog helps a person with a disability live more independently. The dog has been trained to perform tasks a person with a disability needs assistance with. The types of service dogs are guide dogs, hearing alert dogs, mobility dogs, medical alert dogs, and psychiatric service dogs. The dogs can be trained by an organization or an individual.

What do I do when I meet a person with a service dog?

Touching or petting a service dog can break their concentration in performing tasks for a person with a disability. It helps to not crowd around the dog, talk to the dog, or offer the dog food. If you would not treat a strange person by touching, petting, crowding, or giving food, don't do it to a service dog.

My service dog

My service dog in training is a fawn, female boxer named Troubadour Blue (Truby). Due to moving and Covid, she hasn't completed her training. When she completes her training, she will do hearing alert, mobility assistance, and psychiatric assistance due to my hearing loss, mobility issues, and panic and anxiety disorders and post-traumatic stress disorder.

I define Truby's time as working or non-working, even though she is always working. When she is working, she wears a harness. When she is not working she does not wear the harness.

Truby is a shy but friendly dog who is interested in people. Because she is shy, I prefer you to ask to pet her in relaxed situations. In church, I prefer she not be petted. Please do not encourage her to jump. Truby has proved to be a loving and interactive dog who likes squirrels, rabbits, birds, grass, and treats. Truby dislikes the air brakes on the buses and being crowded by people she doesn't know.

I hope this helps you understand more about service dogs and how important Truby is to me. Feel free to ask any questions you may have. Thank you for your warm hospitality.

The Disciples Women's Retreat held August 21, 2021 was a great success. Many women from throughout the region joined us at First Christian Church to enjoy a time of fellowship and education. The Keynote Speaker was our own Rev. Dr. Karen Moritz, presenting on her trip to Morocco with the theme Ambassadors of Christ. If you were unable to attend, Pastor Karen's presentation is available on YouTube at:

<https://youtu.be/1EqDdwhxbvc>

Thanks again to all who attended!



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

Elders:

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. 12 Geoff Putney
Sept. 19 Jim Christ
Sept. 26 Doug Effle

Ushers / Greeters:

Sept. 12 D'Arcy Blosser
Sept. 19 Jessica Effle
Sept. 26 Monte Dietrick

Acolytes:

Sept. 12 Riley Bowker & Evan Foster
Sept. 19 Rebecca & Katie Swanson
Sept. 26 Christian Swanson & Kyson Effle

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!

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 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 8th - Chicken Alfredo pasta bake, bread sticks, and roasted vegetables

September 15th - Spinach Artichoke chicken, mashed potatoes, and green beans

September 22nd - Creamy Marinara beef pasta bake, dinner roll & butter, and salad

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

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



Prayers & Praises September 9, 2021

In the Nebraska Region:

- Shubert Christian Church
- Sidney First Christian Church

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- All those serving in Israel/Palestine
- Rachel Pellett serving in Jamaica

Find more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners at

www.globalministries.org



Lincoln First Christian Church Calendar of Events

Thursday, September 9 - Messengers Mailed

Sunday, September 12

10:30 am Worship - Sanctuary

Tuesday, September 14

10:30 am Recorder Consort Rehearsal - Sanctuary

Wednesday, September 15

Committee & Board Budgets Due

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

Sunday, September 19

10:30 am Worship - Sanctuary

6:00 pm Board Meeting - Parlor

Monday, September 20 - Messenger Deadline

Tuesday, September 21

9:00 am Staff Meeting - Conf. Room

10:30 am Recorder Consort Rehearsal - Sanctuary

Thursday, September 23 - Messengers Mailed



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



Sanctuary Flowers \$45

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

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.