



# 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

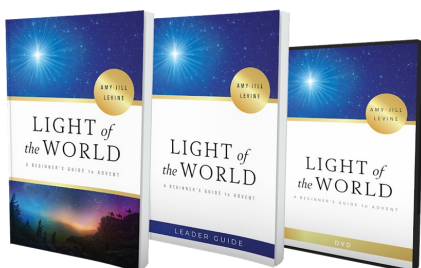
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**Volume 71, No. 23**  
**December 2, 2021**

## Wednesday Night Advent Study “Light of the World”

Our special Advent study on Wednesday nights will be “Light of the World” by Amy-Jill Levine. Advent is not only the perfect time to read the story of the birth of Jesus; it’s also a great time to dive deeper into the biblical texts that surround the event. In *Light of the World: A Beginner’s Guide to Advent*, author, professor, and biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine shows how the Gospel narratives connect to the Old Testament, highlights the role of women in first-century Jewish culture, and emphasizes the importance of Mary’s visitation, the census, the stable, the star of Bethlehem, and the flight to Egypt.

December 8th & 15th 6:00-7:00 pm  
Book Available on Amazon or Audible



**Annual Congregational Meeting**  
**THIS Sunday, December 5th**  
**11:30 am, directly following Worship**  
**FCC Sanctuary**  
**All members are welcome!**

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



## WELCOME VISITORS

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

*Lee & Rita Bring*  
*Shawn & Eagan Tyrrell*  
*Stan & Carol Dreiling*  
*Tony*

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

## Pastor's Corner

**O come, Desire of nations, bind  
all people in one heart and mind;  
bid envy, strife, and discord cease;  
fill the whole world with heaven's  
peace.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Stanza 7)

This is one of my favorite Advent hymns. Perhaps it is the simple elegance of the tune that sings to my heart. Of course, the words are also striking. It does not feel like Advent to me until I have had a chance to sing this classic hymn. The origins of this hymn come from the 12<sup>th</sup> century and was later adapted into this form. This hymn comes from the Latin "Veni, Veni, Emmanuel." The opening line in our current version of the hymn begins "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." Depending on my mood, I hear this opening as a command on some days and on others I hear it as a plaintive cry. As we know "Emmanuel" comes from the Hebrew and means "God is with us." In this ancient hymn we call out to Emmanuel, in command or plaintive cry, asking God to be with us. Throughout history human, beings have yearned to know that God is present and with us. I suspect this yearning has only deepened as time has passed. As we continue to move through these challenging times we, like those before us, still cry out plaintively and sometimes with a bit of command in our voices. We yearn to know that God is still with us.

As we sang this familiar hymn on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent, I was really struck by the 7<sup>th</sup> stanza. Not only do we yearn to know that God is with us, we also yearn for the sense that we are bound together. This stanza opens with another title for Emmanuel; "O come, Desire of nations," We go on to sing "bind all people in one heart and mind." In this time of division, I know I long for this sense of unity. The hymn goes on with the request "bid envy, strife, and discord cease;

fill the whole world with heaven's peace." I suspect my life could be much more peaceful if I were better able to let go of envy, strife, and discord. I find myself wondering if I would be better able to experience the peace that this time of year offers.

At the end of each stanza we sing "Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel." Although we face many challenges as individuals and as part of the global community, we are invited to rejoice as well. This does not mean that we push aside our troubles. Contrary to popular belief, we can be aware of the difficulties of life *and* simultaneously rejoice. This Advent we are invited into a spirit of rejoicing in various ways. Each Sunday of Advent we gather for worship to rejoice. We are guided by the weekly themes of hope, peace, love, and joy. We will rejoice in the Holy Scriptures and in song. We are also invited to rejoice as we gather on Wednesday evenings to share in a meal and to gather for our study "Light of the World" created by scholar and professor Amy-Jill Levine. We are also invited to rejoice each day as we move through our Advent devotional "Travelling with Our Ancestors."

As we move through this Advent may we be encouraged by the words of this beloved hymn. May the joy of this season empower us to "bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace."

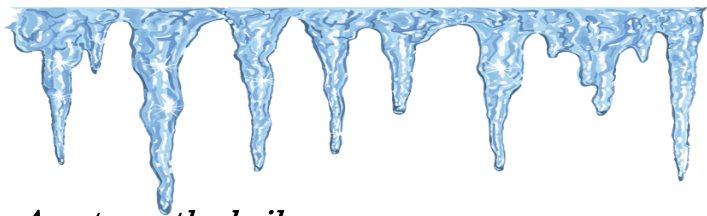
With a joyful heart,  
*Pastor Karen*



Thank you to everyone who came to see "Calendar Girls." Many thanks to Connie Calver for organizing the outing to the Lincoln Community Playhouse. Your support is greatly appreciated. It was fun to be in and fun to tell the cast that my Church group is coming to see the show. Their replies were, "What? Your Church Group? Which Church is it?" I answered proudly First Christian Church on 16th & K where everyone is welcome!

*Cec Burkhart*

## A Gift for our Staff



### *A note on the boiler...*

Heating our building is no small feat. We have a large natural gas powered boiler that provides steam to registers throughout the church. As you have all seen, natural gas prices are expected to be very high. So, we have to become more vigilant at minimizing our heating costs. You may notice the building is a little cooler on warmer mornings; that's because the boiler will shut off if the outside temperature exceeds a set level. We've also turned down the thermostats a few degrees. You may want to plan to wear an extra layer when you're in the building.

We've also tried to time the boiler around activities at the church, as well as a minimal number of hours to keep the building from freezing. When possible, we try to overlap these goals. If you have a scheduled meeting or activity, please let us know in advance so we can schedule the boiler appropriately. Contact Kelly Tyrrell in the FCC office at 402-475-4289 or [info@fcelincoln.org](mailto:info@fcelincoln.org) if you will be having a meeting come up that isn't already on our radar.

#### Below are the current boiler timings:

Sunday: 6 -11:30am, 4-6pm

Monday: 8-10am, 6-8pm

Tuesday: 8-10am, 8-10pm

Wednesday: 8-10am, 3-8pm

Thursday: 8-10am, 8-10pm

Friday: 7-10am, 8-10pm

Saturday: 8:15-11am, 1-3pm, 8-10pm

Thank you for understanding our need to be fiscally conscious during the winter months.

Dear First Christian Church Members and Friends:

We are fortunate to have a dedicated and talented church staff that have worked throughout the year to provide us with a variety of worship experiences while we've been trying to establish what might be our new "normal." As we have navigated challenges old and new, our staff have gone above and beyond to provide meaningful experiences to all of us. As we enter the Advent and Christmas season, please join me in showing our appreciation with a love gift for Pastor Karen, Mark Miller, director of music ministries, Kelly Tyrrell, church administrator, our custodian, and nursery staff.

Please put your gift in the offering plate, mail it to the church office to be received no later than December 19<sup>th</sup>, give it to Jim Blosser, vice chair of the church board, or if you are already signed up for electronic funds transfer you can email Donna Ruhl. Please indicate "Staff Christmas" on your gift. Checks should be made payable to the church.

May you be especially blessed as we journey through this season together!

Sincerely,

*Geoff Putney*

Geoff Putney  
Board Chair



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## Afghan Refugee Resettlement

Our local churches in Omaha and Lincoln have begun to plan what we might do together to resettle 2, 3, or 4 households of Afghan refugees. Lutheran Family Services is working closely with the Regional Church who is also working with the Week of Compassion (WoC) and Refugee and Immigration Ministries (RIM).

Lutheran Family Services is projecting that families will arrive in Omaha and Lincoln in January and February 2022.

Please contact Pastor Karen Moritz if you are interested in learning more about how the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is partnering across all three expressions of the Church: Local, Regional, and General.

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## FCC Social Media!





## What's On Wednesdays!

K-5 Education 6:00-7:00 pm  
6-12 Youth Group 6:00-7:30 pm  
Adult Education 6:00-7:00 pm

December 8th - 15th

Advent Study "Light of the World"

December 8th: Creamy beef pasta bake, garlic bread, and roasted veggies

December 15th: BBQ pulled chicken, bun, macaroni & cheese, and corn-on-the-cob

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



# Advent 2021

## Save The Dates

### Worship the Sundays of Advent

November 28th, December 5th, 12th, and 19th  
10:30 am Sanctuary

### Join the Wednesdays of Advent

December 1st, 8th, and 15th  
Community Meal (\$6) 5:15pm - Parlor  
Fellowship & Christian Education  
*All are welcome - No registration needed*

### A Festival of Lessons & Carols

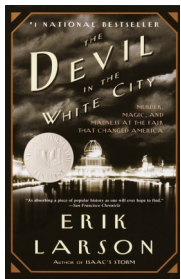
Sunday, December 19th 10:30 am Sanctuary

### Christmas Eve Worship

Friday, December 24th  
6:00 pm Sanctuary

### Christmas Hymn Sing

Sunday, December 26th  
10:30 am Sanctuary



## Book Club News

Book Club will be meeting again Saturday, December 11 at 9:30 am at Susan Pallas-Duncan's home.

Our book for discussion is:

***Devil in the White City***

Erik Larson

Some of the upcoming titles will be:  
*Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens

Anyone is welcome to join in our discussions at any time. Check the FCC Calendar of Events for specific dates and times, or change of location.

## Worship Servers

Check the bulletin board in the Chapel or Parlor Hallway to see all of the servers for the month of December. If you are unable to serve your position, please find a substitute!



## STEPHEN MINISTRY

"Encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone...Always try to be kind to each other and everyone else."

1 Thessalonians 5:14-15

## Stocking Stuffer Gift Cards Are In!



SCRIP cards make a great holiday gift, and now for Christmas, we have smaller denominations available for certain retailers.

### \$10 Cards From

Amazon - Applebee's - CVS - Olive Garden - Ched-dars - Home Depot - IHOP - Outback Steakhouse - Target - Walmart

### \$5 Cards From

Barnes & Noble - Cold Stone Creamery - Panera - Starbucks - Taco Bell

Of course, we also have our larger amounts available, too! If you are interested in SCRIP, talk to Donna Ruhl any Sunday after church. We have a large variety on hand, and special orders go out on the first Sunday of each month. **December 5th** is your last Sunday before the holidays come! Purchase of SCRIP supports local businesses and gives a portion of the proceeds back to the church. It's a Win-Win for everyone!

## **This I Know: Finance Notes**

Every year, during the Advent season in preparation for Christmas, we lovingly tell the story of how God so loved the world that he sent his only begotten Son to dwell among us. We tell this story of love in the Advent devotions, around the family dinner table, and in our worship. As part of our liturgy, we tell this story by reading from Scripture, through preaching, in the prayers we offer together, and in singing hymns and carols.

Let's tell the story of Jesus and his love by sharing our love with a special faith giving gift to the church. While you're making your list of gifts to buy, please add First Christian Church to the top of your list. Your love can help make a difference in the life of our church.

### *The Finance Team*

Updated Faith Giving  
as of 11/30/2021

Dark Grey: Received  
Light Grey: Remaining



## **FCC Foundation Update**

The FCC Foundation Board met on November 17, 2021 by Zoom. Several items of business were discussed and the following expenditures from Foundation funds were approved:

- The Foundation pledge for 2022 was increased by \$75 per month to \$1,725.00, a total pledge of \$20,700.00 for 2022.
- Approved an additional \$2,000.00 for 2021 Faith Giving.
- Approved grants for tuition and book assistance for Kelly Tyrrell and Leigh Lestina, our seminarians in residence, for fall 2021 and spring 2022 semesters.
- Allocated funds for the purchase of 4 new wireless mic/receiver sets as requested by the Worship and Praise Teams to replace worn out equipment.

The Foundation pledge and Faith Giving grant come from undesignated funds given over many years by members and friends through direct gifts, memorials, wills, and bequests. A small portion of the income of these funds remains to help grow the endowment. The majority of income provides FCC with a yearly pledge and, in 2021, an additional allocation for Faith Giving.

Tuition assistance for our seminarians in residence as well as funds for purchase of new equipment for worship come from the Hofmann Fund, established in 2011 by Rick Hofmann before he passed away.

Our next FCCF meeting will be February 9, 2022. At that time we will determine available funding from the Pekar Fund for use in preventive maintenance (FCC Property Team) as well as announce our board make-up and officers for 2022.

*Current FCCF board members include Dick Pickel, Monte Dietrick, Susan Pallas-Duncan, Sara Lugin, Vince Ortega, Harold Baker, Rich Calver, Donald Everett and D'Arcy Blosser. Pastor Karen and FCC Board Chair Geoff Putney serve as ex-officio members. We welcome input from the congregation.*

IMAGINE  
*God's Love*  
REVEALED

A special day offering of Disciples Mission Fund supporting the ministries of our Region



*Find more information December 12th  
& 19th in your Sunday Bulletin*

### **Order Your Poinsettias for Christmas 2021**

Once again we would like to decorate the Sanctuary with poinsettias for the Christmas season. If you would like to help make this possible, please complete this form.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of plants (\$10 each): \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

or  
Honoring: \_\_\_\_\_

**Deadline to order is Sunday, December 5. Bring to  
Donna Ruhl or FCC Office.**

# Prayers & Praises December 2, 2021

## In the Nebraska Region:

- All Ministries in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Nebraska
- Disciples General Church

## Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Leda Zakarison serving in Lebanon
- Anne Gregory serving in Thailand

Find more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners at

[www.globalministries.org](http://www.globalministries.org)



## Thanksgiving and Advent Message from the Office of the General Minister and President

Hello, Disciples. My name is Lee Hull Moses and I serve in the Office of the General Minister and President. I bring greetings from our GMP, who is on sabbatical for the next couple of months.

Advent begins this week, right on the heels of Thanksgiving, as it often does – this season of waiting and watching and hoping, and as we enter Advent, I've been thinking about some words from poet Jane Kenyon – She was giving advice to writers, but I think it's good advice for people of faith, too. She says: "Be a good steward of your gifts. Protect your time. Feed your inner life. Avoid too much noise. Read good books, have good sentences in your ears." I love that last bit – read good books, have good sentences in your ears. I've been trying to do that lately with my first cup of coffee in the morning, I try to keep start the day with some good sentences, some good words – sometimes a poem, or a few pages of the novel I'm working on.

Often, I find myself turning to the Psalms, those ancient words always remind me that throughout human history people have turned to God in complicated times to lift up their fear and their hope, their grief, their anger, their gratitude. Personally, my favorite Advent words are from Zechariah, who promises that by the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us and guide our feet into the way of peace. (Luke 1:78-79) And then, of course there is the Word, the Word who was with God, who is with God, who became flesh and lived among us – the word we are waiting for, the word who has already come. So, church, what words will be in your ears in this season of waiting and watching? I pray that they will be words of blessing, gratitude, and hope.

## Lincoln First Christian Church Calendar of Events

Thursday, December 2 - Messengers Mailed

Friday, December 3

9:45 am Handbell Quartet - Sanctuary  
10:45 am Recorder Rehearsal - Sanctuary

Saturday, December 4

9:00 am Disciples Women's Brunch -  
Parlor

Sunday, December 5 - Advent 2

SCRIP Orders Due

10:30 am Worship - Sanctuary  
11:30 am Annual Meeting - Sanctuary  
11:45 am Kelly's Feedback Meeting - Library

Wednesday, December 8

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, December 10

9:45 am Handbell Quartet - Sanctuary  
10:45 am Recorder Rehearsal - Sanctuary

Sunday, December 12 - Advent 3

10:30 am Worship - Sanctuary

Monday, December 13 - Messenger Deadline

Tuesday, December 14

9:00 am Staff Meeting - Conference Room

Wednesday, December 15

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, December 16 - Messengers Mailed

