



Messenger

430 S. 16th St.

Lincoln, NE 68508

402.475.4289

www.fcclincoln.org



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

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

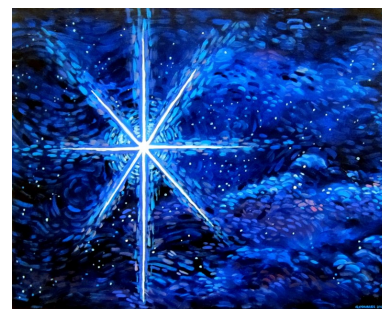
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Celebrate Advent 2021 With First Christian Church *What Are You Waiting For?*

This advent season, First Christian Church will be travelling back with our ancestors to ask the age old question, “What are you waiting for?” Worship services are Sunday mornings at 10:30 am with coffee fellowship afterwards.

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.



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



Pastor's Corner

“It is your decisions, and not your conditions, that determine your destiny.” Tony Robbins

In a recent “Minute with Maxwell,” John Maxwell shared the above quote. As Maxwell pointed out, we cannot control the conditions in our lives. However, we can choose to be “victims” or “victors.” His reflections really hit home for me and got me thinking about my life. I realized during a recent Ministry Cabinet meeting that I have never shared a lot of details about my visual impairment. I have been legally blind since birth and I have a congenital and hereditary eye disease called “Congenital Cataracts.” Throughout my life I have felt as though many people tried to define me by this particular condition. The attempts to treat me like others began when I was a small child and continue. These battles have left me a bit defensive and perhaps overly eager to prove my abilities. I am happy to talk with anyone about my situation, but I generally do so in response to questions.

I particularly struggle with this dynamic when I am seeking a call. Although I have now been ordained for over 34 years, it seems that I have to constantly prove my ability. When I began my journey toward ordination, I still remember being asked “how can you preach to people you can’t really see?” As I am wont to do, I responded with a bit of humor by saying “I suspect not being able to see the congregation might be to my advantage.” Throughout my ministry I had to take extra steps to prove my ability to those who wanted to define me by my condition and not by my decisions.

I am so grateful to FCC for your willingness to “see” me for my abilities and not my dis-abilities. However, during our recent Cabinet meeting, I realized that I have never really shared what my “blindness” means. I use the term “blind” because I do many things with “alternative techniques;” I use other resources besides sight. The word “blind” often carries negative connotations, but for me I use it as a descriptive word that more accurately reflects my lack of sight. Since I have been blind all my life, I have nothing to compare it to, so when people ask me how much I can see I have no point of reference. The only way I know to describe it is to tell you that my best corrected acuity is about 20/150. Before the onset of Glaucoma 5 years ago it was a bit higher. This is in my left eye, which is my good one. That means, what a sighted person can see at 150 feet, I have to be about 20 feet away to see the same thing.

I can read print on a limited basis and that has to be enlarged. You may be asking “what about your right eye?” Well, I only have “counts fingers” in that eye. The best I can see is the number of fingers held up by my eye doctor only inches from my face. With such limited vision, I do a number of things using the “alternative techniques” I mentioned earlier. Things that most people do visually I do in some other way. I live in a wonderful time in history because we have the advantages that come with modern technology. I know many people hate the technology that is so much a part of our lives, but it makes many things possible for me that would not be possible otherwise. This is why I use an iPad during worship and in various meeting. I put various documents, including our worship material and my meditation, on the iPad which gives me access to printed material that I can adjust as needed. My iPad, large print, and my Closed Circuit TV (CCTV) are ways I read print. I also read audio books and I am working on re-learning Braille.

I am fortunate because the Nebraska Commission for the Blind has assisted me in procuring various items that assist me in my ministry. They recently purchased my iPad and a program for both my computer at home and in the office that provides speech and large print. Another new piece of technology for me is my iPhone. I also have speech which makes it easier to access texts and other information.

As you might guess, I use a computer a great deal personally and professionally. I get a lot of email and I do my best to keep on top of it all. However, I know there are times I have missed important emails. I have struggled to find a good solution for this issue and have discussed it with the Personnel Team. If you have sent me an email and I fail to respond in a timely fashion, particularly if it is urgent or time sensitive, please send me a text and let me know you need an answer right away. Also, if something is urgent, I would welcome a note in the subject line that says something like “URGENT” or “TIME SENSITIVE.” Hopefully, with your help and my additional technology I can lessen the probability of missing something important.

Another challenging issue for me is the fact that I am unable to drive a car. I have worked with this reality all of my life and I have developed some “alternative techniques” for this part of my life, too. Instead of driving I walk, take a bus, or call a Lyft or Uber. I have also had to ask someone at the church to give me a ride. This latter “alternative technique” is often one of the most challenging components of my life and ministry.

(continued)

Pastor's Corner

Thanks to the generosity of others I am able to make the visits that are an important part of ministry. It is also my hope that in helping me do this important part of my ministry, it facilitates the ministry of others. Thankfully, we are all called to ministry and service which includes visitation.

One of the challenges I face that often puzzles others is the fact that I am often unable to recognize people visually. Instead, I rely on other clues: the sound of people's voices, the clothes people wear, the way people move or stand. This causes embarrassment for me at times because I do not always recognize people right away. I suspect there are times I have hurt people's feelings or left others thinking I do not really know them or care about them. I usually make a joke out of my failure to recognize people, but I feel badly every time it happens. I suspect it happens more than I realize. If so, I apologize and hope my explanation here helps. One nice thing about serving a well-established congregation is the fact that people tend to sit in the same place every Sunday. So, it's your bad if you move!

Throughout my years of ministry, I have often wondered why God chose me to serve in this way. I have come to suspect that the conditions of my life have given me a sensitivity to others that I might not otherwise have. I also hope that others have learned that it is okay to embrace the conditions of our lives, and in so doing we are invited to be considerate of others and their needs. I hope and pray that God continues to use me, challenges and all. I know God uses us all and invites us to be part of God's mission in the world. We continue to be invited to embrace the decisions of our lives and not be defined by our conditions.

With a grateful heart,
Pastor Karen



**DOC Winter Wear
Available Now
at Disciples.org**



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 - Cheddar's - Home Depot - IHOP - Outback Steakhouse - Target - Walmart

\$5 Cards From

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

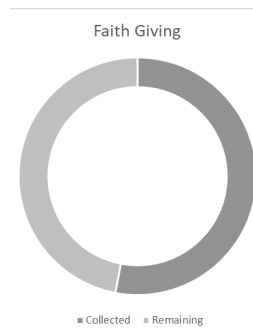
Of course, we also have our larger amounts available, too! If you are interested in SCRIP, talk to Donna Ruhl any Sunday after church. We have a large variety on hand, and special orders go out on the first Sunday of each month. **December 5th** is your last Sunday before the holidays come! Purchase 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

The Finance Team

Updated Faith Giving
as of 11/14/2021
53% Collected!

Dark Grey: Received
Light Grey: Remaining



Higher Education &
Leadership Ministries
of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Colleges &
Universities

Seminaries &
Divinity Houses



2021 Thanksgiving
Offering

Disciplesmissionfund.org

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

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.



WELCOME VISITORS

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

John Baker
Rev. & Mrs. Joungman Lee

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



Sanctuary Flowers \$45

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



2022 Stewardship Campaign

The 2022 Stewardship Campaign "All Hands on Deck" is coming to a close this Sunday, November 21st. Join us in worship as we dedicate this generous offering. If you were unable to connect with the church, don't worry - we'll be happy to get your 2022 pledge set up even past Nov. 21st. Thank you to everyone who has pledged so far. We can't be church without you!



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!



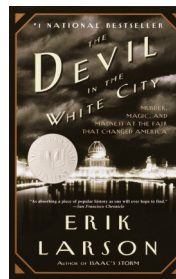
What's On Wednesdays!

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 1st - 8th - 15th
Advent Study "Light of the World"

Our December Menu is coming soon. Check the kitchen doors for updates.

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



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.

Those Serving in December

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:

December Leader: Cecilia Burkhardt

Elders:

Dec. 5	Connie Calver
Dec. 12	Tom Mason
Dec. 19	Wayne Duncan
Dec. 24	Sara Lugin
Dec 26	Cecilia Burkhardt

Deacons:

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

Communion Prep:

Jim Christ & Lindsay Swanson

Homebound Communion: **December 12**

Homebound Communion Teams: (December 12th)

Jim Blosser & Jim Christ
Connie & Rich Calver
Tom Mason & Lindsay Swanson
Wayne Duncan & Kristie/Keaton Bowker

Hallway Hospitality:

Dec. 5	Mike Carlin
Dec. 12	Geoff Putney
Dec. 19	Doug Effle
Dec. 24	Doug Effle
Dec. 26	Jim Christ

Ushers / Greeters:

Dec. 5	Elaine Parman
Dec. 12	John & Lindsay Swanson
Dec. 19	D'Arcy Blosser
Dec. 24	Elaine Parman
Dec. 26	Jessica Effle

Acolytes:

Dec. 5	Christian Swanson & Kyson Effle
Dec. 12	Rebecca & Katie Swanson
Dec. 19	Riley Bowker & Evan Foster
Dec. 24	Volunteer Needed
Dec. 26	Hunter & Edryk Christianson

VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED:

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

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

JOIN THE TEAM

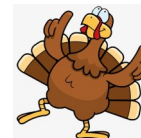
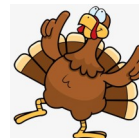
We are looking for new members in several of our ministry teams. Below is an idea of what each team does. And remember, you are never alone! All teams work together to make their goals a reality. Would you like to join us? Contact Pastor Karen, Geoff Putney, Jim Blosser, or the FCC office if you have questions.

Education Team: Help with both children's and adult education - input on programming - teaching classes as available - supporting camps and other church-related experiences

Hospitality Team: Organize fellowship meals - oversee use of the kitchen - plan special receptions - recruit friends to host coffee fellowship

Membership Team: Build community among current members - make visitors and new members feel welcome - create events and experiences for the church to share together

Outreach Team: Coordinate ways for First Christian to reach out to neighbors and community partners - Find volunteers for service work inside and outside the church - work with finance to plan giving to the Regional and National offices



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.

Prayers & Praises November 18, 2021

- Kristen Moore, daughter-in-law of Ken & Susan Moore, wife of James, *prayers for healing from liver transplant*

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:

- Prayers to our Nebraska Chaplains
- Blessings to all other clergy in Nebraska

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Hannah Cranbury serving in Germany
- Kahala Cannon serving in Eswatini

Find more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners at

www.globalministries.org



Lincoln First Christian Church Calendar of Events

Thursday, November 18 - Messengers Mailed

Friday, November 19

9:45 am Handbell Quartet - Sanctuary

Sunday, November 21

10:30 am Worship - Sanctuary

11:30 am Advent Decorating - Sanctuary

6:00 pm Board Meeting - Parlor

Tuesday, November 22

10:30 am Recorder Rehearsal - Sanctuary

November 23-25

FCC Office Closed

Wednesday, November 24

No Wednesday Night Fellowship

Happy Thanksgiving!

Thursday, November 25 - Thanksgiving Day

Sunday, November 28 - Advent 1

10:30 am Worship - Sanctuary

11:30 pm Elders Meeting - Library

Monday, November 29 - Messenger Deadline

Tuesday, November 30

9:00 am Staff Meeting - Conference Room

10:30 am Recorder Rehearsal - Sanctuary

Wednesday, December 1

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 2 - Messengers Mailed



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.

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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



STEPHEN MINISTRY

"Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you have refreshed the hearts of the saints."

Philemon 1:7