



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

Sara Lugn, Stephen Ministry Leader
www.fcclincoln.org

Volume 71, No. 21
November 4, 2021

Pastor Karen Moritz's 5th Anniversary with First Christian Church



**Don't forget to turn back
your clock! Sunday,
November 7, 2021 is Day-
light Savings Time Fall
Back!**



Thank You!

I want to thank everyone for the surprise of the beautiful flowers, card, and gift! We have been through a lot in the past five years and I look forward to our ongoing ministry together!

Pastor Karen



Pastor's Corner

“The angel of the LORD found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur. And he said, ‘Hagar, slave-girl of Sarai, **where have you come from and where are you going?**’ She said, ‘I am running away from my mistress Sarai.’ The angel of the LORD said to her, ‘Return to your mistress, and submit to her.’ The angel of the LORD also said to her, ‘I will so greatly multiply your offspring that they cannot be counted for multitude.’”

Genesis 16:7-10

During our recent Pastoral Leadership Revitalization retreat, we had a presentation about “Spiritual Wounds.” As a part of that presentation, the above passage from Genesis was shared. This story of Hagar, Sarai, and Abram is one full of spiritually wounded people. Abram and Sarai yearned to have children, but they were unable to do so. With this reality in mind, Sarai made a proposition to her husband that he go to Hagar with the hopes of conceiving a child with her. Hagar became pregnant and was about to give Abram a child. Sadly, this hoped for reality was very painful to Sarai who had been unable to conceive. Hagar is able to do the very thing Sarai had yearned to do.

As one might imagine, these mixed feelings rose to the surface and Sarai did not treat Hagar well. In fairness, Hagar was not very gracious about her ability to do what Sarai was unable to do. Hagar began to treat Sarai with contempt. Feelings ran hot among all of them. Sarai told Abram to deal with her and he tossed the ball back in Sarai’s court. Abram said to Sarai “‘Your slave-girl is in your power; do to her as you please.’ Then Sarai dealt harshly with her, and she ran away from her.” As Hagar fled, she had the above encounter with the angel who asked her two important questions: “**where have you come from and where are you going?**”

During our retreat we were invited to ponder these two key questions. I shared this passage with the Ministry Cabinet at our October meeting and issued the invitation for the group to consider these two questions. These are important questions for us as individuals and as a congregation. We cannot discern our path forward if we do not spend some time looking back to where we have been. It can be tempting to think only the good things in our journey and avoid the painful components. The story of Hagar invites us to embrace the painful parts of our journey and celebrate the joyous ones. Our presenter reminded us that we do not choose our wounds, but we can make choices about what we do with them. In many ways

our wounds shape us, but they do not need to define us. Hagar had to embrace her past in order to move forward into the future that God promised.

During the coming months, I invite us to ask ourselves these two questions, individually and for our faith community. “**Where are we coming from?**” There are elements of our past that have shaped us as individuals and as a congregation. Now that I have served FCC for five years as pastor, I have heard many stories that I believe have shaped us as a faith community. Many of these stories have circled around previous pastors. How has the past leadership of this congregation shaped us? In addition to the painful stories, what are some of the positive elements our legacy? Two years ago we celebrated our 150th anniversary and uplifted the distant past. How has our more recent history shaped us as well? Only when we ask “**where are we coming from**” can we responsibly think about “**where are we going.**” Whether we like it or not, we have to deal with the current reality of COVID-19. These past couple of years have shaped us individually and collectively. As we deal with this reality, we will need to start considering where we go next.

As we ponder these questions we are invited to hold on to three truths: 1) God is with us; 2) God desires health and wellness for us all; and 3) God will provide the resources and people we need.

May we have the courage of Hagar to hear the questions and wrestle with the answers.

In confidence and joy,
Pastor Karen

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. **November 7th** and **December 5th** are your last two Sundays 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!



Worship Servers

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

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



2022 Stewardship Campaign

Many of us thought 2021 would be the year we got back to “normal.” However, COVID-19 has changed everything we thought we “knew”

about church. After weathering choppy waters through the pandemic, we are starting to right the course and move forward. Now is the time to keep that momentum going, and we can’t do that without **All Hands on Deck!** Pledge cards have been mailed - OR - you can coordinate electronic giving with Donna Ruhl and Susan Pallas-Duncan. Pledges will be received through **Pledge Dedication Sunday, November 21st.** Each donation to the stewardship campaign advances the mission of the church to *love all, live spiritually, rejoice in hope, and show hospitality* to others. We want First Christian to be all new in ‘22, and to do that, we need you. Let’s see **All Hands on Deck!**



Sanctuary Flowers \$45

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



WELCOME VISITORS

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

*John Baker
Rev. & Mrs. Jounghan Lee*

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



Positions are open for 2022 Leadership! We need leaders of all different types to achieve the mission of our church to *love all, live spiritually, rejoice in hope, and show hospitality.* We are looking for team members in Hospitality, Membership, Education, and Outreach. If you are interested, contact Jim Blosser, Geoff Putney, or Pastor Karen Moritz. We’d love you to help make our 2022 plans become a reality!

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

November 3rd - November 17th

Native American Spiritual Beliefs & Practices

The nursery will also be open from 5:15-7:30 pm.

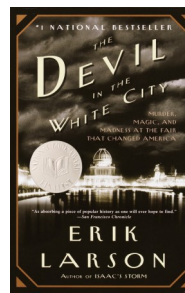
Our November Menu

Nov. 10th - BBQ pulled pork sandwich, mac ‘n’ cheese, corn on the cob

Nov. 17th - Smoked crusted chicken, roasted red potatoes, roasted veggies

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

Book Club News



Book Club will be meeting again soon!

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.

Prayers & Praises November 4, 2021

In the Nebraska Region:

- Nebraska Regional Board, Committees, and Staff
- Retired Ministers in Nebraska

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Maria Bakalian serving in Lebanon
- Sean Amato serving in Egypt



Find more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners at www.globalministries.org

Lincoln First Christian Church Calendar of Events

Thursday, November 4 - Messengers Mailed

Friday, November 5

9:45 am Hand bell Quartet - Sanctuary

Sunday, November 7 - All Saints Sunday

10:30 am Worship - Sanctuary

11:30 am Worship Team Meeting - Library

Tuesday, November 9

10:30 am Recorder Consort Rehearsal - Sanctuary

November 10 - November 11

FCC Office Closed

Wednesday, November 10

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

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

6:00-7:00 pm Combined Adult & Youth Class - Parlor

Friday, November 12

9:45 am Hand bell Quartet - Sanctuary

Sunday, November 14

10:30 am Worship - Sanctuary

Monday, November 15- Messenger Deadline

Tuesday, November 16

9:00 am Staff Meeting - Conf. Room

10:30 am Recorder Consort Rehearsal - Sanctuary

Wednesday, November 17

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

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

6:00-7:00 pm Combined Adult & Youth Class - Parlor

Thursday, November 18 - Messengers Mailed



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

FCC Social Media!



STEPHEN MINISTRY

“He who received you received me, and he who received me receives the one who sent me.”

Matthew 10:40