



# 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)

**Volume 71, No. 24**

**December 16, 2021**



# Advent 2021

## Come, Worship With Us

### 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

## 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, so check with Donna to see if we have what you need! Purchase of SCRIP supports local businesses and gives a portion of the proceeds back to the church. It's a Win-Win for everyone!



## What's On Wednesdays!

What's On Wednesdays will be back starting January 5th. Stay tuned for program and menu details!

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

## WELCOME VISITORS

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

*John Baker David*

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

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

## Pastor's Corner

**“If you realize how powerful your thoughts are, you would never think a negative thought.”**

**Peace Pilgrim**

In a recent “Minute with Maxwell,” John Maxwell shared the above quote as one of his statements of strength. He shared the recognition that we cannot totally eliminate negative thoughts, but we can choose to not dwell on them. In this time of year, we are well aware of the focus on positive and joyous thoughts. But, for many of us, it is a challenge to recognize our negative thoughts and *not* dwell on them. As we approach the end of the year, we are constantly invited to look back on the past year. While it might be tempting to focus on all the bad things that happened to us this year, I would invite us to reflect on all that was good in the past year, particularly here at FCC. We have struggled in many ways, but many good and exciting things have happened.

One of the most exciting things in my opinion has been the ministry of our two Seminarians in Residence. Kelly Tyrrell and Leigh Lestina have added a lot to our life and ministry here at FCC. I think some of my colleagues have been a bit jealous, as well they might be. They have participated in worship through worship leadership and preaching. They have also done a lot behind the scenes. Kelly has added to our educational life by teaching a couple of adult classes during our “What’s on Wednesdays.” She has led us in deeper explorations of the Gospel of Matthew and deepened our understanding of Native American spirituality. She took the lead in creating our Stewardship campaign in consultation with the Stewardship and Finance Team. She has done a lot behind the scenes that has deepened our ministry together.

Leigh has been active in working with D’Arcy Blosser in leading our Youth Group. She has helped our youth prepare for their upcoming baptisms. She has also done a lot behind the scenes. Perhaps the most exciting thing in working with them has been the energy and enthusiasm they bring to our life and ministry. The congregation has responded well to their leadership. They have expressed their gratitude and a sense of being welcomed and appreciated. Many of you have given them concrete and helpful

feedback which is an important part of their formation. It has been a joy to work with them and help facilitate their formation in ministry. We are blessed to have them throughout the spring and I know they welcome the ongoing opportunities to grow and serve.

Another positive element of our life together this past year has been our ability to resume some of the activities that have been a part of our life here at FCC. While COVID has necessitated a lot of accommodations and changes, we have continued to love and serve. We are one of the few Protestant congregations in Lincoln that has offered in person worship non-stop since June of 2020. We have also been able to offer live-streamed worship. We continue to prepare weekly written worship bulletins in an effort to reach as many people as possible. The Elders have worked hard to keep in touch with our members and friends. People have made the effort to remain socially connected while respecting the need to be physically distant. Worship continues to be the heart of our life and ministry. We are blessed to have a gifted Music Director, Mark Miller, who has drawn out the gifts of our musicians, and at the same time, kept our music fresh and vibrant. We are so blessed to have so many wonderful and talented musicians in our midst who revel in sharing their gifts.

Although it might be tempting to focus on the negatives in our lives, we can acknowledge our negative thoughts without dwelling on them. We have much to celebrate here at FCC! In this season of joy, may we celebrate all the good that surrounds us. May we rejoice as we await the coming of God in our midst. God is truly with us, Emmanuel comes and has come. Emmanuel is in our midst and brings us many reasons to rejoice and focus on all that is good!

With love and joy,  
*Pastor Karen*



### STEPHEN MINISTRY

“And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us.”

1 John 3:23

## A Gift for our Staff

Dear First Christian Church Members and Friends:



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.

Gifts can go in the offering plate, be mailed to the church office (**December 19<sup>th</sup>**), given to Jim Blosser, or electronically transferred through Donna Ruhl. Please indicate "Staff Christmas" on your gift. Checks should be made payable to the church.

Sincerely,

*Geoff Putney*

Geoff Putney  
Board Chair

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### This I Know: Finance Notes

We have collected just over \$27,000 in Faith Giving, or roughly 55% of our \$48,000 goal. Thankfully, Teams and Committees have worked hard to keep their expenses down, and as of November 30th, our 2021 budget is only \$5,000 short!

However, December is the time of year for higher energy bills and quarterly insurance payments, in addition to our regular expenses. As we have all experienced, inflation is causing costs to increase significantly. While we have not received our energy bills yet, our December insurance payment alone has increased by \$800!

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!** Knowing that there will be unexpected expenses, the congregation can help us be proactive in ending the year in the black. There are only 2 weeks remaining for us to make our 2021 budget goal. As you are reviewing your end-of-year financials, please consider a Faith Giving gift to First Christian Church. We look forward to you showing your gratitude for everything FCC means to you.

May the Spirit of God be with you,

*The Finance Team*



## Those Serving in January 2022

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:**

Jan. 2	Cecilia Burkhart
Jan. 9	Karl Ahrendsen
Jan. 16	Karl Ahrendsen
Jan. 23	Karl Ahrendsen
Jan. 30	Karl Ahrendsen

### **Elders:**

Jan. 2	Wayne Duncan
Jan. 9	Cecilia Burkhart
Jan. 16	Monte Dietrick
Jan. 23	Jim Blosser
Jan. 30	Deb Ortega

### **Deacons:**

Karl Ahrendsen, Brady Christianson, Kristie Christianson, Gwen Belden

### **Communion Prep:**

Karl Ahrendsen and Brady Christianson  
Homebound Communion: **January 9**

### **Homebound Communion Teams:** (January 9)

Cecilia Burkhart & Karl Ahrendsen  
Wayne Duncan & Brady Christianson  
Monte Dietrick & Kristie Christianson  
Jim Blosser & Gwen Belden

### **Hallway Hospitality:**

Jan. 2	Mike Carlin
Jan. 9	Rich Calver
Jan. 16	Vince Ortega
Jan. 23	Doug Effle
Jan. 30	<b>NEED VOLUNTEER</b>

### **Ushers / Greeters:**

Jan. 2	Lindsay & John Swanson
Jan. 9	D'Arcy Blosser
Jan. 16	Jessica Effle
Jan. 23	<b>NEED VOLUNTEER</b>
Jan. 30	<b>NEED VOLUNTEER</b>

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

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## FCC Social Media!



# Prayers & Praises December 16, 2021

## In Our Church Family:

- Arlene Heimer
- Marvin Thurber
- William Deterding
- Alice Peterson, *praises for returning from the hospital*
- Polly Putney
- Donna & Harold Baker
- Vic Burgess
- Jessica Vocasek

## Relatives:

- Friends and Family of Vic Burgess
- Greg Ogren, *prayers for healing, still ill after surgeries and treatments, son of LaVonne Ogren*
- Mark Carpenter, *with colon cancer, brother of Jill Carpenter and Dick & Roxie Pickel*
- Lorie Chrastel, *Mark Carpenter's fiancée, prayers for recovery from a stroke*
- Roger Christianson, *with stage 4 cancer, father of Brady Christianson*
- Mother of John Swanson, *prayers for health as she is ill with COVID-19*
- Emily Carpenter, *aunt of Carpenters & Pickels is in hospice due to Covid in May*
- Gerald Deterding, *prayers for healing from cancer and pneumonia, father of William Deterding*

## Friends:

- Tallu Schuyler Quinn, *prayers for diagnosis of glioblastoma, friend of Kaleo and D'Arcy Blosser*
- Cedric Gibb, *healing prayers, friend of Cec Burkhardt*
- Jim Bottolfson, *for stage 3 lung cancer, friend of the Vocaseks*
- Carson Mousel, *13-year-old grandson of Bob and Eileen Kunz, from Mildred Brockemeyer*
- Jamin and Hailey, *for the safe delivery of their baby girl, from Tony Flack*
- 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:

- Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Children and Youth
- Seminarians and those training for Ministry

## Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Victor Makari serving in Israel/Palestine
- Phyllis Byrd serving in Kenya

Find more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners at

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



## Lincoln First Christian Church Calendar of Events

Thursday, December 16 - Messengers Mailed

Friday, December 17

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

Sunday, December 19 - Advent 4

- 10:30 am Service of Lessons & Carols - Sanctuary

Wednesday, December 22

No Wednesday Fellowship - See you Christmas Eve!

Friday, December 24

- 6:00 pm Christmas Eve Service - Sanctuary

Sunday, December 26

- 10:30 am Christmas Hymn Sing Worship - Sanctuary

Wednesday, December 29

No Wednesday Fellowship - See you in 2022!

Monday, January 3 - Messenger Deadline

Tuesday, January 4

- 9:00 am Staff Meeting - Conference Room

Wednesday, January 5

- 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, January 6 - Messengers Mailed

