



First Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

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

Messenger

430 S. 16th St.

Lincoln, NE 68508

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www.fcclincoln.org



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Membership Team in 2021

After being apart for much of 2020, it was fun to have opportunities to get together in 2021. A group of 24 people from the church attended a Lincoln Salt Dogs game on August 1st, and everyone had a great time. We also organized an outing to see our very own Cec Burkhart in "Calendar Girls" at the Lincoln Community Playhouse on October 22nd. Thank you to everyone who attended these events. Be looking forward to more information about safe and responsible gatherings in 2022!

Connie Calver
for the Membership Team

Youth Group is Back!!

First Christian Church was so excited to bring youth group back in the fall of 2021. D'Arcy Blosser and seminarian-in-residence Leigh Lestina have been leading the group through many lessons, including preparation for their baptisms January 9th, 2022.

They have been discussing what it means to follow Jesus and how that applies to their every day lives. For example, they've talked about justice and its many forms that the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is concerned about, including ecological, economic, and racial justice.

For this November and December, they tied in thankfulness and awaiting Christ's birth, and preparing for being re-born as Christians or re-affirming their baptisms. On January 9th, 2022, they were baptized and brought to newness of life. They joined First Christian Church by their baptisms and are now discussing the pillars of Christianity: Authentic Faith, Humility/Forgiveness, and Gratitude/Worship.

Of course this also includes a lot of Uno, basketball, and ping-pong!! We are super excited to humbly walk with Jesus and do works of justice and loving-kindness!

Mark Your Calendars!



Board Meetings are the 3rd Sunday of every other month: Jan-Mar-May-July-Sept-Nov.

Cabinet Meetings are the 3rd Sunday of every other month: Feb-Apr-June-Aug-Oct-Dec.

Elder Meetings are the 4th Sunday of each month. If for some reason you will not be able to attend your meeting, please let the FCC office know.

Corrections

The following omission was made from the January 6th Messenger:

Riley Bowker is also a new deacon for 2022. If you see him, tell him congratulations!



STEPHEN MINISTRY

"My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding."

Colossians 2:2a

Pastor's Corner

In a recent "Minute with Maxwell" video, the presenter John Maxwell focused on the topic "Be Enthusiastic." He elaborated on this topic by presenting a tribute to his recently deceased father Melvin. His tribute included some of the advice Melvin gave to his son. Melvin lived to the age of 98. At the age of 85 he wrote *Celebrating the Senior Years* which John presented at his father's funeral.

1. Stay alive and don't quit dreaming. Find new ideas and set new goals.
2. Don't give over to defeat and discouragement. Things are not as bad as you think.
3. Never think that you are too old. Moses was 80 and led three and a half million people out of captivity.
4. Never think you've lost your usefulness. Your years have given you both experience and wisdom to share with others.
5. Never think you are not needed or important. Everyone you meet needs a smile or some loving words.
6. Never stop trying. Persistence always wins. Your candle may be burnt down, but not out. Don't complain because you're gray or bald, a lot of people haven't lived that long.
7. Keep your spirit of praise and constantly think about the goodness of God. Your attitude not your aptitude determines your spiritual altitude.
8. Love God more each day. He is with you each day. He has no losers, just quitters. You're near the winning line, just hang on to get there.
9. Try to leave a memorial that will live on and on; love, kind words, thoughtfulness, faith, vision, a charitable gift.

Melvin Maxwell's words really resonated for me. Perhaps it's because I'm getting older myself. I'm not sure I'm ready to celebrate my senior years, but I thought his advice was quite good for all of us. What would happen if we were able to really celebrate life in these nine ways?

I hope we are all able to celebrate life whatever our years. I hope Melvin's words of wisdom resonate for you as they do for me.

In peace and love,
Pastor Karen

A Note from the Finance Team...

Thank you for your generous support in 2021!

As we reported in the last Messenger, 2021 Faith Giving topped out at just over \$39,000. In addition, over 95% of all 2021 pledges were received! Because of this, 2021 is the third year in a row First Christian Church has ended the year in the black, with enough income to cover expenses.

Our 2022 Faith Giving goal is \$40,000. If we can collect just over \$3,500 per month in Faith Giving, we will be on-track all year. We ask that you prayerfully consider making a monthly offering to Faith Giving.

After the fantastic year we had in 2021, we are hoping to make 2022 even better! Thank you for your continued support of the mission and ministry at FCC.

May the Spirit of God be with You,
The Finance Team



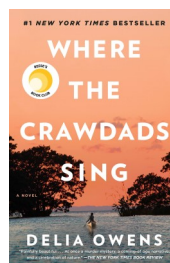
First Christian Church YouTube Channel

Have you missed any of our Worship Videos? No problem! They are all archived on the First Christian YouTube Channel. Go to:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVejAW8Dmqv8Jmk5rzi43g>

to see all of our videos starting with March 22, 2020.

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



Book Club News

Book Club will be meeting again Saturday, January 22 at 9:30 am via Zoom. Zoom information will be sent out soon.

Our book for discussion is:
Where the Crawdads Sing
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.



Baptisms January 9, 2020

First Christian Church is excited to welcome the following young men into the church proper:

*Keaton Bowker - Riley Bowker - Evan Foster -
Hunter Christianson*

They celebrated the ordinance of Baptism and the Renewal of Baptismal Vows on Baptism of the Lord Sunday.

Congratulations!



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.

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

Ministry Spotlight Worship & Music at First Christian Church

At times one can be so close and intimately involved with something that one cannot really encounter the actual situation and experience. Since First Christian Church began its livestream worship ministry just over a year ago, I have been able to experience worship at First Christian as others do --- as a participant or observer --- by viewing our worship online.

For years I have been watching worship at other churches and congregations online, and since I care for many pipe organs around Nebraska and the United States in general, I am acutely aware of active trends in worship and church music.

While watching the recorded livestream of First Christian Church's January 9 worship service, I was particularly struck by the bold authenticity of our worship. From the visual setting and music to the content of worship and the act of baptism, all was conducted in a profoundly honest manner --- confident and courageous.

Our beautiful worship space changes visually almost every week because people care enough to make it happen. The online video captures the beauty and the bright sunlight as it moves within our sanctuary. Authentic, appropriate music fills the space and inspires worshipers to praise a God of creativity and wonder. This is not a weak, uninspired club meeting full of folksy familiarity or a display of contrived self-congratulatory political correctness. Worship at First Christian Church strives for the best of our ability and challenges participants to engage, experience, and be changed by something other than the mundane, ordinary, and familiar of our secular lives.

As the prophet Jeremiah said, it is not enough to simply say, "We go to the Temple." But rather, we must be prepared to be changed by the experience and thus prepared to live in these days.

Amen!

Mark Miller

Director of Music Ministries



How the Music Gets Made

2021 was a great year for the Music Ministry at First Christian Church. Given our mask mandate for the majority of the year, and the lack of a vocal choir, Music Director Mark Miller went outside of the box to keep our music meaningful and new.

Several new pieces of music were purchased for the music program and there was a renewed focus on instrumental ensembles. Our Recorder Consort and Handbell Quartet added new member Kindra Foster who has been a beautiful addition to our worship. Donna Ruhl has continued perfecting the Handbell Tree in worship, and we've also welcomed soloist Chris Brown, a true blessing to our congregation.

Let the musicians and Mark know that you appreciate their efforts and hard work to make beautiful worship for our God who is beautiful!

What's On Wednesdays!

What's On Wednesdays will be back starting January 12th. 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

Jan. 26: Spinach artichoke chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans

February Menu Coming Soon!



2022 Directory information will be collected soon. In the next few weeks, check in the Parlor after service on Sunday for the current information. If your entry has changed, please let us know! If you have a new address, phone number, email, or other way of contacting you, add it to the list!

If you have any questions about the Directory or the data collection process, please get in touch with the FCC office, 402-475-4289 or info@fccincoln.org.

GET INVOLVED!



Several Ministry Committees still need volunteers for 2022. Some are even looking for leadership positions to guide their teams to success in the new year.

Education Team
Finance Team
Hospitality Team
Outreach Team

Remember, with any team at First Christian, you are never alone. The congregation and the staff are always here to support you! If you are interested in getting involved, or just have questions, reach out to Pastor Karen, Board Chair Doug Effle, Vice Board Chair Jim Blosser, or the FCC Office. Thank you for sharing your time and talents with FCC!

Those Serving in February 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:

Feb. 6	Leigh Lestina
Feb. 13	Wayne Duncan
Feb. 20	Wayne Duncan
Feb. 27	Wayne Duncan

Elders:

Feb. 6	Elaine Parman
Feb. 13	Cecilia Burkhardt
Feb. 20	Monte Dietrick
Feb. 27	Jim Blosser

Deacons:

Brad, Kristi, Riley, and Keaton Bowker

Communion Prep:

Kristi & Keaton Bowker
Homebound Communion: **February 13th**

Homebound Communion Teams: (February 13)

Elaine Parman & Kristi Bowker
Cecilia Burkhardt & Keaton Bowker
Monte Dietrick & Brad Bowker
Jim Blosser & Riley Bowker

Hallway Hospitality:

Feb. 6	Geoff Putney
Feb. 13	Mike Carlin
Feb. 20	Rich Calver
Feb. 27	Vince Ortega

Ushers / Greeters:

Feb. 6	Lindsay & John Swanson
Feb. 13	D'Arcy Blosser
Feb. 20	Jessica Effle
Feb. 27	Jim Blosser

Acolytes:

Feb. 6	Rebecca & Katie Swanson
Feb. 13	Christian Swanson & Kyson Effle
Feb. 20	Hunter & Edryk Christiansen
Feb. 27	Riley Bowker & Evan Foster

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

FCC Social Media!



Prayers & Praises January 23, 2021

In Our Church Family:

- Arlene Heimer
- Marvin Thurber
- William Deterding
- Vic Burgess
- Lois Frogge
- Polly Putney
- Donna & Harold Baker
- Vic Burgess
- Jessica Vocasek
- Kindra Foster

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*
- 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 Burkhart*
- 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 Timothys:

- Bruce Frogge at Cypress Creek CC in Spring, TX
- Glenda Dietrich Moore, *Creative Arts Ministry in Lincoln, NE*

In the Nebraska Region:

- Ashland FCC and Rev. Bob Schofield
- Aurora FCC and Rev. Penny Schulz
- Beatrice FCC and Rev. Mike Hanneman

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Ricardo Mayol serving in Guatemala
- Andrew Larson serving in the Philippines

Find more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners at

www.globalministries.org



Don't Forget SCRIP

See Donna Ruhl 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.

Lincoln First Christian Church Calendar of Events

Thursday, January 20 - Messengers Mailed

Friday, January 21

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

Sunday, January 23

10:30 am Worship - Sanctuary
11:30 am Elders Meeting - Library

Wednesday, January 26

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, January 28

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

Sunday, January 30

10:30 am Worship with Leigh Lestina-Sanctuary

Monday, January 31 - Messenger Deadline

Tuesday, February 1

9:00 am Staff Meeting - Conference Room

Wednesday, February 2

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

Congregational Case Studies: What Would You Do?

Wednesday Night Adult Education

February 2 - 9 - 16 - 23

6:00 - 7:00 pm

Join Seminarian in Residence Kelly Tyrrell for this interactive class that will ask the question "What would you do?" No registration required - all are welcome!