



First Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

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

Messenger

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New Leadership in 2022

Some familiar faces around First Christian Church are assuming new leadership roles in 2022. Please help us welcome:

- New Board Chair: Doug Effle**
- New Board Secretary: Elaine Parman**
- New Worship Team Leader: Marcia Foster**
- New Elder Chair: Cecilia Burkhart**
- New Elder Vice Chair: Wayne Duncan**
- New Elder Secretary: Monte Dietrick**
- New Elders: Deb Ortega & Elaine Parman**
- New Deacons: Gwen Belden and Brady & Kristie Christianson**

Of course, many of our loyal volunteers are coming back to their regular positions as well. We are so excited to have fresh ideas and new perspectives in these important areas of our ministry at First Christian. If you see any of the people above, make sure to tell them thank you for stepping up and filling a role in our church!



The Staff at First Christian Church want to extend a THANK YOU to everyone in the congregation for their generous Christmas gifts. All of our work is to create the most meaningful worship experience for you. Thank you for recognizing us at this special time of year!

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

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

Pastor's Corner

“Baptism consists of getting dunked or sprinkled. Which technique is used matters about as much as whether you pray kneeling or standing on your head. Dunking is a better symbol, however. Going under symbolizes the end of everything about your life that is less than human. Coming up again symbolizes the beginning in you of something strange and new and hopeful. You can breathe again.”

**-----Wishful Thinking: A Theological ABC
by Frederick Buechner**

Last autumn when we resumed our conversation about baptism with the young men in our youth group, we pondered what day to choose. While the ancient church usually conducted them on Easter as new members became part of the church, today baptisms can be done any time of the year. Due to the onset of COVID-19, plans for baptism were put on hold. I had the impression that our youth were eager to be baptized and did not wait any longer, so I suggested Baptism of the Lord Sunday, January 9th of this year. The symbolism seemed powerful and everyone was in agreement. As preparations moved forward it also struck me how appropriate this was as we begin a new year. As these young men prepare for their baptisms and re-affirmation of earlier baptismal vows, they mark a new beginning in their life and faith. On that same Sunday, the rest of the congregation will be invited to remember our baptisms and rejoice.

As we begin a new year, what would each of us like to wash away in our lives that makes us “less than human?” As we symbolically arise from the water, what would we like to see begin anew that is “strange and new and hopeful?” As we begin a new year we may make resolutions or simply plan to make some desired changes. For many of us, we hope to embrace more healthy habits like regular exercise or more nutritious eating. While I hope to do both those things, I was also inspired by the book *Make Today Count* by John C. Maxwell. He suggests that there are 12 daily habits that enable us to make each day count. I like the symmetry of 12 and hope to add on a new element each month throughout the coming year.

Perhaps you would like to join me. The first topic he addresses is “**attitude.**” I know I have

struggled with my attitude over the past few months, particularly during this time of dealing with COVID. I suspect I am not the only one who has struggled with the negativity that seems to be all around us. Maxwell encourages the reader to begin by making a decision to nurture a positive attitude. He says “I am going to keep a positive attitude and use it to influence others.” He goes on to remind us that this is a daily discipline and requires that we “think, act, talk, and conduct yourself like the person you want to become.”

I know this is an ongoing challenge for me and I wonder what our life here at FCC would be like if we embraced this challenge as a congregation. What if we think, act, talk, and conduct ourselves as the church we want to become? We can do this by “placing a high value on people” and by cultivating an appreciation for life and a sense of gratitude.

So, how can we work on our attitude? We can start by finding something positive in everything and by finding someone positive in every situation. For me, one of the greatest challenges is to “say something positive in every conversation.” This does not mean denying the challenging realities of life, but it does require also finding and acknowledging the positive. This requires eliminating negative words and phrases and replacing them with positive ones. As we begin a new year may we embrace the new, the strange, and the hopeful elements in our individual lives and in our life as a congregation. Hopefully our efforts to nurture a positive attitude will enrich our own lives and our life together.

In a spirit of hope and joy,
Pastor Karen



STEPHEN MINISTRY

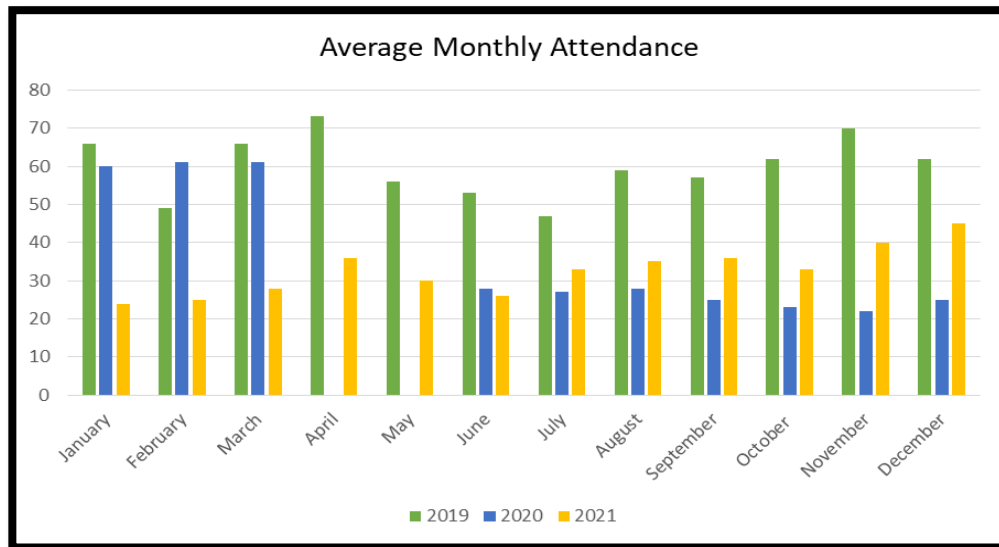
“Pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.”

James 5:16b

Don't Forget SCRIP

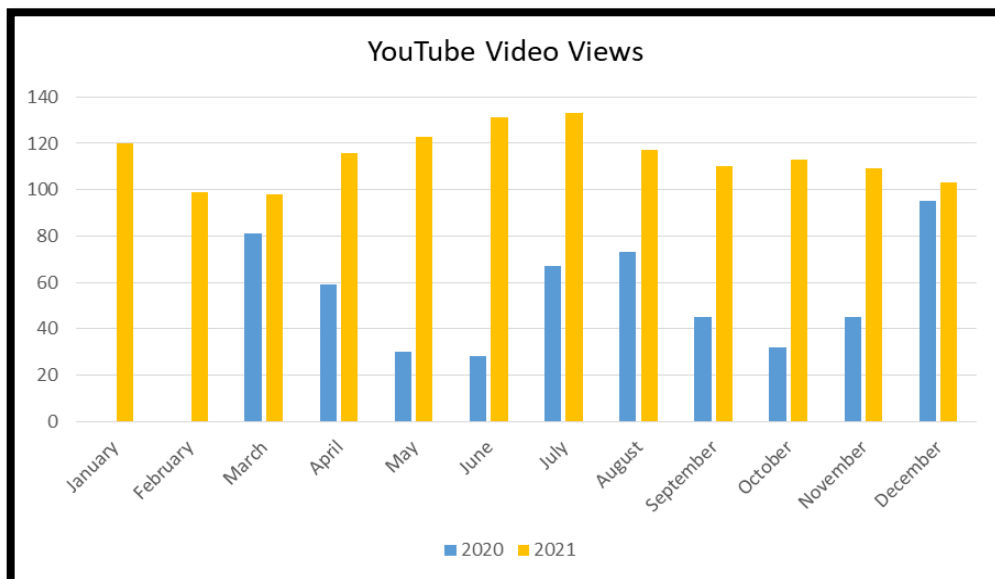
See Donna Ruhl after worship or send an email if you are interested in SCRIP. We have several cards on hand. Remember, SCRIP is a win-win for local businesses and First Christian Church.

2021 Recap



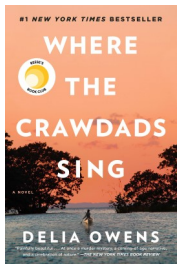
Church Attendance

More and more people came back to in-person worship in 2021. We are so happy our numbers are on the rise! This chart shows our attendance in 2019-2020-2021 in comparison. While some may be disappointed that we aren't back to our 2019 numbers, we have to remember that over the past 2 years, several members have moved out of town, left for different churches, have moved into long-term care facilities, and unfortunately passed away. We are hoping that by continuing regular worship and programming we will encourage people to come back and join us.



YouTube Videos

In 2020, the staff at First Christian needed to learn how to become televangelists, and quick! Our first videos were shot in the Chapel just on a laptop and individually loaded on to YouTube. As it became clear that COVID was going nowhere fast, the Board and Foundation invested in live-streaming cameras at the end of 2020. In 2021, you can see that our video viewership has increased dramatically. It is exciting to see how many people are able to participate in worship through this online channel.



Book Club News

Book Club will be meeting again Saturday, January 22 at 9:30 am at Cheryl Judd's home.

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.



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!

We use the Directory not only for contacting individuals throughout the course of the year, but this is also our source for the Master List of members. This list is used to determine mailings as well as contacts about needs at the church. The more accurate this information is, the more responsibly we can use our resources.

Additionally, these entries are used for First Christian Church to create their annual Yearbook entry to the Disciples of Christ National Office. We now use an electronic system called ALEX, and keeping clean records makes this data entry process much easier on your church administrator. For this reason, we will start collecting entries in the categories of "Active Members" and "Friends & Family." This will help us track our regular attendees and participating members separately from family members and friends who come to visit.

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@fcclincoln.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

Get involved with the youth of our church by helping with K-5 classes on Wednesday nights. Opportunities to collaborate and brainstorm new adult education classes. Chances to teach or help out behind the scenes.

Finance Team

Finances require good communication - can you help? Organize meetings between the treasurer and financial secretary to keep our finances on track. Create reports for the Board meetings that accurately reflect our financial situation. Collaborate on the Stewardship Campaign, Faith Giving, and Pledges throughout the year.

Hospitality Team

Come serve others! Be a part of organizing and serving our fellowship meals. Line-up sponsors for coffee fellowship. Wednesday night dinners, special events for holidays, Ash Wednesday Soup Supper, Thanksgiving, and other fun occasions in between

Outreach Team

Be the team that reaches out beyond FCC's four walls. Create partnerships with local non-profit organizations, schools, and other community neighbors to share God's love with all.

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!

2021 Faith Giving Review

In 2021, Faith Giving topped out at just over \$39,000, or roughly 82% of our \$48,000 goal! Below is a list of all our fellow congregants who contributed to this achievement:

Rhonda Ball
Gwen Belden
Jim & D'Arcy Blosser
Brad & Kristi Bowker
Cecilia Burkhart
Rich & Connie Calver
Mike & Bobbi Carlin
Jim Christ
Joan Dietrich
Susan & Wayne Duncan
Doug & Jessica Effle
FCC Foundation
Casey & Marcia Foster
Lois Frogge
Greg & Tezra Greder
Arlene Heimer
Phyllis Knosp
Gary & Phyllis Larsen
Relda Lathrop
Leigh Lestina
Sara Lugn
Mark Miller
Vince & Deb Ortega
Elaine Parman
Carla Pinneo
Geoff Putney
Donna Ruhl
Marj Snodgrass
John & Lindsay Swanson

The Finance Team cannot say THANK YOU enough to everyone who participated in Faith Giving in 2021. Be looking for more 2021 year-end communications in the next newsletter.

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

WELCOME VISITORS

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

Kristen Lanford

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

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	NEED VOLUNTEER

Ushers / Greeters:

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

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

FCC Social Media!



Prayers & Praises January 6, 2021

In the Nebraska Region:

- Trinity Chapel and Rev. Brandon Proffitt
- Alliance First Christian Church

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Fiona Kendall serving in Italy
- Shelby Perez serving in Israel/Palestine

Find more information and stories
about our Global Ministry partners at

www.globalministries.org



Lincoln First Christian Church Calendar of Events

Thursday, January 6 - Messengers Mailed

Friday, January 7

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

Sunday, January 9

10:30 am Baptism of the Lord Sunday
Worship - Sanctuary
6:00 pm Deacon Meeting - ZOOM

Wednesday, January 12

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 14

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

Sunday, January 16

10:30 am Worship - Sanctuary
6:00 pm Cabinet Meeting - Parlor

Monday, January 17 - Messenger Deadline

Tuesday, January 18

9:00 am Staff Meeting - Conference Room

Wednesday, January 19

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 20 - Messengers Mailed

Afghan Refugee Resettlement

MEETING:

Sunday, January 9th

4:00 – 5:30 pm

CrossBridge Christian Church

(For Your GPS: 2800 Crossbridge Rd, Lincoln, NE 68504)



Auto Pay Your Church Giving

New year, new pledge! We are
all so busy these days, and it
can be easy to forget your

pledge check each month. Luckily, there is an
easy, convenient, and secure way to electronically
transfer funds from your checking account to do-
nate to the church. Enrolling is easy – a debit au-
thorization 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