



First Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

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

Messenger

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A Note from the New Chair of Outreach

Are you interested in Outreach at First Christian Church? The Outreach team is looking for team members to help rejuvenate our Outreach ministry to do some exciting things in 2022! We've already got a great opportunity to help with the Afghan Refugee Resettlement Project. If you are interested in being on the team or providing new ideas, we will be having a Zoom meeting Thursday, February 24th at 7:00 pm. Please contact Geoff Putney, Pastor Karen, or the FCC office for meeting details or more information if you are unable to attend. Let's reach out into the community and do some good! We look forward to seeing you.

Thanks,
Geoff Putney
Outreach Chair

Afghan Refugee Resettlement Project

THANK YOU from the bottom of our hearts for all of the donations from the "Giving From the Heart" blanket. The only items we could still use more of is paring/cooking knives and new bath towels/washcloths. If you took a heart, please remember to bring your item to church so we can distribute these to the organizations involved. You will find the collection barrel in the Narthex. Tom Mason will be taking our items after Sunday, February 20th.

If you have items other than those listed on the hearts, please contact Tom Mason or D'Arcy Blosser. They are compiling a list of extra donations to see if we can get them families in need. If you are interested in making a monetary donation, please visit <https://engage.suran.com/ccnebr/s/give/new-gift>. Scroll to the bottom of the options and choose "Afghan Resettlement Initiative."

Your participation in the Afghan Refugee Resettlement Project is such a sign of love for our neighbors! Thank you so much for being an active part of the Body of Christ.



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/UCVejAW8D_mqv8Jmk5rzj43g

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



What Would You Do? Congregational Case Studies

Wednesday Night Adult Education
LAST NIGHT February 23rd
6:00 - 7:00 pm

Pastor's Corner

“...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Gal. 5:22-23

During our recent DOC/UCC Clergy Retreat at the Saint Benedict Center in Schuylers, we had the opportunity to hear Rev. Bruce Reyes Chow talk about his recent book *In Defense of Kindness: Why it Matters, How It Changes Our Lives, and How It Can Save the World*. Bruce's basic definition of kindness is “treating people as complex creatures created by God.” As people of faith, we often talk about the importance of recognizing that everyone, including ourselves, has value as creations of God. However, Bruce pointed out how challenging, particularly in these times, it is to recognize that we are all complex creations of God. When we face times of conflict or difficulty, one coping mechanism we often employ is looking at people as one dimensional. We often focus on that one quality or component with which we agree or disagree. Bruce also emphasized that kindness is a choice, one he invites us to make each day and sometimes several times during the day. So often we do not want to choose kindness because our culture has come to perceive kindness as weakness. Making the choice for kindness requires great courage.

Perhaps one of the greatest challenges regarding kindness is showing kindness to ourselves. Sometimes our harshest language is directed at ourselves. Bruce suggested that as we become more able to show kindness towards ourselves we become more able to do so with those closest to us and then with those we do not know.

One of the most difficult aspects of kindness is discerning when it is time to walk away. This may be a short term decision, in which we walk away from a conversation or encounter, or a long range one. When we find ourselves in the midst of a heated conversation it often becomes difficult to see our conversation partner as a complex creation of God and it becomes easier to see them as one dimensional. Then it becomes easier to discount them, their opinions, and their thoughts. Walking away may be the best gift we give them and ourselves. As we move through these times of polarization, it is sometimes tempting to believe we must engage with everyone. Bruce reminded us that sometimes walking away is kindness for everyone concerned. When we begin to perceive the other person as one dimensional, that is a critical sign that walking away might be best for everyone involved. He went on to say that walking away need not be forever; this response may only be for a season or a limited time. Stepping back al-

lows us to consider all the things going on with another person. Space provides grace for both parties.


Bruce went on to make the point that trauma, named and unnamed, often affects how we relate to one another. We find ourselves in a time when everyone has been traumatized in one way or another. Living through the pandemic and current societal issues has affected all of us in different ways. Recognizing that for ourselves and one another makes it even more imperative that we choose kindness.

The definition of the word kindness also provides some guidance. Kindness is the quality of being friendly, generous, and considerate. The origin of the word means “kin” as in one's family, race, or relations. To treat someone with kindness is to treat them as one would treat family and close friends, perhaps even better. How different might our lives and our congregations be if we treated ourselves and one another with friendliness, generosity, and consideration? How might we be changed as we truly see ourselves and others as complex creatures created by our loving God? Rev. Chow certainly inspired me to be more kind. If you would like to learn more, be sure to get his book, it's in print and available as an eBook. I also learned that soon it will be available as an audio book, too. If we could gather 10 people together to purchase and read his book, he would join the group for a Zoom session. Something to think about.

May we each be inspired to make the choice for kindness.

With love and joy,
Pastor Karen



 **STEPHEN MINISTRY**
“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.”
Proverbs 9:10

Those Serving in March 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:

Mar. 6	Leigh Lestina
Mar. 13	Marcia Foster
Mar. 20	Marcia Foster
Mar. 27	Marcia Foster



Elders:

Mar. 6	Wayne Duncan
Mar. 13	Deb Ortega
Mar. 20	Cecilia Burkhart
Mar. 27	Cecilia Burkhart

Deacons:

Carla Pinneo, Lindsay Swanson, Susan Pallas-Duncan

Communion Prep:

Carla Pinneo & Lindsay Swanson
Homebound Communion: **March 13th**

Homebound Communion Teams: (March 13)

Wayne Duncan & Carla Pinneo
Deb Ortega & Lindsay Swanson
Cecilia Burkhart & Susan Pallas-Duncan

Hallway Hospitality:

Mar. 6	Doug Effle
Mar. 13	NEED VOLUNTEER
Mar. 20	Mike Carlin
Mar. 27	Rich Calver



Ushers / Greeters:

Mar. 6	NEED VOLUNTEER
Mar. 13	Wayne & Susan Pallas-Duncan
Mar. 20	Jim Blosser
Mar. 27	Monte Dietrick

Acolytes:

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

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

FCC Social Media!



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

Feb. 23 Philly cheesesteak mac'n'cheese, garlic bread

\$6/meal, RSVP to FCC Office

Remember, no Wednesday Classes on March 2nd for Ash Wednesday!

Book Club News



Book Club will be meeting again Saturday, February 26 at 9:30 am via Zoom. Zoom information will be sent out soon.

Our book for discussion is:
The Island of Sea Women
Lisa See

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.

Sanctuary Flowers \$45

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



Finance notes...

After the fantastic year we had in 2021, we are hoping to make 2022 even better, and we can't do that without **All Hands on Deck!** Everyone needs to pitch in and become an integral part of the mission and ministry at First Christian Church.

Faith Giving is necessary to support and sustain the basic operation and ministries of First Christian every week.

For 2022, the finance team is designating the last Sunday of EACH month as a "Faith Giving" Sunday. Our monthly goals for 2022 is \$3,500. As of February 13, we have already received \$1,575. What a great start!!

We ask that your prayerfully consider offering to Faith Giving. Thank you for showing your love and support for First Christian Church.

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

Prayers & Praises

February 17, 2021

In the Nebraska Region:

- Brownville Christian Church
- Edenton Christian Church and Rev. Christy Ahmose

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Erinn Miller serving in the United Kingdom
- RJ Howard serving in Fiji



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

Black History Month A Short History of Black Disciples

The African American Convention movement was established as early as 1830 in “free” states as the secular adjunct of African American congregations as a means of coordinating opposition to slavery, forced relocation of free African Americans in Africa and a multitude of social ills. The development of collective strategies to effect the well being of “freed” African Americans after the close of the Civil War (1865) was so great that most of the present organized work of the African American congregations within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) was developed by that first generation of former slaves.

The African Christian Missionary Society supported African American evangelist and employed Preston Taylor as National Evangelist during the closing decade of the 19th century. The ACMS asked the Christian Women’s Board of Mission to take over the work in 1900. The CWBM continued that support through the next two decades. On July 1, 1914, the CWBM employed Rosa Brown to minister among the women and on Oct. 1, 1914, the Bible School Department of the ACMS employed P.H. Moss to serve the Bible schools.

The merger was finalized in 1960 and called upon the ministries of the whole church to serve the whole church. Three former National Christian Missionary Convention staff persons became staff of UCMS. They held positions in Evangelism, Christian Education and Christian Women’s Fellowship. Concern was expressed that “Jim Crowism” of the former NCMC staff not be operational through calling upon all of the UCMS staff to serve the whole church.

In 1969, the International Convention of the Christian Churches adopted “Principles for Merger of the National Christian Missionary Convention and the International Convention of Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ)” that formalized this 26 years of visions and strategy. The opening paragraphs of the resolution state the strategy well.

For more information visit www.disciplehomemissions.org

Lincoln First Christian Church Calendar of Events

Thursday, February 17 - Messengers Mailed

Sunday, February 20

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

Tuesday, February 22

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

Wednesday, February 23

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

Sunday, February 27

10:30 am Worship - Sanctuary
11:30 am Rae-Hope Putney’s 100th Birthday Fellowship - Parlor
11:30 am Elders Meeting - Library

Monday, February 28 - Messenger Deadline

Tuesday, March 1

9:00 am Staff Meeting - Conference Room
9:45 am Handbell Rehearsal - Sanctuary
10:45 am Recorder Rehearsal - Sanctuary

Wednesday, March 2

5:15-6:00 pm Soup Supper - Parlor
7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Worship - Sanctuary

Thursday, March 3 - Messengers Mailed

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

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. Special orders go out the first of each month.