



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
Mark W. Miller, Director of Music Ministries

Sara Lugn, Stephen Ministry Leader
www.fcclincoln.org
info@fcclincoln.org

Volume 72, No. 3
February 3, 2022



At-Home Communion

For those attending our weekly church service via YouTube, we are offering communion cups with wafers attached for those who wish to take communion while viewing. A month's supply will be placed in a sealed bag. The bag can be picked up at church or one of the Elders will deliver it. It is our wish that everyone has the ability to fully participate during this pandemic. If you would like to have a kit, contact Cecilia Burkhardt via email, text, or phone.

Afghan Refugee Resettlement Project

Eight Disciples of Christ churches are partnering with Lutheran Family Services to help resettle Afghan refugees moving into Lincoln. To collect all the supplies needed, each church has been given a specific list of items to donate. First Christian has been asked to provide:

- Dish clothes
- Rice cooker
- Sink cleanser (Soft Scrub)
- Light bulbs
- Shampoo
- Crayons, pens, pencils
- Kitchen sized trash bags
- New bath towels and wash clothes
- Paring knives

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 are THIS Sunday, February 6!

Amazon Smile

If you are purchasing Amazon SCRIP, you can donate to First Christian Church twice! Shopping through Amazon Smile will donate 0.5% of your purchase to First Christian Church. Just go to smile.amazon.com and choose "Get Started." There will be a place to choose your organization, and you type in First Christian Church (check to make sure it's Lincoln!). This is a great way to benefit the church on all those handy online orders!

Look in the Narthex the next two Sundays (Feb. 6 & 13) for a heart you can take home to collect your item. We will have a box to collect donations in the same place. If you are worshipping online and want to get involved, please call the FCC Office at 402-475-4289. 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."

First Christian will keep you posted on the development of the project and if there are more ways to get involved in the future. Thank you for being a part of the Body of Christ in action!



STEPHEN MINISTRY

"Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."

John 21:16b



Pastor's Corner

“A snow day is a little gift from the universe.”

Have you noticed how excited people get about a snow day? I think the above anonymous quote says it well. As children, we knew that a snow day meant a day off from school. But I don't think children are the only ones to get excited about the unexpected gift of pause that a snow day can bring. The more structured and busy our lives get, the more we relish the opportunity to take a pause. In her book *Pause: Harnessing the Life Changing Power of Giving Yourself a Break*, author Rachael O'Meara describes the importance of taking a break. She describes pauses that range from a few moments to days, weeks, or months. Through telling her own story and sharing stories of others, she describes why taking a break can be so important. In the first chapter she asks an important question **“what would you do if you chose the power to pause for a few minutes, an hour, a day or any amount of time?”**

I found her book as I researched taking a pastoral sabbatical. Part of my contract with FCC is that I am eligible for a sabbatical after serving the congregation for 5 years. A pastoral sabbatical is defined as: “a structured period of Sabbath rest and renewal.” During my recent meeting with the PRC (Pastoral Relations Committee), I brought up this issue. As we talked, a plan began to take shape. The hope is that this period of rest and renewal would not only be for me as your pastor, but would also bring rest and renewal to the congregation. Right now, we are discussing a 3 month (ish) sabbatical during the summer of 2023.

As I move toward my 6th year with FCC this year (1 as the interim and 5 as the called pastor), we all come to a pivotal point in our ministry together. I am currently the longest service pastor in about 15 years. Over the years, there have been several pastoral transitions and various interims. But after these transitions, we now find ourselves in a more stable position. Currently, it is quite common to undergo a pastoral transition after 4 or 5 years. It is my sense that all of us would like to see our ministry together continue.

Another unusual and important aspect is the continued challenge of COVID-19. Life in the midst of a pandemic has changed everything for all of us. We have all had to shift and reimagine our work and our

lives. With all that, and probably other things I am not aware of, it seems time to plan a shared sabbatical. I am in the beginning phase of planning and I hope to apply for some funding that will assist us. I am looking forward to an extended period of rest and renewal. As I ponder what will be restful and renewing for me, I invite the congregation to ponder the same thing. What would bring rest and renewal to the congregation? Would bringing in a special speaker or presenter for a day or a weekend be renewing? Perhaps inviting someone to be in residence, like a musician or artist? Would sharing in a book study or shared activity bring some new energy and excitement? As I begin dreaming for myself, I invite all of you to do the same. Let me know what thoughts and dreams come to mind. Pray and seek guidance from God.

As we move forward, may we be open to the movement of God's Spirit as we continue to seek renewal. How might we all take some time to pause? O'Meara defines a pause as “an intentional shift in thought and behavior.” Such a shift can open us up to the re-creation and renewal that God yearns to bring us as individuals and as a congregation. So, what would you do if you chose the power to pause?

With love and joy, Pastor Karen

Pastor Karen

Worship Servers

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

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.



TORCH WORSHIP TEAM



The Torch Worship Team was excited to resume live vocal music in 2021 and sing God's praises together again during worship! We continue to provide contemporary Christian music for worship on a regular basis. I plan ahead and work with Pastor Karen and Mark to coordinate music that helps enrich the scripture and message each week. It's exciting to find the perfect song to fit the scripture.

Besides providing music for worship, the Torch Team was excited to resume a couple outdoor activities in 2021. We provided music for the Lincoln Marathon in May. Nearly 5,000 runners ran by First Christian in the early morning hours of May 2nd. It's always exciting to see the enthusiasm of the runners and cheer on their hard work! It's quite moving to see many runners pointing to the sky and worshipping along with us.

In August we were able to hold Praisefest again in the FCC parking lot. We welcomed back our neighborhood, friends, family, and members to join us for hot dogs, popcorn, and Kona Ice, while listening to praise music. Kids also enjoyed the bounce house, along with balloon animals and kid friendly tattoos. It was a hot day but a great one to share with our friends and neighbors!

Torch Team members include: Kristi Bowker, Wayne Duncan, Evan Foster, Marcia Foster, Gary Larsen and Jeff Zager.

Torch Worship Team Leader,
Marcia Foster

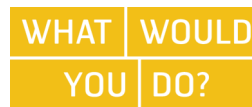


What's On Wednesdays!

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. 2 Beef lasagna, garlic bread, roasted veggies
- Feb. 9 Lemon basil chicken, red potatoes, veggies
- Feb. 16 Penne & meatballs, roll, roasted veggies
- Feb. 23 Philly cheesesteak mac'n'cheese, garlic bread

\$6/meal, RSVP to FCC Office



What Would You Do? Congregational Case Studies

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!

Prayers & Praises February 3, 2021

In the Nebraska Region:

- Bellevue Christian Church and Rev. Michael Lincoln
- Bethany Christian Church and Rev. Daryl Lauber

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Fritz Gerald Joseph serving in Morocco
- Karen Campbell-Nelson serving in Indonesia

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



Lincoln First Christian Church Calendar of Events

Thursday, February 3 - Messengers Mailed

Sunday, February 6 - SCRIP Orders Due
10:30 am Worship - Sanctuary

Monday, Feb. 7 - Wednesday, Feb. 9
Pastor Karen Out of Office

Tuesday, February 8

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

Wednesday, February 9

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 13

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

Monday, February 14 - Messenger Deadline

Tuesday, February 15

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

Wednesday, February 16

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, February 17 - Messengers Mailed



WELCOME VISITORS

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

Zachary Meter

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



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

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