

430 S. 16th St.

Lincoln, NE 68508 402.475.4289

Messenger

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

Rev. Dr. Karen Moritz, Pastor Ethan Cai, Administrative Assistant Mark W. Miller, Director of Music Ministries

Sara Lugn, Stephen Ministry Leader www.fcclincoln.org info@fcclincoln.org Volume 72, No. 11 June 23rd, 2022

Save the Date: July 10th



Membership is planning an all-church event to see the Lincoln Saltdogs on Sunday July 10th. More Details coming soon!



Celebrate with Karl Ahrendsen on Sunday July 17th.

Karl will receive his PhD in August from UNL. We want to celebrate with him and wish him well as he moves on to the next phase of his journey. Please join us for a special Coffee Fellowship on Sunday July 17th to be held in his honor. Karl has been part of our FCC family for several years. Although it is difficult to say goodbye, we want to celebrate with him and wish him well as he moves on to the next part of his journey.

SuperSaver Outreach Event

Thanks to everyone who worked and stopped by for lunch. We are also grateful for the generosity of the store's management who provided all the food and beverages. They also gave FCC an additional cash donation which brought our total to almost \$600 for ministry here at FCC.





"Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God." Psalm 42:11

I know I have mentioned it before, but I will say it again. The book of Psalms is one of my favorite parts of the Bible. The Psalmist expressed the human condition in such powerful and vivid ways. From the heights of the human experience to the absolute depths, the Psalmist managed to find words to capture it all. Psalm 42 came up in our rotation of lectionary readings during the middle of June. Although I chose not to preach on this text when it arose in the lectionary, it was a struggle to leave it behind since it is one of my favorites. During tough times, and we are still in the midst of them, I turn to the Psalms for inspiration and comfort. Perhaps you do the same. So, I decided to devote my Pastor's Corners for the next two Messengers on this comforting and inspirational part of scripture.

This psalm is called a psalm of lament. What better time than now to acknowledge the sadness, grief, anger and loss that seems to be a part of our lives these days. With all the bad news swirling all around us, close to home and globally, I suspect many of us long for something else. Psalm 42 began with the sentiment:

> As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and behold the face of God? (verses 1-2)

Whenever I read these opening verses I flash back to the movie *The Queen*. You may remember it. It came out a number of years ago and depicted the days surrounding the death of Princess Diana. As the Royal Family struggled to deal with her sudden death and help her sons move through this tragic experience, we witness the reactions of the various members of the family. Many people felt that the Queen did not react with much compassion, but she dealt with the tragedy in a manner consistent with her personality and position. In one scene as she drives a jeep around the royal estate in Scotland, she came across a large buck standing nearby. Their eyes seem to lock as they freeze in place. The image of that majestic animal always comes to mind as I read the opening to this poem. Like the Psalmist, the

juxtaposition of the deer and the Queen was intended, in part, to illuminate the longing they both felt at that moment.

The Psalmist went on in a more plaintive vein. "My tears have been my food day and night, while people say to me continually, "Where is your God?"" (verse 3) Have you ever spent nights like that? I know I have. Nights struggling with physical pain, moving through grief and loss, or wading through struggles uniquely your own. I suspect at one time or another we can empathize with the Psalmist and this often lonely experience. What sustained the Psalmist in the midst of such distress? We are told that it was the memory of past times of joy and celebration. The poet went on:

> These things I remember, as I pour out my soul: how I went with the throng, and led them in procession to the house of God, with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving, a multitude keeping festival. (verse 4)

The author remembered those times spent making the pilgrimage to the Temple in Jerusalem. Times of worship in the midst of community buoyed the author's mood. In the midst of low times the Psalmist held on to memories of worship, time spent in God's presence with others. In my article for the next Messenger I will invite us to ponder the remainder of this Psalm. There is so much to explore, so let's not rush. I invite us to sit with this Psalm during these next couple of weeks.

In peace and love, Pastor Karen

Book Club News

Book Club will be meeting July 6th, more details to come soon!

Our book for discussion is: *Anxious People* by Fredrik Backman



Those Serving in July 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 Leader:

July Brady Christianson

Elders:

July 3	Monte Dietrick
July 10	Cecilia Burkhart
July 17	Wayne Duncan
July 24	Jim Blosser
July 31	Deb Ortega

Deacons:

Brady Christianson, Kristie Christianson, Gwen Belden

Communion Prep:

Gwen Belden, Brady Christianson Homebound Communion: July 10th

Homebound Communion Teams: (July 10th)

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

Hallway Hospitality:

July 3	Mike Carlin
July 10	Geoff Putney
July 17	Vince Ortega
July 24	Rich Calver
July 31	Doug Effle

Ushers/Greeters:

July 3	D'arcy Blosser
July 10	Monte Dietrick
July 17	Susan & Wayne Pallas-Duncan
July 24	Jessica Effle
July 31	Lindsay Swanson

Acolytes:

July 3	Riley Bowker & Evan Foster
July 10	Hunter & Edryk Christianson
July 17	Christian Swanson & Kyson Effle
July 24	Rebecca & Katrina Swanson
July 31	Riley Bowker & Evan Foster

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

July Birthdays

2nd Ruby Waller 3rd Jessica Effle Phyllis Knosp 5th Diane Zabokrtsky 13th Leo Jelinek 23rd Nash Calver Jase Calver



25th Jane Calver 26th Bob Throop 27th Geoff Putney 29th Mark Miller 30th Sally Mason

All Hands on Deck

For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love. Galatians 5:13

The Bible contains much wisdom concerning freedom -- the responsibility that comes with being free, and the work required to protect and sustain freedom.

Since 1776, July 4 has been celebrated as the birth of American independence from the colonial subjugation of England. Freedom is a gift that should never be taken for granted.

Celebrate and share the incredible gift of freedom by *supporting the mission and ministries of First Christian Church.*

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

In 2022, a **monthly average of \$65 per family** is all it takes to meet our approved budgetary obligations. So far this year, we have received a total of \$3,786 toward our \$40,000 Faith Giving Goal. We have six months remaining to meet this goal.

May the Spirit, Peace, and Freedom of God be with you, *The Finance Team*

Prayers & Praises June 23, 2022

In Our Church Family:

• Marvin Thurber • William Deterding

• Vic Burgess

• Polly Putney

• Harold & Donna Baker

- Dick & Roxie Pickel
- Jessica Vocasek
- Lois Frogge
 - Joan Dietrich

Relatives:

- Friends and Family of Vic Burgess
- Mark Carpenter, with colon cancer, brother of Jill Carpenter and Dick & Roxie Pickel
- Roger Christianson, with stage 4 cancer, father of Brady Christianson
- Annie DeLosSantos, with liver cancer diagnosis, sister of Vince Ortega

Friends:

- Cedric Gibb, healing prayers, friend of Cec Burkhart
- Carson Mousel, grandson of Bob and Eileen Kunz, from Mildred Brockemeyer

Our Timothys:

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

In the Nebraska Region:

North Side Christian Church and Jonathan Wilhoft

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

Fiona Kendall serving in Italy

Find more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners at

www.globalministries.org



STEPHEN MINISTRY

"Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body."

Ephesian 4:25

Lincoln First Christian Church Calendar of Events

Sunday, June 26

9:15 am	Summer Choir ~ Sanctuary
9:45 am	Worship Team Rehearsal - Sanctuary
10:30 am	Worship - Sanctuary

Tuesday, June 28 9:45 am

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

Sunday, July 3

Summer Choir - Sanctuary 9:15 am 9:45 am Worship Team Rehearsal ~ Sanctuary 10:30 am Worship - Sanctuary

Monday, July 4 - Messenger Deadline

Tuesday, July 5

9:00 am	Staff Meeting
9:45 am	Handbell Quartet ~ Sanctuary
10:45 am	Recorder Rehearsal - Sanctuary

Thursday, July 7 - Messenger Sent

Sunday, July 10

9:15 am	Summer Choir - Sanctuary Workin Team Debaareal Sanctuary
9:45 am 10:30 am	Worship Team Rehearsal ~ Sanctuary Worship - Sanctuary
1:00 pm	Salt Dogs Game

Tuesday, July 12

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

Sunday, July 17

9:15 am	Summer Choir - Sanctuary
9:45 am	Worship Team Rehearsal - Sanctuary
10:30 am	Worship - Sanctuary
6:00 pm	Board Meeting - Parlor

Monday, July 18 - Messenger Deadline

Tuesday, July 19

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

Thursday, July 21 - Messenger Sent

Sunday, July 24

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9:15 am	Summer Choir - Sanctuary
9:45 am	Worship Team Rehearsal ~ Sanctuary
10:30 am	Worship - Sanctuary
12:00 pm	Elders Meeting - Parlor