



**First Christian Church**  
Disciples of Christ

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## Messenger

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

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*Merry Christmas From..*

**First Christian Staff**

## Pastor's Corner

**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.**

**John 1:1-5**

The opening verses of the Gospel of John, the Prologue, has been one of my favorite biblical passages throughout my life. I had the opportunity to do a “deep dive” into this text during college and it has remained special to me since then. As many of you know, the final verse of this passage is my favorite section. These words have guided me through some pretty tough times throughout my life. These words gave me strength as I weathered a period of deep depression in my late twenties. They continue to guide me now as I face new challenges in my life and ministry. As many of you read this you have probably seen my letter to the congregation regarding my upcoming medical leave. As I approach my mid 60’s I find myself facing unforeseen health challenges. I could power through one or two health challenges, but it seems that I do not have the strength to power through them all. As I deal with diminishing vision I need more time to learn new skills. Dealing with my orthopedic and back problems has added a layer of difficulty that I must deal with as well. I no longer find myself able to serve you faithfully in body, mind and spirit. So, I am taking some time to rest and heal. It feels like a dark time for me, but I know God’s light will also overcome this period of darkness.

As I have mentioned before, I believe that there is often a “parallel process” at work. Many of you in the congregation may also feel this is a dark time. Things are not as they once were. Like my physical body that impedes my ability to do the things I want, many of you may sense

frustration that the congregation no longer seems able to do what it feels called to do. As I take this time away to rest and heal, I invite the congregation to do the same. Those in leadership will be busy filling in the gaps, however, this can also be a time of rest and renewal as things are done differently. Others will fill the pulpit and leaders will fill in the pastoral care gaps. While it would be easy to get discouraged, to be overcome by the darkness, we are all invited to receive the above words of promise. Christmas is intended as a time of renewal. The days begin lengthening and the light once again overcomes the darkness.

As I said in my pastoral letter, serving FCC as your pastor has been one of the greatest joys of my life and ministry. Your light of love has shone into the dark places of my life. In these next few months may we all take the time and make the space we need for rest, healing and renewal. I welcome your prayers during these next months as I discern God’s continued call on my life. Please know I will also hold all of you in prayer as you discern that same call for yourselves and for the congregation.

God’s light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it!

With sincere love and joy, Pastor Karen

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### January Birthdays

3rd Beth Waller  
12th Casey Foster  
13th Elaine Parman  
22nd Vince Ortega  
26th Cora Calver  
28th Relda Lathrop  
31st Lois Frogge



### What I Like about FCC!

When you are homebound, as I am, The good people of First Christian, visit and provide communion monthly.

~Joan Dietrich

*The poinsettias that grace the sanctuary this Christmas were given as follows:*

**Name:**

Donna Baker  
Gwen Belden  
Blosser Family  
  
Cec Burkhart  
Mike & Bobbi Carlin  
Kristie Christianson  
Wayne & Susan Duncan  
Monte Dietrick  
Casey, Marcia &  
Evan Foster  
Lois Frogge  
Greg & Tezra Greder  
Phyllis Knosp  
Gary Larsen  
Sara Lugn  
Karen Moritz  
Debby & Vince Ortega  
Elaine Parman  
Kevin & Carla Pinneo  
Geoff Putney  
Donna Ruhl

**In Memory of:**

Harold Baker  
Albert & Darleen Watsek and James Belden  
Kit & Harold Butzer, Bob Blosser, Wilma Hogarth,  
Della Eggelston, Etta Neunaber and Arlene Heimer  
Henry Slechta  
Loved Ones  
Arlin Reuter  
Parents and Grandparents  
J.R., Wilma, Scott, and Mary Jo Dietrick  
  
Stan Foster and our grandparents  
Robert M. Frogge  
Gary & Doris Greder and John Schmidt  
Clarence Knosp  
Joyce Nelson  
Eugene Brockemeyer  
My parents – Doris & Kenneth Moritz  
Our parents – JB, Marge, Joe and Isabel  
Loved Ones and Nancy Jelinek  
Bob Tienken and Virgil Pinneo  
Richard and Ray Putney  
Loved Ones



**Name:**

Mike & Bobbi Carlin  
Lois Frogge  
  
Sara Lugn  
Karen Moritz  
Debby & Vince Ortega  
Kevin & Carla Pinneo  
Geoff Putney  
Friends  
Friends  
Friends

**Honoring:**

Children & Grandchildren  
My Family: Mark, Stephanie, Bev, Scott, Bruce,  
Donna, and Celeste  
Mildred Brockemeyer  
Members and Friends of FCC  
Our children and grandchildren  
Carol Tienken and Barbara Pinneo  
Polly and Rae-Hope Putney  
Jim Christ  
Wayne & Susan Duncan  
Donna Ruhl

**The poinsettias at the rear of the chancel honor First Christian's unnamed saints – those present & those who have gone before.**



# All Hands on Deck

Jim Blosser shared the following message during worship on Sunday, December 11, 2022.

*Faith Giving Dec. 11, 2022*

*As we begin the third week of Advent we celebrate the gift of joy. I can think of no better place to celebrate that than here in this place with people who embody that great gift. For over 153 years people of faith have come here and gone from here to spread God's love with joy.*

*So, it's appropriate for me to talk to you this morning about the importance of continuing to spread joy to our community. As Advent begins the church year, December 31 ends the current fiscal year and we need your help.*

*Despite the efforts of our dedicated staff and church leaders expenses have exceeded revenues and we need to correct this by the end of 2022. And we can do that with your help.*

*Here's the good news: God loves us! He loves us so much that he sent his son to live among us, to show us how to live in right relationships with everyone. And even though his closest followers abandoned him when he needed them the most, God intervened with a resurrection that we continue to celebrate today.*

*Therefore, with joyful and expectant hearts, I encourage everyone – those here in the sanctuary and those worshipping on line, to give additional financial support to a church that loves all, lives spiritually, rejoices in hope and shows hospitality.*

*God gave us his first fruits, so Please be generous, as God has been so generous with us.*

In just a few days, the light of Christ will burn brightly again. May the love we receive, be the love that we return to the world.

As you are reviewing your end-of-year financials, please consider a Faith Giving gift to First Christian Church. We look forward to you showing your gratitude for everything FCC means to you.

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

## Lincoln First Christian Church Calendar of Events

As the winter weather approaches us, a reminder that the office will mirror any LPS closures.

**Saturday, December 24**

6:00 pm Christmas Eve Service - Sanctuary

**Sunday, December 25th - Christmas Day**

9:15 am Sanctuary Choir - Sanctuary

10:00 am Torch Worship Team Rehearsal

10:30 am Christmas Day Worship

**Monday, December 26th - Office Closed**

**Tuesday, December 27th**

9:45 am Handbell Quartet Rehearsal

10:45 am Recorder Rehearsal

**Sunday, January 1st**

9:15 am Sanctuary Choir - Sanctuary

10:00 am Torch Worship Team Rehearsal

10:00 am SCRIP Orders Due

10:30 am Worship

**Monday, January 2nd - Office Closed**

7:00 pm Deborah Group Meeting

**Tuesday, January 3rd**

9:45 am Handbell Quartet Rehearsal

10:45 am Recorder Rehearsal

**Sunday, January 8th**

9:15 am Sanctuary Choir - Sanctuary

10:00 am Torch Worship Team Rehearsal

10:30 am Worship

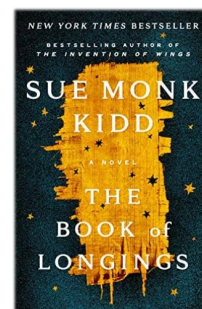
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## Book Club News

Book Club will be meeting in January in the church parlor!

Our book for discussion is:

*The book of Longings*  
by Sue Monk Kid



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.