



First Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

430 S. 16th St. Lincoln, NE 68508 402.475.4289

Messenger

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

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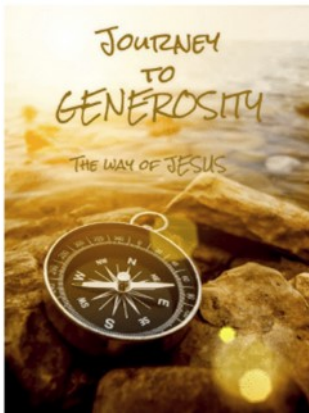
Volume 73, No. 8
July 27, 2023

Aloha!

Potluck with the Pastor was a fun filled evening getting to know Pastor Kara. Forty-five people "Flamingled" and enjoyed great food and fun. Several posed for a picture at the photo wall, and 5 youth participated in a hula hoop contest. They were ALL amazing and each won a prize. Thank you to everyone that setup, decorated, brought great food, the grillers (Geoff, Brad, Wayne and Monte) and the cleanup crew. Check out the Bulletin Board outside the Library and see if you recognize some of your fellow congregants.

The Hospitality Team





Journey To Generosity

On Sunday, July 9, our focus was on Matthew 11:28-30.

“Take my yoke upon you and learn from me... for my yoke is easy, and my burden light.” With these words of comfort, Jesus calls us to be one with Him so that He can share in our burdens, trials, and tribulations. There is a deeper meaning for us if we understand the comparisons to life in Jesus’ time.

When training a young ox, the owner would often attach the calf to an older, more experienced ox that was accustomed to both the yoke and the weight of pulling the burden. Jesus is encouraging us to share our burdens with Him by taking on the yoke and allowing Him to assist us with our troubles and difficulties.

One of the basics of stewardship is to live a God-centered life rather than a self-centered life. We must be willing to be His disciples and to commit our lives to serving Him and others. By investing time, talent, money, and other resources in the values and practices of a community that is centered on Jesus, the Lord will truly give us rest. Jesus’ spirit, dwelling within us, will genuinely give us life.

On Sunday, August 13 our focus will be on Matthew 14:22-32. The story of Jesus walking on the water follows the story of the Feeding of the Five Thousand. As they did then, they do once again. They try to find the resources within themselves to resolve the problem—but without success. Once again, they learn that they need Jesus to save the situation—and themselves.

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

Go and Do the Same

THANK YOU to everyone who is supporting the mission and ministries of First Christian Church through Faith Giving.



Six families have contributed to Faith Giving so far this year for a total of \$3534.

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

A monthly average of **\$75 per family** is all it takes to meet our 2023 Faith Giving goal.

For those of you who are giving – thank you! For those of you who have held back - help us move the dial! 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

FCC Social Media!



Each week FCC is posting new pictures and announcements. Look for First Christian Church on Instagram, Facebook, and You Tube for new content every week. Get connected!



Pastor's Corner

Dear Friends,

“Come to me all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

These well-loved words from Matthew 11:28-30 are familiar to most of us. I find myself turning to them when I am feeling run-down, over-committed, or struggling to keep my momentum going. Maybe you have too. I can almost feel the stress slipping away as I say the words “and I will give you rest.” Because, surely, the kind of rest Jesus offers is the BEST rest ever, right? Fully rejuvenating, completely refreshing rest. And I believe that’s true. But there’s a second part to this scripture that is incredibly important. Not only are we to rest in Jesus (after coming to him), we are also to take his yoke upon our shoulders. Today that word might not mean much to us, because most of us—even if we’re farmers—don’t use yokes anymore. But the yoke was a common item in Jesus’ time. It was seen in daily living on the farms and it was written of in rabbinic writings. It was also seen as an item of oppression, because yokes would be placed on prisoners, as punishment. But that’s not the yoke Jesus is offering. The yoke Jesus wants us to take on is not a punishment, it’s a form of protection. You see, the point of a yoke is to “bind together” two animals, so they walk in-step with one another. The purpose of Jesus’ yoke is to “bind” us to Jesus, so our steps are in alignment with him, so that he can help us to carry our load.

So what kind of rest does Jesus give us? It’s a rest that strengthens and prepares us for what’s ahead. It’s a rest that prepares us to walk with Jesus; a rest that helps us carry his yoke. Why does Jesus need us to carry his yoke? It’s not just because it helps us walk with him, it’s also because it helps us walk with others. Jesus’ rest helps us carry his yoke, which helps us do his work, which is caring for one another. So, this scripture verse is about rest, yes, but even more it’s an ACTION verse. It might seem to be the opposite, at first. But it’s a call to action for Jesus. So, let’s take on Jesus’ yoke. It’s the best way to align ourselves with Jesus, which, in turn, is the best way to be good stewards of our neighbors and our world. We ourselves cannot, but with Christ, we can be the good neighbors God wants us to be.

Kara

Volunteers Needed

Again this year, FCC will be collecting donations for Husker home football game parking in our parking lot. Coffee, cookies and bottles of water are offered to those making donations.

Last year this volunteer ministry raised just under \$1,600 for Faith Giving.

Jim Christ and Monte Dietrick oversee this ministry and are inviting you to join them. At least one more volunteer is needed each home game day. Your time commitment begins 4 hours before kick-off.

Home football games are as follows:
September 16 vs. Northern Illinois @ 6:00 pm
September 23 vs. Louisiana Tech @ TBD
September 30 vs. Michigan @ TBD
October 21 vs. Northwestern @ TBD
October 28^h vs. Purdue @ TBD
November 11 vs. Maryland @ TBD
November 24 (Friday) vs. Iowa @ 11:00 am

Look at your calendar and then let the church office know which date works for you.



First Christian Youth



School will start up again in just 3 weeks! To celebrate the end of summer and beginning of a new school year, FCC youth and parents are going to Lazlo's South after church on Sunday, August 13 followed by miniature golf at Adventure Golf just south of Old Cheney Road on 56th Street. Youth group includes grades 6 - 12 young people; we meet a couple times a month for fellowship, study and some fun. For more information, contact D'Arcy at 402-429-6902 or darcy.blosser@gmail.com.

Blessing of Backpacks August 13th

Please join us on Sunday, August 13th during worship as we take time to bless those beginning school this fall. Students and teachers are welcome to bring their favorite backpack or book bag to worship and place it in front of the Communion Table. We look forward to gathering together as a community to bless all of our students and teachers!



Kamp Kaleo Rummage Sale - FCC Gym

Preparations for the big rummage sale begin this coming Saturday. We'll need a lot of folks to help make this all happen:

Saturday, July 29 - help unload vehicles at First Christian - 8-3

Sunday, July 30 - help unload vehicles (noon to 3), start sorting through boxes

Monday, July 31 - sort, organize and price - 9-?

Tuesday, Aug. 1 - sort, organize and price - 9-?

Wednesday, Aug. 2 - sort, organize and price - 9-?

Thursday, Aug. 3 - morning - put finishing touches on the sale - 9-? (hopefully noon-ish)

5-8 p.m. - help with the sale

Friday, Aug. 4 - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. - help with the sale

Saturday, Aug. 5 - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. - help with the sale

Sunday, Aug. 6 - Noon to 2 p.m. - help with the sale (half-price day)

2 -4 p.m. - pack up remainder and clean up kitchen and gym

Let D'Arcy Blosser (402-429-6902 or darcy.blosser@gmail.com) or Gwen Belden (402-430-8399 or gwendy88kay@neb.rr.com) know if you are able to help and when - it helps to have a schedule of who is coming and when. (but if you find yourself with a couple of hours you can help at the last minute, just give us a heads up call or text and come on down!) Thanks!!



Kamp Kaleo News

With a new interim camp director along with many volunteers who worked to prepare Kamp for the summer season, children, youth and adults were able to enjoy a full schedule of church camps in May and June. FCC had 5 children and youth along with 3 adult leaders who participated in Little Kampers and Senior High Camp.

In addition to the rummage sale next week, a couple more fundraising activities are planned for fall:

---Kamp Luau Weekend & Rubber Ducky Regatta - September 8-10 - a weekend of traditional camp activities along with a Saturday afternoon rubber ducky race down the North Loup River and Saturday evening Luau. Accommodations are first come, first serve.

---Kamp will participate again in the Nebraska Junk Jaunt - September 22-24 - with meals (including our smoked brisket) and lots of "treasures" for sale

Two retreats will be held this fall:

---for 7th-12th grade youth - fall retreat - October 13-15

---for young adults (graduated in 2022 or earlier) - geared for folks in their 20's-ish - October 20-22

For more information on all of these activities, visit kampkaleo.com

Deborah Group - Disciples Women

This women's group meets once a month from September through June on Monday evenings. Our first meeting of the fall will be on September 11 - 7 p.m. - location TBD. Our new study book for 2023-24 is "Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament". Our group includes members and friends of FCC;

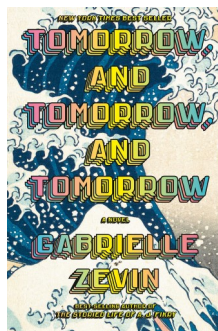
The Nebraska Disciples Women Retreat will be held on August 12 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at First Christian Church in Nebraska City. Cost of \$15 per person includes a luncheon and we'll carpool.

Let D'Arcy (402-429-6902) know if you'd like to participate; all women are welcome!

Book Club News

Book Club will be meeting on August 5th at Kristi's House.

Our book for discussion is:
Tomorrow and Tomorrow
and Tomorrow
By Gabrielle Zevin

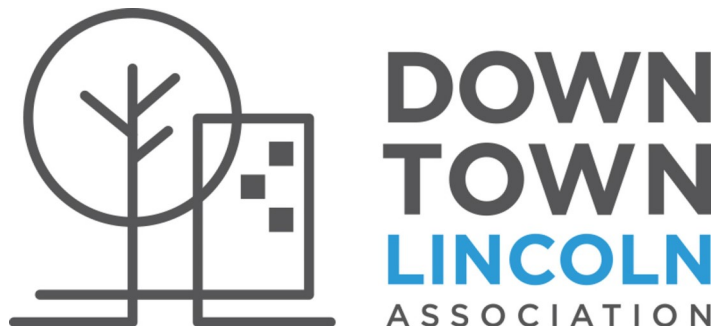


Anyone is welcome to join in our discussions at any time. Check the FCC Calendar of Events for specific dates, and times, or change of location.

Downtown Lincoln Event

Our church is a member of the Downtown Lincoln Association because of our location in the community. We have an opportunity to showcase First Christian at Downtown 101, a back-to-school event on August 25 from 5 to 7 p.m. at Tower Square, 13th and P.

We need volunteers to hand out church brochures and water to those attending. Please contact Jim Blosser (402-423-1300, jimblosser51@aol.com) if you are willing to help. It will be a fun event and an opportunity to tell our story to all who attend.



Save the Date for Praisefest!

Sunday, September 17th 5:00 – 7:00 pm
Join the Torch Team in our parking lot for praise music, refreshments and more.
Additional details will be coming soon!

Those Serving in August

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:

August Kristi Bowker

Elders:

August 6 Wayne Duncan
August 13 Cecilia Burkhart
August 20 Debby Ortega
August 27 Sara Lugn

Deacons:

Riley Bowker, Brad Bowker
Homebound Communion: **August 13th**

Homebound Communion:

Wayne Duncan, Cecilia Burkhart,
Debby Ortega, Sara Lugn

Hallway Hospitality:

August 6 Rich Calver
August 13 Vince Ortega
August 20 Doug Effle
August 27 Mike Carlin

Ushers/Greeters:

August 6 Elaine Parman
August 13 Susan & Wayne
Pallas-Duncan
August 20 D'Arcy Blosser
August 27 Monte Dietrick

Acolytes

August 6 Trev Greder
August 13 Kyson & Keaton Effle
August 20 Edryk Christianson
August 27 Gianna Greder

Some More Pictures from the Potluck with the Pastor



Prayers & Praises

July 27, 2023

In Our Church Family:

- Marvin Thurber
- William Deterding
- Vic Burgess
- Jessica Vocasek
- Relda Lathrop
- Bobbi Carlin
- Rae-Hope Putney
- Donna Baker
- Polly Putney
- Lois Frogge
- Joan Dietrich
- Mildred Brockemeyer
- Karen Moritz

- Nicole Lee, *prayers for strength, Mother of Leigh Lestina*
- Tito Vigan, *continue to gain mobility and strength as he recovers from a spinal stroke. Sara Mason's husband*

Relatives:

- Friends and Family of *Vic Burgess*

Friends:

- Tammy Foral, *healing, patience and strength as facing many health issues. Co-worker of Sara Lugn*
- Cedric Gibb, *healing prayers, friend of Cec Burkhardt*
- Carson Mousel, *grandson of Bob and Eileen Kunz, from Mildred Brockemeyer*

Our Timothy's:

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

In the Nebraska Region:

- Omaha First Christian Church and Rev. Josh Sawyer

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Alex Maldonado serving in Colombia

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



Lincoln First Christian Church

Calendar of Events

A full calendar of events is available online at our website FCCLincoln.org

Sunday, July 30

- 8:45 am Adult Sunday School - Library
- 9:15 am Sanctuary Choir - Sanctuary
- 10:00 am Torch Worship Team Rehearsal
- 10:30 am Worship
- 11:30 am Finance Team Meeting

Tuesday August 1

- 6:30 pm Recorder Consort Rehearsal
- 7:30 pm Handbell Quartet Rehearsal

Thursday, August 3

- 5:00 pm Kamp Kaleo Rummage Sale

Friday, August 4

- 9:00 am Kamp Kaleo Rummage Sale

Saturday, August 5

- 9:00 am Kamp Kaleo Rummage Sale

Sunday, August 6

- 8:45 am Adult Sunday School - Library
- 9:15 am Sanctuary Choir - Sanctuary
- 10:00 am Torch Worship Team Rehearsal
- 10:00 am SCRIP Orders Due
- 10:30 am Worship
- 11:30 am Worship Team Meeting
- 12:00 pm Kamp Kaleo Rummage Sale

Tuesday August 8

- 6:30 pm Recorder Consort Rehearsal
- 7:30 pm Handbell Quartet Rehearsal

Sunday, August 13

- 8:45 am Adult Sunday School - Library
- 9:15 am Sanctuary Choir - Sanctuary
- 10:00 am Torch Worship Team Rehearsal
- 10:30 am Worship
- 12:30 pm Youth Group Lunch & Mini Golf

August Birthdays

- 10th Phyllis Thurber**
- 12th Nick Calver**
- 13th Mildred Brockemeyer**
- Donna Ruhl**
- 16th Jared Calver**
- Sara Lugn**
- 21st William Deterding**
- 25th Jim Christ**
- 31st Keaton Effle**