



First Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

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

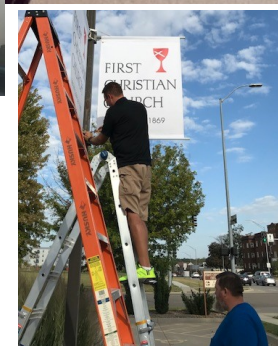
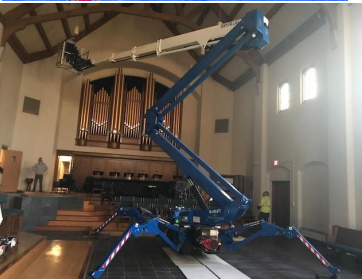
Messenger

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

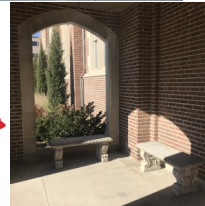
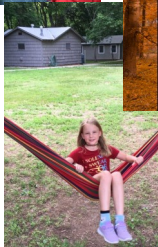
The Rev. Kara Hillhouse, Interim Pastor
Mark W. Miller, Director of Music Ministries
Elaine Parman, Care Minister

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30 Days of Gratitude
November 30th
Read your
Gratitude
Journal.



Pastor's Corner

Waiting = the action of staying where one is or delaying action until a particular time or until something else happens. Waiting on God = hard. There are so many great scriptures that talk about waiting on God: from Psalm 40:1-2 we hear, “*I waited patiently for the LORD; he inclined to me and heard my cry. He drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure;*” and in Isaiah 40:31 God promises that “*those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.*” Also from Isaiah, we hear, “*O Lord, we wait for you; your name and remembrance are the desire of our soul*” (Isaiah 26:8) and “*From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him*” (Isaiah 64:4).

Waiting on God is a daily part of living the life of faith. But it's hard—we don't like waiting. We live in a culture of “now.” Why put off what you can do NOW?? Why wait when you can be instantly gratified in limitless ways. But, as people of faith, we should know how to wait, intrinsically. After all, it's what we've been doing for thousands of years: first, people of faith waited for the Messiah. Then Jesus was born—finally the Savior they had been waiting for! Only it turned out that Jesus wasn't going to redeem the world in the manner in which they expected it, and they needed to wait some more, until He comes again and brings His work to completion. And so we, too, wait.

David Mathis, pastor and executive editor for desiringgod.org, writes about patience while waiting. “When you feel resistance during times of waiting, let it be a reminder

to go God-ward. Recalibrate the focus of your faith. Move the weight of your trust off self, where it keeps gravitating back, and consciously reorient on God. Whether it's spare moments or seemingly endless days, waiting is no waste in God's economy. It is in the delays and the pauses, and in becoming aware of our lack of patience, that he works to save us from self-reliance and revitalize our faith and hope in him.”

Waiting is no waste in God's economy. In fact, we are called to wait upon Him. That's why we Christians have Advent and Lent: two intentional times of waiting, so that we can get out of the rat-race of our existence and remember that we are called to *be still* and *wait* in anticipation of all that God will do in our lives (as we reflect on all that He *has* done and *is* doing). But shouldn't we always wait on God? Now that Advent is over, I invite you to continue the spiritual practice of waiting with me. Set aside time daily to do it. Schedule it into your day. If you're like me, set an alarm to remember. And then just sit and be still and wait upon the Lord. It's not a waste of time; rather, it is time that God uses to instruct, lead and help us grow in our faith. So, doing what might seem to be “nothing” could be everything.

Have a blessed day, **Kara**



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THANK YOU!

Neither sun, rain, wind, or cold could keep our dedicated Husker home game parking lot volunteers from performing this important ministry.

Many thanks to Jim Christ, Monte Dietrick, Wayne Duncan and the Bowker family.

FCC Faith Giving increased by \$1,250 from parking lot donations for the 2023 Husker home football games.

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 kickoff.

The 2024 home football games are as follows:

- Aug. 31 - UTEP
- Sept. 7 - Colorado
- Sept. 14 - Northern Iowa
- Sept. 21 - Illinois
- Oct. 5 - Rutgers
- Nov. 2 - UCLA
- Nov. 23 - Wisconsin

It's not too early to start planning for the 2024 season. Look at your calendar and then let the church office know which date works for you.

Book Club News

Book Club will be meeting on Saturday, January 20th @ 9:30 am at D'Arcy Blosser's home - 4648 Happy Hollow.

Our book for discussion is:

The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek
by Kim Michele Richardson



Everyone 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.



To All Church People,

Thank you for your help. We appreciate getting Communion and meeting different people in the Church.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas.

Ron and Sharon Hile



Go and Do the Same



Jim Blosser shared the following message during worship on Sunday, December 10, 2023.

Every time I come to church, whether for worship, for a meeting, or even to mow the lawn, I am struck by the beauty and stateliness of this facility, a place that has been gifted to us. Located in the heart of Lincoln, across from the state capitol, this isn't just another building or even a meeting house, this is God's house, a sacred place set apart for holy use.

When I worship here, I remember baby dedications, baptisms, weddings, funerals, glorious Easter worship and beautiful candle lit Christmas Eve communion services. These events have changed lives - - I know they've changed mine.

But I also think of what happens here beyond worship - - there's study, fellowship, and most importantly, equipping and empowering people to reach beyond these doors to do God's work in the world.

When our congregation celebrated our 150th anniversary several years ago I had the opportunity to look at old church newsletters, going back as far as the early 1900's. What I discovered was a congregation that survived 2 world wars and several smaller ones, a flu pandemic, the great depression and other calamities. But while those who worshipped here endured much adversity, that never stopped them from doing God's work and planning for the future. They're no longer with us but I see them every time I touch a door handle entering this space or when I gaze at the great west window where Jesus tells us to feed his lambs.

So how does this relate to this stewardship moment here today? Well folks, now it's our turn. We are the stewards gifted with the responsibility to carry out work begun by those who now rest from their labors because what we do today will very much impact the lives of those yet to come. Are we up to this challenge?? It's not for someone else to do - - we are that someone else.

Last Sunday we began a new church year, but the church's fiscal year ends Dec. 31. And we need your help. Thanks for all you've done already. But let's remember those saints who've gone before and the legacy they've gifted us. Now it's our turn and I hope you can join my family with an extra financial gift this calendar year.

But remember, stewardship isn't just about money. It's a way of life that rests in our hearts. I'm reminded of that beautiful poem written by Christina Rossetti and put to music by Gustav Holst. Our choir sings it often on Christmas Eve and it's in our hymnal - Hymn #144. The last verse goes like this: What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb. If I were a wise man I would do my part, yet what can I give him, give my heart.

Where is your heart today? Please be generous in your giving back to God as God has already been so generous with us.

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

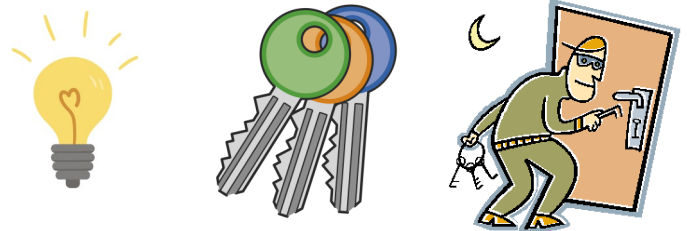


May 28 - AIC Kamp

June 2 - Junior Kamp

June 7 - Little Kampers #1

June 9 - Culinary Camp



PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE - If you turn on a light in the building please turn it off when you are done or after the Worship Service is over. If you unlock a door, relock it, pull on it when you leave to be sure it is locked. Check exterior doors too, be sure they are locked and closed. This is a great building to hide in and an expensive building to light and heat. THANKS!!!

Deborah Group will meet on Monday, January 8th at 7 pm -- Carla Pinneo's home - 1300 N. 80th St.

All women are welcome to join us! Contact D'Arcy Blosser for more information....
402-429-6902.



Those Serving in January

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:

Brady Christianson

Elders:

January 7 - Cecilia Burkhardt

January 14 - Jim Christ

January 21 - Sara Lugn

January 28 - Jim Blosser

Deacons:

Brady Christianson, Kristie Christianson

Homebound Communion: January 14

Homebound Communion:

Cecilia Burkhardt, Jim Christ, Sara Lugn, Jim Blosser

Hallway Hospitality:

January 7 - Vince Ortega

January 14 - Geoff Putney

January 21 - Rich Calver

January 28 - Doug Effle

Ushers/Greeters:

January 7 - Monte Dietrick

January 14 - D'Arcy Blosser

January 21 - Elaine Parman

January 28 - Wayne Duncan and Susan Pallas-Duncan

Acolytes:

January - 7 Edryk Christianson

January 14 - Trev Greder

January 21 - Kyson & Keaton Effle

January 28 - Giana Greder

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



3rd Beth (Blosser) Waller
12th Casey Foster
13th Elaine Parman
22nd Vince Ortega
26th Cora Calver

FCC Kitchen/Parlor Tips



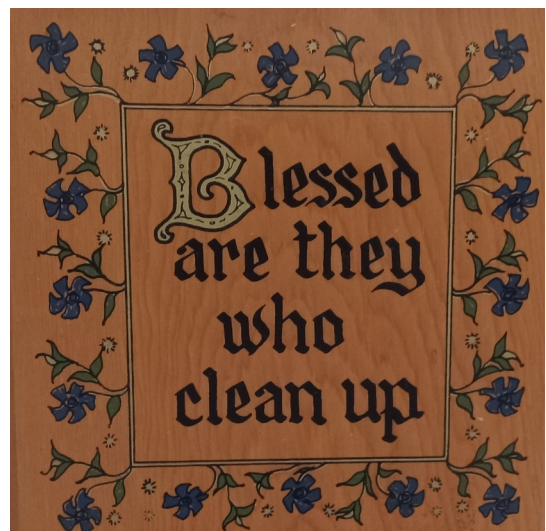
Our winter residents have moved back into the kitchen and parlor. Let's stop feeding them by cleaning up! They like coffee with or without cream and sugar.

Please clean up completely:

- ⇒ Rinse ALL dishes, place in a dishwasher tray by dishwasher.
- ⇒ Empty and clean ALL coffee pots.
- ⇒ Empty coffee grounds and wipe up around coffee pot. Unplug coffeepot.
- ⇒ Sweep floor, if lots of spills use wet mop from janitor closet.
- ⇒ Wipe ALL tables down in the parlor and clean the floor if necessary.

Thank you for serving, preparing and cleaning up.

The first person under the age of 18 that emails the church office with the location of this sign will win a gift card.



Prayers & Praises December 28, 2023

In Our Church Family:

- Donna Baker
- Rhonda Ball
- Bobbi Carlin
- Mike Carlin
- William Deterding
- Joan Dietrich
- Sharon Hile
- Polly Putney
- Rae-Hope Putney
- Marvin Thurber
- Phyllis Thurber
- Jessica Vocasek

Our sympathy to the family of Joyce Ball. Joyce passed away December 17, 2023. Joyce is the mother-in-law of Rhonda Ball. Her service will be January 5, 2024 @ 10:30 am at First Lutheran Church, Fremont, NE. Please keep Rhonda and family and Joyce's family in prayer.

Our sympathy to the family of Marj Snodgrass. Marj passed away unexpectedly Tuesday, December 19 2023. Her service was at FCC on Saturday, December 23rd. Please keep Marj's sons Curt & Steve and their families in your prayers.

Friends:

- Jennie & Will Ernest and family. *Tyler Goodrich, the young man missing since November 3rd is Jennie's brother.*
- Tammy Foral, *healing, patience and strength as facing many health issues. Co-worker of Sara Lugn*
- Cedric Gibb, *healing prayers, friend of Cec Burkhardt*

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:

Other Nebraska Clergy:

Seminarians and those training for Ministry

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Mission Partners in Japan



Lincoln First Christian Church Calendar of Events

Sunday, December 31

- 9:00 am Adult Sunday School - Library
- 9:15 am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary
- 10:00 am Torch Worship Team Rehearsal
- 10:30 am Worship
- 6:00 pm Nia O'Bryant Wedding - Chapel

Monday, January 1 - Office Closed - **Happy New Year**

Wednesday, January 3

- 6:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal
- 7:30 pm Handbell Quartet Rehearsal
- 8:30 pm Recorder Consort Rehearsal

Saturday, January 6

- 10:00 am Take Christmas Tree Down

Sunday, January 7

- 9:00 am Adult Sunday School - Library
- 9:15 am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary
- 10:00 am Torch Worship Team Rehearsal
- 10:00 am SCRIP orders due
- 10:30 am Worship
- 11:30 am Worship Team Meeting - Library

Monday, January 8

- 7:00 pm Deborah Group Meeting - Carla Pinneo's home

Wednesday, January 10

- 6:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal
- 7:30 pm Handbell Quartet Rehearsal
- 8:30 pm Recorder Consort Rehearsal

Sunday, January 14

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

Wednesday, January 17

- 6:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal
- 7:30 pm Handbell Quartet Rehearsal
- 8:30 pm Recorder Consort Rehearsal

Saturday, January 20

- 9:30 am Book Club - D'Arcy Blosser's home

Sunday, January 21

- 9:00 am Adult Sunday School - Library
- 9:15 am Sanctuary Choir - Sanctuary
- 10:00 am Torch Worship Team Rehearsal
- 10:30 am Worship
- 6:00 pm Board Meeting - Parlor

Wednesday, January 17

- 6:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal
- 7:30 pm Handbell Quartet Rehearsal
- 8:30 pm Recorder Consort Rehearsal

Thursday, January 25

- 12:00 pm Messenger mailed and emailed