



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

info@fcclincoln.org
www.fcclincoln.org

Volume 74, No. 2
February 29, 2024



HOLY WEEK AT FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

MARCH 24TH - PALM SUNDAY
10:30 AM - WORSHIP

MARCH 28TH - MAUNDY THURSDAY
5:30 PM - SOUP SUPPER
7 PM - WORSHIP

MARCH 29TH - GOOD FRIDAY
12 NOON - WORSHIP
1 PM - PRAYER VIGIL

MARCH 31ST - EASTER SUNDAY
8:15 AM - BREAKFAST
10:30 AM - WORSHIP



REMEMBER to
Spring Forward
March 10, 2024



FRIDAY, MARCH 29TH @ 1 PM TO SATURDAY, MARCH 30TH @ 1 PM. SIGN UP FOR 30 MINUTE SLOTS BY CALLING THE FCC OFFICE - 402.475.4289. AN EMAIL WILL BE SENT SOON WITH ONLINE SIGNUP INFORMATION.



**COME JOIN US FOR A MAUNDY THURSDAY
SOUP SUPPER & WORSHIP SERVICE**

SOUP SUPPER: BEGINS AT 5:30 PM
WORSHIP SERVICE: BEGINS AT 7 PM

SIGN UP SHEETS WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE CHAPEL ENTRANCE ON SUNDAY, MARCH 10TH TO INDICATE YOU ARE COMING AND WHAT DELICIOUS FOOD ITEMS YOU WANT TO PROVIDE.

Pastor's Corner

Dear Friends,

"And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting... And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit." Acts 2:2-4a

Boy is it windy outside! Our garbage cans are blowing all over the place and their contents are blowing all over the place (sigh). It sounds like something's howling from inside our home. I confess I don't like being outside when it's this windy - it messes up my hair (vanity vanity) and it's just plain c-c-cold (by the time you're reading this it will have warmed up a wee bit). But as I sit and listen to the wind I'm reminded of the instances of the Holy Spirit appearing to people in the Bible. The scripture above says the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples on Pentecost was like "a rushing mighty wind." In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word for "spirit" is "ruach," which can mean "wind" or "breath." Likewise, in the New Testament, the Greek word for "spirit" is "pneuma", which can also mean "wind" or "breath." I think that's pretty profound, the connection between spirit and wind/breath. A rushing mighty wind doesn't sound very gentle, does it? It sounds like the kind of wind that howls; that would blow sand in the disciples' faces, grit in their eyes, and chafe their skin. Certainly, the Holy Spirit isn't something to mess around with.

Writer Richard T. Ritenbaugh says of the Spirit: *"Like the wind, spirit is invisible. A person cannot see it move or work. However, one can see the effect of what the Spirit does. One can see how it acts on things—just as the wind going through a tree full of leaves. ... It is the same with the Spirit. The Spirit moves, and we then can see people react."*

The effect of the Spirit was made visible by the disciples' spreading of the Good News. The Spirit was made known through their actions. I might not like the cold wind, but I do want the Holy Spirit to blow upon me, whether that's a pleasant thing or not, if it means that It will be made known through my actions. I want It to drive me out into the world to do good things for God's Kingdom. And if that means getting my hair messed up, and having sand on my face and grit in my eyes, then that's what I want.

I want to be blown in the direction God would have me go. And, if necessary, I want to be roughed up a little by God's divine numinous presence, so that I can be the person God made me (and each one of us) to be: loving, gracious, forgiving, patient, kind. Because that's our purpose in life: to make our loving God known in all that we do. A blessed Lent season to you—and may God send His mighty Holy wind to show you the way. I'll see you in church!

Pastor Kara



Deborah Group Meeting
Monday, March 4th at 7 pm
D'Arcy Blosser's home - 4648 Happy Hollow

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



Don't Forget SCRIP

See Donna Ruhl after worship or send an email to the church office, if you are interested in SCRIP. The next special order will be **Sunday, March 3**. We have several cards on hand. Remember, SCRIP is a win-win for local businesses and First Christian Church.

Building Use Update

If you come to church during weekdays you may have noticed that the parking lot is nearly full or spots are reserved for HBS and FCC. As of February 29, 2024 we have only two parking spaces not reserved, #17 and #22. There are five reserved spots for First Christian Church where you can park. Each has a sign posted as such.

First Christian Church will receive \$1,170 per month in donations. If all spaces remain reserved for the remainder of 2024 this equals \$8,190. In addition, the gym is reserved by Hope Spoke three evenings a week, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. They bring a group of at-risk youth to play basketball, soccer, volleyball, badminton or other games in a controlled environment. Hope Spoke donates \$300 per month to First Christian Church which equals \$3,600 per year.

All of these donations are revenue to FCC!

PLEASE Read



If you host coffee fellowship or any event that uses dish cloths and/or towels - PLEASE take them home to launder and return. First Christian Church does not have a laundry service.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who setup, served, donated food and cleaned up for the Ash Wednesday Soup Supper. Thirty-one joined in fellowship prior to the 7 pm Ash Wednesday Service. The food was plentiful, the conversation enjoyable and the service was a very meaningful way to begin the Lenten Season!

Easter Lilies March 31

Once again, we would like to decorate our worship space with lilies for Easter. If you would like to help make this possible, please fill out the order form below and put it in the offering plate, or give it to Donna Ruhl. **Deadline to order is Sunday, March 10.**

Name: _____

Number of plants (\$15.00 each): _____ Total enclosed: \$ _____

In Memory of: _____

or Honoring: _____



Make all checks payable to First Christian Church, and please write "Easter Lily" in the memo line. **Mail to:** FCC, 430 S. 16th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508 or place in the Offering Plate.

Online - SCRIP

Are you tired of carrying all of those plastic gift cards? Do you find yourself at a store without SCRIP? Are you a Smartphone user?

Kristi Bowker shared in her Stewardship Moment on February 25th that now you can purchase SCRIP anytime you need it, anywhere, right from your phone! SCRIP is literally at your fingertips for gas, clothing, home goods, honey-do projects, vacations, and even those late-night Amazon shopping excursions! You can invite your shopper friends and family to enroll too!

RaiseRight is the SCRIP app that is available in both the Apple App Store and Google Play. These are the 3 steps you will need to complete to order SCRIP from your phone. Full instructions can be found at www.raiseright.com/resources/participant/start-earning/

- ⇒ Step 1: Get the FCC enrollment code from the church office.
- ⇒ Step 2: Sign up online. Complete the sign up on the website or mobile app.

Website: www.raiseright.com/enroll

Mobile Apps: These can be found in your phone's app store.

- ⇒ Step 3: Set up a payment method.

Payments can be made with your bank account, debit card, or credit card.

If ordering only plastic gift cards, you can continue to purchase from Donna Ruhl and pay by check or green electronic transfer form. All orders (paper and online) for physical cards are sent monthly after the first Sunday of the month.

Please note: gift cards for local vendors such as Super Saver, Hy-Vee, Russ's, Runza, etc. are not available using the **RaiseRight** app and must be ordered from Donna.

If you have any questions or need help getting started with the online app contact Gwen Belden, Brad or Kristi Bowker or Geoff Putney.

Giving to First Christian Church has never been easier!



Although we have had a relatively mild winter, it still feels good to shake off the winter blues, to have the days get longer, and to see new life emerge around camp. As I write this message to you, I am reflecting on where we were last year compared to where we stand this year at Kamp Kaleo and as an organization. This time last year, we were focused on fixing, correcting, cleaning, and replacing all aspects of Kaleo. We were in, to some degree, crisis management. But, slowly something started to change. A new focus started to emerge. 2024 is proving to be a year focused on growth, change, progress, and new ideas. Because of the hope that has been breathed into this sacred place, we can change our mindset from crisis management to dreaming big.

Come experience Kamp Kaleo in 2024!

Brad - Executive Director of Kamp Kaleo

LINKED BY Love 2024 CAMPING SEASON

CAMP KALEO BURWELL, NE
REGISTRATION OPENS DEC. 1ST

REGISTER BEFORE MARCH 1ST FOR \$60 OFF
REGISTER BETWEEN MARCH 2ND AND APRIL 1ST RECEIVE \$25 OFF

MAY 28-31 - AIC KAMP
JUNE 2-6 - JUNIOR KAMP
JUNE 7-9 - LITTLE KAMPERS #1
JUNE 16-21 - JR/SR HIGH KAMP
JULY 5-7 - LITTLE KAMPERS #2
JULY 7-12 - FAF/FAFS KAMP
JULY 14-17 - ROBOTICS KAMP
AUGUST 1-5 - ADULT KAMP

EVERYONE IS WELCOME HERE
FOR MORE INFO OR TO REGISTER VISIT: WWW.KAMPKALEO.COM

THESE CAMPS ARE SPONSORED BY THE YOUTH AND OUTDOOR MINISTRIES COMMITTEE
A JOINT UCC AND DOC ENDEAVOR

Those Serving in March

If for any reason you will be unable to fulfill your responsibility, **please find a substitute**. All of these positions need to be filled each morning.

Worship Leader:

March 3 - Marcia Foster

March 10, 17, 24, 31 - Cecilia Burkhart

Elders:

March 3 - Jim Blosser

March 10 - Carla Pinneo

March 17 - Wayne Duncan

March 24 - Jim Christ

March 28 - Jim Christ

March 31 - Wayne Duncan

Deacons:

Kristi Bowker, Susan Pallas-Duncan

Homebound Communion: March 10

Jim Blosser, Carla Pinneo, Wayne Duncan, Cecilia Burkhart

Hallway Hospitality:

March 3 - Geoff Putney

March 10 - Vince Ortega

March 17 - Rich Calver

March 24 - Doug Effle

March 28 - Vince Ortega

March 31 - Mike Carlin

Ushers/Greeters:

March 3 - Monte Dietrick

March 10 - D'Arcy Blosser

March 17 - Elaine Parman

March 24 - Wayne Duncan & Susan Pallas-Duncan

March 28 - Elaine Parman

March 31 - Monte Dietrick

Acolytes:

March 3 - Edryk Christianson

March 10 - Trev Greder

March 17 - Kyson & Keaton Effle

March 24 - Gianna Greder

March 31 - Edryk Christianson

Offering Counting:

March 3 - Gwen Belden

March 10 - D'Arcy Blosser

March 17 - Elaine Parman

March 24 - Rich Calver

March 31 - Gwen Belden



6th Jill Everett, Greg Greder
14th Jeff Zager
16th Gianna Greder
19th Edryk Christianson
25th Gwen Belden

April Book Club News

Book Club will be meeting on Saturday, April 6th @ 9:30 am at Cheryl Judd's home.

Our book for discussion is: *The Italian Ballerina* by Kristy Cambron



Upcoming books are:

Finding Dorothy by Elizabeth Letts (consider reading the children's book *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* by L. Frank Baum first)

Ordinary Grace by William Kent Krueger

Dear FCC,

Thank you for the McDonald's and Starbuck's gift cards you sent in your Christmas card. I have so appreciated the special treats. It was fun to swing through a drive thru on the nicer days and smile when drinking them and thinking of you in my head. Thank you for the ray of sunlight they provided. It also helped me to feel like I hadn't been forgotten by all of you since I haven't been able to get to church.

Katelyn Long



For nearly a year, Carol O. and Lisa H. have been coming to FCC on Thursday mornings to volunteer. They dust in the Chapel, the North Hall, the Narthex and the Library. Carol is an independent contractor with the State of NE Health and Human Services division. Lisa is retired, but loves volunteering and helping others. They work together two times a week doing things in the community. They are happy to be here to help out.

Carol is also the inspiration for our Easter bulletin board.

Thank you ladies, we appreciate you!

Elaine Parman, FCC Care Minister Volunteer

Prayers & Praises

In Our Church Family:

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

Please keep the *Putney family* in prayer. Rae-Hope's daughter-in-law, Dona Quimby passed away February 20th. Her Memorial Service was in Milwaukee, WI on February 24th.

Friends:

- Bob Johnson, a longtime family friend of the *Vocasek family*. *Bob is battling cancer again.*
- 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:

- Bruce Frogge at *Cypress Creek CC in Spring, TX*

In the Nebraska Region: Trinity Chapel Church - Rev. Abigail Conley

Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Mission Partners in Egypt

"We pray for our country's safety. Every border we have is witnessing calls of war and destruction. We ask that you keep those who live here safe from others who would do us harm. We pray, Lord, that we one day see an end to all the calls for power and destruction plaguing the region. May we live in peace and love to enjoy the many blessings you have blessed this nation and region."

For more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners visit www.globalministries.org



Lincoln First Christian Church Calendar of Events

Sunday, March 3

- 9:00 am Adult Sunday School - Library
- 9:15 am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
- 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, March 4

- 7:00 pm Deborah Group Meeting - D'Arcy Blosser's home

Wednesday, March 6

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

Sunday, March 10 - Daylight Savings Time

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

Tuesday, March 12

- 5:00 pm Staff Meeting

Wednesday, March 13

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

Saturday, March 16

- 4:00 pm Private Birthday Party - Gym

Sunday, March 17

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

Wednesday, March 20

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

Sunday, March 24 - Palm Sunday

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

Monday, March 25

- Noon Messenger Deadline

Tuesday, March 26

- 5:00 pm Staff Meeting

Wednesday, March 27

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

Thursday, March 28 - Maundy Thursday

- Noon Messenger mailed/emailed
- 5:30 pm Soup Supper - Gym
- 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Worship