



430 S. 16<sup>th</sup> 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  
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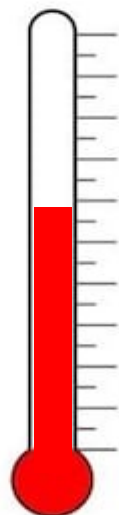
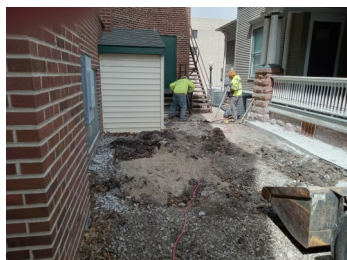
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## HVAC System Update

EXCITING news! We are making progress on our HVAC system upgrade! The Sanctuary Phase of this project began the week of April 8<sup>th</sup> and should be completed by mid-May (weather permitting). There will be **NO air conditioning or heat** in the sanctuary until the new system is operational. However, we do not anticipate that this will cause any concerns for our worship services, given current forecasts.

To date, the ice tank condenser and old concrete (located on the SE side of the building), has been removed and the new concrete has been poured. In the coming weeks, the old equipment will be removed and new equipment will be installed.

As of this writing, we have received a little more than *half of our goal* in donations to pay for our new HVAC system upgrade. We thank each one of you for prayerfully considering how you might be able to give to help cover the remaining amount. Any size donation will help us work towards our goal. If you come to this beautiful church, sit in it, worship in it - if your life has been impacted by this church in any way - please consider giving. We thank you for your generosity.



Goal = \$50,000

Raised as of 4/30/24  
\$27,000

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

The Live Streaming of our Worship services is Under Construction. You are welcome to watch but, please be prepared for possible issues. Thanks for your patience as this is being resolved.

## Pastor's Corner

Dear friends,

Three weeks ago we celebrated Easter. Resurrection day. It was joyful, and festive, and lighthearted. It was a blessed release after the somber days preceding it. We proclaimed that Christ was risen, He was risen indeed! But now we've returned to our everyday lives. They aren't always very joyful; they aren't always very festive or lighthearted. They're filled, at times, with worries, challenges, heartache and fears. So now what do we do?? How do we live our lives in light of the Resurrection? That's the million dollar question.

If Jesus really died for our sakes, for yours and for mine - if Jesus really overcame death and rose from the grave in order to give us the abundant and eternal life - then we can see all the challenges and pain in a new light. We can see them as temporary; we can see them as nothing compared with the power and love of God; and we can trust that, if Jesus overcame the grave for us, then He will overcome whatever it is we are wrestling with too. And this changes our perspective. It helps us to have hope. It helps us to endure whatever we might be going through, because we can trust that wherever there is a dead end in our life, God will overcome it.

This knowledge gives us joy and lightens our hearts. It emboldens us to proclaim that, not only is Jesus risen on Easter day, but he causes *us* to rise every single day of our own lives. To rise above the burdens of this world. And this causes us to rejoice. So, trust in the Resurrection's power to work in your life. Trust in its ability to transform your heart and mind so that suddenly everything is seen through the lens of new life. God will restore each and every one of us, one day. And in the meantime, He helps us to have hope because of Christ. I pray that as Easter recedes into the background, the power of its promise would continue to live in your hearts; so that, day by day, you would know that God is not finished with you yet. He is risen! He is risen indeed! Thanks be to God!

Pastor Kara



### Disciples Women News

The Deborah Group meets once a month from September through May for fellowship and study and in June for our annual picnic.

Our study is titled "*Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament*" and is giving us much food for thought.

Each month we take up a collection which, combined with the proceeds from our apple pie project, is distributed to various non-profits and the Disciple Mission Fund. Our 2022 outreach totaled \$1,700; in 2023 and so far in 2024, we have contributed \$4,100.

Deborah Group is open to any interested woman - one does not have to be an FCC member to participate. We meet on the first Monday evening of each month in homes or at the church, taking turns hosting. For more information, contact D'Arcy Blosser at 402 - 429 - 6902.



### Mayor's Interfaith Prayer Breakfast is Thursday, May 2nd

Register: <https://bit.ly/2024interfaithLNK> or via QR code



### Lincoln Marathon is Sunday, May 5th

The Torch Worship Team will be playing on the 16th St. side of FCC beginning at 6:30 am. Come early and cheer the runners on!



In addition to our older youth, we have three younger youth registered for Little Kampers and/or Junior Camp.

Beth Waller is now serving on the Kaleo on the River Board. D'Arcy Blosser will co-direct both Little Kampers weekends. Geoff Putney works with the Kamp website. Gwen Belden and D'Arcy Blosser continue to lead the charge for the Kamp Kaleo Rummage Sale as well as Kaleo's involvement in the Junk Jaunt fundraiser in central Nebraska. Kamp Kaleo itself is seeing a lot of new improvements under the leadership of a new camp administrator, Brad Hindsley.

This spring both bath houses were completely renovated. Every weekend in April was a designated Work Weekend when volunteers helped prepare buildings and grounds for the summer camping season; room and board were provided for work weekend volunteers.

Summer camp registration has been underway since January with over 100 children and youth registered so far. For a full list of camps for children, youth and adults (yes, 3 new camps for adults!), go to [www.kampkaleo.com](http://www.kampkaleo.com).

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### FCC has ten, 8' round tables up for adoption!

The church has received 10 NEW round tables to replace the old, heavy ones we've used for over 20 years. The OLD ones are available for adoption at \$20 each. Please contact the church office if you are interested in purchasing one, several or all 10 of them.

Be sure to ask your friends, neighbors and everyone you know. Perhaps they are in need of one or more.

Thanks - The Property and Hospitality Teams

## SAVE the DATE: June 23rd!



The Hospitality Team is reserving a block of tickets to the Lincoln Saltdogs game vs the Gary SouthShore RailCats.

More information coming soon!

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### Looking for Coffee Fellowship Hosts!

**There are several open dates on the Coffee Fellowship Host sign up sheet in the Parlor.**

**If you enjoy spending time in fellowship following Worship, please consider signing up for a date.**

**It is really easy and doesn't require a lot of setup or cleanup. The freezer is stocked with several items or you can bring your favorite homemade or store bought goodies.**

**The church provides, coffee, sugar, creamer and lemonade mix.**

**Thanks for considering to be a part of this ministry!**

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### Deborah Group Meeting

Monday, May 6 at 7 pm --  
Carla Pinneo's home

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





Dear First Christian Church,  
I can't begin to tell you how much I appreciate the lily plant you gave me. I've been going to First Christian since 1968, and always felt a great love and gratitude for all you do.

Sincerely, Joan B. Dietrich

Dear FCC friends,  
We thank you so much for hosting Weston's baptism with Rev. Corder of Bennet Community Church. It was a beautiful experience and an important step in Weston's faith journey. We are so proud that Weston got to experience baptism like Will and I did.

Thanks so much, Jennie Ernest



Our small but mighty youth group (all boys right now) has met about twice a month since October and will continue through May. Pastor Kara and D'Arcy Blosser are serving as youth sponsors this year. This year's theme has been the *Sermon on the Mount* - taking a look at Jesus's teachings in that setting, including the Beatitudes, the Lord's Prayer, the Golden Rule.

Souper Bowl Sunday was a success with \$380.58 collected for the Northeast Food Pantry which is housed at Bethany Christian Church; in addition, 5 grocery bags of non-perishable foods (32 items of meats, fruits, vegetables, soups, pastas) were collected and delivered. [Our youth say THANK YOU to all who contributed toward Souper Bowl Sunday!!]

Youth have helped with the soup suppers, serving, helping to clean up, putting away tables and chairs. We are looking for a service project for this spring.

Three of our youth so far are registered for senior high camp at Kamp Kaleo.

## First Christian Church Foundation News

The FCC Foundation meets four times a year to oversee the assets, which are invested with Morgan Stanley, and process requests for church projects. In 2023, the Foundation contributed \$24,700.00 to the church budget from its Unencumbered Fund.

In addition, income from the Hofmann Fund supported the replacement of the handicap lift at the alley entrance and is helping to fund the new HVAC system for the sanctuary, chapel and parlor.

The Foundation gratefully accepted two bequests - from the Harold Baker and from the Arlene Heimer estates - in 2023, along with memorials honoring the lives of Lois Frogge and Mildred Brockemeyer.

Total assets of the Foundation on December 31, 2023 were \$1,057,093.53. For a comprehensive year-end report submitted to the FCC Official Board at its March meeting, contact the church office.



**An Updated Membership Directory** was emailed on April 25th and copies will be delivered by the Elders in May to those we serve Homebound Communion to. If you prefer a printed copy call the church office at 402.475.4289 and one will be prepared for you.



"When we strive to become better than we are, everything around us becomes better too."

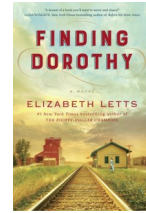
- Paulo Coelho



# May Book Club News

Book Club will be meeting on **Saturday, May 11th**  
@ 9:30 am - Susan Pallas-Duncan's home.

Our book for discussion is: *Finding Dorothy*  
by Elizabeth Letts



Upcoming books are:

**June - *Ordinary Grace*** by William Kent Krueger

Please bring book ideas for July!

## Those Serving in May

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:**

Marcia Foster

### **Elders:**

May 5 - Cecilia Burkhart

May 12 - Jim Christ

May 19 - Sara Lugn

May 26 - Carla Pinneo

### **Deacons:**

Keaton Bowker and Brad Bowker

### **Homebound Communion: May 12**

Cecilia Burkhart, Jim Christ, Sara Lugn, Carla Pinneo

### **Hallway Hospitality:**

May 5 - Doug Effle

May 12 - Mike Carlin

May 19 - Geoff Putney

May 26 - Vince Ortega

### **Ushers/Greeters:**

May 5 - D'Arcy Blosser

May 12 - Elaine Parman

May 19 - Wayne Duncan & Susan Pallas-Duncan

May 26 - Monte Dietrick

### **Acolytes:**

May 5 - Edryk Christianson

May 12 - Trev Greder

May 19 - Gianna Greder

May 26 - Kyson and Keaton Effle

### **Offering Counting:**

May 5 - D'Arcy Blosser

May 12 - Elaine Parman

May 19 - Rich Calver

May 26 - Gwen Belden

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



3<sup>rd</sup>  
19<sup>th</sup>  
22<sup>nd</sup>  
27<sup>th</sup>

**Kristie Christianson**  
**Connie Calver**  
**Mike Carlin**  
**Kristi Bowker**



Please consider honoring or memorializing someone or a milestone by purchasing a bouquet of flowers for the Sanctuary.

The cost is \$45. The bouquet will be in the Sanctuary for Worship on the specific Sunday and then you take it and enjoy it!

The flower signup chart is on the Bulletin Board outside the parlor. Once you select a date, call or email the church office with information for the Sunday Bulletin.

# Prayers & Praises

## In Our Church Family:

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

## Friends:

- Bob Johnson, a longtime family friend of the Vocasek family. Bob is battling terminal cancer.
- Tammy Foral, healing, patience and strength as facing many health issues. Co-worker of Sara Lugen
- Cedric Gibb, healing prayers, friend of Cec Burkhart

## Our Timothy:

- Bruce Frogge at Cypress Creek CC in Spring, TX

**In the Nebraska Region:** Falls City Christian Church - Pulpit Supply

## Our Global Ministries Missionaries:

- Mission Partners in Korea

*“Gracious God, we give thanks for our partners in Korea and their witness to unity and healing in a fractured world. We give thanks for the 50 years of commitment that the NCKK Human Rights Center has shown to discern and deliberate together what fruit you would have us bear in a world of suffering and division.”*

For more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners visit [www.globalministries.org](http://www.globalministries.org)



# Lincoln First Christian Church Calendar of Events

## Sunday, May 5

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

## Monday, May 6

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

## Wednesday, May 8

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

## Saturday, May 11

9:30 am Book Club - Susan Pallas-Duncan's home  
2:00 pm Private Graduation Party - Gym

## Sunday, May 12

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, May 14

5:00 pm Staff Meeting

## Wednesday, May 15

5:30 pm Finance Team Meeting - Conference Room  
6:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal  
7:30 pm Handbell Quartet Rehearsal  
8:30 pm Recorder Consort Rehearsal

## Sunday, May 19 Pentecost

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

## Monday, May 20

5:00 pm Private Awards Banquet - Gym

## Wednesday, May 22

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

## Sunday, May 26

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

## Tuesday, May 28

Noon Messenger Deadline  
5:00 pm Staff Meeting

## Wednesday, May 29

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

## Thursday, May 30

Noon Messenger Mailed and Emailed

## 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, May 5**. We have several cards on hand. Remember, SCRIP is a win-win for local businesses and First Christian Church.