



# First Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

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  
**Elaine Parman**, Care Minister

[info@fcclincoln.org](mailto:info@fcclincoln.org)  
[www.fcclincoln.org](http://www.fcclincoln.org)

**Volume 74, No. 6**  
**June 27, 2024**

## Welcome Rev. Kara Hillhouse

At the June 2nd Special Congregational Meeting the Congregation voted unanimously to suspend the Church By-Laws for Search and Call, then voted unanimously to call the Rev. Kara Hillhouse as our called Pastor. Pastor Kara will officially begin her call on August 1st. There will be an installation service for Pastor Kara on Sunday, September 29th @ 4 pm followed by a reception. Be sure to put this service and reception on your calendar.



### 2024 Schedule for the Big Kamp Kaleo Rummage Sale

August 3 to August 8 – preparation

August 8 to August 10 – SALE

August 10, 11 – pack up remainder

Time to clean out “treasures” from cabinets, drawers, closets, storage rooms! Bring your clean and reusable items to FCC and put in the second floor, North hall classroom or to the gym on a day listed below.

Saturday, Aug. 3 – 8 am to 1 pm – unload donations at FCC-alley door - sort, organize

Sunday, Aug. 4 – Noon to 4 pm – unload donations at FCC-alley door – sort, organize

Monday, Aug. 5 – 9 am to 5 pm\* - donations accepted at FCC-alley door – sort, organize, price

Tuesday, Aug. 6 – 9 am to 5 pm\* - sort, organize, price

Wednesday, Aug. 7 – 9 am to 5 pm\* - sort, organize, price

(\* evening hours can be arranged as volunteers are available)

Thursday, Aug. 8 – 9 am – final touches; 5 pm to 9 pm – SALE

Friday, Aug. 9 – 9 am to 4 pm – SALE; 4 pm to 5 pm – glean for Junk Jaunt

Saturday, Aug. 10 – 9 am to 2 pm – SALE (half price); 2 pm to 5 pm – pack up remaining items

Sunday, Aug. 11 – Noon to whenever – finish packing/sweep gym

Monday, Aug. 12 – Goodwill (or other) pickup from FCC

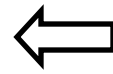
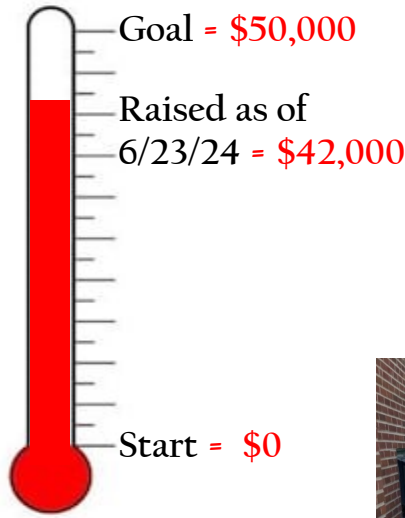
# New HVAC System Update

**VERY EXCITING NEWS!** The new sanctuary air conditioning unit is operational, and worship in the sanctuary was very comfortable, this past Sunday. Although there's still some fine-tuning that needs to be completed, we're already experiencing many of the benefits. One unanticipated benefit is how quiet the new system is. Many in attendance shared they were able to hear much better.

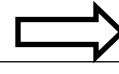
As of June 23, 2024, we have received just over \$42,000, which is over 80% of our goal, in donations to pay for our new HVAC system upgrade. We still need to raise \$8,000. Your donation towards this needed upgrade will ensure that this beautiful and sacred space will continue to be a place of hope, community, and connection with God for generations to come.

We ask you to prayerfully consider how you can give to help cover the remaining amount. It will take all of us to make this happen. 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.

*The Finance Team*



New HVAC unit being delivered



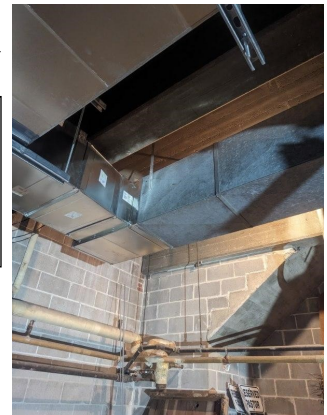
New unit in place



New unit with ductwork to building



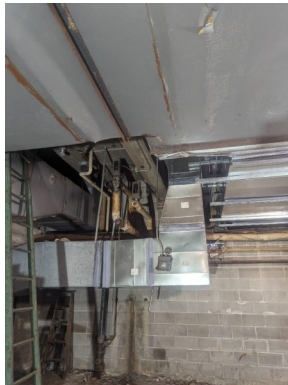
Ductwork connected from the outside unit to the inside in the basement



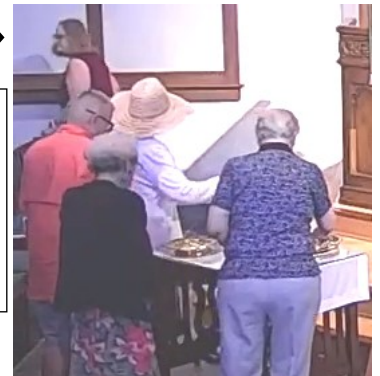
New ductwork connecting to existing inside



More new ductwork connecting to existing



Thanks to the new system operating, it was a cool and comfortable worship service on Sunday - June 23, 2024!



## Pastor's Corner

Dear friends,

This weekend I worked around our house trying to organize a few things that have gotten out of control. Not *seriously* out of control...just having the potential to be so. One of those things are photographs. We have a lot of photographs. A *lotta lot* of photographs. Albums, bins and bags of photographs. So many that we cannot possibly hang them up on a wall and enjoy them all, so I'm on a mission to throw out the ones that just don't need to be there anymore.

Last night I pulled out the photo albums of my trip to England and Italy with my mom in 2001. So many amazing buildings—such stunning architecture and soaring ceilings painted with fabulous frescoes. So many beautiful sculptures—man, can those Italians sculpt. So many lush landscapes: mountains, oceans, vineyards. But as I looked through and reminisced, the one thought I had was “*wow, most of these pictures are really bad. There are much better photographs of all of this on the internet. Why don't I just throw these out?!*” The one thing I can't find on the internet? The pictures of the people. The pictures of mom and me. And, now that she's no longer with us, these pictures are even more precious.

Life is like this. There are a lot of things that *gobblety gook* up our lives that just don't need to be there, and they tear our attention away from what really matters: relationships. Trust me, when people are at the end of their lives and facing their mortality they do NOT talk about their things: their cars, homes, stuff, stuff, stuff. They talk about their people. Because that's what truly matters. Relationships. Whether it's a relationship with your biological family or “family” of another sort, be it neighbors, friends, colleagues, etc. People are what it's all about. So let's *\*try\** to do better at keeping our focus on people, not things. I'm terribly guilty of struggling with this, so I invite you to join me in doing a little bit better at remembering to focus on what matters.

Be well and *Peace* be with you. I look forward to seeing you at First!

Pastor Kara

## Little Kampers at Kaleo July 5-7, 2024 - *Linked By Love*

Little Kampers is for children entering Kindergarten through 2nd grade (if your child is entering 3rd grade but this would be their first time at Kamp, they are also welcome). An introductory camp, Little Kampers begins with arrival/check-in between 3 and 4 p.m. on Friday, and ends at 1 p.m. on Sunday. Campers come with an adult companion - mom, dad, grandparent, guardian, aunt, uncle, etc. - who is expected to participate with them. Bible stories, singing, games, arts & crafts, canoeing, hiking, tie dye, vespers and more are all a part of this camp. “Linked By Love” is the theme this summer; we will explore how we are all beloved children of God and how we can share God's love with everyone. All children are welcome to attend this camp with their adult companion; you don't have to be a member of any particular church, denomination or religious community at all. The July camp (July 5-7) has plenty of room! Register at [kampkaleo.com](http://kampkaleo.com). The July and August camps still have openings; see Kamp Kaleo website for more information ([www.kampkaleo.com](http://www.kampkaleo.com)).



**THANK YOU!**

Elders,

Thank you for visiting us and for the meaningful messages/notes you send to us. It means so much to us!

God Bless, Ron & Sharon Hile

Dear FCC,

Your staff helped serve the voters of Lancaster County as a polling place for the May 14, 2024 Statewide Primary Election. Your assistance makes a difference in our community, and we are thankful for your continued support.

Election Resource Coordinator, Kendall Bartling



June 9 was the kickoff of our “Measuring What Matters” stewardship campaign. This year’s campaign will focus on growing our faith, so that we can become more faithful stewards of our resources and learn to serve others before we serve our own interests. God has already chosen us. We have been invited to choose God. How will you respond to God’s invitation?

On Sunday, June 9, our kickoff was based on Joshua 24:14-24.

In this passage we learned that Joshua, after leading the Israelites to the Promised Land, is nearing the end of his life. Joshua begins to prepare the people for life without him by reminding them of everything that God has provided them and encouraging them to remain faithful to God. Over the years, the Israelites’ allegiance to God had wavered as many other, very tempting, “deities” were encountered. Then Joshua issues this command: “choose this day who you will serve... but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

Who are you going to serve? We only have two options. Will you serve God? Or will you not? God wants a relationship with us, which will impact every aspect of our lives. The choice to serve God is not easy, it must be intentional and needs to be addressed every day. Choosing to serve God means caring for others before ourselves.

On Sunday, July 14 our Gospel scripture and sermon will focus on Mark 4:26-32.

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

---

## 2025 Stewardship Campaign Mission Project June 16th - October 20th

Our Mission Project throughout the campaign is **Collecting** items **and Connecting** those items with **Clinic With A Heart** and **McPhee Elementary School**. Items needed are listed below. Let’s fill the collection barrel each month! Thank you for your contributions. *The Finance and Outreach Teams*



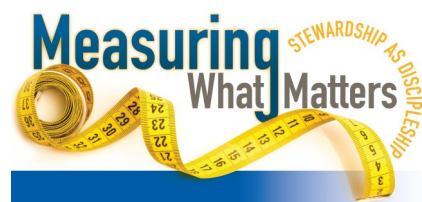
3 in 1 body wash, shampoo and conditioner; face wash; deodorant; razors; shaving cream; tooth brushes; toothpaste; washcloths; bars of soap; shampoo; conditioner; body wash; ethnic hair and skin products (contain shea butter/ Argan or Moroccan oil)

### Boys & Girls

Bubble bath; body wash; tear free shampoo/conditioner; Barbie, Spiderman, Ninja etc. tooth brushes; toothpaste; small activity books; small reading books; youth card games (Old Maid, Go Fish, UNO)



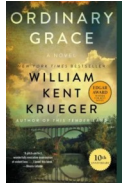
Back to school supplies - pencils, erasers, crayons, pencil cases, pens, colored pencils, rulers, boxes of Kleenex, backpacks. Boys and girls new shoes - no tie and tie, all youth sizes; boys and girls new socks - all youth sizes; boys and girls new gloves, mittens, hats, scarves



## **JULY Book Club News**

Book Club will be meeting on **Saturday, July 13** @ 9:30 am - Dottie's home, 6940 NW 2nd St.

July book for discussion will be:  
*Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger



Our next book will be:  
*Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus

Please bring some future book suggestions to the meeting!

### **Those Serving in July**

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:**

Wayne Duncan

#### **Elders:**

July 7 - Cecilia Burkhart

July 14 - Carla Pinneo

July 21 - Sara Lugn

July 28 - Jim Blosser

#### **Deacons:**

Brady Christianson and Kristie Christianson

#### **Homebound Communion: July 14**

Jim Blosser, Sara Lugn, Cecilia Burkhart, Carla Pinneo

#### **Hallway Hospitality:**

July 7 - Vince Ortega

July 14 - Geoff Putney

July 21 - Rich Calver

July 28 - Doug Effle

#### **Ushers/Greeters:**

July 7 - Monte Dietrick

July 14 - D'Arcy Blosser

July 21 - Elaine Parman

July 28 - Wayne Duncan & Susan Pallas-Duncan

#### **Acolytes:**

July 7 - Trev and Gianna Greder

July 14 - Edryk Christianson

July 21 - Kyson and Keaton Effle

July 28 - Edryk Christianson

#### **Offering Counting:**

July 7 - Gwen Belden

July 14 - D'Arcy Blosser

July 21 - Elaine Parman

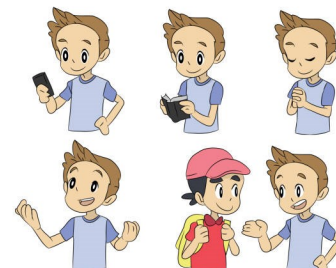
July 28 - Rich Calver

**THANK YOU** for volunteering.



2<sup>nd</sup> Ruby Waller  
3<sup>rd</sup> Jessica Effle, Phyllis Knosp  
5<sup>th</sup> Diane Zabokrtsky  
6<sup>th</sup> Rhonda Ball  
13<sup>th</sup> Leo Jelinek  
23<sup>rd</sup> Nash Calver, Jase Calver  
25<sup>th</sup> Jane Calver  
26<sup>th</sup> Bob Throop  
27<sup>th</sup> Geoff Putney  
29<sup>th</sup> Mark Miller

**Mark Your Calendars**  
**Youth Sunday - July 21, 2024**



**It's gonna be a Good Morning!!**

## 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

Donna Baker, *recently diagnosed with a form of cancer behind her ear. Donna is considering some treatment options.*

### Friends:

- *Sympathy to the family and friends of Bob Johnson. Bob passed away last week. Longtime family friend of the Vocaseks.*
- *John Burkhart, husband of Cecilia Burkhart has been diagnosed with cancer behind his voice box. John has begun treatments.*
- *Tammy Foral, healing, patience and strength as facing many health issues. Co-worker of Sara Lugn*
- *Cedric Gibb, healing prayers, friend of Cec Burkhart*

### Our Timothy:

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

**In the Nebraska Region:** First Christian Church, Lincoln - Pastor Kara Hillhouse

### Our Global Partners and Missionaries in Paraguay

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



### Sunday, June 30

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

### Thursday, July 4 Office Closed

### Sunday, July 7

- 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

### Tuesday, July 9

- 5:00 pm Staff Meeting

### Sunday, July 14

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

### Sunday, July 21

- 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

### Tuesday, July 23

- 5:00 pm Staff Meeting

### Sunday, July 28

- 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, July 29

- Noon Messenger Deadline

### Wednesday, July 31

- Noon Messenger Mailed and Emailed

August 3 - 10 Kamp Kaleo Rummage Setup and Sale

### Sunday, August 4

- 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

## 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, July 7th**. We have several cards on hand. Remember, SCRIP is a win-win for local businesses and First Christian Church.