



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, Pastor
Mark W. Miller, Director of Music Ministries
Elaine Parman, Administrative Assistant

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Praifest

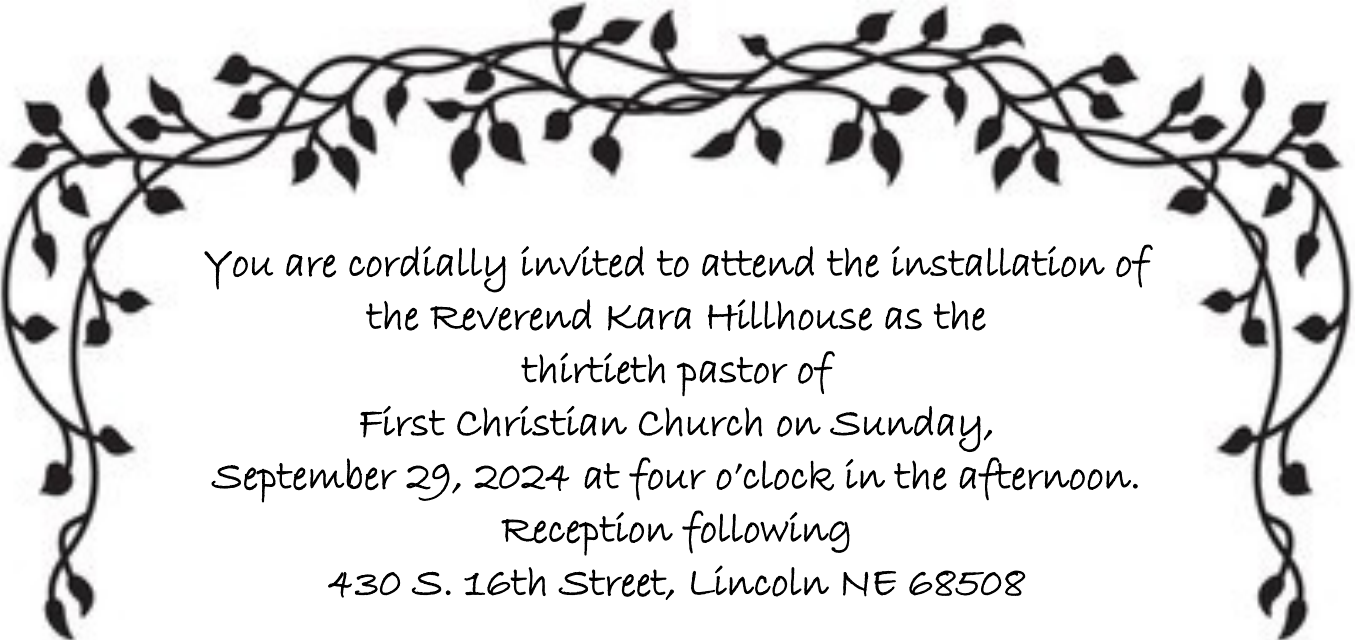
Sunday, September 8th from 5 pm to 7 pm

FCC parking lot

Music, Food and Fun for All!

Volunteers are needed to prepare, serve and provide cookies. Please contact Beth Zager if you can help at bzager@unl.edu

SAVE THE DATE: SEPTEMBER 29TH @ 4 PM



You are cordially invited to attend the installation of
the Reverend Kara Hillhouse as the
thirtieth pastor of
First Christian Church on Sunday,
September 29, 2024 at four o'clock in the afternoon.
Reception following
430 S. 16th Street, Lincoln NE 68508

Pastor's Corner

Dear friends,

This week in worship we'll be taking a look at the epistle of James. We don't spend a lot of time in this book, but it has a very important message: don't just talk the talk of faith...walk the walk. In other words, we have to act upon what we believe, if we truly want to share the love of Christ with the world. It takes both an internal faith of study/prayer/pondering/praising as well as an external faith of loving/acting/speaking to do what Christ did. We can't get scared by Christ's words to the Pharisees in Mark 7, when they accused Jesus' followers of not following the religious laws of washing their hands before they ate (although I strongly encourage us to do this for entirely different reasons). Jesus said to the Pharisees, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.'" What Jesus accused them of was flaunting their beliefs publicly without having the internal reverence for God.

There are many ways we can do what Jesus is asking us. First, we come to worship to learn/listen/and praise God. This strengthens and equips us to go out into the world to love and care for one another and to share the Good News with a world desperately in need of hope. One opportunity for action is what I lifted up this past Sunday when I spoke about our need for food for our pantry here at First Christian, as we sometimes have individuals/families come to our back door needing assistance. Sadly, last week when a mom and her young son came we had no food to give them (but we did have one last gift card). Check out the list in this issue of the *Messenger* with some suggested items. I also invited you to consider buying some gift cards to various grocery stores or restaurants that are close to the church (again, see list), as many people don't have cars to get to other parts of town readily. This is part of what we are now calling our *Back-Door Blessings* ministry.

Your hearts are filled with kindness, love and generosity. I see it every time I'm with you, and it's a blessing to witness that. Thank you for making a difference in this world. Have a blessed week, and Peace be with you all, *Kara*

p.s. No pressure, but I wanted to remind you that if you buy the gift cards through our SCRIP program it gives a percentage back to our church!



Suggested items to have available for our *Back-Door Blessings* ministry are:

- Assorted Granola Bars
- Packages of crackers filled with peanut butter or cheese
- Pull top cans of chicken noodle, vegetable soups
- Pull top cans of peaches, fruit cocktail
- Pull top cans of Spaghetti, Ravioli, Chili
- Pouches or pull top cans of chicken, tuna, Spam
- Small pouches of peanuts or trail mix
- Cards to U-Stop for fuel
- Cards to Arby's, Wendy's, McDonald's, Raising Cane's, Runza, Casey's
- Cards to Russ's Market

We do not have people coming to our back door daily but, when we do it's great to have something to offer them.

May we continue to love and serve God by loving and serving our neighbors through our new *Back-Door Blessings* ministry.

N CAN YOU HELP?

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 donated \$1,250 to Faith Giving.

Jim Christ, Monte Dietrick and Brad Bowker oversee this ministry and are inviting you to join them. At least one more volunteer is needed each home game. Time commitment begins 4 hours before kickoff.

Home football games are as follows:

- August 31 vs. UTEP @ 2:30 pm
- September 7 vs. Colorado @ 6:30 pm
- September 14 vs. Northern Iowa @ 6:30 pm
- September 20 (Friday) vs. Illinois @ 7:00 pm.
- October 5 vs. Rutgers @ TBD
- November 2 vs. UCLA @ TBD
- November 23 vs. Wisconsin @ TBD

Look at your calendar and then let the church office know which date(s) work for you.



Coffee Fellowship Hosts Needed

Do you enjoy fellowship after Worship? It's a great time to grab a cup of coffee, glass of water and a little bite of something and catch up with fellow congregants. We need to have more hosts to setup, serve and cleanup!

Please consider being a host, *The Hospitality Team*



Upcoming events
at Kamp Kaleo
To register for any of these camps go to: kampkaleo.com



Deborah Group - Disciples Women

Deborah Group meets Monday, September 9th @ 7 pm at Carla Pinneo's Home.

This fall we're starting a study of the book *Fierce Love: A Bold Path to Ferocious Courage and Rule-Breaking Kindness That Can Heal the World* by Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis (\$12.99 + tax). If you would like to join us, contact D'Arcy Blosser - darcy.blosser@gmail.com or 402-429-6902.

Thank you

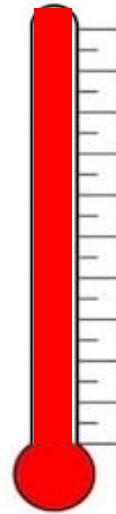
Donna Ruhl,

I would like to thank First Christian for allowing us to serve you in reconfiguring the parlor and sanctuary heating and cooling systems. Everyone we met and interacted with was super kind and helpful! Please extend our thanks to the congregation and leadership for their patience throughout this process. A special thank you to you for all the time and effort you put into this! You made our job easier!

Zach Kremer
COMFORTTECHS
HEATING & COOLING

HVAC Funding Update

We reached our goal!



Goal = \$50,000

THANK YOU to everyone who has donated to the Sanctuary HVAC project. Your donation towards this much needed upgrade ensures that this beautiful and sacred space will continue to be a place of hope, community, and connection with God for generations to come.

As gifts continue to come in, all additional money will be placed in a designated fund specifically for future HVAC updates.



2025 Stewardship Campaign Mission Project thru October 20th

On Sunday, August 18th, our Stewardship focus was on Compassion, reading from 2 Corinthians 1:1-11. The message of that text is that God uses our suffering to help us find connection to Christ and provide comfort to us. Paul's comfort was in knowing that he shared in the sufferings of Christ, and this helped him to not only endure but to also find peace.

God expresses his compassion for us, through the comfort that he gives us. We are called to share this compassion, by comforting and loving others. We give because we have received.

On our next Stewardship Sunday, September 8th, our scripture will be on Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23, focusing on Generosity.

Save The Date: Sunday, October 20, 2024 - Commitment Sunday Celebration Lunch

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

Our Mission Project throughout the campaign is **Collecting** items **and Connecting** those items with Clinic With A Heart and McPhee Elementary School. Your donations have overflowed the collection barrel once, let's do it again in September!

If you are unable to shop and would like to be part of this project, you can mail a check to the office with Mission Project on the memo line or put it in the offering plate.

Your stewardship is going to make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate.



5th Keaton Bowker

6th Gary Larsen

Polly Putney

7th Rich Calver

18th Marcia Foster

24th Donna Baker

Those Serving in September

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:

Kristi Bowker

Elders:

September 1 - Jim Christ

September 8 - Carla Pinneo

September 15 - Wayne Duncan

September 22 - Cecilia Burkhart

September 29 - Sara Lugn

Deacons:

Kristi Bowker and Susan Pallas-Duncan

Homebound Communion: September 8

Jim Blosser, Carla Pinneo, Wayne Duncan, Cecilia Burkhart

Hallway Hospitality:

September 1 - Geoff Putney

September 8 - Vince Ortega

September 15 - Rich Calver

September 22 - Doug Effle

September 29 - Mike Carlin

Ushers/Greeters:

September 1 - Monte Dietrick

September 8 - Elaine Parman

September 15 - D'Arcy Blosser

September 22 - Wayne Duncan/Susan Pallas-Duncan

September 29 - Monte Dietrick

Acolytes:

September 1 - Gianna Greder

September 8 - Trev Greder

September 15 - Kyson and Keaton Effle

September 22 - Edryk Christianson

September 29 - Gianna Greder

Offering Counting:

September 1 - Gwen Belden

September 8 - Elaine Parman

September 15 - D'Arcy Blosser

September 22 - Rich Calver

September 29 - Gwen Belden

September Book Club News

Book Club will be meeting on September 21st @ 9:30 am - Cheryl Judd's Home, 3801 Santa Rosa Lane

October book for discussion:

American Dirt by Jeanine Cummins



For **September** book club, we decided to have everyone read whatever you want and then share with the group. PLEASE bring book ideas for the rest of the year!

FCC Crop Walk Team Leader needed!

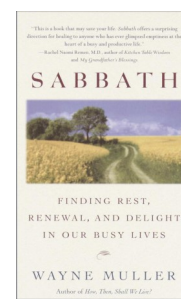
Are you interested in getting a team together and joining in this Annual event to help end hunger one step at a time in Lincoln and around the World? If so, the 2024 walk is Sunday, October 13th. Please contact Geoff Putney at geoff.putney@gmail.com if you are interested.



Adult Sunday School

Sunday, September 8th come join us and begin reading and discussing the book *Sabbath* by Wayne Muller. Each week we will read a short chapter in class and then the homework will be to "practice." Class meets in the Library and generally runs from 9:00-9:45 am each Sunday.

If you are interested in participating or want more information, please contact Kristi Bowker at bkbowker@gmail.com.



THANK YOU ALL for volunteering to serve.

Prayers & Praises

In Our Church Family:

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

Our Sympathy to Mark Miller. Helen Miller, Mark's stepmother passed away August 21st. Services were August 28th in Grand Island.

Wayne Duncan, now going to Outpatient Therapy at Madonna.

Friends:

- Allen Watsek, brother of *Gwen Belden is being treated for cancer.*
- John Burkhart, husband of Cecilia Burkhart *has completed all the chemo and radiation treatments and will begin speech therapy soon.*
- 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: The Rev. Robin Blakemore, *Interim Nebraska Regional Minister*

Our Global Partners and Missionaries in Zambia

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



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, September 1st**. We have several cards on hand. Remember, SCRIP is a win-win for local businesses and First Christian Church.

Lincoln First Christian Church Calendar of Events

Sunday, September 1

- 9:00 am Adult Sunday School - Library
- 9:15 am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
- 9:45 am Torch Worship Team Rehearsal
- 10:00 am SCRIP Orders Due
- 10:30 am Worship
- Noon Torch Worship Team Rehearsal

Monday, September 2 Labor Day - Office Closed

Sunday, September 8 Stewardship Sunday/ Homebound Communion

- 9:00 am Adult Sunday School - Library
- 9:15 am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
- 9:45 am Torch Worship Team Rehearsal
- 10:30 am Worship
- 5:00 pm Praisefest - Parking Lot

Monday, September 9

- 7 pm Deborah Group @ Carla Pinneo's

Tuesday, September 10

- 10:30 am Staff Meeting

Wednesday, September 11

- 6:30pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, September 15

- 9:00 am Adult Sunday School - Library
- 9:15 am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
- 9:45 am Torch Worship Team Rehearsal
- 10:30 am Worship
- 6:00 pm Board Meeting - Parlor

Wednesday, September 18

- 6:30pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, September 22

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

Monday, September 23

- Noon Messenger Deadline

Tuesday, September 24

- 10:30 am Staff Meeting