



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
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Saturday, November 2nd

All Saints' Sunday - November 3rd



All Church Thanksgiving Dinner November 24th - Noon

Turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy will be provided. Signup to bring dressing, a side dish, salad or dessert to share. Sign up sheets will be in the Narthex beginning Sunday, November 3rd.



Pastor's Corner

Dear Friends,

Elaine and I recently met with Officer Melissa Ripley, Coordinator of the Lincoln Police Department's Homeless Outreach division. Our goal was to learn a little bit more about how we can be a faith community that is helpful to those in need, keeping in mind our own safety as well as the welfare of those who come to us. Lincoln is rich in community resources, and we want First Christian Church to be aware of these resources so we can guide those who need help to places that can assist them - because we know we cannot be everything to everybody. We as a church have limited resources, but we offer up what we have with the belief that if we all do a little to help we can make big changes for the better in people's lives.

Here are some things we'd like to encourage you to ponder:

- First and foremost, let's continue to be the welcoming, loving community that we have always been, not only on Sundays but every other day of the week too. This love is what propels us to reach out to the community around us.
- Our office (pastor and administrative assistant) will be the hub of the wheel (organizing, communicating, being present during the week for people who come to our church for help, etc). But you all, the spokes, might also encounter situations where we are called upon to help. On Sundays, for example, we sometimes have people come to us with needs before or after worship. Should this happen, *please come find one of the following people who can assist you: Pastor Kara, Elaine Parman, Wayne Duncan or Jim Blosser*. They have access to the resources we can provide, such as food or gift cards. If you are unable to find someone to help, invite the person/s to join us for worship (should this be prior to church) and let them know the office will be open for assistance from 12-2pm Mondays-Thursdays, and we can help them at those times. (FYI: the office is open from 9am - 2pm Mondays-Thursdays, as always, for your needs and the work of the church, but we offer assistance to others only between 12 - 2. This is a common practice among organizations.)
- We provide assistance to each particular individual once a month only, as we want to serve as many people as possible.
- If you provide assistance to people at church, or see people sleeping in our stairwells or other places around the building, let us know so we are aware that they are there and can handle accordingly.

Officer Ripley had some helpful feedback and guidance for us as we continue to be the light to the downtown community that First Christian Church has been for 155 years:

- ⇒ For our own safety, Officer Ripley asked us to please not drive individuals anywhere or invite them into our homes. Most homeless or in-need people are harmless and are, in fact, much less likely to engage in illegal activity than the rest of society. But, as with anyone we do not know, we need to be cautious.
- ⇒ She also encouraged us to not give people money. This is why we give out food and gift cards instead.
- ⇒ Download the **MyLink** app (no data plan or WIFI required) on your phone and give the link to those whom you are assisting. This allows them to immediately access all the resources in Lincoln and when/where they offer their services. For example: where to get meals, where to access food pantries, get diapers and other basic need supplies, find assistance with domestic violence and the list goes on and on. If we have that at our fingertips and share with them, we provide some guidance for the people we are helping. Officer Ripley says most homeless/in - need individuals have cellphones, in fact CenterPointe gives them out.

There's a lot more to share, but this is already a lot. You are always welcome to call me or the office or come in and sit for a cup of coffee and a chat! Our doors are always open to you. Learn, Equip, Educate, Engage. That's what we're doing. So keep up the good and faithful work, and keep walking with the light of Christ in your hearts.

With love,

Pastor Kara

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HELP NEEDED

FCC Faith Giving has increased by \$1,416 from home game parking lot donations for the first five Husker home football games.

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. Your time commitment begins 4 hours before kickoff.

Home football games are as follows:

- November 2 vs. UCLA @ 2:30 pm
- November 23 vs. Wisconsin @ TBD

Look at your calendar and then let the church office know which date works for you.

HINT: this is a part of Stewardship, giving of your



**Sunday, November 10th
2 p.m.**

FCC will be serving hot chocolate, bottled water and offering use of our restrooms. If you can help please let the church office know by November 7th.

Deborah Group - Disciples Women Apple Pie Sales



It's fall and apple pie season! These deep dish pies are great for holiday dinners or anytime! Pies come with baking instructions on how to bake and will keep in your freezer for 4 to 6 months easily. You may put this order form in the offering plate today; or email darcy.blosser@gmail.com with your order.

How Many?	Size	Price	Serves
_____	Tarts	\$ 8	2-3 people
_____	9"	\$15	6-8 people

Total Amount \$ _____

Name _____

Phone _____

*If paying by check, please make it out to
Disciples Women.*

THANK YOU



Dear friends at First Christian Church,

“Thank you” doesn’t begin to express our gratitude for your generosity in supporting the McPhee community. Your gift of \$1,000 for our student fund is a tremendous help. We use this fund to address needs among our families when they are experiencing a variety of hardships and challenges. Your gift of \$500 has allowed us to fully stock our “Birthday Book Shelf.” Every student gets to select a new book on their birthday, (or before they leave for the summer if they have a summer birthday.) We want to fill their homes with books, and your gift is helping us do that.

Thank you, we truly feel the love and support of your congregation.

Fondly, *Chris Boden*, Principal



Dear Friends at First Christian Church,

Your faithful and continuing support of Kamp Kaleo is so very meaningful! We are so grateful to receive the proceeds from your wildly successful rummage sale. Such an event doesn’t happen without the contribution and hard work of many members, and we are blessed by each of you. Many exciting upgrades are happening at Kamp Kaleo. Thank you for being part of that.

Gratefully,
The Staff and Board of Kaleo on the River

Donations to McPhee Elementary



Items for Clinic with a Heart Hygiene Bags



Assembling Hygiene Bags for Clinic With a Heart

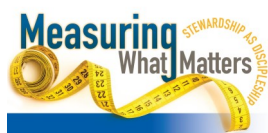


More than 40 people celebrated the culmination of our **Measuring What Matters** 2025 Stewardship Campaign on Commitment Sunday, October 20th by attending Worship and enjoying lunch in our gym. After the celebration lunch, we completed our Mission project.

A big THANK YOU to all of FCC's dedicated volunteers who assisted with the 2024 stewardship campaign, celebration lunch and our Mission project.

As of October 27, 2024, we have received 23 pledges.

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



2025 Stewardship Campaign Mission Project Wrap-up

Thank you for your generosity in filling our Collection Barrel several times from June 9 to October 20. With those items we put together a total of 20 personal hygiene bags for men, women, girls, boys and babies that are served by *Clinic With a Heart* and delivered 4 bags of non-perishable food items, 2 boxes full of school supplies, a bag of shoes, socks, hats and gloves to *McPhee Elementary School* following our Stewardship Celebration lunch on October 20th.

Your thoughtful Stewardship will provide much needed items to those less fortunate in our community. What a blessing!!

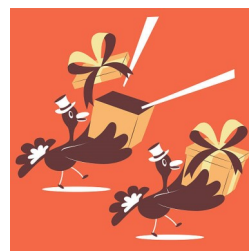


Dear friends,

I wanted to take a moment and reflect back on my Installation Service on September 29th and extend a heartfelt thank you for the incredibly meaningful worship service and reception. Many of you contributed to the events of that day, and I thank you for all your hard work and willing spirits. From the wonderful music and other participation during the worship service; to the delicious food, warm hospitality and beautiful decorations for the reception... and everything in between...it was perfect. Another special thank you for those who attended or watched online for your support. I have never had a service such as this, and I sincerely appreciated the love you extended to me that day.

Most sincerely, *Kara*

November Birthdays



- 3rd Doug Effle; Leigh Lestina
- 9th Evan Foster
- 12th Bobbi Carlin
- 14th Jessica Vocasek
- 16th Brad Bowker

Those Serving in November

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:

November 3 - Carla Pinneo

November 10 - Carla Pinneo

November 17 - Sara Lugn

November 24 - Cecilia Burkhart

Deacons:

Keaton Bowker and Brad Bowker

Homebound Communion: November 10

Cecilia Burkhart, Jim Christ, Sara Lugn, Carla Pinneo

Hallway Hospitality:

November 3 - Doug Effle

November 10 - Mike Carlin

November 17 - Doug Effle

November 24 - Vince Ortega

Ushers/Greeters:

November 3 - Elaine Parman

November 10 - D'Arcy Blosser

November 17 - Wayne Duncan/Susan Pallas-Duncan

November 24 - Monte Dietrick

Acolytes:

November 3 - Kyson & Keaton Effle

November 10 - Edryk Christianson

November 17 - Trev Greder

November 24 - Gianna Greder

Offering Counting:

November 3 - Elaine Parman

November 10 - D'Arcy Blosser

November 17 - Rich Calver

November 24 - Gwen Belden

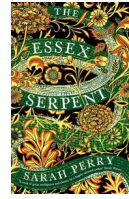
THANK YOU ALL for volunteering to serve.

November Book Club News

Book Club will be meeting on Saturday, November 23rd @ 9:30 am at Susan Pallas-Duncan's Home.

November book is:

The Essex Serpent by Sarah Perry



NO meeting in December. The book for January is *The Reading List* by Sara Nisha



Kitchen Tips for Cooler Weather Friends!

- Clean ALL crumbs from floor in kitchen & parlor
- Do not leave unrinsed dishes by dishwasher/sink
- Do not leave coffee grounds in coffee pot
- WIPE clean ALL counters
- Do not leave dirty/ used towels and washcloths - we do not have a laundry service for them.

Adult Sunday School

Please join as we discuss 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.

Deborah Group - Disciples Women

Deborah Group meets Monday, November 4 @ Susan Pallas-Duncan'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.

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
- Roger Vocasek

Roger Vocasek, prayers for dislocated shoulder. Waiting for orthopedic doctor appointment.

Friends:

- Allen Watsek, brother of *Gwen Belden is being treated for cancer.*
- John Burkhart, husband of Cecilia Burkhart *has started speech therapy.*
- 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: Bennet Community Church - Rev. Darin Corder

Our Global Partners and Missionaries in: Armenia/Lebanon

"Dear God of creation and hope, God of life and growth, God of forgiveness and redemption, today the people of Armenia and Lebanon are both drinking a bitter cup, tasting sorrow after sorrow. Like Naomi, they are bereft of a future and a hope, crushed by death after death, watching their family tree being hacked to the ground."

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, **November 3**. 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, November 3 All Saints' Sunday
 9:00 am Adult Sunday School - Library
 9:15 am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
 9:45 am Torch Worship Team Rehearsal
 10 am SCRIP Orders Due
 10:30 am Worship
 3 - 5 pm Disciple Women Pie Making - Kitchen

Monday, November 4
 7 pm Deborah Group Meeting - Susan Pallas-Duncan's Home

Wednesday, November 6
 6:30pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, November 9
 9 am to noon Disciple Women Pie Making - Kitchen

Sunday, November 10 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
 2 pm Lincoln Veterans Parade

Wednesday, November 13
 5:30 pm Justice in Action Meeting - Library
 6:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, November 17
 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
 12:30 pm Worship Team Meeting - Library
 6 pm Board Meeting - Parlor

Wednesday, November 20
 6:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, November 24
 9:00 am Adult Sunday School - Library
 9:15 am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
 9:45 am Torch Worship Team Rehearsal
 10:30 am Worship
 Noon Thanksgiving Dinner - Gym

Monday, November 25
 Noon Messenger Deadline

Tuesday, November 26
 10:30 am Staff Meeting

Wednesday, November 27
 Noon Messenger mailed/emailed

Thursday, November 28 Happy Thanksgiving





Justice in Action is an interfaith, grassroots coalition of faith communities in Lancaster County, Nebraska, harnessing the power of organized people to address big community problems. As Justice in Action enters its third year, First Christian Church, Disciples of Christ has become one of 27 faith communities working to identify and implement solutions to real social justice issues here in Lincoln.

Under the rubrics of mental health, criminal justice, and affordable housing, members of Justice In Action initially identified a key issue that could be addressed and set out to identify a solution and ways to implement that solution.

Mental Health: A navigation system that would include a centralized point of contact with timely response from a trained staff person, who gets “in the boat” with those seeking care. It should include accessibility regardless of insurance status or ability to pay. This program should be accessible to the general public as well as underserved populations.

Criminal Justice: an adult pre-trial diversion program that would help address the growing number of people being locked up in the Lancaster County Jail, most for nonviolent offenses, while the County Attorney underutilizes community-based alternatives. This results in expensive, unnecessary costs to Lancaster County taxpayers, creates a crisis for the poor, overwhelmingly hits Black and Indigenous populations the hardest, and puts public safety at risk.

Affordable Housing: with Lincoln rents having increased by 40% between 2020 and 2023, housing instability, often involving children, can be addressed in part by pre-eviction mediation that seeks individual solutions to prevent imminent evictions. Evictions typically impact Lincoln’s most vulnerable citizens, leads to housing instability and are costly for landlords.

As Justice In Action continues to work on implementing these programs, partner faith communities are holding house meetings that allow people to reflect on how they and their families have been impacted by the local mental health system, the criminal justice system, and issues of affordable housing. Out of those house meetings will come another set of strategies to be researched, developed and implemented in these three areas.

FCC held its house meeting on October 1, attended by eight participants and shared its thoughts with Justice In Action. Looking at themes from all the house meetings Justice In Action leaders will present its three new strategies at a Community Problems Assembly, on Tuesday, November 12th, 2024, 6:30-8:00 PM, Christ United Methodist Church, 4530 A Street. ALL ARE WELCOME! FCC will be recognized at that assembly as a new Justice In Action faith community member!

There’s another way you can get involved immediately. On Thursday, November 21, 2024, in furtherance of its efforts to expand Pre-Trial Diversion, Justice In Action will be hosting a rally at 11:00 AM at the Capitol to bring attention to the importance of creating community-based alternatives to jail before conviction. PLEASE JOIN US!

For more information, visit the Justice In Action website at www.justice-in-action.org or contact Stephanie Frogge at stephaniefrogge@sbcglobal.net.

NEW Parking Lot Information

Dear friends,

I pray that you are all having a good week. I am reaching out because we have some *important news regarding parking lot usage*.

As of now, we are no longer using the Masonic Temple parking lot at *anytime*, including Sunday mornings. We have been informed by the Temple that they will tow any cars parked in the wrong spots. Please, when you come to church for worship or other activities throughout the week, park in First Christian's parking lot only (or street parking). The church parking lot is located at the corner of 17th and K Streets. *Only the paved spots belong to the church. Do not park in the gravel spots next to the Masonic Temple building.*

Here are some other important things to keep in mind: on weekdays, between the hours of 6am-5pm (the times on our parking lot sign are incorrect), most of our lot is reserved parking, and we cannot park in those spaces. There are, however, five spaces reserved for First Christian Church -- two marked Staff Parking, and three additional ones with signs indicating they are for First Christian. These three signs are in the northeast corner of the rows closest to 17th Street, not next to the Staff Parking spots. Please park in these three spaces. After 5pm on weekdays you are free to park in any spot in our lot. **On Saturdays and Sundays** you can park anywhere in our lot. On home football game days, you are welcome to park in the lot *if there is room*. The lot is used for football game tailgating and may be full.

Again, please do not park in the Masonic Temple parking lot at any time. I understand this is a lot of information. However, we do not want any of you to have your cars towed, and we need to respect the spaces in our lot that are reserved for others. If you have any questions regarding this change, please contact the church office at 402/475-4289 or email Kara at pastorkara@fcclincoln.org.

I appreciate your understanding and willingness to change our practices. Peace be with you and be of good cheer!

Pastor Kara

Halloween in the Haymarket with FCC

