



**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*, Pastor  
*Mark W. Miller*, Director of Worship, Music & Sacred Arts  
*Elaine Parman*, Administrative Assistant

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Volume 74, No. 12  
December 31, 2024

## Save the Date! February 14, 2025



### Valentine's Day Dinner

Mark your calendars now and plan to spend your Valentine's Day evening at First Christian Church.

The Reverend Chef Brad Hindsley is coming to prepare a gourmet 3-course dinner as a fund-raiser for Kamp Kaleo. Dinner will be served @ 6:30 pm in the parlor with lights dimmed and the fireplace burning. Reservations will be limited to 40 attendees.

Brad is executive director of Kamp Kaleo. He owned his own restaurants and catering service before he was called to the ministry. The menu will be coming soon. It should be a fun evening with a delicious meal.

### January SCRIP Orders are due on January 5, 2025

Please contact the office or Donna Ruhl if you have questions or need to place a special order.

## FCC Leadership Retreat

### *Risky Business: Celebrating our Past and Creating our Future*

January 11, 2025  
9 am to 1 pm

The Innovation Studio  
@ Sage Living  
420 S. 47th Street

(SW Corner of 48th & "L" Streets)

The main entrance is located on the South side of the building. Park anywhere in the surface lot or on 47th St.

Everyone is invited to attend. Please let Pastor Kara know by January 10th if you are not in leadership but interested in attending so we have plenty of food and seats at the table!



## Pastor's Corner

Dear friends,

A most merry and blessed Christmas season to you! Wherever you found yourselves over Christmas - home snuggled up with a blanket with a good Jane Austen book in your hands and a cat on your lap; traveling to be with family; worshipping with us on Christmas eve; or everything in-between - I pray you were able to truly feel what this season is all about: the astounding fact that our God looked and saw that his beloved world was hurting and made the choice to "step down" into humanity (the Incarnation) in order to bring us hope and help us along our way. And, because of that one act, the course of our lives changed forever.

At First Christian, it is our fervent desire to lead lives that reflect our gratitude for this amazing gift God has given us in Jesus Christ. And, as I look back over the past year and reflect, I believe that this desire is one of our church's defining values, and it has led us to engage in important ministries. YOU, dear friends, have embraced new ministries (Back-Door Blessings, Justice in Action), continued to support established ministries (the donation barrel that goes to different designated groups throughout the year, Kamp Kaleo, our Elders homebound communion visits, PraiseFest), and have committed to join me in envisioning new ways to be the hands and feet of Christ to this world in the coming year.

This coming year at First Christian will be filled with meaningful worship, opportunities that allow us to grow in our faith, and ministries through which we will share our love with the community. I am excited that you want to journey with me towards something special and meaningful; and I thank you for your faithfulness to this church. Each one of you are a blessing, and we need your gifts and graces to do what we do!

God bless you in this coming year, with Peace, Joy and a renewed spirit.

*Pastor Kara*



JOIN US FOR A  
VALENTINE'S DINING  
*experience*  
February 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2025  
6:30pm

Enjoy a Chef-Inspired Valentine's dinner at First Christian Church  
430 S 16th Street, Lincoln, NE

**\$100**  
per person

Dinner includes a 3-course  
Chef-Inspired Menu with  
wine and other beverages.

Doors open at 6 PM. Dinner will be served promptly at 6:30 PM.  
Call 308-730-0333 for reservations. (Reservations are limited.)

All proceeds from this event go to support **Kamp Kaleo**



**2025 Coffee Fellowship Hosts  
Needed!**

It can be as simple as making a couple pots of coffee; preparing a pitcher of ice water; and putting cups and glasses out. It doesn't have to include food but, at least a time of fellowship in the parlor after worship.



Please **DO NOT** park in the Masonic Lot on the North side of our building! Use the FCC lot at the corner of 17th & K Streets or street parking on 16th and K Streets.

**Thank You for your support!**

The FCC *Back - Door Blessings* Team thanks you for your support of the December Collection Barrel. The items and money collected will support the *Lincoln Police Department (LPD) & Center-Pointe Alternate Response Team* as they care for our unsheltered neighbors with dignity and respect.



The Staff of FCC wish to thank you for your generous LOVE offering to us for Christmas!

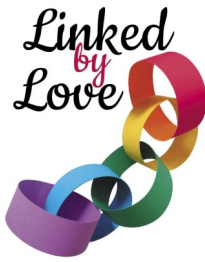
Your kind and generous support encourages us to continue the work we do to support FCC, serve our community and glorify God. We couldn't do our jobs without YOU!

*Pastor Kara, Mark Miller & Elaine Parman*



- 3<sup>rd</sup> Beth (Blosser) Waller
- 12<sup>th</sup> Casey Foster
- 13<sup>th</sup> Elaine Parman
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Vince Ortega
- 26<sup>th</sup> Cora Calver

# 2024 AT FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH



## Those Serving in January

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:**

January 5 - Cecilia Burkhart

January 12 - Carla Pinneo

January 19 - Connie Calver

January 26 - Jim Blosser

### **Deacons:**

Dan Cowger & Meghan Cowger

### **Homebound Communion: January 12**

Cecilia Burkhart, Carla Pinneo, Connie Calver, Jim Blosser

### **Hallway Hospitality:**

January 5 - Mike Carlin

January 12 - Geoff Putney

January 19 - Rich Calver

January 26 - Doug Effle

### **Ushers/Greeters:**

January 5 - Monte Dietrick

January 12 - D'Arcy Blosser

January 19 - Elaine Parman

January 26 - Wayne Duncan & Susan Pallas-Duncan

### **Acolytes:**

January 5 - Trev Greder

January 12 - Gianna Greder

January 19 - Kyson & Keaton Effle

January 26 - Edryk Christianson

### **Offering Counting:**

January 5 - Gwen Belden

January 12 - D'Arcy Blosser

January 19 - Elaine Parman

January 26 - Rich Calver

**THANK YOU ALL** for volunteering to serve.

## January Book Club

January meeting will be January 18, 2025 at Marcia Foster's Home.

The book for January is:

*The Reading List* by Sara Nisha Adams.



If you have one of the books that Kristi brought to book club, you will find a bookmark in it. Please write down three books you would like on a reading list on the back and bring it to the January meeting. If you don't have one of those copies, please bring a slip of paper with three books on it!

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## 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](mailto:bkbowker@gmail.com).

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## Deborah Group - Disciples Women

Deborah Group will meet @ 7 pm, Monday, January 6th at Rhonda Brubacher's home.

We will discuss Chapter 5 of *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](mailto:darcy.blosser@gmail.com) or 402-429-6902.

# Prayers & Praises

## In Our Church Family:

- Donna Baker
- Rhonda Ball
- Cecilia Burkhart
- 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

Joan Dietrich, prayers for continued healing after a car accident on December 11th.

## Friends:

- Allen Watsek, brother of Gwen Belden is being treated for cancer.
- John Burkhart, husband of Cecilia Burkhart is getting his voice back with 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:** ALL Nebraska Congregations

## Our Global Partners and Missionaries in: Morocco

“Lord, our God, In your infinite love, you sent Jesus Christ so that, by faith, we may become your children. This divine adoption assures us that you kindly listen to our prayers, so we pray for Morocco. Grant the leaders and members of the government intelligence, wisdom, and good health so that they may carry out noble and useful projects for the development of their nation. Protect this country from natural disasters, including earthquakes and predicted floods. Lord, make the African Cup of Nations a moment of friendship between nations—an opportunity to build and strengthen relationships, not an occasion for tensions or conflicts.”

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, January 5 Epiphany Sunday**  
 9 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  
 11:30 am Take tree down
- Monday, January 6**  
 7 pm Deborah Group Meeting - Rhonda Brubacher's Home
- Wednesday, January 8**  
 6:30pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal
- Saturday, January 11**  
 9 am to 1 pm Leadership Retreat - Sage Living Innovation Studio - 420 S. 47th St.
- Sunday, January 12 Baptism of the Lord/  
Homebound Communion**  
 9 am Adult Sunday School - Library  
 9:15 am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal  
 9:45 am Torch Worship Team Rehearsal  
 10:30 am Worship
- Tuesday, January 14**  
 10:30 am Staff Meeting
- Wednesday, January 15**  
 6:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal
- Saturday, January 18**  
 9:30 am Book Club - Marcia Foster's Home
- Sunday, January 19**  
 9 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 Worship Team Meeting - Library  
 6 pm Board Meeting - Parlor
- Wednesday, January 22**  
 Noon Sierra Club - Gym  
 6:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal
- Sunday, January 26**  
 9 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, January 27**  
 Noon Messenger Deadline
- Tuesday, January 28**  
 10:30 am Staff Meeting
- Wednesday, January 29**  
 6:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal
- Thursday, January 30**  
 1 pm Messenger Mailed/Emailed