



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 Worship, Music & Sacred Arts
Elaine Parman, Administrative Assistant

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Daylight Savings Time begins
 Saturday, March 8 2025



Rae-Hope Putney turned 103 on February 27th! Please mail your cards to: 3010 S. 51st St. Ct., #11 Lincoln, NE 68506



Friday, March 28, 2025 @ 5:30 pm

Kamp Kaleo Fundraiser -Potato Bar & Dessert Auction at Edenton Christian Church

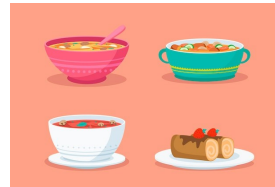


March 4th - 5:30 pm

Come enjoy good food and fellowship at the Lincoln Disciples' Youth *Fat Tuesday Pancake Feast*. This will be hosted at **Bethany Christian Church**. There is no cost for the meal, a free-will donation may be given to support the DOC Youth Mission Trip this Spring.



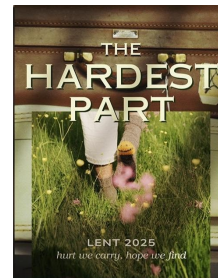
March 5th - Ash Wednesday



5:30 pm - Soup Supper

7 pm - Worship

The 2025 Lenten Devotional



BY KATE BOWLER

Available online @ https://katebowler.com/the-hardest-part-individual-download/?mc_cid=5f64b4804b. Printed copies will be available in the Narthex on Sunday, March 2nd.

Pastor's Corner

Dear Friends,

One of the many blessings God has given us is the ability to think, reason, feel and express ourselves. On the other hand, one of the greatest *challenges* God has given us is the ability to think, reason, feel and express ourselves. It is both a blessing and a challenge. We see it manifest itself in both ways in the world around us: the joys *and* the challenges of our diverse personalities, opinions and views on how things should be. What do we do when we reach a crossroads and cannot agree with someone on something which is vitally important to us, and around which we hold a lot of passion? We see this clashing of views all around us: in politics, in relationships, and even within the global and denominational church. So, what do we do when we cannot see eye-to-eye?

We turn to the Cross. The Cross is the uniting factor in our lives. Jesus talked, interacted with and ate with sinners (that's us), and loved them and brought them into the fold so that they might have the abundant life He alone offered. He didn't die for the righteous, because none of us are righteous, on our own. But because He died for the unrighteous we have been made righteous, through Him. This is not our own doing, but is the work of the Lord, and "it is marvelous in our eyes" (Psalm 118:23).

Because of the Cross, we have all have been made worthy, despite our differences and the challenges of that diversity. This is the uniting power of the Cross. This is the only truth we can hold onto when all else seems topsy-turvy in the world. If we can look at our siblings with whom we disagree and say "God died for you as well as for me" then perhaps we can learn to love one another in the midst of the struggle. Knowing that God loves our enemies just like He loves us is a humbling thing; and that's good, because humility is essential to getting past the challenges of differences.

Look to the Cross. Fall before the Cross. Marvel at the Cross and all that it means for our lives. Thanks be to God for being *with us*, and for *putting up with us*, as we work to find the way towards Unity. Have a great week!! Peace be with you all.

Pastor Kara



Kamp Kaleo Fundraiser Valentine's Day Dinner Wrap Up

The First Christian Church parlor was turned into a beautiful Valentine's Day Gourmet Dinner venue. With a fire in the fireplace, and lovely music performed on the piano, thirty three guests enjoyed a great gourmet meal prepared by Rev. Brad Hindsley.

All proceeds from this event were given to Kamp Kaleo. The total was **\$3,724.01!**

Thank you to everyone that made this fundraiser so worthwhile.

Pictures of what you missed!



FCC Outreach Update

2024 Local Outreach Recipients

Cedars Street Outreach - \$200 in Russ's SCRIP cards to purchase non-perishable items for the food boxes they take out on the streets when looking for homeless teens.

The Gathering Place - \$200 for their Winter Campaign Items -gloves, hot hand & foot warmers; blankets, coats

Voices of Hope - \$200 in Casey's SCRIP cards for fuel. Lincoln Police Dept gives these to those needing to escape domestic abuse.

Lighthouse - \$200 in Walmart SCRIP cards for the team to use as rewards for participants that reach a goal.

McPhee Elementary School - \$200 check to purchase the needed classroom supplies that teachers normally have to personally purchase.

Kamp Kaleo - \$100 donation to the Valentine's Day Dinner Fundraiser.

Disciples of Christ 2025 Youth Mission Trip - \$100 donation to DOC Fat Tuesday Pancake Feast.

Souper Bowl of Caring & February Collection Barrel Wrap Up

The total of money collected by the youth for Souper Bowl Sunday was **\$467.71** and the barrel had several donations of the most needed items for *Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach*.

Thank you for your support!



Back -Door Blessings Ministry Update

Since beginning this Ministry in September of 2024 we have provided 9 different recipients with food pantry items and gift cards (SCRIP) for fuel, groceries and fast food.

While assisting a lady living in our prayer garden for a month we learned about the Street Outreach Program -the combined effort of *Lincoln Police Department* & *CenterPointe*. FCC has contacted Street Outreach for assistance on 6 separate occasions. All 6 in need have come to the church before or following Worship. Street Outreach meets with us and the person (s) to assess what their needs are and how they can help. To date Street Outreach has provided Greyhound bus tickets to get stranded people back to their homes in North Platte, NE and Fargo, ND. Street Outreach comes prepared to give a ride to the bus station, People's City Mission or Matt Talbot Kitchen. Street Outreach provides weather appropriate clothing, boots, tents, warm blankets, bags of personal hygiene items, water and no - prep snacks. The *Back -Door Blessings* Ministry team of Pastor Kara Hillhouse, Jim Blosser, Wayne Duncan and Elaine Parman have all witnessed the respect and dignity the Street Outreach Team follows as they interact with those in need.

In December and part of January our collection barrel was filled with the most needed items Street Outreach needs to fulfill their mission. In addition to the items we collected, a \$100 monetary donation was delivered to CenterPointe.

At this time our *Back-Door Blessings* ministry does not need cupboard items. Monetary donations to purchase gift cards are always appreciated. Please put BDB on memo line.

Thank you for your support with this ministry!



Those Serving in March

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:

March 2 - Wayne Duncan

March 9 - Carla Pinneo

March 16 - Wayne Duncan

March 23 - Cecilia Burkhart

March 30 - Connie Calver

Deacons:

Vince Ortega and Susan Pallas-Duncan

Homebound Communion: March 9

Jim Blosser, Carla Pinneo, Wayne Duncan, Cecilia Burkhart

Hallway Hospitality:

March 2 - Geoff Putney

March 9 - Vince Ortega

March 16 - Rich Calver

March 23 - Doug Effle

March 30 - Mike Carlin

Ushers/Greeters:

March 2 - Monte Dietrick

March 9 - Elaine Parman

March 16 - D'Arcy Blosser

March 23 - Wayne Duncan & Susan Pallas-Duncan

March 30 - Monte Dietrick

Acolytes:

March 2 - Gianna Greder

March 9 - Trev Greder

March 16 - Edryk Christianson

March 23 - Kyson & Keaton Effle

March 30 - Trev Greder

Offering Counting:

March 2 - Gwen Belden

March 9 - Elaine Parman

March 16 - D'Arcy Blosser

March 23 - Rich Calver

March 30 - Gwen Belden

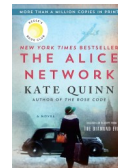
THANK YOU ALL for volunteering to serve.

March Book Club

March meeting will be Saturday, March 22nd @ 9:30 am - Dottie Harrell's Home.

Discussion will be on **your** chosen banned book.

Book for **April**: *The Alice Network* by Kate Quinn



Book for **May**: *A Fever in the Heartland* by Timothy Egan



Everyone is welcome to join us!

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 will meet @ 7 pm, Monday, March 3rd at D'Arcy Blosser's Home.

We will discuss Chapter 7 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 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
- Ron Hile
- Phyllis Knosp
- Polly Putney
- Rae-Hope Putney
- Marvin Thurber
- Phyllis Thurber
- Jessica Vocasek
- Roger Vocasek

Prayers for Rae-Hope Putney. Rae-Hope fell and broke her pelvis. She had surgery 2/17/25. Please mail cards to her home- 3010 S. 51st St. Ct., #11 (68506).

Prayers for Roger & Jessica Vocasek. Both are struggling with a variety of health issues.

Friends:

- Gina Simpson, sister of Sara Lugn. Gina and Sara went to Mayo Clinic in MN where Gina had brain surgery February 12th for a benign mass. Gina is home in Omaha continuing to recover.
- Linda De Los Santos, sister of Vincent Ortega. Linda is in rehab in Scottsbluff.
- Jody Schrage, friend of Katelyn Long. She is having shoulder surgery.
- Tammy Foral, healing, patience and strength as facing many health issues. Co-worker of Sara Lugn

Our Timothy:

- Bruce Frogge at Cypress Creek CC in Spring, TX

In the Nebraska Region: Bennet Community Church -Rev. Darin Corder

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



FCC Calendar of Events -continued

First Christian Church Calendar of Events

- Sunday, March 2 Transfiguration 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
- Monday, March 3**
 7 pm Deborah Group Meeting - D'Arcy Blosser's Home
- Tuesday, March 4**
 5:30 pm DOC Fat Tuesday Pancake Feast—Bethany Christian Church
- Wednesday, March 5 Ash Wednesday**
 5:30pm Soup Supper -Gym
 7 pm Worship
- Sunday, March 9 Homebound Communion/ Day Light Savings Time begins**
 9 am Adult Sunday School - Library
 9:15 am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
 9:45 am Torch Worship Team Rehearsal
 10:30 am Worship
 Noon Youth Group Meeting
- Tuesday, March 11**
 10:30 am Staff Meeting
- Wednesday, March 12**
 6:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal
- Sunday, March 16**
 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 - Conference Room
- Wednesday, March 19**
 6:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal
- Saturday, March 22**
 9:30 am Book Club—Dottie Harrell's Home
- Sunday, March 23**
 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
 Noon Youth Group Meeting
- Monday, March 24**
 Noon Messenger Deadline
- Tuesday, March 25**
 10:30 am Staff Meeting
- Wednesday, March 26**
 6:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal
- Thursday, March 27**
 Noon Messenger mailed/emailed

Friday, March 28

5:30 pm Kamp Kaleo Fundraiser - Potato Bar & Dessert Auction - Edenton Christian Church

Sunday, March 30

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