



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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Holy Week Services at FCC



April 13th - Palm Sunday
10:30 am - Worship

April 17th - Maundy Thursday
5:30 pm - Soup Supper
7 pm - Worship with DOC Churches

April 18th - Good Friday
12 Noon - Worship

April 18th 1 pm—April 19th 1 pm
24 Hour Prayer Vigil

April 20th - Easter Sunday
8:15 am - Breakfast
10:30 am - Worship

[Help Beautify Our Church Grounds!](#)

Spring is right around the corner, and it's time to refresh our church landscaping and green spaces! We're organizing a **Church Grounds Cleanup** on **Saturday, April 5th**, and we'd love your help.

We'll meet in the parking lot between **12:30 and 1 pm** to tackle weeding, trimming, and general clean-up. If you have any yard tools—rakes, shovels, pruning shears, or gloves—please bring them along. **Beverages and snacks will be provided** to keep everyone energized.

This is a great opportunity to serve together and make our church property a welcoming place for all. If you're interested in helping please contact **Brad Bowker** for more details.

Thank you for your willingness to lend a hand!

The Property Team



Pastor's Corner

Dear Friends,

"Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words."

Romans 8:26

Do you ever feel weak? I know I do. Weakness is a challenge every single one of us faces at times: weakness of body, mind or spirit (and, sometimes, all three wrapped together in one messy, frustrating package). Maybe we don't have the strength to walk or run as far as we'd like; or maybe we struggle with temptations that we wish we had the strength to avoid (I can't resist something sweet after every meal); or maybe our prayer life isn't what we want it to be (there's always room for improvement). There are myriad ways we can be weak. But God understands that we are weak, and time and again in scripture we read the reassurance that we are not left alone in our weakness, but that God works through it, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to strengthen us. God joins his strength to our weakness and somehow it is enough! It is enough to get us through the difficult things we face.

In 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 Paul wrote, *"But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.' So I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ, for whenever I am weak, then I am strong."*

Maybe rather than beating ourselves up for being weak, we should embrace the fact that, through our weaknesses, *God can be glorified*. Which is the point of our existence - to glorify God. When we say we want God to take and use every single part of us this means both the pretty and the ugly, which means understanding that he can use even our weakness for his good. Often, when I'm anxious about something - either worship or presentations or whatever - I find myself saying *"God, please help me be strong. But if you need me to fall flat on my face in order to help someone else, give me the courage to fall."* In other words, maybe - just maybe - my weakness can allow God to help someone else; because God can use it to draw others more fully to his side.

Above all, our imperfections point us to the *only One* who is perfect. Our weakness points us to the *only One* who is strong. Whatever you are feeling today, may you be strengthened and sustained by the power of the Holy Spirit working in your beautifully imperfect lives! We'll see you in church!

Pastor Kara



Due to the Chapel Restoration Project the 24 Hour Prayer Vigil from 1 pm Friday, April 18th to 1 pm Saturday, April 19th will need to be from your home or your favorite spot for prayer. The online and paper sign-up will be available on Sunday, March 30th.

Look at your calendar and see what 30 minute time slot(s) works for you!

SAVE THE DATE

Mayor's May 1st
Interfaith 2025
Prayer
Breakfast





Upcoming Youth Group Meetings

March 23rd
April 13th
April 27th
May 11th
May 25th

Meetings are at noon! Lunch will be provided.



1st Wayne Duncan
5th Megan (Blosser) Hobbs
7th Tezra Greder
14th Joan Dietrich
15th Pastor Kara Hillhouse
16th Marvin Thurber
18th Roger Vocasek
22nd Riley Bowker
25th Susan Pallas-Duncan

April SCRIP Orders are due on April 6, 2025

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

March Collection Barrel

The Outreach Team has selected **The Food Bank of Lincoln** as the collection barrel recipient for the month of March. Below is a list of most needed items. Monetary donations are appreciated too!

Food Items

Tuna and other canned meats
Canned fruits and vegetables
Peanut butter
Macaroni and cheese and other boxed dinners
Brown rice and long-grain white rice (not instant)
100% fruit juice
Olive or canola oil
Spices
Low-sugar, whole grain cereals
Healthy snacks (granola bars, nuts, dried fruit)
Coffee

Personal Care Items

Toilet paper
Diapers
Soap
Feminine hygiene products
Toothbrushes and toothpaste
Shampoo and conditioner

The Food Bank encourages pop-top lids on cans whenever possible.

The Food Bank cannot accept individual jars of baby food. They can accept jars of baby food that are encased in plastic, in various case sizes and boxes of baby cereal.

Your participation in the collection barrel provides a hand up for those less fortunate. Thank you!

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.

Thank You notes and our upcoming

APRIL Collection Barrel item -
diapers for *Center for People!*



January 23, 2025

Greetings!

Please accept this \$100 donation in appreciation for hosting Nebraska Sierra Club's Lobby Day luncheon on Wednesday, January 22nd.

Clyde Anderson, Treasurer



March 3, 2025


Dear Pastor Hillhouse,

Thank you for your recent donation of \$467.71.

You make our work possible. Our guests are grateful for your kindness and compassion and so are we!

With gratitude, *Alynn Sampson*,
Executive Director

(Souper Bowl of Caring money and MTKO needed items collected in our Collection Barrel during February)

 Dear Members and Friends of First Christian Church -Lincoln,

Thank you for your prayers and cards following my recent surgery for a benign brain tumor. My sister, Sara, has been a good nurse. I am slowly regaining my strength but the doctor said it could be 12 -18 months before my face nerves heal. Thank you for keeping both of us in your prayers.

In Christ, *Gina Simpson*



January 29, 2025

Dear Pastor Kara,

Thank you for partnering with CenterPointe and making your \$100 donation to help people get better, sooner, for longer. We are so incredibly grateful for all the various in kind items that you provided that will help individuals as they overcome the many barriers they face.

Thank you for your incredible support. We are SO grateful.

Megan Moslander, Director of Development

(This was money and the items from our December Collection Barrel)



Cedars Youth Opportunity Center

First Christian Church -

Thank you so much for the gift cards to Russ's. Our street outreach team was able to purchase much needed non perishable items for our food boxes. These food boxes help supply youth who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless fill their cabinets once a week. We appreciate you all thinking of us for the donation.

Cedars Youth Opportunity Center



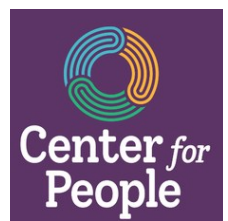
Dear Elaine and First Christian Church,

Thank you for your generous gift! Thinking of us and our students is so thoughtful.

 *Theresa Haack*, McPhee Elementary Principal

APRIL Collection Barrel will be diapers for *Center for People*.

They provide diapers for over 500 infants in our community every month.



Those Serving in April

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:

Jessica Effle

Elders:

April 6 - Jim Christ
April 13 - Connie Calver
April 20 - Jim Blosser
April 27 - Carla Pinneo

Deacons:

Riley Bowker and Evan Foster

Homebound Communion: April 13

Jim Christ, Connie Calver, Jim Blosser, Carla Pinneo

Hallway Hospitality:

April 6 - Doug Effle
April 13 - Mike Carlin
April 20 - Geoff Putney
April 27 - Vince Ortega

Ushers/Greeters:

April 6 - D'Arcy Blosser
April 13 - Elaine Parman
April 20 - Wayne Duncan & Susan Pallas-Duncan
April 27 - Monte Dietrick

Acolytes:

April 6 - Gianna Greder
April 13 - Edryk Christianson
April 20 - Kyson & Keaton Effle
April 27 - Trev Greder

Offering Counting:

April 6 - D'Arcy Blosser
April 13 - Elaine Parman
April 20 - Rich Calver
April 27 - Gwen Belden

THANK YOU ALL for volunteering to serve.

April Book Club

April meeting TBD.

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!

Easter Lilies



Once again, we would like to decorate our worship space with lilies for Easter. (April 20th) If you would like to help make this possible, please fill out the order form below and mail to the office. **Deadline to order is Sunday, March 30th.**

Your Name: _____

Number of plants (\$15.00 each): _____

Total enclosed: \$ _____

In **Memory** of: _____

or **Honoring**: _____

Make all checks payable to First Christian Church, and please write "Easter Lily" in the memo line.

Deborah Group - Disciples Women

Deborah Group will meet @ 7 pm, Monday, April 7th at Diane Zabokrtsky's Home.

We will discuss Chapter 8 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

First Christian Church Calendar

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. Please keep Rae-Hope and her family in prayer as she is kept comfortable after breaking her pelvis.

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

Friends:

- The family of Tyler Goodrich. *Tyler's remains were discovered on Saturday, March 8th after 16 months of him missing. Tyler is the brother of Jennie Ernest.*
- Gina Simpson, *sister of Sara Lugn. 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.*

Our Timothy:

- Bruce Frogge at Cypress Creek CC in Spring, TX

In the Nebraska Region: Brownsville Christian Church -Pulpit Supply

Our Global Partners and Missionaries in: Japan

"Creator God, you created this world and put the stewardship of the planet in our hands. Yet, we have put our own greed first thereby destroying the environment around us. Fourteen years ago, the Tokyo Electric Power Company "Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station" was the sight of the world's most terrible nuclear disaster. Great amounts of nuclear debris have polluted the earth and the ocean. The effects of this disaster will even transcend generations."

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



-FCC Calendar continued -

Sunday, April 27

- 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
- 6 pm Cabinet Meeting -Conference Room

Wednesday, April 2

- 6:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 3

- 6:30 pm Justice in Action Rally -1st Plymouth Church

Saturday, April 5

- 12:30 pm Church Grounds Cleanup

Sunday, April 6

- 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, April 7

- 7 pm Deborah Group Meeting - Diane Zabokrtsky's Home

Tuesday, April 8

- 10:30 am Staff Meeting

Wednesday, April 9

- 6:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, April 12

- 8 am-5:30 pm Life Line Screening Event -Gym

Sunday, April 13

- 9 am Palm Sunday/ Homebound 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

Monday, April 14

- Noon Messenger Deadline

Wednesday, April 16

- 6:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 17

- 5:30 pm Maundy Thursday Soup Supper -Gym
- 7 pm Joint DOC Churches Worship - Sanctuary

Friday, April 18

- Noon Good Friday Worship
- 1 pm 24 Hour Prayer Vigil Begins

Saturday, April 19

- 1 pm 24 Hour Prayer Vigil Ends

Sunday, April 20

- 8:15 am Easter Sunday Breakfast -Gym
- 9 am Adult Sunday School - Library
- 9:15 am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
- 9:45 am Torch Worship Team Rehearsal
- 10:30 am Worship

Tuesday, April 22

- 10:30 am Staff Meeting

Wednesday, April 23

- 6:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal