



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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SAVE THE DATE! - May 1, 2025



Breakfast: 7:30 am to 9 am @ The Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel - 333 S. 13th Street

“Just Love in the City”: 11:30 am @ First Christian Church - 430 S. 16th St. The Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis, the breakfast keynote speaker will share a 30 minute presentation followed by a sack lunch (\$20 each or bring your own). A free will offering will be taken at the presentation.

Tickets available at: www.eventbrite.com/e/41st-annual-lincoln-mayors-interfaith-breakfast-tickets-1255190280919



Nehemiah Action Assembly

6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

8500 Pioneers Blvd.



Justice in Action Revolution Monday

Monday - April 14, 2025



Pastor's Corner

Dear friends,

This is the holiest week in the church year. It started on Palm Sunday, when people processed into the sanctuary waving their palm branches, just as people did almost 2,000 years ago as Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem on a donkey. It is believed, by scholars, to have occurred at the same time as the Roman governor of Jerusalem Pontius Pilate was parading into the other side of Jerusalem on his dazzling war horse, surrounded by scores of Roman soldiers, as a sign of power and intimidation, in order to keep the multitudes of people gathering for the Passover in their places. In comparison to this mighty display of power, Jesus' procession into Jerusalem seems almost insignificant. But it wasn't.

Maundy Thursday is the night Jesus instituted the sacrament of Holy Communion with the words, *"this is my body broken for you, this is my blood shed for you. Do this in remembrance of me."* It was during this meal that Jesus washed the feet of his disciples and commanded them to do likewise; and then he revealed that one of his followers would betray him. After the meal, Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray that God would remove the cup of trial in store for him, but ends with his words of acceptance, *"but not my will but thy will be done."* And then Jesus is betrayed by Judas for thirty pieces of silver and taken into custody.

The following day, Good Friday, Jesus is tried, sentenced to death, and crucified on a cross. Matthew tells us that at that moment, *"the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised."* It's as if we can see God's grief manifested in the splitting open of the curtain and the rocks.

On Holy Saturday, some churches hold an Easter Vigil to await the events of Sunday morning, and retell the ways in which God has saved his people time and again throughout history. Historically, it was the night on which Christians would be baptized, so often the Vigil involves members reaffirming their baptismal vows, recommitting themselves to following Jesus.

Which brings us to the day which defines us: Resurrection Sunday, God's triumphant victory over death. Easter is the promise that we, too, will experience the Resurrection and have victory over death. And this promise changes everything. It changes our perspective on our lives and on this world. It brings hope to all that seems hopeless. It brings Life to all that seems dead. It redeems all pain with the promise of Easter joy.

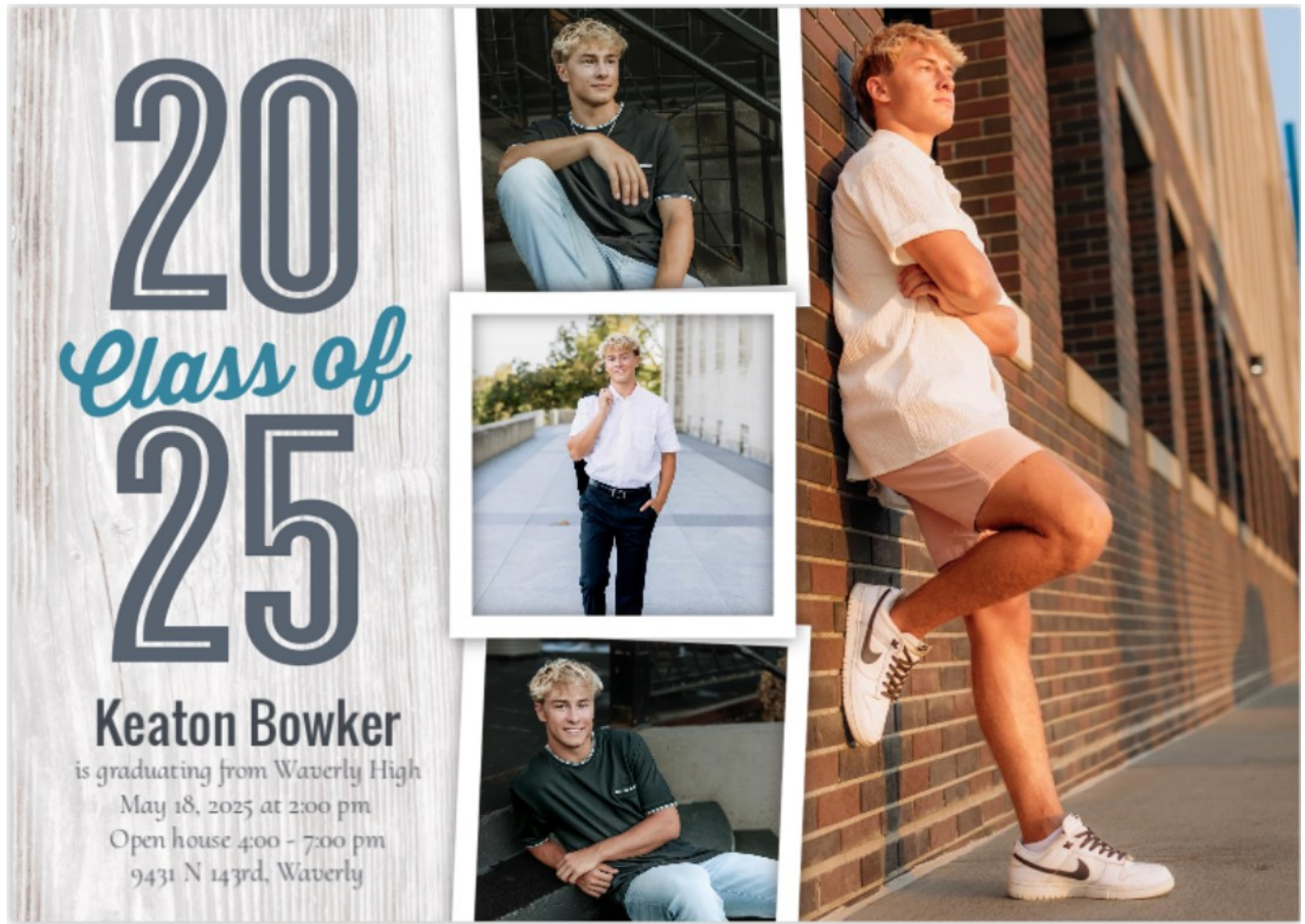
Praise, betrayal, pain, sorrow, joy—Holy Week takes us through all the emotions. It can be overwhelming to feel all of these things, but if we can journey with Jesus through this week, we will find ourselves transformed. If we can feel the weight of Thursday and Friday, we will more fully know the joy of Easter Sunday. Feel it! Experience it! It will make all the difference. I wish you a most blessed and meaningful Holy Week.

Pastor Kara



He is Risen

Congratulations Keaton Bowker!



KAMP KALEO



For more information or to register for upcoming events go to: kampkaleo.com



Upcoming Youth Group Meetings

April 27th
May 11th
May 25th

Meetings are at noon! Lunch will be provided.



3 rd	Kristie Christianson
19 th	Connie Calver
22 nd	Mike Carlin
27 th	Kristi Bowker

March Outreach Collection Barrel

The Food Bank of Lincoln was so grateful to receive \$50 and 101 lbs. of non-Perishable items from our March Collection Barrel. Thank you for your support!



April Collection Barrel

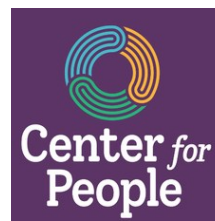
The Outreach Team has selected **Center for People** (formerly known as Center for People In Need) as the collection barrel recipient for the month of April.

“At the Center for People, we believe that progress isn’t about perfection - it’s about the courage to start, the commitment to keep going, and the community that supports you along the way.”

Below are the current items requested for **The People’s Pantry**. Monetary donations are also appreciated - make your check payable to FCC and put April Collection on the memo line.

Diapers from sizes Newborn to 6
(NO preemie)

Diaper Wipes



Your participation in the collection barrel provides a hand up for those less fortunate in our community.

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.



Those Serving in May

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:

Meghan & Dan Cowger

Elders:

May 4 - Cecilia Burkhardt

May 11 - Jim Christ

May 18 - Connie Calver

May 25 - Carla Pinneo

Deacons:

Brad & Kristi Bowker

Homebound Communion: May 11

Cecilia Burkhardt, Jim Christ, Connie Calver, Carla Pinneo

Hallway Hospitality:

May 4 - Elaine Parman

May 11 - Mike Carlin

May 18 - Geoff Putney

May 25 - Vince Ortega

Ushers/Greeters:

May 4 - D'Arcy Blosser

May 11 - Elaine Parman

May 18 - Wayne Duncan & Susan Pallas-Duncan

May 25 - Monte Dietrick

Acolytes:

May 4 - Gianna Greder

May 11 - Kyson and Keaton Effle

May 18 - Edryk Christianson

May 25 - Trev Greder

Offering Counting:

May 4 - D'Arcy Blosser

May 11 - Elaine Parman

May 18 - Rich Calver

May 25 - Gwen Belden

THANK YOU ALL for volunteering to serve.

Book Club

April Meeting - Sunday, April 27th at 3:30 pm @ Marcia Foster's Home.

May meeting TBD.

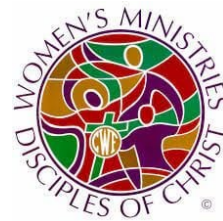
Book for **April**: *The Alice Network*
by Kate Quinn



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



Everyone is welcome to join us!



Deborah Group - Disciples Women

Deborah Group will meet @ **7 pm, Monday - May 5th** at Bobbi Carlin's Home.

Annual Picnic - **June 2nd at 6 pm** at Susan Pallas - Duncan's Home.

We will discuss Chapter 9 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). This will end this study. If you would like to join us, contact D'Arcy Blosser: darcy.blosser @ gmail.com or 402-429-6902.

May SCRIP Orders are due on May 4, 2025

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

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
- Marvin Thurber
- Phyllis Thurber
- Jessica Vocasek
- Roger Vocasek

Sympathy to the Ortega family. Vincent's last uncle, Antonio (Tony) Villavicencio passed away. The family attended services in Colorado.

Sympathy to the Putney Family. Rae-Hope passed away March 22nd. Her service was April 12th at FCC.

Prayers for Roger & Jessica Vocasek. Roger had shoulder surgery April 11th, he is home recovering and Jessica has back pain.

Friends:

- 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: Fairbury Christian Church - Darlene Novotny

Our Global Partners and Missionaries in: the Middle East

"God of resurrection hope, as we frantically search for your comforting presence in places of death, we ask that you appear before us and grant us the vision to see you in the midst of the pain and loss that has become our daily bread. Cleanse our eyes and hearts from the depths of grief and despair we inhabit, and direct our tongues and feet to paths of witness and service."

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



Spring has arrived at the First Christian Church Prayer Garden!

First Christian Church Calendar

Thursday, May 1

7:30 am

11:30 am

Noon

6:30 pm

Mayor's Prayer Breakfast

"Just Love in the City" - The Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis at First Christian Church - Library
Sack lunch with Lewis - Gym
Justice in Action - Nehemiah Action Assembly - St. Mark's United Methodist Church - 8500 Pioneers Blvd.

Sunday, May 4

9 am

9:15 am

9:45 am

10 am

10:30 am

Adult Sunday School - Library

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Torch Worship Team Rehearsal

SCRIP Orders Due

Worship

Monday, May 5

7 pm

Deborah Group Meeting - Bobbi Carlin's Home

Wednesday, May 7

6:30 pm

Handbell Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, May 11

9 am

9:15 am

9:45 am

10:30 am

Noon

Homebound Communion

Adult Sunday School - Library

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Torch Worship Team Rehearsal

Worship

Youth Group Meeting

Monday, May 12

Noon

Messenger Deadline

Tuesday, May 13

10:30 am

Staff Meeting

Wednesday, May 14

6:30 pm

Handbell Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, May 18

9 am

9:15 am

9:45 am

10:30 am

6 pm

Adult Sunday School - Library

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Torch Worship Team Rehearsal

Worship

Board Meeting - Conference Room

Wednesday, May 21

6:30 pm

Handbell Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, May 25

9 am

9:15 am

9:45 am

10:30 am

11:30 am

Noon

Adult Sunday School - Library

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Torch Worship Team Rehearsal

Worship

Elders Meeting - Library

Youth Group Meeting

Monday, May 26

Memorial Day - Office Closed

Tuesday, May 27

10:30 am

Staff Meeting

Wednesday, May 28

6:30 pm

Handbell Choir Rehearsal