



First Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

430 S. 16th St. Lincoln, NE 68508 402.475.4289

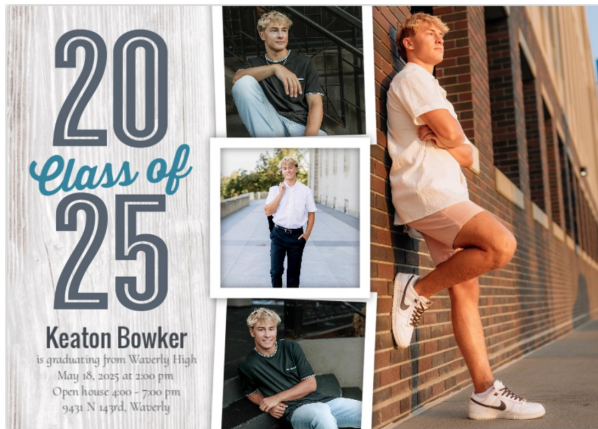
Messenger

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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May 15, 2025



Congratulations Keaton Bowker!

Keaton graduates Sunday, May 18th
from Waverly High School
You are invited to attend his graduation open house
at the Bowker Home from 4 pm to 7 pm - May 18th
9431 N. 143rd St.
Waverly, NE 68462



Join us for worship on Sunday, **June 8, 2025**. We will celebrate Pentecost, fifty days after Easter. This marks the day the Holy Spirit descended on the apostles and other followers of Jesus, marking the beginning of the Church's mission to the world.

Easter Sunday 2025 at First Christian Church



Pastor's Corner

Ritual. I believe we are missing meaningful ritual in our culture, and we need to be intentional about creating ritual that can provide a reliable flow and rhythm to our lives. A ritual is an event that contains symbolic importance to the one participating in the event. Sometimes it's a onetime event and sometimes it's repeated annually (or however often one chooses). We have ritualized birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, retirement parties, holidays, weddings and funerals - but these are the "heavy hitter" moments of life. And they aren't enough. Too many of our "ordinary" days go by uncelebrated and, even, unnoticed. When we create a ritual it allows us to become mindful of how sacred that exact moment is. It helps us set a marker in that precise place-in-time and say, "Here. Right here, something profound and important has happened/is happening in my life, and I honor it." What it will look like is going to be different for each of us. It can be something as simple as having a cup of Earl Grey tea on the back porch every night around the time the fireflies make their appearance, or a daily walk in a place that touches your soul. Or a weekly date with your significant other to reconnect and recommit to the journey together. Maybe ten minutes of prayer or meditation every morning, or baking fresh bread/doing woodwork/writing a poem/playing with crayons...anything that helps you pay attention to the significance of being alive in that *exact moment*.

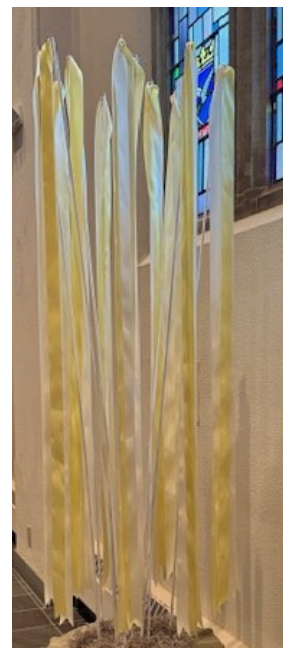
Last Saturday my family celebrated a really important ritual in our lives: my son graduated from a unique two-year program at the University of Central Missouri. These past two years he's been learning how to be independent and take on some life skills that have been a struggle to accomplish. And it's been an incredible blessing to him and to our family. So we celebrated it! It was a day of pride and gratitude and tears of joy. A blessing we could not have anticipated several years ago when, although he's an incredibly bright young man, school was tough and I was doing everything in my power to get him across the finish line of high school. He's planning to continue on with classes in order to get his computer programming degree, and he has so much good to offer this world. I wanted to lift this up because, even though it's a gigantic moment where we have set a marker and said "look what you accomplished!" it's also an opportunity to remember that every day we can learn and grow and become more fully the person God created us to be.



Let us create beauty, meaning and holiness in our daily lives by developing ritual. If we can prioritize these moments they can help transform our ordinary daily lives into a bountiful harvest of joy and gratitude. It takes work and intention, but it is possible. May you all have a blessed week.

Pastor Kara

Easter Morning 2025





Dearest Church Family,

We want to express our deepest gratitude for the outpouring of love, prayers, and support you've shown us during our time of loss. Your kindness and compassion have been a tremendous comfort to us before and after Rae-Hope's passing. We were so touched by those who attended the visitation/memorial service, sent cards and flowers, offered words of comfort, and kept us in your thoughts and prayers. We were so thankful for everyone who assisted with the coordination of the visitation, service and reception. Being surrounded by such a caring and supportive community has been a true reflection of God's love, and we are incredibly grateful for each and every one of you.

With sincere appreciation,

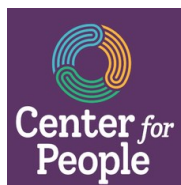
The Putney and Quimby Families



9th Debby Ortega
22nd Beth Zager
23rd Trevallion Greder

April Outreach Collection Barrel

The Center for People was so grateful to receive 516 diapers and 7 packs of diaper wipes from our April Collection Barrel. Thank you for your support!



May Collection Barrel

The Outreach Team has selected **McPhee Elementary School** as the collection barrel recipient for the month of May.

"At McPhee Elementary, we believe that all students can learn, perform and behave at grade level or above and that it is the responsibility of all adults in a child's life to help them achieve this goal. We value community and parental involvement in helping to achieve this goal and providing as many supports as possible to meet the needs of your child academically, socially and emotionally." - Theresa Haack, Principal -

Below are the current items **McPhee** needs now. Monetary donations are also appreciated - make your check payable to FCC and put May Collection on the memo line.

Tissues
Detergent
Dish soap
Deodorant (men and women)
Shampoo and conditioner
Boxes of cereal



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

Easter Morning 2025



Justice in Action (JIA) Nehemiah Assembly on May 1, 2025



"Justice isn't just an idea—it's the work we do, side by side."

41st Mayor's Interfaith Prayer Breakfast - May 1, 2025

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis the keynote speaker reminded attendees that "We are living in a world divided. Race and ethnicity, caste and color, gender and sexuality, class and education, religion and political party have all become demographic labels that reduce our differences to simplistic categories in which "we" are vehemently against "them." But Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis's own experience - of being the first female and first Black minister in her church's history, of being in an interracial marriage, and of making peace with childhood abuse - illustrates that our human capacity for empathy and forgiveness is the key to reversing these ugly trends." - *Fierce Love* by Dr. Jacqui Lewis

Dr. Lewis then held a Q&A session in the First Christian Church parlor where 24 attendees enjoyed lunch together, listened and shared stories about being an urban church and the challenges we all face on a daily basis.

KAMP KALEO

A WAY IN THE WILDERNESS 2025 CAMPING SEASON

- JUNE 8-12 - JUNIOR KAMP
- JUNE 13-15 - LITTLE KAMPERS #1
- JUNE 15-20 - JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH KAMP
- JUNE 26-30 - AGAPE KAMP
- JULY 6-9 - ROBOTICS KAMP
- JULY 6-11 - CREATIVE ARTS KAMP
- JULY 11-13 - LITTLE KAMPERS #2
- AUGUST 1-3 - AIC KAMP

REGISTER BEFORE MARCH 1ST FOR \$100 OFF
REGISTER BETWEEN MARCH 2ND AND APRIL 1ST RECEIVE \$25 OFF

EVERYONE IS WELCOME HERE
FOR MORE INFO OR TO REGISTER VISIT: WWW.KAMPKALEO.COM

SCAN TO LEARN MORE
REGISTRATION OPENS DEC. 1ST

THESE CAMPS ARE SPONSORED BY THE YOUTH AND OUTDOOR MINISTRIES COMMITTEE
A JOINT UCC AND DOC ENDEAVOR



Very early on Sunday morning, May 4th *The Torch Worship Team* set up to play for the Marathon runners. Look at all those great smiles!

This is the 11th year that Torch has celebrated the runners passing by our church.

Easter Morning 2025



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

Those Serving in June

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:

Brady Christianson

Elders:

June 1 - Jim Blosser

June 8 - Wayne Duncan

June 15 - Cecilia Burkhardt

June 22 - Jim Christ

June 29—Connie Calver

Deacons:

Dan & Meghan Cowger

Homebound Communion: June 8

Jim Blosser, Wayne Duncan, Cecilia Burkhardt, Jim Christ

Hallway Hospitality:

June 1 - Rich Calver

June 8 - Doug Effle

June 15 - Mike Carlin

June 22 - Geoff Putney

June 29 - Vince Ortega

Ushers/Greeters:

June 1 - Elaine Parman

June 8 - D'Arcy Blosser

June 15 - Wayne Duncan & Susan Pallas-Duncan

June 22 - Monte Dietrick

June 29 - Elaine Parman

Acolytes:

June 1 - Gianna Greder

June 8 - Kyson & Keaton Effle

June 15 - Edryk Christianson

June 22 - Trev Greder

June 29 - Kyson & Keaton Effle

Offering Counting:

June 1 - Elaine Parman

June 8 - D'Arcy Blosser

June 15 - Rich Calver

June 22 - Gwen Belden

June 29 - Elaine Parman

THANK YOU ALL for volunteering to serve.

Book Club

NO May meeting.

June meeting will be on **Saturday, June 21, 2025 @ 9:30 am** at Susan Pallas-Duncan's Home.

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



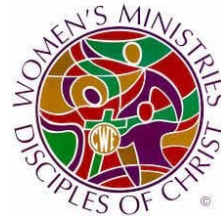
The next two books are *Mad Honey*
by Jodi Picoult



and *The Secret Life of Sunflowers*
by Marta Molnar



Everyone is welcome to join us!



Deborah Group - Disciples Women

Deborah Group will meet @ **6 pm, Monday - June 2nd** for a picnic at Susan Pallas-Duncan's Home.

We have completed our study. If you would like to join us, contact D'Arcy Blosser: darcy.blosser@gmail.com or 402-429-6902.

JUNE SCRIP Orders are due on June 1, 2025

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

REMEMBER

If you open a door, make sure to close it tight and check that it is locked!

PLEASE make sure the alley & chapel doors close tightly when you come and go. We had an unexpected, overnight guest found the morning following Easter.

Prayers & Praises

In Our Church Family:

- Donna Baker
- Rhonda Ball
- Cecilia Burkhart
- Jim Christ
- Joan Dietrich
- Wayne Duncan
- Ron Hile
- Phyllis Knosp
- Polly Putney
- Marvin Thurber
- Phyllis Thurber
- Jessica Vocasek
- Roger Vocasek

Sympathy to the Christianson family. Brady's father Roger passed away. His funeral was May 8th. Please keep Brady, Kristie, Hunter, Edryk and the entire Christianson family in prayer.

Prayers for Hunter Christianson. Hunter had knee surgery last week and is home recovering.

Prayers for Roger & Jessica Vocasek. Roger is recovering from shoulder surgery and Jessica has back issues.

Friends:

- Jeanne Schruck, mother of Meghan Schruck Cowger. Jeanne will be having lung surgery on June 9th.
- Nikki, friend of Katelyn Long. She is recovering from recent gastric bypass surgery.
- Linda De Los Santos, sister of Vincent Ortega. Linda is home and continues rehab.

Our Timothy:

- Bruce Frogge at Cypress Creek CC in Spring, TX

In the Nebraska Region: Grand Island First Christian Church - Tamara Holtz -Interim

Our Global Ministries Missionaries in: Palestine

"You know each one of us by name, and you do not abandon your flock. In these difficult days, we lift up our people in Palestine, those who mourn, those who wait, and those who work each day for peace with justice. Amid forcible displacement, genocide, and despair, may your voice be heard, calling us into hope."

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



Spring arrived in the First Christian Church Prayer Garden!

First Christian Church Calendar

Sunday, May 18

9 am Adult Sunday School - Library
9:15 am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
10:30 am Worship
6 pm Board Meeting - Conference Room

Wednesday, May 21

6:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, May 25

9 am Adult Sunday School - Library
9:15 am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Elders Meeting - Library

Monday, May 26 Memorial Day - Office Closed

Wednesday, May 28

6:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, June 1

9 am Adult Sunday School - Library
9:15 am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
10 am SCRIP Orders Due
10:30 am Worship

Monday, June 2

6 pm Deborah Group Picnic - Susan Pallas Duncan's home

Wednesday, June 4

6:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal

Volunteers at the April 5th Outdoor Cleanup

