



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

info@fcclincoln.org
www.fcclincoln.org

Volume 75, No. 6
June 12, 2025

Devoted to Generosity

This year we are making stewardship our focus once a month from July through September, followed by a traditional campaign in October. Our stewardship theme this year is **“devoted to generosity”**.

On Sunday, May 11th, we heard the story of Tabitha (Acts 9:36-43). This passage seeks to reassure us that while Jesus may have left the building (at the Ascension in chapter 1), his power is still at work in the church. Tabitha, who is given the designation disciple, was dedicated to good works and acts of charity. She has a particular ministry to the widows in her community, and then she dies. Peter is summoned. He comes at once and prays for Tabitha. When he finishes, he looks at her body and says, “Tabitha, get up!”, and she does! This is the resurrection power of Jesus still at work in the church and is the main point of the story.

But there is more. It isn’t just anybody, it is Tabitha’s life that is restored - the one who was dedicated to generosity! Her ministry was so important that the church could not afford to have it stopped by her physical death. She is raised back to life to continue her acts of charity. For the church to be the church, it must be devoted to generosity.

Over the next few months, we’ll explore important issues about our faith, our compassion, the use of our resources, our generosity, and our belief that God provides for our needs. Stewardship is more than money; it is a lifestyle based on a relationship with Jesus Christ.

We’ll kick-off our **“devoted to generosity”** stewardship campaign, on Sunday, July 13th focusing on a passage from Deuteronomy 26:1-11, please join us.

May the Spirit of God be with you, *The Finance Team*



FCC and the Bowker Family celebrated Keaton Bowker's High School Graduation in Worship and Coffee Fellowship on May 11th



Pastor's Corner

Dear Friends,

In Romans 8:26 Paul writes, *"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."*

Do you ever feel weak? I know I do. When I struggle to be healthy physically, emotionally or spiritually it makes me feel weak; and this is a challenge every single one of us face at some point (or several points) in our lives. Maybe we don't have the strength to walk or run as far as we'd like. Maybe we need other people to help us do things, and this feels really hard. Maybe we struggle with depression or anxiety that saps our joy and leaves us feeling hollow, and even getting out of bed in the morning is a struggle.. Maybe our prayer life isn't what we want it to be and we are disconnected from God. There are myriad ways we can feel weak.

But God understands that we are weak, and time and again in scripture he encourages us that we are not left alone in our weakness, but that he actually works *through* our weakness, *by the power of the Holy Spirit*, to do many things: sometimes to help us become stronger and sometimes to use our "weakness" to bless us and others. God comes alongside of us and joins his strength to our weakness, and somehow this helps sustain us through our struggles.

In 2 Corinthians 12:9-10, Paul wrote again about weakness, sharing that he had prayed that God would take away the "thorn in his side" (some unknown physical ailment Paul had) that caused him to be weak. Paul wrote of God's response to his prayers: *"he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.'" This completely changed how Paul saw his own weakness, and he was able to say, "Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong."*

In light of that, rather than beating ourselves up for being weak, we should embrace the fact that we *are* imperfect and thus, at times, feel weak, but God can take these weaknesses, and be *glorified*. Which is the point of our existence - to glorify God. So perhaps our prayer should be, *"Lord, I thank you that through your Spirit you help me be strong; but I also pray that you would use even my weakness to glorify your Kingdom. Amen."* Our imperfection points us to the only One who is perfect. Our weakness points us to the only One who is strong. Beauty out of ashes. I am thankful God can use our whole beings for the good of his kingdom. May the Peace of God be with you as you go about your week!

Pastor Kara



Dates have been set for the annual Kamp Kaleo Rummage Sale ... Aug. 7-9 in the FCC church gym. We'll begin setting up tables on Friday, Aug. 1. Deliveries of "treasures" to the church gym will start on Saturday morning, Aug. 2 and continue through Monday. It takes a lot of volunteers to make this happen! If you are able to help for a few hours or a day or all week, contact D'Arcy Blosser, Gwen Belden, Sue Shear or the church office. This is a joint DOC/UCC project and volunteers include folks from Disciples and UCC churches in Lincoln and the surrounding area. All proceeds go to Kamp Kaleo.



SUMMER SOLSTICE

FRIDAY,
JUNE 20TH

June Collection Barrel



| | |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| 2 nd | Ruby Waller |
| 3 rd | Jessica Effle, Phyllis Knosp |
| 5 th | Diane Zabokrtsky |
| 6 th | Rhonda Ball |
| 13 th | Leo Jelinek |
| 23 rd | Nash Calver, Jase Calver |
| 25 th | Jane Calver |
| 26 th | Bob Throop |
| 27 th | Geoff Putney |
| 29 th | Mark Miller |

The Outreach Team has selected **Head Start** as the collection barrel recipient for the month of June. The Bansal Family Home for Head Start is located at: 1821 K Street, just 2 blocks from First Christian Church.

Head Start began more than 50 years ago to address the need for early childhood education (children ages 3 to 5) be made available to **ALL** families.

Head Start programs:

- ⇒ Promote school readiness
- ⇒ Support children in getting a Head Start on school
- ⇒ Provide health and nutrition services
- ⇒ Offer innovative child development services for all families
- ⇒ Provide parental assistance in identifying community support

Our June Collection Barrel will provide **Kindergarten Kits** for 40 kiddos moving into Kindergarten in August.

May Outreach Collection Barrel

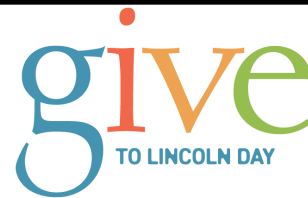
McPhee Elementary School was so grateful to receive **ALL** of items for their families in need in our May Collection Barrel. Thank you for your support!



Kindergarten Kit items requested:

- Backpacks (boy, girl and neutral)
- Pencils
- Colored pencils
- Markers
- Crayons
- Rulers
- Little scissors
- Spiral notebooks
- Water bottles (boy, girl, neutral)

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



The First Christian Church Outreach Team donated \$200 to **give To Lincoln Day** on May 29, 2025.

The donation was earmarked for *Gathering Place*.

When visitors come to our doors seeking food, *Gathering Place* is one of the resources we offer them.

"Community Action's Gathering Place (1448 "E" Street in Lincoln) provides free hot, nutritious meals seven days a week from 5 to 6 p.m. to anyone who needs a meal - no questions asked. Guests can choose to eat inside the beautiful Gathering Place house or take their meal to-go."

Feeling gratitude and
not expressing it is like
wrapping a present and
not giving it.

William Arthur Ward



Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for generously supporting Kamp Kaleo by hosting a very successful Valentine's Day Dinner! We are grateful for everyone who helped with the dinner and for everyone who attended to support the mission of Kaleo. Each one of you is a blessing to us!

Gratefully, Barb Tentinger, for the Staff and Board of Kaleo on the River

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

Pentecost 2025



Thank you for hosting Maundy Thursday. The chili was great and the bell ringers fantastic.

Thanks, Don Eveland (Havelock Christian Church)

April 17, 2025

Dear Friends of the Food Bank,

Thank you for your gift of \$50 to the Food Bank of Lincoln. For every dollar, we can provide about two meals for neighbors in need; neighbors like the "Mama" who wrote to us earlier this year:

"We don't 'look' like we need help from the Food Bank (ok house, ok car, clothed decently) but recently a medical event wiped out our savings, took all our money that wasn't going to bills, and forced us to choose between food and medicine. Our credit card was maxed out after a month. We got food from the Food Bank distribution. It kept us fed during a really dark and trying time. We work really hard and have good jobs but it only took one month and one event to decimate our finances to the point we couldn't buy food. We never felt judged at the food distribution even though we felt ashamed. We are getting back on our feet as a family but wanted to say thank you. What you do matters, and is saving families." ♥ A Lincoln Mama

FCC also donated 101 lbs. of non-perishable food items from our March Collection Barrel. Thank you!

Those Serving in July

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:

Elaine Parman

Elders:

July 6 - Cecilia Burkhardt

July 13 - Carla Pinneo

July 20 - Connie Calver

July 27 - Jim Blosser

Deacons:

Brady & Kristie Christianson

Homebound Communion: July 13

Cecilia Burkhardt, Carla Pinneo, Connie Calver, Jim Blosser

Hallway Hospitality:

July 6 - Mike Carlin

July 13 - Geoff Putney

July 20 - Rich Calver

July 27 - Elaine Parman

Ushers/Greeters:

July 6 - Wayne Duncan & Susan Pallas-Duncan

July 13 - Monte Dietrick

July 20 - D'Arcy Blosser

July 27 - Elaine Parman

Acolytes:

July 6 - Gianna Greder

July 13 - Edryk Christianson

July 20 - Trev Geder

July 27 - Kyson & Keaton Effle

Offering Counting:

July 6 - Rich Calver

July 13 - Gwen Belden

July 20 - D'Arcy Blosser

July 27 - Elaine Parman

THANK YOU ALL for volunteering to serve.

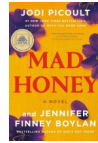
Book Club

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



We enjoyed a delightful picnic on June 2 at Susan Pallas-Duncan's where we decided our next study. Starting in September, we'll read and discuss Barbara Brown Taylor's book, Learning to Walk in the Dark. We also allocated funds to Week of Compassion (for St. Louis tornado recovery), Justice in Action and Cedars. All women are welcome to participate in Disciples Women - you don't have to be a member at FCC to participate. We meet on the 1st Monday of each month (2nd if holiday falls on 1st) from September through June. We'll kick off our study on September 8. If you are interested in participating, or just visiting to see what we're all about, call the church office - 402-475-4289.

July SCRIP Orders are due on July 6, 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.

Prayers & Praises

In Our Church Family:

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

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

Friends:

- Ron Collamore, a regular visitor is seeking prayers for his health.
- Jeanne Schruck, mother of Meghan Schruck Cowger. Had lung surgery on June 9th. Jeanne is home recovering.
- 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: Iglesia Discipulos de Christo, Omaha - Daniel Zapata

Our Global Ministries Missionaries in: Italy

"Across the world, we are feeling confusion and grief at the apparent collapse of old norms and certainties. At such a time, the constancy of God and the Gospel message matter more than ever. Our comfort and strength lie therein; it is for us to model his example in all that we do with and for others and, in doing so, rejoice.

May those who fear to be outspoken advocates for those on the margins – in Italy and beyond – be confident in their work; may those who suffer the indifference and hostility of society know His love." Amen

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



First Christian Church Calendar

Sunday, June 15th

9 am
9:15 am
10:30 am

Father's Day

Adult Sunday School - Library
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Worship

Saturday, June 21st

9:30 am

Book Club @ Susan Pallas-Duncan's Home

Sunday, June 22nd

9 am
9:15 am
10:30 am
11:30 am
6 pm

Adult Sunday School - Library
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Worship
Elders Meeting - Library
Cabinet Meeting - Conference Room

Sunday, June 29th

9 am
9:15 am
10:30 am

Adult Sunday School - Library
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Worship

Tuesday, July 2nd

TBD

JIA Meeting - Library

Sunday, July 6th

9 am
9:15 am
10 am
10:30 am
11:30 am

Adult Sunday School - Library
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
SCRIP Orders Due
Worship
Worship Team Meeting -Library

Tuesday, July 8th

10:30 am

Staff Meeting

Saturday, July 12th

8 am to 5 pm

Life Line Screening Event - Gym

Sunday, July 13th

9 am
9:15 am
10:30 am

Stewardship Campaign Kickoff
Adult Sunday School - Library
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Worship

Monday, July 14th

Noon

July Messenger Deadline

Sunday, July 20th

9 am
9:15 am
10:30 am
6 pm

Adult Sunday School - Library
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Worship
Board Meeting - Conference Room

Tuesday, July 22nd

10:30 am

Staff Meeting

Sunday, July 27th

9 am
9:15 am
10:30 am
11:30 am

Adult Sunday School - Library
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Worship
Elders Meeting - Library