



**First Christian Church**

Disciples of Christ

430 S. 16<sup>th</sup> St.    Lincoln, NE 68508    402.475.4289

## Weekly Worship

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

**Week of July 13, 2025**  
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### Community Prayer

Almighty God, you give the holy law to your people so that it will always be near us and our children. Through our Lord Jesus who has fulfilled the law in every way, grant that we may love you with heart, soul, strength, and mind, and our neighbor as ourselves. Amen.

“Reprinted and Revised Common Lectionary Prayers,  
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### Call to Worship

One: Blessed is God, who created us and loves us beyond measure.

Many: Blessed is God, who calls us to stop measuring out our love.

One: Blessed is God, whose compassion is poured out on every person.

Many: Blessed is God, who gives us grace to share with every person.

# Sermon

From The Rev. Kara Hillhouse

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

*Priorities*

This Sunday we begin our Stewardship Campaign. We intentionally have an extended campaign (as we did last year), because we know Stewardship isn't a once-a-year commitment. Rather, Stewardship is a *way of life*. And, as usually happens, developing long-term habits takes lots of help: education, inspiration, and encouragement. So, we make it a season here at First Christian. We kick off our campaign this week with a text from Deuteronomy that discusses God's command that the Israelites make a sacrifice to him with the first fruits of their labor, as a sign of their gratitude for God's faithfulness to them. From the abundance of their harvest, God was to come first. What can we learn from this? Join us for worship this Sunday, where we'll study the Word and learn more about what it means to be a good and generous steward towards God. Come be fed and renewed in God's presence. We'll see you at First!

Pastor Kara

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## Welcome Our New Administrative Assistant

Please welcome our new administrative assistant, Amy Johnson. She is a former school teacher, and has 4 daughters. Her husband works as a full-time chaplain at Bryan Medical East. He recently retired from the Air Force as a chaplain, and they moved from Texas to be here in Lincoln for his job.

If you are in the building during office hours, please stop by and get to know her.

# Scripture Readings

## Psalms 82

God has taken his place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods he holds judgment: "How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked? Give justice to the weak and the orphan; maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked." They have neither knowledge nor understanding; they walk around in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken. I say, "You are gods, children of the Most High, all of you; nevertheless, you shall die like mortals and fall like any prince." Rise up, O God, judge the earth, for all the nations belong to you!



## Deuteronomy 26:1-11

"When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess and you possess it and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, 'Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.' When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, you shall make this response before the Lord your God: 'A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.' You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.



# Prayers & Praises

## July 13, 2025

### In Our Church Family:

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

*Sympathy to the family of Phyllis Knosp.* Phyllis passed away on June 22nd and her funeral was June 28th at FCC. Cards may be mailed to her home: 1740 St. James Rd., Lincoln, NE 68506 attn: Glenna Robb.

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

### Friends:

- Prayers for Ron Collamore, *Ron is a regular visitor and is seeking prayers for improvement to his health.*
- Jeanne Schruck, *mother of Meghan Schruck Cowger. Jeanne had surgery to remove part of her lung. She 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:

- Rev. Bruce Frogge, *Cypress Creek CC in Spring, TX*

**In the Nebraska Region:** Nebraska City First Christian Church - Pulpit Supply

### Our Global Ministries Missionaries in: France

*"The 'Grand KIFF' is a big youth gathering every four years organised by the United Protestant Church in France. ('Kiffer' in French means 'appreciate' or 'love.') The main objective of the GrandKIFF is to allow an encounter between young people and Jesus Christ by promoting dynamics of individual and collective commitment and community responsibility. We want to allow young people to grow in their faith and to find a place in the life of the Church with spaces dedicated to them."*

For more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners visit [www.globalministries.org](http://www.globalministries.org)



## We Gather Together

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing; he chastens and hastens his will to make known; the wicked oppressing now cease from distressing. Sing praises to his name; he forgets not his own.

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining, ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine; so from the beginning the fight we were winning; thou, Lord, was at our side; all glory be thine!

We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant, and pray that thou still our defender wilt be. Let thy congregation escape tribulation; thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

