



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
Amy Johnson, Administrative Assistant

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Mark your Calendar for PRAISEFEST 2025!

Sunday, September 14th from 5 pm to 7 pm

FCC Parking Lot

Music, Food, and Fun for All!

Volunteers are needed to prepare, serve, and provide cookies. Please contact Beth Zager if you can help at bzager@unl.edu

The Torch Team is looking forward to hosting Praisefest again this year! If you are interested in helping fund this event, they are accepting financial donations to cover the cost of face painting and the bounce house. Please make checks payable to FCC with Praisefest on the memo line of your check.



CALLING ALL READERS!
 JOIN US FOR...

SPIRITED READERS

A CHAPTER BY CHAPTER DISCUSSION OF THE BOOK
now and not yet By Ruth Chou Simons

- WE WILL DISCUSS A CHAPTER EACH MONTH
- PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN BOOK
- 1ST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH- 6:30 pm-8 pm

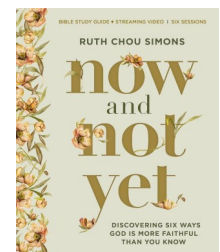
LOCATION:

THE MILL
 — COFFEE & TEA —

AT TELEGRAPH

330 S 21st St, Lincoln

No RSVP needed, call with questions: 402-475-4289
 Website: fcclincn.org



Pastor's Corner

Dear Friends,

Sometimes, we need some words of encouragement to remind us of the *big picture*. It's easy to get caught up in the minute details of our lives... some of which are good and uplifting, and some which drag us down mentally and spiritually. Throughout history, God has raised up leaders to speak words of hope (in addition to words of caution and warning), because the people needed to hear his words of hope. They needed to remember that God was with them, loved them, and wanted them to walk in his ways so that they might experience the abundant life. Prophets were called to speak difficult, yet ultimately loving, words when the people turned away from God, and we find their words all through the Old and New Testaments. This past Sunday we looked at Isaiah 11 and the vision of a world redeemed and reset to what God created it to be: one of justice, righteousness, peace, harmony. It's a vision we all need, isn't it? I know I do, because I get disheartened at times. The hope in our stories, as Resurrection People, is that we know how it all will end—and, spoiler alert, it ends really really well! God will always have the final word, and his word is Love, Grace, Life (I guess that's actually three final words, not one....) So, in the midst of our trials, which definitely feel too heavy to bear at times, we remember the promise Jesus gave us: it's all temporary. The sorrow, the pain, the brokenness, the struggles we have, when we try to follow the only one who is perfect: there will be a day when they will all be wiped away. A day when every "knee will bow and tongue confess ... the glory of the Lord." Until then, we press on, and we walk alongside one another, encouraging ourselves with the Good News of God's grace. Thank you for walking with me on this truly beautiful, sometimes messy, journey. And, even more than that, thanks be to God for his great faithfulness!

Pastor Kara



Deborah Group News

After a summer break, Deborah Group begins again on September 8th at 7 pm at D'Arcy Blosser's home, 4648 Happy Hollow Ct.

Our fall study will be *Learning to Walk in the Dark* by Barbara Brown Taylor. Books can be ordered from most bookstores; if you need help finding a book, let D'Arcy know.

Our group is open to all women and you do not have to be a member at FCC to participate.

Happy Birthday!



5 th	Keaton Bowker
6 th	Gary Larsen, Polly Putney
7 th	Rich Calver
18 th	Marcia Foster
24 th	Donna Baker



Coffee Fellowship Hosts Needed

Do you enjoy fellowship after Worship? It's a great time to grab a cup of coffee, glass of water and a little bite of something and catch up with fellow congregants. We need to have more hosts to setup, serve and cleanup!

Please consider being a host, *The Hospitality Team*

Beginning in September, the Messenger will be sent out the fourth Wednesday of the month in order to provide the upcoming month's information. This means the September Messenger Deadline will be **noon** on **Monday, September 22nd**.

August Outreach Collection Barrel

CenterPointe Street Outreach has been selected as the August Outreach recipient. With the heat and humidity of the summer, they need to replenish supplies going into fall. The following list of items are what they are requesting at this time:

- Socks, new (size large most used)
- Undergarments, new (men's and women's underwear, bras)
- Bottled water
- Reusable water bottles
- Snacks such as protein granola bars, beef sticks, crackers, peanut butter singles, individual packages of nuts (nothing canned)
- Gently used coats, size Large and above
- Blankets/ throws
- Gently used shoes
- Backpacks (new or gently used)
- Hand and feet warmers
- Emergency Thermal Blankets (included link just to show what these are, they are amazing!) <https://a.co/d/7JdjYlq>



Thank you for supporting this Outreach Opportunity. First Christian Church and YOU are making a difference in the lives of those less fortunate!



June Outreach Collection Barrel



On July 15th, 40 backpacks were delivered to HeadStart for beginning Kindergartners, thanks to your generous donations. Thank you for embracing this outreach projection and helping make a difference in our community!

Pictured L to R: Hazel Waller, Amy Johnson, D'Arcy Blosser, Elaine Parman, Ruby Waller

THANK YOU



Elaine, Kara, & First Christian,

Thank you so much for the supplies for our families. These are much needed and help support our students in coming to school. Thank you for our partnership—we look forward to continue to work together.

Theresa Haack, Principal
McPhee Elementary



Dear Rev. Kara and The First Christian Church Community,

At Center for People, we know that building a strong community isn't about one big act—it's about the many small, meaningful contributions that add up to something greater.

Your in-kind donation of 8 packages of diapers and wipes, helped make our work possible. Sometimes it is a meal that fed volunteers, supplies that made an event run smoothly, or products that directly supported the people we serve, your generosity played a role in something bigger,

We believe that hope is resilience in action, and that means showing up, doing the work, and helping where we can. Your support is part of that—helping families move forward, helping individuals gain stability, and helping make our programs stronger. So from all of us at Center for the People: thank you. We appreciate your generosity, and we're grateful to have you as part of the community that makes this work possible.

With appreciation,
Macala Carter
Executive Director
Center for People



Thank you for your gift. We are grateful to our friends at First Christian Church for your support—and for believing in the kids at CEDARS. This summer, over 1,000 kids will be in CEDARS care. Each and every one of them deserves safety and stability. That's what we are working toward every day here at CEDARS, but we can't do it alone. From all of us, we thank you for your partnership.

Sincerely,
James R. Blue
President
CEDARS



Devoted to Generosity – Ministry Moment



Marcia Foster shared the following message during worship on Sunday, August 10:

*“So I throw up my hands
And praise You again and again
Cause all that I have is a hallelujah
And I know it’s not much
But I’ve nothing else fit for a King
Except for a heart singing hallelujah”*

These lyrics from the song “Gratitude”, written by Benjamin Hastings, Brandon Lake and Dante Bowe” describe how this response, of arms stretched wide, is one way we can worship God.

Worship can be shown and experienced in so many different ways. As a Worship Team, we look to provide a welcome and inviting space that allows all of us to meet God and truly worship. This may happen in any number of ways, since worship can look and feel different for each of us.

Visually this may include the colorful paraments on our Communion Table, Pulpit and Lectern. Purple or blue for Advent, white or gold for Christmas and green for ordinary time. This might also involve light, provided by the candles that are lit by our acolytes each Sunday morning or by votives or tea lights lit during special services throughout the year.

Communion is certainly a time when we can commune with God and feel his presence. Funds from Worship are used to purchase communion cups and other supplies used weekly. Our homebound communion kits are also used by the elders, who take them each month to those unable to join us for in person worship.

Throughout the year worship funds are used to purchase music for the many ensembles, including the choir, recorders, handbells and the Torch Team.

As a church we also experience worship through various seasons.

As summer winds down and a new school year begins, we look forward to the opportunity to bless our students, teachers and staff. On days like today we can take the time to show them how much we believe in them as they prepare for a new year.

In the fall we also discuss meaningful ways to honor the saints who have gone before us on All Saints Sunday. This may include arranging votives around our baptistry during worship and presenting special candles to the families of those who have recently lost a member of our church family.

As Advent begins, we prepare the Sanctuary for worship. This includes decorating our Christmas tree with detailed and ornate Chrismons, which are the white and gold ornaments that adorn our tree each December. Many of the Chrismons were made by our saints who have gone before us. I love to hear the stories from Mark, Sara and Jim about who made certain pieces and the memories they have of those individuals.

When Lent begins each year, we plan our Ash Wednesday service. Preparing the ashes and visual displays in the Sanctuary help all of us as we enter this meaningful period within the church.

As we near Holy Week we consider how to reach out to our neighbors, community and church members to invite them to join us in worship, using post cards, posters, displays in the downtown area, Facebook posts and other means available.

As Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday, small palm crosses are handed out and palm branches are waved by the children and others celebrating the arrival of Jesus that day.

On Maundy Thursday we commemorate the Last Supper Jesus had with his disciples before his crucifixion. I remember a special Maundy Thursday service many years ago. 13 individuals sat at a large table in front of the Communion table. The recreation of The Last Supper brought to life the sacredness of that meal with our Savior and the sacrifice that Jesus made. It was a solemn and meaningful moment that still stands out in great detail in my memory.

The Sanctuary becomes alive on Easter Sunday with the many Easter lilies that adorn the front of the church and throughout the room. The scriptures and special music selected all help us experience the resurrection of Jesus.

Whether we are using funds to purchase candles, ashes, communion cups, palm crosses or music, these items help to enhance worship and prepare this space so we can share the hope of Christ with those here in person and those watching online.

As you contemplate the gifts you are giving this year, I ask you to consider how your gifts can help enhance worship at First Christian Church and draw all of us closer to God.

Thank you.



Husker Parking Volunteers Needed

Again this year, FCC will be collecting donations for Husker home football game parking in our parking lot. Coffee, cookies, and bottles of water are offered to those making donations.

Last year this volunteer ministry raised \$1,858 for Faith Giving.

Monte Dietrick, Wayne Duncan, and Brad Bowker oversee this ministry and are inviting you to join them. At least one more volunteer is needed each home game day. Your time commitment begins 4 hours before kickoff.

Home football games are as follows:

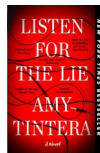
September 6 vs. Akron @ 6:30 pm
September 13 vs. Houston Christian @ 11 am
September 20 vs. Michigan @ 2:30 pm
October 4 vs. Michigan State @ TBD
October 25 vs. Northwestern @ TBD
November 1 vs. USC @ TBD
November 28 (Friday) vs. Iowa @ 11 am

Look at your calendar and then let the church office know which date works for you.

Book Club

August Meeting - Friday, August 15th @ 7pm at D'Arcy Blosser's Home

Book for **August**: *Listen for the Lie*
by Amy Tintera



Book for **September**: *The Secret Life of Sunflowers*
by Marta Molnar



Book for **October**: *Boxes*
by Douglas Wellman and Mark Musick



Everyone is welcome to join us!

Devoted to Generosity

On Sunday, August 10, our focus was on Isaiah 11:1-10.

The vision of the peaceable kingdom of Isaiah 11 begins with a shoot that sprouts from the stump of Jesse, chopped down by the mistakes of the peoples' past, but not destroyed. A fragile sprig of hope in a world that's anything but perfect and ideal. Visions such as this do not offer escape from the real world, rather they are an invitation to act now to build a better world, the world of God's desire. Even though God doesn't need us to bring his Kingdom into full completeness, he invites us to participate in its unfolding, because it blesses us. Working alongside God to make it a reality here on earth is a sign of our commitment to share the Good News of our Lord and Savior Jesus. Realizing the world envisioned in Isaiah 11 starts with you and me. How will you respond?

On Sunday, September 14, our focus will be on Luke 12:1-8.

Devoted to Generosity Stewardship Sunday Schedule:
September 14, October 12, October 19 and
October 26 (Commitment Sunday)

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



**September SCRIP Orders are due on
September 7, 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
- Phyllis Thurber
- Polly Putney
- Jessica Vocasek
- Marvin Thurber
- Roger Vocasek

Prayers for the Carlin Family as Mike passed away on August 4. The service will be Saturday, August 16th at 2pm in the sanctuary.

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

Prayers for Cecilia Burkhart for the passing of her brother James.

Friends:

- Sympathy for Ron Collamore, Ron's cousin, Johnny, was killed in California.
- Jody Schrage, friend of Katelyn Long. She is hospitalized in Wyoming.
- 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: Peru Community Church - Ray & Becky Girard

Our Global Ministries Missionaries in: Greece

"As a body united in service, we ask that You breathe life into Perichoresis' mission and empower our partners in the work of proclaiming Your name. Let every word spoken and every act of love point to Your glory. We are Your servants, Lord. May we remain rooted in Your Word and steadfast in obedience, so that in all we do, we reflect the light of Your Kingdom. We seek Your guidance in managing our programs: the educational project, the Agkalia (Hug) project, and the Food Bank project. Both for our employees, that they may work with the wisdom of the Lord, and for the beneficiaries, that they may see in our faces the hope and light of the Lord. We also ask for the protection of our country from natural disasters (such as fires) that occur during the summer months, as well as for peace and justice in our region and in our wider region and especially in Ukraine and the Middle East. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen. "

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



First Christian Church Calendar

Sunday, August 17th

9 am Adult Sunday School - Library
 9:15 am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
 9:45 am Torch Worship Rehearsal
 10:30 am Worship
 3 pm - 4 pm Kamp Kaleo Listening Session - Parlor
 6 pm Cabinet Meeting - Conference Room

Sunday, August 24th

9 am Adult Sunday School - Library
 9:15 am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
 9:45 am Torch Worship Rehearsal
 10:30 am Worship
 11:30 am Elder Meeting - Library

Tuesday, August 26th

10:30 am Staff Meeting

Sunday, August 31st

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

Monday, September 1st Labor Day - Office Closed

Tuesday, September 2nd

6:30 pm - 8 pm Spirited Readers - The Mill @ Telegraph

Sunday, September 7th

9 am Adult Sunday School - Library
 9:15 am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
 9:45 am Torch Worship Rehearsal
 10 am SCRIP orders due
 10:30 am Worship

Monday, September 8th

7 pm Deborah Group

Tuesday, September 9th

10:30 am Staff Meeting

Sunday, September 14th Stewardship Sunday/ Homebound Communion

9 am Adult Sunday School - Library
 9:15 am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
 9:45 am Torch Worship Rehearsal
 10:30 am Worship
 5 pm - 7 pm Praisefest - Parking Lot

Sunday, September 21st

9 am Adult Sunday School - Library
 9:15 am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
 9:45 am Torch Worship Rehearsal
 10:30 am Worship
 11:30 am Worship Team Meeting - Library
 6 pm Board Meeting - Conference Room

Monday, September 22nd

Noon Messenger Deadline

Tuesday, September 23rd

10:30 am Staff Meeting

Due to the next Messenger coming out at the end of September, we are including the rest of August's Serving Schedule as well as September's Serving Schedule.



Those Serving in August

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:

Kristi Bowker

Elders:

August 17 - Jim Christ

August 24 - Carla Pinneo

August 31 - Connie Calver

Deacons:

Susan Pallas-Duncan, Evan Foster

Hallway Hospitality:

August 17 - Vince Ortega

August 24 - Rich Calver

August 31 - Elaine Parman

Ushers/Greeters:

August 17 - D'Arcy Blosser

August 24 - Monte Dietrick

August 31 - Elaine Parman

Acolytes:

August 17 - Trev Greder

August 24 - Kyson & Keaton Effle

August 31 - Edryk Christianson

Offering Counting:

August 17 - D'Arcy Blosser

August 24 - Elaine Parman

August 31 - Rich Calver

THANK YOU ALL for volunteering to serve.



Those Serving in September

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:

Marcia Foster

Elders:

September 7 - Jim Blosser

September 14 - Carla Pinneo

September 21 - Wayne Duncan

September 28 - Cecilia Burkhart

Deacons:

Vince Ortega, Riley Bowker

Hallway Hospitality:

September 7 - Geoff Putney

September 14 - Elaine Parman

September 21 - Vince Ortega

September 28 - Rich Calver

Ushers/Greeters:

September 7 - Wayne Duncan & Susan Pallas-Duncan

September 14 - Monte Dietrick

September 21 - D'Arcy Blosser

September 28 - Elaine Parman

Acolytes:

September 7 - Gianna Greder

September 14 - Kyson & Keaton Effle

September 21 - Edryk Christianson

September 28 - Trev Greder

Offering Counting:

September 7 - Gwen Belden

September 14 - Rich Calver

September 21 - D'Arcy Blosser

September 28 - Elaine Parman

THANK YOU ALL for volunteering to serve.