



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
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 www.fcclincoln.org

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October 5th

World Communion Sunday is a Christian holiday celebrated annually on the first Sunday of October to promote unity and cooperation between Christian denominations. It originated in 1933 at a Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA and in 1940 it was endorsed by the Federal Council of Churches to promote it worldwide. The Rev. Donald Craig Kerr, son of the originator, shares “The concept spread slowly at first. It was during the Second World War that the spirit caught hold, because we were trying to hold the world together. It emphasized that we are one in the Spirit and the Gospel of Jesus Christ”.



Walk Specifics:

Sunday, October 12, 2025, 1:00

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

[1200 S. 40th St., Lincoln](https://www.ourlutheran.org/1200-S-40th-St-Lincoln)

Route includes a 1-mile and 1.5-mile option
 Treats, music, and fun!

For more information:

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/>



CROP WALK FUNDRAISER

Tell the clerk you're there for the
CROP Walk Fundraiser, and 15%
 of net sales will go to Lincoln CROP!

SUNDAY

28TH SEPTEMBER

4:00 - 8:00 PM

403 N. 48th St., Lincoln



ORDER ONLINE

apply code RCFUND96 to online & app orders



SPIRITED READERS

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

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

* Next Meeting is Oct. 7th

LOCATION:

THE MILL @ TELEGRAPH, 330 S. 21st St
 No RSVP needed, call with questions: 402-475-4289
 Website: fcclincoln.org

Pastor's Corner

Dear Friends,

"You would know the secret of death. But how shall you find it unless you seek it in the heart of life? If you would indeed behold the spirit of death, open your heart wide unto the body of life. For life and death are one, even as the river and the sea are one."

Kahlil Gibran, The Prophet

In John 1:1-2 we read, *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God."* "The Word" referenced here is Jesus Christ. When I first read this verse, I was like—what???! *What do you mean Jesus was around in the beginning?* In the Bible he doesn't take the stage until the second act (New Testament)—when the world was being created Jesus should have still been in hair and makeup. But there it is, Jesus, present from the get-go: laying the foundation, directing the workings of the world and the vast places beyond it. I imagine him wearing one of those yellow hard hats, with blueprints in his hand, talking with a worker and pointing off into the distance where some really important construction project was taking place; making sure everything was done right.

This brought to mind Kahlil Gibran's quote above, about Life and death. Because of God's grace, Life is always on the scene; a force holding all things together; a power that has the final say, because of Jesus' Resurrection over death. But there'd be no need for Life without death. Rather than being adversaries, though, they flow into each other as naturally as an inhale and exhale, and we have to embrace both, or we'll miss out on Life's power. Though death seems to prevail, Life is there, maybe even wearing a hard hat and holding the blueprints, so that all unfolds as it should. *"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" ... [T]hanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ"* (1 Corinthians 15:55-57).

As I went through my sister's closet recently, and packed up her clothes, preparing to take them to Goodwill, I reflected on how sad it is that all remnants of 56 years of living can be wiped away in the 17 hours it took to empty her apartment. As if she'd never been there. And it is true that if we only look with eyes that see the tangible, she is gone. But for we who look with different eyes, who can see the empty tomb instead of the cross, her life is ever-present. Paul wrote, *"if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's"* (Romans 14:8). Sorrow will never have the final word—that belongs to Christ alone, and he promises the Resurrection Life. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Pastor Kara



Deborah Group News

Our fall study, *Learning to Walk in the Dark* by Barbara Brown Taylor, will continue on October 6th at 7 pm at *Diane's home, 7900 A Street*. Susan will lead our discussion of Chapter 2. Our group is open to all women and you do not have to be a member at FCC to participate.

The fall retreat is "A Christian Response to Immigration" and is not limited to women. It will be October 18th at Bethany Christian Church in Lincoln. It will be from 9 am- 3:30 pm. The cost is \$20 and includes lunch. The link to register is:

<https://nedisciples.regfox.com/all-gods-children-a-christian-response-to-immigration>

Mark Your Calendars:

Stewardship Commitment Sunday

October 26

Luncheon Following Service



1 st	Cecilia Burkhart
11 th	D'Arcy Blosser, Don True
20 th	Lillie May Everett
29 th	Jim Blosser

**2026 Stewardship
Campaign
Mission Project
for September & October**



The 2026 Stewardship Campaign Mission Project recipient is ***"I've Got A Name"***, a non-profit that strives to put an end to sex trafficking in Nebraska by generating awareness of the problem and taking action against it.

The ***"I've Got A Name"*** three pillars are:

- **Awareness** - Help the public identify sex trafficking and become engaged to fight against it through events and public speaking opportunities.
- **Street Outreach** - Take action through Street Outreach, where we help restore the lives of women and girls who are vulnerable and victims of sex trafficking.
- **Men Against Demand** - Educate men on their critical role in the fight against sex trafficking and empower them to be leaders of respect for all women and children.

"People think that sex trafficking only happens overseas, in the big cities or on the east coast and west coast... but it's real, right here in Nebraska." ~ **Paul Yates**, Executive Director

The reality of where we live: 900 individuals sold for sex in Nebraska every month, 200 in Lincoln alone; most victims know their traffickers (romantic partners or family members); the average age of a child who enters the commercial sex trade is 13 years old; 1 out of 250 Nebraska high school and middle school students enter the sex trade each year.

In 2022 ***"I've Got A Name"*** Street Outreach served 16 clients per month and 51 personal visits per month. From January through April of 2025 they have served 31 clients per month and 112 personal visits per month.

Please join in this stand against sex trafficking because ***"I've Got A Name"*** believes "When we stand together and refuse to let them fight alone, that's when real change happens". The funds we collect will be directed to the immediate needs of the client, not operating budgets.

August Outreach Collection Barrel



Thank you for your donations to Centerpointe Street Outreach last month! See how these will be used in our Backdoor Blessings Update below.

Back Door Blessings Ministry Update

Our Back Door Blessings Ministry continues to be a much needed ministry seven days a week. In the year it has been in existence we have provided food items, bottled water, personal hygiene supplies, gift cards to local fast food locations, gift cards to Russ's and Walmart as well as U-Stop fuel vouchers. We encourage them to use the MyLink, a free app that links them to the many non-profit resources in the community for meals, showers, laundry facilities, free 30-day bus passes, diapers, free vet care and even free animal food.



We have worked with the Lincoln Police Department/ CenterPointe Street Outreach team on several occasions. They have provided tremendous support to those we cannot assist with Greyhound bus passes back home, a backpack of most needed items to survive on the streets in all types of weather and rides to People City Mission. The items we collected in our August Collection Barrel will be used to stuff the backpacks. A win-win for all!

At this time the pantry is stocked with food items, personal hygiene items, blankets, hand warmers, hats, gloves and other necessities. If you want to make a financial donation we can always use more gift cards and fuel vouchers that are purchased through the SCRIP program. Please put BDB on your memo line.

Back Door Blessings Ministry team members are: Pastor Kara, Jim Blosser, Elaine Parman and the Church Office. Thank you for your support and prayers for this ministry.



Devoted to Generosity – Ministry Moment

Beth Zager shared the following message during worship on Sunday, September 14.

We (Beth and Susan) represent the Hospitality team as co-chairs. We do not have a set team and are supported by members who step up and help for different activities throughout the year.

Today represents one of our major annual activities.

Providing hotdogs, chips, and cookies for Praise Fest only happens without the support of the people in our church and associated with our church. Our budget also pays for half the cost of treats purchased for Praise Fest.

We help coordinate Thanksgiving dinner by providing turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy. Thanksgiving dinner and soup dinners (Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday) for the congregation with the help of many donations of food and time.

Hospitality also includes making sure that kitchen is fully stocked with coffee and other supplies so that we can all enjoy our Sunday Coffee Fellowship which is supported and enjoyed by many.

Other forms of hospitality are organized by the Disciple's women's group for funerals and a men's group supplying Easter morning breakfast.

At FCC, we see hospitality's role as creating a welcoming environment and building community through sharing food and companionship. It is a group effort, and we are grateful to all of you for the time, effort, and support you put into this ministry. When you donate food for an event, when you volunteer to set-up or serve or clean-up, you are providing hospitality. When you volunteer for coffee fellowship, you are providing hospitality.

I am thankful for the welcoming and helpful attitude of you, our church family. When we ask for food or volunteers to help, you step up. When I first entered the kitchen and asked how I can help, you were there to get me started. There was always someone there to explain what we needed to do and to give me helpful tips. I serve as a co-chair of Hospitality because you have shown me that this is an important part of our church and this is one way I can contribute.

Husker Parking Volunteers Needed



FCC Faith Giving has increased by \$975 from parking lot donations for the first three Husker home football games.

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:

October 4 vs. Michigan State @ 3 pm

October 25 vs. Northwestern @ TBD

November 1 vs. USC @ TBD

November 28 (Friday) vs. Iowa @ 11:00 am

Look at your calendar and then let the church office know which date works for you. Hint: this is a part of Stewardship, giving of your time!



FCC Foundation News

Our next meeting date is November 5, at noon, where, in addition to consideration of the congregation's request to help fund new heating and A/C for additional parts of the building, we will visit with Kirby Gould of the Christian Church Foundation (CCF) to discuss the possibility of moving management of the First Christian Church Foundation to CCF. Any member of First Christian Church is welcome to attend and participate in discussion. If you would like to attend this meeting, please let D'Arcy Blosser know by October 1 when she will begin making arrangements for the luncheon meeting. Location to be announced in October.

First Christian Church has been invited to join Shari McCright and others from First-Plymouth Congregational Church for a *Bread for the World* planning group, whose goal is to bring local faith communities together to advocate for local and international hunger relief. We will meet at Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach, 2121 N. 27th St., on Saturday, October 4, from 9-10am. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Kara so she can RSVP for you. For more information on *Bread for the World*, go to <https://www.bread.org/>. Hope to see you there!



Those Serving in October

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:

Cecilia Burkhart

Elders:

October 5 -- Jim Christ
October 12 -- Connie Calver
October 19 -- Jim Blosser
October 26 -- Carla Pinneo

Deacons:

Brad and Kristi Bowker

Hallway Hospitality:

October 5 -- Elaine Parman
October 12 -- Geoff Putney
October 19 -- Elaine Parman
October 26 -- Vince Ortega

Ushers/Greeters:

October 5 -- Wayne Duncan & Susan Pallas-Duncan
October 12 - Monte Dietrick
October 19 -- Elaine Parman
October 26 -- D'Arcy Blosser

Acolytes:

October 5 - Gianna Greder
October 12 - Kyson & Keaton Effle
October 19 - Trev Greder
October 26 - Edryk Christianson

Offering Counting:

October 5 - Gwen Belden
October 12 - Rich Calver
October 19 -- Elaine Parman
October 26 -- D'Arcy Blosser

THANK YOU ALL for volunteering to serve.

October SCRIP Orders are due on
October 5, 2025

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

Devoted to Generosity



Devoted to Generosity Stewardship Sunday Schedule:
October 12th , October 19th
and October 26th .

On Sunday, October 12th , our scripture will be Luke 16:19-31. Elaine Parman will be giving the Ministry Moment.

On Sunday, October 19th , our scripture will be Isaiah 1:1,10-20. Sara Lugn will be giving the Ministry Moment.

Plan to join us on Commitment Sunday,
October 26th for:

WORSHIP and Pledge Dedication: Our scripture will be Luke 18:9-14.

CELEBRATION Lunch: Immediately following worship, please join us for lunch in the gym.

MISSION project: *I've Got A Name* will be giving the Ministry Moment.

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

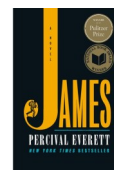
Book Club

October Meeting - Saturday, October 18th
@ 9:30 am at Susan Pallas-Duncan's Home

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



Book for **November/December**: *James*
by Percival Everett



Everyone is welcome to join us!

Prayers & Praises

First Christian Church Calendar

In Our Church Family:

- Donna Baker
- Joan Dietrich
- Ron Hile
- Polly Putney
- Marvin Thurber
- Phyllis Thurber
- Jessica Vocasek
- Roger Vocasek

Prayers and sympathy for Kara Hillhouse and family in the sudden loss of her sister, Heather.

Prayers for Roger & Jessica Vocasek. Roger will begin harvesting soon, and Jessica continues to have health issues.

Prayers for Katelyn Long. Katelyn is having more testing and seeing a specialist.

Friends:

- Jody Schrage, friend of Katelyn Long. She is hospitalized in Wyoming.
- Nikki, friend of Katelyn Long. She is recovering from recent gastric bypass surgery.

Our Timothy:

- Bruce Frogge at Cypress Creek CC in Spring, TX

In the Nebraska Region: Chadron UCC - Russ Seger

Our Global Ministries Missionaries in: Indonesia

"Lord our Father, by this prayer, we lift up the Christian Church in West Sulawesi (Gereja Kristen Sulawesi Barat/ GKSB) and the West Sulawesi Seminary. Grant us wisdom in facing all of the social problems, poverty, and limited education of our children. We keep asking these so that the Holy Spirit would take us to be Christ's witnesses and to be a reform agent for our members and for the people of West Sulawesi and Indonesia. We beg for Your wisdom and guidance for this ongoing partnership between GKSB and our friends and fellows at the Global Ministries of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). We seek for Your strength in shepherding our work and programs, especially for the mission development for the congregations, to improve the quality and capacity of education, to guide the children and teenagers to be our church's future leaders, for the ministers and church leaders, and for our program to give illumination and stimulus to improve the economy of our members and the community around us. Amen

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



Sunday, September 28th

- 9 am Adult Sunday School - Library
- 9:15 am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
- 9:50 am Torch Worship Rehearsal
- 10:30 am Worship
- 11:30 am Elder Meeting - Library
- 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm Serve at Gathering Place

Wednesday, October 1st

- 6:30 pm Handbell Choir - Sanctuary
- 7:30 pm Solos and Ensembles - Sanctuary
- 8 pm Recorder Consort - Sanctuary

Sunday, October 5th World Communion Sunday

- 9 am Adult Sunday School - Library
- 9:15 am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
- 9:50 am Torch Worship Rehearsal
- 10 am SCRIP orders due
- 10:30 am Worship

Monday, October 6th

- 7 pm Deborah Group - Diane's house

Tuesday, October 7th

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

Wednesday, October 8th

- 6:30 pm Handbell Choir - Sanctuary
- 7:30 pm Solos and Ensembles - Sanctuary
- 8 pm Recorder Consort - Sanctuary

Thursday, October 9th

- 6 pm Justice in Action Listening Session - Library

Sunday, October 12th Stewardship Sunday/ Homebound Communion

- 9 am Adult Sunday School - Library
- 9:15 am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
- 9:50 am Torch Worship Rehearsal
- 10:30 am Worship

Tuesday, October 14th

- 10:30 am Staff Meeting

Wednesday, October 15th

- 6:30 pm Handbell Choir - Sanctuary
- 7:30 pm Solos and Ensembles - Sanctuary
- 8 pm Recorder Consort - Sanctuary

Sunday, October 19th Stewardship Sunday

- 9 am Adult Sunday School - Library
- 9:15 am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
- 9:50 am Torch Worship Rehearsal
- 10:30 am Worship
- 6 pm Cabinet Meeting - Conference Room

Monday, October 20th

- Noon Messenger Deadline

Wednesday, October 22nd

- 6:30 pm Handbell Choir - Sanctuary
- 7:30 pm Solos and Ensembles - Sanctuary
- 8 pm Recorder Consort - Sanctuary

Sunday, October 26th 2026 Stewardship Commitment

- 9 am Adult Sunday School - Library
- 9:15 am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
- 9:50 am Torch Worship Rehearsal
- 10:30 am Worship
- 11:30 am Elder Meeting - Library



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

SAVE THE DATE!!!
 2025 Fall Youth Retreat
 October 17-19 at Kamp Kaleo
 Rooted and Growing Spiritual Life Beyond Kamp

For 7th - 12th Grade Youth
 Adult leaders welcome

FCC will pay 1/2 of the retreat cost for each youth.

Cost
 \$40 per Participant
 INCLUDES ALL MEALS AND PROGRAMMING

KALEO
 OCTOBER 17TH - 19TH

OUR LAND AND RIVER: EXPLORATIONS DEEPENED THRU FAITH

Friday Evening
 Join us at 5pm for our "Farm to Fork" Fundraiser - \$75

Keynote Speakers:

Kaleo's Land: Observations w/ Alicia Admiraal
 Keynote --Crystal Powers:
 "Discovering Kaleo: A Journey Through Water, Land, and Spirit"

Saturday
 • Explore Our Land - Guided Walking Tours
 • "The Council of All Beings"
 • A New Theology: Dan Deffenbaugh
 • Wetlands Education

Next Steps on Sunday

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE:
 COME TO "FARM TO FORK" FUNDRAISING DINNER STAY FRIDAY EVENING
 STAY OVER FRIDAY NIGHT & JOIN US SATURDAY
 OR STAY THE WHOLE WEEKEND
 \$200 - *COST DEPENDS ON PARTICIPATION LEVEL

FAITH LEADERS
 BRAD HINDSLEY
 SUE SHEAR
 ASHLI ILIFF
 PENNY GREER

REGISTER @ KAMP (308)730-0333

SAVE THE DATE:
 November 7th

Autumn Harvest Dining Experience

JOIN US FOR A CHEF-INSPIRED DINING EXPERIENCE TO BENEFIT KAMP KALEO. DINNER INCLUDES A 3-COURSE SEASONAL MENU WITH WINE AND OTHER BEVERAGES

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH
 DOORS OPEN: 6PM
 DINNER: 6:30PM

First Christian Church
 430 S 16th Street
 Lincoln, NE

\$100 PERSON
 VEGETARIAN OPTION AVAILABLE

To Make Reservations
 Call: 308-730-0333

KALEO

KALEO
FARM-TO-FORK
HARVEST DINNER

\$75 per person
OCTOBER 17th
5:00pm

Enjoy an outdoor dining experience at beautiful **Kamp Kaleo** with a Chef-inspired Menu with local produce and meat!

CALL 308-730-0333 FOR RESERVATIONS AND DETAILS

SAVE THE DATE

JUNK JAUNT JAMBOREE
 A BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER 27, 2025
KAMP KALEO, BURWELL, NE

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:
 SCRATCHTOWN BREWERY | NORTSIDE BAR | MORRIS VALLEY VINEYARDS

A variety of bluegrass performers, food vendors, beer, wine and spirit vendors, afternoon activities like Pottery Camp, Jam Sessions, River Activities, Arts and Crafts, Sponsorship Opportunities Available.

Fall Adult Offerings

Work in Progress Weekend Oct. 2 @ 3pm - Oct. 5 @ 11am	\$300
Culinary Kamp #2 Oct. 2 @ 3pm - Oct. 5 @ 11 am	\$450

Listen. Since the earliest of days, when Genesis tells us that the newly created humanity heard the Lord God in the garden of Eden, the sense of hearing, listening, communicating has been an important way to feel the divine presence. It's so important that listening becomes a repeated refrain, with the Hebrew word "shema" often found in Hebrew scriptures. It can mean listen. It can mean obey. It always means pay attention and use that sense of hearing to listen and feel (in a way of knowing) the presence of the divine among us.

Justice in Action is an interfaith, grassroots coalition of faith communities in Lancaster County, working to harness the power of organized people to address big community problems. As a member of Justice in Action, FCC works within the coalition to identify problems, research responses and implement solutions.

On Thursday, October 9, FCC will host a listening session at the church at 6:00 p.m. You are invited to participate by sharing the community problem/problems that have impacted you, your family, your neighbors personally. Based on the listening sessions held throughout the community in October, Justice in Action is expected to select a new community problem to begin working on just as it has addressed pretrial diversion, a mental health navigation system, and pre-eviction mediation.

Additional information will be shared after worship on Sunday, October 5. Stick around to learn more or contact FCC team leader, Stephanie Frogge, at stephaniefrogge@sbcglobal.net



PRAISEFEST 2025



While the weather wasn't cooperative, we still enjoyed a fun evening indoors with our neighbors at Praisefest! Many families came to enjoy face painting, hot dogs, cookies, popcorn and praise music. Thanks to everyone who volunteered their time to help with this event. It was a great evening to share God's love with our neighbors and friends!