



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
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Stewardship Commitment this Sunday October 26

WORSHIP and Pledge Dedication
CELEBRATION Luncheon Following Service
MISSION Project: I've Got a Name

Mark Your Calendars--
Sunday, November 2

All Saints Sunday

Time Change

TURN CLOCKS BACK 1 HOUR



FALL BACK

Kamp Kaleo Harvest Dinner



STARTER
Roasted Butternut Squash Soup
Bacon, Lime Crema, Extra Virgin Olive Oil, Chive

MAIN
Pan-Roasted Filet Mignon
Creamed Leeks, Potato Gratin, Brussels Sprouts, Tomato Butter

or
Wild Mushroom Risotto
Leek, Goat Cheese, Arugula

DESSERT
Pear Cranberry Bread Pudding
Whiskey Sauce, Almond Brittle, Fresh Whipped Cream

A fantastic menu is planned for this Kamp Kaleo Fundraiser: Roasted Butternut Squash Soup, Pan-Roasted Filet Mignon served with creamed leeks, potato gratin, brussels sprouts and tomato butter or Wild Mushroom Risotto served with leek, goat cheese, and arugula. Pear Cranberry Bread Pudding tops off this fantastic meal. Doors open at 6 p.m. Dinner guests will enjoy live music provided by Pat Miller and David Shipley at the piano before dinner is served at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$100 a person. To reserve your tickets, call 308-730-0333.



All Church Thanksgiving Dinner November 23rd - Noon

Turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy will be provided. Signup to bring dressing, a side dish, salad or dessert to share. Sign up sheets will be in the Narthex beginning Sunday, November 2nd.



Pastor's Corner



Dear Friends,

As the leaves begin to turn colors and fall to the ground, I am reminded (once again) that the cycle of mortal life has both a beginning and an end; and that there will be both joy and sorrow. The myriad beginnings and endings we experience remind us that life in this world is precious, yet also finite. Both beginnings and endings are sacred. Moments such as the births of babies and marriages and meaningful employment are hope-filled and the possibilities seem endless, while the moments around the bedside or graveside saying goodbye to loved ones are a reminder that life is fragile and we need to lean upon God's promises. Both should cause us to ask "how do I see this event in light of God's promises of the abundant life in this world and the eternal life in the world to come?"

In Romans 14:8, Paul reminds us of what is constant through all of life's seasons: "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." Whether it be a beginning or an end, God is with us. This is the promise Jesus made. It frames our way of looking at life, and gives us hope and peace, so that we can live out all the seasons of our lives with joy and courage.

Lord, please help me lean upon you in all circumstances. In times of Joy, help me not get so comfortable that I believe I do not need your mercy. In times of Sorrow, help me know you are near, and that the Resurrection of Christ will redeem all that is broken. Thank you for your unfailing love. Amen.

Whatever season you are in today, may the Peace of Christ, which passes all understanding, be with you in abundance.

Pastor Kara

THANK YOU

Dear First Christian Family,
It was a wonderful surprise to show up for worship on the 12th and find myself celebrated for Pastor's Appreciation Day! I didn't even know that existed. The flowers and reception were lovely, and I thank you for your kind thoughtfulness! You've certainly made your pastor feel appreciated! —Kara

Devoted to Generosity – Ministry Moment



Sara Lugn shared the following message during worship on Sunday, October 19.

According to Scripture, communication has everything to do with faith. God spoke the worlds into being with the power of his voice. As co-creators with God, our words can be just as transformative, building worlds, shaping identities, relationships and communities.

Our social media and YouTube ministry is growing around the world. Our follower base continues to grow. We recently received a comment from a YouTube follower, saying that out of all the organ cases they've seen around the world, ours is their favorite. We've also been blessed to receive prayers from a follower in Ukraine. It's amazing to witness how First Christian Church's ministry is touching the lives around the world. I had no idea, when I started doing the social media posts and YouTube videos, that they would actually be seen around the world. Please "like" the social media posts and videos and click the follow/subscribe buttons to help us expand the reach of our ministry.

"Planting the Seeds of Hope and Love" is an idea I came across a couple years ago. Each seed packet contains 15 "seeds" or cards—featuring motivational messages and scriptures. No two packets are the same. Our church's contact information and service time are printed on the back of each card. There is also space available if you want to write a short note. Also included are "seed planting" instructions and creative suggestions on how to "scatter your seeds" of faith. These seed packets will be available for everyone to take on the back table. I believe this will be a fun and easy way to share the name and mission of First Christian Church Lincoln. This personalized idea is my gift to our church and our community. I hope you'll find joy planting these "Seeds of Hope and Love" wherever you go.

I want to form a Communications Team to explore new ways to share and continue to spread FCC Lincoln's ministry locally and globally. If you are interested in serving on this new committee, please contact me.

Let us continue to use our words and social media platforms as instruments of God's grace, building bridges of hope that span from Lincoln to the ends of the earth.



November Outreach Collection Barrel

The Center for People is stocking up for their Holiday food baskets for the community. The food distribution program is what Center for People is most well-known for. Through their People's Pantry, individuals and families are eligible to receive quality, nutritious food on a weekly basis.

This is a list of what the People's Pantry is looking to provide the community in their Holiday baskets:

- Instant Mashed Potatoes
- Rice and/or quinoa
- Dry or canned beans
- Pumpkin puree
- Sweet potatoes (raw, canned)
- Cooking oil
- Stuffing
- Cranberries
- Dry Milk
- Canned veggies (green beans, corn, beets)
- Corn Bread Mix
- Canned soups (chicken broth, cream of mushroom, cream of chicken, cream of celery)

Thank you for your support of this Outreach opportunity!



Thank you so much for hosting and running the Rummage Sale! The hours upon hours of work and passion y'all put in is mind blowing. It truly takes many spiritual gifts to pull off an event like this. It is because of donors like you, Kaleo is thriving and has such a bright future.

Thanks again!

Rev. Shelby Moock, KOTR Board Member

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your incredible donation of needed in-kind supplies! For over 52 years, CenterPointe has been a vital lifeline for individuals in need of health and well ness services. Last year alone, we served more than 6,000 individuals, with the majority making less than \$1,000 a year. The need in our community continues to grow, and so does our commitment to meeting it. Your gift provides hope and healing, empowering people to reach their full potential. We are grateful for your partnership.

With gratitude,
Megan Moslander

Vice President Donor Engagement



Dear Friends at First Christian Church,
Our gratitude runs deep. Thank you for standing with us so fearlessly and generously during Give to Lincoln Day. Your kindness offers strength in these times of struggle. You are a lifeline. Thank you for walking beside those we serve with courage and heart. Your support means more now than ever.

With Deep Appreciation,
Heather Loughman &
Jessica Hedrick



Order Your Poinsettias for Christmas 2025

Once again we would like to decorate the Sanctuary with poinsettias for the Christmas season. If you would like to help make this possible, please complete this form.

Name: _____ Number of plants (\$15 each): _____ Amount enclosed: _____

In Memory of: _____ or Honoring: _____

Deadline to order is Sunday, November 16, 2025

You may pick up your plant(s) after the 6 pm Christmas Eve worship service

____ Plant for Homebound ____ Would be willing to deliver to Homebound

Please fill out this form and place it in the offering plate along with your check, made out to First Christian Church, or mail to the FCC office (ATTN: Donna Ruhl).





Devoted to Generosity – Ministry Moment

Elaine Parman shared the following message during worship on Sunday, October 12th.

I currently serve as the Outreach chairperson for First Christian Church and I see many ways we can provide service to those in our community needing assistance in a variety of ways.

In a world where many people struggle with basic needs, it is important to consider our role in helping others. How do we feed, give a drink and spread kindness to strangers? One way we can put these words into action is by partnering with local organizations dedicated to serving our neighbors. By volunteering our time or offering resources, we can tangibly demonstrate love and compassion to those facing hardship. Simply offering a listening ear, every act of kindness demonstrates God's love. Our church has provided support to many organizations and non-profit agencies during 2025.

Examples:

- CenterPointe Street Outreach
- Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach
- McPhee Elementary School
- The Food Bank of Lincoln
- Center for People
- Headstart
- I've Got A Name
- The Gathering Place
- Justice In Action

Each of these entities plays a unique role in addressing different needs in our community. Our own Back Door Blessings ministry provides resources on how to connect with the 800+ programs in Lincoln, NE, as well as gift cards for fuel and food. This ministry provides a listening ear, some assistance and prayers to those in immediate need.

As I serve as Outreach chairperson, I believe Jesus when he said, "The kingdom of God is within YOU." We can choose to live week after week hiding "our lights" under wrap or, we can go out into our community and shine "our lights" spreading the kingdom of God to the hurting, broken people of our community through sharing our time volunteering, our talents, acts of kindness and our financial resources. Thank you for your generous support to each of our 2025 monthly Outreach Opportunities, and helping to "shine our lights" right here from 16th and K Streets.

FCC Foundation News



First Christian Church Foundation will meet from Noon until 1:30-ish on November 5 at Venue Restaurant, 4111 Pioneer Woods Dr. (70th & Pioneers Blvd.), in the Lincoln Room. We will order from the menu and each person will be responsible for their own meal cost. In addition to regular business, Kirby Gould will be with us to share information about the Christian Church Foundation.



It's Time Again for Apple Pies!!!

Deborah Group has planned our first pie making day for November 8, starting at 9 a.m. We make and freeze apple tarts and apple pies and you bake them in your oven, filling your own kitchen with the wonderful aroma of fresh baked pie. Prices for pies are: tarts (yields 2 generous pieces or 4 small slices) - \$8.00 each and 9" pies (serves 6-8) - \$15.00 each. Order forms can be found in Sunday bulletins or you can place your order by emailing or calling the church at info@fcclincoln.org.

Our second pie making day is tentatively scheduled for Nov. 22 – 9 a.m. Order your holiday pies now! Proceeds from our pie sales last year benefited Justice in Action, Kamp Kaleo, Cedars Home, and Week of Compassion for St. Louis tornado cleanup.



Deborah Group News

We will meet on November 3rd at 7 p.m. in the home of Cecilia Burkhart, 3409 Neerpark Drive; we will discuss chapter 3 of *Learning to Walk in the Dark* by Barbara Brown Taylor.



**KAMP KALEO
SPECIAL OFFERING
NOVEMBER 16TH
IN HONOR OF NATIONAL CAMP DAY
ON NOVEMBER 19TH**



Those Serving in November

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:

Meghan Cowger

Elders:

November 2 -- Cecilia Burkhart

November 9 -- Jim Christ

November 16 -- Connie Calver

November 23 -- Carla Pinneo

November 30 -- Wayne Duncan

Deacons:

Dan and Mghan Cowger

Hallway Hospitality:

November 2 -- Rich Calver

November 9 -- Elaine Parman

November 16 -- Geoff Putney

November 23 -- Elaine Parman

November 30 -- Vince Ortega

Ushers/Greeters:

November 2 -- Wayne Duncan & Susan Pallas-Duncan

November 9 -- Monte Dietrick

November 16 -- D'Arcy Blosser

November 23 -- Elaine Parman

November 30 -- Wayne Duncan & Susan Pallas-Duncan

Acolytes:

November 2 -- Gianna Greder

November 9 -- Kyson & Keaton Effle

November 16 -- Edryk Christianson

November 23 -- Trev Greder

November 30 -- Gianna Greder

Offering Counting:

November 2 -- Gwen Belden

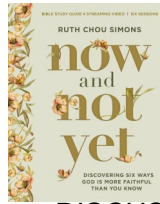
November 9 -- Rich Calver

November 16 -- D'Arcy Blosser

November 23 -- Elaine Parman

November 30 -- Gwen Belden

THANK YOU ALL for volunteering to serve.



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 November 4th

LOCATION:

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

Happy Birthday!

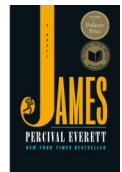
3rd Doug Effle
9th Evan Foster
12th Bobbi Carlin
14th Jessica Vocasek
16th Brad Bowker
20th Donald Everett, Jr.



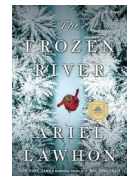
Book Club

December Meeting - Saturday, December 6,
at 9:30 am at
Kelly Bielenberg: 5200 NW 6th St.

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



Book for **January**: *The Frozen River*
by Ariel Lawhon



Everyone is welcome to join us!



Sunday,

November 16th 2 p.m.

FCC will be serving hot chocolate, bottled water and offering use of our restrooms. If you can help please contact Jim Blosser.

Prayers & Praises

In Our Church Family:

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

Prayers for Jim Christ as he continues to recover from open heart surgery on October 10, 2025.

Prayers for Roger & Jessica Vocasek. They both have health issues.

Prayers for Katelyn Long. Katelyn is continuing to work with 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.
- Ron Collamore, prayers for his health.
- Deidra Parman, sister-in-law of Elaine Parman. Deidra has been diagnosed with B Cell Lymphoma of the eyelids. She will be at MD Anderson in Houston for treatment.

Our Timothy:

- Bruce Frogge at Cypress Creek CC in Spring, TX

In the Nebraska Region: Western NE UCC - Sandy Denton

Our Global Ministries Missionaries in: Palestine

“Lord, when our people are starving, we cry out to you for help. Bring food to the hungry and water to the thirsty. Open the eyes of the world so that they may witness the suffering of your children and act. Soften the hearts of leaders so that they may become advocates for peace. Loving God, give us today our daily bread. Nourish us with the bread of life that comes from you. Strengthen us to serve our community and to be voices for peace and justice in our homeland. We pray in the name of our savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

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



New Study in Adult Sunday School: Holy Moments by Matthew Kelly



First Christian Church Calendar

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
 Noon Luncheon - Gym

Tuesday, October 28th
 10:30 am Staff Meeting

Wednesday, October 29th
 6:30 pm Handbell Choir - Sanctuary
 7:30 pm Solos and Ensembles - Sanctuary
 8 pm Recorder Consort - Sanctuary

Sunday, November 2nd All Saints 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, November 3rd
 7 pm Deborah Group - Cecilia Burkhardt's house

Tuesday, November 4th
 6:30 pm - 8 pm Spirited Readers - The Mill @ Telegraph

Wednesday, November 5th
 6:30 pm Handbell Choir - Sanctuary
 7:30 pm Solos and Ensembles - Sanctuary
 8 pm Recorder Consort - Sanctuary

Friday, November 7th
 6:30 pm Kamp Kaleo Fundraiser Dinner - Parlor

Sunday, November 9th Homebound Communion
 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 Worship Team Meeting - Library
 11:30 am Finance Team Meeting - Conference Room

Tuesday, November 11th
 10:30 am Staff Meeting

Wednesday, November 12th
 6:30 pm Handbell Choir - Sanctuary
 7:30 pm Solos and Ensembles - Sanctuary
 8 pm Recorder Consort - Sanctuary

Sunday, November 16th
 9 am Adult Sunday School - Library
 9:15 am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
 9:50 am Torch Worship Rehearsal
 10:30 am Worship
 2 pm - 5 pm Veteran's Parade
 Board Meeting - Conference Room

Monday, November 17th
 Noon Messenger Deadline

MESSENGER DEADLINE IS 1 WEEK SOONER THE NEXT 2 MONTHS DUE TO HOLIDAYS.

30 DAYS OF GRATITUDE

While gratitude is a spiritual discipline that we should practice year-round, there's something about the holidays in particular that reminds us of all we have to be thankful for. And, when we're thankful, we are praising God, which we are called to do every day, in every moment, and with every breath. It's easy to focus on what is wrong in our lives, so in November we will practice our 30 Days of Gratitude, focusing each day on one thing that is a blessing to us. Please join Pastor Kara in this daily practice of giving thanks.

1. Today I am grateful for the love and support of my family and friends.
2. I am grateful for the gift of a new day.
3. I am thankful for the strength and resilience I exhibit every day.
4. I appreciate the moments of joy and laughter I had today.
5. I express thanks for the abundance that flows into my life.
6. Today I appreciate the simple joys that life brings me every day.
7. I am grateful for the chance to learn and grow today.
8. I am grateful for the love and kindness I show myself.
9. I appreciate the moments of joy and laughter that brighten my days.
10. Today I am grateful for the comfort and safety of my home.
11. I appreciate the beauty of nature and the world around me.
12. I am thankful for the opportunities that this new day brings.
13. Today I am thankful for the positive choices I make to practice self-love.
14. I appreciate the food that nourished my body today.
15. I appreciate the simple pleasures that bring me comfort.
16. Today I am grateful for the opportunities to give back and help others.
17. I am grateful for the love and companionship of my pets.
18. I express gratitude for the forgiveness and compassion I extend to myself.
19. I am grateful for the wisdom gained from today's experiences.
20. Today I am grateful for the love and connection I share with others.
21. I appreciate the ability to make a positive difference in the world.
22. I express gratitude for the love and acceptance I have for my flaws.
23. Today I am thankful for the food on my table and the roof over my head.
24. I express gratitude for the good health I enjoyed today.
25. I am grateful for the moments of stillness and reflection in my life.
26. Today I express gratitude for the gift of life and all its wonders.
27. I am thankful for the love and kindness that surrounds me.
28. I am thankful for the self-awareness that guides me towards growth.
29. I appreciate the opportunities to make a positive impact.
30. Today I am thankful for the chance to give back and make a positive impact.





Stocking Stuffer Gift Cards Are Available!

SCRIP cards make a great holiday gift, and now for Christmas, smaller denominations are available for certain retailers.

\$10 Cards From

Amazon - Applebee's - Bath & Body Works - Cheddars - Cracker Barrel - Dick's Sporting Goods - Home Depot - IHOP - McDonalds Olive Garden - Target - Walmart

\$5 Cards From

Barnes & Noble - Cold Stone Creamery - Panera - Starbucks - Taco Bell

Of course, larger denominations are available, too! Scrip orders go out on the first Sunday of each month. Only two more Sundays (November 2nd and December 7th) before the holidays come! Purchase of SCRIP supports local businesses and gives a portion of the proceeds back to the church. It's a Win-Win for everyone!

If you have special orders for SCRIP, please get in touch with Donna Ruhl or the FCC Office. Thank you again for participating in our SCRIP program.



Husker Parking Volunteers Needed

FCC Faith Giving has increased by \$1185 from parking lot donations for the first four 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. Thank you to Jim Christ for volunteering.

Home football games are as follows:

October 25 vs. Northwestern @ 11:00 am

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!