



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

info@fcclincn.org
www.fcclincn.org

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November 20, 2025



Advent 2025

First Christian Church invites you to join us
 at 16th & K Streets
 Lincoln, NE 68508

November 30, 2025 1st Sunday of Advent
 10:30 am - Sanctuary

December 7, 2025 2nd Sunday of Advent
 10:30 am - Sanctuary

December 14, 2025 3rd Sunday of Advent
 10:30 am - Sanctuary

December 21, 2025 A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols
 10:30 am - Sanctuary

Wednesday - December 24, 2025
 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
 6 pm - Sanctuary



*Jim and D'Arcy Blosser invite
 everyone to attend their
 Holiday Open House*

Friday, December 12, 2025 @ 7 p.m.
4648 Happy Hollow Court

Advent 2025 Devotionals



The devotional *Grounded in Grace* by Amanda Henderson has been selected as the devotional for this Advent Season beginning on November 30. The study invites you to discover stability, connection, and purpose amongst the complexities of the season and helps ground you in your relationship with Christ and each other. Pick your copy up in the gym at the Thanksgiving lunch. *If you are unable to pick one up, please let the office know.*

Annual Congregational Meeting



Sunday,
December 7, 2025
 Following Worship



**All Church
 Thanksgiving Dinner
 This Sunday,
 November 23rd -
 Noon**

Pastor's Corner

Dear Friends,



Advent is fast approaching—this year it begins on November 30th. Advent is a season that reminds us that the faith journey is all about waiting: we live in the “now” but also in the “not yet;” we wait for a Savior that has already been, yet is also still to come; we find our hearts both rejoice and hurt, yet we cling to the Promises our Savior made. And this means there’s a fair amount of waiting we have to do. Specifically, waiting upon the Lord. There are many great scriptures that talk about waiting on God, such as Psalm 40:1-2, “*I waited patiently for the LORD; he inclined to me and heard my cry;*” and Isaiah 40:31, “*those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.*”

But, especially in our culture of instant gratification, we seem to have lost the ability to wait for anything: our food is fast, our communication is instantaneous (be it phone, text or email), and we can order something online and literally get it the next day (if we’re willing to pay extra for that). So *why should we have to wait on God? Surely, he knows we’re very busy and important, and have lots to do, right?!* Maybe that’s the whole point of having to wait: it’s not about us, it’s about God. And not getting the immediate satisfaction we want forces us to slow down, admit we’re not in-charge, and wait upon the One who is. Pastor David Mathis writes about this, saying, “[W]aiting is no waste in God’s economy. It is in the delays and the pauses, and in becoming aware of our lack of patience, that he works to save us from self-reliance and revitalize our faith and hope in him.”

Waiting is no waste in God’s economy. How different this is from the world around us, where busyness and decisiveness equals progress, and anything else is laziness. But we cannot deny that God tells us to wait upon him, so there it is. We’d best get comfortable. Thank goodness for Advent, a time to be still and wait in anticipation of all that God *will do* in our lives (all the while reflecting on all that He *has* done and *is* doing). So, let’s settle in...this might take a while. And that’s just fine. Be well, friends.

Pastor Kara

Mark Miller - 40 Years of Service at First Christian



On Sunday, October 26th, we celebrated Mark Miller and his 40 years of service to First Christian Church. Thank you Mark for your heart and dedication to the music ministry and the church body.

Open Meetings— Please feel free to attend



Please know that anyone is welcome to attend First Christian's Board or Cabinet meetings, as they are open meetings. Those who are not official members of those groups will not have a vote, but are still welcome to share their input. Other ministry team meetings can also be attended, at the discretion of that team's active members.

December Outreach Collection Barrel

The current “wishlist” of the Head Start infant through toddler program at 1621 K Street is below. Let’s “Get Started!”

- Diapers: sizes 4, 5, 6, 7
- Large plastic toy cars/vehicles (not Hot Wheels)
- Magna-tiles
- Shape sorting/stacking toys
- Plastic animals
- Pretend cash registers
- Alphabet and number matching toys
- Play musical instruments (not wooden)
- Tricycles – These are highly needed!



Thank you for your support of this Outreach opportunity!



2026 Stewardship Campaign Mission Project Wrap Up

Our Mission Project focused on generosity outside our building and beyond.

I've Got A Name will be receiving \$1,000 to use toward client focused needs. Thank you ALL for your generosity!

The Stewardship Campaign Team



Faith Giving and Blessings

The season of Advent begins November 30th. A time of hope, anticipation and waiting, as we prepare to celebrate Christ's birth. Waiting gives us time to reflect on the many blessings that come during this season and how we can give.

Giving is an act of love. It's choosing to help someone else above ourselves. It's about making a sacrifice that echoes the self-giving love of God and it's about returning that love. We need you to reciprocate God's wondrous love by generously supporting the mission and ministry of First Christian Church in the city of Lincoln, Nebraska!

As you contemplate the gifts you are giving this year, please consider making a *Faith Giving* gift to help enhance the mission and ministry of First Christian Church and bring hope to others.

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



Volunteer at **McPhee Elementary** **School!!**

McPhee is looking for volunteers who could come in weekly or more than once a week for roughly 30 minutes to help students in either groups or one-on-one. This would involve having the student read to the volunteer or supporting them in a particular task. Helpful times would be 11:00-11:30am or 3:00-3:30pm.

Please contact Pastor Kara if you are interested.



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. Sunday, December 7th is the last one 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.



Deborah Group News

We will meet on December 1st at 7 p.m. at the home of Susan Pallas Duncan, 5121 Claire Avenue; Hanna Pinneo will lead the discussion of Chapter 4 of *Learning to Walk in the Dark* by Barbara Brown Taylor. Our group is open to any women—members or friends of FCC. Contact D'Arcy Blosser if you have any questions and/or would like to join us!

Apple Pies



Last call for apple pie orders! Order **now** for Christmas! Pies are prepared by Deborah Group women and frozen; you bake them in your oven so you can enjoy the aroma of fresh baked pie in your own kitchen! 9" pies are \$15.00 each, and tarts are \$8.00 each. Call the church office: 402-475-4289 to place your order.

Checks are to be made to "Disciples Women"; funds raised support outreach efforts in Lincoln and beyond.



Husker Parking Volunteers Needed

FCC Faith Giving has increased by \$1785 from parking lot donations for the first six 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:
November 28 (Friday) vs. Iowa @ 11:00 am

**10th Annual
The Living Nativity 2025
December 7th
4 pm - 5 pm**

The Torch Worship Team will be playing at the Live Nativity in Murdock, NE on December 7th from 4 - 5 pm. Please go and support our Worship Team as you celebrate the season. For more information:
www.3BHomestead.com



Those Serving in December

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:

Brady Christianson

Elders:

December 7 -- Jim Blosser

December 14 -- Wayne Duncan

December 21 -- Cecilia Burkhart

December 28 -- Jim Christ

Deacons:

Brady & Kristie Christianson

Hallway Hospitality:

December 7 -- Rich Calver

December 14 -- Elaine Parman

December 21 -- Geoff Putney

December 28 -- Elaine Parman

Ushers/Greeters:

December 7 -- Monte Dietrick

December 14 -- Elaine Parman

December 21 -- D'Arcy Blosser

December 28 -- Wayne Duncan & Susan Pallas-Duncan

Acolytes:

December 7 -- Kyson & Keaton Effle

December 14 -- Edryk Christianson

December 21 -- Trev Greder

December 24 -- Gianna Greder

December 28 -- Kyson & Keaton Effle

Offering Counting:

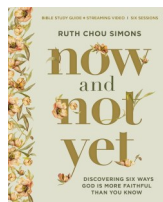
December 7 -- Rich Calver

December 14 -- Elaine Parman

December 21 -- D'Arcy Blosser

December 28 -- 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 December 2nd

LOCATION:

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



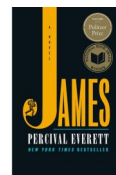
2nd	Brady Christianson
3rd	Ashley Lugn
7th	Kyson Effle
22nd	Hunter Christianson

Book Club

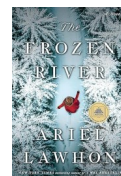
December Meeting - Saturday, December 6th
9:30 am

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!

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:

- Lucy Reuter-Masek, mom of Kristie Christianson. *Prayers for healing as she has been diagnosed with melanoma, with a rare tumor on her face. A procedure to remove it will be on Tuesday, November 18th, followed by reconstructive surgery on Friday, Nov 21st, if all goes according to plan.*
- Jody Schrage, friend of Katelyn Long, *prayers for healing are appreciated.*
- 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: Trinity Chapel Church, Lincoln - Abby Conley

Our Global Ministries Missionaries in: Lesotho

"Heavenly Father, we lift before You the work entrusted to the Executive Secretary's office of the Lesotho Evangelical Church in Southern Africa (LECSA). Guide our hearts and minds to serve with integrity, wisdom, and humility. Let every decision we make, every word we speak, and every act we perform bring glory to Your name and growth to Your kingdom. Strengthen our pastors, elders, and members to live faithfully and serve courageously in the mission You have given us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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



HVAC (Boiler Replacement and Office) Update

The following equipment has been removed: Air handlers, Radiators, Nursery A/C, and Office Furnace.

The following electric heat systems have been installed: Kitchen and east end of parlor (this system is operational), Electric heaters in the basement and Mini Splits in the North Hall.

NOTE: We're waiting on the electrician for mini splits and electric heaters.

The following gas furnaces have been installed: Gym, 2nd floor classroom and Toddler room, 3rd floor west classrooms, and Office (this system is operational).

NOTE: We're waiting on the gas company to upgrade the gas meter.

NOTE: Our current gas meter will support the Sanctuary, Office and **only ONE** of the following: Gym, 2nd floor, 3rd floor or Oven/Stove.

The following systems still need to be installed: Mini Splits (for Nursery, Library, Chapel Hall and Narthex), heaters in 2nd floor restrooms and heat to the three rooms behind sanctuary (provided by Sanctuary HVAC system).

The A/C equipment will be installed (on the roof), Spring 2026.

Donna Ruhl, for the FCC Property Team

First Christian Church Calendar

Sunday, November 23rd

9 am No Adult Sunday School
 9:15 am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
 9:50 am Torch Worship Rehearsal
 10:30 am Worship
 Noon All Church Thanksgiving
 Lunch-Gym
 1 pm Advent/Christmas Decorating

Tuesday, November 25th

10:30 am Staff Meeting

Wednesday, November 26th-No Activities

Thursday, November 27th Thanksgiving - Office Closed

Sunday, November 30th First Sunday of Advent

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

Monday, December 1st

7 pm Deborah Group

Tuesday, December 2nd

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

Wednesday, December 3rd

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

Friday, December 5th

6 pm Broers Wedding Rehearsal - Sanctuary

Saturday, December 6th

4 pm Broers Wedding - Sanctuary

Sunday, December 7th Second Sunday of Advent

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
 11:30 am Annual Congregational Meeting
 4 pm - 5 pm Torch Live Nativity - Murdoch

Tuesday, December 9th

10:30 am Staff Meeting

Wednesday, December 10th

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

Sunday, December 14th Homebound Communion/ Third Sunday of Advent

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

Monday, December 15th

Noon Messenger Deadline

Wednesday, December 17th

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

Sunday, December 21st Lessons and Carols Service

9 am No Adult Sunday School
 9:15 am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
 9:50 am Torch Worship Rehearsal
 10:30 am Worship

Tuesday, December 23rd

10:30 am Staff Meeting

Wednesday, December 24th Christmas Eve

6 pm Christmas Eve Service - Sanctuary

Thursday, December 25th Merry Christmas - Office Closed

Sunday, December 28th

9 am No Adult Sunday School
 9:15 am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
 9:50 am Torch Worship Rehearsal
 10:30 am Worship

Wednesday, December 31st

9 am - 2 pm Office Open

Thursday, January 1st Happy New Year - Office Closed

MESSENGER DEADLINE IS 1 WEEK SOONER THIS MONTH DUE TO THE HOLIDAY.



Devoted to Generosity

More than 40 people celebrated the culmination of our **Devoted to Generosity** 2026 Stewardship Campaign on Commitment Sunday, October 26th by attending Worship and enjoying lunch in our gym.

THANK YOU to all of FCC's dedicated volunteers who assisted with the 2026 stewardship campaign.

As of November 16, 2025, we have received 29 pledges.

May the generous Spirit of God be with you,

The Finance Team

