



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

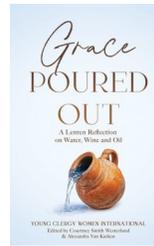
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Time Change is Sunday, March 8

Remember to “spring” your clocks forward 1 hour on Saturday night, Mar. 7th.



Copies of our Lenten devotional, *Grace Poured Out*, edited by Courtney Smith Westerlund and Alexandra Van Kuiken are still available in the Narthex or call the office.

New Sanctuary Pendants

Giant lift being used to install the lights.

Thanks to the generosity of several of our members, all 22 hanging pendants in the sanctuary have been replaced. The new ones use LED bulbs that will greatly reduce energy consumption and heat. They are expected to last a long time and will significantly reduce the need to replace burned out bulbs. While not yet complete, the new lights feature a sophisticated dimming control system.

The fixtures that were replaced are about 25 years old and used halogen bulbs that became very unreliable over time. Although all bulbs were replaced about 2 years ago, the replacements started burning out much sooner than expected.

We're grateful that we were able to upgrade the lighting without asking for contributions from church members. Total cost of the project is a little over \$36,000.

We want to thank the volunteers who cleaned and moved chairs and pews to allow the lift to be used to change out the fixtures. Thanks also to those who cleaned the sanctuary floors. Special thanks to Donna Ruhl who tirelessly managed this project from start to finish and who spent many hours to make certain that the new pendants meet the needs of the church. Well done!



Pastor's Corner

Dear Friends,

“Grace is alarming. ... Grace isn’t fair. [M]ost of us want God’s grace for ourselves and God’s justice for everyone else.” Rev. Barbara Brown Taylor



Lent. A season of repentance. A time of seeing the ways we miss the mark. But, even more, a time to feel the fullness of God’s Grace. For *“while we still were sinners Christ died for us”* (Romans 5:8). That’s what gives us hope that on the other side of repentance is forgiveness; on the other side of sorrow is hope; and on the other side of death is resurrection. But what if Barbara Brown Taylor is right? Is it possible that we want Grace for ourselves, but prefer that everyone else receive the punishment they deserve? Do we put a gate around God’s Grace and reserve it for those we believe are “truly deserving?” Because that would be none of us. None of us deserves the amazing Grace God gives, but God gives it anyway, in abundance. That means that no matter what we’ve done (or what we’ve left undone), *God is good and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love* (Psalm 145:8), if we turn to him for forgiveness and redirection. Yet, I would go a step further and say that God’s Grace is at work *even when we don’t seek it*. When we won’t go to him, I believe God comes to us: nudging us, whispering to us, and (when needed) maybe even shoving us a little—all to help us see how much we need him. And if we receive that kind of Grace, shouldn’t we want everybody else to, as well? In the end, I think Taylor is right: *Grace isn’t fair*. If it were fair, none of us imperfect beings would receive it. But thanks be to God, who doesn’t follow our human ways. Instead, His love is gracious, luxurious, radical. And that’s good news for you and for me.

Thank you, Lord, for not following the foolish rules we put in place. Thank you for your surprising mercy and generosity. Forgive us when we want to withhold those things from people around us, and show us the way to a more faithful life. Amen.

Pastor Kara



Thank you to everyone who helped set-up, serve, donated food and cleaned up the Ash Wednesday Soup Supper. Around 70 people from our area DOC Churches in addition to our church members attended the meal prior to the 7pm Ash Wednesday Service on Feb. 18th.

Upcoming Kamp Kaleo Activities in 2026



March Outreach Focus

During March, our Outreach focus will be the church Discretionary Assistance Fund. This fund is used primarily by Pastor Kara, as

needs arise that she feels the church can/should assist with. Sometimes it is assistance with rent or utility payments, or a flat tire, or other one-time needs. Primarily, these needs arise from within our congregation, but also, occasionally, from beyond.

This fund is not supported by money from the church budget, but solely by the generosity of this congregation's financial gifts. Thank you for considering supporting this important, yet often unseen, ministry, as we love our neighbors in their time of need.

Please make checks out to First Christian Church with "Discretionary Assistance Fund" in the memo line.

Thank you for supporting this Outreach Opportunity!



January Collection Barrel Report

FCC collected 9 new winter coats, 100's of hand and foot warmers and lip balms; several warm hats/gloves and socks; 80 Emergency thermal blankets!

Thanks for participating and making a difference in many lives.



Upcoming Opportunity to Serve

First Christian Church is signed up to serve the evening meal at The Gathering Place - 1448 E Street on **March 22nd** from 4:30 pm-6:30 pm. Sign up with Elaine Parman by **March 16th.**

If you cannot make this date, mark your calendar for future serving dates:

- May 24th
- July 26th
- September 27th
- November 22nd

Deborah Group, Disciples Women

Deborah Group will meet on March 2nd at 7 p.m. at the home of Susan Pallas-Duncan, 5121 Claire Avenue. Rhonda will lead the discussion of Chapter 7 of *Learning to Walk in the Dark* by Barbara Brown Taylor. If you'd like to participate in Deborah Group, contact D'Arcy Blosser, and she will add you to the email list and/or answer any questions you may have.

Don't Forget To Pick Up Your Pies – if you ordered pies last fall, orders are complete and in the church freezer.



Those Serving in March

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:

March 1 -- Cec Burkhart
March 8 -- Wayne Duncan
March 15 - Carla Pinneo
March 22 -- Jim Christ
March 29 - Marcia Foster

Deacons:

Brad & Kristi Bowker

Hallway Hospitality:

March 1 – Rich Calver
March 8 – Geoff Putney
March 15 – Elaine Parman
March 22-Vince Ortega
March 29 – Rich Calver

Ushers/Greeters:

March 1 -- Monte Dietrick
March 8 -- Elaine Parman
March 15 – D’Arcy Blosser
March 22 -- Wayne Duncan & Susan Pallas-Duncan
March 29 - Monte Dietrick

Acolytes:

March 1 -- Gianna Greder
March 8 -- Edryk Christianson
March 15 -- Trev Greder
March 22 -- Kyson & Keaton Effle
March 29 - Gianna Greder

Offering Counting:

March 1 -- Gwen Belden
March 8 – Elaine Parman
March 15 – D’Arcy Blosser
March 22 -- Rich Calver
March 29 - 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
- **4TH TUESDAY** EACH MONTH– 6:30-8:00 pm
* Next Meeting is March 24th

LOCATION:

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



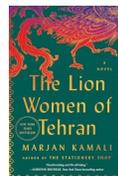
6th	Jill Everett, Greg Greder
14th	Jeff Zager
16th	Gianna Greder
19th	Edryk Christianson
25th	Gwen Belden

Book Club

Next Meeting - Saturday, February 28
9:30 am

Susan Pallas Duncan's Home: 5121 Claire Ave.

Book for **February**: *The Lion Women of Tehran* by Marjan Kamali



Book for **April**: *The Violin Conspiracy* by Brendan Slocumb



Book for **March**: *The One Hundred Years of Lenni and Margot* by Marianne Cronin



Book for **May**: *My Friends* by Fredrik Backman



Everyone is welcome to join us!

Prayers & Praises

Kamp Kaleo Work Weekends

Coming Up!!

In Our Church Family:

- Donna Baker
- Cec Burkhart
- Jim Christ
- Joan Dietrich
- Ron Hile
- Debby Ortega
- Polly Putney
- Bob Throop
- Marvin Thurber
- Phyllis Thurber
- Jessica Vocasek
- Roger Vocasek

Prayers for the Bowker family, as they continue to grieve the death of Kristi's sister, Laurie Aufdemberge, from breast cancer.

Prayers for Cec Burkhart, who continues to recover at home from a broken hip after several falls.

Prayers for Ron Hile, as he continues to heal from several falls.

Prayers for Debby Ortega as she continues to heal from a broken arm following an accident.

Prayers for Bob Throop for continued healing and increased strength as he does Cardiac Rehabilitation. Prayers, also, for a smooth transition as he moves to Legacy Terrace on Friday, February 27th.

Prayers for Jim Christ as he continues to gain strength with cardiac rehabilitation.

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

Prayers for Katelyn Long for continued healing and strength.

Friends:

- Ron Collamore, *prayers for his health*.

Our Timothy:

- Bruce Frogge at Cypress Creek CC in Spring, TX

In the Nebraska Region: Chuukese Christian Church, Cozad - Yoster Shirai

Our Global Ministries Missionaries in: Lebanon

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



“We pray for all the people who have been killed at the start of this year, in Lebanon and throughout the world. We pray for those left behind to mourn their family and friends, left confused and terrified, wondering why their loved ones were taken from them in the name of empire and safety. In a world that values money over people, we beg you to remind our hearts of your commandment to love our neighbors. Rebirth us into this way of living, as Jesus speaks of being born anew with Nicodemus in the Gospel of John. Help us seek to please you alone and to abandon our loyalties to earthly masters. Amen.”

Summer will be here before we know it, and we need your help getting camp ready! Upcoming Work Weekends are:

- * March 27-29
- * April 10-12
- * April 17-19
- * April 24-26

These weekends are an incredible opportunity to serve, connect, and make a tangible impact at Kamp Kaleo. There's something meaningful about preparing the space where campers will laugh, grow, try new things, and build lifelong memories.

Projects will include:

- *Preparing cabins and gathering spaces*
- *Outdoor cleanup and landscaping*
- *Facility repairs and improvements*
- *Special focus projects- ADA improvements and upgrades*

Whether you can come for a few hours or the whole weekend, your time makes a difference. No special skills required, just a willingness to pitch in!

You can sign up here:

<https://kampkaleo.com/events-calendar/list/>

If you have questions contact D'Arcy Blosser. We would love to have you join us. Let's get camp ready — together.



First Christian Church Calendar

Sunday, March 1st

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 Worship Team Mtg - Library
 6 pm - Midnight Outside Group - Parl/Kit/Gym

Monday, March 2nd

7 pm Deborah Group - Susan Pallas-Duncan's Home
 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Outside Group - Gym

Tuesday, March 3rd

7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Outside Group - Gym

Wednesday, March 4th

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

Thursday, March 5th

7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Outside Group - Gym

Friday, March 6th

6pm - 9 pm Outside Group - Gym

Saturday, March 7th

6pm - Midnight Outside Group - Parl/Kit/ Gym
TIME CHANGE - SET CLOCKS FORWARD 1 HR

Sunday, March 8th Homebound Communion

9 am Adult Sunday School
 9:15 am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
 10:30 am Worship
 6 pm - Midnight Outside Group - Parl/Kit/Gym

Monday, March 9th

7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Outside Group - Gym

Tuesday, March 10th

10:30 am Staff Meeting
 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Outside Group - Gym

Wednesday, March 11th

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

Thursday, March 12th

7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Outside Group - Gym

Friday, March 13th

5 pm - Midnight Outside Group - Parl/Kit/Gym

Saturday, March 14th

6 pm - Midnight Outside Group - Parl/Kit/Gym

Sunday, March 15th

9 am Adult Sunday School - Library
 9:15 am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
 10:30 am Worship
 11:30 am Worship Team Mtg - Library
 6 pm - Midnight Outside Group - Parl/Kit/Gym
 6 pm Board Meeting - Conf. Rm

Monday, March 16th

7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Outside Group - Gym

Tuesday, March 17th

7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Outside Group - Gym

Wednesday, March 18th

11:30 am - 1pm Outside Group Lunch - Gym
 6:30 pm Handbell Choir - Sanctuary
 7:30 pm Solos/Ensembles - Sanctuary
 8 pm Recorder Consort - Sanctuary

Thursday, March 19th

7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Outside Group - Gym

Sunday, March 22nd

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 @ The Gathering Place
 6 pm - Midnight Outside Group - Parl/Kit/Gym

Monday, March 23rd

Noon Messenger Deadline
 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Outside Group - Gym

Tuesday, March 24th

10:30 am Staff Meeting
 6:30 pm - 8 pm Spirited Readers - The Mill @ Telegraph
 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Outside Group - Gym

Wednesday, March 25th

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

Thursday, March 26th

7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Outside Group - Gym

Sunday, March 29th Palm 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 - Midnight Outside Group - Parl/Kit/Gym

Monday, March 30th

7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Outside Group - Gym

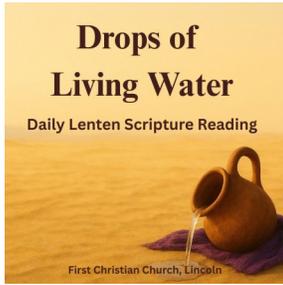
Tuesday, March 31st

7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Outside Group - Gym

March SCRIP Orders are due on
March 1, 2026

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

Drops of Living Water



During Lent, we meditate on what the Cross means for us. The Cross was a shocking and unexpected demonstration of God's love for us, through Jesus Christ. The Cross was God doing what God does best: turning things upside down. God took a human means of punishment and death, and turned it into a sign of his redeeming Grace. If we are to worship and follow our Savior, who willingly took on this Cross, we have to obey him. And what did Jesus command? To "love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.... [And] love your neighbour as yourself" (Matthew 22:37, 39). How can we possibly obey this commandment? Where can we turn for help? The Bible. It provides us with everything we need to know in order to follow Jesus; it is the Living Water we need to flourish. Following the Bible's guidance isn't easy, and we'll fumble daily in trying to do so; but the direction we need is all in there, waiting for us to read it and learn from it and take heart in it. I invite you to join me in making scripture a daily part of Lent, by reading these "Drops of Living Water." Use them as a way to grow deeper in our understanding of Lent and our need for Easter; so that when we arrive at the foot of the Cross on Good Friday, and the Empty Tomb on Easter Sunday, we'll have a deeper understanding of the price God paid for us, because he loves us.

Pastor Kara

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| Mar. 2 | <i>"My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever."</i> | Psalm 73:26 |
| Mar. 3 | <i>"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."</i> | Galatians 6:9 |
| Mar. 4 | <i>"Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you."</i> | 1 Peter 5:7 |
| Mar. 5 | <i>"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."</i> | John 3:16 |
| Mar. 6 | <i>"Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."</i> | Romans 12:2 |
| Mar. 7 | <i>"You are the light of the world."</i> | Matthew 5:14 |
| Mar. 9 | <i>"Show me your ways, LORD, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long."</i> | Psalm 25:4-5 |
| Mar. 10 | <i>"I was dead, and behold, now I am alive forever more."</i> | Revelation 1:18 |
| Mar. 11 | <i>"Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and he will establish your plans."</i> | Proverbs 16:3 |
| Mar. 12 | <i>"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"</i> | 2 Corinthians 5:17 |
| Mar. 13 | <i>"Then he said to them all: 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.'"</i> | Luke 9:23 |
| Mar. 14 | <i>"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven."</i> | Matthew 5:3 |

Mar. 16	<i>“This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.”</i>	1 John 4:9
Mar. 17	<i>“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”</i>	Proverbs 3:5-6
Mar. 18	<i>“Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”</i>	Matthew 5:10
Mar. 19	<i>“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.”</i>	Matthew 5:3
Mar. 20	<i>“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”</i>	Mark 10:45
Mar. 21	<i>“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.”</i>	Ephesians 2:8
Mar. 23	<i>“Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.”</i>	Psalms 34:8
Mar. 24	<i>“Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”</i>	Acts 2:38
Mar. 25	<i>“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?’”</i>	John 11:25-26
Mar. 26	<i>“I am the way, the truth, and the life.”</i>	John 14:6
Mar. 27	<i>“Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”</i>	John 15:13
Mar. 28	<i>“Hosanna! ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!’ ‘Blessed is the King of Israel!’”</i>	John 12:13b
Mar. 30	<i>“Be still and know that I am God.”</i>	Psalms 46:10
Mar. 31	<i>“Truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God.”</i>	John 3:3

Easter Lilies



We would like to decorate the worship space with lilies for Easter (April 5th). If you would like to be a part of this, please complete an order form and return it to the office by **Sunday, March 15th**.

Your Name: _____ Number of Plants (\$15 each) _____

Total Enclosed: _____

In **Memory** of: _____

Or **Honoring**: _____

Make all checks payable to First Christian Church, and please write “Easter Lily” in the memo line.