



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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HOLY WEEK



MARCH 29 PALM SUNDAY
10:30 am Worship

APRIL 2 MAUNDY THURSDAY
5:30 pm Soup Supper
7 pm Worship

APRIL 3 GOOD FRIDAY
Noon - Worship
1 pm - 12 Hour Prayer Vigil Begins

APRIL 4
1am - 12 Hour Prayer Vigil Ends

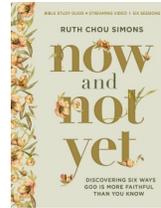
APRIL 5 EASTER SUNDAY
8:15 am Breakfast
10:30 am Worship

Please use the QR code to view a special invitation from Pastor Kara for Holy Week.



Sign-up for 12 Hour Prayer Vigil
(Apr.4-5):

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B49ADA823A3F49-63106774-2026>



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

4TH TUESDAY EACH MONTH- 6:30-8:00 pm
* Next Meeting is April 28th

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

Baptism Celebration

On March 8, we celebrated the ordinance of baptism of 5 of our youth, taking the step of obedience of declaring their faith and commitment to Christ. Pictured below are:

Trev Greder, Gianna Greder, Edryk Christianson, Keaton Effle, & Kyson Effle



Pastor's Corner

Dear Friends,



I have sometimes heard people express boredom with hearing the same Biblical stories over and over, year after year. While I can understand their perspective, I personally appreciate the repetitive nature of the church year's cycle. If I knew everything there was to know about any particular verse, perhaps I'd feel the same boredom. But I still have so much to learn, so I'm glad for the opportunity to take another stab at it and try to learn a little bit more than I knew the year before.

I especially feel this way during Holy Week. There's just so much to learn. What I do know is that if we don't dive in to Holy Week...truly dive in...then we will have missed out on so much beauty and power and awe, when we get to the end of it. Arriving at the Empty Tomb of Easter, without having gone through the days leading up to it...well, it feels a little hollow. How can we feel the full weight of what God has done for us in Christ's Resurrection if we don't know the whole story of what it cost Jesus to get there?

So I invite you to join me and the rest of your First Christian family for a meaningful Holy Week. *Palm Sunday* (March 29) will be a celebration of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, the day people were finally able to proclaim out loud that he was the Messiah! Then, on Thursday (April 2), we'll gather for *Maundy Thursday* supper and worship, a service of remembrance of the Last Supper Jesus had with his disciples followed by his betrayal at the hands of one of them. On *Good Friday* (April 3), we will gather for a brief service to remember Christ's death on the Cross, followed by a twelve-hour prayer vigil (please let me know if you'd like to be a part of this). Finally, on *Easter* morning (April 5), after an all-church breakfast, we'll celebrate Christ's Resurrection with a lovely, joyful time of worship.

This year, I encourage you to go the distance with Holy Week. Every step along the way helps us understand the full picture of God's love for us, and how far he is willing to go to give it to us. I am thankful to be celebrating this sacred time with you.

Pastor Kara



HVAC Update

A/C Installation schedule

- Week of April 6 th – HVAC personnel will prepare old A/C equipment for removal.
- Saturday, April 11 th (7-9 am) -- Old equipment removed and new equipment placed on the roof
- Monday, April 13 th – Begin installing new equipment. Office A/C will be installed first.

Donna Ruhl, for the FCC Property Team

The 3B Homestead invites you to a one-of-a-kind "Celebrate Easter" event 2026.

- * Farm animals with stories to tell,
- * Homestead items to help visualize the Gospel Message,
- * A Hay Rack ride for added fun, and
- * A Field of Crosses in memory of loved ones.



Come see how the Star of Christmas leads to the Cross of Easter.

This event is free and family friendly.

March 22,28,29 April 2,3

2-5 pm

7603 298th St. Murdock, NE

April Outreach Collection Barrel



Our April Collection Barrel will be for McPhee School, our neighborhood elementary school. McPhee will be having a Track and Field Day on May 20th to celebrate the end of the school year for their 350 students.

The following items have been requested:

- 8" paper plates
- White dinner napkins
- Cases of bottled water
- Boxes of freezer pops

In addition to these items, FCC Outreach is donating \$400 to McPhee to purchase a GaGa Ball Pit for this and future events. In the past the teachers have covered the cost to rent one.



We are giving McPhee their own!

Let's help make this a fun event for our McPhee neighborhood school children.



Deborah Group, Disciples Women

Deborah Group will meet on April 6 - 7 p.m. at the home of Diane Zabokrtsky - 7900 A Street. Beth will lead discussion of Chapter 8 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.

February Collection Barrel

Report

Wow! Once again a full barrel of items for Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach. Thank you for your generous support.



Thanks!

Thank you for the donation of 72 pounds of food. It means a lot to have you step up for our community in such a generous way! Because of your support, we're able to meet needs, offer hope, and continue the work that matters every day.

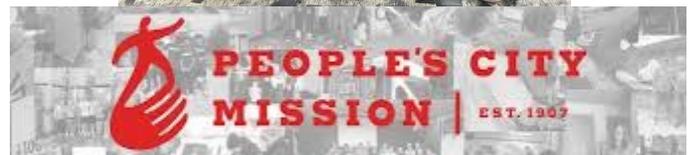
Thanks!

Jenn

Events & Donor Relations Manager



Thank you to Evan Foster, Riley Bowker, Pastor Kara, Kristi Bowker, and Marcia Foster for serving at the People's City Mission Help Center this past February.





Those Serving in April

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:

April 2(Maundy Thursday)--Brady Christianson

April 5 – Dan Cowger

April 12 - Jim Blosser

April 19 – Cec Burkhart

April 26 - Wayne Duncan

Deacons:

Diane Zabokrtsky, Susan Pallas-Duncan

Hallway Hospitality:

April 2(Maundy Thursday) –Rich Calver

April 3 (Good Friday) – Elaine Parman

April 5 – Elaine Parman

April 12 -Vince Ortega

April 19 – Geoff Putney

April 26 - Rich Calver

Ushers/Greeters:

April 2 (Maundy Thursday) -- Elaine Parman

April 3 (Good Friday) -- Susan Pallas-Duncan

April 5 – D’Arcy Blosser

April 12 -- Elaine Parman

April 19 - Wayne Duncan & Susan Pallas-Duncan

April 26 - Monte Dietrick

Acolytes:

April 5 -- Edryk Christianson

April 12 -- Gianna Greder

April 19 -- Trev Greder

April 26 -- Kyson & Keaton Effle

Offering Counting:

April 5 -- D’Arcy Blosser

April 12 – Elaine Parman

April 19 – Rich Calver

April 26 -- Gwen Belden

THANK YOU ALL for volunteering to serve.



April Birthdays!

- 1st Wayne Duncan
- 5th Megan (Blosser) Hobbs,
Hannah Everett
- 7th Tezra Greder
- 14th Joan Dietrich
- 15th Pastor Kara Hillhouse
- 16th Marvin Thurber
- 18th Roger Vocasek
- 22nd Riley Bowker
- 25th Susan Pallas-Duncan

Book Club

Next Meeting - Saturday, March 28
9:30 am

Kelly Bielenberg's Home: 5200 NW 6th St

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



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



Book for **May**: *The Women*
by Kristin Hannah



Book for **June**:
Frankenstein
by Mary Shelley



Everyone is welcome to join us!

Prayers & Praises

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. He had a procedure last week to add to his existing pacemaker, and he quickly felt increased energy. He is settling into his new home at Legacy Terrace, and his daughter reports the coffee there is much improved over his regular places!

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

Prayers for Roger Vocasek as he looks for a job.

Prayers for Jessica Stehlik-Vocasek for her 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: Elmwood First Christian Church - Leaders

Our Global Ministries Missionaries in: El Salvador

“God of Grace, God of Mercy, We wish to place under your Grace the suffering of our people of El Salvador, now that poverty, extreme poverty, and unemployment have increased in this country. May all your sons and daughters turn their gaze to you and renew our faith, renew our hope in the magnificent promise of your Kingdom among us and in this history. Amen.”

Kamp Kaleo Work Weekends Coming Up!!



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 @ <https://tinyurl.com/m7z7eyk>

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

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



First Christian Church Calendar

Wednesday, April 1st

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

Thursday, April 2nd Maundy Thursday

5:30 pm Soup Supper
 7 pm Maundy Thursday Service

Friday, April 3rd Good Friday

Noon Good Friday Service
 1 pm 12 Hour Prayer Vigil Begins

Saturday, April 4th

1 am 12 Hour Prayer Vigil Ends

Sunday, April 5th Easter Sunday

8:15 am Breakfast - Gym
 9 am No Adult Sunday School
 9:15 am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
 9:50 am Torch Worship Rehearsal
 10 am SCRIP orders due
 10:30 am Worship
 4 pm - 10:30 pm Outside Group - Parl/Kit/Gym

Monday, April 6th - Office Closed

7 pm Deborah Group - Diane Zabokrtsky's Home
 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Outside Group - Gym

Tuesday, April 7th

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

Wednesday, April 8th

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

Thursday, April 9th

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

Sunday, April 12th Homebound Communion

9 am Adult Sunday School
 9:15 am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
 9:50 am Torch Worship Rehearsal
 10:30 am Worship
 4 pm - 10:30 pm Outside Group - Parl/Kit/Gym

Monday, April 13th

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

Tuesday, April 14th

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

Wednesday, April 15th

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

Thursday, April 16th

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

Sunday, April 19th

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

Monday, April 20th

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

Tuesday, April 21st

6 pm - 9 pm Outside Group - Parl & Kit.
 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Outside Group - Gym

Wednesday, April 22nd

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

Thursday, April 23rd

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

Sunday, April 26th

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 pm - 10:30 pm Outside Group - Parl/Kit/Gym

Monday, April 27th

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

Tuesday, April 28th

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, April 29th

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

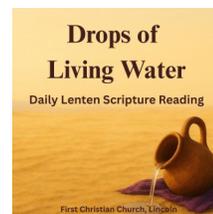
Thursday, April 30th

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

April SCRIP Orders are due on
April 5, 2026

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

Drops of Living Water



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
Apr. 1	<i>“And while they were eating, he said, ‘Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.’”</i>	Matthew 26:21
Apr. 2	<i>“And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them saying, ‘This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.’”</i>	Luke 22:19
Apr. 3	<i>“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish?”</i>	Psalms 22:1
Apr. 4	<i>“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.”</i>	Galatians 2:20

APRIL

Call to Confession

One:

It was early in the morning when a voice proclaimed that death had been defeated and Jesus was alive in our midst. Death is still defeated by God’s Eternal Life, and for that we give thanks. But, while it is true that we ourselves did not put Jesus to death on the Cross, we know all the ways in which we kill his love, by not allowing it to transform our lives. Let us confess our sins to God, as we pray together, saying:

Prayer of Confession

Many:

We lock the doors of compassion, God of Resurrection, and share it only with those we believe to be deserving. We harden our hearts to the cries around us. We close our eyes to those who suffer, pretending it will all go away if we do not look. Forgive us, Hope of the Ages, and have mercy upon us. Help us know that when we do these things, it is as though we have locked Christ in his tomb. Because we want to be your servants, teach us how to lead selfless lives, so that all might know your love and find their peace in your kingdom.

Good News of God’s Grace

One:

From the shadows of life, God brings us into the Light of Christ. From the prison of all the ways we miss the mark, God sets us free to live in hope. This is the Good News: the tomb is empty, death is conquered, sin has lost its grip on us!

Many:

We are a new people, shaped by the Risen Lord into new life forever! Thanks be to God. Amen.



RaiseRight Fundraising SCRIP APP AVAILABLE

Are you tired of carrying all of those plastic gift cards? Do you find yourself at a store without SCRIP to use? Are you a SmartPhone user? Then the RaiseRight App is for you!!

You can purchase Scrip anytime you need it anywhere, right from your phone! Scrip is literally at your fingertips for gas, clothing, home goods, honey-do projects, and even those late night Amazon shopping excursions!

RaiseRight Fundraising app is available at both Apple's App Store and Google Play. Here's how to get started:

- 1) Get the church's Scrip enrollment code from the church office.
- 2) On your mobile device, download the app from the app store.
- 3) Russ's Super Saver, case letters as needed.
- 4) Follow the steps to create your family account.
- 5) Most of the vendors offer a choice of an eGift card or physical plastic gift card. Many of the physical gift cards are reloadable, meaning you can add money to them using the app rather than buying a new card.
- 6) To purchase the eGift or reloadable gift cards you must sign up for their online payment program which lets you pay for your mobile orders by securely linking a payment method to your RaiseRight account. For a nominal 29 cents per order, RaiseRight connects to your bank account and withdraws the money. A credit card can also be used with a 3% fee added. The fee for use of a debit card is 1%. If ordering only plastic gift cards, you can continue to pay Donna Ruhl by check or green electronic transfer form.
- 7) All orders for physical cards are sent monthly after the first Sunday of the month.
- 8) Please note **gift cards for local businesses** such as Super Saver, Hy-Vee, Russ's, Runza, etc. are not available using the app and **must be ordered from Donna**.

Current local businesses participating are: Amigo's, Bagels & Joe, Campbell's Nurseries, Colby Ridge, Culver's, DaVinci's, Don & Millie's, Earl May, HyVee, Juice Stop, LaPaz, Lazlo's/Fireworks, Leon's, Misty's, Runza, Russ's/Super Saver, Taco Inn, The Mill, Tico's, TLC Cleaners, U-Stop, Valentino's, Venue/Piedmont Bistro/Goodcents.

If you have any questions or need help getting started please contact Gwen Belden, Kristi Bowker or Geoff Putney.