



# First Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

430 S. 16<sup>th</sup> St. Lincoln, NE 68508 402.475.4289

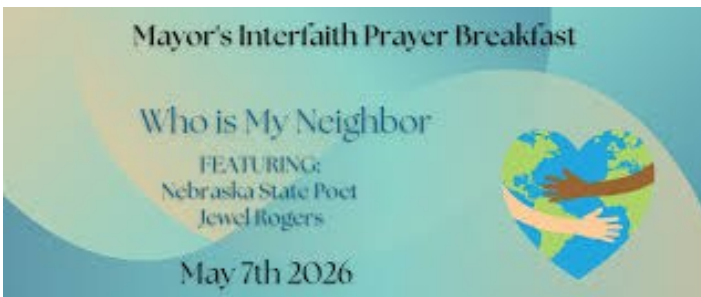
## Messenger

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@fcclincoln.org](mailto:info@fcclincoln.org)  
[www.fcclincoln.org](http://www.fcclincoln.org)

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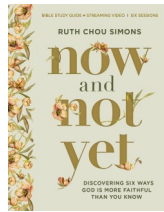


42nd Annual Mayor's Interfaith

## Prayer Breakfast

Thursday, May 7 | Doors Open at 7:30 AM  
Venue 5 Twenty-Two  
1525 Yankee Hill Rd, Lincoln

Contact D'Arcy if interested.



**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 May 26th

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



The Worship Team extends sincere appreciation to all individuals who contributed to the Holy Week Services, enhancing their meaning for participants and attendees, as well as those who participated in the Prayer Vigil. We also wish to thank those who assisted with food preparation and helped serve the Maundy Thursday Soup Supper and Easter Breakfast.



From Maundy Thursday to Good Friday to Easter, see how we celebrated Holy Week 2026 at First Christian Church.

## Pastor's Corner

Dear Friends,



"I am training you in steadiness. Too many things interrupt your awareness of Me. I know that you live in a world of sight and sound, but you must not be a slave to those stimuli. Awareness of Me can continue in all circumstances, no matter what happens. This is the steadiness I desire for you." *Jesus Calling*, by Sarah Young.

Have you ever felt that someone wasn't giving you the attention you desired or deserved? Whatever the cause, it feels bad when you want someone's undivided attention and they fail to give it to you. I think God wants our attention, too. He *wants* our attention! He desires our awareness of him, at every moment. And it's not because he's vain or arrogant. It's because he knows we need this.

How do we show God that we are paying attention to Him? *One* way is through prayer. Prayer is a way of "checking in" with our Creator God. We talk to God and God talks to us (which means that we have to actually spend time *listening* to God). A *second* way is by paying attention to the world he made and entrusted to us: the buds on the trees, the grass turning green, the rabbit nibbling on the grass (*just stay away from my tulips!!*), the awesome power of thunderstorms. And a *third* thing we can do is to read his word for us. How can we understand God's nature and characteristics if we don't read his autobiography (or as close to one as we'll get)—the Bible? God is the Living Word, so delving into the scriptures is a way we can pay attention to God.

We need to be intentional about spending time with God, because, sadly, our schedules are filled to overflowing. And if we don't make time for him *first*, there won't be any space left over for him. Even if we start with just five minutes, during which we turn our phone off, close our computer, shut our door, and just "*be still and know*"... that's a good starting point. I truly believe the peace that at times eludes us will come if we are intentional about connecting with God.

Have a lovely and blessed week!

Pastor Kara



### First Christian Church Foundation

The FCC Foundation will meet on Zoom on May 6 at noon. Our agenda will include a check-in with Elisabeth Andreason, our financial advisor at Morgan Stanley. Any member of FCC is welcome to listen in and contribute your thoughts. If you would like to "attend", let D'Arcy Blosser know!



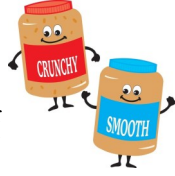
### Deborah Group, Disciples Women

Deborah Group meets on May 4 - 7 p.m. - at the home of D'Arcy Blosser, 6245 Carveth Drive. We will finish our reading/discussion of *Learning to Walk in the Dark* by Barbara Brown Taylor. Let D'Arcy know if you would like to attend!

**New Logo and Branding of First Christian Church Coming Soon.  
Watch for our changes in June!**

# May Outreach Outreach Opportunities

1. In 2017 we collected your favorite texture of peanut butter - Creamy vs Crunchy. Creamy won that year. Again in 2019 we collected your favorite texture of peanut butter and Crunchy won. In 2026 we will pick an overall winner - Creamy vs Crunchy. Pick up a jar of your favorite and put it in the collection barrel. ALL of the peanut butter will be donated to the Food Bank of Lincoln. Peanut butter is in high demand over the summer months for easy/nutritious lunches.



2. May 1 to May 28th consider making a donation to your favorite local nonprofit. May 28, 2026 is Give to Lincoln Day. Beginning May 1st you can go to [givetolincoln.com](http://givetolincoln.com), find your favorite non-profit, click on the name and you can donate. When you donate online the cost of online payment is covered and your non-profit might be selected to win an additional \$250 donation that day plus the additional fund matching. FCC Outreach will be making a \$250 donation to I've Got A Name online. If you have questions please reach out to Elaine Parman.

**Thank you for your generous support of our Outreach Opportunities!**

## Upcoming Opportunity to Serve



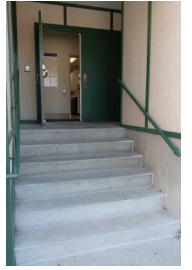
First Christian Church is signed up to serve the evening meal at **The Gathering Place - 1448 E Street** on **May 24th** from 4:30 pm- 6:30 pm. Sign up with Elaine Parman by **May 21st**.

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

**July 26th    September 27th    November 22nd**

# Back Door Blessings Update

Our *Back Door Blessings* ministry continues to serve its purpose of providing a “hand up” to those coming to our back door. Items that are most commonly needed are fuel vouchers; fast food gift cards; grocery store or Walmart gift cards; individual snack items; bottled water; blankets; weather appropriate items like sunscreen; bug spray; small hand lotion; lip balm; hand and toe warmers; gloves; hats; scarves.



Due to the lack of cupboard space the best way to support *Back Door Blessings* is to make a financial donation rather than purchasing items and leaving them on the counter in the kitchen. Your financial donation will be converted to SCRIP cards and items will be purchased as needed.

If you have any questions or suggestions please reach out to Amy in the office, Elaine Parman, Pastor Kara, or Jim Blosser.

*We appreciate your support of this ministry!*

From April Collection Barrel Recipients



Thank you so much for the generous donation! This means so much to our community and students! Thank you for supporting us. We are truly thankful!

♥ Theresa Maack  
Principal, McPhee Elementary



From January Collection Barrel Recipients



Thank you for your kind donation! We were able to stock up on hygiene items, food, and clothing for the youth!

Cedars Street Outreach





## Those Serving in May

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:

Dan Cowger

### Elders:

May 3--Carla Pinneo

May 10 – Dan Cowger

May 17 - Marcia Foster

May 24 – Brady Christianson

May 31 - Jim Christ

### Deacons:

Meghan Cowger, Vince Ortega

### Hallway Hospitality:

May 3 – Geoff Putney

May 10 – Vince Ortega

May 17 - Geoff Putney

May 24 – Rich Calver

May 31 - Elaine Parman

### Ushers/Greeters:

May 3 -- D’Arcy Blosser

May 10 – Elaine Parman

May 17 -- Wayne Duncan & Susan Pallas-Duncan

May 24 - Monte Dietrick

May 31 - D’Arcy Blosser

### Acolytes:

May 3 -- Edryk Christianson

May 10 -- Trev Greder

May 17 -- Gianna Greder

May 24 -- Kyson & Keaton Effle

May 31 - Edryk Christianson

### Offering Counting:

May 3 -- D’Arcy Blosser

May 10 – Elaine Parman

May 17 – Rich Calver

May 24 -- Gwen Belden

May 31 -- D’Arcy Blosser

**THANK YOU ALL** for volunteering to serve.



TLC Dry Cleaner’s 30th anniversary

**Open House**

**May 2nd**

**10 am—3 pm**

**Everyone is invited!**

Come celebrate Jim and D’Arcy’s business for 29 years and now is being continued by their children! There will be coffee and cookies, Kona Ice (from 12-2), a raffle, and other give aways. If any questions or concerns, please contact Beth Waller, bathyb4@gmail.com.



3<sup>rd</sup> Kristie Christianson

19<sup>th</sup> Connie Calver

27<sup>th</sup> Kristi Bowker

## Book Club

Next Meeting - Saturday, June 6

9:30 am

Cheryl Nelson’s Home: 390I Santa Rosa Lane

Book for **May**:

*The Women*

by Kristin Hannah



Upcoming Book

*My Friends*

By Fredrik Backman



Book for **June**:

*Frankenstein*

by Mary Shelley



\*\*Possible Movie Night

in May/June to watch

Netflix’s movie:

“Remarkably Bright  
Creatures”

Everyone is welcome to join us!

# Prayers & Praises

## In Our Church Family:

- Donna Baker
- Cec Burkhart
- Joan Dietrich
- Polly Putney
- Bob Throop
- Marvin Thurber
- Phyllis Thurber
- Jessica Vocasek
- Roger Vocasek

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

*Prayers for Bob Throop for continued healing and strength.*

*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:** Grand Island First Christian Church - Tamara Holtz (Interim)

## Our Global Ministries Missionaries in: Jamaica

*“Faithful God, We pray for the people of Jamaica as we continue rebuilding after the devastation caused by Hurricane Melissa and as we approach another hurricane season. Give us wisdom to prepare wisely so that we will be able to withstand devastating effects. Almighty God, we pray for the United Theological College of the West Indies, we pray that You will provide for us abundantly and give us vision for the way forward. Amen.”*

For more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners visit [www.globalministries.org](http://www.globalministries.org)



## BEACONS FROM THE BOARD

The Board met on March 15th and had a study session as there was not a quorum.

The Board met via Zoom on March 24th to approve the January Board Meeting Minutes and the February 28th Financial Reports.

The Property Team has been very busy in 2026 getting alley entrance lights converted to LED; getting the dishwasher and ice machine repaired; temperature increased on the water heater that supplies hot water to the kitchen; obtaining bids to place the existing gym floor (tiles are crumbling due to age); getting bids to repair the vandalized Chapel entrance door and the 2 stained glass windows in the North Hall.

Two items of good news are: our insurance deductible is \$7,500 rather than \$10,000 as we have not had any claims in several years; it was suggested that the \$154,396 bequest from Phyllis Knosp trust be moved to an account paying 4% as the money market account is paying only 1%. (This request has already been completed and the money is now in a 6 month CD paying 4%)

Blessings, Elaine Parman, Board Chair

**KAMP KALEO 2026 ANNUAL MEETING**  
UNVEILING THE FUTURE

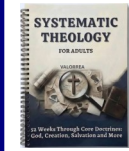
**YOU'RE INVITED!**  
MAY 8-9  
KAMP KALEO  
NO COST TO ATTEND

**Friday - May 8, 2026**  
Annual Meeting  
4:00pm - Lodge  
Volunteer/Donor Appreciation Dinner  
6:00pm - Lodge  
Vespers  
9:00pm - Vesper Circle

**Saturday - May 9, 2026**  
Fellowship and Refreshments  
9:30am - Discovery Center  
Unveiling the Future:  
Visions of Our Retreat Center  
10:30am - Discovery Center  
Lunch Reception  
12:00pm - Lodge  
Site Blessing  
1:00pm - Retreat Center Site

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME HERE**  
FOR MORE INFO OR TO REGISTER, VISIT: [WWW.KAMPKALEO.COM](http://WWW.KAMPKALEO.COM)

# First Christian Church Calendar



There will be no Sunday School during the month of May. Class will resume Sunday, June 7th with a new study on *Systematic Theology*. If you would like to join, please let Kristi Bowker know in advance so that enough materials will be available.

## Sunday, May 3rd

9:15 am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal  
 10 am SCRIP orders due  
 10:30 am Worship  
 4 pm - 10:30 pm Outside Group-Parl/Kit/Gym

## Monday, May 4th

7 pm Deborah Group - D'Arcy Blosser's Home  
 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Outside Group - Gym

## Tuesday, May 5th

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

## Wednesday, May 6th

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

## Thursday, May 7th

7:30 am Mayor's Prayer Breakfast-Venue 5 Twenty-Two  
 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Outside Group - Gym

## Sunday, May 10th Mother's Day/Homebound Communion

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, May 11th

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

## Tuesday, May 12th

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

## Wednesday, May 13th

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

## Thursday, May 14th

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

## Sunday, May 17th

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  
 6 pm Board Meeting - Conf. Rm

## Monday, May 18th

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

## Tuesday, May 19th

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

## Wednesday, May 20th

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

## Thursday, May 21st

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

## Sunday, May 24th

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  
 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm Serve @ The Gathering Place

## Monday, May 25th Memorial Day-Office Closed

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

## Tuesday, May 26th

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

## Wednesday, May 27th

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

## Thursday, May 28th

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

## Sunday, May 31st

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

May SCRIP Orders are due on  
May 3, 2026

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



The Lincoln Marathon will be taking place this Sunday, May 3rd. Our Torch Team will be providing music as runners go by.

## HVAC Update

Despite stormy weather on April 11th, the old HVAC equipment was removed from the roof, and the new equipment was installed. Installation throughout the building will begin shortly by ComfortTechs and crew.



## MAY

### Call to Confession

One:

Called to proclaim repentance, we are reluctant to look at our own failings. Invited to witness to God's forgiveness of sins, we would rather not speak aloud of our own. Let us trust in the One who offers us hope and healing, as together we confess our struggles in following Christ, praying,

### Prayer of Confession

Many:

You call us to proclaim a gospel we find difficult to practice, God Most High. We confess we want to spend more time with ourselves than with you. We are hesitant to speak of your power to others, as we doubt its presence in our own lives. Forgive us, God of Mercy. Fill us with your Spirit, that, having been transformed by it, we may boldly proclaim your Good News to all who wait for it with eager longing.

### Good News of God's Grace

One:

Do not be afraid of God. In love, God forgives us; in grace, God redeems us; in hope, God sends us forth to share the Good News.

Many:

Through Christ's Resurrection, we are a new people. The old has gone, the new has begun. Thanks be to God! Amen.



# Congratulations to our High School Seniors!



Celebrate with us on Sunday, May 10th  
Coffee Fellowship will be hosted by their families.

## CLASS



Evan Foster  
Lincoln Southwest High School  
Open House - Saturday May 23rd 4:00 - 7:00 pm  
974 Del Rio Dr, Lincoln



# 2026

## Class of 2026



Riley Bowker  
is graduating from Waverly High School  
05.17.2026 at 2:00 pm  
Open house Sat May 16th at 4:00 - 7:00 pm  
9431 N. 143rd Street Waverly, NE




## JOIN US FOR A GRAD party



Hunter Christianson  
Lincoln Southwest High School  
Class of 2026

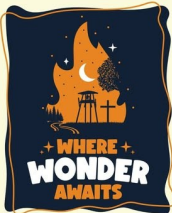



## Come celebrate Hunter's graduation from Lincoln Southwest High

Saturday May 23 2026  
5:00pm to 8:00pm

7817 Lilee Lane  
Lincoln Ne 68516

## Upcoming Summer Kamp Kaleo Activities



### KAMP KALEO'S 2026 CAMPING SEASON

JUNIOR KAMP JUNE 7-11	LITTLE KAMPERS #1 JUNE 12-14	JUNIOR SENIOR HIGH KAMP JUNE 14-19	ICE CREAM JUNE 21-24
SCAPE KAMP JUNE 24-28	ROBOCROSS KAMP JULY 5-8	CREATIVE ARTS KAMP JULY 5-10	
LITTLE KAMPERS #2 JULY 10-12	ARC KAMP AUGUST 1-3		

REGISTER BEFORE FEBRUARY 1ST FOR 100% OFF  
REGISTER BEFORE MARCH 1ST FOR 25% OFF  
REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN



### FAMILY KAMP

May 22 - 25, 2026

**COSTS:**  
18 YRS AND UP - \$275  
6-17 YRS - \$225  
UNDER 5 - FREE  
SCHEDULED GROUP RATES & SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE

Share the Kaleo experience with the whole family during a faith-filled weekend of connection and adventure. Enjoy arch and crafts, team activities, archery, and more, with time each day for meaningful faith stories, small group discussions, and fun games. Families stay together in cabins and sleep up each evening with a wagon service around the campsite. All kinds of families and children of all ages are welcome, with activities designed to include everyone.



EVERYONE IS WELCOME HERE  
FOR MORE INFO OR TO REGISTER VISIT: [WWW.KAMPKALEO.COM](http://WWW.KAMPKALEO.COM)  
OR CALL KAMP AT 208-212-0333