



**First Christian Church**  
Disciples of Christ

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

# Messenger

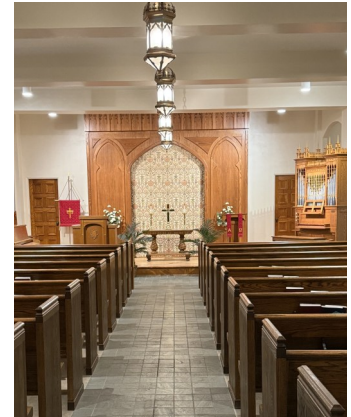
love all • live spiritually • rejoice in hope • show hospitality

**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)

**Volume 76, No. 5**  
**May 28, 2026**

First Christian Church decorated and celebrated Pentecost Sunday on May 24th.



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

## Congratulations to our 2026 High School Graduates

FCC celebrated in Worship and Coffee Fellowship with the Bowker, Christianson, and Foster families on May 10th recognizing their students Riley Bowker, Hunter Christianson, and Evan Foster in their high school graduations.



## Pastor's Corner

Dear Friends,

"I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it" (John 17:14-16).

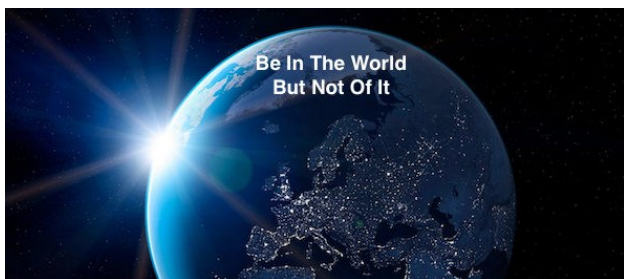
I've always been drawn to the idea that we are "in the world, but not of the world." I've taken that to mean we don't follow the world's ways, but God's. We don't define ourselves according to the world's fickle values, but by God's timeless love and grace.

Yes...but. This morning I read the *Desiring God* blog, and the author, Pastor David Mathis, suggested a new way of understanding Jesus' words. He suggests we think of them, not as "in, but not of," but as "not of, but *sent into*." It might sound like the same thing, and they are quite similar, but I think the second one is less focused on the next life, and more on this one. We're not spending our time thinking about heaven and trying to escape the world's sin, because the "sin" is where Jesus needs us. We're meant to walk right up to that missed-mark—both the world's and our own—and remember how God calls us to return to him, so he can make us whole.

That's going to require us to immerse ourselves fully into the muck and messy mire of the "here and now." Not always fun...but definitely where we're meant to be. Just as it was with the disciples who kept staring into the heavens after Jesus ascended, and had to be reminded by the angels to get to work, so it is with us. Thank YOU for fully immersing yourselves into our corner of the world so you can care for each other. May God bless you as you share his blessings with the world. It's a joy to be on this journey with you.

Peace be with you in the coming days,

Pastor Kara



JUNE

### Call to Confession

One:

When we gather to praise our God, we know—whether we name it or not—that we are people who tend to choose our will over God's. Seeking God's power to transform us into new people in Christ, let us confess our sins before God and one another, as we pray:

### Prayer of Confession

Many:

It is never easy to confess our sins to you, Listening God. When we have a chance to speak up for the outsider, we too often join in sending them away into the wilderness of hopelessness. When we could shout good news to a needy world, our voices drop to a whisper. When we could abound in grace, we continue to wallow in wrongdoing. Forgive us, Lord, and have mercy on us. You lean over to listen to our words, and then to cast them into your sea of forgiveness. You show us the signs of hope, that we might point others to you. Help us remember, you save us when we cannot save ourselves.

### Good News of God's Grace

One:

Do not be afraid. God cherishes us. God treasures you. You are graced, you are forgiven, you are healed.

Many:

We will not keep this good news to ourselves. We will shout our hope from the rooftop of our hearts. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

# June Outreach Opportunity



Who is Atlas: Lincoln? *"In short, we're a group of Christ-followers who work to model Jesus' relational ministry here in the context of Lincoln, NE. Time and time again, we see examples of Christ's relational ministry throughout His time on earth. Indeed, Jesus spent more than three years walking in relationship every day with His disciples. We believe it is important for us to do the same.*

*We also see numerous examples in Christ's ministry of Him connecting with the least, the last, and the lost. Many of His closest friends and disciples were at the bottom of society, but still He loved them and ministered to them consistently.*

*Taking these two observations, we seek to walk relationally with hurting people, to "touch lives for Christ together." The struggles of life can come in many different ways. Some of our beloved neighbors face addiction, homelessness, generational poverty, and the deep, lasting pain of unresolved trauma. Some of our neighbors are walking through the same brokenness that any one of us faces on a daily basis. All of these pains and more are the concern of a loving Savior.*

*We do our best to love each person and guide them in the right direction and walk with them on their journey—regardless of the distance. We are excited to find ways to touch lives for Christ in this community. We let each person know they matter. They matter to Jesus and they matter to us."*

Atlas is always in need of travel-size (NO large containers accepted) personal items to share with those they are working with. Below is a list of what is needed:

- Socks - men, women
- Underwear - men, women - sizes M, L, XL
- Bars of soap
- Shampoo
- Deodorant
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Lip balm



In addition to donating supplies, please see the picture beside to learn about the **JUNE BLITZ** that Atlas is doing and consider walking alongside them as they work in and with the community. Use the QR code to learn more and sign up to join them.

Thank you for supporting our June Outreach!

## April Outreach Wrap Up

WOW! FCC really supported the April Collection Barrel. We donated all the items requested by McPhee for their end of school Track & Field Day for 350 students. More than enough bottled water, over 600 plates; 1200 napkins; and 600 freezer pops plus \$268 were delivered to them on Thursday, May 14th. In addition, Outreach donated \$400 toward the purchase of 2 Gaga Ball pits and supplies for the school to use when possible.

Thank you ALL for supporting our monthly Outreach Opportunities. Your stewardship keeps the beacon shining from 16th and K Streets, Lincoln, NE.

Pictures from McPhee Elementary's Field Day using the new Gaga Ball pits.





## Those Serving in June

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:

Cecilia Burkhart

### Elders:

June 7--Jim Blosser

June 14 – Jim Christ

June 21 - Wayne Duncan

June 28 – Carla Pinneo

### Deacons:

Riley Bowker, Monte Dietrick

### Hallway Hospitality:

June 7 – Geoff Putney

June 14 – Rich Calver

June 21 - Elaine Parman

June 28 – Vince Ortega

### Ushers/Greeters:

June 7 -- Elaine Parman

June 14 – Wayne Duncan & Susan Pallas-Duncan

June 21 - Monte Dietrick

June 28 - D'Arcy Blosser

### Acolytes:

June 7 -- Kyson & Keaton Effle

June 14 -- Trev Greder

June 21 -- Gianna Greder

June 28 - Edryk Christianson

### Offering Counting:

June 7 -- Elaine Parman

June 14 – Rich Calver

June 21 – Gwen Belden

June 28 -- D'Arcy Blosser

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

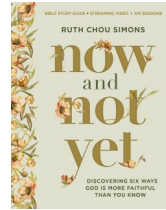


## Birthdays

**9<sup>th</sup> Debby Ortega**

**22<sup>nd</sup> Beth Zager**

**23<sup>rd</sup> Trevallion Greder**



### 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 June 23

LOCATION:

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



## Deborah Group, Disciples Women

Deborah Group will meet on June 1st - 6 p.m. at Susan Pallas Duncan's for our annual picnic. We'll enjoy fellowship and fun, share a meal, decide our next study and allocate funds from our treasury. All FCC women are invited to come and enjoy the fellowship! Let Susan know if you would like to attend.

## Book Club

Next Meeting - Saturday, June 6  
9:30 am

Cheryl Nelson's Home: 3901 Santa Rosa Lane

Book for **May**:

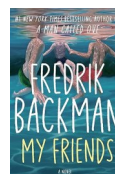


*The Women*  
by Kristin Hannah

Book for **June**:



*Frankenstein*  
Mary Shelley



Upcoming Book

*My Friends*

By Fredrik Backman

Everyone is welcome to join us!

# Prayers & Praises

## In Our Church Family:

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

*Prayers for Monte Dietrick, who had a fall and broke 3 ribs.*

*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 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:

- Rev. Bruce Frogge, *Cypress Creek CC in Spring, TX*

**In the Nebraska Region:** Kamp Kaleo on the River - Brad Hindsley, Staff & Counselors

## Our Global Ministries Missionaries in: East Timor

*“Our Gracious God, we lift up the country of Timor-Leste into Your mighty hand. May You continue to keep us in peace, justice, and prosperity for all its citizens. May your blessing and grace continue to pour out to the people life and their struggles. We recommit to continue serving and working for the well-being of the poor, the vulnerable, and marginalized people across the entire country with the support of our partners. May Your wisdom continue to guide and lead us to serve with love and compassion. Amen.*

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



**Kamp Kaleo** - have you registered yet for summer or fall camps/retreats/weekend adventures?

Check out [www.kampkaleo.com](http://www.kampkaleo.com) to see all the offerings and to sign up. FCC pays for 1/2 of the camp fees for all of our youth.

AND Kamp has a new problem.....registrations this year are increasing and more counselors are needed for a couple of the youth camps! Contact Brad at Kamp - 308-346-5083 - if you are interested in helping out.



## Kamp Kaleo Rummage Sale

Summer is almost here and it's time to make plans for the Kamp Kaleo Rummage Sale. Dates of the sale are August 6, 7 and 8. Set up and deliveries begin August 2. We can accept clean kitchen supplies, gently used toys, tools, knick-knacks, home decor, linens, holiday items, sporting goods, games, puzzles, books, plants, craft and office supplies, smaller light-weight furniture, antiques, collectibles, jewelry, artwork.....the list is long. Items we cannot accept are heavy furniture, exercise equipment, outdated baby equipment, clothing, firearms or other weapons, computer monitors, encyclopedias or hymnals, non-digital TVs.

We'll need lots of helping hands for unloading vehicles, carrying boxes, unpacking, sorting and pricing items from Aug. 2nd to 6th as well as during the sale and packing up the leftover items. Contact Gwen Belden, D'Arcy Blosser or Sue Shear for more information and to volunteer. More information coming!

## First Christian Church Calendar

**Monday, June 1st**  
 6 pm Deborah Group - Picnic  
 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Outside Group - Gym

**Tuesday, June 2nd**  
 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Outside Group - Gym

**Wednesday, June 3rd**  
 6:30 pm Solos/Ensembles - Sanctuary  
 7 pm Recorder Consort - Sanctuary

**Thursday, June 4th**  
 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Outside Group - Gym

**Sunday, June 7th**  
 9 am Adult Sunday School  
 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

**Tuesday, June 9th**  
 Noon Staff Meeting  
 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Outside Group - Gym

**Wednesday, June 10th**  
 6:30 pm Solos/Ensembles - Sanctuary  
 7 pm Recorder Consort - Sanctuary

**Thursday, June 11th**  
 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Outside Group - Gym

**Sunday, June 14th** 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, June 15th**  
 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Outside Group - Gym

**Tuesday, June 16th**  
 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Outside Group - Gym

**Wednesday, June 17th**  
 6:30 pm Solos/Ensembles - Sanctuary  
 7 pm Recorder Consort - Sanctuary

**Thursday, June 18th**  
 Noon Messenger Deadline  
 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Outside Group - Gym

**Sunday, June 21st** Father's Day  
 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  
 6 pm Cabinet Meeting - Conf. Rm

**Monday, June 22nd**  
 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Outside Group - Gym

**Tuesday, June 23rd**  
 Noon Staff Meeting  
 6:30 pm - 8 pm Spirited Readers - The Mill @ Telegraph  
 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Outside Group - Gym

**Wednesday, June 24th**  
 6:30 pm Solos/Ensembles - Sanctuary  
 7 pm Recorder Consort - Sanctuary

**Thursday, June 25th**  
 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Outside Group - Gym

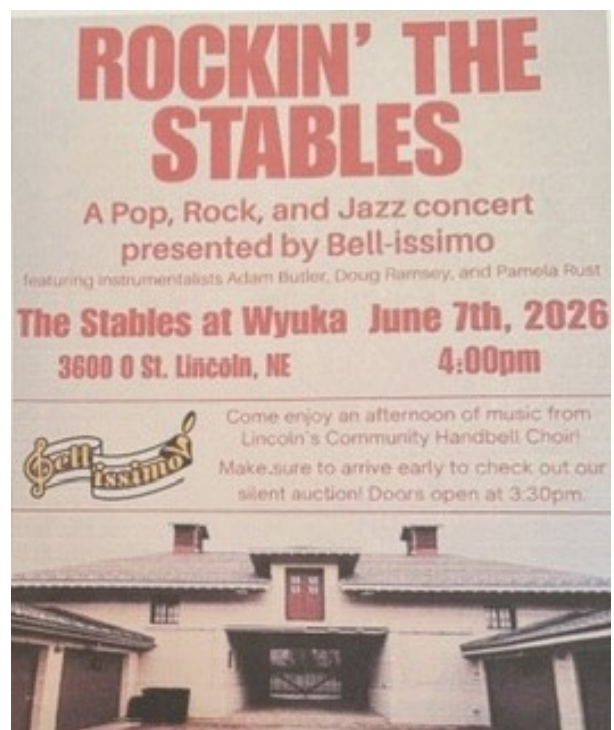
**Sunday, June 28th**  
 9 am Adult Sunday School  
 9:15 am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal  
 9:50 am Torch Worship Rehearsal  
 10:30 am Worship  
 11:30 am Elder Meeting - Library  
 4 pm - 10:30 pm Outside Group-Parl/Kit/Gym

**Monday, June 29th**  
 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Outside Group - Gym

**Tuesday, June 30th**  
 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Outside Group - Gym

June SCRIP Orders are due on  
June 7, 2026

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



# The Faces of First Christian Church

On April 28th, a group from First Christian went to see the art display at Bethany Christian Church representing “resurrection and new life.” In the display was one of Ron Hile’s ink drawings of the Transfiguration Church in Jackson Hole, Wyoming.



Ron Hile with his drawing.



FCC Group : (Standing) D’Arcy Blosser, Tom Mason, Vince Ortega, Shari McCright, Sally Mason, Beth Zager, Carla Pinneo, Kevin Pinneo, (Sitting) Diane Dabokrtsky, Debbie Ortega, Ron Hile, and Cec Burkhart



FCC members Diane Zabokrtsky, Sara Lugn, Jim Blosser, Elaine Parman, and Donna Ruhl (not pictured) served at The Gathering Place on Sunday May 24th.



If you are interested in serving, mark your calendar for one of our future serving dates:  
**July 26th September 27th November 22nd**

On May 3rd, the Torch Team performed early in the morning for the Lincoln Marathon runners as they passed by

