

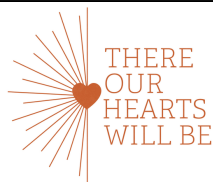


MESSENGER

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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There Our Hearts Will Be

On Sunday, July 19, our focus was on Deuteronomy 6:4-9. This scripture lays the groundwork for WHY we work to be good stewards: because our love for God should be all-consuming (for lack of a better word). Our whole selves--body, soul and mind--are commanded to love God. And this is lived out in different ways, some of which we'll address on following Stewardship Sundays.

July 19 was the beginning of our *"There Our Hearts Will Be"* Stewardship Campaign. We intentionally have an extended campaign (4 months), because Stewardship isn't a once-a-year commitment – it's a *way of life*. Over the next few months, we will discover that faithful stewardship is not primarily about money – it is about placing our hearts in God's hands, trusting that where our hearts go, our lives, choices, and resources will follow.

On Sunday, August 16 our focus will be on Proverbs 3:1-10

There Our Hearts Will Be Stewardship
Sunday Schedule: September 20, October 4, October 18 and October 25
(Commitment Sunday)

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



Treasures to Sell & Volunteers to Help Are Needed

It's almost here! The Kamp Kaleo Rummage Sale preparations will begin on July 31! Here is the schedule:

July 31 - Set-up tables

August 1 - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. - deliveries of treasures for the sale; we'll begin sorting through and setting out items on their appropriate tables.

August 2 (after church) - continued deliveries (through Tuesday), sorting, displaying and pricing

August 6 - Sale hours - 5 pm to 8 pm

August 7 - Sale hours - 9 am to 4 pm

August 8 - Sale hours - 9 am to 2 pm
(most things half price); after 2 pm pack up remaining items and begin putting tables away

August 9 - after church - continue with the packing up process and sweep/clean the gym floor

August 10 - if needed, pickups by local non-profits.

If you can help, let Gwen Belden or D'Arcy Blosser know! We need lots of workers to make this Kamp fundraiser a success!

Pastor's Corner

Dear Friends,

For better or worse, many of us find ourselves logging onto online meetings (Zoom, Teams, etc.) daily. Most-widely used to protect us from infection during Covid, online meetings are now for convenience's sake, as we can connect with others even when unable to be in one physical space. Although, this can be taken to a ridiculous degree: I have weekly online meetings with coworkers who are seated literally *feet* away from me (an eerie fulfillment of something from the movie *WALL-E*). But they also allow me to connect with my dear friend in Canada and a cousin in Minnesota, and more. Which is a blessing.

But nothing is as good as in-person. Being in the presence of another person simply cannot be replaced so easily. In person, we can feel more connected, both physically and emotionally. It makes me think of God, and our accessibility to him. What would it be like if we could Zoom with God? I don't think God has a human body, per se, but what if we could see his face on the screen? Hear his voice? See what kind of furniture he had in his house? Wonder if he's wearing sweat pants with his suit jacket (some of you might not know what I'm talking about: during Covid some people would wear pajama bottoms (or boxer shorts, etc.) with dress shirts, or other business attire, on top, where the computer camera was aimed.)

In the Old Testament God made it clear that humans were just not equipped to handle his fullness, so he was careful to give them only glimpses of himself. But then God sent us his son, Jesus, and everything changed. Through Jesus, people gained complete access to God. They had a standing invitation to approach him, see him, hear him, know him. People clung to his garments and actually *touched him*. Can you imagine?

Actually, we kind of can, because we can be near God every day. God is in the air we breathe, the wind that blows upon our face, the power of the thunderstorm; God is in the spider web, and the autumn leaves as they flutter to the ground. God is. In each of these manifestations, and more, he invites us to come to him, just as we are, and connect with him in meaningful, real, honest ways. Jesus said "*come* to me, all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest"; he said "*follow* me and I will make you fishers of men"; and he said "*abide* in me, and I in you"—shouldn't we accept these invitations? Find a way to connect with God today. I promise, there will be no wi-fi or passwords needed!

I'll see you soon,

Pastor Kara



Pastoral Relations Committee

This committee exists to provide a means of communications between the congregation and pastor. If there are any concerns, please reach out to any member on this committee: Wayne Duncan, Jim Blosser, Gary Larsen, Stephanie Frogge, Carla Pinneo, and Kristi Bowker.



August Outreach Mission

This month we will collect food items listed below for we can DO THIS.

we can DO THIS is a volunteer non-profit that distributes food items directly to children who need them. Their Food Pantry stocks kid-friendly foods that are easy for children and youth to prepare. In 2025 they provided 15,750 free meals to children in the Lincoln community.

FOOD ITEMS: (please provide pop-top cans if possible)

- Complete pancake mix (only needs water to prepare)
- Syrup
- Cereal
- Individual macaroni and cheese cups
- SpaghettiOs and Chef Boyardee
- Canned tuna and chicken
- Soups—chicken noodle and vegetable beef
- Chicken or Tuna Helper
- Ramen noodles—chicken or beef flavor (not spicy)
- Canned corn or green beans
- Pork and beans
- Canned chili with or without beans
- Applesauce cups
- Individual fruit cups
- Fruit snacks



Join us for a Pizza Lunch this **Sunday, August 2nd** in the Parlor following Worship.

Homemade Pizza & Salad provided by the Bowkers & the Hospitality Committee

BEACONS FROM THE BOARD



The Board met on July 19, 2026. The Property Team continues to be very busy getting bids to replace the existing gym floor (tiles are crumbling due to age); getting the alley door opener tweaked so it closes tight as people enter and exit the building; office door handle replaced and working with Comfort Techs to complete the HVAC installations on the 2nd floor.

As of June 30, 2026 there is a small surplus in the budget.

Great news! Our church insurance company approved the bids to replace the 2 stained glass windows in the North hall and the Chapel entrance door that were vandalized on February 28, 2026. The total of the bids is \$105,212; FCC deductible is \$7,500 leaving \$97,712 paid by our insurance company. Thanks to some amazing donors we have \$2,000 toward the \$7,500 deductible. All of this has transpired in less than 6 months. Thank you to everyone that worked so quickly to secure and clean up the building following the vandalism; secured the bids; painted the plywood installed at the Chapel entrance and prayed that our building would continue to be brought back as close as possible to its original roots.

Blessings,

Elaine Parman - Board Chair



First Christian Church Foundation

The next FCC Foundation meeting will be held on August 5th at Noon in the church library. If you are curious about how the foundation works or what it is for you are welcome to attend. The Foundation Board meets quarterly. Members include Gwen Belden, D'Arcy Blosser, Rich Calver, Monte Dietrick, Doug Effle, Donald Everett, Gary Larsen, Vince Ortega, and Susan Pallas-Duncan; Elaine Parman (FCC Board Chair) and Pastor Kara are ex-officio members.



Those Serving in August

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

Deacons:

Brad & Kristi Bowker

Elder:

August 2 - Jim Christ

August 9 - Jim Blosser

August 16 - Wayne Duncan

August 23 - Carla Pinneo

August 30 - Jim Christ

Hallway Hospitality:

August 2 - Rich Calver

August 9 - Geoff Putney

August 16 - Geoff Putney

August 23 - Vince Ortega

August 30 - Rich Calver

Ushers/Greeters:

August 2 - Elaine Parman

August 9 - Wayne Duncan & Susan Pallas-Duncan

August 16 - Monte Dietrick

August 23 - D'Arcy Blosser

August 30 - Elaine Parman

Acolytes:

August 2 - Keaton & Kyson Effle

August 9 - Edryk Christianson

August 16 - Trev Greder

August 23 - Gianna Greder

August 30 - Kyson & Keaton Effle

Offering Counting:

August 2 - Elaine Parman

August 9 - Rich Calver

August 16 - Gwen Belden

August 23 - D'Arcy Blosser

August 30 - Elaine Parman

THANK YOU ALL for volunteering to serve.

Happy August
Birth
day!



10th Phyllis Thurber

Katrina(Katie)Swanson

12th Nick Calver

13th Donna Ruhl

16th Sara Lugn

25th Jim Christ

31st Keaton Effle

Book Club

Next Meeting - Friday, August 7th

6:30 pm Marcia Foster's Home:

9714 Del Rio Drive

Book for August:

My Friends

by Fredrik Backman



Book for September:

Broken Country

By Clare Leslie Hall



Everyone is welcome to join us!



Women's Retreat at Kamp Kaleo

KALEO Join us for a weekend retreat at Kamp Kaleo! Dive deeper into your own faith and self, guided by an insightful and challenging keynote speaker. Connect with others and share your faith stories. Experience inspiring and transformational worship. And relax and rejuvenate on the grounds of Kaleo. The retreat will begin on Friday evening and end Sunday morning after a closing worship. A variety of activities will be available Saturday afternoon on the grounds of Kaleo, or take your own adventure to Burwell, Ord, or other nearby attractions.

The cost for Friday evening through Sunday morning is \$190 (\$100 if lodging is not needed). Anyone 16 or older is welcome to attend (participants under 18 must register with an adult). Lodging and all meals from Friday dinner through Sunday breakfast are included. To register, go to kampkaleo.com, scroll down to events listing and click on "Women's Retreat". Carpooling is available! Let D'Arcy Blosser know if you plan to go.

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 Jim Christ's nephew, Dennis Christ, in Oregon. His lymph nodes near the colon section removed showed no signs of cancer. Continued prayers for healing and comfort as he goes through chemotherapy.

Prayers for healing for Vince Ortega's sister, Linda De Los Santos, who has been diagnosed with liver cancer.

Prayers for Marvin and Phyllis Thurber, who are at Harbor House where she is doing rehab and he is receiving respite care.

Prayers for healing for Kristie Christianson's mom, Lucy Reuter-Masek, after a mild stroke.

Prayers for Monte Dietrick, for continued healing.

Prayers for Cec Burkhart for continued healing.

Prayers for Bob Throop for continued healing and strength.

Prayers for Roger Vocasek as he looks for a job.

Prayers for Jessica Steblik-Vocasek for her health issues.

Prayers for Katelynn 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: Pawnee City First Christian Church - Leaders

Our Global Ministries in: Indonesia

AUGUST Call to Confession

One:

While we may yearn to be like Jesus, we know that in our hotheaded choices, our frantic lives, our impetuous words, we are too often like the disciples. Because of this, we come here today to remember that Christ is our Lord, and that he invites us to a better way—his way. Let us confess together our need for his saving presence in our lives.

Prayer of Confession

Many:

We look for you in all the wrong places, God of the lost, and wonder why we cannot find you. We wander the corridors of power, while you sit beside those with no home. We applaud those who win the race, while you cheer on those who finish last. Forgive us, O Lord, and have mercy upon us. Warm our cold hearts with compassion for all of your children. Give us your grace, that we may faithfully proclaim you as Lord and Savior: the hope, the joy, the peace the world seeks.

Good News of God's Grace

One:

Here, face to face, God meets us. Here, face to face, we can speak the truth of our imperfect lives without fear. Here face to face, God forgives us.

Many:

Here, face to face, we meet the One who has great compassion for us, and who forgives us of every sin. Thanks be to God. Amen.

"Gracious and Sovereign God, we lift before You the nation of Indonesia in this season of economic, social, and political uncertainty. We pray for their leaders at every level of government. Grant them wisdom, integrity, and courage to make decisions that promote justice, peace, and the well-being of all people, especially those who are most vulnerable. Amen."

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



First Christian Church Calendar

Saturday, August 1st

8 am - 1 pm Kamp Kaleo Rummage Sale Prep-Gym

Sunday, August 2nd

9 am Adult Sunday School

9:15 am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

10 am SCRIP Orders due

10:30 am Worship

Noon Pizza Lunch-Parlor

Noon - 4 pm Kamp Kaleo Rummage Sale Prep-Gym

Monday, August 3rd

9 am - 5 pm - Kamp Kaleo Rummage Sale Prep-Gym

Tuesday, August 4th

9 am - 5 pm - Kamp Kaleo Rummage Sale Prep-Gym

Wednesday, August 5th

9 am - 5 pm - Kamp Kaleo Rummage Sale Prep-Gym

6:30 pm Solos/Ensembles - Sanctuary

7 pm Recorder Consort - Sanctuary

Thursday, August 6th

9 am Kamp Kaleo-prep/final touches

5 pm-8 pm Kamp Kaleo Rummage Sale-Gym

Friday, August 7th

9 am - 4 pm Kamp Kaleo Rummage Sale-Gym

6:30 pm Book Club - Marcia Foster's Home

Saturday, August 8th

9am - 2 pm Kamp Kaleo Rummage Sale

2 pm - 5 pm Kamp Kaleo Rummage Sale cleanup

Sunday, August 9th Homebound Communion

9 am Adult Sunday School

9:15 am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

10:30 am Worship - Backpack Blessing

Noon Kamp Kaleo Rummage Sale Cleanup

Monday, August 10th

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

Tuesday, August 11th

Noon - Staff Meeting

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

Wednesday, August 12th

6:30 pm Solos/Ensembles - Sanctuary

7 pm Recorder Consort - Sanctuary

Thursday, August 13th

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

Sunday, August 16th Stewardship Sunday

9 am Sunday School

9:15 am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

9:50 am Torch Worship 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 - Conference Rm

Monday, August 17th

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

Tuesday, August 18th

6 pm - 9 pm Outside Group - Parlor & Kitchen

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

Wednesday, August 19th

6:30 pm Solos/Ensembles - Sanctuary

7 pm Recorder Consort - Sanctuary

Thursday, August 20th

Noon - Messenger Deadline

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

Sunday, August 23rd

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, August 24th

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

Tuesday, August 25th

Noon - Staff Meeting

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

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

Wednesday, August 26th

6:30 pm Solos/Ensembles - Sanctuary

7 pm Recorder Consort - Sanctuary

Thursday, August 27th

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

Sunday, August 30th

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

August SCRIP Orders are due on
August 2, 2026

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



SPIRITED READERS

COMMUNITY BOOK STUDY
A CHAPTER BY CHAPTER
DISCUSSION OF THE BOOK

now and not yet
By Ruth Chou Simons



There Our Hearts Will Be - Ministry Moment

4TH TUESDAY EACH MONTH— 6:30-8 pm

- Next Meeting is August 25th

LOCATION:

THE MILL @ TELEGRAPH, 330 S. 21st St

No RSVP needed,

call with questions: 402-475-4289

Website: fcclincn.org

Elaine Parman, Chairman of the Board, shared the following message during worship on Sunday, July 19.

Good morning! At my first Board Meeting serving as Board Chair in January, I read a devotion from a Fall Devotional book about "Bonfires" as my theme and goal for 2026 is for us to remain a bright, steady Beacon of Light at 16th and K.

A bonfire starts with a tiny spark, as it grows into a bright and beautiful fire, it becomes a beacon to those around on a dark night - come on out enjoy the light, the sounds, the fellowship and even the warmth.

I believe the spark for FCC to become a bright bonfire began in late 2024 with the welcoming and installation of Pastor Kara and has developed into a steady, bright and beautiful beacon of light for those seeking hope and love both in light and in darkness.

Today's Psalm 139 speaks of God's intimate knowledge of every detail of our lives, and the beautiful reality that there is nowhere we can go that is outside his care.

But for many in our community, even the brightest, sunniest days may be overwhelmingly dark. The many ministries of First Christian Church are here to remind them that God is always with them. Our job is to keep our bright and beautiful bonfire burning 24/7, not just when we are here. That takes a lot of resources, time, and talent.

This congregation and friends of FCC have stepped up to give of their financial resources, time, and talents. We have ended the last 2 years with a surplus in our budget at a time of so much unknown in our own lives, community, nation and world.

Please join me, Pastor Kara, the Board and all the Ministry Teams on this 2026 Stewardship campaign - "There Our Hearts Will Be", as we work to keep our beacon of light burning steady and bright right here at the corner of 16th and K. Thank you!

Lincoln First Christian Church **Kamp Kaleo Rummage Sale** August 6-8

August 6-8

430 S. 16th St., Lincoln NE 68508

All Proceeds Benefit Kamp Kaleo!

Contact the Church Office to
Donate or Volunteer

KAMP KALEO Rummage Sale
At FCC Lincoln
July 31 to August 4 - Preparation
August 6 to August 8 - SALE!!!
August 8 & 9 - Pack-up

We can take all kinds of household items in clean, usable condition. We CANNOT accept outdated baby equipment, non-digital TVs, computer monitors, clothing, encyclopedias or hymnals, exercise equipment or heavy furniture.

Donations will be accepted at the church gym on Saturday, Aug. 1, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Sunday, August 2, Noon-4 p.m., Monday & Tuesday, August 3 & 4, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. (evenings arranged by appointment). Lots of volunteers needed!

We'll need lots of volunteers for this Kamp Kaleo fundraiser; please reach out to D'Arcy Blosser or Sue Shear, if you are able to help! And share the sale dates with your friends, families and neighbors!

Mark your calendars and make plans to come to Worship on **Sunday, August 9th** to bless the backpacks of our students who will be starting school this school year. Students and teachers please bring your bags to church that day.

