First Christian Church

MESSENGER

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

Mark W. Miller, *Director of Worship, Music & Sacred Arts*
Amy Johnson, *Administrative Assistant*

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fcclincoln.org



Christmas Open House

Mark your calendars for a holiday celebration - finger foods, beverages and good fellowship - on December 11 - 7 pm - at Jim & D'Arcy Blosser's, 6245 Carveth Drive (just east of Lazlo's South off of Old Cheney Rd.).

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, December 6, 2026

Following Worship

FCC 2027 Nominees

Board

Chairperson: Elaine Parman
Vice-Chairperson: Jim Blosser
Secretary: Meghan Cowger
Finacial Secretary: Susan Pallas-Duncan
Treasurer: Donna Ruhl

Elders

Jim Blosser - 1 year term
Gary Larsen - 1 year term
Sara Lugn - 1 year term

Deacons

Lindsay Swanson - 3 year term
Monte Dietrick - 1 year term
Kristi Bowker - 1 year term
Brad Bowker - 1 year term
Susan Pallas-Ducan - 1 year term

FCC Foundation

Casey Foster

ADVENT 2026

First Christian Church invites you to join us:

November 29, 2026 *1st Sunday of Advent*
10:30 am - Sanctuary

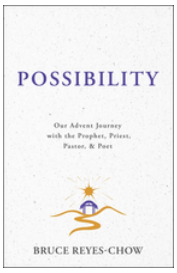
December 6, 2026 *2nd Sunday of Advent*
10:30 am - Sanctuary

December 13, 2026 *3rd Sunday of Advent*
10:30 am - Sanctuary

December 20, 2026
A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols
10:30 am - Sanctuary

Thursday - December 24, 2026
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
6 pm - Sanctuary

Advent 2026 Devotionals



The devotional *Possibility: Our Advent Journey with the Prophet, Priest, Pastor, & Poet* by Bruce Reyes-Chow has been selected as the devotional for this Advent Season beginning, November 29. The study invites you to meet Jesus in full—Prophet, Priest, Pastor, and Poet—and discover the disruptive, grounding possibility he offers a weary world. Pick your copy up in the Narthex. *If you are unable to pick one up, please let the office know.*

December Outreach Opportunity

Our December Outreach Opportunity is for HopeSpoke. They inspire healthy futures for children and their families through comprehensive behavioral and mental health services. Residents of their Therapeutic Group Home rent our gym three nights per week for physical activity. The Therapeutic Group Home provides a holistic, trauma-informed, strength-based approach 24/7 to males ages 13-18 who have demonstrated sexually abusive behaviors. Youth are involved in a structured routine of individual, group and family therapies to address their treatment needs and goals. This group home opened in 1992 and is the only one of its kind in Nebraska. The Group Home needs the following items for the 14 males that live there:

- Sweatshirts/hoodies/ long sleeve t-shirts/ underwear - sizes medium, large & extra large
- Socks
- Liquid shower soaps for males
- Shampoo
- Deodorant
- Razors/ shaving cream
- Toothbrushes/toothpaste
- Chapsticks

HopeSpoke

Inspiring Children & Families to Move Forward

Thank you for supporting this Outreach Opportunity!

Please send all pastoral care needs, prayer requests and concerns to Elaine Parman, volunteer Care Minister at careminister@fcclincoln.org and they will be responded to immediately. We have secured the Rev. Darin Corder to assist as needed during this period of time prior to an Interim Minister joining us.

Elaine Parman, Board Chair
Jim Blosser, Board Vice Chair



We are beyond grateful for your generosity of gifts for our families. Our families will use the hygiene supplies and gift cards to meet their daily needs. We appreciate you so much!

Theresa Haack,
Principal McPhee Elementary

(This was our September 2026 Outreach.)



Faith Giving and Blessings

The season of Advent begins November 29th. A time of hope, anticipation and waiting, as we prepare to celebrate Christ's birth. Waiting gives us time to reflect on the many blessings that come during this season and how we can give. Giving is an act of love. It's choosing to help someone else above ourselves. It's about making a sacrifice that echoes the self-giving love of God and it's about returning that love. We need YOU to reciprocate God's wondrous love by generously supporting the mission and ministry of First Christian Church in the city of Lincoln, Nebraska!

As you contemplate the gifts you are giving this year, please consider making a *Faith Giving* gift to help enhance the mission and ministry of First Christian and bring hope to others.

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

BEACONS FROM THE BOARD

The Board met on November 15th.
The Property Team has been very busy in 2026:

1. Getting security lighting installed on the Southeast corner of the building in hopes of deterring any further vandalism to the new HVAC system installed in that area. Security cameras are being researched for the same area.
2. Approving a contract to update the gym flooring with a product used by LPS schools for their gyms. The work will begin after the first of the year.

We will meet again in January 2027!

Blessings,
Elaine Parman - Board Chair

Husker Parking Lot Ministry

THANK YOU ~ THANK YOU ~ THANK YOU
Neither sun, or rain, or wind, or cold could keep our dedicated Husker home game parking lot volunteers from performing this important ministry. Many thanks to Jim Christ, Monte Dietrick, Brad Bowker and Wayne Duncan.
FCC Faith Giving increased by $3000 from parking lot donations for the 2026 Husker home football games.
It's not too early to start planning for the 2027 season. Your time commitment begins 4 hours before kickoff.
The 2027 home football games are as follows:

Sept. 4	Northern Illinois
Sept. 18	Northern Iowa
TBD	Oregon
TBD	Purdue
TBD	Minnesota
TBD	Iowa
TBD	Rutgers



Stocking Stuffer Gift Cards Are Available!

SCRIP cards make a great holiday gift, and now for Christmas, smaller denominations are available for certain retailers.

$10 Cards From
Amazon - Applebee's – Bath & Body Works – Cheddars – Cracker Barrel – Dick's Sporting Goods - Home Depot - IHOP – McDonald's - Olive Garden - Target - Walmart

$5 Cards From
Barnes & Noble - Cold Stone Creamery - Panera - Starbucks - Taco Bell

Of course, larger denominations are available, too! Scrip orders go out on the first Sunday of each month. Only one more Sunday (December 6th) before the holidays come! Purchase of SCRIP supports local businesses and gives a portion of the proceeds back to the church. It's a Win-Win for everyone!
If you have special orders for SCRIP, please get in touch with Donna Ruhl or the FCC Office.
Thank you again for participating in our SCRIP program.

THERE OUR HEARTS WILL BE

There Our Hearts Will Be

More than 30 people celebrated the culmination of our *There Our Hearts Will Be* 2027 Stewardship Campaign on Commitment Sunday, October 25th by attending Worship and enjoying lunch in our gym.
THANK YOU to all of FCC's dedicated volunteers who assisted with the 2027 stewardship campaign.
As of November 22, 2026, we have received 27 pledges.

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



Those Serving in December

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:
Kristi Bowker

Deacons:
Vince Ortega & Susan Pallas-Duncan

Elder:
December 6 - Jim Blosser
December 13 - Wayne Duncan
December 20 - Jim Chrsit
December 24 - Jim Christ
December 27 - Carla Pinneo

Hallway Hospitality:
December 6 - Geoff Putney
December 13 - Vince Ortega
December 20 - Rich Calver
December 24 - **Need 1 Volunteer**
December 27 - Elaine Parman

Greeters:
December 6 -Monte Dietrick
December 13 - D'Arcy Blosser
December 20 - Elaine Parman
December 24 - Elaine Parman
December 27 - Wayne Duncan & Susan Pallas-Duncan

Offering Counting:
December 6 - Gwen Belden
December 13 - D'Arcy Blosser
December 20 - Elaine Parman
December 27 - Rich Calver

THANK YOU ALL for volunteering to serve.



December Birthdays

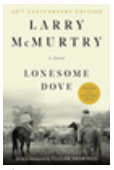


2nd Brady Christianson
3rd Ashley Lugn
7th Kyson Effle
22nd Hunter Christianson

Book Club

Next Meeting - Saturday, January 9th
Susan Pallas-Duncan's Home:

Book for January:
Lonesome Dove
By Larry McMurtry



Everyone is welcome to join us!

Deborah Group, (Disciples Women) News

Deborah Group's next meeting is December 7 at the home of Carla Pinneo - 1300 N. 80th Street - 7 p.m. We are reading and discussing Kate Bowler's book, *Joyful Anyway*. (read Chapters 15-20 for December).
We enjoy fellowship and good discussion and share resources (optional) for outreach giving. All women are invited to participate.



Proper operation of the alley entrance chair lift

The current chair lift that was installed a few years ago does not need a key to operate like the previous one. If you are interested in learning how to use the chair lift please ask me to instruct you. I am usually around after Worship to meet with you. The key no longer hangs outside the alley entrance kitchen door so that it does not get turned to the OFF position causing someone to get stuck in it.
Thanks,
Elaine Parman

Prayers & Praises

In Our Church Family:

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

Prayers for Ron Hile, after a visit to Bryan Hospital he is now at Hillcrest Firethorn for rehab. He is having a lot of pain issues.

Prayers for Elaine Clayton, mother of Diane Zabokrtsky, who suffered a stroke and is now back home receiving therapy.

Prayers for Sheryl Stanley, Kristi Bowker's sister; she suffered a stroke and is dealing with other health concerns.

Sympathy to the Foster family in the recent deaths of parents John and Ann Foster.

Prayers for Rhonda Ball's son, Andy Ball, recently diagnosed with bladder cancer and is receiving treatment.

Prayers for Rev. Bruce Frogge, Stephanie Frogge's brother; he has been approved for a bone marrow transplant. There are some matches; Bruce is being tested to make sure he is a strong host site.

Prayers for Jim Christ's nephew, Dennis Christ; he has been moved back closer to home for continued treatment. *Pray for Jim's brother John*, who was recently hospitalized with a possible heart attack.

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

Prayers for Bob Throop for the sale of his former home before the end of the year.

Prayers for Katelyn Long for continued healing and strength.

Friends:

- Ron Collamore*, prayers for his health.*
- Kelly, mutual friend of Donna Ruhl & Elaine Parman, *prayers for her 19 year old son Hendrix who is dealing with undiagnosed heart issues.*
- Cece Robinson, mutual friend of Stephanie Frogge & Elaine Parman, *her 19 year old son Mason Krupka was killed in a car crash in Lincoln.*

Our Timothy

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

In the Nebraska Region: Center on Church Leadership - Tim Adams

Our Global Ministries in: Palestine

"God of hope and peace, teach us to recognize your presence in small acts of kindness, in people who choose to help one another, and in every effort toward peace and justice. When we become tired, renew our hope. When we are afraid, give us courage. When we feel powerless, remind us that our actions and our prayers matter. Amen."

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

DECEMBER

Call to Confession

One:
If we are to welcome the Child into our hearts, we must speak of all the ways we have hardened ourselves against the good news he brings. Let us confess how we have missed the mark, praying together, saying:

Prayer of Confession

Many:
Holy One of Advent, we put the powerful on pedestals, but you send the lowly to remind us of our call to be servants. We store up more and more, but you remind us that you alone can fill the empty spaces within us. Forgive us, Lord, that we so foolishly put our needs ahead of your grace. Help us to be like those wise people of so long ago, who found hope, based not on what the world had to give, but on the unexpected joy of your love alone.

Good News of God's Grace

One:
If we believe the songs of the angels, then we must go out and tell others this good news.
Many:
We will go: glorifying God, praising the Lord, and confessing to everyone we meet how we have been richly blessed and forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

First Christian Church Calendar

Tuesday, December 1st
6 pm - 8 pm Kaleothon - Parlor & Kitchen
7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Outside Group - Gym

Wednesday, December 2nd
6:30 pm Handbell Practice - Sanctuary
7:30 pm Solos/Ensembles - Sanctuary

Thursday, December 3rd
7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Outside Group - Gym

Saturday, December 5th
4 pm Recorder Consort

Sunday, December 6th Second Sunday of Advent
9 am Adult Sunday School
9:15 am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
9:50 am Torch Worship Rehearsal
10 am SCRIP Orders due
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am All Church Congregational Meeting-Sanctuary
Noon Worship Team Mtg - Library
4 pm - 10:30 pm - Outside Group-Parl/Kit/Gym

Monday, December 7th
7 pm Deborah Group-Carla Pinneo's Home
7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Outside Group - Gym

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

Wednesday, December 9th
6:30 pm Handbell Practice - Sanctuary
7:30 pm Solos/Ensembles - Sanctuary

Thursday, December 10th
7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Outside Group - Gym

Friday, December 11th
7 pm Blosser Open House

Saturday, December 12th
4 pm Recorder Consort

Sunday, December 13th Third Sunday of Advent/ 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, December 14th
7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Outside Group - Gym

Tuesday, December 15th
7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Outside Group - Gym

Wednesday, December 16th
6:30 pm Handbell Practice - Sanctuary
7:30 pm Solos/Ensembles - Sanctuary

Thursday, December 17th
Noon - Messenger Deadline
7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Outside Group - Gym

Saturday, December 19th
10 am Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary
4 pm Recorder Consort - Sanctuary

Sunday, December 20th Fourth Sunday of Advent/ Lessons and Carols
9 am 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, December 21st
7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Outside Group - Gym

Tuesday, December 22nd
7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Outside Group - Gym
6:30 pm - 8 pm Spirited Readers - The Mill @ Telegraph

Wednesday, December 23rd
6:30 pm - Handbell Practice - Sanctuary
7:30 pm Solos/Ensembles - Sanctuary

Thursday, December 24th Christmas Eve
6 pm Christmas Eve Service

Friday, December 25th Merry Christmas!!

Saturday, December 26th
4 pm Recorder Consort - Sanctuary

Sunday, December 27th
9 am No 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, December 28th
7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Outside Group - Gym

Tuesday, December 29th
7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Outside Group - Gym

Wednesday, December 30th
No Wednesday Night Activities

Thursday, December 31st New Year's Eve Office Closed

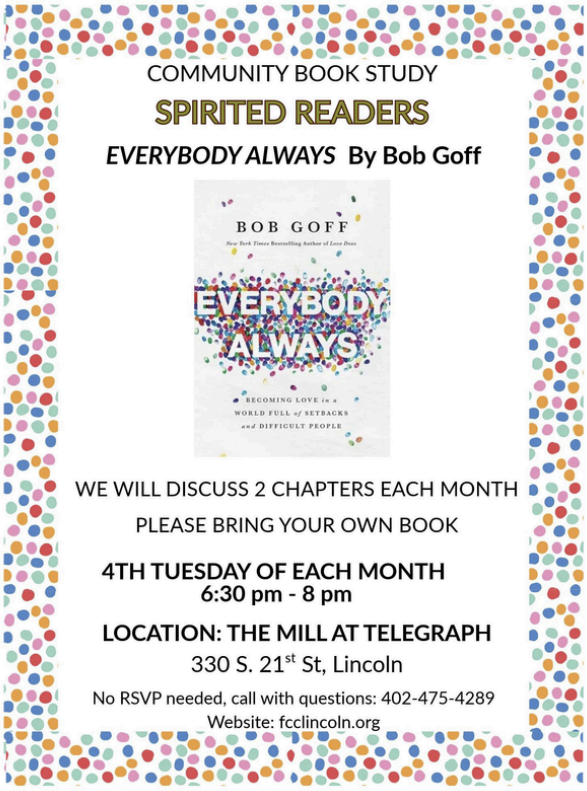
December SCRIP Orders are due on December 6, 2026

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

KAMP KALEO

Kaleo Is Calling - Summer 2027!!

Planning for the 2027 summer camping program at Kamp Kaleo is underway and camp dates are set! Register before February 1st for $100 off your camp fee.
Here are the dates:
June 6-10 - Junior Kamp
June 11-13 - Little Kampers #1
June 13-18 - Middle School/Junior High Kamp
June 25-27 - Agape Kamp
June 27-July 2 - Senior High Kamp
July 11-16 - Creative Arts Kamp
July 16-18 - Little Kampers #2
July 25-28 - Robotics Kamp
August 6-8 - Adventures in Community Kamp (AIC)
For more information on age ranges and fees for the different camps visit www.kampkaleo.com. First Christian Church pays 1/2 of the camp fee for church families; see D'Arcy Blosser if you have any questions!



FCC T-Shirts Now Available

The Communications Team is excited to offer the opportunity to purchase t-shirts with our new logo.

Below are links to our group t-shirt orders. There are separate links for white shirts with full color logos and red or navy shirts with white logos. There are both short and long sleeved t-shirts. If you want to order a kids t-shirt, please contact Meghan Cowger. She can order these separately.

You will pay for your own order. You can choose to have it shipped to the church or directly to your home. **The deadline for this order is SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20TH.** We will be able to place an order next year too.

We are also working on a Land's End online store where you can order polos, sweatshirts, and other items.

FCC - Adult White T-Shirts
https://www.customink.com/g/shv0-00d4-a8pu
FCC - Adult Colored T-Shirts
https://www.customink.com/g/shv0-00d4-a8pq

We hope you will take this opportunity to purchase t-shirts to show your FCC pride!

Communications Team





A Season of Preparation and Prayer

As we approach Advent we are invited to journey through a season of preparation. This season provides special opportunities to spend time with God in reflection and prayer. As we travel towards Jerusalem with the guidance of our Advent devotion booklet, "Possibility" we are also invited to take some time to pray for the Church and for our congregation.

Dec. 1	Pray for the Christian Church and all its expressions.
Dec. 2	Pray for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and its leadership.
Dec. 3	Pray for the Nebraska Region, Regional Minister The Rev. Robin Blakemore and leaders.
Dec. 4	Pray for the pastors filling our pulpit during our time of transition.
Dec. 5	Pray for the Executive Committee.
Dec. 6	Pray for FCC, particularly as we meet for our annual meeting following worship.
Dec. 7	Pray for our Director of Worship, Music, & Sacred Arts.
Dec. 8	Pray for our Administrative Assistant, Custodian and Child Care provider.
Dec. 9	Pray for the Ministry Cabinet.
Dec. 10	Pray for the leadership and members of the FCC Foundation Board.
Dec. 11	Pray for the Hospitality Team, its leaders and all those who help with the various Hospitality activities of the congregation.
Dec. 12	Pray for Kamp Kaleo, its leadership and all those who serve as counselors, camp directors, summer staff and maintenance.
Dec. 13	Pray for the Elders and those visiting our homebound today.
Dec. 14	Pray for the Deacons as they prepare communion each Sunday.
Dec. 15	Pray for the Outreach Team, for its leadership in reaching out to our community.
Dec. 16	Pray for the Stewardship and Finance Team, for its leadership and all those who have served in this area of our life together.
Dec. 17	Pray for our Financial Secretary and Treasurer.
Dec. 18	Pray for all those involved in our music ministries.
Dec. 19	Pray for the Property Team, for all those who care for our building and property.
Dec. 20	Pray for the Communications Team, for its leadership as we help spread the word about FCC.
Dec. 21	Pray for all those who have served this congregation in various ways and who will be completing their service.
Dec. 22	Pray for all those who have agreed to serve and will begin their service in 2027.
Dec. 23	Pray for our children and youth.
Dec. 24	Pray for our Worship Team and all those who participate in leading worship.
Dec. 25	Pray for all those who celebrate the birth and incarnation of Jesus Christ.
Dec. 26	Pray for all those who have nurtured our faith.
Dec. 27	Pray for guidance as we strive to discern ways to share the Gospel.
Dec. 28	Pray for those struggling, particularly those for whom the holidays are difficult.
Dec. 29	Pray for the leadership of the congregation as we prepare for the coming year.
Dec. 30	Pray for the congregation as we say farewell to 2026.
Dec. 31	Pray for FCC as we enter a New Year.