We’ve been waiting a long time – and the time is now here!

Join us Friday, Nov. 8, Southern Heights Presbyterian Church (6:30 – 8:30 pm), and Saturday, Nov. 9, at First Presbyterian Church (9:30 am – 3:30 pm) for conversations with author Diana Butler Bass, and then Sunday, Nov. 10, at 11 am, Diana will lead us in worship at First Presbyterian Church.

If you have not yet made reservations for Friday dinner or Saturday lunch, please do so as soon as possible! You can sign up through the website (FPCLincoln.org/grateful – click “Purchase tickets”), or sign up in the Welcome Center or email or call Carrie in the office to RSVP.

(You can pay at the door, but RSVPs are necessary so we can order enough food.)

More information at: FPCLincoln.org/Grateful.
Sue’s Musings: Stewardship and Gratitude

I’ll just say it – thank you to all who give of your time, talents and money to the work and ministry of First Presbyterian Church. I hope you have been present in worship these past few months as we share “Minutes for Gratitude,” celebrating the many ways your gifts touch lives. No matter how large or small your gift, it has made a difference in someone’s life – and I hope in yours too.

Years ago I made a decision that I wanted to know that what I gave made a difference. I measure that by a simple question – if I did not give, would the programs or ministry of the organization continue? When I give to some large organizations, I sometimes wonder if my small gift really makes a difference. That goes for both money and time. I’ve dropped out of some good organizations because it was clear that my presence, or my donation, didn’t really matter.

I don’t wonder that here. That’s partly because I work with the stewardship committee as we try to stretch every dollar so we can do the most good we can. Every stewardship season, after the pledge cards come in, we have to figure out what we can and cannot do with our resources. Sometimes it’s easy, and sometimes we find ourselves making some pretty tough decisions. So I know that even the smallest gifts (or lack thereof) can either open doors or close doors to exciting ministries.

As we enter this stewardship season and consider our financial gift to the church, I ask you to prayerfully consider making a pledge to the church for 2020. A pledge is not a legal document (if your circumstances change, you can change your pledge too), it is a statement of intent, one that the Session uses to plan our ministry for the coming year. (Pledge cards will be mailed soon.)

We are all in different life situations, and have different abilities to give. Some are able to give large amounts, others not so much. I’m going to be bold and ask you to increase your gift if at all possible. We give so that this church will continue to make a difference in lives – ours and others – and your gift will matter, even just a small increase. I’m also going to be bold and ask those who have never pledged to do so, even if it’s just $1 a week, or $52 a year, per person. Your gift does make a difference! Added to the rest, we can touch lives, feed bodies, encourage spirits, and give hope.

Thank you in advance, for your faith, and your commitment to making a difference through the ministry of First Presbyterian Church.

Pastor Sue

~ Rooted in God ~ Open to Grace ~ Filled with Joy ~
What is Per Capita? And Why Should I Care?

We don’t talk about per capita much – but you may have noticed on the pledge card you receive every year an option to make a contribution specifically toward the per capita portion of our budget. In a nutshell, per capita is a way every Presbyterian contributes to the threads that strengthen our larger ministry together. It is, as the brochure in the middle of our newsletter says, “the tie that binds.” In this season of stewardship, we know you are all prayerfully considering what you will give to the church in 2020 so that the work of First Presbyterian Church can continue to be strong in the future. As part of our church’s commitment to the denomination of which we are a part, we contribute $45.10 for every member on our active membership roll to the PCUSA. $8.95 goes to the General Assembly (national church), $5.50 goes to the Synod of Lakes and Prairies (the regional council of the church to which our presbytery belongs), and $30.65 goes to Homestead Presbytery, to fund those services and resources and ministries that help us be the church in word and deed here in Lincoln and around the world.

We want to encourage you, in addition to your regular pledge, to include a separate contribution to the per capita portion of our budget. Why separate, and not just part of your regular pledge? Because by being conscious of this contribution, we remind ourselves that we are part of something so much bigger than just First Presbyterian Church in Lincoln. We are part of almost 1.4 million Presbyterians and more than 9,000 churches hearing God’s call to service and ministry in this world, and we are in this together.

So please consider, in addition to your regular pledge, an extra gift of $45.10 for the per capita portion of our church’s commitment and in gratitude to the almost 1.4 million Presbyterians joining us in God’s mission in the world.

Sermons Online!

Did you know we post the Sunday sermons on our website? If you miss Sunday, or really want to hear the sermon again, or, better yet, share it with a friend, you can find our sermons at FPCLincoln.org/worship/sermons.
FPChristian Education – Living our Faith Together
What a great start to our new Sunday School and Faith Formation offerings here at FPC. I can’t say thank you enough for the participation and joy this congregation has brought to these events. And then there is the food, oh that glorious breakfast food that has been at out pot-luck breakfast – delish!! It is quite the honor to be part of a congregation that is open to trying new things and exploring faith in new ways, like our last LOFT Sunday where we explored the story of Adam and Eve in the garden through some fun messiness and a reminder of God’s love. Be sure to check out the art work on display in the hall outside of the Sanctuary and below in a few pictures. Next month we follow the same schedule so we hope to see you there!

What’s Happening in November!

Faith Formation Hour (Sunday School) – Activity Time begins at 9:30 am and Youth Choir at 9:45 am every Sunday morning.

- November 3rd @ 10:00 am – Forum for Adults (Great Hall) and Sunday School for kids and youth. Confirmation for middle schoolers (classrooms). Our Forum guest is Destiny Burkett from the Child Advocacy Center
- November 10th @ 10:00 am – L.O.F.T. Sunday with potluck breakfast in Fellowship Hall – Please bring a breakfast item to share as we explore the story of God’s call to Abraham and Sarah
- November 17th @ 10:00 am – Children, Youth, and Adult Sunday School Classes
- November 24th @ 10:00 am – Intergenerational Sunday in Fellowship Hall

Youth Ministry (6th-12th Grades):

- November 3rd – Sabbath at home
- November 10th @ 5:30 pm – Youth Fellowship at FPC
- November 17th @ 5:30 pm – Pizza and Bible Study at the home of TBA
- November 24th @ 5:30 pm – Paint Yourself Silly

November Forum Series – On Sunday morning, November 3rd, we will be joined by Destiny Burkett of the Child Advocacy Center for our Forum Series. Destiny will educate us on the role of the Child Advocacy Center in supporting children, how they assist law enforcement when it comes to reporting child abuse and neglect, information about child abuse in our community, as well as ways we can help make a difference. Please join us for the important and informative event. You will learn a lot, I sure did!
Why We Do What We Do
Intergenerational Sunday School

One of the priorities of our church for this school year is strengthening relationships. The quality of relationships among members is one of the reasons churches our size grow – people don’t come to our size church for programs, they come for the relationships.

One of the unique things a church has that most organizations don’t, is a range of generations, gathering together in one place for a common purpose. From 2 (or younger) to 102 (or older!). This year, for 2 Sundays a month, we are taking a break from our regular Sunday School age-graded classes for children thru adults and focusing on building relationships through intergenerational educational opportunities. This is a huge challenge! It is incredibly difficult to create a Sunday School educational experience that meets the needs of our youngest members to our oldest members. It’s either going to be over the heads of some, or way too simple for others. We know that, and yet we are doing it anyway. Why? One, because it is a wonderful witness of faith to our children when they have opportunities to forge relationships with adults who are not of their own family. I have heard countless people talk about the grouchy old man in worship who ended up taking an interest in them, and unintentionally shepherding them in their faith. Second, for older members, we are reminded of what Jesus may have meant when he said we must receive the Kingdom of God like a child. Or maybe we are just reminded not to take ourselves too seriously!

So when you come to our intergenerational Sunday school, sometimes you may feel lost, other times you may not feel challenged enough. Whichever camp you fall into, come anyway, for this is what it means to be the Body of Christ!

Pastor Sue
NEW THIS SEASON!
This year we are offering members of First Presbyterian $5 off all individual concert tickets or a season ticket (except for Sing from the Heart, as that concert has already been discounted). To take advantage of this offer just mention it when you purchase your tickets.

Sing From the Heart - Family Concert
Childhood Memories
Sunday, November 17, 2019 - 3:00 p.m.

Dessert Concert & Charity Fundraiser for HopeSpoke
(formerly the Child Guidance Center)

featuring the First Presbyterian Choir with storyteller Pippa White

This year our annual dessert concert & charity fundraiser is a family-oriented event, complete with ice cream, child-themed music, captivating storyteller Pippa White, and a shortened, kid-friendly program.
Anybody Can Ring Handbells! Sunday. Dec. 1, 11:00 service.

If you have ever wanted to try handbells this is your chance!

Anyone can join the bell choir that morning, including children (please just be sure any children are old enough to safely hold the bells or chimes, and have a parent to assist if needed). We will meet at 10:00 am in the sanctuary to rehearse some easy things for the service that morning. Please let Brian Pfoltner know in advance if you plan to take part. If he knows in advance he can also adapt parts to meet your or your child’s ability level.

Combined Choir at the World Communion Service
October 6th 11:00 am Service
**Library Notes**

**Diana Butler Bass** will be a guest at FPC in November. The FPC Library has two of her books available for check out.

**Grateful – The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks**

**Grounded – Finding God in the World**

During November we are encouraged to consider those things for which we are thankful. The FPC library has a number of books that will help you contemplate thankfulness, gratitude and forgiveness.

- **Attitudes of Gratitude**, by M.J. Ryan
- **The Sunflowers**, by Simon Wiesenthal
- **The Power of Giving**, by Azim Jamal & Harvey McKinnon
- **Glass, Paper, Beans**, by Leah Hager Cohen

**Biography Spotlight:**

*The Simple Faith of Mister Rogers*, by Amy Hollingsworth, …shows us a man who, to paraphrase the words of St. Francis of Assisi, ’preached the gospel at all times; when necessary he used words.’

**Book Spotlight**

*Kitchen Table Wisdom*, by Rachel Naomi Remen, M.D. *This remarkable collection of true stories draws on the concept of “kitchen table wisdom” – the human tradition of shared experience that shows us life in all its power & mystery & reminds us that the things we cannot measure may be the things that ultimately sustain and enrich our lives.*

The FPC Library has a great selection of **Biographies**, found on the north wall behind the orange stuffed chairs. Examples of these diverse reading options include:

- **Crazy Horse, a Lakota Life**, by Kingsley M. Bray
- **Fraternity: A Journey in Search of Five Presidents**, by Bob Greene
- **Founding Mothers**, by Cokie Roberts (also available in Large Print)
- **The Life & Death of Dietrich Bonhoeffer**, by Mary Bosanquet

**FPC Library Books**

CHECK THEM OUT!!!
Communication & Visitation Skills Training

The Board of Deacons is planning an educational session this fall, led by Pastor Jane Holtzclaw, with a focus on developing effective communication and visitation skills. Although emphasis will be placed on skills that will be helpful for deacons in their role of providing for needs of the congregation, the training will be relevant to anyone and is open to all.

More information will be available when a date is determined.

Presbyterian Women:

Presbyterian Women gathered at Camp Calvin Crest Friday night, Sep. 13, for an informal chat with Moderator of Presbyterian Women Churchwide, JyungIn (Jenny) Lee and Rev. Danelle Crawford McKinney, the first native American woman to be ordained in the Presbyterian Church.

On Saturday almost 60 women and 2 men participated in the gathering hearing from both Jenny and Danelle. Our Interim Executive Presbytr, Stephen Earl introduced himself and brought us up to date on Presbytery activities.

Officers were installed and two new officers joined the Homestead Women’s coordinating team. Nancy Field, from First Church Lincoln is the newly installed Search person for the southern half of the Presbytery and Rev. Teresa Bartlett of Wayne, NE is Search for the northern half.

The offering was given to Camp Calvin Crest in the amount of $740. PDA school book bags were completed. First church contributed to this project and many thanks for the support.

On Sunday Jenny preached at both services for First Church and luncheon followed second service. Jenny had her first experience of GO BIG RED when she checked into her hotel Saturday afternoon.

It was a fantastic weekend for the women of the churches in Homestead Presbytery.
MEET YOUR CHURCH GROUPS

This year, as we focus on discipleship and deepening relationships with each other we want to highlight the many groups here at First Presbyterian Church. Groups where people can grow in friendship and faith together.

The featured group will be Greeters and Coffee Hosts for that week. On the week the group hosts, you will be able to read a spotlight in the bulletin about what the group does, where they meet and who to contact if interested in participating. Pastor Sue will mention this highlighted group during announcements. Join the congregation in East Entrance for coffee hour and talk to the group members and join groups that interest you.

First Report Deadline for November!

Septembers' First Report Deadline is **November 18th**. Anything turned in after that date **will not** get included in the newsletter. This is to allow for time for editing, printing and mailing the newsletter to our members. Thank you for getting your information to us from the various committee’s, groups and activities within the church!

WHAT IS CHURCH WOMEN UNITED? It is a world-wide organization of Christian women from many denominations in many cultures. In the United States CWU is organized by state and local units; the Lincoln Unit being composed of churches from several denominations, each represented by a "Key Woman". The current worldwide Quadrennial Priorities of CWU include: Human Rights, Hunger and Poverty, Health and Wellness, and Diversity and Inclusiveness. We meet 10 months of the year, hosted by various member churches, gathering at 9:30 AM for refreshments and fellowship. Six months of the year we have a brief Bible study, followed by a program from a local agency whose mission is within the bounds of one of our Quadrennial Priorities, closing with a brief business meeting.

Our months of the year we hold special programs provided by International CWU: March World Day of Prayer, May Friendship Day, October Human Rights Day and November World Community Day.

Our current Key Woman from FPC is retiring and we are inviting another woman to become a part of this vital international organization. If you are interested contact Joan Berglund (402/440-5478)
We will once again be having our Annual Thanksgiving meal in the Fellowship Hall with the help of Jacob’s Well and the wonderful First Presbyterian volunteers!

Please contact Bill Janike or Carrie in the front office to donate funds or food to this annual tradition.

Parking Lot Progress!
Pavement is poured and progress is being made! The parking lot concrete is poured and it looks like we should be able to start putting signs and landscaping in soon. God is Good!

The Flyleaf Book Club …
Will meet on We will be reading Book Woman of Troublesome Creek by Kim Richardson for our November 15 meeting.
New members are always welcome!

Craig & Amanda have welcomed their new baby girl into the world! She was born at Bryan East Tuesday, October 22. Big sister Mataya is taking the role very seriously! Mom and baby girl Nevalynn are home and doing great!
First Presbyterian Church

Where faith is nurtured, curiosity is encouraged, diversity is welcomed, and all are loved.

For after hour calls to the church office, 402-477-6037, the staff voicemail extensions and e-mail addresses follow:

**Pastor/Head of Staff: Rev. Dr. Sue Coller**
x 1 scoller@fpclincoln.org

**Parish Associate for Sudanese Ministry:**
Rev. Jock Tut Paleak  
x 5 jutpaleak@gmail.com

**Parish Associate of Caring Ministries:**
Rev. Jane Holtzclaw  caring@fpclincoln.org

**Music Director:** Dr. Brian Pfoltner  
x 3 musicdir@fpclincoln.org

**Organist:** Dr. Charles W. Ore  
charles.w.ore@gmail.com

**Director of Christian Education:** Dr. Kris Brammer  
x 2 dce@fpclincoln.org

**Church Administrator:** Carrie Cross  
x 0 churchadmin@fpclincoln.org

**Financial Coordinator:** Cheryl Rennick  
X 4 Finance@fpclincoln.org

**Custodian/Maintenance:** Craig Walin  
Maintenance@fpclincoln.org

Outside Classes and Programs @ FPC:

Men’s AA - Mondays

Women’s AA - Tuesdays

Big Book Bunch AA - Tuesdays and Thursdays

El Centro Zumba Class - Tuesday and Friday

Lincoln Literacy - Tuesday and Wednesday

SCC ESL - Monday through Thursday

Flyleaf Book Club - 3rd Friday of the month

At FPC, we warmly welcome all groups and organizations that provide needed services for members of our community.