



CHRIST UNITED

Messenger September 30, 2022

ACT INCLUSIVELY – SEEK GOD – DO JUSTICE – SERVE OTHERS

“Community Is Integral to the Christian Life”

On a cold, snowy January morning, my parents loaded us all up in the family car and we began carefully driving for several hours across my home-state of North Carolina. Once, as we were cresting the top of a steep downgrade, my father lost control of the car in the icy conditions. As we went zooming down the hill, we started sliding into the path of an oncoming tractor trailer truck. As we sped closer and closer towards impact with the truck, we all screamed. Then, just in the nick of time, our car slid out of the path of the truck and we were saved.

The occasion for this harrowing trip across state on a dreadful winter day was to attend my grandmother’s funeral. We returned late that evening—physically, mentally, and emotionally exhausted. When we unlocked the door and walked into our kitchen, we were stunned to see dozens and dozens of grocery bags filled with food. I remember my father smiling for the first time that day and saying, “Well, it looks like we have been ‘pounded.’” “Pounding” was a North Carolina tradition of giving provisions to a family going through a difficult time in their lives. “Poundings” were always done by churches; that is, faith communities.

One of the many blessings which we received from the Incarnation—when God became enfleshed in the person, Jesus—was that God taught us how we are intended to live. That is, Jesus provided the model of the lifestyle God intends for us to follow. Central to that Christian life is community. Throughout his ministry, Jesus lived and taught within a community. We know the names of the twelve disciples, who formed part of Jesus’ community. But, Jesus’ community was much larger than that. Jesus travelled with an entourage of people, such as Mary Magdalene and others.

Today, Christian congregations form those communities which God intends for us to live within. So, all of us live within the community of Christ UMC. Faith communities, such as ours, should strive to be inclusive. They are there to comfort us in times of sadness, encourage us in times of hardship, celebrate with us in times of joy, empower us as we seek to serve God, and teach us as we strive to grow closer to God.

While we gain tremendously from belonging to a faith community, we are also responsible for investing in our faith community. That is, we need to contribute to our faith community and its viability. This month, there are two unique ways that each of us can invest in our Christ UMC community:

1. Be sure to attend our **Seventieth Anniversary Celebration** on Sunday, October 9th. Sometimes it is important to look back before moving forward. Join us for a special service which looks back at our legacy over 70 years, while also encouraging us to look to the future and opportunities to serve God.

2. **Be sure to sign up and have your picture taken for the new pictorial directory.**

Pictures will be taken October 13, 14, and 15. It is important for our faith community to have your picture in the directory because it enhances our ability to know one another and be a community together. You can schedule your photo session by following this link, <https://instant-scheduling.com/sch.php?kn=3534502&typId=64397&step=2>, calling the church office (402-489-9618) or checking on Facebook or our websie.

Richard

p.s., Also consider attending my Bible study on Nehemiah, from 6:00-8:30 on Thursday, October 20th. A light dinner will be served.

Prayers

Roberta Hoagland at Bryan East
Marjorie Bartels at Eastmont

Bev Minnick at Sumner Nursing Home

Christ United Women in Faith (CUMW) will meet October 5, 2022. Devotions will be in the sanctuary at 11:45 a.m. with a meal and Unit meeting in Room B beginning at noon. The program on October 5th will be about missions, led by Jacque Scholz. Rachel Circle will host. The meal will be a Potluck, with members whose last names begin with A-L bringing either a soup or a salad. RSVP to Carol Duncan at caduncan1950@gmail.com or 402-904-5175 by Monday, October 3rd.

It Takes Us All; Together We Can Make a Difference!

Christ United Women in Faith (CUMW) thank you all for ensuring once again that our Rummage Sale was a success! We thank those who donated items for sale. We thank those who worked tirelessly for days the week of September 10-16! We thank those who helped spread the word about our Rummage Sale. We thank those who purchased lunch, baked goods, and “rummage” items. Thanks to all of you, Christ United Women in Faith cleared slightly over \$5,000. All of these funds go to missions—many to local Lincoln non-profits.

NOTE: One highlight of our week was watching Jana Khan (the mother of our church sponsored Afghan family) shop for items needed in the Khan home. Jana found clothing, a thermos, a blender, warm bedding, laces, thread, beautiful plates, cups, and a teapot, as well as other items too numerous to list. It is not an exaggeration to say that her shopping spree made Jana’s day and delighted us all!

Again—THANK YOU all for your generosity and your willingness to work to staff the sale. See you the third week in September again next year!



Getting to Know Our Church Staff: Dr. Colt Ballou, Music Director & Organist

In this issue of *The Messenger*, we begin a new series of articles, getting to know our Church Staff better. We begin this series with Dr. Colt Ballou, our Music Director and Organist. Colt has one of those church positions in which much of his work is done behind the scenes, such as practicing the organ, helping plan worship, and planning other events for church.

For instance, Colt was instrumental in planning and organizing Allyance, our event sharing God's love and offering encouragement to our city's LGBTQ+ youth and their allies. Colt is also an important leader among church musicians within Lincoln. He also founded and conducts the Star City Chorus. Let's get to know Colt a little bit better:

Tell us about yourself? I grew up in Exira, Iowa, the youngest of three boys. After high school I attended Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa for music education. After college I taught music at Meskwaki Settlement School (a private school for Native American students) and later Marion High School. In 2013 I moved to Lincoln to earn my master and doctoral degrees in conducting from UNL. I am currently married to my Spouse Taylor (they /them) and have two cats, Bruiser and Hilda that are our fur babies. Some of my hobbies include watching tornado videos, playing Stardew Valley, 80's slasher movies and playing boardgames with friends.

Who is your favorite musical artist and why? I have a very eclectic taste in music, so I don't have a specific musical artist that's my favorite. Right now of the modern artists that I really respect is Lizzo. Besides being talented at singing she is a phenomenal flute player and demonstrates that classical and pop music can work together and is for all.

What do you like to do on vacation or your day-off? On my days off I like to relax with my spouse, watch movies, play video games, and go on little adventures

What is your favorite meal? My favorite foods are Asian dishes. Chinese, sushi, ramen, pho.

What is your favorite Biblical verse? **John 13:34.** "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another."

What influences led you to become a church music director? It started when I was asked to sing a solo at the Fall Pops Concert when I was a high school freshman and received a standing ovation. Since nine I wanted to study and chase tornadoes but by December, I decided I wanted to be a conductor. I developed an interest in organ my Sophomore year at college which has kept me involved in church music.

What do you most enjoy about being a church music director? Directing the ensembles, leading the congregation in singing, and being around such caring people.

What is the hardest part of being a church music director? You have to wear many hats as a music director, be flexible, and a lot of little details pop up that you wouldn't normally think about but can take time to sort out.

What is the thing that you most appreciate about the Christ United congregation? Our congregation is so friendly, welcoming to all, and caring of others. I also appreciate their appreciation and support of music and social justice.



GriefShare Support Group **Wednesday's 5:00-6:30 pm,** **Starting October 12th (New Date)**

Introducing GriefShare, a 13-week, Christian support group seminar for people who have lost a spouse, child, family member, or friend through death. Each session features a video presentation on topics like comfort, answers, and hope. We will meet weekly in the Parlor at the back of the Sanctuary. There will be a short break around 6 pm for those who would like to get dinner at Wednesday Nite Bites in the church kitchen. The sessions will be primarily led by Pastor Richard. If you are unsure whether GriefShare is for you, please call Richard to learn more at 402-617-0355.

A Study of Nehemiah **Thursday, October 20**

Join the pastors for dinner and an in-depth look at the book of Nehemiah, a Biblical prophet who can teach us about working for justice as people of faith.

Wednesday Nite Bites

We will plan on serving from 5:30-6:30 in the Family Life Center to accommodate Wednesday night bell and choir rehearsals. Details about each week will be posted on Facebook/Instagram. A \$5 donation per meal would be lovely but is not required to eat...ALL are welcome. If you would like to host a Wednesday Nite Bites, the sign-up sheet is in the great hall.

- Angela and Geoff Michaelson



Next Sermon Series

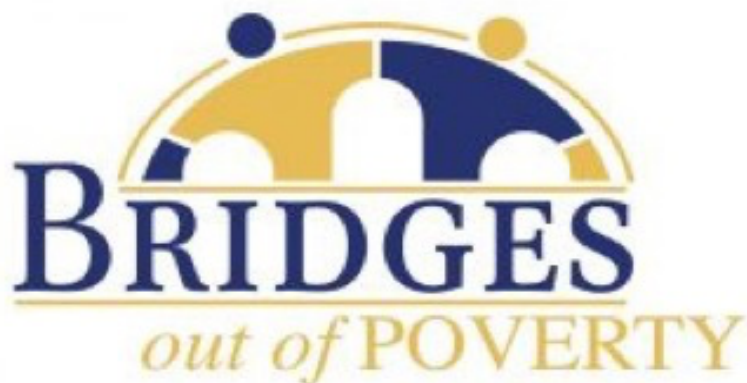
Jesus said, "I came that [you] may have life and have it abundantly." (John 10:10b) Join us in-person or online as we explore what it means to live abundantly as disciples of Christ. The dates and themes for this series are listed below:

Sunday, October 9, 2022 "Abundant Legacy, Celebrating Our 70th Anniversary"

Sunday, October 16, 2022 "Abundant Growth"

Sunday, October 23, 2022 "Abundant Impact"

Sunday, October 30, 2022 "Abundant Hope"



FREE WORKSHOP AND INTERACTIVE POVERTY SIMULATION

ABOUT

Learn tools and strategies to better understand and address poverty in our communities. Hosted by the Blue River District United Methodist Racial Justice Missional Community. Free lunch and book provided by the Food Bank of Lincoln.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22

9AM-3PM

CONNECTION POINT

1333 N 33RD ST

LINCOLN, NE

(wheelchair accessible)

A TWO-PART TRAINING



Bridges Training

Adults are invited to a Bridges Out of Poverty workshop facilitated by Allyn Sampson of the Foodbank of Lincoln from 9am-1pm (includes free lunch).



Poverty Simulation

From 1-3pm youth may join adults as NE Extension facilitates an interactive poverty simulation.



Registration required at **tinyurl.com/bridgesoutofpovertylnk** by
Wednesday, October 19 or call (402)413-0017.

Senior Pastor, Rev. Richard Randolph, PhD
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Director of Music
Colt Ballou-colt.ballou@gmail.com

Associate Pastor and Young Adult Ministries
Beth Graverholt- bethgraverholt@gmail.com