



To Increase the *love* of
God and Neighbor

FIRST-PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
United Church of Christ
CHURCH PROFILE

POSITION POSTING INFORMATION

First Congregational Church was organized in 1866, one year before Nebraska became a state in 1867. In 1887, First Congregational Church organized Plymouth Congregational Church in another part of the city. In 1923, the two congregations merged to become First-Plymouth Congregational Church. The present building at 2000 D Street was dedicated on April 5, 1931. It is an architectural gem and is considered to be the "Protestant Cathedral" for the state of Nebraska. When architects come to Lincoln, the two buildings most visited are the Nebraska State Capitol and First-Plymouth Church. First-Plymouth currently has multi-site worship including a worship service at Roper & Sons South Chapel.

First-Plymouth is known for its long history of ministry in the heart of the community and has a widely recognized music ministry, inclusive and progressive programming and outreach, and pioneering Early Childhood Education. Its television ministry, "Reach Out and Live," extends the outreach of the church throughout the state of Nebraska and western Iowa. The Sunday morning worship service has been broadcast on a local radio station for more than 60 years and our online worship continue to grow and reach worldwide viewers.

The congregation is known and respected for its open and inclusive atmosphere. We welcome people at any stage of their spiritual journey. We believe the church is called by God to practice unconditional hospitality, welcoming all people into her midst without regard to race, age, gender, sexual orientation, or physical and mental abilities. The church has a commitment to innovative programming designed to extend worship and spiritual growth both within the church and beyond its walls.



First-Plymouth Congregational Church
2000 D Street
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402-476-7565
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Contact:
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Conference: Nebraska Conference UCC
Association: Heartland

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POSITION DESCRIPTION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Position Title: Associate Minister

Position Duration: Settled

Compensation Level: Full Time

Core Competencies:

Our church needs a person who:

- Helps people develop their faith and spiritual journey.
- Is flexible.
- Is both collaborative and innovative.

KEY AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

Multi-site worship and preaching

Large churches in America are increasingly offering multiple locations for worship. In an effort to enrich the lives of people with the peace and love of Jesus Christ and to remain a vibrant and growing Christian community, First-Plymouth will provide alternative locations for our worshipping congregation. This position will take the lead on the continuing worship ministry at FPSouth located at Roper & Sons South Chapel. In addition, this pastor will take part in the preaching and worship life of the main campus at 2000 D Street.

Teaching

As a teaching pastor, this person will offer multiple Bible studies each week, plus occasional classes and discussions. The life of the mind is cherished at First-Plymouth, and an intellectual depth and curiosity is central to our proclamation of Jesus Christ. This pastor will strive to provide learning experiences that help form us as followers of Christ, ignites our thirst for justice and deepens our witness.

Pastoral Care

Caring for the sick and anguished and sharing in the joys and tribulations of life, is at the very center of what it means to be church. This pastor will make hospital visits, counsel those in crisis and perform funerals, weddings and baptisms as part of our ongoing effort to care for souls.



Position Summary

We are looking for a person who is absolutely driven to preach a liberating and transforming word. This person also wakes up in the morning wondering how the church can love people up, and help create a better world. Would being part of a radically inclusive, intellectually courageous congregation help your own spirit soar? Do you embrace each person as a miracle of God? Can you preach up a storm? If so, a wonderful ministry awaits you.



COMPENSATION & SUPPORT

Salary basis:

Within Conference Guidelines

Benefits:

Health Insurance, Pension, Vacation, Mileage, Sick Days and Continuing Education to be negotiated based on work status and ordination.

Expected living situation:

It is our expectation that the minister will find accommodations within Lincoln.

Support:

A variety of peer and professional support resources are available at the UCC Tri Conference. First-Plymouth has a strong relationship with a wide variety of faith leaders in the community.

MEMBERSHIP & ATTENDANCE

2024 MEMBERSHIP AND ATTENDANCE

First-Plymouth Church is known in the Lincoln area as being one of the most well respected progressive and inclusive churches in Nebraska who bring in great guest speakers to share their stories. Our congregation includes a diverse group of folks (multi-generational and a wide diversity of working families, retired, academic professionals from local universities, college kids and young professional, gay and lesbian, high income, and low income).

Members enrolled as of December 31, 2024: 4,291

Baptisms: 60

Weddings: 16

New Members: 162

Average Weekly Worship Attendance for 2024: 1,159

CHURCH STAFF

Clergy Team

Senior Minister

Associate Minister

Minister for

Congregational Care*

Associate Pastor*

Minister of Visitation

Music Team

Minister of Music

Associate Minister of Music

Music Administrator

Abendmusik Executive

Director*

Program Team and

Communications Team

Director of Operations and Programs

Director of Media

Assistant Director of Media

Digital Content Creator

Administrative Team

Director of Finance and

Accounting

Office Administrator (2)*

Head Building Manager

Building Manager and

Custodians (3)*

Children, Youth and Families Team

Director of Children & Family Ministries

Director of Youth Ministries

CYFM Administrative Assistant

* denotes Part-Time



WORSHIP AND MUSIC

First-Plymouth Congregation strives to blend tradition and innovation, the historical and the contemporary. Our worship services have a quality that echoes through the ages and yet, speaks to the present and points to the future. Our religious life is shaped by five guiding principles: We are Christian, Open-minded, Spiritual, Evolving and Diverse.

SATURDAY 5:30PM, CHAPEL

A warm, welcoming community of faith built on the mission to increase the love of God and neighbor for this come-as-you-are worship.

SUNDAY 9:00AM, SANCTUARY

Be inspired by scripture, glorious music and inspiring sermons in the beauty and elegance of the sanctuary.

SUNDAY 10:30AM, SANCTUARY

This uplifting hour in a beautiful, peaceful and vibrant sanctuary offers formal worship filled with glorious music featuring the First-Plymouth choir and organ; inspiring scripture and sermons, and opportunities to experience a warm community of faith built on the mission to increase the love of God and neighbor.

FP SOUTH

Sunday 9:30AM, Roper and Sons South Chapel, 40th and Yankee Hill

A casual service but deeply Christian with scripture, prayer, singing and joy. The service will feel like a fusion of our other FP services at the main site but in a smaller setting.

SUNDAY 11:59AM, SANCTUARY

This is an informal, come-as-you-are worship opportunity with live music, an inspiring message, and an opportunity to offer your personal prayers through a candle-lighting.

NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE

OR WHERE YOU ARE ON LIFE'S JOURNEY . . .

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE.

FIRST-PLYMOUTH PRESENTS

Hear interesting and current topics in the fun and informal setting of Screamers Family Restaurant (803 Q St). FP Presents features live music from local bands, cash bar and great food and is held periodically throughout the year.

BREAKFAST CHURCH

8:15am, Pilgrim Hall

A casual spiritual gathering with coffee, light continental breakfast, and a message from Pastor Juan Carlos Huertas. Co-hosted by Jim Keck. All are welcome.

COMPLINE

2nd Sunday of the month, 7:00PM

No words are spoken; with lights dimmed and candles flickering, the calming ancient chants, angelically sung by the Schola Cantorum, open a doorway into the realm of spirit.

ANYBODY EVERYBODY

Saturday 5:15PM, Mayflower Hall

Especially designed for worshipers with special needs. A warm-hearted, interactive time for worship, learning and socializing.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE WORSHIP

Faith Basics: Wednesday Worship 6:00-6:15pm Sanctuary

5 minute sermons on basic elements of our faith—like a super short Christianity 101

MUSIC

First-Plymouth has a long-standing tradition of excellence in music thanks to our nationally known music staff, passionate and gifted choir members and musicians. We are very blessed to have a dynamic, energetic, talented team to lead our music ministry which includes adult choirs and youth choirs, handbell choirs. Our communal music ministry is guided by our choral and instrumental ensembles.



CHURCH LIFE

INCLUDE | INVITE | INSPIRE

First-Plymouth seeks to provide pathways for growth. We strive to offer ministries and programs that inspire the heart and mind, invite the soul to experience a greater amount of peace and joy, and include all voices in this spiritual journey together.

We offer a wide variety of ministries, small groups, events and workshops that offer opportunities for friendships, spiritual and personal growth, emotional and spiritual support, or activity and service.

First-Plymouth Congregational Church touches thousands of lives each week with the good news of Jesus Christ. Its ongoing ministries reach out to meet the needs of our community and our world.

A SNAPSHOT OF OUR FINANCIAL HEALTH

2025 Budget	3,073,717
2025 Goal	2,200,000
2024 Revenue	3,153,119
2024 Expenses	2,857,311
2024 Pledging Units	734
Endowments	9,284,217



OUR HISTORY

Important events in the history of our church and the year:

Construction of our church building, it's an architectural gem	1931
Began Weekday Early Childhood Education Program which is nationally recognized	1970
Broadcast Ministry NE/IA	1987
Major Building Addition & Renovation	1994
Beginning Singles Ministry	1997
New 6,000 Pipe Lied Organ	1999
Stephen Ministry	2000
Sustainable Living Ministry	2004
Plymouth PRIDE/LGBTQ Ministry	2005
Conclusion of Rev. Dr. Otis Young's 35 year ministry	2006
Building Renovation	2015
150 th Anniversary	2016
Livestream Ministry -	2018



CHURCH FACILITIES

First-Plymouth Church is one of the architectural gems of Nebraska. Located in the heart of downtown Lincoln in the beautiful and historic Near South Neighborhood. The church is within walking distance of many historic homes and attractions as well as the architecturally renowned capitol building.

The church is a magnificent structure with unique characteristics. It expresses visually the Christian faith of the congregation it houses.

ARCHITECTURAL HIGHLIGHTS

Cathedral style sanctuary that can seat 600 people. Our elegant sanctuary features a magnificent 6,000 pipe Lied Organ, a Ruth Amen Gallery Organ, decorative floors and stenciled arches. The building expresses visually the Christian faith of the congregation it houses through a series of symbols including the "rose window" above the main doors

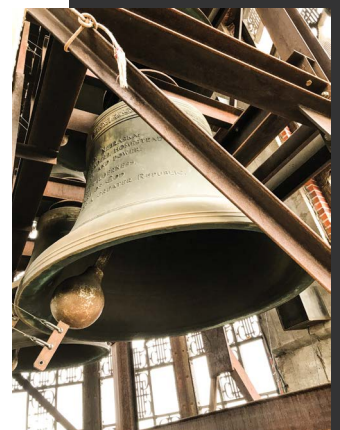
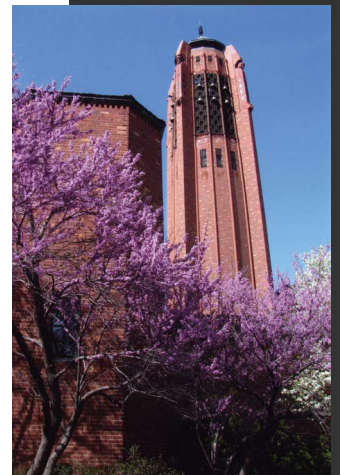
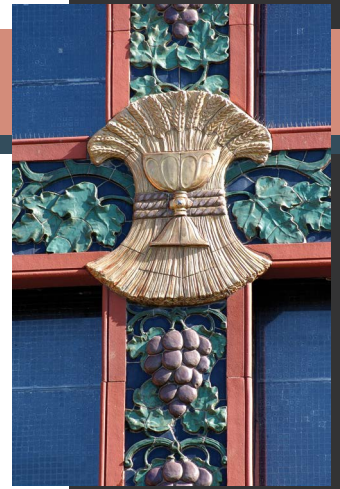
The building expresses visually the Christian faith of the congregation it houses through a series of symbols including the "rose window" above the main doors. At the center of its cruciform mullions are a chalice superimposed on a shock of wheat that is made up of smaller, tied bundles. The mullions display grape vines and clusters of grapes. The chalice and wheat are symbolic of Holy Communion. The vines and grapes speak to the Christian's relationship to Jesus Christ as expressed in John 15:5, "I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me...bear much fruit..." The wheat and grapes also reflect the agricultural roots of Nebraska.

Carillon Tower – The carillon is an extraordinary musical instrument with a history as rich as it is long. The 171-foot tall, sixteen-sided "Singing Tower" dominates the building. It houses Nebraska's oldest true carillon, one of only three in the state. Sculpted figures representing the evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are located at the tower's four corners, symbolically elevating the gospels of the New Testament. Below each evangelist is a figure that represents the Gospel account associated with him.

The interior of the church building also includes an intimate chapel that seats 150 people, recently renovated fellowship halls, office spaces, and space for church school classes and an Early Education Program, nursery, music rehearsal rooms, and meeting rooms. The lower level includes a gym, multipurpose room as well as children and youth rooms.

Courtyard - Aside from its aesthetic value, the main courtyard provides an open space suited for both formal and informal gatherings. The cloister walkway around the courtyard provides a space for people to stroll and meditate away from the noise of the outside world, or to meet and greet other people.

Columbarium - The Chapel Courtyard, to the east of the main courtyard, was redesigned as a memorial garden that currently holds over 500 columbarium niches. The area is intended to be a welcoming place of peace, reflection and remembrance in the midst of a busy city.



OUR COMMUNITY

Many clubs and organizations not specifically organized by the church meet in the church building, including Alcoholics Anonymous, neighborhood groups, GED and literacy classes, writing groups etc. First-Plymouth is also a site for food distribution to the community. Our church building is used 7 days a week. Various groups also use our church gym. Any non-profit group can use our building for free if we have the room to accommodate them.

The church is a key organizer of *Abendmusik*, a Lincoln community concert series. Other organizations and people also use our sanctuary for concerts and events. The church building houses bilingual early childhood program on weekdays. Church-sponsored discussions and presentations are open to community participation.

LINCOLN COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTICS

City Population: 294, 757

Lincoln is a diverse and urban city within a rural state. Our city is the capitol city and is vibrant and growing. Lincoln is home to more than five colleges and universities, including the University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Nebraska Wesleyan University; Doane College; Union College and Southeast Community College. The Lied Center for Performing Arts brings national-caliber performances to the community. Pinnacle Bank Arena, in our vibrant downtown Haymarket area, offers year-round entertainment, including concerts, family shows and sporting events. Lincoln has an extensive network of bike paths and parks, a worldclass children's zoo, a fine school system, as well as diversified, thriving businesses of all sizes. Lincoln has big-city appeal in a medium-sized package.

Learn more: <https://www.lcoc.com/meet-lincoln>

MISSION ACTIVITIES IN THE COMMUNITY & BEYOND

Mission Outreach

We provide financial and volunteer support to numerous Lincoln based programs such as the Food Bank of Lincoln, Matt Talbot's Kitchen and Outreach, Meals on Wheels and Lincoln Literacy. We have also sponsored refugees and welcomed them into our community. Many of our church boards and committees, including our children and youth do outreach mission projects for the community and around the world. We are also excited to launch The Hope House, a welcoming resource hub designed to connect our neighbors with essential social services. Through this initiative, we aim to provide support, guidance, and practical solutions to those who may be struggling to find the help they need. Our justNeighbors Ministry takes volunteers into the community with the goal of providing encounter, connection and meeting with people in the church's neighborhood. Through monthly events such as Laundry Love and gas events, we are putting action behind the mission to increase the love of God and neighbor.

Television, Online Worship & Radio Broadcast

First-Plymouth Church provides a weekly television broadcast as an outreach as well as online worship and radio broadcast to the community for people unable, for whatever reason, to attend church in person.

Abendmusik at First-Plymouth

Abendmusik is a community concert series owned and operated as a separate 501(C) 3 non-profit corporation by First-Plymouth Church. Abendmusik offers a unique quality concert series at an affordable price that provides diverse programming and appeal to a cross-section of audiences. We import international and nationally known ensembles, composers, conductors and soloists in conjunction with high quality local performers. Details at: <http://www.abendmusik.org/>

Early Education Program

Las Abejitas Bilingual Education Center has a location in First-Plymouth. They provide quality, affordable preschool education and childcare for young children, and support for their parents. The site accommodates more than 100 children and the programs is based on the Creative Curriculum, available in English and Spanish.