

The Courier

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis



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UPCOMING Events

Laity Sunday,
January 24

SpringHouse Joint
Service and Annual
Meeting,
Sunday, January 31,

Carter Circle,
3 pm, Monday,
February 1

Help kids help kids: Jan. 24 service project

Adults are invited (and encouraged!) to help kids with a service project to put together 25 school kits. The kits will be assembled during a special Intergenerational Sunday School activity this Sunday, January 24, at 9:15 and then distributed by Lutheran World Service. Join this special "assembly line" to help the SpringHouse kids with their project.

Another way to help is to donate items for the kits. (Note: These should be new items only, free of any religious symbols, names or messages, and patriotic symbols such as the US flag, armed forces references or camouflage.)

- Notebooks (70-sheet) of wide or college ruled paper (4 per kit)
- Rulers: centimeters on one side and inches on the other, or just a 30-centimeter ruler (1 per kit)
- Pencil sharpeners (1 per kit)
- Blunt/Safety scissors (1 per kit)
- Unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers (5 per kit)
- Black or blue ballpoint pens (5 per kit)
- Boxes of 16 or 24 crayons (1 per kit)
- Erasers: approximately 2½" (1 per kit)



Adults helping SpringHouse kids service project earlier this year

One more way to help: **Join the Sewing Bee!** A few adults are gathering at SpringHouse with their sewing machines on Saturday, January 23 at 10 am to work on sewing the drawstring backpacks. If you don't sew, we could still use your help to cut out the backpacks. If you have fabric you'd like to donate, that would be great too.



In Our Prayers

Prayers of Sympathy

For Mary Lou Cain and all the family of Don Cain whose memorial service was January 16

For the family of Tom Arlander, a frequent visitor to FCC with his good friend John Carter

For Tom Curry on the loss of his aunt

For Jay Hillestad on the death of his uncle

For Lu Griffin and family on the death of her mother Enid

Prayers for Concern

For Gwen Elmshouser

For Kathy Merkel

For Belinda Flanagan's nephew Joe

For Enid Griffin

For all our homebound members, including Phyllis Dunlap and Dorothy Becker

Prayers for World

For the people of Flint, Michigan in their water quality emergency

For world and local leaders that they can find a way to peace



A message from PASTOR LAURIE



Lent coming soon, with interesting new program

If it feels like we just gathered on Christmas Eve and celebrated the birth of Christ and now we have Lent staring us in the face. Yes, it is true. Ash Wednesday is February 10 this year, which means we are jumping very quickly from the light of Christmas to the ashes of Lent. Before we reach February 10 we will celebrate Laity Sunday on January 24, SpringHouse Joint Worship Service on January 31 and our annual Mardi Gras Sunday with all the trimmings on February 7. On February 10 we will gather for our Ash Wednesday Service at 7 p.m. and begin the journey to the Cross and Resurrection.

This year we are doing something different for our evening Bible Study. We will be joining with Gethsemane Episcopal Church, one of our partner congregations in Downtown Congregations to End Homelessness, to learn more about what life is like for our sisters and brothers who have no home. You only need to reserve three Tuesday nights: February 23, March 1 and March 8. On February 23 we will meet together at Gethsemane at 6 pm for a soup supper and a program on Homelessness. Then the next week, March 1, we will meet together at SpringHouse at 6 pm for a soup supper and a program on Homelessness. This way we share the work of providing a meal and we both get to offer hospitality.

Our gathering on March 8 will be different. For those that can make it in time to eat we will meet together at Loaves and Fishes at 5:30 and eat with our brothers and sisters who are fed by this wonderful ministry. After we eat we will head to the Simpson Housing Services offices where we will have a panel of Simpson Educators (people who are homeless) and Simpson staff. They will help us to understand what is happening, what is needed and what we can do to make a difference.

I hope that you will mark your calendars for these important Tuesday evenings. I believe that instead of asking you to commit to a six-week study that our three evenings together with Gethsemane will be a deeper study for Lent. I am thankful for the willingness of Gethsemane to partner with us as they too have made issues around homelessness a priority.

We will also have a daytime Lenten Bible Study on Thursday mornings at 10 am. We will begin the study on Thursday, February 11. Everyone is invited to participate in the evening gatherings and the daytime Bible Study! I look forward to what we will learn and the many ways we will grow as we journey together from the ashes of Ash Wednesday to the beauty of Resurrection on Easter morning.

Much love and peace, Laurie

2016 board officers, budget approved

At the annual congregational meeting on January 10, 2016, the congregation voted to approve the new slate of board officers and to



OUR NEW LAY LEADERSHIP

accept the 2016 budget. Max Hurlocker and Tom Curry joined the Trustee board; Steve Rusinak, Jay Hillestad, Sandy Morgan, Martha Harris, Ann Wolverton and Julie Andrix were named as Elders, and Belinda Flanagan, Mark Carlson, Max Hurlocker, Bobbie Hall, Elaine Tucker, Phil Kinney, Becki Whitaker, Mary Hurlocker and Shannon Grady will serve as deacons in 2016. Leah and Grace McAlees and Solveig Juntunen will be our Youth Deacons. The overall budget for 2016 is set at \$354,462.



FCC leaders Curry and Rusinak recognized for service

Tom Curry and Barb Rusinak were recognized during worship on January 17 for their many years of leadership to FCC. Tom is stepping down as Board Chair and Barb as Financial Secretary.

Special speaker for Jan. 31 joint worship service

Rev. Dr. Barbara Lundblad, professor of preaching at Union Theological Seminary in New York, will deliver the sermon for the SpringHouse joint service on January 31. Dr. Lundblad was one of Pastor Laurie Feille's professors this past summer. Following the service, we will have the SpringHouse Annual Meeting to review the past year and approve the 2016 budget. Lunch will be a potluck with sandwiches from House of Hunger food truck. Please bring a salad, side or dessert to share.

Winter fun at annual Polar Bear Picnic!

Celebrate winter by joining in the annual SpringHouse Polar Bear Picnic on Saturday, Feb 6 from noon till 4 pm at Lowry Nature Center at Carver Park Reserve near Victoria. We regularly have 15 to 25 SpringHouse folk join in the fun: *Snowshoe on the trails and kiksled on the ice. Challenge your family to ice miniature golf, ice bowling, and snow snakes. Crawl into a quinzhee shelter and help build your own. Go sledding, warm up by a bonfire, and make a craft. Listen for hourly clues to find hidden medallions redeemed for prize packages with items donated by Victoria-area businesses.*

Food concessions available, but you're welcome to bring your own lunch to the Nature Center lower level activity room. This family event is sponsored by the SpringHouse Child Ministry Team, and there is no cost for SpringHouse participants. Simply tell the receptionist at Lowry Nature Center where you check in that you're with the SpringHouse group and sign-in on the SpringHouse clip-board.

The car pool will leave SpringHouse parking area at noon, and arrive at the event at about 12:45 pm. Contact Michael Vanderford (michaeljvanderford@gmail.com or 612-296-9647) if you want to be part of the car pool, or with questions. We'll return to SpringHouse at 4:30 pm. The Carver Park Reserve is 40-minute drive from SpringHouse just past the University of Minnesota Arboretum in the southwest Twin Cities.

February 2016

First Christian Church



Sunday Morning Schedule

9:00/9:15 Spiritual Formation Classes
 10:30 Worship
 11:45 Fellowship Time in Gathering Space

	1 3 pm Carter Circle at SHMC	2	3 8 am Narrative Lectionary Bible Study 10:30 am Staff Mtg 6:30 Handbells 7:45 Chancel Choir	4 9 am Ecumenical women's ministry	5	6 9 am Men's Bible Study 6 pm First Saturday Family Partnership
7 <i>South Sanctuary</i> Mardi Gras Sunday Noon – Child Ministries Mtg 5 pm 40-50 Something's Super Bowl party	8 Sanctuary Moving Day	9 7 pm SH Finance committee	10 Ash Wednesday 8 am Narrative Lectionary Bible Study 6:30 Handbells 7 pm Ash Wednesday Service 7:45 Chancel Choir	11 9 am Ecumenical women's ministry 7 pm Pastor Laurie PRC	12	13 9 am Men's Bible Study
14 <i>North Sanctuary</i> Noon SH Green Team 2 pm Civil Society Open House	15 6:45 SH Building Committee	16 6 pm Worship Committee 7 pm Board Meeting	17 8 am Narrative Lectionary Bible Study 10:30 am Staff Mtg 2 pm Mission and Outreach Comm. Meeting 5:30 pm Finance committee 6:30 Handbells 7:45 Chancel Choir	18 9 am Ecumenical women's ministry 10 am Lenten Study	19 2 pm First Saturday Partner Planning 7 pm Irreverent Movie Night	20 9 am Men's Bible Study
21 <i>North Sanctuary</i> 11:45 am SHMC Activistas Noon BP Checks 5 pm Elders Mtg. at Hillestads'	22 7 pm Book Club @ B. Creighton's	23 6 pm FCC and Gethsemene Soup and Study @ Gethsemene Episcopal	24 8 am Narrative Lectionary Bible Study 6:30 Handbells 7:45 Chancel Choir	25 9 am Ecumenical women's ministry 10 am Lenten Study 5:15 Contemplation & Meditation 7 pm SH Board Meeting	26	27 9 am Men's Bible Study
28 Noon Family Folk Dancing	29					

	Elders	Worship Leader	Children's Moment	Diaconate	Bus Drivers
February 7	Kirsten Cackoski Julie Andrix	Arlene Hillestad	Dan Adolphson	TBN	Mike Hesano 651-645-6758
February 14	Barb Creighton Dean Creighton	Max Hurlocker	Deb Murphy		Mike Morgan 612.926-9834
February 21	Val Dunham Jay Hillestad	Karen Bowman	Deb Murphy		Garry Hesser 612-721-4905
February 28	Dean Creighton Barb Creighton	TBN	Deb Murphy		Mike Hesano 651-645-6758

Note: Please call drivers by Saturday for Sunday bus ride

Bring back your Palms!

Ash Wednesday is fast approaching. Remember taking home your palms last year on Palm Sunday? Well, now it's time to bring them back. Please return them by Sunday, February 7 (Mardi Gras Sunday) so they can be burned and the ashes used at the Ash Wednesday Service on February 10. The service will be in the North Sanctuary at 7 pm.

Mental Health presentations open to all

Faith Community Nurse Julie Andrix is extending an invitation to FCC people to five presentations on mental health issues. These sessions are designed to give congregations a common language for discussion, opportunities for conversation, and suggestions for how to respond as a faith community.

Programs will be held on the following Thursday evenings from 7 - 8:30 pm in the Wesley Room at Fairmount UMC, 1523 Fairmount Ave, St. Paul. Child care is available on request.

January 21: The Faith Community and People with Mental Illness and Their Families

Presenter: John Stadler, NAMI (National Alliance for Mental Illness)

January 28: Children and Mental Illness

Presenter: Amy DeMers, LMFT (Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist)

February 11: Depression and Grief

Presenter: Christine Lewis, MSN, CNS, Hennepin County Mental Health Center

February 18: Urgent Care for Adult Mental Health

Presenter: Brian Theine, Supervisor, Ramsey County Urgent Care for Adult Mental Health

February 25: QPR – Question, Persuade, Respond – Suicide Prevention

Presenter: Marilyn Dornfield, NAMI (National Alliance for Mental Illness)

For more information and/or request child care, contact the church office at 651/699-1335 or admin@faumc.net. This programming is made possible by a grant from the Minnesota United Methodist Parish Nurse Association.

Exploring and Practicing Approaches to Meditation and Contemplation

Format: "Table Talk" sharing of previous experiences and questions we each bring over light supper (bring a sandwich/Subway if desired; drinks provided) from 5:15-6:00 p.m. in fellowship area, followed by guided meditation in North Sanctuary from 6:00-6:45 p.m. Facilitated by Garry Hesser, FCC. This will start Feb. 25th.

SpringHouse Board Notes

The SpringHouse Ministry Center Board met November 19, 2015, with 12 members attending (one via telephone). Highlight of the meeting are as follows:

- The proposed 2016 SH Budget totaling \$137,055 was approved by all three congregations at their respective meetings in November. Items were noted that need revision and final approval before the January 31 annual meeting.
- Building and Grounds committee reported that tile roof repair has been completed, as has the Emergency Handbook. Flat roof repair needs to be done, with cost not to exceed \$2850. A priority list for 2016 is being prepared, e.g., stain glass windows, key pads on attic and pantry, acoustical enhancements, closet completion, etc.
- Rev. Dr. Barbara Lundblad [Professor of Worship, Union Theological Seminary, NYC], a Lutheran pastor and recent teacher of Ashley and Laurie, has been invited to preach at our Annual Meeting
- Congregations were reminded of previous Board action inviting each to appoint two members to a revising and updating committee, with names to be brought to the February SH meeting.
- Beginning in February, prior to our monthly meeting, from 5:15-6:45, there will be an opportunity to "Explore and Practice Approaches to Meditation and Contemplation" in the North Sanctuary, for Board members and others who are interested.

Sundays at First Christian Church

Worship at 10:30

Before Worship:

Spiritual Formation Classes:

9:00 Hearthstone Class,

9:15 Children's Classes;

Adult Class: continuing book study

After Worship

11:45 Fellowship Time

Scripture Reading for Laity Sunday, January 24

Jesus Heals
Mark 5: 21-43



Jarius' daughter healed;
Poland, unknown artist

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is a partner church at SpringHouse Ministry Center*

Reflections on the Word

Mark 5:39-40a When he had entered, he said to them, "Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him.

After Jesus takes the girl's hand and bids her rise up, which of course she does, the disbelieving laughter of the gathered crowds turns into *megale ekstaseis*, "great ecstasy." Jesus presence -- the kingdom of God comes near -- is the transformative agent in this story of astonishing faith.

Lord of healing, when someone in your world suffers, you suffer as well. Restore your world and heal your children so that no one needs to suffer any longer. Amen.

By Rev. Karl Jacobson, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepard

*A Welcoming Community of Faith in the
Heart of the City*

Ministry Team

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Julia Andrix, Faith Community Nurse
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Manager

Serena Chial, Nursery Attendant

Adam Contad, Director of Ensembles

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Next Courier: February 6, 2016

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