

# The Courier

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis



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## UPCOMING Events

Intergenerational Sunday  
School, January 29, 9:20  
in Gathering Space

SpringHouse Joint Worship  
and Annual Meeting,  
Sunday, January 29  
followed by potluck lunch  
(sandwiches provided)

February 5

- Laity Sunday,
- Souper Bowl of Caring
  - Congregational Meeting re: the Doctrine of Discovery

Carter Circle, Monday,  
February 6, 3 pm

## Annual Congregational Meeting summary

Board Chairperson Dean Creighton brought three agenda items before the congregation at the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 22: 1) The slate of nominees to fill vacancies on the Church Board; 2) the proposed 2017 budget; and 3) a State-of-the-Assembly Resolution which will be brought to the Disciples' General Assembly in July.

Thirty-five FCC members attended the meeting. The members voted unanimously to accept the nominees to the church board: Trustees Pat Dunlop and Mike Cackoski; Elders Sandy Morgan, Mike Hesano and Lu Griffin; Deacons Grace Madsen, Anna Bliss, Alison Creighton, Wendy Manuel and Kathy Hintz.

The congregation also voted unanimously to accept the 2017 budget as proposed by the Finance Committee and accepted by the church board. The overall budget is \$276,600, based on income from pledged receipts, loose offerings, interest income, and reimbursements for shared staffing. The anticipated expenses for 2017 are \$363,892. Trustee Skip Wolverton explained that, unlike previous years, money from the reserve fund was not included as income in the budget, but sufficient funds remain in the reserve fund to cover a 2017 deficit.

Deb Murphy presented information about and distributed copies of the General Assembly Resolution titled "Repudiation of the Christian Doctrine of Discovery, A Call to Education and Action, And Support for Indigenous Voice in the Structure of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ.)" She pointed out that all of the other mainline churches (Presbyterian, Methodist, Episcopalian, United Church of Christ, Evangelical Lutheran (ELCA) as well as the World Council of Churches have already passed similar resolutions.

Discussion followed Deb Murphy's presentation, and because this is a new issue to the congregation, the congregation voted to table a vote in support of the resolution so that people could learn more about it. Another congregational meeting will be held after worship on Feb. 5 to provide another educational opportunity and to take up this discussion again. Suggested informational websites are [Landscape Mending](#) (full text of GA Resolution, extra resources and history/background) and [St. Paul Interfaith Network](#) (which has resolutions from other denominations). Contact the church office if you would like this information but do not have internet access.

## Congregational Meeting





## *In Our Prayers*

### **Prayers of Joy**

*For the anniversary we noted on January 15 of five years in SpringHouse  
For upcoming birthdays of FCC members Pat Carter (90) and Dorothy Becker (100)*

### **Prayers for Concern**

*For the mother of Rodney Higgins's husband Jack  
For Bryan Feille on the death of his friend Quentin Barber  
For Karen Kandik's friends Pat and Eric, both cancer patients  
For all our homebound members, including Phyllis and John Takekawa*

### **Prayers for the World**

*For the new President and Congress to lead with wisdom and compassion  
For those killed and injured by natural disasters, including tornadoes in the South and avalanches in Italy*



A message from  
**Sharon Watkins,**  
General Minister and President  
of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



## ***New Year's Greetings from Sharon Watkins***

January 2017

Dearest Friends in Christ –

*“Hope is a star that shines in the night, leading us on till the morning is bright.”*

From the Advent promise of *Emmanuel: God with us*; to the Epiphany revelation: *God-with-us-now*, we hope.

And yet, I confess, as 2017 begins, my heart is bruised by the pain and division the United States and Canada have experienced which have filtered into our communities and congregations. Antagonistic elections in the United States have upended civil discourse. Repeated public incidents of both individual and institutional racism have fractured relationships in communities. And beyond our borders, civil wars in places like South Sudan and Syria, as well as natural disasters in long-suffering Haiti, only increase the need for healing of all kinds.

Still, along with “all of creation” in Romans 8:18, we wait expectantly “for the children of God to be revealed.” In fact, we hope to be among them. We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. We know God to be a God of abundance who provides enough for all and makes room enough for all.

This is the time for Disciples to shine! We have long found ways to live together in unity for the sake of God’s mission. Our ability to respect (and engage!) a diversity of faithful opinions is needed now more than ever. Our emphasis on healing the rifts of racism with pro-reconciling work is foundational to moving forward in our part of the world and globally. Our shared sense of service that came through loud and clear in our Mission Gatherings of 2016 gives us some of the connections we need to start living into the wholeness God so ardently wishes for us.

***Our deep hope in God’s healing presence leads us to action.***

(For further remarks from Sharon Watkins, see [disciples.org/category/sharon\\_blog/](http://disciples.org/category/sharon_blog/))

## Shower Pat Carter with birthday greetings!

Pat Carter is celebrating her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on February 13. FCC would like to "shower" her with cards from members of her long-time church. Her new address is:

Pat Carter  
12401 Gayton Road #449  
Richmond, VA 23238



NOTE: we are trying to surprise Pat with this, so she will be getting a different version of the *Courier*.

*(psst - Carter family members & friends – don't let the cat out of the bag!)*

## Downtown Grief Support Group welcomes all

First Christian Church is one of the sponsoring congregations of The Downtown Coalition for Grief Support, which has been at work for 20 years. According to their website, "The Downtown Coalition for Grief Support is a unique resource to help adults understand and express grief and most of all, begin moving forward. We are an all-volunteer, non-denominational organization that believes in the power of people and the strength of faith to turn pain into promise." FCC member Mary Hurlocker has been active with this organization for many years.

The Grief Support Group will be meeting at the Basilica of St. Mary—Cowley Center, 88 North 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Minneapolis from January 7 through May 6, 2017. The speakers for January are: Brenda Demotte, Renee Garpestad, Joan Olson, and David Engelstad. Refreshments are served at 9:30 am. The speaker begins at 10 am and the Small Group Discussion is from 10:30-11:30 am. Anyone who is suffering a loss of a spouse, child, or other family member or close friend is welcome to attend.

## New plan for Fellowship Hour refreshments

The Kitchen Committee has decided to have a joint sign-up for refreshments in the Gathering Space after the 10:30 worship hour. Instead of assigning each congregation a month, anyone from the three congregations can sign up for coffee hour for any date. A sign-up sheet is posted on the serving table.



On the first Sunday of every month, the Kitchen Committee will purchase donut holes along with coffee/tea and pitchers of water. The volunteer hosts signing up can decide what they want to bring for their contribution and coordinate with one another about what they want to provide. If volunteers don't sign up, unfortunately there won't be coffee or treats during Fellowship Time. There will be left over coffee and probably a few treats from the 8:30 coffee time because Salem Lutheran folks will continue to provide it for their 8:30 am service. The Kitchen Committee believes that this new plan will make coffee hour fair for all three congregations; they encourage people to sign up!

## Health at First

Julie Andrix, Faith  
Community Nurse



Do you ever feel like life is spinning out of control? Or that all of your daily duties multiply and compete until everyday feels like a race to get things done?

There is no room for Jesus when we are running around pushing to get things done and trying to make people happy. What I am coming to learn in the bible is that when we step away from all the busyness and let go of controlling/ managing "things", we are practicing TRUST that God will direct things for good purposes.

I try to remember to pause each day and reconnect with myself and reset. Here are a few practices that can help:

- Adopt a morning ritual that allows you to celebrate yesterday's successes and set a positive intention for today.
- Smile! Even if you are not feeling particularly happy, this practice will pick you up because the brain doesn't know the difference between a spontaneous smile and an intentional one. Research shows an expression feedback loop that produces feeling of calm and pleasure when triggered by a smile.
- Music is medication for the soul. Listen to (or play) music that you enjoy and a sense of calm can take hold.
- Lastly, meditate by paying attention to what's around you, listening to sounds and meditating on the present moment.

When we truly make room for Jesus and open our hearts, it is then that we learn to enjoy peace.

Happy New Year!

Julie Andrix

# February 2017

## First Christian Church



### Sunday Morning Schedule

9:00 am Spiritual Formation Class – Hearthstone  
 9:20 am Children's Sunday School  
 9:20 am Adult Sunday School  
 10:30 Worship  
 11:45 Fellowship Time in Gathering Space

			<b>1</b> 8 am Narrative Lectionary Bible Study 6:30 Handbells 7:45 Choir	<b>2</b> 7 pm Pastor Dan PRC	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 9 am Men's Bible Study
<b>5</b> <i>North Sanctuary</i> <b>Laity Sunday</b> <b>Educational &amp; Congregational Meeting</b> after worship <i> Souper Bowl of Caring</i>	<b>6</b> 3 pm Carter Circle @ SpringHouse	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 7 am Downtown Clergy 8 am Narrative Lectionary Bible Study 2 pm Mission and Outreach Comm. Meeting 6:30 Handbells 7:45 Choir	<b>9</b> 9 am Ecumenical women's ministry 7 pm Pastor Laurie PRC	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 9 am Men's Bible Study 1 pm Lunch Prep TBD Youth Lock- in
<b>12</b> <i>North Sanctuary</i> 11:45 Nicaragua Trip Lunch Noon SH Youth Ministry Team Noon SH Green Team	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 8 am Narrative Lectionary Bible Study 5:30 Finance Cmte 6:30 Handbells 7:45 Choir	<b>16</b> 9 am Ecumenical women's ministry	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 9 am Men's Bible Study
<b>19</b> <i>North Sanctuary</i> <b>YOUTH SUNDAY</b> 11:45 Blood Pressure Check 11:45 SH Activistas 5:00 FCC Elders	<b>20</b> 6:45 SH Building Committee	<b>21</b> 6 pm Worship Comm 7 pm FCC Brd	<b>22</b> 8 am Narrative Lectionary Bible Study 6:30 Handbells 7:45 Choir	<b>23</b> 9 am Ecumenical women's ministry 7 pm SHMC Board	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 9 am Men's Bible Study 1:30 pm – King Cake baking
<b>26</b> <i>North Sanctuary</i> <b>Mardi Gras Sunday</b>	<b>27</b> <b>Sanctuary Moving Day</b>	<b>28</b>				

	Elders	Worship Leader	Children's Moment	Diaconate	Bus Drivers
<b>February 5</b>	Laity Sunday led by Justin Carlson, Shannon Grady, Alison Creighton and Ali Hesano			A. Bliss M. Carlson	Mike Hesano 651-645-6758
<b>February 12</b>	TBN	Wendy Manuel	Dan Adolphson	A Creighton N. Curry	Mike Morgan 612.926-9834
<b>February 19</b>	Youth Sunday – leadership by SpringHouse Youth			B. Flanagan S. Grady	Garry Hesser 612.721.4905
<b>February 26</b>	TBN	Earl Dunham	Steve Rusinak	B. Hall	Mike Hesano 651-645-6758

**Note:** Please call drivers by Saturday for Sunday bus ride

## Fund-raising lunch for Nicaragua trip set for Feb. 12

The next SpringHouse Servant Trip fund-raising lunch will be on Sunday, Feb. 12, 2017 following worship in the Gathering Space. Funds raised from the lunch will help support the Servant Trip to Nicaragua planned for this coming summer. Although the menu could change, a baked potato bar is planned, with the addition of a bake sale since it will be so close to Valentine's Day.



## Annual Polar Bear Picnic coming Saturday, Feb. 4



Celebrate winter by joining in annual SpringHouse Polar Bear Picnic on Saturday, February 4 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 of snowshoeing, kick-sledding, ice bowling, ice miniature golf, crafts and of course, warming up by a bonfire. There are even hidden medallions that can be redeemed for prize packages with items donated by Victoria-area businesses.

This SpringHouse 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](mailto: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 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.

## Chris Wogaman accepts call to ministry post

Salem Lutheran Church recently announced that Chris Wogaman has accepted a call to Trinity Lutheran Church in Park Forest, Illinois. Chris worked for several years at FCC as the administrative assistant and is well known to many FCC members. Look for details to come about an ordination service on April 1st at SpringHouse.



Chris Wogaman (right) with Pastor Jim Boline

## FCC Board Notes

The January meeting of the First Christian Church board was October 27, with 13 people in attendance. Highlights from the minutes include the following:

- Pastor Laurie presented information about Sense-of-the-Assembly Resolution that will be presented at the July General Assembly of the Disciples. The Resolution is to repudiate the "Doctrine of Discovery." The board voted to support the Resolution, and also to take this issue to the congregation for their support for First Christian to be co-signers on the resolution.
- The board voted to be the sponsoring congregation for Wendy Manuel as she seeks ordination. (In Disciples policy, a person to be ordained needs a sponsoring congregation.) The board also voted by email to be the sponsoring congregation for Chris MacDonald-Dennis's ordination.
- The next treasurer for the SpringHouse Ministry Center Board is to be someone from FCC. Chairperson Dean Creighton indicated that several names have surfaced as possible candidates for this position.
- Treasurer Pat Dunlop presented the final 2016 budget figures. \$25,039 was received in December pledges. According to Pat, the total expenses for 2016 were \$349,784, while we had anticipated expenses of \$354,462. Thus we ended the year "in the black."

## Sundays at First Christian Church

Worship at 10:30

### Before Worship:

Spiritual Formation Classes:

9:00 Hearthstone Adult Class,  
9:20 Children's Classes;  
9:30 SH Joint Adult Class

### After Worship

11:45 Fellowship Time

**Scripture Reading for  
Sunday, January 29  
Healing on the Sabbath  
Luke 6: 1-16**



Harvest in Provence, Vincent Van Gogh

*First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis,  
is a partner church at SpringHouse Ministry Center*

### Reflections on the Word

*Luke 6: 1a - "One sabbath while Jesus was going through the grainfields his disciples plucked some heads of grain. . ."*

Luke's story is about a community's conflict over traditions in light of every-changing circumstances. And so today, we struggle with our traditions in a changing world: Do we need a rock band to attract young people? Why not have services at 5 pm? What traditions are essential to our Christian faith?

*God of Love, Help us discern your will in a confusing world so that we can continue to serve others. Amen*

By O. Wesley Allen, adapted

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

#### **Ministry Team**

**Dan Adolphson**, Associate Pastor  
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**Julia Andrix**, Faith Community Nurse  
[fcn@mpls.org](mailto:fcn@mpls.org)  
**Rick Bowman**, SHMC Building Manager  
**Adam Contad**, Music Director  
**Pamela Cook** SHMC Youth Director  
**Pearl Evans** – SHMC Child Care  
**Laurie Pound Feille**, Senior Minister  
[pastor@fccmpls.org](mailto:pastor@fccmpls.org)  
**Martha Harris**, Courier Editor  
**Deb Murphy**, Office Manager and  
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& Youth [deb.murphy@fccmpls.org](mailto:deb.murphy@fccmpls.org);  
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**Items for next Courier needed by Sunday,  
February 5.**

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
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