

# The COURIER

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis



## What's *INSIDE*:

Voices and Views,  
Pat Dunlop, page 2

News briefs,  
page 3

General Assembly notes,  
page 3

## UPCOMING Events:

SpringHouse family  
camping, July 21-23

Nicaragua mission trip,  
July 27-Aug 7

No July Board  
Meeting!

## All hands on deck for Mission at Our Doorstep!

2017 marks the fifth year of Mission at Our Doorstep, a week devoted to mission projects we can do "at home". From Monday, July 17 to Thursday, July 20, FCC members and friends will be working in both daytime and evening shifts to put together all sorts of "care packages" which will be distributed locally, nationally and internationally to people in need. Look over the list of projects below, find the ones that fit your schedule and abilities and join in this effort to actively participate in this service mission. All projects will be at SpringHouse, except for Thursday night's Feed My Starving Children event.

### Monday, July 17, 2017 6:30 – 8:30 pm: Sewing Projects for the Week's projects

Making bags for the school kits and catnip toys for the lemonade stand. If you have a portable machine, bring it and your sewing tools. If you don't sew, don't let that stop you. We can still use your help to cut out pieces.

### Tuesday, July 18, 2017

6:00 pm Light Supper provided

- 6:30 pm:
- **Bag Lunches for Simpson Shelter** residents to take with them as they leave the shelter each morning.
  - **Sandwiches for Simpson Shelter** that go in the bag lunches.
  - **Emergency Clean-up Buckets for Church World Service** to provide assistance to families and communities affected by flooding, tornados and other disasters.

### Wednesday, July 19, 2017

6:00 pm: **Community Picnic on the Patio** (rain location Gathering Space). All are welcome. Volunteers needed to set up, serve, clean up.

- 6:30 pm
- **Backpacks** for Youth Link, which works with homeless youth ages 16-23 across the Twin Cities.
  - **Hygiene Kits for Church World Service** After a disaster of any kind there is a great need for basic hygiene items for individuals.
  - **Lemonade/Water/Dog Treat (& Catnip Toy) Stand** to hand out to our neighbors.

### Thursday, July 20, 2017

10:00: • **Bags of Grace** water, band-aids, other items for handing out to streetcorner supplicants

- **Church World Service School Kits** for children in impoverished schools, refugee camps or other difficult settings around the world

### 6 pm – 7:30 pm: Feed My Starving Children, Coon Rapids Location

Come and join the fun as we pack food that will feed the most vulnerable in the world.

Please sign up online: <http://volunteer.fmssc.org/Register/Group/JoinGroup.aspx?gid=905340>

Minimum age: 5 years old with an adult. The bus will be available for those that would like a ride. It will leave at 5 pm. Please sign up to reserve a seat.

*In Our Prayers. . .***Prayers of Joy**

*For all campers and camp counselors, especially Becki Whitaker and Aiden, and Elaine Tucker and Elizabeth*

**Prayers of Sympathy**

*For Carolyn Povolny on the death of her friend Justin*

**Prayers of Concern**

*For Phil Kinney who was readmitted to the hospital  
For Gwen Elmshouser  
For Mike Hesano's Aunt Mary Ann  
For all our homebound members Phyllis Dunlap, and John and Phyllis Takekawa*

**Prayers for the World**

*For the world, national and local elected leaders to have compassion and dedication to the needs of the people*

**Voices and Views**

Pat Dunlop

**Mission Outreach and Pledges**

When I was asked to write a viewpoint article for this month's newsletter, I immediately thought about the upcoming mission week and how these activities exemplify what mission and outreach is to me: people coming together, eating, visiting, and creating materials that will be of use and help to someone else all in the name of our personal Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. But then it occurred to me that we don't just "do a once a year thing"; we as a church practice mission and outreach 365 days a year.

Yes, these past several weeks you have heard and seen announcements highlighting our Mission-At-Our-Doorstep activities. We have been encouraged to sign-up to help and to bring materials and I really hope you are able to come and have fun while we do a little work.

But while we highlight this as our local all-church mission activity, you may wonder what else is it that we do throughout the year? Perhaps you think your pledge monies go only to support our pastors and our building but we tithe those funds, about \$25,000, to support several mission-outreach partners. Annually your gifts go to the Disciples Mission Fund to support global missions of the wider church. Locally we gift funds to Groveland Food shelf, Community Emergency Services, Refugee Services of the Minnesota Council of Churches, the Aliveness HIV/AIDS project, St. Stephens Human Services, Feed My Starving Children and Downtown Churches Ending Homelessness, just to name some of the organizations we support.

Our gifts are not huge but the fact that we as a church have been continuously supporting these organizations over the years does have an impact. Each time that I, as the church treasurer, write a check to an organization I know that we are carrying out our mission to help in the local community. And, we receive letters of thanks from all these groups telling us how much our gift means to their ongoing work. There is a folder full of heartfelt thank-you's in the church filing cabinet.

So while we have special offerings at Christmas, Easter, Pentecost and Thanksgiving that go directly to regional and national church projects and thank offerings on Christmas Eve that go to the children at Plaster House in Tanzania and special offerings during Advent and Lent, please know that your everyday giving quietly supports numerous other programs, every day.

## Pastor Dan serves as Moderator



Pastor Dan Adolphson is Moderator of the Disciples LGBTQ+ Alliance, the new name for what was formerly called "GLAD Alliance." In his role as Moderator, Dan welcomed more than 330 attendees to an Alliance dinner during General Assembly. He also participated in a variety of Alliance workshops and helped staff the Alliance booth. Information about Disciples LGBTQ+ Alliance is available at

<http://disciplesallianceq.org>

## Help Deb with ADAM camp supplies

Deb Murphy, director of ADAM (Arts, Drama, and Music) Camp, needs some supplies for the end of July sessions. She's looking for paper egg cartons, newspapers and magazines that have interesting pictures. She'll be collecting this next Sundays, July 16 through Thursday, July 20. Thanks (in advance) for helping with ADAM Camp.

## Summer adjustments to group meetings

The **Ecumenical Women's Ministry** will be meeting in the home of Mary Lou Norman this summer on most Thursday mornings at 9 am. This is the group that meets for fellowship and knitting/crocheting. Please call Mary Lou (952-682-7879) if you're thinking of coming. The group isn't necessarily meeting every week due to travel and family visits.

**Lectionary Bible Study**, which meets Wednesdays at 8:30 am, has switched to meeting at the Walker Residence to make it easier for Larry Pray to participate. If you have questions or need directions, contact Michael Vanderford at 612-219-9647.

## Workshop on "Rethinking Church" at Luther

MN Council of Churches is publicizing a workshop on "Rethinking Church" to be held July 26-28 at Luther Seminary in St. Paul. The Council's announcement says: "In the last century, Christian congregations in North America largely imagined their mission as attracting people to Sunday morning church. Congregations were taught to measure attendance and offerings. Things are changing. In what ways have our worship, education, and fellowship changed? How is the Holy Spirit forming community in our contexts in 2017? [Explore these questions at Rethinking Church.](http://www.luthersem.edu/rethinking/)" <http://www.luthersem.edu/rethinking/>

## Notes on 2017 General Assembly

Pastor Laurie Feille, Pastor Dan Adolphson and Bryan Feille were FCC's representatives at General Assembly, July 8-12.

The first order of business took place Sunday night with the election of Rev. Terri Hord Owens as the new General Minister and President of the Disciples of Christ.

The rest of the business items were discussed in afternoon sessions from Monday through Wednesday. Dozens of resolutions were presented, discussed and voted on. The resolutions varied from environmental issues such as "Concerning Carbon Neutrality" to church administrative items such as "Church Extension Financial and Missional Resources" to global topics such as "On Becoming Immigrant Welcoming Congregations."

The resolution "Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery," which our congregation voted to support, was voted on Tuesday and passed.

To see the complete list of resolutions, go to the website <http://ga.disciples.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/2017-Order-of-Business-for-Docket-Amended.pdf>.

**Sundays at First Christian Church  
Worship at 10:30**

**Before Worship**

Children's Classes, 9:30 am  
Joint Adult class 9:30 am

**After Worship**

Fellowship Time 11:45

**Narrative Lectionary  
For Sunday, July 16  
Ephesians 1: 1-14**



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

**Reflections on the Word**

*Ephesians 1:5 " He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will."*

The statue pictured to the left, which resides in an English church, is called "Joseph the foster father." This designation of Joseph invites modern people to start trying to reconcile scientific facts with biblical stories. Paul's use of the word "adoption" may also cause us to get sidetracked into definitions and categories. Jesus taught us to do away with categories such as "adopted" and "biological" and focus instead on the oneness of the human family.

*Loving God, Help us to know all people as are real brothers and sisters in Christ. Amen.*

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
OF MINNEAPOLIS  
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)  
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*A Welcoming Community of Faith in  
the Heart of the City*

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