

The Courier

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis



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UPCOMING Events

SPECIAL NOTE:
FCC August board meeting
moved to 4th Tuesday,
August 22, 7 pm

Thursday Ecumenical
Women's Group meeting at
Mary Lou Norman's, 9 am

4 Days, 63 people, 597+ items = Priceless MAOD

The ambitious goals for Mission at Our Doorstep 2017 were accomplished and in some cases exceeded (**) in just four days. A total of 63 people worked together during the week to produce

- 200 bags of grace
- 40 CWS hygiene kits
- 200 sandwiches for Simpson Shelter
- 100 bag lunches for Simpson Shelter
- 27 CWS school kits**
- 5 clean up buckets
- 10 GED backpacks
- 15 children's backpacks for Sheridan Story**
- AND a significant portion of 27,432
- Feed My Starving Children food packets sufficient to serve 3 meals a day to 75 children for one year.

Kind of takes your breath away, doesn't it? Thank you to all the workers and to the Mission and Outreach Team (Kirsten Cackoski, Pat Dunlop, Karen Kandik, Laurie Feille) who organized and choreographed this impressive project.





In Our Prayers

Prayers of Joy

For mission work being done at home and abroad, especially in Nicaragua

Prayers of Sympathy

For Jen Kregel, whose grandmother passed away recently

Prayers for Concern

For Mary Lou Norman's newly born great-grandson Marvin having health concerns

For Kathy Merkel's foster mother

For Gwen Elmshouser

For Phil Kinney

For all our homebound members, including Elaine Moe and Bev Singewald

Prayers for the World

For the family of Justine Damond, the Minneapolis police department and the citizens of Minneapolis, that peace and justice can be found



A message from Pastor Laurie Pound-Feille



On being the hands and feet of Jesus

I love First Christian Church! It is true. I love the members and friends of FCC. This past week is a shining example of why I feel like the luckiest pastor on the planet. We spent a week doing projects that benefit other people and not our own church.

We made Bags of Grace that we give to people who are in need, homeless, standing on the sides of our city streets. We made sandwiches and lunch bags for those who are homeless living at Simpson Shelter. We put together kits for Church World Service: Clean-up buckets, Hygiene kits and School kits that will be delivered to people who have suffered natural or human made disasters. We had people who sewed the bags for the school kits!

We put together back packs for Youth Links that will go to homeless youth as well as money to pay for their GED tests. We gathered supplies and backpacks that will be delivered to Whittier International School to help children that may not have needed school supplies. We passed out free dog /cat treats, lemonade and water so as to get to know our neighbors better. We had people who sewed the catnip toys! We hosted a community meal and offered a free meal to our neighbors and shared the food also at St. Stephens. We spent an evening packing food at Feed My Starving Children and made a difference in the lives of malnourished children.

This congregation does not brag on itself so as your pastor I am bragging on you. I have had a crazy summer with school, my dad's 90th birthday, General Assembly and preparing for our Servant Trip to Nicaragua. I have not had time to put the work into Mission At Our Doorstep as I have in years past. All of the outreach that this church completed last week was organized and led by Kirsten Cackoski, Karen Kandik and Pat Dunlop. They worked for months on our Mission At Our Doorstep week and I am so very grateful to them and for them. They did a tremendous job and their hard work allowed the rest of us to be able to make a difference in our community and the world. Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to our Mission week. It was a fun and life-giving week for so many.

This congregation's commitment to serving our community and outside of our community is every pastor's dream. It is in the DNA of this church to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ and I love that you do this not only one week in the summer but throughout the year.

Thank you for allowing me to be a part of your lives and your understanding of what it means to be church. I love you and I love being church with you. Much love and peace, Pastor Laurie

Help Warren Westphal in September 9 Walk

Warren Westphal will be walking on Saturday, September 9, in the Twin Cities Walk to End Alzheimer's, and he invites you to join him or to sponsor him. The walk will assemble at 8:45 am at Target Field; walkers will then take to the streets for either a 3-mile or a 10-mile route in downtown Minneapolis.

Donations to Warren Westphal can be made at

<https://tinyurl.com/y9wjxqjl>. More information about the day's events can also be found at that website.



SH Servant Trip to León, Nicaragua, underway

Twenty-seven people from SpringHouse are currently in León, Nicaragua on a mission trip to plant trees, help in a school, and work on other needed projects for the people of this city. The 13 participants from FCC were commissioned during worship on Sunday, July 23. The trip is from July 27 through August 7.



L to R: Henrietta Smith, Ali Hesano, Theresa Borchardt, Lu Griffin, Mike Hesano, Pastor Dan Adolphson, Pastor Laurie Feille (trip leader), Tim Leach, Steve Rusinak, Karen Bowman, Anna Bliss, Solveig Juntunen. (Not pictured: Zach Hesano, Sarah Lauer).

Yunyue Liu named head of Bach Society



Yunyue Liu, former keyboardist for FCC, has been named Executive Director of the Bach Society. Liu, a native of Shanghai, is described in the announcement as "a gifted and collaborative musical artist who has performed on three continents and in numerous master classes with world renowned artist. She performs frequently in the Twin Cities, including recent performances at The Baroque Room and the Landmark Center.

Minnesota Council of Churches Notes

The Minnesota Council of Churches publishes a bi-weekly online newsletter called "News for the Common Good." Among many items of interest in the July 19 issue was this notice about needed household items for refugee families:

"Legal challenges to the executive order blocking refugees continue to spark questions around refugee resettlement, but we anticipate continuing to welcome new arrivals this summer

"As we look around our donation space we are thankful for the way so many have given and supported our work. Our space is full with many items that we hope to send out to new families as resettlement policies are finalized, but we are missing a few critical pieces for families we plan to welcome this month.

"At this time we are only able to accept these specific items: brooms with dust pans, alarm clocks, trash bags (kitchen size), full and twin size blankets and comforters. Thank you for your understanding and generosity. To arrange a drop-off, please contact rsvolunteers@mnchurches.org.





August 2017 First Christian Church					Sunday Morning Schedule 9:00 Spiritual Formation Classes 10:30 Worship 11:45 Fellowship Time in Gathering Space	
		1	2	3	4	5 9:30 Grief Support Group
6 <i>South Sanctuary</i> Noon – Child Ministry Team Meeting	7 7 pm Covenant Review Committee Nicaragua service workers return	8	9 8 am Lectionary Bible Study 2 pm Mission & Outreach	10 9 am Ecumenical women's ministry 3 pm MN Soc 4:30 Q Quest 7 pm SH Finance	11	812 9 am SH Huddle 9:30 Grief Support Group
13 <i>South Sanctuary</i> Noon – SH Green Team	14 6:30 pm Brews and Views	15	16 8 m Lectionary Bible Study 5:30 Finance Committee	17 9 am Ecumenical women's ministry	18	19 9:30 Grief Support Group
20 <i>10:30 am Worship in Bryant Park followed by picnic lunch</i> <i>Noon – 3 pm SH Board Meeting</i>	21 6:45 SH Building Committee 7 pm Laurie's Preaching Group	22 6 pm Worship Committee 7 pm FCC Board	23 8 am Lectionary Bible Study	24 9 am Ecumenical women's ministry	25	26 9:30 Grief Support Group Upper Midwest Disciples gathering at Conference Center
27 <i>South Sanctuary</i>	28 7 pm Laurie's Preaching Group	29	30 8 am Lectionary Bible Study	31 9 am Ecumenical women's ministry		

	Elders	Worship Leader	Children's Moment	Diaconate	Bus Drivers
August 6	Ann Wolverton Jay Hillestad	Jim Lee	Deb Murphy	A. Bliss M. Carlson	Garry Hesser 612.721.4905
August 13	Lu Griffin Mike Hesano	Valerie Dunham	Dan Adolphson	A. Creighton W. Manuel B. Flanagan S. Grady B. Hall	Mike Hesano 651-645-6758
August 20	Steve Rusiak Kirsten Cackoski	Worship in the Park			Mike Morgan 612.926-9834
August 27	Barb Creighton Dean Creighton	Elizabeth Larson	Laurie Feille		Garry Hesser 612.721.4905

Note: Please call drivers by Saturday for Sunday bus ride

Highlights from General Assembly 2017

by Pastor Dan Adolphson

Another Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) General Assembly is in the books! Lots of good stuff happened – even some history making stuff!!

Election and Installation

We elected and installed a new General Minister and President, the Rev. Teresa (Terri) Hord Owens! Rev. Owens is the first African-American woman elected to head a major mainline denomination.



Photo Credit: Angela Kaufman

See FCC's website for two newspaper stories about Rev. Owens' election, as well as a video of the procession of gifts portion of the installation. Rev. Dr. Mark Johnston of the Disciples LGBTQ+ Alliance presented Rev. Owens with the chalice. This was also a history-making moment, as this was the first time that the Alliance has been part of the installation of a general minister and president.

Resolutions

One of the many reasons Disciples attend the General Assembly is to perform the worshipful work of the Church through business sessions. The General Assembly is the representative body of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and receives and acts upon proposed policy and program, reports and resolutions, and other items of business presented during business sessions.

While there was a lower number of resolutions than in previous years, there were several deeply important ones that tie to our mission at First Christian Church. Of particular interest to us were 1) GA-1722 (FCC was a signatory on this – approved): Repudiation of the Christian Doctrine of Discovery: a call to education and action and support for indigenous voices in the witness of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); 2) GA-1723 (approved): On Becoming Immigrant Welcoming Congregations; 3) Emergency Resolution GA-1739 (approved): Concerning Executive Order 13780 Regarding a recent Executive Order by U.S. President Donald Trump having to do with immigration; 4) Emergency Resolution GA-1740 (approved): Concerning Support for the “New Poor People’s Campaign: national call for a moral revival.” This resolution encourages all expressions of the church to support the New Poor People’s Campaign: National Call for a Moral Revival in 2018. Pastor Laurie was part of the group that helped draft this emergency resolution.

2019 GA in Des Moines

Always wanted to go to a General Assembly? 2019 will be your chance, as we’ll be down the interstate in Des Moines!! The Upper Midwest Region is the host region for the 2019 General Assembly, so stay tuned as we’ll need lots of help to make this happen and welcome our fellow Disciples.

Sundays at First Christian Church

Worship at 10:30

Before Worship:

Spiritual Formation Classes:

9:00 Hearthstone Class,

9:30 Children's Art of the Covenant Class

9:30 SH Joint Adult Class: Darkwood series on "Be@itudes"

After Worship

11:45 Fellowship Time

Scripture Reading for Sunday, July 30 Ephesians 4: 1-16



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

Reflections on the Word

Ephesians 4: 15 - But speaking the truth in love we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.

If you Google "speaking the truth in love," you can find dozens of explanations of what this phrase REALLY means. Each of us must figure this verse out for ourselves, but we probably should start with the idea that the words "in love" are at the heart of this directive from Paul.

Grace-giving God, Help us to keep love at the center of all that we say and do. Amen.

A Welcoming Community of Faith in the Heart of the City

Ministry Team

Dan Adolphson, Associate Pastor,

dan.adolphson@fccmpls.org

Julie Andrix, Faith Community Nurse, fcn@fccmpls.org

Rick Bowman, SHMC Building Manager

Adam Conrad, Music Director & Composer-in-Residence

Pamela Cook, SHMC Youth Minister,

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Pearl Evans, SHMC Child Care

Laurie Feille, Senior Pastor, pastor@fccmpls.org

Martha Harris, Courier Editor, harrismartha@mac.com

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Christian Courier is published bi-monthly. Send items and ideas to church office or to Martha Harris by

Sunday, August 6 for the August 12 issue.

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