

# The Courier

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis



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## UPCOMING Events

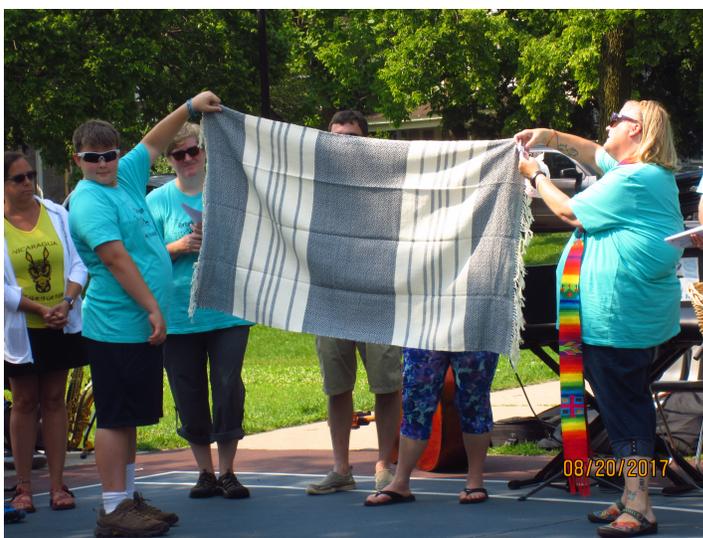
Upper Midwest Disciples  
Gathering in Iowa,  
Saturday, August 26

Choir rehearsals resume,  
Wednesday, September 6,  
7:45 pm

## Nicaragua Trip: all about "being with"

"The trips to Paraguay and Detroit were about *doing*; this trip to Nicaragua was about *being with*," said Kathy Hayden, one of the Nicaragua trip participants who shared their experiences during Worship in the Park on Sunday, August 20.

Ten of the 27 participants offered personal reflections on the trip, and many speakers emphasized how remarkable and valuable it was to live for 11 days with a Nicaraguan family, overcoming language barriers as relationships were built.



Clark and Rhonda Hlavinka display a hand-woven cloth for the SpringHouse Communion table, a gift to SpringHouse from the trip participants.

Emily Miller spoke of the trip as "living in the moment – being who you need to be in the moment: friend, helper, daughter, family member." Clark Hlavinka concluded that "kids are pretty much the same; just pull out cards or a bouncy ball" and connections will be made. He also noted that his mom (Pastor Rhonda Hlavinka) would say, "That's a God thing."

Several speakers also commented on what they learned from visiting clinics and schools. Kathy Hayden, a nurse, was taken with the fact that health care in Nicaragua is free. She also noted that the clinics were sparsely furnished, but when any of the trip participants were ill, the Nicaraguan families were generous and loving in caring for their guests. Ali Hesano shared her impressions about the day cares they visited and how happy and energetic the children always were, no matter how much or how little they had in terms of resources.

Anna Bliss talked about the "fierce women of San Carlos," and how they have learned to work together to bring improvements in their community in things like fresh water and better doctors for the clinics. Read her thoughtful essay dated August 10 at <https://springhousehuddle.wordpress.com/blog/>

Pastor Rhonda Hlavinka concluded her reflections by emphasizing that all of the participants are excited to continue talking and sharing with everyone at SpringHouse about this trip. Stay tuned for more!



## ***In Our Prayers***

### **Prayers of Sympathy**

*For the family of Gwen  
Elmshouser, long-time  
FCC member*

### **Prayers for Joy**

*For Mark Keeler and his  
wife Kelly, pastor of  
Plymouth Creek Christian  
Church, on the birth of  
their baby William*

### **Prayers for Concern**

*For Henrietta Smith  
For Phil Kinney's continuing  
recovery  
For Elizabeth Larson's  
friend Kerry Kendall who  
has recently been  
diagnosed with cancer  
For all our homebound  
members, including  
Dorothy Becker and Mary  
Lou Cain*

### **Prayers for the World**

*For the country's leaders to  
have the courage to speak  
out and act out against  
racism  
For all those harmed and  
terrorized in Barcelona  
and other trouble spots in  
the world*



## **A message from Pastor Laurie Pound-Feille**



### ***"New Normal" working well for SH Board***

Summer is almost over and it is time to return to our "normal" schedule at church. Choir and handbells will start back soon. Board meetings, ministry meetings and other groups will meet on a regular basis. The same will be true for SpringHouse as our children's ministry and youth ministry will begin a new year as well as all of the committees, ministries, and teams gather together once again.

While we will return to a "normal" schedule, our SpringHouse Board has a new "normal" schedule. Beginning earlier this year we experimented with not meeting on a monthly basis. For many years the SpringHouse Board needed to meet monthly to be able to create SpringHouse and then to discover how to live into being community as SpringHouse. We have lived into this incredible way of being three churches who live together, share resources and do ministry together. This also means that all three of our churches are viable, living, crazy busy communities of faith.

To be better stewards of our time, so that we all have the energy to live out the ministries of our churches and SpringHouse, the Board of SpringHouse will meet less frequently. If an issue arises that needs the Board's attention we have created a Google Group for the Board where we can quickly take any action that is needed. When we do meet we are inviting different SpringHouse committees to come and share their visions and dreams for their ministries.

We are excited about this new way of meeting. There have been a few hiccups during the last six months as there always is with any change but we have worked through those and look forward to our new "normal." We met yesterday after our Worship In the Park and found our time together life-giving and efficient!

If you have anything that you would like the SpringHouse Board to know or address please contact the representatives for First Christian: Steve Rusinak and Lu Griffin. Dean Creighton, FCC Board Chair, serves as Co-Chair of the SpringHouse Board and Alison Creighton serves as the SpringHouse Treasurer. You can always let me know too as all three Senior Pastors of the SpringHouse churches also serve on the Board.

I look forward to First Christian returning to our "normal" schedule. This summer has been very busy and I am looking forward to everyone being back together and the ministries that are ahead for us! Enjoy the State Fair, get in one more weekend at the lake and then come and be a part of the exciting happenings at your church.

Much love and peace, Pastor Laurie

## Meet Melinda and Arlan Nickerson



Melinda and Arlan Nickerson joined our FCC family on Sunday, August 13. Melinda and Arlan live on a hobby farm in Nowthen, MN, with their three horses and many dogs and cats. Arlan has worked 30 years at North Memorial Medical Center. Melinda, daughter of Mike and Kirsten Cackoski, works for the Minneapolis Public Schools, and has one year to go before earning her Special Ed teaching license. Please seek out Melinda and Arlan and get to know them better!

## Plaster House director to speak September 5

As a congregation we have supported The Plaster House and heard about its ministry and mission over the years from Steve and Amy Dunlop. It is a high love, low cost organization based in Arusha, Tanzania, that provides food; housing; plastic, orthopedic and general pediatric surgery; and rehab for infants and children. Director and founder Sarah Rejman will be stopping in Minneapolis as part of a US tour to share about the growth and change occurring there and will be presenting here at First Christian on Tuesday, September 5 at 7 pm. Please come and hear more about this wonderful place that is changing the lives of Tanzanian children and their families in very tangible and miraculous ways. Find out more about The Plaster House at [www.theplasterhouse.org](http://www.theplasterhouse.org) or look for them on Facebook or contact Amy Dunlop at [eggersdunlop@gmail.com](mailto:eggersdunlop@gmail.com)



## Walk to End Alzheimer's coming September 9

There is still time to sign up to walk with Warren and Karen Westphal on Saturday, September 9, in the Twin Cities Walk to End Alzheimer's. The walk starts at 9 am at Target Field; walkers can take a 1-mile or a 3-mile route. Call Warren if you want to make arrangements to meet and walk together. Donations to support the Westphals can be made at <https://tinyurl.com/y9wjxqjl>.



## A Call for "Healthy" Paperbacks

“Think on these things...”

*“Summing it all up, friends, I’d say you’ll do best by filling your minds and meditating on things true, noble, reputable, authentic, compelling, gracious—the best, not the worst; the beautiful, not the ugly; things to praise, not things to curse.” -- Philippians 4:8, 9*  
The Message Bible.

Do you have paperback books you would be willing to donate to the mental health and hospital units at Minnesota Correctional Facility Oak Park Heights?

We are looking for books that offer stories within themes of wellness topics, healthy relationships or some kind of redemption action. We would like to move away from the horror, murder mystery genres. We hope to build small libraries on our various living units to give offenders more positive options for reading material.

Thank you for your consideration! Donations may be brought to church. Look for Lynda Lee, Jim Lee, or Deb Murphy.

Sincerely,  
Lynda Lee, Chaplain  
MCF Oak Park Heights  
Stillwater, MN 55082

PS – Lynda is also looking for books by Wayne Dyer, Rabbi Kushner, Marcus Borg, John Shelby Spong, John Dominic Crossan, Jack Kornfield, Brian McClaren, and Marianne Williamson.

September 2017 First Christian Church				Sunday Morning Schedule 9:15/30 Spiritual Formation Classes (starting 9/10) 10:30 Worship 11:45 Fellowship Time in Gathering Space		
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 9 am Men's Bible Study
<b>3</b> <i>South Sanctuary</i> Noon – Child Ministry Team Meeting	<b>4</b>  <b>LABOR DAY</b> <i>Offices and Building Closed</i>	<b>5</b> 7 pm Plaster House Presentation 7 pm Covenant Review Committee	<b>6</b> 8 am Lectionary Bible Study 7:45 Choir	<b>7</b> 9 am Ecumenical women's ministry 10 am SHMC Insurance Cmte 7 pm Yoga – North Sanctuary	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> <i>Garden Level Carpet Cleaning</i>  9 am Men's Bible Study 9 am SH Huddle 9 am Walk to End Alzheimer's
<b>10</b> <i>South Sanctuary</i>  <b>SH Joint Service</b> <b>10:30 South Sanctuary Potluck Lunch</b>  Noon – SH Green Team	<b>11</b> <b>10 am Sanctuary Switch</b> 6:30 pm Brews and Views	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 8 m Lectionary Bible Study 2 pm Mission & Outreach 5:30 Finance Committee 6:30 Bells 7:45 Choir	<b>14</b> 9 am Ecumenical women's ministry 7 pm Carter Circle @ Hurlocker's 7 pm SH Finance Comm 7 pm Yoga – North Sanctuary	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 9 am Men's Bible Study
<b>17</b> <i>North Sanctuary</i>  11:45 SH Activistas  5 pm Elders @ Hillestads	<b>18</b> 6:45 SH Building Committee	<b>19</b> 6 pm Worship Committee 7 pm FCC Board	<b>20</b> 8 am Lectionary Bible Study 6:30 Bells 7:45 Choir	<b>21</b> 9 am Ecumenical women's ministry 7 pm Pastor Laurie's PRC 7 pm Yoga – North Sanctuary	<b>22</b> <b>Upper Midwest Fall Women's Retreat Fri-Sun</b> →	<b>23</b> 9 am Men's Bible Study
<b>24</b> <i>North Sanctuary</i>  ← <b>Women's Retreat</b>	<b>25</b> 7 pm SHMC Covenant Review Committee	<b>26</b> 7 pm Book Club @ Val Dunham's	<b>27</b> 8 am Lectionary Bible Study 6:30 Bells 7:45 Choir	<b>28</b> 9 am Ecumenical women's ministry 7 pm Yoga – North Sanctuary	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 9 am Men's Bible Study

	Elders	Worship Leader	Children's Moment	Diaconate	Bus Drivers
<b>September 3</b>	Ann Wolverton Jay Hillestad	Elizabeth Larson	Dan Adolphson	K. Hintz Mary Hurlocker Max Hurlocker E. Tucker B. Whitaker G. Madsen	Mike Hesano 651-645-6758
<b>September 10</b>	Martha Harris Steve Rusinak	Joint Service			Mike Morgan 612.926-9834
<b>September 17</b>	Val Dunham Sandy Morgan	Alison Creighton	Laurie Feille		Garry Hesser 612.721.4905
<b>September 24</b>	Steve Rusinak Barb Creighton	TBD	Steve Rusinak		Mike Hesano 651-645-6758

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



## SpringHouse News Briefs

**Gathering Sunday Joint Worship:** We will be worshipping together on Sunday, September 10, in the South Sanctuary to celebrate the beginning of the Sunday School Year. A Potluck Lunch will be served afterwards – volunteers will be needed to set up, serve and clean up.

**Children's Sunday School** also begins for the fall on September 10 at 9:15 a.m.

**Sanctuary Switch:** The next switch will be Monday, September 11 at 10 am. First Christian moves to the North Sanctuary, Salem moves to the Garden Sanctuary, and Lyndale moves to the South Sanctuary.

**Solidarity Opportunity:** The Dar Al Farooq Islamic Center in Bloomington was bombed in a suspected hate crime. There is a GoFundMe page created to garner support to rebuild the community center and mosque damaged in the attack. We encourage all who are able to donate here: [www.gofundme.com/support-dar-al-farooq-center](http://www.gofundme.com/support-dar-al-farooq-center).

**Housing Needed:** SpringHouse had an inquiry recently: two recent college graduates are looking to rent an apartment or similar space in our neighborhood. One will be an Americorps volunteer at a school in the neighborhood, and the other works at a local hospital. If you know of appropriate accommodations for rent, please contact Laurie in the Salem office ([office@discoversalem.org](mailto:office@discoversalem.org)) and she will pass the information along.

**Host coffee hour:** We need people to host coffee hour for September Sundays – please! There's a calendar in the Gathering Space to sign up.

**Conference coming in October:** Lyndale United Church of Christ's Center for Sustainable Justice is hosting a conference on October 7, 8, and 9, and will be at different locations each day. The conference is called "Sacred Places, Sacred Stories: A Journey into Healing Justice." The information flyer says, "Join us as we share stories of resilient community organizing in three places around the Twin Cities in response to what white supremacy has stolen: bodies, land, and stories. Each day will include ceremony, listening to stories, actions of service, and an opportunity to process and grow as a group." Partner organizations for this conference are Healing Minnesota Stories; Black Lives Matter Minneapolis; the Kaleo Center for Faith, Justice and Social Transformation; and Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light.

Go to their Facebook page (Center for Sustainable Justice) to register and get locations.

## SpringHouse Board Notes

Ten people attended the quarterly meeting of SpringHouse Ministry Center Board on Sunday, August 20. The meeting was held in the Bryant Park community building.

Alison Creighton, SH Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Report, which was accepted. The Board passed a motion to freeze spending for marketing until the Marketing Committee prepares a spending plan.

The Board voted to approve a recommendation from the Building Committee to spend \$12,500 from the tuckpointing savings to repair a water leak in the northwest corner of the North Sanctuary.

Pastor Rhonda Hlavinka presented the revised Safe Church Policy, which the Board voted to accept. Next step is to put procedures in place to carry out the policy.

The SH Personnel Committee will take over staffing for Child Care and Nursery staff. The Child ministry team will work out a system for monitoring child care employees and operations.

The Board reviewed the new board meeting schedule and structure, and discussed ways to improve communication and decision making.

## Sundays at First Christian Church

Worship at 10:30

### Before Worship:

Spiritual Formation Classes:

9:15 Children's Sunday School (starting 9/10)

9:30 SH Joint Adult Class

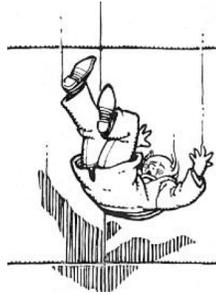
### After Worship

11:45 Fellowship Time

### Scripture text for Sunday,

**August 27**

**Acts 20: 1-12**



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

### Reflections on the Word

*Acts 20: 9a – A young man named Eutychus, who was sitting in the window, began to sink off into a deep sleep..."*

This rather strange story in Acts describes Paul reviving a man who apparently fell three stories to his death. Because writer Luke leaves out many details, we are left to puzzle out the meaning of this story. How to find God's message is not always apparent as we read the Bible and as we live our lives.

*Grace-giving God, Help us help each other break open your Word. Amen.*

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
OF MINNEAPOLIS  
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)  
610 W. 28<sup>th</sup> Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55408**

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

#### **Ministry Team**

**Dan Adolphson**, Associate Pastor,

[dan.adolphson@fccmpls.org](mailto:dan.adolphson@fccmpls.org)

**Julie Andrix**, Faith Community Nurse, [fcn@fccmpls.org](mailto:fcn@fccmpls.org)

**Rick Bowman**, SHMC Building Manager

**Adam Conrad**, Music Director & Composer-in-Residence

**Pearl Evans**, SHMC Child Care

**Laurie Feille**, Senior Pastor, [pastor@fccmpls.org](mailto:pastor@fccmpls.org)

**Martha Harris**, Courier Editor, [harrismartha@mac.com](mailto:harrismartha@mac.com)

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[deb.murphy@fccmpls.org](mailto:deb.murphy@fccmpls.org) & SHMC Building

Coordinator, [events\\_SHMC@fccmpls.org](mailto:events_SHMC@fccmpls.org)

**Maria Thieling**, SHMC Child Care

**Mike Vasich** - Pianist

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**Sunday, September 10 for the September 16 issue.**