

# The COURIER

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis



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## UPCOMING Events:

Elders Meeting,  
Sunday, September 17  
@Hillestad's

FCC Board Meeting,  
Tuesday, Sept 19,  
7 pm

Book Club  
Tuesday, Sept 26  
@ Dunham's

## Disciples respond to current needs and news

Hurricane Harvey – Hurricane Irma – earthquake in Mexico – fires raging in the West and Northwest -- threats to immigrants: how to respond to all these needs? Disciples at home and around the country are responding!

### Hygiene Kits for hurricane victims

During worship at FCC in September, we are taking time to put together hygiene kits and clean up kits that will be sent to Church World Service for distribution in disaster areas.



Assembling 66 hygiene kits and 5 cleanup buckets on Sunday, September 2

In addition to helping pack kits, FCC members can donate items for the kits (a list of items is available at <http://cwskits.org/assemble-kits/>) or donate money so the church can purchase the items needed and pay for them to be shipped to CWS.

### Donate to Week of Compassion

Week of Compassion is the relief, refugee and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the US and Canada. 100% of gift to WOC will be used to rebuild the communities hit by disasters in the weeks and months to come. Checks should be made payable to First Christian with WOC in the memo line.

### Pastoral Words from General Minister

The new General Minister and President of the Disciples, Rev. Terri Hord Owens, has been offering consolation, commentary and advice through her pastoral letters. She writes about the work Week of Compassion is doing ("Responses include providing shelter, distributing food and cleaning materials, offering emotional and spiritual care, and helping those who have been able to return to their homes begin the process of mucking them out.") and also speaks out strongly about the injustice of rescinding Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA): "They are our classmates in nearly every college, university, and seminary. They are our friends in our workplaces—sometimes whether we know it or not. And they are key leaders in our churches; brave and faithful and full of determination to contribute consistently to build up the strength of their families and neighborhoods and congregations."

Read the full text of Rev. Owens' letters at Disciples News Service

*In Our Prayers. . .***Prayers of Gratitude**

*For Pastor Daniel Romero for his powerful sermon at the Joint Worship on ways to carry out our commitment to be a sanctuary-supporting church*

**Prayers of Concern**

*For Dean Creighton's father John*

*For Henri Smith*

*For Kirsten Cackoski's mother Judy*

*For Lu Griffin's sister Fran*

*For Nancy Curry's mother Geraldine*

*For all our homebound members Dorothy Becker and Mary Lou Cain*

**Prayers for the World**

*For the victims of flooding and hurricane destruction in Texas, Louisiana, Florida and other places around the world*

*For those affected by and working to control the many fires in the West and Northwest*

*For the people of Myanmar and other countries where people are being persecuted*

**Voices and Views**

**Becki Whitaker**

**Enjoying the mix of old and new in God's world**

It's always a little sad when summer comes to an end. We return home from camps and vacations, the state fair is over, and the long days of free time begin to turn toward the shorter days of school. However, despite all of the fun that is ending fall is my favorite time of year. I love the crisp air and the warm fall colors. I look forward to fun times around the corner: women's retreat, a couple of birthdays for our family, and Halloween. One of the best parts of fall is getting back to routine. The kids are back to school, scouts, and other activities. We're home more instead of travelling or going to camps. I try to put my focus on the new beginnings and return to old activities rather than what is ending. Our family seems to have a lot of "new" this fall. Two kids are in new schools. There are new teachers and classmates to meet, and new ways of doing things that may have been familiar before. It's exciting, and a little scary at times.

Getting back to church is a big part of that routine. During our summer travels, church happened in many different ways and places. I see God everywhere in life, not just in our church building, but the connection is strong when surrounded by our wonderful church family. The kick-off Sunday brought a mix of familiar routine and new activity. Our church kids started a new Sunday School year with the routine of meeting on Sunday morning with a lot of the same people, but with the newness of different coordinators, a new curriculum, and a different way of experiencing the program. Later in the morning we met as a SpringHouse family to worship together. Our joint worship experience is not exactly routine, but it's becoming familiar the more we do it. Seeing old friends again and comparing summer stories was a lot of fun, but the connection and presence of God is what really makes the experience.

It's OK to miss the things that are ending. Take a minute to say good-bye for now. Then move on and enjoy the change of seasons and the return to "normal." Enjoy the mix of old and new, and continue to see God in all places of your life.

## Women's Retreat to be September 22-24



Proverbs 17:22 says, "A cheerful heart is good medicine." Cheerful hearts will gather to learn and laugh together at the annual Upper Midwest Christian Women's Fall Retreat. Promised cheer: Singing – Community – Prayer – Laughter – Healing from Friday September 22 through Sunday September 24 at the Lake Koronis Assembly Grounds in Paynesville, MN.

Rev Alison Philips Robuck will be the keynote speaker, sharing her expertise as a Certified Natural Health Practitioner; Rev. Laurie Feille will be the Chaplain, offering time for prayer, reflection and worship each day; Elaine Tucker and Cynthia Gaunt are this year's coordinators.

Lodging and meal costs range from \$150 to \$238, with scholarship assistance provided if needed. Contact the church office for registration information. If you'd like to ride the church bus, please contact Deb in the office.

## Faith Formation for kids and adults at SH

"**Godly Play**" is the title of the year's Sunday School curriculum for SpringHouse children. Nancy Curry and April Conlee (Lyndale) are the new coordinators for the children's Sunday School program, which meets at 9:15 on Sunday mornings in the downstairs Squiggle Space. Volunteer help is always needed to plan lessons and teach, and to help with intergenerational activities. Anyone interested in helping out with the Sunday School program should contact Nancy ([ncurry9107@comcast.net](mailto:ncurry9107@comcast.net)).

The first topic for **adult faith formation** will be "Faith, Sexism, and Justice," a six-week study created by the ELCA but definitely not aimed just at Lutherans! Pastor Dan Adolphson and Pastor Rhonda Hlavinka lead adult faith formation on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am in the Gathering Space, exploring a variety of topics throughout the year. All are welcome!

## Strong turnout for Alzheimer's Walk



*Team Westphal made a strong showing at the September 9 march for Alzheimer's. Way to go, team!*

## FCC Board Notes

Fifteen people attended the August 22 meeting of FCC's general board. Highlights from the meeting include the following:

- The **organ** builder has been working several hours a day on installing the organ; completion date for the work is unknown.

- Pastor Laurie reported that a **set of handbells** and chimes is available from a church in Ottawa, IA, that is closing. The board voted to spend \$2000 from the Memorials Fund to purchase the bells.

- Pastor Dan reported that the FCC **church directory** will soon be updated and available online or in print-outs.

- Pastor Laurie reported that she and Pastor Danny Givens are to give a **sermon for the Unitarian Universalist church** in Minneapolis, focusing on the work they did together on helping pastors understand white privilege.

- Treasurer Pat Dunlop reported that we are currently in line with our deficit budget projections. July actual income was \$24,572.

- Trustee chairperson Skip Wolverton reported on all **current FCC funds**. The trustees are discussing options for addressing the budget deficit.

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

**Before Worship**

Children's Classes, 9:15 am

Joint Adult class 9:30 am

**After Worship**

Fellowship Time 11:45

**Narrative Lectionary  
For Sunday, September 17  
Binding of Isaac  
Genesis 22:1-14**



Marc Chagall, Sacrifice of Isaac

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

**Reflections on the Word**

*Genesis 22:14: So Abraham called the place "The Lord will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided."*

The close of this troubling story of God's demand that Abraham sacrifice his son is a verse expressing gratitude for God providing a ram to Abraham. Terrence Fretheim of Luther Seminary comments: "Why the stress on God's providing, if this is a test of Abraham? It would appear that God is deemed worthy of praise because God has passed the test; God has responded to Abraham's trust and kept the divine commitment to Abraham."

*God of our ancestors, We thank you for ancient stories that make us struggle to understand our relationship with you. Help us open our minds and our hearts to your love and guidance. Amen*

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

**Ministry Team**

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