

The Courier

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis



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UPCOMING Events

FCC Book Club,
7 pm, January 4,
@ Pat Dunlop's

Women's Ministries
Lunch Out,
11:30, Saturday, January 13
@ Tucci Benuch,

SpringHouse Huddle,
9 am, Saturday January 13

Christmas Eve: time for worshipping and giving

Since Christmas Eve falls on Sunday this year, **the traditional family-oriented service will be on Sunday morning at 10:30**, while **the evening candlelight service will be at 10 pm** as in previous years. Special music, stories for children and grown-ups, beautiful decorations of the season, as well as reflections on the Word and communion, will be a part of both services.



Advent gifts for St. Stephens and Simpson shelters can still be put under the tree on Christmas Eve. These gifts can be monetary or gifts of needed items (blankets, hygiene products such as razors, shaving cream, toothpaste, bar soap, and clothes such as men's boxers and T-shirts socks and women's underwear). A complete list of items is on the church website at <https://tinyurl.com/yd5np9uu>.

Monetary donations for Plaster House will be encouraged at the 10 pm Candlelight service. Plaster House is a medical facility in Tanzania that provides surgery and care for children. Steve and Amy Dunlop have worked at Plaster House for many years.

"Ruby's Runaway Pageant" tells the old story



Emily Miller (left) played beleaguered pageant director Ruby trying to get her actors ready for a nativity pageant. With much humor (Joseph with his electric drill and Mary on a scooter instead of a donkey), the children of SpringHouse brought us a new

yet ages old story of the birth of Jesus in a humble stable. As Ruby said, this was a pageant "like no other pageant you've seen before!" FCC children Addy Kregel (angel) and Jimmy Tucker (listening intently!) are pictured above.



In Our Prayers

Prayers for Joy

*For the birth of August Jane
Harness-Jimenez on
November 30 to Pastor
Ashley Harness and Angela
Jimenez*

Prayers for Sympathy

*For Ann Wolverton on the
death of her cousin Lois
For Brianna Farah on the
death of family member
Kevin*

Prayers for Concern

*For Henri Smith, recovering
from heart valve surgery
For June Andrix
For Melinda Nickerson
recovering from a
concussion
For Dan Lauer's sister
Karen
For all our homebound
members, including Phyllis
and John Takekawa*

Prayers for the World

*For the thousands of people
affected by fires in
California
For refugees, especially the
Rohingya people*



Views and Viewpoints Elizabeth Larson



Finding Joy in Small Things

Psalms 94:19 when anxiety was great within me, your consolation brought me joy.

Joy: A word that we tend to hear during times of celebration, new birth, and the time of year when we celebrate the precious birth of a babe that changed the world.

During the season of hustle and bustle, chaos, Christmas movies, cookies, parties and advent we are all in a whirl of busy and rushing around. Christmas is a time that brings about gathering together and celebrating and cheer, but then we go to the dark deep place of this, the place of embracing pain, loss, for many, brokenness, and we struggle to find the words or the spirit to just get through.

I love this verse, it captures the realness of those moments and the times during the holiday where those who struggle with mental health can't bear to push through the season of "joy" or those who are dealing with broken relationships and loss struggle to find that Christmas spirit or attend a church service of Advent.

So this brings me upon the search, the pondering the question how do we cope, how do we find joy? This verse can be examined and interpreted in so many ways. God our shelter, our comforter embraces the anxieties of life and Christmas and many other holidays, and gives us small things we might miss if we blink an eye. The small things of Joy that God provides, we have the opportunity to embrace and capture if we pay close attention, waking up to a new fallen snow, the sound of little kids laughing in joy and excitement for the Christmas season that is here, the lovely smells of fresh baked Christmas cookies and the joy of caroling through a nursing home watching the smiles of the old folks as they embrace the presence of small children or adults paying them a visit. It doesn't stop there, the love that an animal shows when they cuddle up close to you. Sometimes in the midst of pain and excitement, hustle and bustle God places the smallest ounces of joy and a glimpse of breaking free from the darkness.

So here is a challenge for us all as we await Christmas arriving next week: Each day take a moment to go be alone or take a walk wherever you are, and be still and embrace the small joys you see, hear, taste and smell. May God's love, comfort, peace and joy embrace us all this Christmas and surround our hearts with a glimpse of Holy Spirit magic.

By Elizabeth Larson

Meet new members Kristin and Christine



Christine Isham (left) and Kristen Van Heyningen (right) joined our FCC family on Sunday, November 12. Kristen and Christine are both chaplains in Davenport, Iowa, but chose FCC to be their church home. We will not see them often, but we welcome them and will keep them in our prayers!

A Thank You from Pastor Laurie

Dear FCC,
Thank you for celebrating our five-year anniversary of being in ministry together! The beautiful flowers and the kind words surprised me and filled me with joy. I am beyond blessed to be your pastor and I look forward to more years of ministry together. Much love and peace, Pastor Laurie

Thank you



Volunteers welcome for Sheridan Story

Every other Friday morning, one or two people from First Christian go to the Whittier School – just three blocks from here – to put pre-packaged food into children's backpacks in their lockers so that they and their families will have food over the weekend. It takes just about an hour, and part of the fun is seeing kids and all their artwork in the hallways. A sign-up clip board is kept in the office on the counter.



FCC Board Notes

15 people attended the regular meeting of the FCC General Board on Tuesday, November 28. Highlights from the meeting include the following:

- Wendy Manual, representing the Sanctuary Task Force, gave the board information about a resolution called "Proposed Immigrant Welcoming Resolution" which each SH church will be voting to adopt. The board voted to approve this resolution and bring it to the congregation for a vote at the annual meeting in January.
- Kirsten Cackoski of the Wholeness Fund brought three requests for projects. One request was deferred for further information, and the other two were approved: \$3000 for Uprising Theater Company for a new production; and \$4222 to Mobile Menders for supplies and start-up costs
- Treasurer Pat Dunlop presented budget figures through October. October actual income was \$26,527. Pat stated that the budget is running very close to the projected budget for the year.
- Trustee Skip Wolverton shared information about plans for FCC's 2018 budget. The board voted for a 2% increase for staff members and a year-end bonus for choir section leaders
- The board voted to approve the 2018 SpringHouse budget, which will be presented at the January annual meeting.

January 2018

First Christian Church



Sunday Morning Schedule

9:15/30 Spiritual Formation Classes
 10:30 Worship
 11:45 Fellowship Time in Gathering Space

	1 	2 8 am Lectionary Bible Study	3 6:30 Bells 7:45 Choir	4 9 am Ecumenical women's ministry 5 pm SH Sanctuary Task Force 7 pm FCC Book Group @ Pat Dunlop's	5	6 9 am Men's Group 3 pm First Saturday
7 <i>Garden Sanctuary</i> Noon – Child Ministry Team Meeting & Godly Play Training Noon SHMC Board	8 6 pm Yoga 7 pm Covenant Review Committee	9 8 am Lectionary Bible Study	10 2 pm Mission & Outreach 5:30 FCC Finance 6:30 Bells 7:45 Choir	11 9 am Ecumenical women's ministry 7 pm Pastor Laurie PRC 7 pm SHMC Finance	12	13 9 am Men's Group 9 am SH Huddle 11:30 Women's Ministries Lunch Out at Tucci Bennuch MOA** 2 pm Staff Planning Mtg.
14 <i>Garden Sanctuary</i>	15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day 6 pm Yoga 6:45 SH Building Committee	16 8 am Lectionary Bible Study 6 pm Worship Team 7 pm FCC Board	17 6:30 Bells 7:45 Choir	18 9 am Ecumenical women's ministry 7 pm SH Finance Committee	15	20 9 am Men's Group
21 <i>Garden Sanctuary</i> Laity Sunday 11:30 am FCC Congregational Mtg	22 6 pm Yoga 6:30 Brews & Views	23 8 am Lectionary Bible Study	24 6:30 Bells 7:45 Choir	25 9 am Ecumenical women's ministry	26	27 9 am Men's Group
28 <i>SpringHouse Joint Worship, Annual Meeting and Lunch</i> 10:30 am South Sanctuary	29 6 pm Yoga	30 8 am Lectionary Bible Study	31 6:30 Bells 7:45 Chancel Choir			

****Reservations to Pat Dunlop**

	Elders	Worship Leader	Children's Moment	Diaconate	Bus Drivers
January 7	Kirsten Cackoski Mike Hesano	Max Hurlocker	Dan Adolphson	K. Hintz Mary Hurlocker Max Hurlocker E. Tucker B. Whitaker G. Madsen	Mike Hesano 651-645-6758
January 14	Lu Griffin Ann Wolverton	Barb Creighton	Laurie Feille		Mike Morgan 612.926-9834
January 21	Sandy Morgan Val Dunham	Laity Sunday – Young Adult Leadership			Garry Hesser 612.721.4905
January 28	Dean Creighton Jay Hillestad	Joint Worship			Mike Hesano 651-645-6758

Note: Please call drivers by Saturday for Sunday bus ride

Poor People's Campaign launches nation-wide call to action

Tens of thousands of poor and disenfranchised people, clergy and moral leaders will engage in direct action at statehouses and the U.S. Capitol next spring – a six-week protest highlighted by one of the largest waves of civil disobedience in U.S. history— as part of the Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival, organizers announced December 4, 50 years to the day after Dr. Martin Luther King and others called for the original Poor People’s Campaign.

The campaign, which launched Monday, December 4, at a press conference in Washington D.C. near Capitol Hill, will unite the poor, disenfranchised, and marginalized, combining direct action with grassroots organizing, voter registration, power building and nonviolent civil disobedience.

Expected to be a multi-year effort, The Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival will intensify starting Mother’s Day with six weeks of direct action and civil disobedience across at least 25 states and the District of Columbia, leading up to a mass mobilization at the U.S. Capitol June 21. Each week will focus on a different injustice, beginning with child poverty, and will include specific policy goals and a voter education program to advance a moral agenda at the state and federal levels.

The Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival is co-organized by Repairers of the Breach, a social justice organization founded by Disciples of Christ minister Rev. William Barber; the Kairos Center for Religions, Rights and Social Justice at Union Theological Seminary; and scores of local and national grassroots groups across the country.

On December 4, leaders of nearly half a dozen major denominations announced their organizations are endorsing the movement, including the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Presbyterian Church (USA), Union of Reform Judaism, United Church of Christ, and Unitarian Universalist Association.



Rev. William Barber addressed the press conference. Photo from Union website.



Rev. Terri Hord Owens, General Minister and President of the Disciples of Christ, participated in the opening of the campaign and released a statement of support: “The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the US and Canada stands in support of the Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival because we are called as disciples of Jesus the Christ to love God and to love our neighbor as ourselves. (Matthew 7:12) Our church passed a resolution at our 2017 General Assembly, calling for each expression of our church, congregations, regions, and general ministries, to support this prophetic movement.

See the full text of Rev. Owens statement and more information about the Poor People's Campaign on the Disciples website <http://disciples.org/general-assembly/gmp-poor-peoples-campaign-national-call-moral-revival/>. This story was adapted from the Disciples News Network.

Sundays at First Christian Church

Worship at 10:30

Before Worship:

Spiritual Formation Classes:

9:00 Hearthstone Class,

9:30 Children's Sunday School

9:30 SH Joint Adult Class

After Worship

11:45 Fellowship Time

**Scripture text
for Sunday, December 24
A Child is Born
Luke 2: 1-14**



Guido Reni, 17th century,
Naples

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

Reflections on the Word

Luke 2: 7 – And she brought forth her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

If Mary had appeared in Bethlehem clothed, as St. John says, with the sun, a crown of twelve stars on her head, and the moon under her feet, then people would have fought to make room for her. But that was not God's way for her, nor is it Christ's way for himself, now when he is disguised under every type of humanity that treads the earth.

Ever faithful God, Open our hearts to receive your Son, that we may open our doors to welcome all people as brothers and sisters and establish your household in our time Amen.

-Dorothy Day, in Watch for the Light

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

Ministry Team

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