

# The Courier

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis



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## UPCOMING Events

SpringHouse Joint Worship  
and Annual Meeting,  
Sunday, January 28

Bold North event for housing  
fund, 2-4 pm, January 28

Carter Circle, 3 pm,  
Monday, February 5

Laity Sunday,  
February 4, 3 pm

## Rev. Lawrence Richardson to speak January 28



Rev. Lawrence T. Richardson will be the guest speaker at the SpringHouse Joint Worship on Sunday, January 28. Rev. Richardson is the Associate Pastor of Linden Hills United Church of Christ, a self-proclaimed Digital Evangelist, and a Ministry Coach with the Center for Progressive Renewal. When he is not traveling, he uses multiple online platforms to minister to followers that span the globe. Lawrence has been featured in publications such as the Salt Collective, Huffington Post Religion and The Root, and is the recipient of service awards including the Humanitarian Award from Black Transmen Inc. He was a 2014 Trans 100 honoree, and a 2017 Transgender Stellar Awards Nominee for his work in digital communications. You can find out more about him and his work at [LTRichardson.com](http://LTRichardson.com).

Following worship, the three SpringHouse congregations will have their SpringHouse annual meeting to learn about the 2018 budget and about other current activities and issues of SpringHouse. A potluck lunch will be served afterwards. Please bring a side or dessert to share. Lasagna is being provided as the entrée.

## FCC young adults lead worship on Laity Sunday

Justin Carlson, Elizabeth Larson, Alison Creighton, Shannon Grady and Athena Carlson were the young adults who led us in worship on January 21. The worship theme was "The Spirit Within," and the congregation participated by engaging in several meditative worship stations.





## *In Our Prayers*

### *Prayers of Sympathy*

*For the family of Elaine Glore, long-time member of FCC, who passed away January 8.*

### *Prayers for Concern*

*For Belinda Flanagan's friend Shirley who had a stroke*

*For Phil Kinney*

*For Barb Creighton's brother Brad having surgery soon*

*For Arlene Hillestad*

*For all our homebound members, including June Andrix and Evelyn Lawson*

### *Prayers for the World*

*For people around the world suffering from natural disasters, especially those in California affected by mudslides*

*For the leaders of our country that they make decisions that help all the people who live here*



## A message from Pastor Laurie Pound Feille



### ***Pondering: What is Minister in Good Standing?***

Every year Disciples of Christ ministers in the Upper Midwest Region (as well as other Regions) have to fill out a form requesting Standing. Standing means that we are authorized by the Region to be a Disciples of Christ minister. There is a deadline for the form to be turned in. Once the deadline passes the Executive Committee of the Regional Commission on Ministry looks at every form to make sure that ministers are in “good standing” with the Region.

On the form we answer questions such as: place of ministry, how long at current place of ministry, year ordained and where ordained, and last date of Boundary Training. These questions are easy to fill out and don’t require much thought. The next section of the form asks questions that require more thought. We are required to complete 16 hours of continuing education to be in good standing. Seminars, conferences, book studies as well as classes at colleges and seminaries all count toward the 16 hours. With my DMin classes and post residency work I have not had any trouble filling the 16 hours.

We are also asked about our involvement in our community, Region, General church and Ecumenical involvement. Since First Christian is involved in the community and as pastor I get to be involved along with you, and I serve on the Regional Commission on Ministry as well as the Disciples Church Extension Fund of the General church, I can share that I am involved with it all. Due to the blessing of the Downtown Interfaith Clergy group I gratefully am able to share that not only I but also First Christian cares about Ecumenical work.

The next set of questions require much more thought. We have to answer questions about what has renewed our call to ministry and where have we found hope and joy. Every year I spend time thinking about whether my call to ministry was renewed over the past year and whether or not I found any hope or joy in ministry. This year I could not wait to get to these two questions.

I was excited to share that my renewed call to ministry and my hope and joy came from the members of First Christian Church. Over the past year you have struggled with difficult and complicated issues in our world. While we don’t all agree on every issue you have continued to be church and gather together at the Table. Most importantly, you have strived to live out the Good News of Jesus Christ even if that means being stretched beyond your comfort zone. There is nothing more that a pastor can ask of a church than this.

I am beyond proud to be your pastor and I pray daily that I will be as faithful and loving as each one of you.

Much love and peace,  
Pastor Laurie



## Jon Kregel makes it official

Jon Kregel became an official member of FCC's congregation on Sunday. It was rather a surprise to realize Jon was not a member, since he and his family have been worshiping with us for many years! Let us continue to welcome and embrace Jon Kregel.

## Annual meeting elects board members

First Christian Church held its annual congregational meeting on Sunday, January 21. Three actions were voted on by the congregation:

1. The Immigrant Welcoming Resolution, created by the SpringHouse Sanctuary Task Force, was approved. All three congregations are voting on this resolution at their respective annual meetings.

2. Election of members of the General Board:

Trustees: Sandy Morgan, Skip Wolverton

Elders: Kirsten Cackoski, Steve Rusinak, Pat Dunlop, Wendy Manuel and Arlene Jorgensen Hillestad

Diaconate: Max Hurlocker, Belinda Flanagan, Bobbie Hall, Justin Carlson, Mark Carlson, Sarah Lauer, Ali Hesano, Jen Kregel, Jon Kregel.

3. The 2018 budget was approved (see FCC Board notes on this page). Finance Committee chair Skip Wolverton went over some details of the budget and noted that a new "Look to the Future" fund has been created to help underwrite the year's spending. He also noted that Pastor Laurie Feille chose to forego the 2% salary increase the board had authorized, so that the amount of the increase could go in to the 2018 Outreach budget, in order that Outreach spending would not decrease because of necessary overall budget changes. Congregation members who would like a copy of the 2018 budget should call the church office.

## Downtown clergy leaders play football!

Picture this: the new Twin Cities Archbishop applying smudges of black paint beneath his eyes; Pastor Laurie Feille leading a huddle; Rabbi Marsha Zimmerman of Temple Israel lofting a pass to Imam El-Amin. A YouTube video captures all these scenes and more! The video is a promotion for the NFL sponsored "Bold Hope in the North" event on January 28 at Westminster Presbyterian Church, a fundraiser for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program administered by the Downtown Congregations to End Homelessness. See this entertaining video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kSB8kgVCTms&feature=youtu.be>

## Help with luncheon cleanup needed

Sandy Morgan has put out a call for **lunch clean-up help** January 28 following the annual SpringHouse meeting and luncheon. Both Salem and Lyndale will have annual meetings after the luncheon, but FCC has already held its meeting, so Sandy is asking FCC folk to pitch in on clean-up help.

## FCC Board Notes

Fifteen people attended the January 16 meeting of the FCC General Board. Highlights from the meeting are the following:

- A request for \$2862.40 for the Voices Conference held last fall to cover the remaining expenses was approved unanimously.
- Various SH committees are looking into reupholstering and/or replacement of the green couches in the Sun Room
- Treasurer Pat Dunlop reported that we ended the year with a deficit of \$34,044.82, which was less of a deficit than we had projected. \$30,000 in reserve funds was used to offset the deficit. The board voted to approve Pat's motion to use 4% of the interest from the new "Look to the Future Fund" to relieve more of the 2017 budget deficit.
- Trustee chair Skip Wolverton went over the figures for the 2018 budget. Pledges for 2018 were \$40,000 less than 2017 because of seven fewer pledging units, although the average amount pledged was higher. The board voted to approve the deficit budget (projected income \$262,235, projected expenses \$301,73; this will be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting on January 21.



<b>February 2018</b> <b>First Christian Church</b>				<b>Sunday Morning Schedule</b> 9:15/9:30 Spiritual Formation Classes 10:30 Worship 11:45 Fellowship Time in Gathering Space		
				1 9 am Ecumenical women's ministry	2	3 9 am Men's Bible Study 12 noon Polar Bear Picnic
4 <b>Garden Sanctuary</b>  <b>Boy Scout Sunday</b> Noon – Child Ministries Team Meeting	5 3 pm Carter Circle @ SpringHouse 6 pm Yoga with Liz	6 8 am Narrative Lectionary Bible Study at Walker Residence	7 6 30 Handbells 7:45 Choir	8 9 am Ecumenical women's ministry 5 pm SH Sanctuary Task Force 7 pm Pastor Laurie PRC 7 pm SH Finance Committee	9	10 9 am Men's Bible Study 9 am SH Huddle
11 <b>Garden Sanctuary</b> <b>Mardi Gras Sunday</b> Noon Social Justice Forum	12 <b>10 am Sanctuary Switch</b> 6 pm Yoga with Liz	13 8 am Narrative Lectionary Bible Study at Walker Residence	14 <b>Ash Wednesday</b> 6 pm Ash Wednesday Services 7:45 Choir	15 9 am Ecumenical women's ministry 5:30 FCC Finance Committee	16	17 9 am Men's Bible Study
18 <b>South Sanctuary</b> <i>First Sunday in Lent</i>	19 <b>President's Day</b> 6 pm Yoga with Liz 6:45 SH Building Committee	20 8 am Narrative Lectionary Bible Study at Walker Residence 6 pm Worship Team 7 pm FCC General Board	21 2 pm Mission and Outreach Comm. Meeting 5 pm Soup Supper 6 pm Holden Prayer Service 6 30 Lenten Study 6:30 pm Handbells 7:45 Choir	22 9 am Ecumenical women's ministry	23	24 9 am Men's Bible Study
25 <b>South Sanctuary</b> <i>Second Sunday in Lent</i>	26 6 pm Yoga with Liz 6:30 Brews & Views	27 8 am Narrative Lectionary Bible Study at Walker Residence	28 5 pm Soup Supper 6 pm Holden Prayer Service 6:30 Handbells 6:30 FCC Lenten Study 7:45 Choir			

	Elders	Worship Leader	Children's Moment	Diaconate	Bus Drivers
<b>February 4</b>	TBN	Athena Carlson	Dan Adolphson	TBN	Mike Morgan 612.926-9834
<b>February 11</b>	TBN	Alice Keith	Laurie Feille		Garry Hesser 612.721.4905
<b>February 18</b>	TBN	Garry Hesser	Deb Murphy		Mike Hesano 651-645-6758
<b>February 25</b>	TBN	Becki Whitaker	Deb Murphy		Mike Morgan 612.926-9834

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

## Annual Polar Bear Picnic to be February 3

It's Polar Bear Picnic time for SpringHouse! This year's outing will be Saturday, February 3, 2018, from noon till 4pm, at Lowry Nature Center at Carver Park Reserve near Victoria.



Join in this annual SpringHouse family event, put on by the Three Rivers Park District, a 40-minute drive from SpringHouse just past the University of Minnesota Arboretum in the southwest Twin Cities.

We regularly have 15 to 25 SpringHouse folk join in the fun. This event is free for SH participants. The car pool will leave SpringHouse parking area at noon, and arrive at the Polar Bear Picnic event at about 12:45 pm. Contact Michael Vanderford ([612/ 296-9647](tel:6122969647); [michaeljvanderford@gmail.com](mailto:michaeljvanderford@gmail.com)) if you want to be part of the car pool, or with questions. We'll return to SpringHouse around 4:30 PM.

## Sunday morning Faith Formation to have guest

Fardosa Hassan from Augsburg University Campus Ministry will be a guest speaker at SH Sunday morning adult faith formation class on February 4. She will talk about the basics of Islam from her perspective. Fardosa graduated from Augsburg in 2012 with a degree in sociology and international relations. She was very active in interfaith work while she was a student here and received the Courageous Woman Award. She was recognized by President Barack Obama and invited to the White House to take part in the Interfaith Campus Challenge. Fardosa also works as the Interfaith Youth Connection Program Coordinator at Interfaith Action of Greater Saint Paul. Fardosa describes herself as a “community minded citizen, who wants to make a positive change in the world.”



## Help for homeless needed for Super Bowl

Minneapolis is just a few days out from the start of official Super Bowl festivities. Homelessness is always stressful, but that stress may be magnified over the next few weeks as routines or safe havens are disrupted.

St. Stephen's Human Services has put out a call to help build up their supply of healthy snacks for their Welcome Center and Street Outreach teams to share with those in need.

Granola bars, beef jerky, apple sauce or fruit cups (with plastic spoons), trail mix, other individually sealed and ready-to-eat snacks, and ground coffee beans are greatly appreciated over the next few weeks. All

snacks must be store-bought and in their original, serving-sized packages. If you can't make it in to the Human Services 2309 Nicollet Avenue location during normal drop-off hours (9am-4pm Monday-Thursday or 9am-2pm on Fridays), feel free to email Robin at [rstramp@ststephensmpls.org](mailto:rstramp@ststephensmpls.org) to set up an alternate arrangement. Thank you!

## SpringHouse Board Notes

The quarterly meeting of the SpringHouse Ministry Center Board was held January 7, 2018, with 15 people in attendance. Highlights from the minutes include the following:

- Treasurer Alison Creighton presented the final budget from 2017 and the proposed 2018 budget. All three churches have agreed to hold their annual contributions of \$333 for a capitol improvements reserve fund in their own accounts until SH can establish an interest-bearing account.

- Income from use of the SH building in 2017 was \$10,000 more than anticipated in 2017. The board decided to increase the line item for usage revenue and lower the annual contribution of each church. These changes will be reflected in the updated budget to be presented to the congregations at the annual meeting on January 28.

- With the closing of Intermedia Arts, alternatives to businesses to partner with for additional parking are being investigated by the Building Committee.

- The new marketing committee members are Michelle Ruppert, Salem; Anna Bliss, FCC; and April Conlee, LUCC. The group intends to formulate a marketing plan before the annual meeting.

- The board discussed Laurie Feille's proposal to create policy and procedure to respond to safety threats at SpringHouse.

## Sundays at First Christian Church

Worship at 10:30

### Before Worship:

Spiritual Formation Classes:

9:15 Children's Classes;

9:30 SH Joint Adult Class

### After Worship

11:45 Fellowship Time

### Scripture Reading for Sunday, January 28

**Nicodemus**

**John 3: 1-21**



Jesus and Nicodemus,  
by Henry Ossawa Tanner

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

### Reflections on the Word

*John 3: 9: Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?"*

Jesus challenges Nicodemus to step outside of an identity as a "man of the Pharisees" and a "ruler of the Jews", positions which suggest credentials and a comfortable social position. The stories about Nicodemus that follow this encounter show us that Nicodemus moves toward a new way of thinking, illuminated by the Light of the World.

*God of Light, Help us think differently and move from darkness to light. Amen*

By Lizzy Trozzo, Baylor University

**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)

**Jon Bates**, SHMC Youth Director,  
[springhouseyouth@fccmpls.org](mailto:springhouseyouth@fccmpls.org)

**Rick Bowman**, SHMC Building Manager

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

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

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

**Deb Murphy**, Office Manager & Director of  
Spiritual Formation of Children and Youth,

[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

**Office Telephone:** 612.870.1868

[www.fccminneapolis.org](http://www.fccminneapolis.org)

**E-Mail:** [office@fccminneapolis.org](mailto:office@fccminneapolis.org)

**Items for next Courier needed by Sunday,  
February 4.**