

# The COURIER

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis



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## UPCOMING Events:

Sanctuary Moving  
Day, Monday,  
February 12, 10 am

FCC Finance  
Committee, Thursday,  
February 15, 5:30 pm

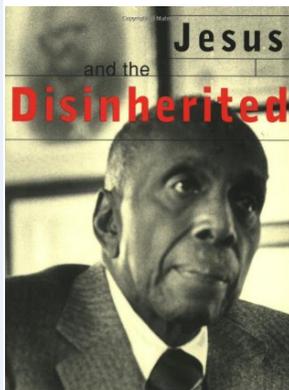
FCC Board Meeting,  
Tuesday, February 20,  
7 pm

## From beads to ashes: Season of Lent begins



This Sunday February 11 is **Mardi Gras Sunday**, with lively Dixieland music, colorful Mardi Gras beads and oh-so-sweet King Cakes, some straight from New Orleans. Remember: if you got the baby in the cake, it's your turn to bring a cake this year!

The mood shifts dramatically on the following Wednesday, February 14, as **Ash Wednesday** marks the beginning of Lent. Pastor Laurie will lead a service of ashes at 7 pm on Ash Wednesday. On the following Wednesdays during Lent, SpringHouse will offer a Soup Supper at 5 pm following by a Holden Prayer service at 6 pm. First Christian will also offer Lenten Study starting at 6:30 on Wednesdays.



HOWARD THURMAN  
Foreword by Vincent Harding

The Lenten study will center on the book *Jesus and the Disinherited* and will be led by Pastor Dan Adolphson. In this classic theological work, the acclaimed theologian and religious leader Howard Thurman (1900-1981) demonstrates how the Gospel may be read as a manual of resistance for the poor and disenfranchised. Jesus is a partner in the pain of the oppressed and the example of His life offers a solution to ending the descent into moral nihilism. Hatred does not empower – it decays. Only through self-love and love of one another can God's justice prevail.

Please let Pastor Dan know if you are interested so we can order enough books for everyone.

The art theme for Lent this year is Poetry. The pastors and Deb will be using Lenten-themed poetry in various ways throughout the season. They are encouraging everyone who is so inclined to share poetry on any theme, not just about Lent, that they have written themselves, or that a friend or family member has written. These poems will be used during Holy Week. Just be sure to get permission for FCC to use the poetry.



*In Our Prayers. . .*



**Prayers of Sympathy**

*For Tom Curry and family on  
the death of the husband of  
Tom's cousin Amy*

**Prayers of Concern**

*For Brianna Farah's father  
whose wife has been  
diagnosed with cancer  
For all our homebound  
member, including Phyllis  
and John Takekawa, and  
Phil Kinney.*

**Prayers for the World**

*For the people of Puerto Rico  
struggling without electricity  
for many weeks  
For the homeless needing  
shelter and safety in the  
winter*



**Voices and Views**

**Alberto Rios**



**When Giving Is All We Have**

*One river gives  
Its journey to the next*

We give because someone gave to us.

We give because nobody gave to us.

We give because giving has changed us.

We give because giving could have changed us.

We have been better for it,

We have been wounded by it—

Giving has many faces: It is loud and quiet,  
Big, though small, diamond in wood-nails.

Its story is old, the plot worn and the pages too,  
But we read this book, anyway, over and again:

Giving is, first and every time, hand to hand,  
Mine to yours, yours to mine.

You gave me blue and I gave you yellow.  
Together we are simple green. You gave me

What you did not have, and I gave you  
What I had to give—together, we made

Something greater from the difference.

*Alberto Rios is Regents' Professor at Arizona State  
University. Poem courtesy of Academy of American  
Poets.*

## FCC Choir welcomes new tenor



Music director Adam Conrad introduced the congregation on Sunday, February 4, to Jack Russell, the new tenor section leader for FCC's choir. Jack is a sophomore at the University of Minnesota, majoring in music education. Jack hails from Appleton, Wisconsin.

## FCC folks invited to ZOOM House Gala

Kate Rimes of Salem Lutheran spoke to FCC during worship on February 4 about ZOOM house, an apartment building in South Minneapolis that serves families transitioning out of homelessness. Salem is a partner congregation of ZOOM House. Kate told our congregation about this ministry started by Zion Lutheran Church, which bought and renovated the troubled property and began this housing ministry. Kate invited us to participate in the upcoming fundraising gala for ZOOM House to be held March 24 at the Minneapolis Marriot Northwest in Brooklyn Park.

More information is available on flyers on FCC's information table, and also on the ZOOM House website: <http://thezoomhouse.org/2018-zoom-house-gala/>.

## Share-the-Care coming up in March



Mary Vanderford and Dean Creighton at the Fall 2017 Share-the-Care

Share-the-Care is a SpringHouse team effort to maintain and clean up the SpringHouse building. The next clean up day is Saturday, March 3, from 9 am to 1 pm.

This spring's projects include

- Kitchen cleaning and organizing – led by the Kitchen Committee
- Nursery and Sunday School space clean-up - led by Child Ministries Team
- Yellow Tape refurbishing & replacing - led by the Elly Wagner
- Deep cleaning the restrooms - led by Fred Kuhnen
- Cleaning out storage space - led by the Building Committee

There's work on this day, but also time to laugh, learn and eat with other SpringHouse people. Let organizers know if you can participate by emailing [michaeljvanderford@gmail.com](mailto:michaeljvanderford@gmail.com) or by talking to our Building Committee representative Mike Cackoski or Earl Dunham.

## SpringHouse Annual Meeting

The three congregations of SpringHouse held their annual meeting on Sunday, January 28.

One purpose of the meeting was to highlight and celebrate SpringHouse events of 2017 such as the following:

- The affirmative vote to become a Sanctuary-Supporting Church
- New youth minister Jon Bates
- New Memorial Garden established
- Servant Trip to Nicaragua
- Active use of the building, with close to a 50/50 split in use of the building by the congregations and by community organizations. Only 16 days in the whole year did not have some group using the SH building.

The 2018 budget for SpringHouse was also presented. The projected income for 2018 is \$164,719.43 and the projected expenses are \$164,719.51. Building expenses are 46% of the expense projection while shared staffing is 42% of the expenses.

Income for building use in 2017 was \$12,000 more than anticipated which resulted in a slightly lower contribution toward expenses from each church for 2018.

**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, February 10  
The Man Born Blind  
John 9: 1-41**



Ulrich Henning, sculptor; St. James Cathedral, Seattle

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

**Reflections on the Word**

*John 9:11 He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight."*

Who believes a begger? Who believes someone who claims to have been miraculously healed? Who believes some stranger can waltz into our community and claim to be acting for God? Today's passage is full of doubters who question Jesus. Who would I have listened to, the Pharisees or this pitiful beggar?

*God of miracles, Sometimes we are slow to believe in your power, even when your miracles occur all around us each and every day. Open our eyes to see and our hearts to believe. Amen.*

*(prayer by Thomas B. Slater)*

*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 inister

**Rick Bowman**, SHMC Building Manager

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

**Laurie Feille**, Senior Pastor,

[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

**FCC Office Telephone:** 612.870.1868

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

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

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Send items and ideas to church office or to  
Martha Harris

[harrismartha@mac.com](mailto:harrismartha@mac.com)

**Next issue deadline is Sunday, February 25  
2018**

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