

The Courier

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis



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UPCOMING Events

Guest preacher
Rev. Rick Lowery,
Sunday, October 27
(stay for lunch!)

FCC Book Club, Monday,
October 28, 7 pm

Pastor Laurie
returns to pulpit,
Sunday, November 3
(and set your clocks back)

A Wonder-full time to consider Stewardship

The annual Stewardship Campaign at FCC is underway, launched on Sunday, October 20, as Deb Murphy engaged the children in a treasure hunt, Jen Kregel shared her thoughts about a supportive church family, and Pastor Dan Adolphson broke open the scripture from Matthew about “where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” The congregation watched a brief clip from the “treasured” Jimmy Stewart film, “It’s a Wonderful Life,” because the theme for this year’s campaign is “It’s a Wonder-Full Life.” Jen’s remarks will be published in the next Courier. Commitment Sunday will be November 10.



Rev. Vy Nguyen brings his story during sermon



Rev. Vy Nguyen, Executive Director of Week of Compassion, delivered the sermon during FCC’s worship on Sunday, October 13, and then presented an overview of the workings of Week of Compassion during a workshop following worship.

In his sermon, Rev. Nguyen shared his personal story about fleeing Vietnam with his father in the 1980s, spending years in refugee camps, landing in Texas through the refugee sponsorship of the East Dallas Christian Church, and going on to get an education, and dedicating his life to helping other

refugees find a place in the world.

During the workshop, Rev. Nguyen focused on Week of Compassion, the relief, refugee and development fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and its funding. WOC works in three main areas: 1) Emergency Response, 2) Refugee and Immigration Ministry, and 3) Sustainable Development. In each of these areas, WOC partners with other global service organizations such as Church World Service, Children’s Disaster Services, and others. Rev. Nguyen emphasized the importance of the annual fundraising for Week of Compassion, funds from which make possible most of WOC’s work.

More information about [Week of Compassion](#) is available online; a video about Rev. Nguyen’s journey can be viewed at <https://vimeo.com/user32688008/weekofcompassion>.



In Our Prayers

Prayers of Joy

For Bryan and Laurie Feille who travelled safely back to the United States

For Elizabeth Larson who received her Masters of Science in Professional Counseling from Grand Canyon University

Prayers of Sympathy

For the members of Salem on the loss of beloved, long-time member Chuck Sasse

For Mike Vasich on the loss of his aunt

For Adam and Christine Conrad, on the loss of Christine's cousin

Prayers of Concern

For Henrietta Smith recovering from recent cataract surgery

For Pastor Dan's mother recovering from knee replacement surgery

For all homebound members including Bud Shandorf and Mary Lou Cain

Prayers for Ministers

For ministers everywhere, including the 14 who are members of FCC: Pastor Laurie, Pastor Dan, Bryan Feille, Garry Hesser, Jay Hillestad, Ron Keith, Lynda Lee, David Cobb, Wendy Manuel, Christine Isham, Kristin Van Heyningen, Ana Wilson, Heather Thonvold, Caila Rinker

A message from Pastor Dan Adolphson



Stewardship, Sabbatical share themes

This Sunday marks an end of sorts to our *Rediscovering. Renewing. Revitalizing.* journey. Rev. Dr. Rick Lowery, the President of Disciples Historical Society, will be our final guest preacher and presenter, and Pat Dunlop and others will have many items from our archival records on display. It will be another way for us to rediscover our roots. Please stay for our chili lunch and be ready for an engaging session around historical themes...be thinking about that history question you've always wanted to ask!

It's interesting that the theme of our sabbatical journey and our stewardship theme, *It's A Wonder-Full Life*, will overlap both thematically and time-wise. As we welcome Pastor Laurie back from her sabbatical, refreshed and with much to share with us, we in turn have spent the past three months exploring our history, renewing our connections within the congregation through the "fun" outings that Addy Kregel told her mom she has enjoyed and hopes that we will continue, and will now begin to consider how we take this energy and use it in the terms of revitalization.

Dictionary.com defines *revitalization* as *the action of imbuing (permeating) something with new life and vitality*. Our stewardship theme draws from the movie *It's A Wonderful Life*, and invites us to engage the courageous vision we see for ourselves and our impact on the world through our gifts of time, talent and treasure. Both of these themes invite us to look beyond ourselves and look for the "new" ...new ways of doing ministry, new ways of reaching out, new ways of being in community, and new ways of giving. I would encourage you to pray and listen for God's voice...what kinds of things has God been saying to you during this sabbatical journey? How does *It's A Wonder-Full Life* touch your gifts of time, talent and treasure, and as I mentioned in my sermon, how is God calling us to become more courageous, more intentional, and more visionary?

One more chance to help make FCC art



Help create a physical reminder of who we are as First Christian Church Minneapolis and how we have woven ourselves together as community by making a weaving with each ribbon representing a member of FCC. There are also purple chalices for you to write a word or two indicating what being a Disciple or member of

FCC Minneapolis means to you. You can either add your ribbon and chalice while you are at church or email Deb in the church office if you would like to be included but aren't able to add your ribbon yourself. **The last Sunday to add to the weaving is 10/27.** We will present the final product after Pastor Laurie returns from sabbatical.

No wonder no one called to help!

The last *Courier* featured a call for volunteers to help out this winter when FCC hosts the Downtown Coalition for Grief Support on Saturday mornings from January through April. Ann Wolverton is organizing this event/ministry, but her phone number was incorrect in the article which must explain why no one called to volunteer. Please contact Ann at **651-647-1106**; help her carry on this event that former member Mary Hurlocker established at FCC.

Feed My Starving Children set for Nov. 16

We've got 20 spots set aside for the Eagan location of Feed My Starving Children on Saturday, November 16, from 11:30 am – 1:30 pm. There will be a signup sheet starting this Sunday and we'll start registering everyone once Pastor Laurie gets back.

Two ways to give input to Region search

The Upper Midwest Regional Church is currently searching for a permanent Regional Minister. Interim Minister John Richardson will be in Minnesota on November 10 to host a Listening Session, where Disciples will be invited to share thoughts about the region and about hopes for the region's leadership in the future. Watch for an announcement about the time and place for this Listening Session.

Upper Midwest Disciples are also invited to complete an online survey drawn up by the regional Minister Search Committee, which FCC member Justin Carlson is serving on. The online survey is available at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RMSearch>.

FCC Board Notes

Eight people attended the October 14 meeting of FCC's General Board. Highlights of the meeting include the following:

- Kirsten Cackoski presented four request for grants from the Wholeness Fund; all four were approved by the board:
 - a. \$10,000 towards the repair of the main lodge roof at the Christian Conference Center.
 - b. \$3000 over three years for Q Quest
 - c. \$12,000 over three years for the Sheridan Story
 - d. \$950 for scripts and miscellaneous expenses for "Worship Through the Lens of Drama" in 2020.
- Dean Creighton, representing the Finance Committee, brought a request that the J.E.B. Education Fund for Elders be used to bring the Williams Fund up to the required level. Motion passed.
- The SHMC board is discussing the kitchen catering contracts. A subcommittee of Steve Rusinak, Michelle Ruppert (Lyndale), and Sarah Hannah (Salem) will look at proposed revisions to the contract.
- The board did not hear a full Treasurer's Report, but looked at the Statement of Activities, which recorded pledge income for September at \$14,045.


November 2019

First Christian Church



Sunday Morning Schedule

9:15 Children's Christian Ed: Godly Play
 9:30 Adult Christian Ed
 10:30 Worship
 11:45 Fellowship Time in Gathering Space

					1 8 am – MnSOC <i>Pastor Laurie back from sabbatical</i>	2 10 am Q-quest volunteer training
3 South Sanctuary <i>Daylight Savings Time ends (Fall Back 1 hr)</i> Noon: Elders Meeting	4 6:45 SHMC Building Committee	5 8:15 am Narrative Lectionary Bible Study	6 6:30 Handbells 7:45 FCC Choir	7	10 10 am – SHMC Library Cmte	9
10 South Sanctuary Noon: SHMC Board Meeting on budget	11	12 8:15 am Narrative Lectionary Bible Study	13 5:30 FCC Finance Committee 6:30 Handbells 7:45 FCC Choir	14 6:30 Pastor Laurie PRC	15	16 10 am FCC food prep 11:30: Feed My Starving Children
17 South Sanctuary 9 M FCC food prep Noon FCC Welcome back Lunch	18 7 pm SHMC Finance Committee	19 8:15 am Narrative Lectionary Bible Study 6 pm Worship Team 7 pm FCC Board	20 2 pm Mission & Outreach 6:30 Handbells 7:45 FCC Choir	21 9 am Handcrafters 7 pm Pastor Dan PRC	22	23
24 South Sanctuary	25 Sanctuary Switch 7 pm FCC Book Club	26 8:15 am Narrative Lectionary Bible Study	27 6:30 Handbells 7:45 FCC Choir	28 We Gather Together 	29	30

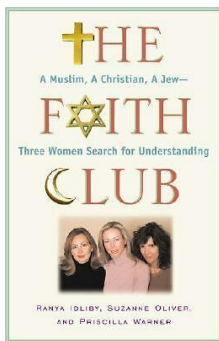
	Elders (Offering elder listed first)	Worship Leader	Children's Moment	Diaconate	Bus Drivers
Nov. 3	Kirsten Cackoski Pat Dunlop	Jay Hillestead	Deb Murphy	A. Hesano K. Hintz	Mike Hesano 651-645-6758
Nov. 10	Mike Hesano Lu Griffin	Serena Chial	Deb Murphy	G. Maanum M. Nickerson	Mike Morgan 612.926-9834
Nov. 17	Wendy Manuel Ann Wolverton	Martha Harris	Dan Adolphson	E. Tucker B. Whitaker	Mike Hesano 651-645-6758
Nov. 24	Jay Hillestead Arlene Hillestad	Bryan Feille	Steve Rusinak	B. Hall	Mike Morgan 612.926-9834

Note: Please call drivers by Saturday for Sunday bus ride

Note: The full calendar for FCC and SpringHouse is available online at <https://calendar.churchart.com/calendar/73956030>

Barb Livdahl, SpringHouse library, reviews

The Faith Club: A Muslim, A Christian, A Jew. . .



I have just finished reading an amazing book: The Faith Club: A Muslim, A Christian, A Jew—Three Women Search for Understanding. My half Jewish/half protestant neighbor recommended it. She and I were curious about what our Muslim friend and neighbor believed. This book did not disappoint! It is alive with honesty and passion.

The authors are three women of faith: Ranja Idliby, an American Muslim of Palestinian descent; Suzanne Oliver, an Episcopalian, and Priscilla Warner, who calls herself a “neurotic Jew.” All mothers and writers, they met with the intent to write a book for children that would highlight the connections between Christianity, Judaism, and Islam.

They began their discussions from different stages of faith. Ranja wrote: I felt like I had faith but no religion, that Priscilla had religion but no faith and that Suzanne had both.” They soon realized they each held deep-seated misconceptions and stereotypes about the others’ faiths. Thus, began their honest, intense, personal discussions. The authors write about their struggles with their own faiths, their sometimes-contentious discussions of issues like the Jewish/Palestinian conflict and Jesus’ statement that no one comes to the Father but through him.

As I read, I encountered questions about my own faith and about my lack of knowledge and the misconceptions I had of Islam and Judaism. I learned that both faith communities and claiming faith are complex. Most importantly, my own faith grew and my respect and understanding of Judaism and Islam increased.

No, the authors didn’t write a “new religion” as a result of their discussions. They each understood their own faith and the other faiths more completely. They grew in respect of others’ beliefs and in respect and love for one another.

I urge you to read this book! You will grow in faith and understanding!

FCC Wholeness Fund helps furnish Conference Center station

The McKee House in the Chi Rho area of the Christian Conference Center, Newton, Iowa, has new furnishings for the Nurse’s Office, thanks to a grant from FCC’s Wholeness Fund. The Wholeness Fund was created from monies from the sale of the old FCC building on First Avenue.



*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

Preaching Text
"God's Math"
for Sunday, October 27
Matthew 14: 13-21



Mosaic at the Church of the Loaves and Fishes, Tabgha, Israel

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

Reflections on the Word

Matthew 14: 19: Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds.

St. Augustine sees the five loaves of bread as the Torah, the first five books of the Bible, which nurtures those who depend on every word which comes from the mouth of God. Two fish symbolize Christ giving two commandments – love God and love neighbor.

Holy God, Give us this day our daily bread, and lead us to share our portion with others. Amen.

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

Ministry Team

Dan Adolphson, Associate Pastor

dan.adolphson@fccmpls.org

Rick Bowman, SHMC Building Manager

Adam Conrad, Music Director & Composer-in-Residence

Laurie Pound Feille, Senior Minister

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Martha Harris, Courier Editor,

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Maria Thieling, SHMC Child Care

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Next issue deadline is Sunday, Nov. 1

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