

The COURIER



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UPCOMING Events:

*FCC Board Meeting,
Tuesday, Nov. 17, 7 pm*

*Worship Committee
meeting,
Tuesday, Nov. 17, 6 pm*

*Carter Circle,
Monday, Nov. 16, 3 pm
(changed from Nov. 1)*

Commitment to Generosity this Sunday

November 8 is Commitment Sunday, our opportunity to present our commitments of time and money to the work of First Christian Church in 2016. In worship services these past weeks, we've heard speakers of all ages talk about the impact of FCC in their lives and we've seen videos and posters illustrating the many, many ways FCC is at work in the community and the world. This Sunday it's our turn to speak through our pledges of time and resources for the coming year.

Generosity of Spirit

November 8, 2015

"Voices" lecture series to launch in 2016

First Christian Church is launching a new community workshop/lecture series called *Voices* in 2016. The theme for the inaugural year will be *Moral Injury and Mental Illness: What is the Faith Community's Response?* The May 2016 speaker, Rita Nakashima Brock, will be on speaking about people dealing with war wounds to the soul. In November 2016, Sarah Griffin Lund will focus on how churches can deal with mental illness.

The presentations will span a two-day program of the keynote speaker and workshops for pastors, chaplains, first responders and lay congregational members. The goal is to provide participants with a toolbox of skills and action ideas.

FCC's board voted to approve this program at the October board meeting. *Voices* will be underwritten by monies from our investments with the Christian Church Foundation. Guidelines for distributing the interest from these investments have been developed by a committee named "The Wholeness Fund," made up of the board chair, chairs of elders and deacons, a member of the outreach committee and the pastors. Wholeness Funds are also being used to sponsor our Community Music Concert series, the Paraguay mission trip, and local peace and justice organizations.

Members of the committee and the pastors will be happy to answer questions you have about these new ministries of First Christian.

In Our Prayers



Prayers of Joy

For the birth of Irene

Hackett's 16th great-grandchild, Layla Rose

For Julie Andrix receiving a \$1000 grant from Faith

Community Nurse Network

For June Andrix celebrating her 98th birthday

For the successful retreat here at SpringHouse of GLAD board

Prayers for Sympathy

For the family of Bob Risinger who passed away October 30

Prayers of Concern

For all our homebound members including Elaine Glore and Elaine Moe

Prayers for the World

For those affected by natural disasters such as Hurricane Patrice, the floods in Texas, and earthquakes in the U.S and around the world



Voices and Views

Pamela Cook



Confession of a Relationship Architect

Confession #1: I am delighted, scared, excited, overwhelmed, and enthusiastic to be your Youth Minister and it's all good.

Confession #2: Why do I consider myself a relationship architect? I use this nomenclature because I believe it more accurately reflects the role of a youth minister in the 21st century. Gone are the days of the youth minister as camp counselor focused on programs alone. Recent research studies maintain that a strongly relational, intergenerational approach to faith formation in the first third of life is most effective. As a relationship architect I will facilitate the development of a circle of non-parental adults who will accompany youth on their faith journey. In addition I will be available to assist families with at home faith practices.

Confession #3: I need to get to know you. The activities that we have been doing thus far are about me getting to know the youth and them getting to know me. However, I also need to know their communities. How can I accomplish this? My plan is to observe each of the youth at school by the end of the school year and have a meal with their families. However, breaking bread is also important in my getting to know others. If you would like to have tea or a meal on Wednesday or after gathering time on Sunday, let me know.

Confession #4: Currently, we are focusing our work in the youth group on Psalm 1 and our tree of faith. Since Salem had confirmation on Sunday, October 25th, we have spent some time talking about the difference in baby dedication, baptism, and confirmation for our different denominations. We also baked different "breads" for World Communion Sunday that were either served during communion or fellowship time. Furthermore, we made ofrendas for All Saints Day and assisted the Sunday School with their Day of the Dead stations on Sunday, November 1st. During November, we will continue to focus our discussions around what composes our tree of faith.

Confession #5: I have more to tell you, but not enough space, so I will continue in a future issue. However, I would like for you to save these dates: Junior Retreat, February 12-14, 2016; CYF Retreat, April 1-3, 2016, and DOC/UCC National Youth Event, July 26-30, 2016 at Walt Disney World. The dates for the Chi Rho event have not yet been set..

Composer Leah Siltberg Froelich can do that!

When the worship committee was looking at resources for musical responses in the worship service, music director Leah Siltberg Froelich said, "I can do that!"



What about a musical refrain during the offering for the stewardship campaign? "I can do that." An anthem for All Saints Sunday? Leah was ready to compose one of those too.

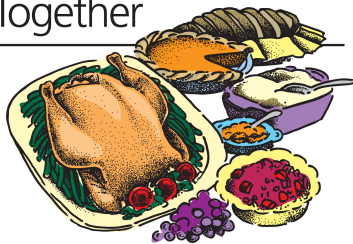
"We just couldn't find an anthem that was really what we wanted, so I said I'd write something," Leah said. She explained that her composing started when she was teaching, and needed short pieces of music to help her students learn. All of her composing has been like that – filling a need.

In staff meetings, as Leah and others talk about upcoming biblical texts, she gets her ideas about the lyrics – sometimes from a verse, and sometimes from ideas about "the big picture" of the texts. She creates music and lyrics organically – not one first, and then the other. And she doesn't sit down at a piano and knock it out. "I compose in my head while I make cookies or do other things around the house. It comes to me in pieces."

Her musical colleague Adam Conrad helps by supplying "his fancy software" that converts her compositions into scores for the choir and congregation. Leah says she is enjoying this new challenge of composing.

SpringHouse Thanksgiving dinner set for Nov. 22

We Gather Together



This year all three SpringHouse churches will participate in the Thanksgiving dinner to be held Sunday, November 22. FCC will prepare the turkeys, potatoes, stuffing and gravy. We're asking people attending the dinner to provide a potluck dish of either a side dish or dessert. RESERVATIONS are requested so the cooks know how much food

to make. A good will offering is suggested. A sign-up sheet is provided on the side table of the sanctuary. Please sign-up or email sandykmorgan@gmail.com with your reservation.

FCC Board Notes

Sixteen people were at the October 20 meeting of FCC's General Board. Highlights from the meeting include the following:

- The board voted to approve a recommendation from The Wholeness Fund committee to use investments funds to sponsor a new lecture-workshop series called "Voices." The series will start in 2016 and the initial cost will be approximately \$15,000.
- The Wholeness Fund (a new name for the investment oversight committee appointed by the board) has completed its task of creating guidelines for distributing funds and is working on a grant application form that will be posted online.
- Mary Hurlocker has agreed to chair this year's nominating committee. There are numerous openings on the board of deacons and elders, and she and the committee members will be inviting people to take leadership roles for FCC.
- Treasurer Pat Dunlop reported that \$21,929 was received as general offerings in September. Year-to-date general offerings are currently \$3,600 short of year-to-date projected offering income.
- Trustee Chair Skip Wolverton noted that, because of the recent dip in the stock market, our investments funds are 4%-7% down.

Unite to End Homelessness Event: As a partner with Downtown Congregations to End Homelessness, we are encouraged to attend the third annual "Unite to End" event on **November 15** at **Masjid An-Nur (1729 Lyndale Ave. North, Minneapolis, MN 55411)**. Speakers, discussion and worship are featured from 2 – 5 pm. Don't miss this inspiring event!

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

Before Worship

Children's Classes, 9:15 am
Hearthstone Class, 9 am
Adult study 9:15 am

After Worship

Fellowship Time 11:45

**Narrative Lectionary texts
for Sunday, November 8
Elijah at Mount Carmel
I Kings 18: 20-39**



Statue of Elijah in
Avila, Spain

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

Reflections on the Word

I Kings 18: 21a: Elijah then came near to all the people, and said, "How long will you go limping with two different opinions? The people could not answer Elijah's challenge to declare which God they worshiped. God helps Elijah out by sending a fire to defeat the prophets of Baal. We are called on to recognize the false gods we worship and turn away from them without the help of a fiery demonstration, but with only our prayers, our commitment and our faith community. God of the Prophets, Help us to resist the temptation to place our trust and faith in anything other than you. Amen.

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

Ministry Team

Dan Adolphson, Associate Pastor
Julia Andrix, Faith Community Nurse
Rick Bowman, SHMC Building Manager
Serena Chial, Nursery Attendant
Adam Conrad, Director of Ensembles
Pamela Cook, Youth minister
Laurie Pound Feille, Senior Minister
Nate Lien, Child Care worker
Leah Siltberg Froehlich, Music Director
Martha Harris, Courier Editor
Deb Murphy, Office Manager and Director of Spiritual Formation for Children & Youth; SHMC Building Use Coordinator
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