

# The Courier



## What's **INSIDE**:

Message from  
Pastor Laurie Feille,  
page 2

Meet The West Family,  
page 3

Health at First,  
page 3

January calendar,  
page 4

Call for Compassion, page 5

## **UPCOMING** Events

MN Council of  
Churches Prayer Vigil,  
Wednesday, Dec. 30,  
7 pm

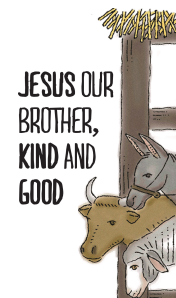
Irreverent Movie  
Night,  
Friday, January 8,  
7 pm

Congregational  
Meeting, Sunday,  
Jan. 10 after worship

## Come and Worship on Christmas Eve

We will continue the tradition of two Christmas Eve services at 4 pm and 10 pm. If you haven't already, you can bring your items for Refugee Services to put under the tree.

The family-friendly 4 pm service, *Christmas Eve with Auntie Anna*, is informal and for the child in all of us. "Auntie Anna" will be reading the Christmas story; there will be special music and familiar carols, and we will have communion.



The 10 pm *Traditional Christmas Eve* service will have special music from the choir and soloists, candlelight and communion.

## **SpringHouse Children show us Christmas around the world**

The SpringHouse children illustrated Christmas traditions from around the world: the Advent Wreath, Sweden's St. Lucia Day, Ethiopian traditions, a Mexican Posada journey, and a Christmas song in Guarani from Paraguay. And of course, they put on the lamb, angel, sages and Mary and Joseph costumes to present a Nativity Scene for us. Deb Murphy wrote the pageant script, and dozens of workers and helpers from all three congregations worked together to fashion this year's Children's Pageant.



*Bettie Buzzell led the congregation in a freedom song, a little lamb looks for Mary and Joseph, and Aiden Whitaker transforms into a Sage.*



## *In Our Prayers*

### *Prayers of Joy*

*For our new members: Tom, Lisa and Gracie West, and Rev. David Cobb*

### *Prayers of Sympathy*

*For Rev. Robin and Jordan Bles of West DeMoines Christian Church on the lost of their daughter Milly*

### *Prayers for Health*

*For Tom Curry's mother  
For Patty Shoop to recover from recent surgery  
For all our homebound members, including Fern Risinger and Nick and Mavis Rusinak*

### *Prayers for World*

*For those killed and injured in the San Bernadino attack  
For world and local leaders that they can find a way to peace*



## A message from **PASTOR LAURIE**



## Wholeness, not perfection, this Christmas

It is hard to believe that Christmas morning is almost here. There are so many things that need to be done before that morning arrives. For your staff there are several worships that need final planning: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent worship, Blue Christmas Service, 2 Christmas Eve services and the handbell choir and chancel choir have to put their finishing touches on the music that will enhance our worship experiences. There are gifts to buy, meals to cook, baking, Christmas cards to send, and lists to check over and over and over again. On top of all that needs to be done there is no snow! Yes, I really want snow. There just is not enough time to get everything done to have the perfect Christmas morning! At least that is the pattern we get into when we reach these final days leading up to Christmas morning.

I often wonder where and when we got the idea that Christmas morning has to be picture perfect. The Gospels do not tell the story of a picture perfect world when Christ was born. Instead we hear of Emmanuel, God With Us, coming into the world in the midst of turmoil, terror, poverty and normal every day life. God's love entered the world in the most incredible way and hearts were forever changed.

This Christmas I pray that we prepare for Christmas morning by remembering the gift God has given to the world through the birth of Christ. Instead of aiming for perfection maybe this year we can aim for wholeness for all. Maybe this year we can open our hearts to the incredible grace, mercy and love that God showers upon us and then shower the world around us with that same grace, mercy and love. Maybe this year, as out of reach as it seems on any given day, we can truly believe in peace. Maybe this year by Christmas morning we humans will find a way to live in this world loving all of God's creatures and God's creation. Maybe that is what perfection really looks like.

Thanks to Deb and the many volunteers with our SpringHouse Children's Ministries we caught a glimpse of that type of perfection in the Children's Christmas Program. Through the eyes of our children we were reminded of the presence of God throughout the world. Thank you Deb for using your gifts to serve the children and adults of SpringHouse!

I also offer my heartfelt thanks to the members of FCC for being a church that has shown the world around us glimpses of what the world looks like when we offer God's love to all. In the midst of all that happens in this world you continue to believe in and offer the hope, peace, joy and love that we know through Jesus Christ.

That is the perfection, the wholeness for all, I pray we strive for everyday. Merry Christmas! I'm beyond grateful to serve along side you.

Much Love and Peace,  
Pastor Laurie

## Meet new members Ted, Lisa and Gracie West

Chaplain Tom West wrote *The Courier* to share this about the West family, who joined our congregation on December 6:



I've been married to my wonderful wife, Lisa, for almost 19 years. We have one daughter, Gracie, who is almost 12...she is amazing! I've been a chaplain in the Air Force for about two years. I am stationed at Grand Forks Air Force Base in North Dakota where I am one of three chaplains (2 protestant, 1 catholic). I am mostly involved in what we call "Squadron/Unit Engagement." In other words, I am constantly visiting and offering a type of pastoral care. I do pastoral counseling several times a week and I also plan and conduct several on and off-site spiritual resiliency retreats and events throughout the year.

Here is a link to our most recent event: <http://www.grandforks.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123465298> On top of all that I have been preaching/leading our protestant worship service at the chapel on base every Sunday for the past year.

As far as background, I was a Pastor & Youth Pastor for over 17 years before joining the Air Force. I attended The Baptist College of Florida for my undergrad and The New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary for my MDIV. I was first introduced to the Christian Church by a friend of mine, Roger Peadro, who is also a Disciples of Christ pastor in my hometown. He and I have known each other for over 10 years and he was very instrumental in helping me on my journey away from fundamentalism to a more moderate and grace-filled understanding of the Gospel. I am very proud to serve our United States Airmen as a Disciple of Christ Chaplain and I look forward to many years of service to our Lord and His children.

## Time for the Annual Women's Lunch Out!

Come and join old and new friends at Tucci Benucch at the Mall of America on Saturday, January 9, at 11:30. Order off the menu while you chat with friends...and perhaps plan your shopping route at MOA for after eating! Reservations requested to Mary Hurlocker. See you there!

## SpringHouse office to take a winter break

SpringHouse Office will be closed from Dec. 24 through January 3. All of the administrators will be in and out at this time, but won't be holding specific office hours. Anyone needing into the building should call the SpringHouse number (612-353-6292) to see if anyone is at the building or schedule an appointment in advance.

## Annual Congregational Meeting

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be on Sunday, Jan. 10, 2016 following worship. We will be electing trustees, deacons, and elders.

## Health at First

Julie Andrix,  
Faith Community  
Nurse




As we begin the colder months and increase our time of being indoors, it is time to arm ourselves against the seasonal flu. If you have not received the flu vaccine this fall, it is not too late! It is offered at Walgreens, CVS, Cub, Target and at many primary care doctor offices. There are other tips on keeping yourself healthy as well. Avoid close contact with people who are sick, and if you are ill, stay home and rest. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing to protect those around you. Washing your hands often does help to protect you from germs. Using soap and water is best but if that is not available, using a hand gel will suffice. Germs can be spread when touching something that is contaminated and then touching your eyes, nose or mouth.

During this time of Advent, there can be increased stress with demands on our time. If you frequently feel overwhelmed, your immune system could be at risk. And this can lead to illness. Meditation and prayer have been shown to help cope with stress. A paper published in the Journal of the American Medical Association reviewed 47 studies showing evidence of how meditation helps people cope with stress in their daily lives. Do you meditate when you pray? It helps many people find a sense of peace in the midst of a very busy time and that carries over into daily life.

Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage stress by being church and eat nutritious food. May God's peace, hope, joy and Love find room in your heart this advent season and always.  
Julie Andrix, RN



January 2015 First Christian Church					<b>Sunday Morning Schedule</b> 9:00 Spiritual Formation Classes 10:30 Worship in the South Sanctuary 11:45 Fellowship Time in Gathering Space	
<b>South Sanctuary</b>					<b>1</b> <b>New Year's Day</b>	<b>2</b> 6 pm First Saturday Family Partnership
<b>3</b> Noon – Child Ministry Team Meeting	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 8 am Narrative Lectionary Bible Study 10:30 Staff Meeting 6:30 Handbells 7:45 Choir	<b>7</b> 9 am Ecumenical women's ministry 6:45 pm Pastor Dan PRC	<b>8</b> 7 pm Irreverent Movie Night	<b>9</b> 9 am Men's Bible Study 11:30 FCC Women's Lunch Out
<b>10</b> After worship – Annual Congregational Meeting  Noon: SH Green Team Meeting	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 7 pm SH Finance Committee 7 pm Pastor Laurie PRC	<b>13</b> 8 am Narrative Lectionary Bible Study 2 pm Mission and Outreach Comm. Meeting 5:30 pm Finance committee 6:30 Handbells 7:45 Choir	<b>14</b> 9 am Ecumenical women's ministry	<b>15</b> 2 pm First Saturday Partner Planning	<b>16</b> 9 am Men's Bible Study
<b>17</b> 11:45 SH 11:45 am Activistas Meeting Noon: Blood Pressure checks  5 pm Elders at Hillestead's	<b>18</b> <b>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</b>  6:45: SH Building Committee Meeting	<b>19</b> 6 pm Worship Committee 7 pm Board Meeting	<b>20</b> 8 am Narrative Lectionary Bible Study 10:30 Staff Meeting 6:30 Handbells 7:45 Chancel Choir	<b>21</b> 9 am Ecumenical women's ministry	<b>22</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Friday 40/50 Somethings TBD	<b>23</b> 9 am Men's Bible Study
<b>24</b> <b>Laity Sunday</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>30</b> 8 am Narrative Lectionary Bible Study 6:30 Handbells 7:45 Chancel Choir	<b>28</b> 9 am Ecumenical women's ministry	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 9 am Men's Bible Study
<b>31</b> <b>Joint Worship SpringHouse Annual Meeting</b>						

	Elders	Worship Leader	Children's Moment	Diaconate	Bus Drivers
<b>January 3</b>	Val Dunham Lu Griffin	Pat Dunlap		A. Bliss N. Curry	Mike Morgan 612.926-9834
<b>January 10</b>	Tom Curry Arlene Hillestad	Barb Creighton		A. Creighton A. Hesano	Garry Hesser 612-721-4905
<b>January 17</b>	Barb Creighton Dean Creighton	Karen Kandik		G. Madsen S. Rusinak	Mike Hesano 651-645-6758
<b>January 24</b>	Garry Hesser Mary Hurlocker	Laity Sunday			Mike Morgan 612.926-9834
<b>January 31</b>	Max Hurlocker Jay Hillestad	Joint Service			Garry Hesser 612-721-4905

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

## A Call for Compassion from Downtown Clergy

*The Downtown Minneapolis Senior Clergy published a half-page ad in the StarTribune on Sunday, December 13, in which they released "A Call for Compassion." Excerpts from the call follow:*

As senior leaders of faith communities in Minneapolis, we abhor and condemn violence perpetrated in the name of religion. No faith tradition, including Islam, condones hatred and injury toward others, except as distorted by extremists.

The recent terror visited upon fellow citizens is no excuse for the increasing unchecked animosity and demeaning rhetoric directed toward Muslims in our country. Freedom to exercise one's religion without intimidation and respect for the dignity of each individual are the bedrock of American democracy. Those rights are inalienable, yet they are under attack today.

In this season, when our homes and streets and sanctuaries are filling with light in the growing winter darkness, let us commit ourselves anew to love one another. Let us not succumb to the temptation to vilify others or denigrate them because they do not believe as we do. Let us learn to listen and to reach out to those outside our own circle. The future vitality and safety of our communities depend on being able to see ourselves in the other.

*Read the full statement and see the list of downtown clergy on this link:*  
<http://ourcathedral.org/info/VmsNtiAAANxDIYrh/a-call-for-compassion>

*The joint leadership of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of Christ also issued a statement on December 9, 2015, condemning violence and hateful speech. The statement can be found at this link:*

[http://www.globalministries.org/ucc\\_doc\\_statement\\_on\\_vilification\\_of\\_muslims](http://www.globalministries.org/ucc_doc_statement_on_vilification_of_muslims)



*Pastor Laurie Feille reads scripture during the Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship Service sponsored by the Downtown Clergy.*

## Mother Emmanuel 9 Prayer Vigil

The Minnesota Council of Churches, in partnership with faith communities around the state, has been hosting prayer services of remembrance, repentance and hope for healing every Wednesday night in various churches in response to the Mother Emanuel 9 shooting and subsequent black church fires nationwide.

The services began June 24, 2015, in Protestant, Catholic and Jewish congregations and will continue for a year.

First Christian Church will host one of these prayer vigils on Wednesday, December 30, at 7 pm.

In light of the many acts of violence that have happened in our country and around the world since the June 17 murders that happened during an evening prayer service, the need for reflection, prayer and community is greater than ever. You are invited to come and to bring friends and family to this special service.

## Sundays at First Christian Church

Worship at 10:30

### Before Worship:

Spiritual Formation Classes:

9:00 Hearthstone Class,

9:15 Children's Classes;

"The Journey" adult Advent study

### After Worship

11:45 Fellowship Time



Naming of John the Baptist,  
Fra Angelico

### Scripture Reading for Sunday, December 29

**Zechariah's Song**

Luke 1: 5-13, 57-80

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

### Reflections on the Word

*Luke 1: 66 All who heard them pondered them and said, "What then will this child become?" For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.*

*"What then will his child become?" can be asked of us at our birth and when we join our Christian community. No matter what our parents name us or what we call ourselves, in becoming Christ's own forever, we gain a truer name: beloved.*

*Diving Creator, you are known by many names. In this moment, remind us of our true names and give us the courage to become the persons you have created us to be. Amen.*

Rev. Danáe Ashley, Partners in Prayer 2015

*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)

**Julia Andrix**, Faith Community Nurse  
[fcn@mpls.org](mailto:fcn@mpls.org)

**Rick Bowman**, SHMC Building Manager

**Serena Chial**, Nursery Attendant

**Adam Contad**, Director of Ensembles

**Pamela Cook** SHMC Youth Director,  
[springhouseyouthdirector@fccmpls.org](mailto:springhouseyouthdirector@fccmpls.org)

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

**Leah Siltberg Froehlich**, Music Director  
and Keyboardist

**Martha Harris**, Courier Editor

**Deb Murphy**, Office Manager  
[deb.murphy@fccmpls.org](mailto:deb.murphy@fccmpls.org) and Director of  
Spiritual Formation for Children & Youth;  
& SHMC Building Use Coordinator  
[events\\_SHMC@fccmpls.org](mailto:events_SHMC@fccmpls.org)

**Office Telephone:** 612.870.1868

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

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

**Next Courier:** January 9, 2016

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