

The Courier

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis



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UPCOMING Events

Easter Sunday,
March 27

SpringHouse Youth
leadership in worship,
Sunday April 3



Holy Week Schedule



Sunday, March 21 - We gather with other SpringHouse congregations to wave our palms and process into the North Sanctuary for the 10:30 service.



Thursday, March 24 - From 6:30 to 8 pm, the North Sanctuary will be open for meditation and prayer at prayer stations and the Labyrinth. Elders will be present to serve communion. Come when you wish and leave when you are ready. The Prayer Vigil will start at 8 pm following the Maundy Thursday time. (see page 3)



Friday, March 25 - The Prayer Vigil continues from 10 am to 3 pm. Gather with others for a soup supper at 6 pm in the Gathering Space. Worship Service starts at 7 pm in North Sanctuary featuring our guest woodwind ensemble *Smaller Mahler*, choir and soloists.



Easter Sunday, March 27 -
6:30 Sunrise Service on the Patio (rain location is Sun Room)
8 am Easter Worship Service I featuring choir, handbells, viola and trombone
9 am Adult Education
Breakfast in Gathering Space
9:30 am Special Art of the Covenant
Children's Class: Easter activities
10:30 Easter Worship Service II featuring choir, handbells, viola and trombone



In Our Prayers

Prayers of Sympathy

For the family of Bill Rottschaefer who passed away recently. There will be a private family service.

Prayers for Joy

For the Girl Scouts in our congregation: Elizabeth Tucker (Brownie) and Solveig Juntunen (Junior)

Prayers for Concern

*For Gwen Elmshouser
For Kathy Hintz
For all our homebound members, including Evelyn Lawson and Fern Risinger*

Prayers for World

*For members of the Church of St. Mary in Melrose, MN, recently damaged by fire
For our political leaders that they may work for peace and justice in our country*



A message from PASTOR LAURIE



Monday and Tuesday of this week I attended the Disciples Church Extension Fund (DCEF) Board (on which I serve as a Director) meeting in Indianapolis. It is a wonderful part of our denomination and I leave the Board meetings feeling an abundance of hope for the church. Part of what leads me to this hope is our discussions that seemed to revolve around death and resurrection.

We hear of churches who have lived out all of the ministry that they believe they are called to do and with grace close their doors. Sometimes with the death of one church a new church or new ministry is born. Out of the death of what once was comes the newness of life at what will be. We sit in meetings and grieve the losses of congregations or missed opportunities that can happen to a church when trying to hang on to the old ways leads to death. At the same time, our communities who are open to new ways of being church or doing ministry find that they may need to leave old ways behind. This can be hard, but churches find that abundance of life is on the other side of the “death” of a ministry or way of being church.

It reminds me of the journey we take during Holy Week. We walk from the “Hosannas” of Palm Sunday to the darkness of Good Friday to the new life of Easter morning. The world changed on Easter morning and there is no way to get back to the world before Easter. Resurrection happened... however it happened. New life happened. For Christians to live in the world as if new life did not happen does not make a whole lot of sense.

It is in those moments sitting at the DCEF Board meetings when we hear of faith communities claiming the resurrection and new life that we find in Christ that I am filled with a hope. Hope that our churches will realize that the world is moving forward and we cannot be the church we were in the 1950's. The way we do church, the way we do ministry, the way we shape our lives together have to change. Some ways have to die to allow for the new life to which God through Jesus Christ calls us.

The other reason I am so filled with hope at the end of our DCEF Board Meetings is because of you. First Christian is a church that knows what it means to let go of the past, to allow outdated ministries die with grace and to search for new ways of being church. You walked to the darkness of Good Friday and on the other side you discovered life. As your pastor I get to share that story at meetings and other gatherings. Every time I share the courage, the commitment, the grace, the total reliance on the goodness of God and the abundance of hope this congregation had to have to make the transition from Death to Resurrection I fall in love with you all over again.

As we continue our journey to Easter morning this year I pray that we will remember that the newness of life that comes is a newness that we always need to be seeking. I love being able to share that I serve a congregation that knows that we can no longer say “we have always done it that way.” Thank you for taking that journey from death to resurrection.

Much love and peace, Laurie

Meet new members Dan and Sarah Lauer



Dan and Sarah Lauer became members of First Christian on March 6. They moved here from Eugene, OR, in the winter of 2015 and have been attending FCC regularly since their move. They have three children: one in Denver and two in Oregon so still have connections back in their home state. Dan and Sarah were in the Peace Corps in Honduras and also lived in Costa Rica for four years. Sarah now teaches ESL to adults as well as volunteers at an elementary school to help kids who have

English as their second language. Dan works for a foundation based in Minneapolis. He travels to Africa, Southeast Asia and Cambodia on a regular basis to fulfill the mission of the foundation which is to keep children living with their families and out of institutions. Many of you already know Dan and Sarah as they have participated in many church happenings. Please welcome--or re-welcome!--them!

By Karen Kandik

Annual Prayer Vigil starts March 24; signup online

The annual Prayer Vigil (continuous prayer by members of the congregation) will begin after the Maundy Thursday service and continue until 3 pm on Good Friday. While the time is for each of us to have an uninterrupted dialogue with God, this prayer chain also links us to many other Disciples around the world who will be doing continuous praying. In keeping with our Lenten theme this year, you may wish to consider involving fabric of some kind during your prayer time. If you would like some resources to get you started with what to do during your prayer time, please see Karen Kandik.

Prayer can be done at SpringHouse after the Maundy Thursday service until 10 pm. Prayer can resume at the church at 10 am on Friday; prayer stations and a Labyrinth will be in place until 3 pm on Friday. *You have the option of either praying at church or at home during the time for which you sign up, whether it is after the Thursday night service or during the day on Friday.*

This year's sign-up will be on the church's website (thanks, Dan!). There are half hour time slots; if you wish to sign up for an hour, please be sure to sign up for both slots (separately). You will get a confirmation e-mail after you have signed up. Here is how to access the list: On the church's home page, scroll down until you see "Latest News" on the left hand side. Click on "Holy Week and Easter Schedule", then March 24 or 25 Prayer Vigil sign-up. You will be taken right to the link of the available slots. *NOTE: If you do not have e-mail, please contact Karen Kandik and she can complete the sign-up for you. Remember--the early bird gets the slot of his or her choice!*

Health at First

Julie Andrix,
Faith Community
Nurse



As we get older, most people develop some type of chronic health problem. Medical science has advanced so much (and continues to) during the last few decades and this means that we tend to live longer!

A few weeks ago I attended an in-service sponsored by the State Services for the Blind (SSB) entitled Aging Eyes Initiative. This is a community partnership to reach out to people with vision loss. SSB has a senior unit to provide low vision and blind service to many people annually.

Eye health is one of those areas easy to overlook. If our vision is ok, no problem, right? Not necessarily. God gave us one set of eyes as we developed and we need to take care of them like the rest of our body. Some eye conditions develop slowly and are difficult to detect without regular screening. These include glaucoma, cataracts, diabetic retinopathy, and macular degeneration. Screening every year or two (or what your doctor recommends) is important to be done by an eye professional as we get older in order to screen for problems. Also, if there is a family history of any of the above conditions, have your eyes checked regularly.

Let me know if you would like to know about services available for people with vision loss.

Julie Andrix, RN



<h1 style="margin: 0;">April 2016</h1> <h2 style="margin: 0;">First Christian Church</h2>		<h3 style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Sunday Morning Schedule</h3> <p style="margin: 0;">9:00 Spiritual Formation Classes 10:30 Worship 11:45 Fellowship Time in Gathering Space</p>
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					1 10 am VOICES planning	2 9 am Men's Bible Study 6 pm First Saturday Family Partnership
3 <i>North Sanctuary</i> Youth Sunday Noon – Child Ministry Team Meeting	4 7 pm Carter Circle at Bobbie Hall's	5	6 8 am Narrative Lectionary Bible Study 10:30 am Staff Mtg 6:30 Handbells 7:45 Choir rehearsal	7 9 am Ecumenical women's ministry 6:30 pm Dan's PRC	8 10 am VOICES planning 7 pm Irreverent Movie Night	9 9 am Men's Bible Study 1 pm Memorial Service for Enid Griffin
10 <i>North Sanctuary</i> Noon – Health Care Directives Workshop in the Garden Sanctuary Noon – SHMC Green Team	11	12 7 pm SH Finance Committee	13 8 am Narrative Lectionary Bible Study 2 pm Mission and Outreach Comm. Mteeting 5:30 Finance Committee 6:30 Handbells 7:45 Choir rehearsal	14 9 am Ecumenical women's ministry 7 pm Pastor Laurie PRC	15 2 pm Partner meeting for 1 st Saturday	16 9 am Men's Bible Study
17 <i>North Sanctuary</i> 11:45 am – SHMC Activistas 5 pm Elders Mtg. @ Hillsteads	18 6:45 SH Building Committee	19 6 pm Worship Committee 7 pm Board Meeting	20 8 am Narrative Lectionary Bible Study 10:30 am Staff Mtg 6:30 Handbells 7:45 Choir rehearsal	21 9 am Ecumenical women's ministry	22 Earth Day TBD: Fourth Fridays for 40 & 50 Somethings	23 9 am Men's Bible Study
24 <i>North Sanctuary</i>	25	26	27 8 am Narrative Lectionary Bible Study 6:30 Handbells 7:45 Choir rehearsal	28 9 am Ecumenical women's ministry 7 pm SH Board	29	30 9 am Men's Bible Study

	Elders	Worship Leader	Children's Moment	Diaconate	Bus Drivers
April 3 Youth Service	Mike Hesano Dean Creighton	Youth	Youth	A. Hesano M. Hurlocker	Mike Hesano 651-645-6758
April 10	Kirsten Cackoski Sandy Morgan	Dean Creighton	Laurie Feille	M. Hurlocker P. Kinney	Mike Morgan 612.926-9834
April 17	Lu Griffin Steve Rusinak	Robin Hesser	Elaine Tucker	E. Tucker B. Whitaker	Garry Hesser 612-721-4905
April 24	Sandy Morgan Mike Hesano	Justin Carlson	Steve Rusinak		Mike Hesano 651-645-6758

Note: Please call drivers by Saturday for Sunday bus ride

March is FoodShare Month; still time to give

March is Minnesota FoodShare month, which is led by the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches in partnership with a number of other faith-based organizations around the state. During March, MN FoodShare partially matches donations of food and money to foodshelves around the state, including Groveland Food Shelf which FCC has supported for many years. So in March contributions of food and money go even further.



Canned and dried goods can be placed in the large white barrel in the back of the sanctuary. If you are making a monetary donation as part of the "Flower" donation for Easter, please fill out a form about who the donation is in honor of memory of and put it in the offering plate or give it to Deb Murphy.

Regional Work Retreat set for April 8-9

The mini mission-work trip is planned for the Christian Conference Center in Newton, Iowa, on Friday April 8 and Saturday, April 9. Church groups or individuals are invited to participate and also help fund the project through donations. Register by April 4 online at uppermidwestcc.org or contact Amber Christian Conference Center at 641-792-1266, or email adeumw@gmail.com.

Dioramas wanted for Peep Passion Sunday!

The Second Annual Peep's Passion Sunday is March 20. Kids and families are invited to create a diorama with Peeps to be displayed on Palm Sunday. The theme is "Kid Power in the Bible," reflecting this year's Sunday School theme. Bring your diorama to SpringHouse or create during Sunday School time. The only rule is that the diorama uses Peeps and is in a self-contained box (and is appropriate for children).



SpringHouse Board Notes

The SpringHouse Ministry Center Board met February 25, 2015, with 16 members attending. Highlights of the meeting are as follows:

- As reported at the January Annual SH Meeting, the 2015 **SH income** was \$101,570.70 and 2015 expenses were \$96,538.86. The account balance on January 1, 2015, was \$32,632.49.
- **A new congregation**, Vida Abundante en Cristo, is worshipping at 1:30 on Sundays and the relationship is excellent to date.
- **Inspection report** [on file] identified two critical areas [vent and heat temperature in dishwasher] that have been addressed, with photos sent to inspector for approval. Three other areas of the kitchen need attention.
- Michael Vanderford will be the new chair of the Building & Grounds Committee.
- Board members had a lengthy discussion about **how we are functioning as a faith community**: "are we roommates or a genuine joint ministry?" The co-chairs and pastors will convene to address these critical issues associated with SpringHouse's endeavors to "do better together."

Sundays at First Christian Church

Worship at 10:30

Before Worship:

Spiritual Formation Classes:

9:00 Hearthstone Class,

9:15 Children's Classes;

Adult Class: continuing book study

After Worship

11:45 Fellowship Time

Scripture Reading for

Sunday, March 20

Triumphal Entry;

Woman anoints Jesus

Mark 11:1-11; Mark 14: 3-9



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

Reflections on the Word

Mark 14:3 While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper. . . a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head.

This woman and the nameless widow in Mark 12 who “out of her poverty [she] put in everything she had, all she had to live on” are both incredibly benevolent. There is not the slightest indication that either woman is conscious of the full import of her donation. Both have done what they could; in both cases only Jesus can assay the gift’s genuine value and interpret it for his followers.

Gracious God, Lead us to a spirit of generosity both in our possessions and in our love of you and your creation. Amen.

By C. Cliften Black, Princeton
Theological Seminary

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

Ministry Team

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Christian Courier is published bi-monthly.

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Next Courier: April 2, 2016

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MINNEAPOLIS

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