

The Courier

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis



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UPCOMING Events

*Reconciliation Sunday,
September 25*

*Book Club,
Monday, September 26 at
Pat Dunlop's, 7 pm*

*World Communion Sunday,
October 2*

FCC joins Whittier School food support program

First Christian Church is seeking 30 volunteers to participate in a program to support "food insecure" students and their families at Whittier International School. Whittier participates in "[The Sheridan Story](#)," a program launched in 2010 at Sheridan Elementary School in Minneapolis that now serves dozens of schools in the metropolitan area.

Two volunteers will be needed two Fridays per month to pack food in bags for children to take home for the weekend. The volunteers will work for about an hour at the end of the school day (2 pm – 3 pm) packing bags with nutritious food items. The Sheridan Story website describes the contents of a sample bag as containing "a can of pears, a bag of rice, a can of green beans, a can of chunk chicken, and a can of chicken noodle soup." The food bags are put in the children's backpacks that are in their lockers.

Volunteers need to submit a background check form to the Minneapolis Public Schools; forms are available in the church office. Whittier International School is located just a few blocks from SpringHouse, at 315 W. 26th Street.

The Sheridan Story program is a partnership of hunger relief organizations such as Second Harvest and Bread for the World, corporations such as UnitedHealth Group and Cargill, and churches and organizations in the Twin Cities area.

Project Whittier dining at Black Sheep Pizza on Sept. 29

Whittier International School PTA invites FCC members to eat at a local restaurant as another way to support their school through their "Global Learning Local Dining Project." If you eat at Black Sheep Pizza, 2250 Nicollet Ave. (on "Eat Street") anytime between 11 am and 1 pm on Thursday, September 29, and mention "Whittier International PTA, the restaurant will donate 10% of the bill to the school.

Back in May, the two co-presidents of the Whittier School PTA gave a presentation to FCC's board about the school and about partnering possibilities. The Sheridan Story project as well as the promotion of "Global Learning Local Dining" project is an outgrowth of the board meeting.





In Our Prayers

Prayers for Joy

*For the installation of Pastor Ashley Harness as settled pastor for Lyndale Church
For the work of Carl and Robin Zerwik, founders of Rippling Hope, who worshipped with us on Sunday, September 18*

Prayers for Concern

*For Nancy Curry's mother
For Barb Creighton's mother
For Jolene Ronnei O'Rourke who had surgery recently
For Henrietta Smith's family
For all our homebound members, including Phyllis and John Takekawa*

Prayers for the World

For those who take it upon themselves to inflict violence and terror on others, and for all those who suffer from such actions



A message from Pastor Laurie



From four to thirty – Missions to the world growing!

The summer of 2013, we took a leap of faith and went on a Mission Trip to Detroit to serve with Rippling Hope. There were only four of us on that trip. In 2014 we went back but this time seven of us traveled, worked and played together. In 2015, we took another leap of faith and planned an international Mission Trip to Paraguay. The trip included members of First Christian and Lyndale UCC. We were only able to do this by generous funding through our Wholeness Fund. We had 25 people travel, work, play, learn about another culture and see sights they have never seen before. Many of the participants had never been on a Mission Trip before the trip to Paraguay. People who did not have all of the funds to pay for the trip were still blessed with this life changing experience due to the Wholeness Fund. This past summer we traveled back to Detroit to serve with Rippling Hope. This time we had 14 people from First Christian and Lyndale UCC. Everyone on the trip except for one had been a part of the Paraguay Mission Trip.

I share all of this with you because it is important for you to see the impact our church has had on the lives of the SpringHouse community. The funds that have carried us through the trips to Detroit and the generous funds for Paraguay have changed the understanding of what it means to be church and what it means to be three churches in partnership at SpringHouse. Every year our Mission Trips are growing. To go from four people serving in Detroit to 14 is exciting! To have 25 people serve in Paraguay was beyond exciting!

Yesterday we had a meeting for anyone interested in going on next summer's (2017) Mission Trip to Nicaragua. Pastor Ashley, Pastor Rhonda, Pastor Rebecca and I have been working together on this trip. We have decided this trip will be called a Servant Trip. We are planning the trip through Project Minnesota Leon (PML) a sister city partnership between Minnesota and the Leon area of Nicaragua. Knowing that we had 25 people go to Paraguay, PML is allowing us 30 spots. They usually have groups of only 10-15.

This is what I want you to know: We have 32 people that have either already paid a deposit, will turn in a deposit this week or will let us know for sure if they can go within the next two weeks. The best part: We have people from all three congregations that are committing to go! The generous support from First Christian has allowed Mission/Servant Trips to be the norm for our community. People have seen how the lives of those who have gone have been changed and they want that type of experience.

(Article continues on bottom of page 3)

Got shampoo? Refugee Services could use some!

Refugee Services of the Minnesota Council of Churches typically sees many more new families arrive during the summer months, and that means that household items fly off the shelves fast! Imagine (if you can)

setting up homes for 150 people between August and September, all of whom have only a couple of bags of personal belongings and clothing to start out with. That's **a lot** of the basics—kitchen utensils, laundry supplies, dishes, toiletries, and the like!



Refugee Services are in urgent need of these critical items:

- Shampoo
- Large pots and pans with lids
- Brooms and dustpans
- Alarm clocks

As always, donations can be delivered to the MN Church Center at 122 W Franklin Ave, Minneapolis. Refugee services donation [page](#) has updated guidelines and drop-off instructions. Call 612-230-3219 or email rsvolunteers@mnchurches.org with any questions.

Opportunities to work to end homelessness

Karen Kandik, FCC's representative to DCEH (Downtown Congregations to End Homelessness), is hoping to have a few more FCC members participate in DCEH work. In worship on September 18, she listed four DCEH committees that would welcome participation. Volunteers for each of these committees work approximately 2-6 hours per month, and meet once a month at Central Lutheran Church. The committees are:

- Direct Service Providers
- Interfaith Action Team
- Advocacy Committee
- Events and Education Committee

A handout describing each group is available in the office or you can contact Karen Kandik for more information!

Pastor Laurie's message, continued from page 2

I am filled with overflowing joy at the way our community is embracing these trips. I am filled with incredible gratitude to our church for hanging in there with me even when you wondered if this was the best use of our funds. You have changed lives and helped people to see the presence of God in new and wonderful ways. Thank you for your open hearts and your willingness to take leaps of faith. Sometimes those leaps lead to leaps of joy!

Much love and peace, Pastor Laurie

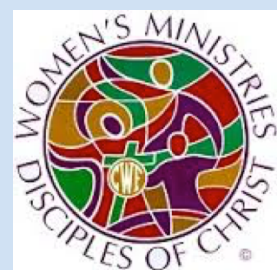
An Invitation to Carter Circle


All women of FCC are invited to participate in FCC women's circle, called the "Carter Circle." This long-standing women's group is a monthly gathering of FCC women for Bible study and camaraderie. Most meetings are the first Monday of each month, sometimes at SpringHouse and sometimes in homes.

"The Table and Beyond: Lavish Hospitality in the Bible" is this year's Bible study topic, with lessons written by Disciples women based on New Testament and Hebrew scripture texts. A designated program leader facilitates each Carter Circle meeting, and light refreshments are served.

In addition to the monthly meetings, Carter Circle hosts an all-church brunch at Advent and Lent, and also has a January "lunch out" at the Mall of America and an end-of-the-year brunch in June.

The next Carter Circle meeting will be Monday, October 3 at 7 pm at the home of Valerie Dunham. If you need schedule of meetings, contact Karen Kandik or the church office.



October 2016 First Christian Church <i>Ministerial Appreciation Month</i>				Sunday Morning Schedule 9/9:30 am Adult Spiritual Formation Classes 9:20 am Children's Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11:45 Fellowship Time in Gathering Space		
						1 9 am Men's Bible Study
2 South Sanctuary <i>World Communion Sunday</i> Noon – Child Ministries Mtg	3 7 pm Carter Circle at Val Dunham home	4	5 8 am Narrative Lectionary Bible Study 6:30 Handbells 7:45 Choir	6 9 am Ecumenical women's ministry	7	8 9 am Men's Bible Study
9 South Sanctuary Noon – SHMC Green Team	10	11 7 pm SHMC Finance	12 8 am Narrative Lectionary Bible Study 2 pm Mission and Outreach Comm. Meeting 5:30 Finance Comm 6:30 Handbells 7:45 Choir	13 9 am Ecumenical women's ministry 7 pm Pastor Laurie PRC	14	15 9 am Men's Bible Study
16 South Sanctuary 11:45 – Blood Pressure Checks Noon – SHMC Activistas 5:00 Elders	17 6:45 SH Building Committee 7 pm Preaching Response Group	18 6 pm Worship Committee 7 pm Board Mtg	19 8 am Narrative Lectionary Bible Study 6:30 Handbells 7:45 Choir	20 9 am Ecumenical women's ministry 7 pm Parent Mtg for Our Whole Lives program grades 6-12	21	22 9 am Men's Bible Study
23 South Sanctuary	24 7 pm Preaching Response Group	25	26 8 am Narrative Lectionary Bible Study 6:30 Handbells 7:45 Choir	27 9 am Ecumenical women's ministry 7 pm SH Board	28	29 9 am Men's Bible Study
30 South Sanctuary 11:30 am Mission Trip Lunch	31					

	Elders	Worship Leader	Children's Moment	Diaconate	Bus Drivers
October 2	Mike Hesano Lu Griffin	Arlene Hillestad	Dan Adolphson	A. Bliss M. Carlson A. Creighton N. Curry B. Flanagan S. Grady B. Hall	Mike Hesano 651-645-6758
October 9	Val Dunham Ann Wolverton	TBD	Deb Murphy		Mike Morgan 612.926-9834
October 16	Tom Curry Steve Rusinak	Sarah Lauer	Deb Murphy		Garry Hesser 612.721.4905
October 23	Kirsten Cackoski Barb Creighton	Justin Carlson	Deb Murphy		Mike Hesano 651-645-6758
October 30	Dean Creighton Sandy Morgan	TBD	Deb Murphy		Mike Morgan 612.926-9834

Note: Please call drivers by Saturday for Sunday ride

A request from Child Ministries

A few of us spent a full Saturday afternoon cleaning and organizing the Squiggle Space and classrooms to be ready for the start of our program year. It took much longer than we thought it would, mostly because of things that had been dropped off and/or left in the classrooms over the summer that we had not asked for, expected, or could even use.

As much as we appreciate your thinking of us, space is at a premium and we can't store things that might be useful "someday." If you have or run across something you think might be useful for us, please talk to Deb Murphy first. *(This also applies to items for the rest of SpringHouse.)* If we do have some specific needs that the congregation members can help us with, we'll put out a call. What we are most in need of now is volunteers! If you have a couple of Sunday mornings to help with class or would like to help with Intergenerational Sunday School, please talk to Rae Buzzell and Emma Jorstad.

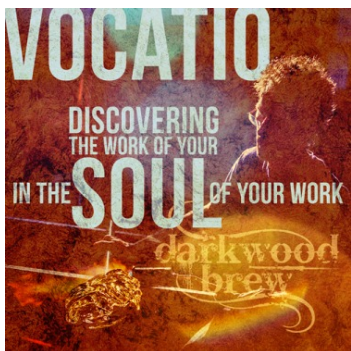
"Healing Justice" conference at SH this weekend

Rev. Dr. Rebecca Voelkel, director of Lyndale UCC's Center for Sustainable Justice, invites all SpringHouse members to the weekend conference being held at SpringHouse September 23-24.

Lisa Anderson from the Sojourner Truth Healing Circle will speak on Friday evening. Saturday will feature workshops and presentation from representatives from Kaleo Center for Faith Justice and Social Transformation; Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light, Black Lives Matter Minneapolis, and more. Registration and information is available at <http://tinyurl.com/jl9fh2o>.

Joint Sunday School series starts with "Vocatio"

The summer joint Sunday School was so successful that it is continuing as the school year begins. The group now meets Sunday mornings at 9:30 in the Gathering Space and is led by Pastor Dan Adolphson and Pastor Rhonda Hlavinka.



The first theme for the fall is "Vocatio," a eight-part series featuring people from a variety of professions reflecting on their sense of "call," how they responded to it and what it means both for them and those they interact with and influence. The video presentation pauses frequently for thoughtful discussion by class members. Each weekly session is part of a theme, but stands on its own; participants are welcome to come whenever they can.

Update on search for new General Minister and President for Disciples

A new General Minister and President for the Disciples of Christ will be elected at the 2017 General Assembly. The 11-member Search Committee has been working since January 2016 to identify a leader for the denomination. The new leader will replace Sharon Watkins, who has served since 2005. Sharon was the first female head of a mainline denomination.

The search committee's most recent meeting was in Dallas on August 17-19. According to the committee's update, "After prayerful consideration and discernment of God's will for our future, the Committee processed all the applications received for the GMO position and selected candidates to interview."

The interviews will take place in October. A final list will be made and forwarded to the Administrative Committee for consideration.

A complete list of the members of the Search Committee as well as a timeline of all the work and updates they have done is available online at <http://disciples.org/ogmp/search-committee/>

Sundays at First Christian Church

Worship at 10:30

Before Worship:

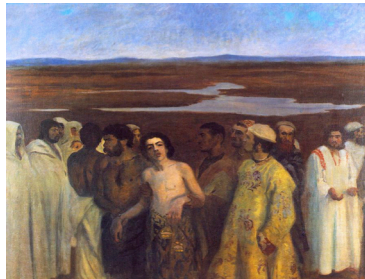
Spiritual Formation Classes:

9:00 Hearthstone Class,
9:20 Children's Classes;
9:30 Adult Class

After Worship

11:45 Fellowship Time

**Scripture Reading for
Sunday, September 25
Genesis 37, various verses
Joseph and his brothers**



Joseph sold into slavery, by Károly Vádfalvi

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

Reflections on the Word

*Genesis 37: 6 - He said to them,
"Listen to this dream that I
dreamed."*

God spoke to Joseph in his dreams, and those dreams led Joseph to great danger. Yet God used the challenges in Joseph's life to save the lives of others. No good thing is accidental. God works in us and through us, even when we are not aware of God's presence.

*God of Hope, Help us to know that
you are with us and that only you
are capable of turning all evil to
good. Amen.*

By Jacqueline E. Lapsy, Princeton
Theological Seminary

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

Ministry Team

Dan Adolphson, Associate Pastor

dan.adolphson@fccmpls.org

Julia Andrix, Faith Community Nurse

fcn@mpls.org

Rick Bowman, SHMC Building Manager

Serena Chial, Nursery Attendant

Adam Contad, Music Director &

Composer-in-Residence

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Yunyue Liu, Keyboardist

Martha Harris, Courier Editor

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