

# The Courier

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis



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## UPCOMING Events

Carter Circle, Monday,  
December 5, 3 pm,  
SpringHouse

Advent Brunch, Saturday,  
December 10, 10 am

Children's Christmas Pageant,  
Sunday, December 11,  
10:30 am

## From the Mission and Outreach Team

### Advent tradition of giving continues

This Advent season we will be focusing on two organizations with which to share our good fortune.

Items and monetary contributions will be sent to **Refugee Services** in Minneapolis. A list of what is needed is available in the sanctuary or from Deb. This year the organization has

focused needs; there is already an abundance of some items and no place to store them!

The items that are needed will go out immediately. The money collected for "poinsettias" will also go to Refugee Services this year. If you wish to make a financial contribution, make the check to First Christian Church with

Refugee Services in the comment section. Be sure to fill out the green slip to indicate

who the donation is in honor or memory of.



This year Refugee Services have welcomed 469 people from 17 different countries. They assisted 120 refugees in getting jobs which stabilized household income for over 200 people. An increasing number of refugees are coming from Democratic Republic of Congo which has experienced over 16 years of violent conflict. Most, if not all, of the refugees have experienced or witnessed violence directly; many women have been the victims of gender-based violence.

The Christmas Eve offering will be given to **Plaster House** in Tanzania. As many of you know, our church has a direct connection with Plaster House through Steve and Amy Dunlop who periodically travel there to assist with the recovery of severely disabled children who have had surgery and cannot return to their own homes until they are healed. Plaster House provides rehabilitative services to those children whose families cannot stay with them because of needing to return home to work. Please keep your blessings in mind as you share with those who have so much less.



## *In Our Prayers*

### *Prayers of Joy*

*For our new keyboard specialist, Mike Vasich  
For Tom Otua, a frequent  
FCC visitor, who has  
started a new job*

### *Prayers for Concern*

*For Brianna Farah's recent  
family loss  
For those with medical  
concerns including Max  
Hurlocker, Lu Griffin and  
Elaine Tucker  
For Jim and Lynda Lee's  
recent family loss  
For the Creighton family  
For all our homebound  
members, including  
Nick and Mavis Rusinak.*

### *Prayers for the World*

*For love and caring to help  
heal the deep breaches and  
hostilities in America and  
in the world*



A message from  
**Pastor Laurie**



## *Hope, joy, peace and love for all God's children*

The season of Advent is upon us. This is a season of waiting and preparing our hearts for the birth of Christ anew in this world. That is such an odd statement to make but that is what we are called to do during these four weeks leading up to Christmas Day.

So what do we mean when we say the “birth of Christ anew in this world?” I will answer with one of my understandings. I understand that the “birth of Christ anew in this world” is a reclaiming of hope, peace, joy and love that came from God in the birth of Jesus. There are times in our lives and in the world when it is difficult to reclaim hope, or peace, or joy, or love and there are times that it is almost impossible to reclaim hope, peace, joy and love all at the same time! That is one reason that we spend four weeks preparing.

In reality does it take more than four weeks to open our hearts to reclaiming hope, peace, joy and love? Absolutely! I would dare say that it takes a lifetime of consciously choosing to live out the hope, peace, joy and love of God. It takes a lifetime because it isn't easy. It means that many times we have to put aside our egos, wants and desires to make sure that all people have wholeness in this world. As Disciples of Christ, we believe this so strongly that we say that *we are a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world*. It means that we take seriously the greatest commandment to *love God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength and love your neighbor as yourself*. In other words we are to love God with all of our being. This means that we love God in every word we speak and every action we take.

The hardest part is that the Biblical texts witness to a God that hears the cries of the “the alien, the widow, the orphan,” the marginalized. What if during these four weeks of Advent we stopped and asked ourselves if the words we are about to speak or the actions we are about to take reclaim and/or proclaim the hope, peace, joy and love of God for the marginalized?

At this point in the churches in the South I would be told that I have gone from “preaching to meddling.” Maybe I have. If so, it is because I do believe in the hope, peace, joy and love that God proclaimed in the birth of a baby named Jesus. Because it is so difficult to turn our hearts, I will spend these four weeks (and the rest of my life) preparing my heart on a daily basis to live out the love of God and the good news of the birth of Christ. Will you join me?

Much love and peace, Pastor Laurie

## Meet new member Rodney Higgins



FCC welcomed Rodney Higgins to our congregation on November 20. Rodney was a member of Spirit of Joy Christian Church, and his parents and grandparents were also Disciples from Clarinda, Iowa. After 26 years working as a geneticist at Abbott Northwestern Hospital, Rodney retired, but he was called back to help and currently is back in the labs at Abbott. Rodney and his partner Jack Peltier live in downtown Minneapolis. Please make sure you meet and welcome Rodney!

## Mike Vasich named new FCC pianist

Mike Vasich began his new position as FCC's pianist on November 27.

Originally from Chicagoland, Mike transplanted to Minnesota to study at Macalester College, where he graduated with a B.A. in Music in 2005. While at Macalester, he studied classical piano, jazz piano, and composition and theory. As a performer, Mike has played locally and nationally with his group Orange Mighty Trio (OMT), and continues to play locally with OMT, the jazz quartet Toni Wolff's Dream Wedding, the indie-rock band Airlands, and the New Music ensemble Cherry Spoon



Collective. During the week, Mike works at the Saint Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists where he is the Department Chair of the Instrumental Music Department, directing the jazz ensembles and teaching Eurhythmics and Music Theory. In his free time, Mike enjoys being outdoors with his wife Molly and his two children, Misha and Sula.

## Regla de Oro hosts annual SH benefit

Regla de Oro ("The Golden Rule"), the gift shop and gallery around the corner from SpringHouse on Lyndale Avenue, will again donate 10% of all sales on December 11 to SpringHouse social justice programs. Regla de Oro features fair trade items and local artists in its inventory of home décor, fashions, art and more. Hours on Sunday, Dec. 11 will be from 11 am to 5 pm. The store is open until 7 pm Tuesday through Saturday. Also, be sure to view the Regla de Oro exhibit of wooden wall art by Uptown Woodworks currently on display in the SpringHouse offices.

## FCC Board Notes

Sixteen FCC members and staff attended the November 15 regular meeting of FCC's General Board. Highlights of the meeting include the following:

- Kirsten Cackoski asked for feedback for the Covenant Revision committee regarding the number of representatives each church's governing board should have on the SpringHouse board. Consensus was to leave unchanged the current requirement of two members from the governing board.

- Mission and Outreach committee will again be promoting Advent giving to Refugee Services and Plaster House.

- The SpringHouse Child Ministry Team is actively seeking to hire child care workers. Flyers with tearoff contact information will be posted in the building.

- Treasurer Pat Dunlop reviewed the October Treasurer's Report. October pledge income was \$24,731, which is significantly higher than the monthly budget expectation.

- The board had a lengthy discussion about the 2017 budget focusing on projected totals from the stewardship campaign and the impact on the budget of supplements from the transition funds.

# December 2016

## First Christian Church



**Sunday Morning Schedule**  
 9:00 Spiritual Formation Classes  
 10:30 Worship  
 11:45 Fellowship Time in Gathering Space

				<b>1</b> 9 am Ecumenical women's ministry	<b>2</b> 6 pm Lefse making prep	<b>3</b> 9 am Men's Bible Study 10 am Lefse Making
<b>4</b> <b>North Sanctuary</b> Noon: Child Ministry Team	<b>5</b> 3 pm Carter Circle @ SpringHouse	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 8 am Narrative Lectionary Bible Study 5 pm Soup supper 5:30 Finance Comm 6 pm Advent Prayers Service 6 30 Handbells 7:45 Choir	<b>8</b> 9 am Ecumenical women's ministry 7 pm Pastor Laurie PRC	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 9 am Men's Bible Study 10 am Advent Brunch 10 am: Children's Pageant Rehearsal
<b>11</b> <b>North Sanctuary</b> <b>10:30 am</b> <b>Joint Service:</b> <b>Children's Pageant</b> Noon Memorial Garden Forum Noon SH Youth Ministry Team Noon Green Team 4 pm Lyndale Blue Christmas Service <i>Benefit Sale at Regla de Oro</i>	<b>12</b> 7 pm SH Covenant Review Committee	<b>13</b> 6 pm Worship Comm 7 pm FCC Board	<b>14</b> 8 am Narrative Lectionary Bible Study 10:30 am Staff Mtg 2 pm Mission and Outreach Comm. Meeting 5 pm Soup supper 6 pm Advent Prayers Service 6 30 Handbells 7:45 Choir	<b>15</b> 9 am Ecumenical women's ministry	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 9 am Men's Bible Study TBD: Cookie Bake for Aliveness Project 2:30 FCC Blue Christmas Service
<b>18</b> <b>North Sanctuary</b> 11:45 Blood Pressure Check 11:45 SH Activistas 5:00 FCC Elders	<b>19</b> 6:45 SH Building Committee	<b>20</b>	<b>22</b> 8 am Narrative Lectionary Bible Study 5 pm Soup supper 6 pm Advent Prayer Service 6 30 Handbells 7:45 Choir	<b>22</b> 9 am Ecumenical women's ministry	<b>23</b> 6	<b>24</b> 9 am Men's Bible Study 3:45 pm Treats, Christmas Carols 4 pm Family Friendly Service 10 pm Candlelight Service
<b>25</b> <b>North Sanctuary</b>  <i>Christmas Day</i>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 8 am Narrative Lectionary Bible Study	<b>29</b> 9 am Ecumenical women's ministry	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

	Elders	Worship Leader	Children's Moment	Diaconate	Bus Drivers
<b>December 4</b>	Ann Wolverton Dean Creighton	Sandy Morgan	Deb Murphy	A. Bliss M. Carlson	Mike Hesano 651-645-6758
<b>December 11</b>	Joint Worship: Children's Pageant			A Creighton N. Curry	Mike Morgan 612.926-9834
<b>December 18</b>	Sandy Morgan Martha Harris	TBA	Deb Murphy	B. Flanagan S. Grady B. Hall	Garry Hesser 612.721.4905
<b>December 25</b>	Lu Griffin Mike Hesano	Ann Wolverton	Deb Murphy		Mike Hesano 651-645-6758

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

## Forum on proposed Memorial Garden, Dec. 11

A SpringHouse forum on a proposal for a memorial garden on the SpringHouse grounds will be held on Sunday, December 11 at noon. Lyndale members Doug Malchow and Mary Vanderford have developed this proposal and want to present it to SpringHouse members. They are seeking input and questions about what they have developed so far, and will have displays and handouts to help explain the proposal.

To date, Mary and Doug have taken the following steps to develop the proposal:

- Consulted and received approval from the SpringHouse Landscaping Committee in selecting a place at SH appropriate for a memorial garden;
- Sought and received approval from the Building Committee;
- Sought and received 'concept' approval from the SH Ministry Center Board. Request was made to develop details of the proposal for future SpringHouse Board comment.
- Presented plans to the leadership councils of FCC, Salem and Lyndale;
- Held a forum in May 2015 for members of all three churches;
- Through a lawyer from Lyndale, contacted city and state officials to verify that this is a legal use

The forum will be in the South Sanctuary.

## SpringHouse / FCC News and Notes:

**Thanks to all for Moving Day help.** Workers were done by 11 am this time!

**More thanks** to the volunteers who helped get the North Sanctuary ready for Advent! The beautiful dried flower arrangement was created by Myra Rusten of Salem Lutheran. (See [flowersbymyra.com](http://flowersbymyra.com))

**Table Linens** available for use! Twelve ivory-colored tablecloths have been given to SpringHouse for use by church members on special occasions such as wedding receptions and funeral luncheons. A gift from Lyndale member Glenda Rooney, they are stored in a bin under the upper level coat rack, where there is a reservation and signout sheet. The linens are machine washable and do not require ironing.

## Homeless Memorial March to be December 15

The annual Homeless Memorial March and Service will be Thursday, December 15, honoring those who have died while homeless in Minnesota. The Silent March and Vigil begins at 5 pm at Hennepin County Government Center. A Service of Remembrance will be at Simpson United Methodist Church at 6:30, followed at 7:30 with a Community Meal in the Simpson Shelter on the lower level of Simpson UMC. Shuttles to the march will depart from the Lake Street Kmart starting at 4 pm.

## SpringHouse Board Notes

The October meeting of the SpringHouse board was October 27, with 13 people in attendance. Highlight from the minutes include the following:

- Current SH Shared Ministry projects include the Social Justice Art Festival, the Nicaragua trip fund-raising luncheon, and the Day of the Dead family celebration.
- The SH budget process is in final stages with minimal changes from 2016, except for inclusion of Nursery staffing and a modest cost of living staff increase.
- The SH Building Committee reported that October Share-the-Care event had to be cancelled. A light switch at the bottom of the stairway is being installed, and a light switch modification is being made in the organ chamber.
- Final touches are being made on the proposal for a SpringHouse Memorial Garden. The proposal will be presented at a forum in December; church boards/councils will review the proposal, and it will be brought to the January Annual Meeting for final approval.
- Staffing for SH child care is proving to be a major challenge even after raising the hourly compensation.

## Sundays at First Christian Church

Worship at 10:30

### Before Worship:

Spiritual Formation Classes:

9:00 Hearthstone Class,

9:15 Children's Classes;

9:30 SH Joint Adult Class

### After Worship

11:45 Fellowship Time

**Scripture Reading for  
Sunday, December 4  
Joel 2: 12-13, 28-29**



Study for mural by Aaron Douglas

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

### Reflections on the Word

*Joel 2: 28 Then afterward I will  
pour out my spirit on all flesh;  
your sons and your daughters  
shall prophesy, your old men  
will dream dreams, and your  
young men shall see visions.*

The prophet Joel's words ring out with the promise of how the spirit of God will move us to higher levels of hope and vision. As the old spiritual says, "There must be a better world somewhere." Our challenge is to make dreams come true here where we stand.

*God of Love, Show us how to  
bring give life to your promises  
here in your holy and blessed  
realm. Amen.*

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

#### **Ministry Team**

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

**Rick Bowman**, SHMC Building Manager

**Serena Chial**, Nursery Attendant

**Adam Conrad**, Music Director & Composer  
-in-Residence

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

**Laurie Pound Feille**, Senior Minister  
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**Martha Harris**, Courier Editor

**Deb Murphy**, Office Manager and Director of  
Spiritual Formation for Children & Youth  
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**Items for next Courier needed by Sunday,  
December 11.**

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
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