

The COURIER

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis



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UPCOMING Events:

Women's Ministries
Lunch Out at Tucci Benuch,
Mall of America, Saturday,
January 14, 11:30 am

FCC Board,
Tuesday, January 17, 7 pm

Worship Committee,
Tuesday, January 17, 6 pm

Book Club at Val Dunham's,
Monday, January 23, 7 pm

Pastor Laurie celebrates 20 year mark

During worship on Sunday, January 8, Pastor Laurie Pound Feille was recognized and celebrated on the 20th anniversary of her ordination as a Disciples of Christ pastor. Pastor Laurie was ordained on January 5, 1997, in the First Christian Church of Garland, Texas.



Pastor Dan Adolphson showed a brief slide show with pictures of the 1997 ordination. Dean Creighton, FCC Board Chair, presented Pastor Laurie with a gift from the congregation of a new stole crafted by Deb Murphy. And finally, congregation members enjoyed a special cake during fellowship hour. Congratulations, Pastor Laurie!

Annual FCC and SH meetings coming up

First Christian's annual congregational meeting will be after worship on Sunday, January 22. The business to be brought forward to the congregation is the 2017 budget and the election of trustees, elders and deacons.

Nominees

Trustees: Pat Dunlop, Mike Cackoski
Elders: Sandy Morgan, Mike Hesano, Lu Griffin
Diaconate: Grace Madsen, Anna Bliss, Alison Creighton, Wendy Manuel, Kathy Hintz

Congregational Meeting



Sunday, January 29, will start with a joint worship service for the three SpringHouse congregations in the South sanctuary. A guest preacher will bring the message and the SpringHouse Annual Meeting will be held immediately after worship. The 2017 SpringHouse budget will be presented, as well as a look at SpringHouse highlights for 2016. A lunch will be served following the annual meeting. Please bring sides, salads and desserts to share.

In Our Prayers. . .**Prayers of Sympathy**

*For the Rusinak families at
the passing of Mavis
Rusinak*

Prayers of Concern

*For Caroline Povolny's
cousin Matt, that his tumor
continues to shrink*

*For Fern Risinger as she
recovers in rehab and
prepares for her move to a
new home*

*For Jay Hillstead's family
members, one returning
from Kuwait and others
living in India*

*For all our homebound
members including Nick
Rusinak and Donald Ulm*

Prayers for the World

*For those who lost friends
and family members in mass
shootings in Turkey and Ft.
Lauderdale*

*For homeless individuals and
families that permanent
shelter will be provided*

**Voices and Views**

Serena Chial

***A Thank You and a Good Bye***

To my First Christian family:

By now you all know that I will no longer be in the nursery on Sunday mornings. I have spent the last ten (seriously it's been 10?!) years coming to church knowing I would spend it with any child that had too much energy for the service. To put that in perspective, Aiden was about 9 months old when I started. I have watched nearly every child attending this church grow from an infant to the wonderful individuals they are today. This was a difficult decision to make, partly because the children are great, and partly because it was a comforting routine.

Throughout the years you have entrusted me with keeping your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews (there had to be some during the years right?!) entertained and safe while you were in worship. Of course I think I was usually more entertained by their stories and imaginative play than they were by me, but I cannot thank you enough for that trust. It allowed me to get to know some pretty great kids and watch many of them grow up.

So to all the kids – thank you. Thank you for your smiles every week, for telling me about school, camp and life, and for playing with me. I love you all. This isn't goodbye. It is still see you next time, and I will still want to hear your stories.

Love,
Serena

Live Streaming of FCC services now available

Pastor Dan Adolphson has implemented a live-streaming service for FCC worship services. If you are unable to attend a service, you can click on a link at YouTube and follow the service on your computer. Past services are also archived. To find the live-stream, go to FCC's webpage at fccminneapolis.org. On the right side of the page you'll see a big YouTube logo; click this for the link to the live-stream.

A consent form is being given to parents for permission to include children in the broadcast. If you do not want to be shown in the video or do not want your children included, please talk to Pastor Dan, Pastor Laurie or Deb Murphy before a service.

SpringHouse children participate in OWL program

By Kathy Hayden



Our Whole Lives (OWL) is a sexual education program with resources written by professional sexuality educators. It has accurate, age-appropriate information to help individuals make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health and behavior. OWL provides not only facts about anatomy and human development, but helps participants clarify their values and understand the spiritual, emotional, and social aspects of sexuality.

During the fall of 2016, 4th and 5th graders from SpringHouse Ministry Center and First Congregational Church joined together for eight weeks of OWL lessons. We had a total of seven young people, including four boys from First Congregational and three girls from SpringHouse (one from each congregation). The facilitators were Ann Fate and Paul Snyder from First Congregation and Kathy Hayden from SpringHouse.

I talked to our girls about their experiences. Shannon shared, "It's hands on," "we dived right in," and "some of the lessons made me squeamish." Betty thought it was cool because she got to meet new kids and the lessons were fun. Elizabeth stated she "probably" learned something new. She read all of the book "It's Perfectly Normal" before the first class. About the book Elizabeth said, "The pictures didn't affect me too much." She "wasn't surprised and expected it in a book like that." Betty thought the book was "different" and "very descriptive." Shannon thought the book was "interesting" and "didn't love the pictures." In her thoughtful analysis the book was a distraction during the lessons. It did add a lot of giggles and boy- and girl-only huddle discussions.

Our girls are very insightful and mature. The one question at least one kid would put in the question box each week was "can we have a pizza party." As a facilitator it would be fun to have some follow up discussions with this group of amazing boys and girls.

FCC Board Notes

Below are highlights from the November and December FCC board meetings. Sixteen people attended the November meetings, and six people were present in December.

- This year's Nominating Committee is made up of Kirsten Cackoski, Karen Kandik and Becki Whitaker. They will have a roster of nominees for trustee, diaconate and elder positions ready for the January annual meeting.

- Worship services are now being broadcast through YouTube livestreaming. Eleven people watched the December 11 service when the icy roads kept many people at home. Discussion focused on seeking permission for children to be shown on the broadcast.

- As of December, a total of \$189,320 has been pledged for the 2017 budget. The October income was \$24,831, which included interest income and SH staff reimbursements.

- Skip Wolverton presented the 2017 proposed budget and the board voted to approve it. It will be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting on January 22.

- Pastor Laurie and Pastor Rhonda will be interviewing to find one or perhaps two people to replace Serena Chial in Child Care.

***Sundays at First Christian Church
Worship at 10:30 in the North Sanctuary***

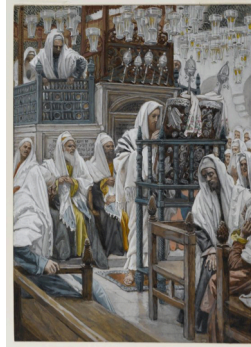
Before Worship

Hearthstone Class, 9 am
Children's Classes, 9:20 am
SHMC Adult class 9:30 am

After Worship

Fellowship Time 11:45

**Narrative Lectionary
For Sunday, January 15
Sermon at Nazareth
Luke 4: 14-30**



Christ reading from the scroll, by James Tissot

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

Reflections on the Word

Luke 4: 16b-18a: He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me..."

Luke's story has Jesus launching his ministry in his hometown of Nazareth, where he reads the words of Isaiah and claims them for his own ministry. His listeners go from being impressed to being outraged as Jesus says that he has come for the outsiders, not the insiders sitting in front of him in the synagogue. Once again, the words of Jesus speak clearly us as well.

*God of the nations, Show us how to love all the people of the earth.
Amen.*

Adapted from O. Wesley Allen, Jr.

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

Ministry Team

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(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
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