

The COURIER

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis



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UPCOMING Events:

Intergenerational
Sunday School,
9:30 am, April 9
PEEPS Dioramas

Brews and Views,
Monday, April 10,
6:30

FCC Board, Tuesday,
April 18, 7 pm



April 9 – Palm Sunday

Palm Processional and Worship ~ Starts at 10:25 in Gathering Space

April 13 – Maundy Thursday

Soup Supper, 6 pm ~ Service with Choir, 7 pm ~ Easter Vigil starts at 8 pm

April 14 - Good Friday

Easter Vigil Midnight – 3 pm ~ Service 7 pm featuring Choir Section Leaders

April 16 – Easter

Daybreak Communion Service, 6:30 am on the patio

Easter Celebration Services, 8 am and 10:30 am

SpringHouse Youth Pancake Breakfast, 9 am

Mission opportunities abound in April!

As you have heard and experienced, the mission and outreach focus for Lent is food sufficiency. Yay to those of you who brought food for the white bin; Pastor Laurie will be cutting 7 ½ minutes off her sermon on April 30! (Reminder: this was Pastor Laurie's idea!) You can still bring more food in April; you are challenged to fill up the bin again!

Other opportunities this month:

- **Serving a meal** at St Stephen's Shelter on April 15. What a wonderful gift to share on the eve of Easter! If you are interested in cooking and/or serving, please let Kirsten Cackoski, Pastor Laurie, Pat Dunlop or Karen Kandik know.

- **Green envelopes** for flower donations that magically turn into money for Groveland Food Shelf. Turn in soon! The "In Memory/Honor of slips are due Palm Sunday. Place in the offering plate or give to Deb Murphy.

- **Feed My Starving Children** on April 29 from 11:30-1:30 at the Chanhassen location. If you have been watching the news, you know that right now in Africa there are more people experiencing famine at any time since the United Nations was formed in 1945. The UN cannot feed everyone; FMSC has upped their shipments and needs help packing.

- **Sheridan Story:** many spots still open through the end of the school year for putting backpacks of food into lockers on Friday afternoons. This is at Whittier School; it takes less than an hour and feeds families over the weekend.

- **Bags of Grace:** We have been out of these for a long time and with spring coming we need to make more. Plan to spend a few minutes after worship on April 30 to pack these most needed bags.

Thank you for making a difference in so many lives!

In Our Prayers. . .**Prayers of Joy**

*For the baptism of Sebastian
Joy Winter Vitale into the
SH community and Lyndale
UCC*

*For Chris Wogaman upon
his ordination*

Prayers of Sympathy

*For Belinda Flanagan on the
loss of her brother-in-law
For Mindy Escador on the
loss of her mother*

Prayers of Concern

For Phil Kinney

For Gwen Elmshouser's son

For Grace Madsen

For former FCC member

Patty Shoop

*For Maury Milligan, serving
as US Army chaplain in
Iraq*

*For Barb Creighton and her
family*

For Chris Wogaman's father

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

Prayers for the World

For Transgender Justice

*For the hundreds killed and
displaced by floods in
Columbia*

*For victims of terror attacks
in St. Petersburg and
London*

**Voices and Views**

Jim Lee

***Knowing***

I'm an advocate for humility in knowing. I certainly agree that facts are important and can be undeniable. I also agree that perspective impacts how I experience things.

- How a sibling and I remember an event from long ago can be vastly different. Perhaps it's that he was viewing it from the top of the pole he'd climbed to hide at the local Tastee Freeze.
- The driver of the other car reported to the officer that I came out of nowhere. I don't think so.

My motivation impacts what I see.

- While I am blind to house maintenance and my many to-do lists, I'm always ready to escape in brainstorming. As Barney Saltzberg writes, "A little drip of paint lets your imagination run wild."
- I protect myself, thinking I'm so disciplined, or generous, or honest. Really, I do what I want.

How do I know anything for sure? I perceive through my senses. I intuit. I experience alone and with others. I've sensed expectations. I've accepted truths and stories. But sometimes I really want to be sure, like in relationships. And sometimes I want to be in flux, like when I feel it's more important to be loving than completely, utterly honest. I don't want to upset or cause loved ones grief.

I am fickle.

- As a dad and grandpa I can get swept up with pride and be an obnoxious fan. I'm sure I'd be part of the adoring crowd at the triumphal entry. I'd let the donkey walk on my cardigan.
- I can't judge Peter harshly. It's unkind to corner anyone into saying aloud the horrible truth. I deflect.
- And, as much as I want to be loving, I can't say with certainty that I wouldn't be over-zealous in a psych/sociology experiment and jolt someone beyond what's reasonable. I can't say with certainty that I wouldn't have joined in the cries to crucify Jesus.
- I can't say with certainty that I will always cherish God's demonstration of love for me. Sometimes I do doubt what's true. Sometimes it feels okay to not care as passionately as I have in the past. I am fickle.

I do want to know and be known. I want to be confident that I am connecting with others and that it's grounded in what we've experienced together. I want to live with soul. I want to connect with the reality behind mysteries. I want to recognize more truth. I want to know that if I am incapacitated, unable to respond, that the experience of patiently breathing and worshiping God delights God's heart and makes our communion worthwhile. That even then, though I may be unproductive and in need of constant care, my life has served as a living stone and I am precious in God's sight and God in mine.

Blessed Holy Week

SpringHouse board changes schedule, focus

The SpringHouse Board voted unanimously at the March 23, 2017, meeting to shift to a quarterly meeting schedule instead of monthly Thursday night meetings. When possible, the quarterly meetings will be on the 5th Sundays following the worship services, from noon to perhaps 3 pm. Extra meetings could be called for pressing votes or issues that arise.

The board also decided that the quarterly meetings will address both business and visioning matters. At each meeting, the board will seek to hear from selected SH committees, in order to hear about the work of the committee and perhaps offer guidance or support. The first quarterly meeting will be Sunday, April 30.

Third Sanctuary Church forum postponed

A third Sanctuary forum was originally scheduled for Palm Sunday, but this turned out to be a conflict with previously scheduled Intergenerational Sunday School. A new date for the forum will be set soon. Meanwhile, come to learn and be active with the children of SH at 9:30 on April 9. They will be making the ever popular Peeps Dioramas!

Readers welcome to spring Book Club meetings

April's book choice is *Rules of Civility* by Amor Towles. All are invited to Sandy Morgan's house on April 24 at 7 pm for discussion of this work of fiction. On May 25 *The Invisible Thread* by Laura Schroff will be the subject at the home of Diane Hackett.

The easiest fundraiser ever! Sign up now!

Help support the Nicaragua mission trip and future missions with the easiest fundraiser you'll ever do! We're not asking for your money, we're just asking you to spend it a little differently than you normally would. Before heading to the store to do your everyday shopping, pick up a gift card from us. The mission fund will get a percentage of the sale while you still spend the amount you normally would have. Cards are available for many different restaurants, gas stations, stores, and even travel and entertainment sources.

There are several ways to participate in this fundraiser: For the "computer challenged": Pick up an order form at church and fill it out to let us know which cards you would like, and in what amounts. Pay the church, and we will deliver your card(s) to you at church. Online: Visit ShopWithScrip.com, enter our code (BF16DF4B443L6), and create an account. There you can see all of the card options available and submit your order. Pay the church, and we will deliver your card(s) to you at church.

This round's order will be placed on April 30, and the cards should arrive back to church by May 7. If you have questions, contact Becki Whitaker at purplepercussionist@gmail.com or 651-686-6571. Thanks for helping us support SpringHouse missions!

FCC Board Notes

Fourteen FCC members attended the monthly meeting of the FCC General Board on Tuesday, March 21. Highlights of the meeting include the following:

- Two more Sanctuary Church forums will be held. The board will also schedule a board/congregational meeting to have further discussions about becoming a Sanctuary Church. Dates will be set and announced soon.
- The three SH pastors will make a proposal to the SH board to change their meetings from monthly to quarterly.
- FCC needs to appoint a co-leader for the Child Ministry Team.
- An ordination service for Chris MacDonald-Dennis will be Saturday, May 13.
- SH personnel are talking with the organ specialist about a cable that needs to be installed.
- The board voted to authorize Rick Bowman to go ahead with bus repairs.
- The Treasurer's Report, presented by Skip Wolverson, stated that pledge receipts for February were \$21,000 and year-to-date expenses are on track with the budget projections.

Sundays at First Christian Church Worship at 10:30

Before Worship

Children's Classes, 9:15 am
Hearthstone Class, 9 am
Joint Adult class 9:30 am

After Worship

Fellowship Time 11:45

Narrative Lectionary
Triumphal Entry
Luke 19: 29-44



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

Reflections on the Word

Luke 19:40 He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

Pastor Laurie spoke to us recently about being Living Stones. Here, Jesus says that if human voices are silenced, the stones will take up the cry of blessings and praise for God's love and good news. Indeed, God's enduring, steadfast love will be evidenced by a single stone, a stone that is rolled away from the tomb.

Loving God, We give thanks for the wonders of your creation, which tell the story even when our voices are silenced by fear. Amen. .

From Jeff Taylor, Disciplines 2013

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

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

Ministry Team

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Rick Bowman, SHMC Building Manager
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