

# The COURIER

*First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis*



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## **UPCOMING** **Events:**

*Ordination Service,*  
*Saturday, May 13, 4 pm*

*FCC Board, Tuesday,*  
*May 16, 7 pm*

*Elders' Meeting,*  
*Sunday, May 21,*  
*6:30 pm*

*Sanctuary Moving Day,*  
*Monday, May 22, 10 am*



## *Grief* *Support* for Twin Cities Adults

### **Grief Support program at FCC starts May 13**

First Christian Church is hosting the Downtown Coalition for Grief Support every Saturday morning at 9:30-11:30 a.m. from May 13 through August 26. There is a speaker from 10-10:30 am followed by small support groups for Spouse loss, Child loss, and Family loss. The speakers are excellent and are either professionals and/or tell their personal stories. The small groups are facilitated by individuals who have trained to lead these groups. If you would like to attend, this would be a good time to start.

Food and coffee are provided at 9:30 a.m. Mary Hurlocker, who has worked with the coalition for 13 years, is looking for some FCC folk to help her on Saturday mornings to set out food, make coffee and help with registration and other administrative tasks. If you would like to help with this ministry please call Mary at 612-867-1621 (cell) or e-mail her at [Hurlocker@comcast.net](mailto:Hurlocker@comcast.net). She needs at least 2-3 people every Saturday.

FCC is one of eight downtown Minneapolis churches involved in the coalition. Read more about this program on the website <http://www.mplsgriefsupport.com/index.htm>.

### **Join the Celebration of Child Ministries Sunday School**



*Sunday School*  
**CELEBRATION**

Plan to attend the Joint Worship Service on May 21 at 10:30 am. Our children will lead us in worship in the South Sanctuary. Learn what the kids have been doing, the songs they've learned, and help us thank all who helped with the program.

Stay after worship for a BBQ hot dog lunch (meat and veggie choices!). If you can, please bring a side, salad or dessert to share.

Volunteers are needed at 10 am on Saturday May 20 for set up and for serving on Sunday. Let the office know if you can help.

*In Our Prayers. . .***Prayers of Joy***For Chris MacDonald-**Dennis upon his ordination**For Wendy Manual on her**acceptance into the**ordination track***Prayers of Sympathy***For Val Dunham and family**at the death of her brother**Randy**For the Rusinak family on the**death of Nick Rusinak***Prayers of Concern***Jay and Arlene Hillestad**Gwen Elmsouser**Grace Madsen**Susie Smith**Irene Hackett's son-in-law**Belinda Flanagan's brother**Gary Maanum's friend**Rick Bowman and family**For all our homebound**members including Elaine**Moe and Beverly Singewald***Prayers for the World***For Transgender Justice**For decision makers in at**local, state and national**levels to make wise**decisions that benefit the**people and the planet***Voices and Views****Pastor Dan Adolphson****FCC Accepted the GLAD Alliance Membership Challenge  
– Where Are We?**

Three years ago, our congregation accepted the GLAD Alliance Membership Challenge, and it's time for a check-in, since we have lots of new members who may not be aware of what GLAD is or what GLAD does.

**What is GLAD?**

- GLAD Alliance is an organization of members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) working to transform the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) into a just and inclusive church that welcomes persons of all gender expressions and sexual identities into the full life and leadership of the church. I currently serve as the Moderator for GLAD.
- GLAD's Strategic Vision focuses on increasing the number of Open & Affirming ministries in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), educating and supporting the Open & Affirming ministries in the pastoral care of LGBT persons, and empowering the Open & Affirming ministries to respond to justice issues through a variety of teams.
- GLAD works with congregations, providing resources and training to help them become Open & Affirming so that Disciples everywhere can experience the kind of welcome that we enjoy. This year we are rolling out a new, streamlined training to better help congregations become Open & Affirming.
- GLAD is also working to increase justice in all our congregations, striving to connect in the intersections of racial, social, and LGBTQ justice.
- GLAD is one of the organizational partners of the Institute for Welcoming Resources (part of the National LGBTQ Task Force), and we partner with other welcoming church programs, as well as organizations like More Voices and Religious Institute to spread the message of extravagant welcome and justice in communities of faith across the United States and Canada.

**What is the challenge?**

GLAD is challenging every Open & Affirming congregation to inspire 10% or more of its membership to join GLAD. ***As of today, we're not doing very well - we're at .8 percent of our goal. We need 11 more people to reach our goal!*** GLAD is **not funded** by the General Church or any of the other Disciples offerings we collect. It is your membership contribution that makes this work possible.

**You can help us meet our goal – it's another way of living out our congregation's mission & vision! We can meet this challenge when you become a member of GLAD. You can do this at**

**<http://contribution.gladalliance.org>** where you can also learn more about GLAD.

## Chris MacDonald-Dennis Ordination on May 13



First Christian is hosting the ordination for Chris MacDonald-Dennis on Saturday, May 13, 2017, at 4 pm in the North Sanctuary. All are invited to attend the service and stay for refreshments afterwards.

*Pastor Bob Brite welcomed Chris into FCC's congregation in August, 2012.*

## SH women and friends Huddle for change

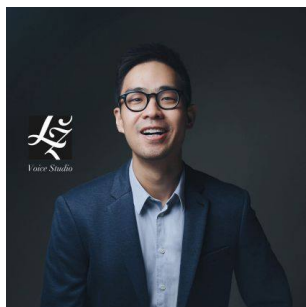
SpringHouse women meet on the second Saturday of each month (9 am at SpringHouse) to continue to work and advocate for social issues, following up on the energy generated from the Women's March in January. Newcomers are always welcome! FCC member Anna Bliss writes a weekly blog that provides practical and do-able suggestions for actions to take. She also always adds insights and observations on the events making local and national headlines. Read her blog and learn more about the Huddle at <https://springhousehuddle.wordpress.com>.



## FCC folks invited to summer Saints game

Mike Hesano and Lu Griffin invite FCC folks and friends to join them and other FCC baseball fans for an outing to the St. Paul Saints game on Saturday, July 1 at 7 pm. Mike and Lu have purchased 25 general admission tickets to that evening's game; the tickets are general admission to keep it more affordable for everyone (\$6.00) and will be available for purchase on Sundays after church until they run out of tickets. Look for Lu or Mike to reserve your spot, or contact them at 651-645-6758.

## Just call him



### "Dr. Zang!"

Congratulations to our bass section leader Lu Zang on successfully defending his doctoral dissertation recently!

## The Bowmans



Ana and Esther arrived from the Philippines and reunited with Rick on May 9<sup>th</sup>! Check out First Christian's FB page for more pictures.

## Health at First

Julie Andrix, Faith Community Nurse



Through the Faith Community Nurse Network (FCNN), along with the support of a Live Well at Home grant from the MN Department of Human Services, faith community nurses have been asked to become leaders for a fall prevention program. I am excited to have been asked to take part in the training to prevent falls in the elderly.

The Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging holds a national license to train leaders of the Stepping On Program and the FCNN is licensed by the WIHA as a local provider. With training come resources and ongoing support.

Stepping On is an evidence-based fall prevention program and as a leader (and co-leader), I will have the opportunity to facilitate workshops in the surrounding community. The workshops are geared for people over 60 who are at risk for falling or have had a fall in the past year; have a fear of falling; walk and live independently and do not have dementia. The two-hour workshops will go for seven weeks. There will be balance and strength exercises each class and discussion sessions with invited experts on exercise, vision, safety and medications.

If you are interested, I can help you register. The workshops are lively, making learning more interesting and fun. The first workshop starts in June through mid-July at Revive Brooklyn Park Church and the second workshop will be in the fall 2017 or Spring 2018 at a Southwest metro location TBD. I look forward to working with folks to help prevent falls.



## 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 For Sunday, May 14 Council at Jerusalem Acts 15: 1-18



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

### Reflections on the Word

*Acts 15: 8-9 – And God, who knows the human heart, testified to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us; and in cleansing their hearts by faith he has made no distinction between them and us.*

Us and them. In this case, Paul is referring to the Gentiles to whom he has been preaching as "them," and the Jews who follow the Torah laws as "us." But his message is the message of Jesus: there is no distinction between "us and them." God's grace and spirit are given to all. This is the radical good news that we are still trying to understand and practice.

*Loving God, You know the human heart. Help us know your love more fully and let go of all that separates us one from another. Amen.*

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

#### Ministry Team

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