

The Courier

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis



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UPCOMING Events

*Carter Circle,
Thursday, Dec. 7,
7 pm @ SH*

*SpringHouse Huddle,
Saturday, Dec. 9, 9 am*

*Christmas Cookie Baking
Saturday, Dec. 16*

Advent Season: Study, Worship, Giving

Worship

Each Sunday in Advent, we'll light a candle on the Advent Wreath and hear the music and the scriptures of the season.

Every Wednesday, SpringHouse congregations will gather at 5:30 for a Soup Supper, followed at 6 pm by a Holden Prayer Service in the North Sanctuary. This is a quiet, brief meditative liturgy with emphasis on bringing light in the darkness, and featuring simple meditative music.



Advent Brunch

Saturday, December 2
10 am in the Gathering Space
Program features Lynda Lee's music group in "Cooking Up Christmas," stories, poems, recipes and music.

Giving

We will continue our tradition of giving gifts of money and/or household goods to those in need. See page 3 for more details.

Study

Pastor Laurie will be leading Advent Study on Tuesday evenings, 7 pm (Dec. 5, 12, 19). She will be sharing videos from this summer's General Assembly – see more about this in her article on page 2.





In Our Prayers

Prayers for Joy

*For our newest members
Christine Isham and
Kirsten VanHeyningen,
who are both chaplains in
Davenport, Iowa*

Prayers for Sympathy

*For the family of Dorothy
Becker
For Tom Curry on the death
of his mother Micha Nieves
For Pastor Laurie on the
death of her Uncle Clint*

Prayers for Concern

*For Henri Smith, having
surgery on Dec. 5
For Phil Kinney
For Belinda Flanagan's
friend whose house burned
For all our homebound
members, including Mary
Lou Cain and Phyllis
Dunlap*

Prayers for the World

*For the Sutherland Springs
community
For the community of the
Egyptian mosque recently
bombed
For the people of Puerto
Rico*



A message from
Pastor Laurie Pound-Feille



Advent: A Time of Waiting – What are we Waiting for?

This Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent. This is the time of year when we spend waiting, preparing and reflecting on the birth of Christ anew in the world. This year we will have two opportunities to gather outside of Sunday morning to help lead and guide us through Advent. On Wednesday evenings at 6 pm, we will gather for a Holden Advent Service with the other two SpringHouse churches. The service is filled with singing and is a wonderful way to connect with the holy during Advent. It has been a joy to participate in this service with Salem and Lyndale during Advent and Lent. This service will last about thirty minutes so our handbell choir will be able to come to the service and make it to rehearsal on time. There will be a soup supper beginning at 5:30 pm. before the services.

We will also gather on Tuesday evenings at 7 pm for our Advent Study. This year's study is called "Advent, A Time of Waiting--What Are We Waiting For?" I am excited to lead this study and I hope you will mark your calendars for December 5, 12 and 19. We will be watching three sermons from our General Assembly in Indianapolis this past summer. We have begun a new chapter in the life of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), with the election of a new General Minister and President, Rev. Dr. Teresa Hord Owens. Along with a new chapter for the Disciples of Christ our world has changed in a variety of ways or at least due to technology we now know in an instant the changes that happen across the world. Advent is a time for us to slow down and reflect on the world and our role as followers of Jesus Christ.

The three sermons that we will watch will help us to better understand our place in the world as Disciples of Christ and imagine and reflect on where God is leading us as First Christian Church, Minneapolis. If Advent is a time of waiting then what are we waiting for? We will watch the sermons together and then have time for discussion.

We also have other opportunities to gather such as the Advent Brunch and Cookie Baking. I hope that you will take advantage of these opportunities to spend time "waiting" during Advent with your church family as we await the birth of Christ anew in the world!

Much love and peace,
Pastor Laurie

Many ways to share gifts in Advent

This Christmas season we can again honor and remember those for whom we would usually donate a poinsettia by having that monetary donation be directed to St Stephen's Shelter and Simpson Shelter. Forms will be available to list your donation; names will be printed in the Christmas bulletin as usual. And don't worry, there will still be poinsettias decorating the sanctuary.

You also have the opportunity to donate physical goods that are needed by shelter patrons. The list is available in the sanctuary and will be on our website. You can bring them to the sanctuary through Christmas Eve. Christmas Eve offering this year will again be directed to Plaster House. In Tanzania. Be sure to write "Plaster House" in the memo section of your check.

A volunteer opportunity! We need a person to coordinate the meals we provide to St Stephen's in April and October. There is the possibility of also doing more meals during the year. The coordinator is NOT in charge of planning, cooking, serving all by him/her self; it is a team effort. Please see Karen Kandik, Kirsten Cackoski, Pat Dunlop or Pastor Laurie to discuss this opportunity!

Photos needed for Advent decorations

The first Sunday of Advent is December 2. Where do you see God's Hope, Peace, Joy and Love in the world? Take a picture of an image you see in the world representing these Advent values and send them to Deb Murphy who will of course do something interesting with them for us to see and enjoy!

Notes from. . .

-- the Sanctuary Task Force

The Welcoming Resource Fair and Fundraiser Lunch on Sunday November 12 was a huge success! Over \$1400 was raised for our friend Kathryn, whose husband Elmer is incarcerated with the possibility of deportation. The lunch created by Elmer's mother-in-law Yolanda was just great. We heard from several organizations and groups with opportunities for us as individuals and as church to be advocates and supporters with the immigrant community.

Upcoming: The Sanctuary Task Force has put forth a Welcoming Resolution to be reviewed and voted on by the churches and eventually by Springhouse. Thanks to all for your interest, enthusiasm, and generosity!

-- the FCC Worship Team

Many thanks to Bobbi Hall for the decorations she provided for our Thanksgiving Communion Table.

Youth Ministry News

Youth Ministry Text and Email Updates

Did you know that you can get signed up to get texts and/or emails on the happenings of the youth ministries at Springhouse? Get yourself signed up by doing one of the following. Text @db2kc8 to 81010. Or talk to Jon Bates to get yourself signed up!

Youth Christmas Party Saturday, December 9 6:00-10:00pm

Youth, Let's celebrate Christmas together before at Springhouse! We'll enjoy the holiday with time together with dinner, community, games, and end with a Christmas movie. Please bring yourself and a wrapped item worth no more than \$5 for a "White Elephant Gift Exchange."

Jon Bates
Youth Minister
springhouseyouth@fccmpls.org
651-253-8494
Thanks!

Dorothy Becker, 1917-2017

Dorothy Becker, an 88 year member of FCC, passed away November 24. A celebration of her life will be in Hayward, WI, on December 2. Please call or email the office if you would like the address of Dorothy's daughter Gretchen Semler.

December 2017 First Christian Church			 Sunday Morning Schedule 9:15 am Children's Sunday School 9:30 Spiritual Formation Classes 10:30 Worship 11:45 Fellowship Time in Gathering Space			
					1	2 9 am Men's Group 10 am Advent Brunch
3 Garden Sanctuary First Sunday of Advent Noon – Child Ministry Team Meeting	4 6 pm Yoga 7 pm Covenant Review Committee	5 8 am Lectionary Bible Study 7 pm Advent Study with Pastor Laurie	6 5:30 pm Soup Supper 6 pm Holden Prayer 6:30 SH Movie Study 6:30 pm Bells 7:45 Choir	7 9 am Ecumenical women's ministry 7 pm Carter Circle at SpringHouse	8	9 9 am Men's Group 9 am SH Huddle 6 pm SH Youth Christmas Party
10 Garden Sanctuary Second Sunday of Advent Noon – SH Green Team	11 6 pm Yoga	12 8 am Lectionary Bible Study 7 pm Advent Study with Pastor Laurie	13 2 pm Mission & Outreach 5:30 FCC Finance Committee 5:30 pm Soup Supper 6 pm Holden Prayer 6:30 SH Movie Study 6:30 Bells 7:45 Choir	14 7 pm Pastor Laurie PRC 7 pm SH Finance Committee	15	16 9 am Men's Group TBD: FCC Cookie Baking for Aliveness Project & Cookie Swap
17 Garden Sanctuary Third Sunday of Advent Joint Worship in South Sanctuary for Children's Pageant	18 6 pm Yoga	19 8 am Lectionary Bible Study 7 pm Advent Study with Pastor Laurie	20 5:30 pm Soup Supper 6 pm Holden Prayer 7:45 Choir	21	22	23 9 am Men's Group
24 Garden Sanctuary 10:30 am Fourth Sunday in Advent 10 pm Traditional Candlelight and Communion Service	 <i>Christmas Day</i>	26	27		29	30 9 am Men's Group
31 Garden Sanctuary						

	Elders	Worship Leader	Children's Moment	Diaconate	Bus Drivers
December 3	Jay Hillestad Lu Griffin	Arlene Hillestad	Deb Murphy	A. Bliss M. Carlson A. Creighton B. Flanagan S. Grady W. Manuel B. Hall	Mike Morgan 612.926-9834
December 10	Mike Hesao Val Dunham	Martha Harris	Deb Murphy		Garry Hesser 612.721.4905
December 17	Tom Curry Jay Hillestad	Joint Worship			Mike Hesano 651-645-6758
December 24 10 pm service	Martha Harris Sandy Morgan Steve Rusinak Mike Hesano	Anna Bliss	Deb Murphy		Mike Morgan 612.926-9834
December 31	Barb Creighton Dean Creighton	Pat Dunlop	Steve Rusinak		Garry Hesser 612.721.4905

In The Squiggle Space



Children's Ministry Team. The Children's Ministry Team has been busy this fall. We have implemented a new type of lessons for the children. We are using Godly Play. We have enjoyed this fall so much! The Team will meet the first Sunday of the month at noon. Next meeting is Sunday, December 3.

Christmas Pageant. Sunday annual Christmas Pageant has been selected. Pastor Rhonda has also begun teaching the children the songs. Our pageant will be held on Sunday, Dec. 17 in the South Sanctuary. We hope to see you there. The children will continue to practice the following Sundays: Dec 3, Dec 10, and Dec. 17. Parents – talk to Nancy Curry or Deb Murphy if you have questions.

Art of the Covenant. There will be no lessons for Christmas Eve Sunday and December 31. The Art of the Covenant will be held during our regular lesson time with Deb Murphy. Lessons will begin again on Sunday, January 7. We look forward to seeing your children then.

Global Health Ministries Service Project. The children wound up cotton strips to make 46 bandages during Sunday school time on November 19 for Global Health Ministries.

Questions and Concerns. Please contact either April Conlee or Nancy Curry, co-chairs of the Children's Ministry team as listed below.

April Conlee april.conlee@gmail.com

Nancy Curry ncurry9107@comcast.net

Film series offered on Advent Wednesdays

Lyndale UCC is inviting SpringHouse folks to join them on Wednesday evenings following the Holden Prayer Service for films from Lyndale's Racial Justice initiative. The films to be shown are as follows:

- **Wednesday, December 6: "White Like Me."** Anti-racist educator Tim Wise explores race and racism in the US through the lens of whiteness and white privilege.
- **Wednesday, December 13: "The Doctrine of Discovery."** Dakota filmmaker Sheldon Wolfchild's documentary tells the story of how little known Vatican documents led to laws and systems in the US and Canada that are still being used against Original Nations and Peoples.
- **Wednesday, December 20: "13th."** This 2016 documentary by Ava DuVernay explores the intersection of race, justice and mass incarceration in the United States.

SpringHouse Board Notes

12 people attended the SpringHouse board meeting on Sunday, October 29. Highlights from the meeting include the following:

- Michael Vanderford reported on three SH Building Committee actions: 1) developing a list of approved vendors; 2) completing the tuckpointing work for \$10,948.79 which was under the \$12,000 budgeted for the project; 3) recommending that the 2018 budget include a capital maintenance fund with each congregation contributing annually \$333.

- Pastor Laurie presented a draft of a plan for the Personnel Committee to be responsible for the hiring/firing of child care and nursery staff. This plan has been approved by the Children's Ministry committee.

- The proposed 2018 budget was discussed at length with several suggestions for kitchen, marketing, joint ministry, and outreach. The 2018 SH budget proposal was approved as amended.

- Dates for 2018 SH meetings are January 7, April 29, September 30 and November 11.

Sundays at First Christian Church

Worship at 10:30

Before Worship:

Spiritual Formation Classes:

9:15 Children's Sunday School in the Squiggle Spce

9:30 SH Joint Adult Class in the Gathering Space

After Worship

11:45 Fellowship Time

**Scripture text
for Sunday, December 3
Ezekiel 37:1-14**



*O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says
the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to
enter you, and you shall live.*

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

**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

Dan Adolphson, Associate Pastor,
dan.adolphson@fccmpls.org

Jon Bates, SHMC Youth Minister,

Rick Bowman, SHMC Building Manager

Adam Conrad, Music Director & Composer-in-
Residence

Pearl Evans, SHMC Child Care

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