

The Courier

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis



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UPCOMING Events

FCC Informational Meeting,
March 25
following worship

Brews & Views,
Monday, March 26, 6:30

Mobile Menders at
SpringHouse,
Saturday, March 7
9 am – 5 pm



March 25 – Palm Sunday

Intergenerational Sunday School – Peeps Diorama Contest – 9:15 am
Palm Processional and Worship ~ Starts at 10:20 in Gathering Space

March 29 – Maundy Thursday

Labyrinth and Prayer Stations, Communion, 7 pm
Easter Prayer Vigil starts at 8 pm

March 30 - Good Friday

Easter Vigil Midnight – 3 pm
Good Friday Service 7 pm

April 1 – Easter

Communion Sunrise Service, 6:45 am on the patio
Easter Celebration Service, 10:30 am

Become a link in FCC's Easter Prayer Vigil

The annual Prayer Vigil will begin after the Maundy Thursday service and continue until 3 pm on Good Friday. While the time is for each of us to have an uninterrupted dialogue with God, this prayer chain also links us to many other Disciples around the world who will be doing continuous praying. In keeping with our Lenten theme this year, you may wish to consider involving poetry of some kind during your prayer time. If you would like some resources to get you started with what to do during your prayer time, please see Karen Kandik.

Prayer can be done at SpringHouse from after the Maundy Thursday service until 10 pm. Prayer can resume at the church at 10 am on Friday. *You have the option of either praying at church or at a space of your choosing, during the time for which you sign up, even if it is after the Thursday night service or during the day on Friday.*

Sign-up for your chosen time slot will be on the church's website. There are half hour time slots; if you wish to sign up for an hour, please be sure to sign up for both slots (separately). You will get a confirmation e-mail after you have signed up. Here is how to access the list: On the church's home page, scroll down until you see "Latest News." Click on "Holy Week and Easter Schedule", then March 29 or 30 Prayer Vigil sign-up. You will be taken right to the link of the available slots.

If you do not have e-mail, please contact Karen Kandik and she can complete the sign-up for you.

Light of the world, enter into the depths of our lives. Be present through the silent hours, and bring us safely to your glorious light. (David Adam)



In Our Prayers

Prayers of Concern

For Mike Vasich, whose father is in the hospital
For Adam Conrad's aunt in hospice
For Jim and Lynda Lee, whose grandson Jonah is having personal struggles
For Melinda and Arlen Nickerson who had to put down one of their horses
For Rodney Higgins whose friend is in hospice
For all our homebound members, including June Andrix and Bev Singewald

Prayers for the World

For families and communities affected by the violence of war, of dysfunction, of poverty and of despair
For each of us everyday that we may make mindful choices



A message from Pastor Laurie Pound Feille



From Cross to Resurrection

As we have journeyed through Lent we have found ourselves surrounded by poetry. While I have yet to write a poem I have enjoyed the many ways that we have used poetry in our worship services. The poems have added another layer and voice to the tough texts from the Gospel of John that we have been reading. We will continue to use poetry through Holy Week and I invite everyone to be a part of our Holy Week Services. Elsewhere in the newsletter you will find the dates and times for our Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services.

To help us on this journey from Cross to Resurrection I offer this poem which is a prayer by Walter Brueggemann from a collection of his prayers in *Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth*:

We are strange conundrums of faithfulness and fickleness.
 We cleave to you in all the ways that we are able.
 We count on you and intend our lives to be lived for you,
 and then we find ourselves among your people
 who are always seeking elsewhere and otherwise.
 So we give thanks that you are the God
 who yearns and waits for us,
 and that our connection to you is always from your side,
 and that it is because of your goodness
 that neither life nor death
 nor angels nor principalities
 nor heights nor depths
 nor anything in creation
 can separate us from you.
 We give you thanks for your faithfulness,
 so much more durable than ours. Amen.

Reminder: On Easter morning we will have two opportunities to gather together. For our early risers we will have a sunrise service at 6:45 a.m. and then we will have a service with handbells and the choir at 10:30 a.m. Whichever service you come to please bring flowers to place on the Cross! Much love and peace, Pastor Laurie

"Look to the Future" Fund reflects FCC history

Last fall, the FCC board voted to create a new fund to support the church's general budget. The monies for this new fund came from the \$1.6 million invested after the sale of the 2201 building to the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. A total of \$600,000 was moved from what is called the Wholeness Fund into a new fund called the "Look to the Future Fund."

At the January, 2018, meeting of the board, Trustee Skip Wolverton gave some background on the name of the new fund. He read from *The Story of the Portland Avenue Christian Church*, written in 1955 by Winworth Williams. In his book, Williams, with rhetorical flourish, told a story about how in 1944, an "elderly gentleman, with erectness of stature and keenness of spirit, arose from his accustomed pew in the front of the church and made the motion that we as a congregation raise \$11,000 for the purpose of a new building." This 87-year-old gentleman, Dr. George Haggard, concluded with the statement: "We Must Look to the Future."

Eleven years later, ground was broken for the new building at 2201 First Avenue. Williams concludes his saga about how members of the Portland Avenue Church raised the money for building a new church this way: "As we look to the future in 1955, let us not mark this year as the end of a building period but the beginning of a new adventure in wider opportunities of Christian Kingdom Building."

Skip Wolverton explained to the board that this spirit of looking for opportunities to do the work of the church in the world was appropriate for our decision to shore up our financial position with the "Look to the Future Fund" in order to keep our focus on our mission, and not just on worries about the bottom line.

Beethoven With Strings Attached: An Invitation from Yunyue Liu

I would like to invite you to my upcoming recital in the Baroque Room on March 30 (Friday, 7:30pm). This is actually the first time I ever played a formal public concert with my husband, Marco.

One of my best friends, Anna Sanders-Lee, will join me on her cello as well. We have been working together since 2011. Even though we don't live in the same city, we try our best to maintain the collaboration because we love what we do :)

<https://www.thebaroqueroom.com/calendar/2018/3/30/beethoven-with-strings-attached>

A selection of sonatas for piano and strings.

7:30 P.M. \$15 | \$5 Students

If Friday is not so good for you, we will be playing most of the movements on March 29 (Thursday, 7:00pm) in Kenwood Senior Building, 2nd fl, library area. Stop by and sit for a moment of Beethoven with us.

Yunyue Liu

Words from GMP Hord Owens

Rev. Teresa Hord Owens, General Minister and President of the Disciples, issued a statement on February 14 about the Florida school shooting that is posted on the Disciples News Service. Her statement includes these paragraphs:

"We are weary of these scenes, these horrifying, traumatic moments that have now some estimate have affected nearly 150,000 children in school settings since Columbine. Add to that the daily trauma that children in some neighborhoods endure daily as friends and loved ones are shot in front of their eyes; the sobering confession of children whose greatest fear is that they will not live to walk home from school.

"At the 2015 General Assembly in Columbus, OH, Disciples passed a [resolution](#) to speak to gun violence for the first time in nearly 25 years. Cultural understandings of the role of guns in society and how one interprets the 2nd amendment have generated vigorous and often vitriolic debate. . . . This resolution called on Disciples to model and teach 'grace-filled, love-based action and non-violent conflict resolution; to promote emergency response plans. Above all, the resolution calls for 'dialogue, cooperation, advocacy and action that moves toward a reduction of gun violence and promotes anti-racist, pro-reconciling education in our communities and nations...'"



April 2018 First Christian Church					Sunday Morning Schedule 9:00 Spiritual Formation Classes 10:30 Worship 11:45 Fellowship Time in Gathering Space	
1 EASTER SUNDAY 6:45 am Sunrise Communion Service 10:30 am Easter Worship Service	2	3 8 am Narrative Lectionary Bible Study	4 6:30 Handbells 7:45 Choir	5 4 pm Pastor Laurie's PRC	6	7 9 am Mobile Menders 9 am Men's Bible Study
8 South Sanctuary Noon – Children's Ministry Team Mtg	9 7 pm Carter Circle	10 8 am Narrative Lectionary Bible Study 6:30 Covenant Review Group	11 5:30 FCC Finance 6:30 Handbells 7:45 Choir	12 7 pm SH Finance Committee	13	14 9 am Men's Bible Study 9 am SH Huddle
15 South Sanctuary <i>Youth Sunday at FCC</i>	16 6 pm Yoga with Liz 6:45 SH Building Committee	17 8 am Narrative Lectionary Bible Study 6 pm Worship Team 7 pm FCC General Board	18 2 pm Mission and Outreach Comm. Meeting 6:30 Handbells 7:45 Choir	19	20	21 9 am Men's Bible Study
24 Earth Stewardship Sunday 9:15 Intergen'l Sunday School	23 6 pm Yoga with Liz 7 pm FCC Book Group	24 8 am Narrative Lectionary Bible Study	25 6:30 Handbells 7:45 Choir	26 9 am Ecumenical women's ministry	27	28 9 am Men's Bible Study
29 South Sanctuary Noon – SH Board Meeting	30 6 pm Yoga with Liz 6:30 Brews & Views					

	Elders	Worship Leader	Children's Moment	Diaconate	Bus Drivers
April 1	Kirsten Cackoski Tom Curry	Ardie Armstrong	Deb Murphy	A. Bliss M. Carlson	Mike Hesano 651-645-6758
April 8	Mike Hesano Lu Griffin	Serena Chial	Laurie Feille	J. Carlson, A. Creighton B. Flanagan S. Grady .	Mike Morgan 612.926-9834
April 15	YOUTH SUNDAY			Jen Krengel Jon Krengel	Garry Hesser 612.721.4905
April 22	Sandy Morgan Steve Rusinak	TBD	Dan Adolphson		Mike Hesano 651-645-6758
April 29	Val Dunham Ann Wolverton	Karen Bowman	Steve Rusinak		Mike Morgan 612.926-9834

Note: Please call drivers by Saturday for Sunday bus ride



In The Squiggle Space

Godly Play

The stories for April:
Art of the Covenant-April 1- Easter

Zacchaeus-April 8

The Prodigal Son-April 15

Earth Day Inter-generational Event-April 22

Wish List. Part of transitioning to the Godly Play curriculum is acquiring some materials. We are in search of:

- Shoe boxes—to put story props and scripts in
- Small rugs—for children to do their work on
- Bookshelves—no taller than 30"
- Wood worker—make wooden people and animal figures for the Godly Play stories.

Upcoming Events.

Earth Day. The Green Team and the Sunday School are sponsoring the April 22 Inter-generational Earth Day event. This will take place during the usual Sunday school and adult ed time—9:15-10:15. Some of the activities will be making seed bombs and planting seeds for the SpringHouse garden.

Children's Ministry Team. Next meeting will be Sunday, April 8.

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

SHMC Youth Calendar change

The movie outing to "Love, Simon" for Saturday, March 24 is being replaced with the following event: **Saturday, March 24: Youth Worship Prep and Game Night**, 2pm to 8 pm. We'll be going over and finishing up plans for the Youth-led worships in April. Please let Jon Bates know if you will not be able to attend.

Mission To Detroit

The SpringHouse annual mission trip will be to Detroit MI this summer. First Christian has a long history with an organization called Rippling Hope and this summer we are invited to join their kingdom work. Here are some of the details you need to know:

- All are welcome! Adults and youth are invited to join this adventure.
- We will leave Saturday, July 21 early in the morning and return Sunday July 28 in the early evening.
- While a majority of our time will be spent in Detroit being hosted by Rippling Hope, we will also spend a day in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and probably cross over into Canada.
- Cost of the entire trip will be \$300 per person (this includes all meals in Detroit and transportation) Money for meals on the Saturday and Sunday to and from, as well as for our "play day" is in addition to the cost of the trip. *Scholarships are available if cost is too prohibitive. Please contact Pastor Rhonda or Pastor Laurie for information.
- We will engage in home improvement projects connected with economic recovery efforts. There are projects for novices and experts-so no experience necessary-but any experience is welcome!

Sundays at First Christian Church

Worship at 10:30

Before Worship:

9:15 Children's Classes;
9:30 SH Joint Adult Class

After Worship

11:45 Fellowship Time

Scripture Reading for Sunday, February 25 The Crucified Messiah John 19: 16b-22



Crucifixion by Robert
Thurman

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

Reflections on the Word

John 19:19: Pilate also had an inscription written out and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." Pilate's mocking label for Jesus is the exact opposite of John's message in this crucifixion story. Pilate is belittling Jesus; John presents the cross as the means by which Jesus is "lifted up" to show the glory of God. John teaches that Jesus is God's gift of love who puts in place a new covenant open to all humankind by his very loss. . God of All Gifts, Help us not be afraid to look upon the cross and work out what it means to us. Amen.

Adapted from Sherri Brown,
Creighton University

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

Ministry Team

Dan Adolphson, Associate Pastor
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Jon Bates, SHMC Youth Director,
springhouseyouth@fccmpls.org

Rick Bowman, SHMC Building Manager

Adam Conrad, Music Director & Composer-in-Residence

Laurie Pound Feille, Senior Minister
pastor@fccmpls.org

Martha Harris, Courier Editor,
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Maria Thieling, SHMC Child Care

Mike Vasich - Pianist

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**Items for next Courier needed by Sunday,
April 8.**

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