

The COURIER

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis



SpringHouse alive with actions for Earth Day

The first Earth Day was in 1970, yet it is obvious we need to be working to care for the Earth more than ever 48 years later. The Green Team always looks forward to special activities on or around the April 22 date each year, even though they believe every day needs to be Earth Day. This year offers a special opportunity because of the new Poor People's Campaign, a revival of Martin Luther King Jr.'s last campaign before he died. The addition of climate justice as one of the pillars for direct nonviolent action in May and June was an important decision of the organizers, since climate justice is intimately connected to the other three pillars of economic justice, racial justice, and anti-militarism.



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UPCOMING Events:

Youth Sunday at
FCC, April 15

FCC Board Meeting,
Tuesday, April 17,
7 pm

Mission & Outreach
Committee,
Wednesday, April 18,
2 pm

Elders Meeting,
Sunday, April 22, 6:30
at SpringHouse

On Sunday, April 22, the **Adult Education session** will be led by Melia Derrick, who is going to talk about how climate justice relates to the Poor People's Campaign. Join us in the Gathering Space at 9:30 a.m. to learn, discuss, and be part of Earth Day 2018.

The **children** will also be part of Earth Day. Mary Vanderford will lead them starting at 9:15 in the Sunday School area as they make pollinator seed bombs along with planting seeds in pots that will later be transplanted into the SpringHouse garden.

Then everyone is invited to visit the **Green Team table** in the Gathering Space after the 10:30 services to learn about a great way to share fresh produce with those in need and pick up some free seeds so you can grow extra food in your garden to donate to food shelves and others who do not have access to fresh healthy vegetables. The Green Team table will be available on both April 22 and April 29.

You are also invited to join with the Green Team in the coming year. Even if you can't make it to our meetings, Green Team members would welcome hearing about your concerns and having you work with us on Green Team projects. Please call Elly Wagner at 952-922-7703 or Melia Derrick at 763-503-4984 to discuss your ideas. Together we can make a difference!

By Elly Wagner, Lyndale UCC

Disciples active in DC March

Pastor Laurie Feille joined hundreds of others in the "A.C.T to End Racism" March in Washington D.C. on April 4. The march was organized by the National Council of Churches. See <https://tinyurl.com/ydyrlpa2> for an extensive article about the march.



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

*For Pastor Dan Adolphson,
whose friend Sam Carlisle
passed away. Dan presided
over his service on April 7.*

Prayers of Concern

*For Kirsten Cackoski who is
struggling with back pain
For those concerned over the
health of friends and family,
including Elaine Tucker,
Wendy Manuel, and Lu
Griffin*

*For members Kirsten Van
Heyningen and Christie
Isham, whose CPA program
was recently shut down*

*For all our homebound
members, including Evelyn
Lawson and Kathy Merkel*

Prayers for the World

*For the people of Syria,
especially those recently
attacked by poison gas
For the families and
communities mourning the
deaths of 15 young hockey
players in Canada*

**Voices and Views**

Jon Bates

***Your Hope***

Sunday, October 22nd was my first “official” day in the role as the Youth Minister at SpringHouse Ministry Center. (Side note: I’m always going to be humbled by this new title of mine). Since that day, I have seen glimpses of God through meeting the people of SpringHouse through the different churches, the different held traditions, and through accompanying the youth in their faith journeys thus far. Every day, I get to learn more about what makes SpringHouse, SpringHouse by the joys, history, and occasional pains of this community. I just wish I could learn how to duplicate myself so I could worship with each church, every single Sunday, remembering everybody’s names, and singing side by side. But, I can assure you, one of me is enough.

Now, friend, I’d like to ask you. What are your hopes for the youth at SpringHouse? What do you hope for them to encounter? What do you hope for them to learn? Where do you hope for them to be? How do you want the youth to encounter these lessons?

Do you hope for the youth to encounter God in the midst of the sacred?

Do you hope for the youth to acknowledge that they’re doing youth ministry wherever they are?

Do you hope that God continues to empower them, through every step that they take?

Do you hope that they continue to live into their identities as they walk with Christ?

Do you hope that they are surrounded in a loving community that honors their doubts, questions, joys in life, and pings of pain?

Do you hope that the youth learn more about you?

Do you hope that they remember how loved they are, by you?

Do you hope that they notice Jesus, through you?

Then, do you ache to experience these hopes as well? I know I do.

As the shared youth minister at SpringHouse, I have to occasionally remind myself that I’m not the professional here. It’s the youth and it’s you. You are the folks who walk the talk of SpringHouse. You are the folks that carry the wisdom that needs to be heard. You are the community that I see thriving through theater, costuming, music, advocacy, engineering, art, baking, love, and most importantly, hope. I see hope here and I thank you for sharing this with me.

I hope that you feel called to accompany the youth of this faith community in their journeys. I hope you feel called to empower them through acknowledging the joy that is within them. And within you. Cause I’m certain, they’re going to share glimpses of hope to you. They’re also going to see glimpses of hope within you. And this hope that’s in SpringHouse is holy, sacred, and beautiful. Let’s continue sharing this hope, together.

SpringHouse Library invites donations

The SpringHouse Library Committee met to discuss ways to collect and offer materials that support the current and future adult education studies. The current studies explore Racial Justice, Economic Justice, Environmental Justice and Militarism-Peace issues.

The committee has purchased two books: *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City* by Matthew Desmond and *Strangers in Their Own Land* by Arlie Russell Hochschild. We would like to increase the number of materials available on these topics. Therefore, we are inviting you to donate materials or money to purchase them.

The SpringHouse Library donation policy is below. Should you wish to make a donation, you can place your donation in the donation box adjacent to the library. If you have questions, call or email either Barb Rusinak (651-770-6258 rusinak@comcast.net) or Barb Livdahl (763-522-2062 blivdahl@gmail.com).

SpringHouse Library Donation Policy

SpringHouse Library will gratefully accept book and non-book materials that:

- help fulfill the mission of the individual churches and/ or SpringHouse
- are in good condition
- accurately teach about faith and belief in a balanced way
- expand the offerings in various categories of materials

Donations of new or used materials are accepted with the understanding that the library staff (committee) may use discretion in the placement of the materials. Items that cannot be used will be returned to the donor if she or he wishes or disposed of in an appropriate manner. Unless the material is a classic, it should be published no longer than 10 years ago.

Joint Adult Ed study continues

Dozens of members of the three SpringHouse churches are continuing to learn about the new **Poor People's Campaign** during the Sunday School hour, 9:30 in the Gathering Space. Here are the topics to be covered leading up to state wide political actions at the MN State Capitol from May 14 through June 21:

April 15 – Issues of Policing	led by Pastors
April 22 – Environmental Justice	led by guest Melia Derrick
*April 29 – Incarceration & Voting Rights	led by Pastor Laurie
*May 6 -- Sexual Violence	led by guest Peter Murray
May 13 – Call to Action	led by Pastors

* note: these dates/subjects still being finalized

FCC Board Notes

Eight people attended the meeting of First Christian Church's general board on Tuesday, March 20. Highlights of the meeting include the following:

- Belinda Flanagan presented information about caring for the new handbells. The board approved a motion to purchase two bell cases at a cost of \$1292.
- Pastor Laurie presented her sabbatical proposal which includes an application for a Lily grant of \$50k with \$15k going to the church. A motion of support and encouragements of the proposal was approved.
- Tom Curry is the new chair of the Elders, and they had their first meeting. Next meeting is April 22, 6:30 at the church.
- Skip gave a summary of the current budget noting that the finance committee did not meet last month. February income was slightly over \$19k, including \$1300 from the new Givelify donation option. Spending for February was inline with the budget.
- Pastor Laurie noted that the oral defense for her doctorate is April 10. She traveled to Washington D.C. April 3-5 to participate in the "Unite to End Racism March."

**Sundays at First Christian Church
Worship at 10:30
Sunday, April 15, 2018 is Youth Sunday!**

Before Worship

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

After Worship

Fellowship Time 11:45

**Narrative Lectionary
For Sunday, April 15
Paul's Conversion
Acts 9: 1-19a**



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

Reflections on the Word

Acts 9: 4: He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

In Acts 9 we hear that Saul is "still breathing threats and murder against the disciples." On his way to Damascus, Saul is literally struck down in a blinding encounter with Something Greater. By persecuting the disciples, Saul is persecuting God. The question that is posed to Saul is one for us, too. The way we treat others is the way we are treating God.

God who calls us, Transform us as you transformed Paul. Shape us into children who rejoice in knowing and proclaiming you to the world. Amen.

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

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