

# The Courier

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis



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## UPCOMING Events

SpringHouse Board Meeting,  
April 29  
following worship

Carter Circle,  
Monday, May 7, 6:30  
at SpringHouse

Youth Sunday,  
Sunday, May 13

## Pastors Laurie and Dan serve church in new way

As we all know, Pastor Laurie Feille and Pastor Dan Adolphson wear many hats. In addition to all the preaching, pastoral and administrative work they do here at First Christian Church and in the Twin Cities, they both contribute to the life of the church at the regional and national level.

Recently, they had a unique opportunity to serve the denomination in a new way, as bus drivers for the meeting of the General Board of the Disciples of Christ at the Camp Conference Center in Newton Iowa.

Pastor Laurie explained how the General Board landed in Iowa: "Our Regional Minister, Rev. Bill Spangler-Dunning, suggested the Christian Conference Center as a model on cutting the costs associated with the General Board Meetings. The General Board meets once a year and the meetings happen in a hotel in Indianapolis which costs a lot. It was cheaper to fly everyone to Iowa and meet at the Conference Center than meeting in a hotel in Indianapolis."

The General Board is no small group: close to 100 people gathered for this board meeting in Newton over the weekend of April 14-17. Asked if they participated in the meetings, Laurie explained, "Dan and I are not on the General Board. General Board meetings operate with an Open Meeting Policy which means anyone can sit in and listen. Dan and I listened in on several of the meetings. Running the transportation was exhausting so we did not sit in on every meeting. Some mornings we had to start running between the hotels and the Conference Center by 6:30 a.m. Most nights we were not through until 9:30 p.m. We provided transportation Friday morning through noon on Tuesday.

General Board members serve four-year terms, and include laypeople and ministers representing many layers of the Disciple organization: the General Assembly, the various regions, the General Ministries (such as Disciples Home Mission, National Benevolent Association, etc), the governing bodies of the National Bi-Lingual Hispanic Fellowship, North American Pacific Asian Disciples, and the National Convocation, and numerous *ex officio* members, both voting and non-voting, such as present and former General Ministers, and ecumenical members from other North American Communion.

The Norwalk Christian Church of Norwalk, Iowa, also provided a bus that ran in the mornings and evenings. To find out more about the structure of the Disciples of Christ, see <http://disciples.org/our-identity/our-structure/the-general-assembly-and-general-board/>



General Board members on the FCC bus



## *In Our Prayers*

### *Prayers of Joy*

*For Leah Siltberg (former music director) and Eric Froelich on the April 18 birth of new daughter Francis Harriet*

*For Pastor Laurie who passed her oral examination for her doctorate with flying colors and "no revisions!"*

### *Prayers of Concern*

*For Pat Carter who suffered a severe stroke and is now in hospice care*

*For Mike Cackoski's mother Barbara who is in the hospital*

*For all our homebound members, especially Phyllis and John Takekawa*

### *Prayers for the World*

*For the people of Nicaragua, where protests over pensions are resulting in violence and civil unrest*



## A message from Pastor Laurie Pound Feille



## *Thank You for three years of support on degree*

Thank You! I know no others words of gratitude to say to each of you than "Thank You!" You allowed me to spend over three years studying, going to class and working on my Doctor of Ministry in Biblical Preaching degree. You listened to my sermons. You allowed me days to work on papers. You respected Mondays as my writing days when it came time to write my thesis. You offered your prayers and encouragement. You are woven into the very fabric of this degree and I am so grateful and excited to share in this with First Christian Church!

Throughout the years of the DMin program I had a group of people who met with me called a Preaching Response Group (PRG). Every Fall I preached two sermons as requirements for the classes I took in June. My PRG met with me one week before I preached to discuss and offer their insights into the scripture. They would then meet with me on Monday night after being in worship and hearing the sermon. Their role was to critique my sermons based on different factors each year. Each Fall I had to turn in their feedback as part of my assignments for the classes. I am beyond grateful for my PRG as their insight into the scriptures and their critique of my sermons were gifts! They spent a tremendous amount of time walking through the DMin program with me. Thank you to: Martha Harris, Max Hurlocker, Kirsten Cackoski, Shannon Grady and Steve Rusinak. I am blessed that you walked with me through the DMin program!

Now that all of the work is done the next step is graduation. I want to personally invite you to attend graduation on Sunday, May 20, at 3:00 p.m. at Mount Olivet Lutheran Church. There is plenty of parking and plenty of seating space so please come and let's celebrate together if you are able. If you are not able to attend then I ask that you hold in prayer all who will graduate from Luther Seminary on that day.

Thank you again for allowing me to complete the DMin program and to be your pastor. I love y'all so very much. Peace, Pastor Laurie

## Organizing for Action to welcome immigrants

Whether you choose to take action by writing letters, making phone calls, attending vigils or marching in the streets, WE NEED YOU.

The SpringHouse Sanctuary Task Force is organizing a list of folks who want to be informed when an action is needed. As immigrant communities are being threatened by ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) agents and undocumented individuals are being detained and deported at record levels, we are called to respond.

You are invited to put your name and email address on the sign-up sheets in the back of the sanctuary. By doing so, you will be part of the SpringHouse Immigrant Welcoming Action Team. You will receive occasional emails. Again, you will choose the level of action you feel comfortable with.

We hope and trust that this will be a meaningful part of our collective work for immigrant justice in Minnesota

## Great chance to get that bike up and running



Lyndale United Church of Christ is offering all bike riders a chance to learn some bike basics in order to get their bikes ready for spring and summer.

The church is sponsoring **BIKE REPAIR 101** on Saturday, April 28 from 3 to 6 pm at SpringHouse.

Participants will receive instruction on basic maintenance, tune-ups, troubleshooting/assessing more major repairs and also bike fitting. An experienced bike mechanic will be on hand to cover some basics with the group and then provide assistance to each cyclist at their bike, as needed. We will have basic cleaning and lubrication supplies as well as an ad hoc collection of spare parts.

**BECAUSE:** Now, more than ever, we need communities that sustain our souls and our resistance to that which threatens ALL of our humanity and creation. Your support for Lyndale UCC today helps us build a community and wider world rooted in holy justice and love.

**SLIDING SCALE:** \$30-\$60. We want to make this event both accessible, and an investment in Lyndale UCC. Please give what you can.

Register Here: <https://lyndaleucc.breezechms.com/form/9e84fe38930>

## FCC Board Notes

Fourteen people attended the April 17 meeting of FCC's General Board. Highlights of the meeting include the following:

- Belinda Flanagan reported that a company has been contracted to make repairs to the newly-acquired handbell set. The cost of the repairs will come from Memorial Funds.
- Four people attended worship on The Great Snow Sunday, including Adam Conrad who led the music, elder Wendy Manuel, deacon Anna Bliss, and a stop-by visitor who happened to be a Baptist minister; he gave a short homily.
- Mission at our Doorstep will be July 16-19. The Detroit Mission Trip leaves July 21 and returns July 29; currently 14 people are committed to the trip.
- The Joint Worship / End of Sunday School service will be Sunday, May 20, which is also Pentecost Sunday. The Sanctuary Move will be Monday, May 21.
- Treasurer Pat Dunlop reported that \$1357 was received for the Easter/March foodshelf drive, and was distributed to Groveland Foodshelf. She also reported that March actual income was \$15,935, and that currently income and expenses are in line with budget projections for the year.



<b>May 2018</b> <b>First Christian Church</b>				<b>Sunday Morning Schedule</b> 9:00 Spiritual Formation Classes 10:30 Worship 11:45 Fellowship Time in Gathering Space		
		<b>1</b> 8 am Narrative Lectionary Bible Study	<b>2</b> 4:30 SH Sanctuary Task Force 6 30 Handbells 7:45 Choir	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 9 am Men's Bible Study 1:30 am Feed My Starving Children @ Coon Rapids 3 pm First Saturday
<b>6</b> <b>South Sanctuary</b> 12 N Child Ministry Team Mtg	<b>7</b> 7 pm Carter Circle @ SpringHouse	<b>8</b> 8 am Narrative Lectionary Bible Study	<b>9</b> 5:30 FCC Finance 6:30 Covenant Review Group 6 30 Handbells 7:45 Choir	<b>10</b> 7 pm Pastor Laurie PRC 7 pm SH Finance Committee	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 9 am Men's Bible Study 9 am SH Huddle
<b>13</b> <b>South Sanctuary</b> <b>Mother's Day</b> Youth Sunday at FCC	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 8 am Narrative Lectionary Bible Study 6 pm Worship Team 7 pm FCC General Board	<b>16</b> 2 pm Mission and Outreach Comm. Meeting	<b>17</b> FCC PRC - Dan	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 9 am Men's Bible Study 7 pm Youth Lock- in
<b>20 Pentecost</b> <b>10:30 Joint</b> <b>Worship</b> <b>in South</b> <b>Sanctuary</b> <b>followed by</b> <b>Lunch</b>	<b>21</b> <b>10 am</b> <b>Sanctuary</b> <b>Switch</b> 6:45 SH Building Committee	<b>22</b> 8 am Narrative Lectionary Bible Study	<b>23</b>  Upper Midwest Young Adult Mission Camp	<b>24</b> 9	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 9 am Men's Bible Study
<b>27</b> <b>North Sanctuary</b>	<b>28</b> <b>Memorial Day</b>	<b>29</b> 8 am Narrative Lectionary Bible Study	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 9 am Ecumenical Women's Fellowship		

	Elders	Worship Leader	Children's Moment	Diaconate	Bus Drivers
May 6	Wendy Manuel Martha Harris	Ron Keith	Laurie Feille	A. Bliss A. Hesano K. Hintz S. Lauer E. Tucker B. Whitaker B. Hall	Garry Hesser 612.721.4905
May 13	YOUTH SUNDAY				Mike Hesano 651-645-6758
May 20	JOINT WORSHIP				Mike Morgan 612.926-9834
May 27	Pat Dunlop Arlene Hillestad	Elizabeth Larson	Steve Rusinak		Garry Hesser 612.721.4905

**Note:** Please call drivers by Saturday for Sunday bus ride



## In The Squiggle Space

### Godly Play. Stories for Spring:

Paul's Discovery-April 29

Pentecost-May 6

Children Create a Godly Play Story-May 13

Prepare for Worship Service-May 20

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

- Small rugs—for children to do their work on
- Bookshelves—no taller than 30"
- Wood worker—make wooden figures and boxes for the Godly Play stories. We do have a volunteer to make figures—we will welcome more volunteers

### Upcoming Events. Springhouse Combined Worship Service May 20.

We will celebrate the end of the Sunday school year with a combined worship in the South sanctuary. The children and youth will take active roles during worship. (A lunch will be served.)

**Potluck Picnic and Camping.** The annual potluck picnic and camping will again be at Carver Park on July 18 and 19. All are welcome to Carver Park on Saturday to visit, play at the beach, bike ride, walk during the day. The potluck dinner starts at 6 pm. Campfire, marshmallows, singing, and stories to follow. Those wanting to camp overnight are welcome to stay and worship on Sunday morning. For questions, contact April Conlee at [april.conlee@gmail.com](mailto:april.conlee@gmail.com) or 612-385-0065.

**Children's Ministry Team.** We meet the first Sunday of the month at noon. Next meeting will be Sunday, May 6 at noon.

**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](mailto:april.conlee@gmail.com)

Nancy Curry [ncurry9107@comcast.net](mailto:ncurry9107@comcast.net)

## Book Review

The SpringHouse library committee is seeking to add books to the SpringHouse library that help fulfill the missions of our churches. One of the newest books in the collection is *Strangers in Their Own Land* by Arlie Russell Hochschild.

Roger Livdahl of Salem wrote a review of this book. We don't have room for his whole review here, but here are some highlights:

"Hochschild, a sociologist from Berkeley, CA, decided that she wanted to get to know the people of the South, what they really believe, and perhaps, why they vote the way they do. She developed a respectful listening relationship with several individuals and families through Louisiana.

"Robert B. Reich, chancellor's professor of public policy, U of California, Berkeley says: 'With compassion and empathy, Hochschild discovers the narrative that gives meaning and expression to these peoples' lives and which explains their political convictions along with much else. Anyone who wants to understand modern America should read this captivating book'.

"The author completes her book with 27 reading group guide questions."

## Sundays at First Christian Church

Worship at 10:30

### Before Worship:

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

### After Worship

11:45 Fellowship

**Scripture Reading for  
Sunday, April 29  
Paul's Sermon at Athens  
Acts 17: 16-31**



Altar for an Unknown God

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

## Reflections on the Word

*Acts 17:23b - I found among them an altar with the inscription, "To an unknown god." What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. Paul reminded his audience of how religious they were and how he had noticed a statue with the inscription, agnosto theo, "to the unknown God" This opened the way for Paul to declare the true God. Wisely he did not denounce Athenian idolatry which would only have closed the minds of his hearers to his message. Paul was no iconoclast. He felt commendation was always better than condemnation. Provide the powerful antidote of the gospel, and in time and in its own way it would cleanse and reform society. God of the Unknown, Help us learn to sit comfortably with that which we can never understand. Amen.*

Stuart Merriam, quoted on "A Trivial Devotion" blog

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

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

### Ministry Team

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**Items for next Courier needed by Sunday,  
May 6.**