

The COURIER

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis



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UPCOMING

Events:

*Youth Sunday at FCC,
May 13*

*FCC Board Meeting,
Tuesday, May 15,
7 pm*

*SH Joint Worship to
celebrate Sunday
School year,
Sunday, May 20*

SpringHouse Library has new look, new books

Does this beautiful new furniture in the SpringHouse library look familiar? It may to anyone who remembers the FCC sanctuary at 2201 1st Avenue. The olive green chairs and couches used to sit on the chancel there and have recently been reupholstered.



The library committee has issued an invitation to everyone to stop by the Library to see the beautiful "new" furniture and also new adult books

- *Strangers in Their Own Land* by Arlie Hochschild;
- *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City* by Matthew Desmond
- *Carnal Knowledge of God: Embodied Love and the Movement for Justice* by Rebecca M. M. Voelkel; and
- *My Grandmother's Hand: Racialized Trauma and the Pathway of Mending our Hearts and Bodies* by Resmaa Menakem

The library committee suggests you also have a look at a newly organized bookshelf for materials related to the Poor People's Campaign.

The library has a very tiny budget of \$100 a year, which does not go very far. Here are some items that the library committee would love to acquire:

- A library book cart -- \$200 is needed to get one
- The book *Conflict is Not Abuse: Overstating Harm, Community Responsibility, and the Duty of Repair* by Sarah Schulmann (or \$15 to purchase it)
- Other current books about justice issues
- A spinner rack for adult fiction.

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

*For the family and friends of
Pat Carter who passed away
April 27*

*For Ben Tucker and his family
upon the death of his uncle*

Prayers of Joy

*For Melinda Nickerson who
graduated cum laude from
Augsburg University*

*For Caroline Povolny who is
graduating with a Doctor of
Musical Arts from the
University of Minnesota*

*For Wendy Manuel who
passed her Ordination
Interview*

Prayers of Concern

*For those concerned over the
health of friends and family,
including Ali Hesano,
Valerie and Earl Dunham
and Bonnie Ford*

*For all our homebound
members, including Mary
Lou Cain and Phyllis
Dunlap*

**Voices and Views****Dan Adolphson*****Transgendered people
created in God's image***

It may be May, but my thoughts are already turning ahead to June, which is Pride Month and the annual Twin Cities Pride Festival in Loring Park. FCC has a long history of being part of the festival through a booth, and for a couple of years we were in the parade. As I think about my to-do list, the message that we want to convey is that First Christian Church is a safe, welcoming space for everyone who identifies as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer.

My transgender brothers and sisters weigh heavily on my heart these days. In 2017, advocates [tracked](#) at least 28 deaths of transgender people in the United States due to fatal violence, the most ever recorded. These victims were killed by acquaintances, partners and strangers, some of whom have been arrested and charged, while others have yet to be identified. Some of these cases involve clear anti-transgender bias. In others, the victim's transgender status may have put them at risk in other ways, such as forcing them into homelessness.

While the details of these cases differ, it is clear that fatal violence disproportionately affects transgender women of color, and that the intersections of racism, sexism, homophobia and transphobia conspire to deprive them of employment, housing, healthcare and other necessities, barriers that make them vulnerable. Sadly, 2018 has already seen at least eight transgender people fatally shot or killed by other violent means. (source: <https://www.hrc.org/resources/violence-against-the-transgender-community-in-2018>).

There continues to be this inane desire by some in power, both within government and some faith communities, to strip the *imago dei* (the biblical concept that ALL PEOPLE are created in the image of God) from our transgender brothers and sisters. We are called to stand with and stand for them...and, we are called to do that from a biblical grounding. So, how do we do that?

Glad you asked! I want to recommend a new book that just came out this spring. "transforming: The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians" is a compelling book written by Austen Hartke that explores trans identity through the lens of Scripture, through interviews with several transgender Christians, and through the lens of Austen's own life story. For, you see, Austen Hartke was our second SpringHouse Youth Minister, when Austen was Alison Hartke. Disciples pastor Brandon Robertson, lead pastor of the Missiongathering congregations in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), calls Austen's book "one of the most important theological books to have been written in recent memory."

We are called to act with justice...let us do so! Happy Reading!

John Carter's farewell to his Big Sister

Note: John Carter shared this Farewell on Facebook on April 28:



"Farewell to my Big Sister, Pat Carter! 1927-2018–91 years old! We had a long conversation, more than an hour via Skype. I read to her parts of The Book I am preparing about our childhood. We cracked up with laughter and couldn't talk anymore! She was grimacing with tears in her eyes, laughing away. Finally she said, "Oh, I better go and wash my face. I have an appointment with the director and then we have a Birthday Banquet this evening. Love you, See you later!" That was our last "good-by". A few hours later she suffered a massive stroke! She died peacefully, yesterday with our sister Joan at her side. See you later! Au revoir! Hasta la vista! Fare thee well! Thanks to the Lord for a beautiful life!"

Cards may be sent to Pat's sister, Joan McLean, at 10290 Brook Rd, #309, Glen Allen, VA 23059. Details about services for Pat will be made available at a later date.

Theater Coup D'Etat presenting play at SH

Theater Coup D'Etat is currently performing the play *Marisol* at Springhouse. *Marisol* by Juan Rivera opened on May 3 and continues until May 19 on Thursdays through Mondays at 7:30.

Winner of the 1993 Obie Award, *Marisol* is an apocalyptic urban fantasy which urges society to "wake up" and somehow find a way to recover the long-lost and much-needed compassion for our fellow man, as this is the only way to save our world. Admission to the theater is on a sliding scale, \$18-\$40. Tickets available at www.theatrecoupdetat.com or call 1-800-838-3006.

MN Council of Churches News

Taking Heart registration

When Islamophobia is on the rise and the Muslim Ban is being debated in the Supreme Court, the weeks before Ramadan (which starts May 15) are a good time to build empathy for our Muslim neighbors. One way to do this is by attending one of the 16 Ramadan Iftar (dinner) held throughout Minnesota. Register for a Taking Heart Ramadan dinner at

<http://mnchurches.org/respectfulcommunities/interfaithprogramming/takingheart/registration.html>

Sacred Sites Tour

Jim Bear Jacobs (Mohican) and Bob Klanderud (Dakota) lead tours that offer an opportunity to learn about Minnesota history from a Native perspective through storytelling and experiencing the sites in silence, meditation and reflection. Over the past two years, more than 500 participants have taken the tour.

The sites are located around the confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers, what the Dakota refer to as Bdote or "meeting place of waters."

The next tour is May 19 from 10 am to 2 pm. Meet at Church of St. Peter, 1405 Sibley Memorial Highway, St. Paul, and proceed to sites by auto caravan. Register at infor@spinterfaith.org.

***Sundays at First Christian Church
Worship at 10:30***

Before Worship

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

After Worship

Fellowship Time 11:45

**Narrative Lectionary
For Sunday, May 13
The Christ Hymn
Philippians 2: 1-13**



Reflections on the Word

Phillippians 2: 13: "For it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure."

"To work for God's good pleasure" is such a lovely phrase –it suggests the joy, release from struggle, and freedom to love. When God is at work in us, we are drawn in to relationship not just with God but with all living things.

God of love, We thank you for your incarnation in Jesus, fully human and fully divine. Help us learn to let you into our hearts. Amen.

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

*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

Laurie Feille, Senior Pastor,

pastor@fccmpls.org

Martha Harris, Courier Editor,

harrismartha@mac.com

Deb Murphy, Office Manager & Director of
Spiritual Formation of Children and Youth,

deb.murphy@fccmpls.org

& SHMC Building Coordinator,

events_SHMC@fccmpls.org

Maria Thieling, SHMC Child Care

Mike Vasich - Pianist

FCC Office Telephone: 612.870.1868

www.fccminneapolis.org

E-Mail: office@fccminneapolis.org

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Send items and ideas to church office or to

Martha Harris harrismartha@mac.com

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