

The Courier

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis



What's *INSIDE*:

Message from
Pastor Laurie Feille,
page 2

Poor People's Campaign
underway, page 3

FCC Board Notes,
page 3

June calendar,
page 4

Children's Ministry news,
page 5

UPCOMING Events

FCC Book Club,
Wednesday, May 30,
7 pm at Hillestad's

Children's Art of Covenant
Sunday School begins,
June 3 at 9:30 am

Carter Circle Brunch,
Saturday, June 10,
10 am

Pastor Laurie and Deb Murphy leading camps

Camp season is upon us and FCC staff are deeply involved in leading both new and established camps.

Pastor Laurie Feille is one of the directors of the new **Standing Rock Camp** for high school age youth from across the country. She will be joined by Regional Minister Bill Spangler-Dunning and David Bell, Minister for Indigenous Peoples Concerns at Yakama Christian Mission, as camp co-directors. They will journey with youth to Standing Rock, North Dakota, where participants will have the opportunity to hear the stories and learn the history of the Standing Rock Tribe. The slogan for the camp is "Where Learning Another Story Can Change the World." The literature for the camp says "We will have experiences -- Powwow to Land Prayer -- that help us learn, grow and build relationships in the midst of the beautiful diversity God has created."

Standing Rock Camp will start June 8 at FCC, where the campers and leaders will have an overnight at SpringHouse to prepare for their journey. The campers will be "roughing it" at a primitive campsite, not one with comfortable cabins. Standing Rock Camp runs from June 9 – 16.

Deb Murphy, FCC's office administrator and Director of Spiritual Formation for Children, will again direct **A.D.A.M Camp** at the Disciples conference center in Newton, IA. This year former FCC pastor Mark McWhorter will join her as the camp co-director.

According to the regional camp website, "The youth who attend A.D.A.M. Camp (Art Drama and Music) enjoy a week of practicing different art forms. Campers learn how they can share their love for God through their art. Each night campers will be able to show off their creations during their "gig". On the last day of camp, a final performance and art show is planned and parents and other loved ones are encouraged to attend." ADAM camp is July 15-20, and is divided into high school and middle school sections.

Deb is also helping plan the annual **Day Camp** for local Minneapolis churches. This year's theme is "Love your neighbor, bring more love into the world," and will be June 18-22 at Bethel Lutheran Church. The campers will work with Heart of the Beast theater people and will also work on creating a mosaic.

However, Deb will be gone during the week of day camp because she has been invited to the **Holden Village** in Washington state to do costume work for an arts-in-worship class that is being taught during the last two weeks of June. This will be a camp-like experience for Deb, because Holden Village is located in the remote wilderness of the Cascade Mountains, and is devoted to contemplation and community.



In Our Prayers

Holy One, we lift up the community of Santa Fe, Texas and those affected by the shooting at Santa Fe High School. We pray for the families who have lost loved ones, for those who are injured and in the hospital, and for our nation as we again mourn the loss of life in a place of learning.

Holy One, as we ache, cry, and feel our anguish rise within us, we also pray for our nation, that our leaders will move from inaction to action, that their hearts will be moved to address the issue of gun violence in our nation.



A message from Pastor Laurie Pound Feille



Life returns to normal for Rev. Dr. Feille

Another newsletter article and I find myself needing and wanting to say “Thank You” again. I am still overwhelmed by the beautiful wall hanging, flowers and cards that you gave me in celebration of receiving my Doctor of Ministry degree. Thank you for celebrating with me!

I also offer thanksgiving for those of you who were able to attend my graduation on Sunday. I did not get teary eyed until we processed in and I realized that my Dad, my brother, my husband and (although I did not know how many at that moment) several members of the congregation were gathered for the ceremony. There is something about gathering as community and celebrating together that is powerful. It is important that you realize that I could not have achieved this degree without your support, your prayers, your encouragement and the many hours you allowed me to study and write. So I believe I should call you the Rev. Dr. First Christian Church, Minneapolis! You earned this degree just as much as I did.

What does it mean that I now have my doctorate? Well, it means that ministry goes on as usual. I won’t have to spend three weeks in class this summer so I am more available to do the ministry that may have slip through the cracks during the past 3+ years. I am energized and excited to be able to plan for Mission At Our Doorstep along with the members of Mission and Outreach Team and not wonder how in the world I will get everything done. I am looking forward to our Servant Trip to Detroit and look forward to not being exhausted as we leave to serve our neighbors. I will be gone for one week in June as our Regional Minister, Rev. Bill Spangler-Dunning, David Bell, Minister for Indigenous Peoples Concerns at Yakama Christian Mission, and I lead a group of high school youth at a camp at Standing Rock. I have the time to participate in camps again and that is a gift! I will also have more time to dream and vision with our staff for worship ideas, activities, and ministries at our staff retreat at the end of the month.

In other words----life returns to “normal” and I couldn’t be more excited about that! I love serving First Christian and I love each one of you! Thank you for allowing me to serve alongside you! Here is to “normal!” Much peace and love, Pastor Laurie

40 days of Poor People's Campaign underway



The Poor People's Campaign launched on Monday, May 14, with a rally at the State Capitol, as well as rallies in at least 30 other states. This national campaign is "40 days of moral action to prick the conscience of our nation's leaders to address systemic racism, poverty, ecological devastation, and the war economy."

Laurie Feille, Wendy Manuel and Dan Adolphson at the May 21 PPC rally for immigration justice

Rallies will be held every Monday, usually at 5 pm, through June 18, each focusing on a different theme. In addition to rallies, some activists will engage in civil disobedience to call attention to the struggle. Pastors Laurie and Dan as well as soon-to-be-ordained Wendy Manuel participated in the first two rallies. About a dozen members of Lyndale also participated in the rallies, and two members of Lyndale were arrested at an action in the Capitol on May 14.

Disciple pastors have been central in leadership for the Poor People's Campaign, with Dr. William Barber, a Disciples pastor from North Carolina, leading the national movement. General Minister and President Terri Hord Owens was arrested in Washington, D.C. on the first day of the campaign. Her statement about the campaign as well as a video can be seen at <http://disciples.org/from-the-gmp/gmps-remarks-at-40-days-of-advocacy-kickoff-may-14/>. Also, the Facebook page Disciples Public Presence has updates about Disciple participation around the country.

Degree in hand!

Luther Seminary held its commencement ceremony at Mt. Olivet Church in south Minneapolis on Sunday, May 20. Looking over Pastor Laurie's shoulder is her brother Dr. John Pound, her husband Bryan, her father Dr. Gomez Pound, Pastor Dan Adolphson and his husband Keith Seifert as well as several members of FCC's congregation. Congratulations, Laurie!



FCC Board Notes

Ten people attended the May 15 meeting of FCC's General Board. Highlights of the meeting include the following:

- Pastor Laurie reported that she and Dan Adolphson and Wendy Manuel represented FCC at the opening rally at the State Capitol on May 14 for the Poor People's Campaign. (See story on this page for more details.)
- Kirsten Cackoski brought forward a request for \$5,000 from the Wholeness Fund for the Emergency Assistance Fund of the Downtown Congregations to End Homelessness. This fund helps people stay in their homes. The motion to grant the request passed unanimously.
- Kirby Gould of the Christian Church Foundation is working with FCC to set up a fall seminar on Planned Giving.
- Martha Harris announced that a workshop on expanding the volunteer base will be held Sunday, June 24.
- Trustee Skip Wolverton went over the Financial Report. General offerings for April were \$23,853. Other income included \$20,000 interest from the new Look to the Future Fund. He also reported that the Givelify app is turning out to be very beneficial.



In The Squiggle Space

Godly Play. We will resume the Godly Play curriculum in the fall. During the summer, Deb Murphy will do Art of the Covenant with the children as she has done in previous years, beginning at 9:30. We look forward to seeing the children again in the fall.

Many thanks to the volunteers during the year for helping out with Godly Play. We appreciate their flexibility and bravery in transitioning from the rotational model of past years to a Montessori influenced curriculum that is Godly Play. These wonderful people are: Anna Bliss, Michael Vanderford, Kathy Hayden, Elaine Tucker, Rae Buzzell, Becki Whitaker, Emma Jorstad and Kiera Stegall. Mary Vanderford and Chris Nordeen helped with the Earth Day event - and, to Pastor Rhonda for leading the songs.

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. 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 or 612-385-0065.

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
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Luke, playing with Oobleck, a cornstarch mix that changes in texture – a transformation like Paul's from persecutor to evangelist.

Cell Phone Recycling

During May and June, please bring your old cell phones for Secure the Call, a non-profit that takes donated phones, wipes them of data and contacts, and converts them to 911 emergency-only phones for people in need. Typical recipients receive phones at domestic violence shelters, senior citizen groups, or police departments. Our collection barrel will be located across from the main SpringHouse doors on the bench by the elevator. Please consider donating your unwanted cell phones and/or chargers. You will be helping folks in the community and being earth-friendly as well! Donations are tax-deductible. Pick up a form at the barrel, or go to http://securethecall.org/securethecall/images/stc_acknowledgment.pdf for a form. Thanks for your participation!



This cellphone collection barrel is in the SpringHouse entryway by the elevator.

Sundays at First Christian Church

Worship at 10:30

Before Worship:

Spiritual Formation Classes:

9:30 Art of the Covenant starting June 3

After Worship

11:45 Fellowship Time

**Scripture Reading for
Sunday, May 27
The Ten Commandments
Exodus 19: 1-6; 20: 1-2**

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



Ten Commandments, wood relief, in a Catholic Church in southern Poland, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

Reflections on the Word

Exodus 19:5a: Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples."

In today's text, we learn that three months after the Israelites left Egypt, they came into the wilderness of Sinai where the first order of business was for God through Moses to present the ground rules. These rules, the Ten Commandments, govern our relationship with God and our relationships with each other. Professor Rolf Jacobson reminds us that "we do not keep the commandments for our own pleasure or benefit. Rather, we keep them as a way to love God and neighbor." *Holy One, Guide our lives that we may love you with our whole being and willingly share the concerns of our neighbors.*

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

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**Items for next Courier needed by Sunday,
June 10.**

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