

The Courier

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis



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UPCOMING Events

FCC Book Club at Sebastian
Joe's, Monday, July 30, 7 pm

Ordination of Wendy Manuel,
Saturday, August 18, 2 pm

SH Worship in the Park,
Sunday August 19, 10:30 am

Gathering of Upper
Midwest Disciples
August 24 & 25
Camp & Conference
Center in Newton, IA

Disciples issue statement on family separations

General Minister and President Terri Hord Owens and scores of pastors, elders and lay Disciples of Christ people from around the country have published a Letter to the Church stating the church's position on separating immigrant families. Pastor Laurie Feille is one of the many Disciples who have signed this letter.

“Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. (Hebrews 13:1-2, NRSV)

Dear Church,

Over the past several weeks, new policies for the implementation of immigration laws have resulted in family detention and the separation of thousands of children from their parents across the United States. We, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), have proclaimed ourselves to be a pro-reconciling/anti-racist church, which extends welcome to all people, recognizing that every person is created in the image of God. As followers of Jesus Christ, we are commanded to “love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law” (Romans 13:8). When we start with love, we will understand that when laws dehumanize and discriminate, we are faithful in opposing such laws, and we are faithful in using our voice and our vote to call for love.

We condemn, therefore, the policy and practice of separating children from families and criminally prosecuting all persons who enter the United States without previous authorization. We denounce actions that degrade our neighbors and treat as criminals those who seek freedom and safety.

The practice, especially as implemented by the current administration through “zero tolerance” policies, is cruel and does violence to the most vulnerable – families who have fled their homes seeking safety in an unfamiliar land, only to have their children taken away from them. This violence is unnecessarily punitive. The stated intent of using family separation as a deterrent effectively weaponizes children against their parents and causes lasting emotional, psychological, physical, and spiritual harm. Jesus had strong words for those who did harm to children, whom he welcomed to himself: “If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea.” (Matthew 18:6, NRSV)

For decades, we have supported, through congregational and denominational action, the rights and dignity of immigrants and those seeking asylum, remembering that according to the gospel of Matthew, Jesus and his parents were forced to flee for safety, and remembering with gratitude that Egypt did not separate our savior from his parents. From our origins, Disciples have exhibited as a primary mission commitment the extension of compassion and care to orphans, children, widows and

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In Our Prayers

Prayers of Concern

*For Pastor Laurie's father,
Gomer Feille, in rehab
recovering from a stroke
For Phyllis Takekawa, who
is in hospice care
For Ron Keith, David Cobb
and Phil Kinney, all
recovering from health
issues*

Prayers for Joy

*For the Servant Mission trip
to Detroit and the
successful Mission at Our
Doorstep week
For Melinda Nickerson who
has a new teaching job
For the successful move to a
Walker apartment by Anna
Bliss's mom
For the amazing rescue of
the Thai soccer team*

Prayers for the World

*For families and churches in
Iowa hit by recent
tornadoes
For the families and friends
of those drowned in the
tragic boat accident in
Missouri*



A Poem by
Stella Nesanovich



Everyday Grace

It can happen like that:
meeting at the market,
buying tires amid the smell
of rubber, the grating sound
of jack hammers and drills,
anywhere we share stories,
and grace flows between us.

The tire center waiting room
becomes a healing place
as one speaks of her husband's
heart valve replacement, bedsores
from complications. A man
speaks of multiple surgeries,
notes his false appearance
as strong and healthy.

I share my sister's death
from breast cancer, her
youngest only seven.
A woman rises, gives
her name, Mrs. Henry,
then takes my hand.
Suddenly an ordinary day
becomes holy ground.

This poem by Stella Nesanovich, who lives in Lake Charles, Louisiana, was published on the website American Life in Poetry which provides newspapers and online publications with free columns featuring contemporary American poems. "At this time of great national division it's good to see a few people in a tire shop, coming together to share their common humanity."

Meet new member Bonnie Ford



Please welcome our newest member, Bonnie Ford! Bonnie joined FCC because she was impressed by our activism, not just political but also outreach and mission. (In fact, she immediately joined the Mission and Outreach Team and is on the Servant Trip in Detroit!) Bonnie was born in Minneapolis and grew up in Columbia Heights; she now lives in south Minneapolis. She is retired from a career as a Child Support Supervisor in Hennepin County. Bonnie likes to read and also owns a one-woman camper. She enjoys traveling around the

country exploring the cultural opportunities available in cities. We are glad to have Bonnie as the newest addition to our church family! *By*

Karen Kandik

Save the Dates! August events coming up:

Ordination for Wendy Manuel, August 18, 2 pm



Wendy Manuel will be ordained as a Disciples of Christ minister on Saturday, August 18, at 2 pm. You are cordially invited to attend this very special ceremony.

SpringHouse Worship in Bryant Park, August 19



The three SpringHouse congregations will have their annual Worship in the Park together on Sunday, August 19 at 10:30 am. Join in this fun, casual worship time followed by a potluck picnic. Bryant Park is at 31st and Bryant Av. S.

Gathering of Upper Midwest Disciples, August 24-25

Christian Church in the Upper Midwest



"Disciples Together"

Join Disciples from the Upper Midwest at the Christian Conference Center in Newton, IA, for a time of worship, fun, fellowship, and learning and sharing with one another. Spend the night on Friday or just come for Saturday. Lodging and Saturday's lunch are free!

Book Club News

Readers are invited to join the FCC Book club for the upcoming summer dates to discuss the current books being read:

Born a Crime, by Trevor Noah

is the book for **Monday, July 30**. The group will meet at Sebastian Joe's on 43rd and Upton. From Good Reads quoting Penguin Random House: "The eighteen personal essays collected here are by turns hilarious, dramatic, and deeply affecting...His stories weave together to form a moving and searingly funny portrait of a boy making his way through a damaged world in a dangerous time, armed only with a keen sense of humor and a mother's unconventional, unconditional love."

Without You There Is No Us: My Time With The Sons of North Korea's Elite, by Suki Kim.

We'll be going to Bobbie Hall's and will choose the date at the July meeting.

From a review on Good Reads: "Ms. Kim writes poignantly about the relationships she developed with the students, and about her observations of daily life both inside and outside the university walls. An atmosphere of fear, loneliness and repression engulfed every aspect of life, and was stifling. Yet, at times, Ms. Kim was able to connect on a meaningful and emotional level with her students. These interactions made her observations all the more heartbreaking...."



August 2018 First Christian Church					Sunday Morning Schedule 9:15 Spiritual Formation Classes 10:30 Worship 11:45 Fellowship Time in Gathering Space	
			1	2	3 Central Chistian Church, Jefferson, IA Overnight ←→	4
5 <i>North Sanctuary</i> 12 N Child Ministry Team →	6	7 8 am Lectionary Bible Study	8 5:30 FCC Finance Committee	9 5 pm PRC Pastor Laurie 7 pm SHMC Finance Cmte	10	11 9 am SpringHouse Huddle
12 <i>North Sanctuary</i>	13	14 8 am Lectionary Bible Study Primary Election Day	15 11 am SH Pastors meeting 2 pm Mission and Outreach Comm. Meeting 5:30 FCC Finance	16 7 pm PRC Pastor Dan	17	18 2 pm Service of Ordination for Wendy Manuel
19 <i>10:30 am SHMC Worship in Bryant Park</i> 12 N SH Board Business Meeting	20 6:45 SH Building Committee 6:30 Covenant Review Committee	21 8 am Lectionary Bible Study 6 pm Worship Team 7 pm FCC Board	22	23 9 am Edumenical Women's Ministry	24 6 pm Youth Lock-In until Saturday 8 am Upper Midwest Gathering ←→	25 Congregational @ Newton, IA ←→
26 <i>North Sanctuary</i>	27 2:30 pm Groveland Food Shelf Board Mtg	28 8 am Lectionary Bible Study	29	30	31	

	Elders (Offering elder listed first)	Worship Leader	Children's Moment	Diaconate	Bus Drivers
August 5	Steve Rusinak, Kirsten Cackoski	Ann Wolverton	Dan Adolphson	A. Bliss M. Carlson	Mike Hesano 651-645-6758
August 12	Mike Hesano Lu Griffin	Arlene Hillestad	Laurie Feille	J. Carlson A. Creighton	Mike Morgan 612.926-9834
August 19	SpringHouse Worship in Bryant Park			B. Flanagan S. Grady	Garry Hesser 612.721.4905
August 25	Ann Wolverton Tom Curry	Valerie Dunham	Steve Rusinak	Jen Krengel Jon Krengel	Mike Hesano 651-645-6758

Note: Please call drivers by Saturday for Sunday bus ride

Letter to the Church, con't from page 1

families in need. Most recently, the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) convened in July, 2017 in Indianapolis, IN, affirmed Sense-of-the-Assembly resolution GA1723, which encouraged the church to “deepen its commitment to building unity and integration among all our Disciples congregations by issuing a call to congregations to become ‘immigrant welcoming congregations;’” support immigrant families “when facing and experiencing separation;” and “develop community protection and response models for families facing separation due to detention or deportation.”

In this crucial moment, we must put our faith into action, responding to the cries of our neighbors. Foremost must be advocacy to put an end to the policies that lead to family separation. Here are some things you can do right now:

- Learn about how current policies are affecting our immigrant neighbors, and connect with immigrant communities in your area.
- Call and visit your elected representatives to oppose policies of family separation and support legislation that will keep families together. (Information and resources are available through [Disciples Refugee and Immigration Ministries](#) and [Disciples Immigration Legal Counsel](#))
- Add your signature to this letter (see below) to show your support. Invite members of your congregation to sign on, too.
- Continue to pray, learn, and speak out!
- **Donate to Week of Compassion** with the designation “*Keep Families and Children Together.*”

These children and families are deserving of human dignity and love. Let’s stand together as followers of Christ to live out Jesus’ commandment to love.

With the love of Christ,
Rev. Terri Hord Owens, General Minister and President, Indianapolis, IN

See the link <https://disciples.org/resources/justice/immigration/family-separations/> to see the names of the signers and to sign this letter yourself.

What’s Going on in the SpringHouse Library?

The SpringHouse library committee is working:

- A new rolling book cart will be ordered soon. It will be purchased with donations from SpringHouse members. We’ll be able to roll “on the topic” books to adult education classes and meetings.
- The committee has renamed the “social issues” category to “Justice issues” and restructured the categories within it to more accurately name today’s issues. The committee is evaluating the items in the current collection for relevance.
- Several people have donated books that are valuable additions to the SpringHouse collection. The committee is working to process them and get them on the shelves for fall readers.
- The committee is compiling a wish list that will be available in the fall.

From MN Council of Churches

The Minnesota Council of Churches has two Action Ideas for local churches and church members:

1. Refugee Support

New families continue to arrive in Minnesota through the refugee resettlement program, despite anti-refugee policies at the national level. Donating household supplies is a great way to support new arrivals, and by organizing a donation drive, you can share your passion with others. In order to welcome families arriving this summer, we are critically in need of: hand soap pump bottles, shampoo (not conditioner), light bulbs, and hand towels (bathroom). To arrange a drop-off at our Minneapolis office, please email rsvolunteers@mnchurches.org.

2 Advocate for Children:

A Minnesota Without Poverty launches its Promote Investment Early campaign. Impact the lives of our littlest members of society by signing on to a [Challenge to Legislators](#), urging them to support early learning scholarships and home visits for 35,000 low-income children from infancy to age five. Eighty percent of brain development happens by age three, and opportunity gaps at this crucial stage can lead to achievement gaps and other challenges later in life. Learn more about this bi-partisan issue [here](#).

Sundays at First Christian Church

Worship at 10:30 North Sanctuary

Before Worship:

9:15 Adult Spiritual Formation Class :
Theology According to Gene Roddenberry
 9:30 Art of the Covenant (Children)

After Worship

11:45 Fellowship Time

Reading for Sunday, July 29

Luke 13:10-17

Guest Preacher: Wendy Manuel



Christ healing the crippled woman who was bent over

*Art in the Christian Tradition,
 Vanderbilt University*

Reflections on the Word

Luke 13: 10-11 ...there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight.

The thinking of the day was that our out-sides reflected our character. Classical authors thought physical imperfections show moral or character imperfections. We are not perfectly free from these associations. We want and trust good looking people. How do we feel about the ugly? plain? the sick? the dying? Or the fat? bald? Or race? Gender? Whatever? If this bent over and obviously suffering woman came to a congregation, how would people react? Jesus sees a daughter of Abraham, or simply a sister. In compassion he gives what he has in his power, healing.

Loving God, Give us compassion for the other. Amen.

Gary Hilfiger, Luther Seminary, Working Preacher

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

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

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

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**Note: Items for the next issue needed by
 Sunday, August 5**