

The COURIER

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis



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UPCOMING Events:

Primary Voting Day,
Tuesday, August 14

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

SpringHouse Worship
in Bryant Park,
Sunday, August 19,
10:30 am,
Cookout after
worship

Detroit 2018 servant workers use their gifts

Jon Kregel had seen pictures of Detroit from past mission trips, but he didn't realize the extent of the neighborhood needs. Laurie Feille felt her heart sink a little when she saw the same boarded-up houses she had taken photos of two years ago. But they, along with 13 other SpringHouse workers, rolled up their sleeves and got to work.

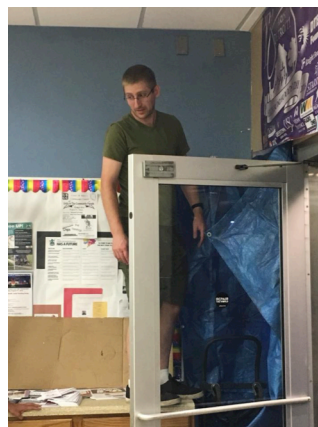
"I felt like part of a support team, there to shore people up," said Kregel.

The group split up into smaller teams, and were sent out each morning to do a job, and then often sent out somewhere else for another task in the afternoon. The teams built a chain link fence, painted doors, cleaned gutters and did dozens of other tasks to help people in Detroit improve their homes and their neighborhood.s

Steve Rusinak noted that the SpringHouse team stayed in the new Rippling Hope Mission Center, housed in a former bank



The 2018 SpringHouse Servant Team



building that became available when a major bank closed and gave its buildings in Detroit away.

All week long, the group "used the gifts God has given them, relying on God for hope," as Pastor Laurie said in her sermon on David and Goliath. These gifts, used together, make a difference in Detroit ... and the world.



Pictured above: Jon Kregel fixing a door, Pastor Rhonda Hlavinka painting a door, Pastor Dan Adolphson and Lu Griffin cutting wood

In Our Prayers. . .**Prayers of Joy**

*For the success of the
SpringHouse Servant Trip
For the return of Jay and
Arlene Hillestad from their
trip to Iceland*

Prayers of Concern

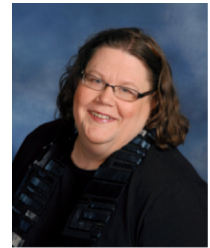
*For Pastor Laurie as she and
her family help their father
Gomer recover from his
stroke
For Laurie Zaepfel, Salem's
office administrator, who
had hip replacement surgery
For June Andrix as she enters
hospice care
For Phyllis Takekawa as she
continues in hospice care
For all our homebound
members, including Evelyn
Lawson and Bev Singewald*

Prayers for the world

*For the people in California
affected by the devastating
wildfires
For all refugees and
immigrants around the
world searching for a home*

**Voices and Views**

Deb Murphy

**Questions**

What a busy summer it has been – camps, servant trip, Mission at Our Doorstep, vacations, worship services (with smores! I can't begin to tell you how sorry I am to have missed that!), plus everything else from plain old life. Can you believe that there are only three weeks until Labor Day?

Within all this activity of ours this summer, where have you seen God's presence? Felt or experienced God's love at work? Have you able to spend some quality time with God?

Think about this for a bit. First of all, have you experienced for yourself quality time with God? I certainly hope so! Was this something that happened at worship either here at First Christian or another service you were able to attend this summer? Perhaps there was something specific, such as the music or the sermon, or a prayer that created that time with God for you.

Or maybe there was something outside the confines of the building that created that quality time with God for you. One of the Mission at Our Doorstep activities? A specific occurrence in Detroit or even just participating in the servant trip? A gathering of family members? Vacation or an adventure? Something you read or a story you were told?

I was lucky enough to have been invited to be on the teaching faculty at Holden Village for two weeks this summer. Holden is situated in the Cascade Mountains in Washington state in the Wenatchee National Forest. This is where I spent quality time with God – in nature, with a doe going past my bedroom window in the morning followed by her fawn; sitting on the front porch swing staring at the mountains; watching chipmunks scavenging for food; going at a slower pace, with absolutely no cell coverage and extremely spotty wifi.

Time spent like this helped me to reconnect – to my own roots, to myself, to others, and to God. My quality time at Holden has become a touchstone for me. I use those reflections and memories to step out of my own busy-ness and reach for that quality time: anytime, anywhere, for however long I need or want. I have found that this quality time rejuvenates me in order for me to continue working as God's hands and feet. Remember, you must put on your own oxygen mask first.

There are no limits on quality time with God except for those we impose on ourselves. We just need to open up and invite God in.

Blessings,
Deb

SpringHouse veggies ready to harvest

Have you seen the lush garden growing on the Garfield Avenue side of SpringHouse?

The sign in the garden reads:

"A Sharing Garden – Neighbors and church members are welcome to harvest vegetables from this garden. Please leave the smaller leaves to grow for later harvest. Swiss Chard, Kale, Mint and Chives."

So take a look and help yourself to some kale!

P.S. The SpringHouse Landscape Committee needs an FCC person to join the committee that looks after the garden and the other SpringHouse landscape. Please contact Dean Creighton if you can serve on this committee.



Fall Retreat to focus on power of music



"When Words Fade, Music Speaks" is the theme of this year's Women's Retreat for the Christian Church in the Upper Midwest. The keynote speaker will be Mary Lenard of Giving Voice Chorus – the choir that Karen and Warren Westphal sing with. Rev. Tammy Rottschaefter will be Chaplain for the retreat, to be held September 28-30 in Paynesville, MN.

An invitation to the retreat states, "Music connects us in so many ways – to our history, our memories, our loved ones, to each other. Join us as we make a joyful noise – break forth into joyous song, sing praises, and remember."

Contact Anna Bliss (akb@pobox.com, 612.998.5011) for more information. Registration forms available in the sanctuary or on the CCUM Fall Retreat Facebook page.

Disciples Public Presence conference coming

Disciples Public Presence, a group founded by Pastor Laurie Feille dedicated to justice work within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), will hold a conference September 16-17 at the Newton, IA, Christian Conference Center. The conference aims to bring together grass roots activists found in Disciples Public Presence, Disciples justice networks, General Ministries, Regions, and local churches for the sake of showing up together as Disciples in justice work. For more information and details, visit the website <https://disciples.org/event/disciples-public-presence-conference/>.

From Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries

Remembering how Jesus in Matthew 19 urged children not be hindered from accessing love, but allowed to come into his arms, I remain deeply pained that over 711 children are still separated from their parents after the two court-ordered deadlines for reunification of under five years and older children with their parents have passed. I am grateful for each organization, individual, and congregation that has responded to meet needs of family members along their path seeking freedom.

And, I celebrate the over 2,000 Disciples who have signed on the letter with General Minister and President Rev. Terri Hord Owens to express their desire for our nation to stop practices of family separation and detention that have produced traumatic consequences for children and their parents. Please sign the letter yourself at <https://disciples.org/resources/justice/immigration/family-separations/> if you have not yet done so!

And during the upcoming August recess, join to share our letter, and encourage our leaders and legislators to request the administration halt such policies and instead provide alternatives Family Based Case Management. Such alternatives offer far more humane care for families seeking protections and a new life, and help us live out the respect in the Psalmist's words that 'children are a heritage from the Lord.'
Rev. Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea, Director

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

Before Worship

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

After Worship

Fellowship Time 11:45

**Revised Common Lectionary
For Sunday, August 12
1 Kings 19:4-8**



*Elijah Touched by an
Angel*

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

Reflections on the Word

1 Kings 19:4-8

Elijah struggles with many things, but nothing more than himself. We can all probably recognize how we can be our own worst enemy. 1 Kings 19 clearly demonstrates Elijah's demons bringing him to a standstill. Oftentimes, it is easy for us to see the source of other people's problems. We have seen many triumphs of Elijah before this event, and we know that there will be many triumphs to follow. With all of this in mind it can be hard to understand how things went so wrong so quickly for Elijah. Yet that is part of Elijah's story just like it can often be part of our story. We can often find ourselves most at risk, when we are feeling most invulnerable.

- Commentary by Garrett Gaven at
[/www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=3767](http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=3767)

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

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