

The COURIER

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis



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UPCOMING Events:

*FCC Board Meeting,
Tuesday, October 16,
7 pm*

*Planned Giving
Seminar, Saturday,
October 20, 10 am*

*Youth Halloween
Outing, Saturday,
October 20, 6 pm*

Plaster House continues to grow and heal



Amy Dunlops shows Plaster House video

Plaster House, the surgical and rehabilitation center for children in Arusha, Tanzania, continues to expand and continues to help children overcome physical disabilities through surgery. Amy Dunlop filled the FCC congregation in on the latest achievements of Plaster House during worship on October 7. She and her husband Steve have worked with Plaster House for many years, Amy as a teacher and Steve as a surgeon.

Children with genetic disabilities such as club feet or clefts, or children who have been injured in fires or other accidents come to Plaster House for surgery and rehabilitation. New buildings were opened in 2017, bringing the total of beds for children to 80, although there are often 100 kids being served at any given time.

Amy explained that Plaster House has a "high love, low cost" philosophy. Eighty percent of its funding comes from donations. Future funding needs are for surgery expenses, general operating costs and for building technology infrastructure and training staff. All 15 staff members at Plaster House are Tanzanian. She also expressed thanks to FCC for its support over the years. Plaster House recently celebrated its 10th anniversary.



The website theplasterhouse.org has many more details and photos, plus an easy link for online donations.

"Faithfulness" theme of Stewardship Campaign

First Christian Church's annual Stewardship Campaign begins Sunday, October 14 with the theme of "Faithfulness." Commitment Sunday is November 4. Tithing, stewardship, giving, donating – whatever term you like to use – is a spiritual discipline. During the next four Sundays, you will be hearing from the staff about what the faithfulness of the people of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Minneapolis means to them.



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

*For Phil Kinney that his lung biopsy showed no cancer
For Bobbi Hall and Pastor Laurie Feille celebrating milestone birthdays*

Prayers of Concern

*For Melinda Nickerson's two students who have health concerns
For Elizabeth Larson's father who is having surgery
For Lynda Lee and others who work in Minnesota correction facilities
For all our homebound members, especially Donald Ulm and Beverly Singewald*

Prayers for the world

*For the people of Palu, Indonesia
For schisms and divisions in our nation to be healed*

**Voices and Views****Dan Adolphson*****Practice self-care in these difficult times***

When I was in junior high (1980), a new TV station was born. The Cable News Network, founded by Ted Turner and part of the Turner Broadcasting System, promised news around the clock. Critics at the time panned the station – *who needs news all the time? There isn't enough news for a 24-hour news station!*

Time has sure proven Mr. Turner's critics wrong, hasn't it? When the station went live, the launch of the first iPhone was *27 years away*. Now we can know whatever we want, when we want to, on our TVs, our computers, and our smartphones. And, in these moments where, as followers of the Gospel of Christ, we stand for truth, justice, inclusion, and radical welcome, it's not hard to become overwhelmed.

My friend and colleague Fr. Shay (whom some of you might remember from when his church met at SpringHouse on Sunday afternoons in our early years at SpringHouse), asks the same question of the Twitterverse each week:

Checking in! Have you eaten? Gotten outside? Moved your body (even a little)? Taken your meds? Had some water? Checked in with a friend? Found a way to laugh? Listened to some music?

I also want to add the following:

Have you checked in with God? Are you listening for God's voice in these moments?

It's not always easy to do this. We are pulled so many different ways these days. Yet, even Jesus practiced self-care. All throughout the Gospels, there are stories about how Jesus went away by himself to a quiet place. *We care for ourselves so we can care for the whole world.*

For the techies among us, I have a new self-care resource to recommend. *Our Bible App* is the first LGBT affirming bible app; creating devotionals for progressive Christians that uplift believers of ALL stripes. Through devotionals highlighting pro-LGBT, pro-women and encourage interfaith inclusivity, *Our Bible App* hopes to provide a tool that is needed to create healthy prayer and meditation habits. You can learn more at ourbibleapp.com.

For all of us, I encourage us to take Fr. Shay's words to heart. Breathe deep. Take care of yourself. Listen for God's voice.

Don't Forget: Planned Giving Workshop

Kirby Gould of the Christian Church Foundation will be giving helpful information and ideas about legacy planning at a workshop here at SpringHouse on Saturday, October 20 starting at 10 am. She will share information about creating legacy gifts for the church and other charities, creating a "pledge replacement" gift, the changes in the 2018 tax laws regarding charitable giving, and other important topics. Members of all the Twin Cities Disciples churches are invited.

Rev. William Barber wins Genius Grant

Well-known social justice advocate and pastor of Greenleaf Christian Church in Goldboro, North Carolina, William J. Barber II has been selected as one of



25 people to receive a MacArthur "genius" fellowship that comes with an unrestricted \$625,000 grant. According to the MacArthur Foundation, the fellowship is reserved for "talented individuals who have shown extraordinary originality and dedication in their creative pursuits and a marked capacity for self-direction."

Dr. Barber spearheaded the national New Poor People's Campaign, which members of

SpringHouse congregations studied and participated in this year. When the award was announced, Dr. Barber was in Chicago at a protest for raising the minimum wage; he was arrested during the protest.

By Leonardo Blair, [Christian Post](#) Reporter, October 6, 2018

SH Adult Class on Revelation begins Oct. 14

Pastor Laurie Feille will be leading a three-week series on the Book of Revelation for the SpringHouse adult education class. All members of SpringHouse congregations are invited to attend these session, which begin at 9:30 am in the Gathering Space.



Honor those who are your leaders in the Lord's work. They work hard among you and give you spiritual guidance. 1 Thess. 5:12b

Franklin Avenue Homeless Encampment

If you have been paying attention to local news over the past few weeks, you are familiar with the homeless encampment that has steadily grown at Franklin and Hiawatha.

The City of Minneapolis and other agencies plan to transition the residents of the encampment to temporary transitional housing, shelter or more permanent housing by moving the encampment by the end of the year to a new Navigation Center directly across Hiawatha from the current encampment on land owned by the Red Lake Band of Chippewa.

If you are interested in helping these neighbors, here is what you can do:

1. Check out the website, franklinhiawathacamp.org. The website is the clearinghouse for all donations and services. There are links to give financially through the appropriate groups supporting the community in specific ways as well as daily needs for "stuff" and volunteers.
2. Some goods are being accepted, especially winter clothing, non-perishable food items, water and other items. Do not drop any items off at the encampment. Check the website to see what items are needed and where to leave donated items.

**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, October 14
Joshua Renews the Covenant
Joshua 24: 1-15**



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

Reflections on the Word

Joshua 24: 16 – "Then the people answered, 'Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods.'"

Somehow, when I hear the common phrase, "far be it from me...", I expect a *but* to follow, as in "*Far be it from me to disagree, but...*" We know that, despite the fervent pledge of Joshua's people not to forsake the Lord, they had a long and blemished history of doing exactly that. How different are we from these ancients? How often do we serve other gods despite professing our loyalty to the One God?

God of covenant, Thank you for your forgiving heart, that welcomes us back each time we forget you. Amen.

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

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