

The COURIER

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis



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UPCOMING

Events:

FCC Board Meeting,
Tues., November 27,
7 pm

Sanctuary Switch,
Mon., November 26,
10 am

Advent Brunch,
Sat., December 8,
10 am

Lilly Grant to fund sabbatical and renewal

Pastor Laurie Pound Feille and our congregation have received a 2018 Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Grant to fund Pastor Laurie's upcoming sabbatical and the related congregational renewal activities that we will be involved in while she is gone. Laurie's sabbatical will be during the months of August, September and October 2019. She will spend part of that time exploring her family's roots in Wales and Ireland. While she's gone, the rest of us will spend some time exploring our roots as Disciples of Christ., thanks to this grant.

We have spent the last several years learning to work together with the other SpringHouse churches, refining our relationship and rewriting our Covenant. In the midst of all that, it's easy to forget who we are as a unique congregation, separate from yet part of SpringHouse. So, we are planning several activities to strengthen our bonds as a congregation and also to explore where we came from and who we are now.

We will begin the activities with a "sending off" celebration for Pastor Laurie. It will include a catered meal and most likely will be on a Sunday after church just before she leaves. While she is gone, we will have several more catered meals and fellowship activities, which have yet to be planned. On September 22, our General Minister and President Terri Hord Owens will be preaching and she will also lead our congregation in a separate renewal activity, which may include the members of the other Minnesota Disciples of Christ churches. Our Regional Minister, Bill Spangler-Dunning, will also be with us one Sunday and we are still working on some additional guest preachers.

The whole congregation will be invited to join in a book study using the book *A Handbook for Today's Disciples* by Duane Cummins. Copies of the book are being ordered for everyone, thanks to the grant. We are hoping to also have the author come lead us in worship and other activities.

At the end of Pastor Laurie's sabbatical, we will have a celebration to welcome her home. This will include a catered meal and time for all of us to share our experiences and any insights gained as a result of this time for reflection and renewal.

Those of us who have been a part of the planning so far are very excited about receiving this grant and all the wonderful activities it will fund. We would like to share this excitement with other members of the congregation who may feel called to help with the planning and implementing of this special time. We will be having a meeting after worship on Sunday, December 9, for anyone who would like to learn more. This initial informational meeting will be to talk about what has been planned so far and what still needs to be planned, as well as what specific short-term tasks will need to be done. If this sounds like something you are interested in, please join us. Your input is important!

By Kirsten Cackoski, member of Pastor Laurie's PRC team

In Our Prayers. . .**Thank you for prayers**

Warren and Karen Westphal are thankful for Karen's recovery and wish to thank all those who sent prayers and cards and expressions of concern

Prayers of Concern

For Bonnie Ford as she continues to heal from foot surgery

For Elizabeth Tucker who broke her arm as she was roller blading

For Lu Griffin and Mike Hesano's brother-in-law Brian Webb as he decides on treatment for melanoma

For Sandy and Mike Morgan's daughter Ellie, whose father-in-law is in hospice

For Nancy Curry's mother

For all our homebound members especially June Andrix and Mary Lou Cain

Prayers for the world

For the families of the Tree of Life Synagogue

For the people suffering from loss of family and homes in California fires

**Voices and Views**

Kathy Hintz

***I'm going with Gratitude***

Good grief! Martha asked me to write one of those “anyone can do it” columns for the Courier, and crazily enough, I agreed. I was thinking I could just slip in a wonderful essay from Anne Lamott, and say I wrote it, but that would be bad, and probably not what Martha was thinking. I had several ideas rolling around in my head during worship last Sunday, you know, easy ones like “Judaism vs Christianity: Discuss”. Then I thought, well, it’s Thanksgiving season, so I’m going with gratitude.

Long ago and far away, in 1996, I moved to Minnesota. I was a minister’s wife, had two little kids, was in the middle of chemo for colon cancer, and unemployed. To say it was a difficult time in my little family’s life would be skimming the surface. However, Irene Hinote welcomed me into worship that first Sunday, the Seekers women’s group enfolded me in their loving arms, people loved on my children and made them look so cute in the Christmas pageant and took them to camp and on mission trips, and so life went on. When I finished my chemo, my new sisters, the Seekers, celebrated with champagne.

Over the next 13 years, I did everything asked of me and shoved my way into some stuff not everybody wanted to do. Too bad – we ended up being Open and Affirming anyway!

In 2015, when I left Washington State, divorced and unemployed, an empty-nester, people said: “why are you moving back to Minnesota? Do you have family there?” Why yes, yes I do, it’s my church.

These days, I’m not always at worship, and I do not do everything asked of me. It’s different, which is good. So at this Thanksgiving time, I’m grateful to Martha for asking, I’m grateful to Deb for creating, I’m grateful to Laurie and Dan for leadership and love, I’m beyond grateful for the music people, and I’m grateful for you, whoever you are, reading this. Thanks for being my family.

Thanksgiving meal and service this week



This Sunday, November 18, the three SpringHouse churches will join together after worship for a Thanksgiving potluck meal. Our own chefs will bake a delicious turkey, potatoes and gravy, and the rest of the feast will be potluck style, so bring a side, salad or dessert to share. The

SpringHouse youth will be having a bake sale during the Thanksgiving meal to raise money for Cub Feed cards for Sanctuary churches.

On Thanksgiving morning, the annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service will be in the Westminster Sanctuary at 10 am (1200 Marquette Avenue). The service will be led by Rev. Paul Lebens-Englund of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, and Rev. Elona Street-Stewart, the first Native American person to hold an executive position in a Presbyterian synod. Local Native American musicians, Somali spoken-word artist Kaaha Kaahiye and other interfaith clergy from downtown congregations will also participate in the service.

Free parking will be available in the Westminster underground garage on Alice Rainville Place and at the Orchestra Hall ramp. Pick up a parking voucher for the Orchestra Hall ramp at Westminster after the service.

Two books lined up for FCC book club

Lab Girl by Hope Jahre will be the subject for discussion on Monday, November 26, 7 pm at the FCC book club – location still to be determined. One book blurb described the book this way: "[It's a] book about work, about love, and about the mountains that can be moved with those two things come together." The group will not meet in December, but the January book is *Southernmost*, by Silas House. Look for more information on this gathering in upcoming newsletters and eblasts. Everyone is welcome to the FCC book club!



Well done, friends!
First Christian
Church
Canyon, Texas

Immigrant/Sanctuary Supporting News

Luncheon on December 2

The SpringHouse Sanctuary Task Force is hosting a fundraising luncheon on December 2. The proceeds will benefit the families who have sought sanctuary in South Minneapolis churches and synagogues. The menu will include special rice, beans, fajitas, and barbecued chicken, catered by Yolanda, who provided our meal last fall. and other items.

Play about Dreamers

I Come from Arizona is now showing at The Children's Theater through November 25. This is an engaging and thoughtful story about a teenage dreamer meant for adults and children alike. Tickets are \$15-\$54.

Action Requests

The public has an opportunity to weigh in on the proposed "public charge" rule from the Department of Homeland Security. The rule would affect people applying for a green card who are deemed "likely to become a public charge." See <https://protectingimmigrantfamilies.org/#take-action> for more information.

The ACLU has a petition opposing ICE bus raids. See <https://action.aclu.org/petition/greyhound>

**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, November 18
Swords into Plowshares
Isaiah 2: 1-4, plus other verses**



Statue by Evgeniy Vuchetich at United Nations building, NYC

*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*

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**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
OF MINNEAPOLIS
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
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Reflections on the Word

Isaiah 2:4b – They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

No more war: who can believe such an idea? Who can honestly think that humans will ever turn away from violence and the urge to power? Yet, the words of Isaiah are stirring, the image by the artist is thrilling. Only by holding fast to our dreams and our visions of a better future can we take even baby steps toward a more peaceful world.

God of Peace, Thank you for sending your son to show us how to live in peace. Help us keep trying to build a better world. Amen.