

The COURIER

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis



SpringHouse ministry highlights and plans

In 2018, the SpringHouse Ministry Center worked hard to live up to its vision of being a “transformative presence in our community.” During the year, 55% of the building’s use was by community groups, while the other 45% represented use of the building by the three resident churches. This remarkable statistic was one of the highlights from the annual joint meeting of the congregations held on Sunday, January 27, at SpringHouse.



Dean Creighton of FCC and Rae Buzzell of Salem presided at the joint meeting. They listed some of the SpringHouse highlights of 2018:

- Revision of the SpringHouse Covenant
- Launch of the Memorial Garden, led by Mary Vanderford and Doug Malchow
- Active Youth Ministry, led by Jon Bates
- Green Team activities such as the SpringHouse sharing garden, Earth Week and climate justice education,
- Active SpringHouse Sanctuary Supporting / Immigrant Welcoming Task Force, with guest speakers and fund-raising over \$3000 for food cards
- Success at staying well within the annual budget for 2018, with a total of \$174,418 in annual expenses.



Upcoming events and activities for 2019 at SpringHouse include sabbaticals by two pastors (Laurie Feille of FCC and Ashley Harness of Lyndale), implementing Safe Church Policy, white audit action plan, youth spring retreat March 8-10, possible completing of organ installation, and SpringHouse Servant Trip to South Dakota, July 7-13, led by Rhonda Hlavinka of Salem, Rebecca Voelkel of Lyndale and Jon Bates, SH Youth Minister



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UPCOMING Events:

*Global Ministries
Forum, Sunday,
February 10,
following worship*

*FCC Book Club,
Monday, February 11,
7 pm at Dunham’s*

*Sabbatical Planning
Meeting,
Sunday, February 17
following worship*

In Our Prayers. . .**Prayers of Sympathy**

For the family of Evelyn Lawson, whose memorial service will be February 18, 1 pm at SpringHouse

For the family of Don Miller, former member of FCC, whose service was held February 1.

For Garry Hesser on the loss of his brother-in-law Bob Glover, a civil rights leader.

For our friends at Lyndale UCC on the loss of beloved member Kayla Collins.

Prayers of Concern

For people whose friends are suffering

For those whose convictions lead them to advocate hate instead of love

For Kirsten Cackoski's brother Bob and Jay Hillstead's nephew Gabriel

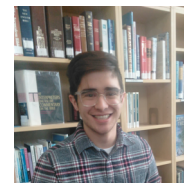
For all our homebound members, especially John Takekawa and June Andrix

Prayers for the world

For people around the world affected by climate-related events such as drought, heat waves, floods and extreme cold

**Voices and Views**

Youth Minister Jon Bates

***One person's answer to "Why Christian?"***

SpringHouse Youth Minister Jon Bates gave the sermon for the annual Joint Worship Service at SpringHouse on January 27. He began by explaining that SpringHouse youth this year have been engaged with the question, "Why Christian?" and so he decided to attempt his own answer to that question.

Jon spoke about his life experiences from growing up in "a far land across the Mississippi called Shoreview" where his family "survived by celebrating the Filipino culture" to his early searching for an identity within the church and within school social spheres, to college life and finally to a life-changing mission trip to the Philippines where he "heard and saw things that shook me to my core" as he helped with the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan.

Here is the stirring conclusion to Jon's sermon:

But now, when posed with the question of, "Why Christian?" I think it's easy to say. I can't keep it within a minute. But my life up to this point has taught me that to answer these two words:

- Why Christian? God doesn't require me to do good works for the sake of doing good, but for the sake of my neighbor.
- Why Christian? I've seen God use the dirt creviced between ugliest parts of shame of my life into something beautiful.
- Why Christian? It's an experiential faith that gets my hands dirty.
- Why Christian? God requires me to enter into the pain and suffering of my neighbor to fully advocate for them.
- Why Christian? Because the lines that I have created myself get demolished by the healing words and story of Jesus Christ.
- Why Christian? It offers a weird counter-cultural and messy alternative message to the American ideal that I have compared myself to. And I know that I am beloved:
 - From how Asian I am.
 - From how I am.
 - How flamboyant I am.
 - How masculine I am.
 - How tall I am.
- Why Christian? Because I am called to ask hard questions.
- Why Christian? Because when I feel like I am not at home, I am home.

The full sermon can be found on <http://www.fccminneapolis.org/jon-bates-sermon-from-jan-27-joint-service/>

Pastor Feille receives award at Brite



Brite Divinity School awarded Rev. Dr. Laurie Feille the Distinguished Minister Award for Innovative Ministry at an awards ceremony on February 5 during Brite's Ministers Week. The award is presented to "a Brite alumnus/alumna whose ministries offer new and unique approaches and application in the sharing of God's Word." Pastor Laurie was recognized for her ministries with SpringHouse and for her launching of "Disciples Public Presence," an active and influential Facebook group.

Book Club meeting rescheduled possibly for Feb. 25

The polar vortex hit FCC's January book club plans, so the January meeting was cancelled and may be rescheduled for Monday, February 25 at Valerie Dunham's home. *Southernmost*, by Silas House, will be discussed and anyone interested is welcome to attend. The meeting starts at 7 pm.

Reminders of upcoming events:

Sunday, February 10: Dr. Paolo Naso, a professor and church activist from Italy, will give the speak at a Global Ministries forum following the service. A light lunch will be served in the South Sanctuary. Don't miss this unusual opportunity to learn about the work of the church in the world.

Sunday, February 17: The SpringHouse Servant Trip will hold an important informational meeting following the worship services at SpringHouse. Pastor Rhonda Hlavinka, Pastor Rebecca Voelkel and Youth Minister Jon Bates will go over many details about the trip. The anticipated cost is \$350 per person for the week-long trip to the Cheyenne River Reservation in Bridger, South Dakota, from July 7 to July 13.

Sunday, February 17: Sabbatical Planning meeting. Part of the grant for Pastor Laurie's fall sabbatical includes monies for congregational renewal, so that the congregation as well as the pastor can spend time in spiritual growth. Many ideas have already been suggested for congregational activities, so now more specific plans need to be made. Please plan to attend this important meeting

Communion Bread Bakers wanted: The chef who has been baking our gluten-free communion bread has left the business, but we have a recipe and a kitchen that can be used. Please contact the FCC office if you would be willing to help with baking communion bread.

Week of Compassion

We hear the word "imagination" and we may think "fantasy" that escapes the reality of the world as it is. We hear the word "imagination" and we wonder if it is truly helpful in a world filled with so much need.

The theme for the [2019 Special Offering for Week of Compassion](#) is "More than we can imagine!" That theme, based on Ephesians 3:20, reminds us that we are not alone in our imagining a better world for all God's children. It is God's imagination that fuels and empowers ours. God imagines a world where:

- *No one is left to face the ravages of natural disaster alone – neighbor helps neighbor, stranger helps stranger – we are the church together!*
- *Clean and abundant water and ample sanitation facilities are available to every person*
- *Families displaced from their homes are able to build new lives*

Through our gifts of treasure and talent, prayer, and presence, we can transform our reality to look more like the world God imagines for us.

[Give generously to the Week of Compassion special offering](#), and together we can achieve "more than we can imagine."

**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, February 10
The Golden Rule
Matthew 7: 1-14, 24-29**



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

Reflections on the Word

Matthew 7: 7: Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you."

*"Just ask." Seems simple enough, doesn't it? Yet for many of us, asking is hard. We're supposed to be able to take care of ourselves. Asking for help is weakness. But Jesus speaks to our vulnerabilities, and offers a promise and a reassurance that when we ask, someone will be there to answer. *God of Wisdom, You have taught us to live our lives grounded in faith, trust, and love. Help us find the courage to ask for what we need. Amen.**

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

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