

The COURIER

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis



Centering and Fellowship time during Lent



This year on Wednesday evenings during Lent, we'll be offering a weekly practice of soup and quiet worship (Holden Prayer). Soup will be served at 5:00 pm, Holden Evening Prayer at 6:00 pm. Set this time aside to "come away" and center during Lent.

March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10

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UPCOMING **Events:**

Lenten Brunch,
Saturday, March 16,
10 am

SH Youth worship
planning, Saturday,
March 16, 3 pm

Mission and Outreach
team meeting,
Wednesday, March
20, 2 pm



SpringHouse women and men are invited to FCC's annual Lenten Brunch on Saturday, March 16. Brunch will start at 10 am. Please call the church office to reserve a spot.

Mardi Gras Sunday tradition continues at FCC



Pastor Laurie and Pastor Dan were decked out in beads on March 3, Mardi Gras Sunday. New Orleans-style gospel music had the congregation clapping and dancing, thanks to musicians Eric Jacobson (tuba), Scott Agster (trombone), Adam Meckler (trumpet), Reid Kennedy (drums) and Matt Blair (piano). And of course, everyone got to eat King Cake afterwards – including a cake sent by Max and Mary Hurlocker.

In Our Prayers. . .**Prayers of Concern**

*For Bonnie Ford's daughter
Pauline who has a health
concern.*

*For Lu Griffin's brother
Glenn as he recovers from
heart surgery.*

*For Anna Bliss' friend Thom,
whose daughter died in a car
crash*

*For all our homebound
members, especially Donald
Ulm and Beverly Singewald*

Prayers for the world

*For the many members of the
United Methodist Church
who are struggling with the
recent decision of the
denomination to forbid
same-sex marriage and
exclude LGBT clergy.*

*For those suffering from loss
of life and homes from the
tornadoes in Alabama*

**Voices and Views****Deb Murphy*****This Year - Drama***

Over the past few years, staff has been using different types of art as a theological lens for worship. We started with general art, then moved to fabric, photography, and poetry. This year is drama.

I am very partial to the arts, drama/theater in particular (no surprise there if you know me). Besides being my livelihood for over two decades, theater is my theological metaphor (It only took the first two years of seminary to figure that out)). What sort of insight can be gained from drama? Historically, drama has served as a function of worship and religious instruction in the church. According to Fred Eastman, for religion to be effective, it must be dramatized. The word drama means deeds or acts. If something is being dramatized, it is being shown in action. Religious drama kindles the imaginations and emotions by using the Christian gospel.

Tapping into these imaginations and emotions helps Christians put themselves in the place of others, see life, understand values and concepts, and deal with characters, situations, and themes "...that are clarified by means of religion, by one's relationship with God, with oneself, and with other people because of the nature and meaning of one's God. ... It communicates life on its deepest level." (S. Cheney)

From an aspect of social justice, Robert McAfee Brown describes a transformation for 'audience' members. The audience moves from spectator to participant, but must look at whether they are oppressor or oppressed. We must find the ways in which we oppress, as well as identify our own sources of oppression. We all stand on both sides of the oppressor/oppressed divide.

When an audience/congregation member makes Brown's transition from spectator to participant, she or he has joined all the others in working within God's *Vision*. *Vision* people seek first the *Vision* of God and its justice... *Vision* people think about how to get the church into the world... *Vision* people work to see the church change the world. God's *Vision* is focused on justice and freedom, yet the approaches to it are numerous and need numerous people working together to bring it to fruition. By taking risks ourselves, we can find our own place in God's *Vision*. And that place need not be limited to any one area or skill. We ourselves can stretch and grow, to become the already, but not yet ourselves.

Drama can be used to teach, to evoke, to inspire, to call to action, to incarnate. To quote Cervantes in *The Ingenious Nobleman Sir Quixote of La Mancha*:

I would, Sancho, said Don Quixote, that thou wert favorably disposed towards the drama and ... towards those who represent and produce it. For they are all instruments of great good to the state, placing before us at every step a mirror in which we may see vividly displayed what goes on in human life ...

[This article is a combination of information and thoughts from a final paper and my thesis from United Theological Seminary dim]

Letter from Youth Pastor Jon Bates

SpringHouse Ministry Center,

With sadness and heaviness, I have put in my resignation as the Youth minister at SpringHouse Ministry Center. Leaving this position will allow me to begin a new role as Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries at St. Michael's Lutheran Church in Roseville, MN. My last Sunday at SpringHouse Ministry Center will be on March 17.

This is a big change, not just for myself but also with the youth and adults that make youth ministry at SpringHouse possible. Since beginning at SpringHouse, I have experienced the Holy through the creation of relationships, acts of joy, the boldness of the pastors, spaces of vulnerability, and through breaking bread together. These special moments I've had at SpringHouse made the decision to resign painful and challenging. The people at SpringHouse are a blessing and have helped me see and hear Jesus a little bit more clearly through the lessons learned from the youth at Youth Group, laughter shared during fellowship, and through worshiping together. I am full of both joy and gratitude as I reflect on my experience at SpringHouse.

You are more than welcome to connect with me further with any questions or comments.

God Speed,
Jon Bates

FCC Book Group has plans for many good reads

Thursday, March 21, 7 pm, at The Coffee Shop NE (2852A Johnson St NE)

GRAPES OF WRATH, John Steinbeck

Monday, April 29, 7 pm, at Pat Dunlop's house (17851 Comstock Rd, Wayzata)

WHAT A WOMAN MUST DO, by Faith Sullivan

Thursday, May 23, 7 pm, at Kirsten Cackoski's house (2500 McKinley NE)

BRIDGE OF SIGHS, by Richard Russo

Thursday, June 20, 7 pm, at Sebastian Joe's in Linden Hills (Upton)

CALL ME AMERICAN: A MEMOIR, by Abdi Nor Iftin

Wednesday, July 17, 7 pm, at some outside location, some patio, somewhere!

A GENTLEMAN IN MOSCOW, by Amor Towles

August -- this is traditionally when we meet at Bobbie Hall's on the River, so further discussion with Bobbie is necessary before choosing a date and place....but here's the book for August:

THE SECRET, BOOK & SCONE SOCIETY, by Ellery Adams

Join us for one or all of our fun and insightful book discussions!

Lyndale invites the public to "A Taste of Food Justice," presented by Chef Jenny Breen, chef and food justice advocate on Thursday, March 21, 6-8 pm. This presentation is part of Lyndale's continuing series of events to help make Lyndale a sacred, sustainable community.

Chef Jenny Breen, chef and food justice advocate, will lead us through an exploration of our own personal food stories and our perceptions of what "food justice" means as an entry point to the broader work of social and environmental justice. Nourishing food will be served. [Learn more and join us!](#)

We will touch on the topics of food systems and issues like labor, availability/affordability, transparency in purchasing, etc that arise within each component (production, processing, distribution/sales, preparation, consumption, waste). We will look at the intersection of our participation in the food system and our work for social and environmental justice: we can only take care of the earth, each other, and pursue justice, if we are also taking care of ourselves, and so, choosing food that nourishes our bodies (and the earth) is a part of working for sustainable justice. Finally we will be invited to create strategies that help us align our food choices with our deepest values of social and environmental justice.



**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, March 17
Laborers in the Vineyard
Matthew 20: 1-16**



Jesus Mafa, from Vanderbilt Divinity Library

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

Reflections on the Word

Matthew 20: 12: "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat."

Jesus' parable is about giving people what they need when they need it. Our human sense of fairness is based on absolutes. God's justice is more subtle, because treating people fairly is not the same thing as treating the equally. We are called to be generous without distinguishing who is deserving.

Generous God, you have promised to open your kingdom to all people, despite their circumstances. Help us through our generosity to be closer to you. Amen.

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

Ministry Team

Dan Adolphson, Associate Pastor,
dan.adolphson@fccmpls.org

Jon Bates, SHMC Youth Minister

Rick Bowman, SHMC Building Manager

Adam Conrad, Music Director & Composer-in-Residence

Laurie Feille, Senior Pastor, pastor@fccmpls.org

Martha Harris, Courier Editor,
harrismartha@mac.com

Deb Murphy, Office Manager & Director of Spiritual Formation of Children and Youth,
deb.murphy@fccmpls.org

& SHMC Building Coordinator,
events_SHMC@fccmpls.org

Rhiana Peterson, SHMC Child Care

Maria Thieling, SHMC Child Care

Tanner VanderKrabben, Bell Choir Conductor

Mike Vasich - Pianist

FCC Office Telephone: 612.870.1868

www.fccminneapolis.org

E-Mail: office@fccminneapolis.org

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