

# The COURIER

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis



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## UPCOMING Events:

Pastor Dan PRC,  
Thursday, May 16,  
7 pm

SpringHouse Joint  
Worship,  
Sunday, May 19,  
10:30 am

FCC Board Meeting,  
Tuesday, May 21, 7 pm

FCC Book Club,  
Thursday, May 23,  
7 pm at Cackoski's

## FCC outreach: more than you know!

Can you name the 22 mission partners FCC works with and supports regularly? That was Elder Steve Rusinak's challenge to the congregation on Sunday, May 5, during the worship service. Take a minute now to see how many you can name – and then take a peek at FCC's website (<http://www.fccminneapolis.org/home/reaching-out-2/mission-partners/>) to see the full list. And that list doesn't even include all the ways FCC reaches out into the community to serve!



Mission partners and projects are not the only way FCC helps people in the community. Through the Wholeness Fund, created from monies from the sale of the building at 2201 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, FCC provides financial grants to “non-profit organizations or specific projects that promote wholeness through services and programs.” On the same Sunday as Steve's challenge, the Lois McKee Retreat House, a new building at the Christian Conference Center in Newton, Iowa was dedicated. The building includes a Nurse's Station that was funded by the Wholeness Fund.

The next major mission effort for FCC is right around the corner: Mission at Our Doorstep, the annual week-long project where FCC volunteers work together in support of many of our mission partners. MAOD will be June 24-27 this year; signup sheets for supplies and activities will be posted in the sanctuary in the next week.

## Whittier Park to host Ramadan Iftar

Whittier neighbors, which includes those of us at SpringHouse, are invited to celebrate the Islamic holy month of Ramadan with a community Iftar at Whittier Park, 425 W. 26<sup>th</sup> Street) on **Friday, May 31, 7:30 – 10 pm**. Iftar is the traditional breaking of the fast that occurs from dawn to dusk every day during the holy month of Ramadan. Food including halal and vegetarian options will be provided by the Whittier Alliance and our community partners. Opportunities to learn more about the history and tradition of Ramadan, meet and get to know your neighbors, and enjoy some games and activities will be provided. All are welcome and encouraged to attend! An RSVP to our [Facebook event](#) is not required but will be helpful for planning purposes.

This event is being held in partnership with [Fortune Relief And Youth Empowerment Organization](#) (FRAYEO) and [Whittier Recreation Center](#) as a part of our 2019 Community Issues Committee 2019 programming.

*In Our Prayers. . .*



### **Prayers of Sympathy**

*For the family and many friends, fans, and readers of writer Rachel Held Evans*

### **Prayers of Joy**

*For Emily Miller, SH youth member who brought us a sermon on April 28  
For nine men recently baptized*

### **Prayers of Concern**

*For Kirsten Cackoski's mother-in-law Barbara, recovering from gall bladder surgery who has pancreatic cancer  
For Ann Antus' former mother-in-law Carol  
For all our homebound members, especially Mary Lou Cain and Kathy and Greg Merkel*

### **Prayers for the world**

*For religious sites including those in Sri Lanka and San Diego hit by violence and hatred  
For people and communities in areas that are being flooded and hit by cyclones*



## Voices and Views

Dan Adolphson



## ***This year's Pride marks a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary***

I know I'm a few weeks early, but I want to have a conversation about Pride Month, as June will be here before we know it. We will again have a joint Disciples booth in Loring Park, sharing our message of extravagant welcome, that all means ALL.

This year's Pride Month is historic, as we mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Stonewall Riot in New York City, which launched the modern Pride movement. The 1950s and 60s were a tough time for the LGBTQ community – one could lose their job, their housing...everything if one was 'found' to be homosexual.

Very few establishments welcomed openly gay people in the 1950s and 1960s. Those that did were often bars, although bar owners and managers were rarely gay. At the time, the Stonewall Inn catered to an assortment of patrons and was known to be popular among the poorest and most marginalized people in the gay community. Police raids on gay bars were routine in the 1960s, but officers quickly lost control of the situation at the Stonewall Inn. Tensions between New York City police and gay residents of Greenwich Village erupted into more protests the next evening, and again several nights later. Within weeks, Village residents quickly organized into activist groups to concentrate efforts on establishing places for the LGBTQ community to be open about their sexual orientation without fear of being arrested. One of the key leaders of the resistance at the Stonewall Inn was Marsha P. Johnson, a transgender, African-American activist who went on to found some of the key advocacy organizations that grew out of the Stonewall Riot.

It is important to note that our transgender siblings have been in front of the fight for LGBTQ rights. Prior to the 1969 Stonewall Riot, there was the 1966 Compton's Cafeteria's Riot in San Francisco, which occurred as a response to increasing transphobia by the owners of the popular California cafeteria chain.

Why do I bring all this up? In this 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, while the LGBTQ community has much to celebrate, there is an increasing tide of anti-LGBTQ legislation occurring at the state and national level. Much of this legislation specifically targets our transgender siblings. It is why it is so important for us to show up at the Capitol and have a presence at the Twin Cities Pride Festival. Our message of extravagant welcome, of all means ALL, is more important than ever. Our God welcomes everyone. Our LGBTQ siblings need to know that we care.

## Heather Thonvold, FCC's newest member



Heather Thonvold is the newest member of First Christian, having joined us several months ago. (Heather uses they/them pronouns.) Heather grew up in Spokane, Washington, went to school at Marquette University for a BA and then to Seattle University where they became an ordained DOC pastor as well as a certified chaplain. Heather met their wife Aubrey in seminary; the two moved to the Twin Cities in 2014 initially for Aubrey's job. Heather currently works as a hospice chaplain at Allina. Heather greatly enjoys the job; most of the patients are in facilities but some

in private homes.

Heather is a "craft nerd" who enjoys crocheting and cooking. Aubrey and Heather are outside a lot and are looking forward to hiking and exploring even more state parks this summer.

We welcome Heather to our church family!

*interview by Karen Kandik*

## Drivers needed to join monthly rotation

Several of our regular FCC members don't drive and need rides to church. A number of drivers have been bringing people to church for many years, mostly using their own cars. This loyal crew could use a few more drivers, so if you could join in the monthly rotation, please call Mike Hesano at 651-645-6758 to join in this important service to others.

## Interesting interview with recent FCC guest



Dr. Paolo Naso, a professor and church activist from Domodossola, Italy, gave a talk and answered questions at FCC in February about the work he is doing with immigrants to Italy. He was featured in a recent interview in the Global Ministries newsletter, where he talked about his recent trip to the U.S. border. You can read this interesting interview at <https://tinyurl.com/y65eb7as>

## Camp season starts soon – still time to register

There is a camp for everyone, from the local South Minneapolis Day Camp day camp June 17-21, to Standing Rock Camp for youth June 8-15, to a myriad of offerings for toddlers to grandparents at the Disciples Camp and Conference Center in Newton, IA. Visit the [Camps page](#) on FCC's website for more information.



## FCC Board Notes

Eight people attended the April 23 meeting of FCC's general board. Highlights from the meeting include the following:

- Belinda Flanagan raised the issue of the need to organize and sort through music in our music room. She will look into how to make this happen.

- Deb Murphy was able to acquire materials to use in Godly Play, which SH uses for Children's Sunday School curriculum.

- Skip Wolverton informed the board about the recent five-year assessment to SpringHouse for street work done last year on Garfield Avenue. Discussion focused on how information on this and other issues is sometimes "lost in the shuffle."

- Next year, Nancy Curry will be co-leader with Maria Thieling for Children's Ministry.

- Deb Murphy was congratulated on passing her oral defense for her Master's Thesis.

- Skip Wolverton presented the Treasurer's Reports for both February and March. February income was down because of bad weather. March income was \$11,225. March year-to-date income is \$5,824 below budgeted expectations.

**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, May 12  
Paul's Mission  
Acts 13: 1-3, 14: 8-18**



Greek god Hermes

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

**Reflections on the Word**

*Acts 14: 11 – When the crowds saw what Paul had done, they shouted in the Lycaonian language, ‘The gods have come down to us in human form!’”*

When Paul heals a man who could not walk, the people mistake him for the god Hermes come to life. Paul hastens to make the people understand that they need to turn from “worthless things” to the living God. Like Paul, we sometimes are surprised at how our actions and words are interpreted by others.

*Loving God, Help us learn to pay attention to how we communicate with others, especially as we try to be your feet and hands on earth. Amen.*

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

**Ministry Team**

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