

The COURIER

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis



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UPCOMING

Events:

Cidery tour,
Sunday, August 11,
2-7 pm

FCC Board, Tuesday,
August 20, 7 pm

Joint Worship in
Bryant Park, Sunday,
August 18, 10:30 am

Renewal activities at FCC off to strong start

We are off to a great start with the congregational activities related to Pastor Laurie's sabbatical. We had a large turnout for our worship in the park followed by a wonderful barbecue lunch on July 28 for our send-off celebration. We thank David Cobb for his inspiring sermon on August 4, kicking off our three months of Rediscovering our Roots, Renewing our Purpose and Revitalizing our Community.



Our next fun activity will be the Cidery Tour on Sunday, August 11, 2 - 7p.m. We will meet at SpringHouse and ride the bus to visit three metro area cideries to taste their beverages and enjoy some good food. If you still want to sign up to join us, please email Pastor Dan at dan.adolphson@fccmpls.org <<mailto:dan.adolphson@fccmpls.org>>.

Looking ahead to September:

History Tour, Sunday, September 8: A short history of the buildings that have housed our congregation since its beginnings in 1877 will be presented on Sept 8 after the joint worship service and lunch (place TBD). Included will be information about our founding fathers and mothers. We will also tour (at least part of) the 2201 property.

FCC Day at Como Park on Saturday, September 14: Come spend the day at Como Park enjoying zoo, conservatory, carousel and many other activities! We will have a cookout dinner with potluck sides and desserts beginning at 5:30. We have picnic shelter near the mini golf course reserved from 3:30 - 9:30 p.m. Please join us on **Sunday, September** to hear our **General Minister and President, Rev. Teresa Hord Owens**. She will preach during worship and then lead us in conversations afterward. A light lunch will be served after the worship service.



Rediscovering. Renewing. Revitalizing.
First Christian Church
July 28 - November 17, 2019

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Ongoing:

Book Study: Please join the conversations about the book, **A Handbook for Today's** (*Story continues on page 3*)

In Our Prayers. . .



Prayers of Sympathy

*For Tim Leach, whose father
Bernard passed away
recently*

Prayers of Concern

*For Bryan Feille, recovering
from an auto accident he
had in Texas*

*For Ardie Armstrong, who fell
and broke a bone in her foot*

*For Lu Griffin's friend Julie
recovering from a fall*

*For Kevin Berkey with new
health concerns*

*For all our homebound
members, especially John
Takekawa and Kathy Merkel*

Prayers for the world

*Please pray for families
whose loved ones were
killed. May the God of all
compassion be palpably
present with them. Pray for
our army chaplains and our
hospital chaplains. Please
pray for parents comforting
little ones even as they need
support. Pray for deacons
and elders who will pray
consecration prayers and
share the body broken and
cup poured out with the
gathered faithful. Christ be
with us.*

*(Part of a prayer by Pastor
Laurie posted on Disciples
Public Presence Facebook)*

Voices and Views

Tim Wilkins



Add Action to Thoughts and Prayers

Our hearts are broken by [last] weekend's mass shootings in El Paso and Dayton. In a matter of seconds—separated by a few hours and 1,600 miles—[thirty-one] lives were stolen, and many more injured, by two angry, young white men with automatic weapons.

As shocking as these murders are, they are just the latest of our nation's self-inflicted wounds. There have been more mass shootings so far this year—251—than days.

We must act now to curb gun violence—and the rise of white supremacy—before it's too late.

Other nations have moved quickly to curb these threats. In Australia, a 1996 mass shooting was enough to convince lawmakers to control access to firearms: there hasn't been a mass shooting since. In New Zealand, after the Christchurch mosque shootings in March, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern moved quickly to affirm her solidarity with immigrants, to denounce the massacre as an act of terrorism, and white nationalism as a rising threat.

There are moments when we, too, have risen to the imperatives of the moment. Public outcry over the beating of peaceful protestors by Birmingham police helped spur passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Voting Rights Act of 1965. And the public anger that followed the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. led to passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, which included the Fair Housing Act and Indian Civil Rights Act.

This is a moment when we, as a nation, must transcend our differences and come together. It remains to be seen if any of our lawmakers will rise to the mandate of history and take meaningful action.

Because it will take more than a shrug and a smile to keep white nationalists with unlimited access to firearms from taking more lives.

Thoughts and prayers are not enough. *Let your voice be heard.*

Editor's Note: Tim Wilkins is a journalist, formerly with Bloomberg News and NPR, who edits the national daily newsletter of People's Action. The above is an edited version of the full essay which can be read on <https://ourfuture.org/20190805/thoughts-and-prayers-are-not-enough>

FCC blessed with new member Darren



Darren Armstrong, a frequent visitor to FCC, formally joined the church on July 28, at the FCC service in the North Mississippi Regional Park. Darren was born, raised, and lived in Waco, Texas, until he moved to Minnesota in 2011. He is the accounting manager at Caribou Coffee's main office. Darren is a lifelong Disciple, with family roots back to great grandparents and possibly beyond them! He enjoys singing, movies, trying new restaurants, cooking, theater, music...and plans to join

Handbells! Please welcome Darren as our newest member!

Book Club follows tradition for August on the river

The FCC book club tradition in August is to travel towards St Cloud to Bobbie Hall's place on the river. This year the book club will meet on Tuesday, August 27, and will start at 5 pm, little earlier than usual, because the group has so much to do! Carpooling is recommended!

What's the book? It is **The Secret, Scone, and Book Society**, by Ellery Adams. This is the first in a series of what appear to be cozy mysteries, so if you get addicted, well, don't say we didn't warn you.

August special collection time for Mission and Outreach

August is a month when we will be collecting special donations for our outreach activities for the next few months. Those include: serving a meal at St St Stephen's and making sandwiches for Simpson Shelter. Please write "Mission and Outreach" in the memo on your check/envelope. Any loose offering will be used for this mission work.

Renewal activities, continued from page 1

Disciples by D. Duane Cummins. David Cobb is leading us on Sunday mornings in August from 9:30 - 10:15 in the Lydia room. Pastor Dan will be leading the study on Thursday mornings in September from 10:30 - 11:30. There will also be an online option. Please contact Pastor Dan for the link to join it.

Prayer Groups: There is still time to participate in a small prayer group to meet during our time of congregational renewal, please contact Kirsten to sign up. (612-788-4826 or cackoski@msn.com<<mailto:cackoski@msn.com>>

Fellowship Meal Groups: We are putting together groups with those who have already signed up. If you would like to join them, please contact Kirsten. We would love to have more people participate!

General Assembly photos



*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

**Revised Common Lectionary
For Sunday, August 11
Isaiah 1: 1, 10-17**

*"Businessman, Mother and Hungry
Child," 1936, by Henry Varnum
Poor, US Dept of Justice*



*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*

Ministry Team

Dan Adolphson, Associate Pastor,
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Adam Conrad, Music Director & Composer-in-Residence
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Craig Simenson, Interim Youth Pastor
Maria Thieling, SHMC Child Care
Tanner VanderKrabben, Bell Choir Conductor
Mike Vasich - Pianist

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Reflections on the Word

Isaiah 1: 17: 'Learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow.'

Isaiah urges us to lift up those who have no means to come back into the community. The widows and orphans have no family structure to sustain them, no champion for their cause. Isaiah instructs us to "rescue, defend, plead."

Holy God, Make me a willing and obedient servant of your compassion for all. Amen.

By Larry J. Peacock, in Disciplines 2019.

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
OF MINNEAPOLIS
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
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