

March 23, 2023

# The Courier

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis



## What's **INSIDE**:

*Karen Kandik reflects on  
the clergy pilgrimage  
sessions,  
page 2*

*Salem member writes about  
Color of Hope and SHMC,  
page 3*

## UPCOMING Events

*Downtown Clergy pilgrimage  
session and worship service,  
Sunday, March 26, 4 pm*

*Elders Meeting,  
Wednesday, April 5,  
7 pm Zoom*

*Coffee Hours continue,  
9 am on Wed & Sat,  
Happy Hours  
5 pm Tues & Thurs*

*Note on links: If the links in  
the PDF version of The  
Courier don't work, copy  
and paste the URL address  
in your browser.*

## Lenten Mission Project, Sat. April 1, 9 am – 1 pm Bagels, Books and Blankets

Join your fellow church goers in a morning of fun, fellowship, food, and fabulous good deeds!

Bagels: Bagels and toppings will be available for your breakfast. And coffee, too, of course!

Books: We will be collecting books to give to People Serving People. The shelter would appreciate books for people of all ages, infants through seniors. The books can be new or gently used—meaning no rips, tears, writing, or stains. (We are asked to not give any books that are political or religious.) Go wild in your favorite independent bookstore!

Blankets: New blankets are welcome. They can be twin, full, or queen size. Thick and warm blankets are needed but any are welcome.

Building sandwiches: Our after-breakfast activity will be making 200-300 sandwiches to be delivered to Groveland Food Shelf on April 4. Many hands make light work!

Activity for Children: (and those who are children at heart!): Peeps dioramas! Materials provided or bring your favorites! Adult help will be available! Bring your creativity!

If you cannot attend the Saturday gathering but wish to donate book or blankets, you can bring them to church and leave them in front of the altar in the North Sanctuary. Or if you would like a pick up at your home, contact Karen Kandik.



## Plaster House announces new 5-year Plan

FCC has supported Plaster House, the Tanzanian organization that helps injured children, for many years. Plaster House began in 2008 with just 9 beds in a rented guesthouse. In 2021, Plaster House treated a record 1,200 patients.



You can find out more about Plaster House and its plans for the future at <https://www.theplasterhouse.org/newsletters/the-duck>

*In Our Prayers*

Joyful prayers go out to **Josh and Emma Jorstad** from Salem on the birth of baby boy **Kjell** on March 11.

We pray in concern for **Gabriel, nephew of Jay and Arlene Hillestad**; for **Mitch Grauberger's father Ryan** as he heals after a hospital stay; for **Zack Hesano** who is in the midst of a root canal procedure; for **Deb Murphy** as she recovers from COVID; for **Kirsten Peters**, a Disciples clergy colleague, experiencing pregnancy difficulties; for **Daniel Romero's partner Rena** after her recent surgery.

We pray for **Tiff Williams**, our Associate Regional Minister, who is leaving her post as Director of the Christian Conference Center for a new pastoral position.

We pray for our country to be healed of its many divisions and hatreds.

*Gracious God, we lift up these persons in our prayers, asking the blessing of your Grace and outpouring of your Love upon them. Amen*

**Sunday, March 26, 4 pm**  
**Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church**  
 3355 North 4th St, Minneapolis  
**BE THERE!**

*By Karen Kandik*

I am going to confess that I chose to attend the first session of the series about the Downtown Clergy's Civil Rights Pilgrimage because I thought it would be a travelogue. I knew there would be videos so I thought it would be interesting to see those historic sites "up close."

Well, WHOA! Yes, there were videos. But they were the least dramatic part of the inspiring, complex, interesting, challenging, educational, and dramatic presentation by the Downtown Clergy. The second session on March 19<sup>th</sup> was the same: powerful!

At both sessions there was a panel of about 10 of the clergy who went on the trip—Christian, Jewish, and Muslim. There were three videos at each session; each contained shots of the historic civil rights locations they visited on a particular day. At the end of each video two of the clergy conversed (on the video) about what they saw and felt regarding the day. Very powerful.

After each video, the panel discussed it. The deeply ingrained faith from which each religious leader discussed the video—all with a focus on racial equality/justice—was impressive. It was clear that the trip had deeply affected all of them. There were discussions about the direct line from slavery to policies and attitudes that still are with us today—and that is just one of the many topics covered. We then had a chance to talk to others at our table about what we had seen and heard.

There were about 150-200 people at each forum. A question was asked, "What ideas do you (the clergy) have for individuals and congregations to move forward in this area?" The answer was that the clergy have been meeting to discuss exactly that—"Stay tuned."

The last session on March 26 will have more videos with more discussion about them. We will also be having a church service, with the sermon by Imam Makram El-Amin (a fabulous speaker). I encourage you to attend if you can.

In case you think I am the only one excited about this, talk with Pastor Dan, Kathy Hintz, or Tammy Rottschaefer; our heads were awl with all that had been said.

The bottom line? The sessions were sobering but hopeful and inspiring! Thank you, Pastor Laurie, for all of your work in making the trip and these forums possible!

## Book Study Reflection by Salem member Michelle Madsen

*Note: Michelle Madsen wrote this reflection for Salem's newsletter, Salem Scene. We thank her for letting us share her words with our congregation! Her essay has been slightly shortened for space.*

This winter, Pastor Dan and Pastor Laurie of First Christian church invited all of SpringHouse to join them in a book study, one of the first returns of joint-SpringHouse “Adult Ed” programming since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our book was *Colors of Hope: A Devotional from LGBTQ+ Christians*, edited by Melissa Guthrie.

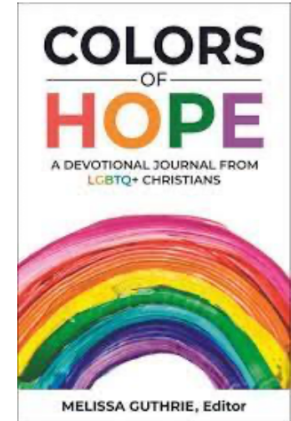
While I couldn't attend every single meeting of the study group, each time I was present, our group of distinct identities and backgrounds came together to reflect on the reading and discuss the open-ended questions each chapter asked us – to wonder, to resist, to embody, to create, to hope, to stretch, to share.

Our group explored the questions, sharing stories, commiserating about loss and hardships, and celebrating goodness in our lives. We each examined our past, present and future. How can we find hope for ourselves? How can we be hope for one another?

It was a beautiful experience to go through this devotional *together*, as a SpringHouse family. Some people in the group I was meeting for the first time, while others I tend to only cross in “administrative” ways through my role on the SpringHouse Board. How good it was to carve out this time to spend with one another nourishing our spirits.

As tends to happen when I gather among people who are part of the Lyndale and FCC communities, I learned something new about SpringHouse that made me love our partnership of three congregations even more. Longtime members of FCC shared a touching story about a time when a member came out to the congregation, a story I had not before heard. Learning about the community's embrace of that member for every bit of who they were made me reflect on one of the many reasons I am grateful to have found myself walking through the doors of SpringHouse Ministry Center some

nine years ago. Each of the churches, including Salem, truly tries to be the fullest expression of welcoming to all people. In relationship with others in this community, being reminded and taught how to be welcoming through our community's spiritual practices – and being reminded that I'm not alone in needing and doing that work – really matters and helps me move through the world in a kinder, more hopeful way.



Fast forward a few weeks after the book study ended. I was in conversation with someone I have known for many years professionally, and they came out to me. They said it's part of them they neither promote nor hide in their professional life, but they felt like telling me because they “just knew” it would be okay and even good to share this part of themselves with me, that I could be trusted. I was deeply moved by their life story, and I also felt well-equipped because of my experience in this church of churches that call SHMC home to express gratitude for this sharing and demonstrate unconditional support of being their whole, genuine self at work or otherwise. We even discussed our religious backgrounds, allowing me to witness to the grace and welcome of Salem and our partners Lyndale and FCC.

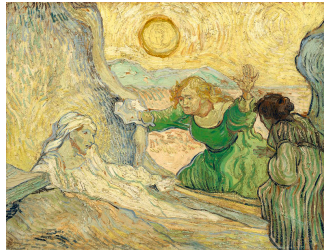
Yes, the *Colors of Hope* book study prepared me for that moment – but more than that, I believe my relationship with the SHMC community over the years helps me be more loving and open in my day-to-day than I would be without it.

See full essay : <https://discoversalem.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/March-April-Scene-2023.pdf>

## ***Sundays at First Christian Church***

**Worship** at 10:30, in person or livestreamed at [fccmpls.org](http://fccmpls.org)  
**Children's U-Pick Hybrid Sunday School**, 9:20-10:15 am,  
 in person in the Squiggle Space or Zoom

**Revised Common Lectionary  
 for March 26, 2023  
 Lazarus Raised  
 John 11: 1-45**



*Raising of Lazarus, Vincent van Gogh*

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

### Reflections on the Word

*John 11: 43: When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!'*

lazarus

*first day*

i rose from stiffening  
 into a pin of light  
 and a voice calling  
 "Lazarus, this way"  
 and i floated or rather  
 swam in a river of sound  
 toward what seemed to be  
 forever I was almost  
 almost there when I heard  
 behind me  
 "Lazarus, come forth" and  
 i found myself twisting  
 in the light for this  
 is the miracle, mary martha;  
 at my head and at my feet  
 singing my name  
 was the same voice.

Lucille Clifton, in *The Collected  
 Poems of Lucille Clifton*

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

#### **Ministry Team**

**Dan Adolphson**, Associate Pastor

[dan.adolphson@fccmpls.org](mailto:dan.adolphson@fccmpls.org)

**Rick Bowman**, SHMC Building Manager

**Chelsea Boyden**, SHMC Youth Minister

**Laurie Pound Feille**, Senior Minister

[pastor@fccmpls.org](mailto:pastor@fccmpls.org)

**Martha Harris**, Courier Editor,

[harrismartha@mac.com](mailto:harrismartha@mac.com)

**Allison Jones**, SHMC Building Coordinator,

[allison.jones@fccmpls.org](mailto:allison.jones@fccmpls.org)

**Deb Murphy**, Director of Spiritual Formation  
 of Children, [deb.murphy@fccmpls.org](mailto:deb.murphy@fccmpls.org)

**Office Telephone:** 612.870.1868

[www.fccminneapolis.org](http://www.fccminneapolis.org)

**E-Mail:** [office@fccminneapolis.org](mailto:office@fccminneapolis.org)

**Next issue deadline is Sunday, April 2**

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