

Food needs critical in this MN Food Share month

“Emergency SNAP benefits end, Minnesota food shelves brace for growing need,” (StarTribune headline, February 28, 2023)

Extra SNAP benefits (formerly called Food Stamps) were started in March 2020. Over 432,000 Minnesotans received the extra SNAP benefits; the last of these extra benefits ends this month because the COVID emergency is ending. The StarTribune article states that officials who work for food shelves say the need for food assistance is higher than last year and even higher than before the pandemic.

As we all know from going to any grocery store, the prices of food have risen dramatically with inflation. Food shelves also have to pay more money to get the same products; Second Harvest Heartland estimates that food costs were up 20% in fall 2022 over fall 2021.

But you can help reduce food insecurity for people right in our neighborhood! March is Minnesota Food Share month and this year we are

giving you two opportunities: give financial support which will go to Groveland Food Shelf, the food shelf that FCC has supported for many years, and/or bring actual food to put into the white barrel! We have not asked for actual food for several years because of the pandemic but this year you have the opportunity to do so. (Please bring only non-perishable items whose expiration date is in the future.)



As usual, you can give monetary donations through Givelify (Groveland Food Shelf is listed) or send a check to the church office with “Groveland” written in the memo line. Every dollar and every can makes a difference!

Story by Karen Kandik

Date saver! Saturday, April 1 from 9am-1pm. Bagels, Books, and Blankets—plus PEEPS!--a Lenten mission opportunity! Come and eat breakfast, bring gently used books and blankets for People Serving People and put together a PEEPS diorama! More information to follow soon.

Meet Chelsea Boyden, New SpringHouse Youth Minister



Hello new friends! My name is Chelsea Boyden (they/them) and I am excited to join SpringHouse as the new Youth Minister. I graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College in 2021 with degrees in Political Science, Philosophy, and Peace, Justice, & Conflict Studies and am currently pursuing my M.Div in Social Transformation at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities and seeking ordination in the UCC. I have several years of experience in youth work and have been involved in several youth ministries and currently work full time as the Academic Success Coordinator for TRIO Upward Bound. In my free time, I enjoy exploring new foods and restaurants with my

partner in the Twin Cities metro and spending time with my cat, Kiwi. I am eager to get to know all of you soon and help the SpringHouse youth navigate their faith and big questions.

In Our Prayers

We pray in gratitude that SpringHouse now has a Youth Minister, and we welcome **Chelsea Boyden** as she meets and leads the youth.

We pray in sympathy for **Pastor Dan's brother Bob** who lost close family friends, and for **Karen Kandik**, whose kitty **Luci** had to be put down.

We pray in concern for **Belinda Flanagan** who suffered fractures and had surgery following a fall on ice; for **Ann and Skip Wolverton** as they adjust to Skip's new long-term care placement and Ann's upcoming surgery; for **Darren Armstrong** as he recovers from knee surgery; for **David Cobb and Katy McFall** who have several family members with health concerns; for **Val Dunham's sister Bettie**.

We pray for our queer and trans siblings in many states around the nation where harsh laws are being enacted.

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



From the desk of Pastor Dan

Three key housing priorities for MN legislature

By the time you are reading this, we will be wrapping up the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless Day on the Hill. As a member congregation of AlignMpls, we are advocating for three legislative priorities this year:

1. **Housing Support Affordability:** Housing Support, formerly called GRH, is a program which houses low-income people with disabilities. Currently, this program can cost a resident up to 80-90% of their income, which is unaffordable. The legislation to reform Housing Support income calculations would ensure individuals receiving unearned income such as Social Security Disability income or Veterans benefits aren't required to pay more than 30% of their monthly benefit towards Housing Support costs. This important initiative would make housing affordable for those on the program and allow them to keep more of their income for personal and household needs. This legislation is a high priority for our friends at Street Voices of Change.
2. **Statewide Shelter Standards:** The State Task Force on Shelter, on which two Street Voices of Change members served, worked diligently over 18 months to create recommendations for statewide standards for Homeless shelters, and recommendations for oversight of shelters. Their work was informed by the Street Voices Shelter Resident's Bill of Rights in Hennepin County. The recommendations from the Task Force on Shelter will form the basis for legislation to ensure safe and dignified shelter for those who need temporary emergency shelter across Minnesota.
3. **Building more Affordable Housing Units:** Across Minnesota, and in Minneapolis, there are not enough housing units available. Especially lacking are housing units that are affordable for lower income Minnesotans. Lack of units leads to rising rents, and housing that is unaffordable can lead to homelessness. Significant investment of \$750 Million in Housing Infrastructure Bonds will allow developers to build more units of affordable housing, additional investments in Public Housing (\$250M) and tax benefits for affordable housing developers are needed to grow the supply of housing that is affordable to lower income households.

How you can you be a 'helper' in this moment? Reach out to your state legislators – your voice is very important in this work, especially from a faith viewpoint! To find out who your legislators are (if you don't know already), visit <https://www.gis.lcc.mn.gov/iMaps/districts/>.

To stay on top of this important work:

<https://www.alignmpls.org/legislativeadvocacy>

Three events to highlight Clergy Pilgrimage



Minneapolis senior clergy (including Pastor Laurie Feille) who traveled together in January on an interfaith Civil Rights Pilgrimage will share their experiences in three upcoming events. The events will include videos and panel discussions about the trip, and an Interfaith service of song and reflections which will also commemorate the convergence of Ramadan, Passover and Easter. All are welcome!!

Video and panel discussion:

Sunday, March 12, 4 pm at Temple Israel, 2323 Fremont Av. S.

Sunday March 19, 4 pm at Westminster Presbyterian (1200 Marquette)

Interfaith Service:

Sunday, March 26, 4 pm Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church, 3355 N. 45th St

Newton Summer camps open for registration

Registration opened in February for summer camps at the Christian Conference Center in Newton, IA. Ten different camps for families and for youth from 2nd grade to high school are available, including two new offerings: Adventure Camp IOWA and Adventure Camp COLORADO.

Brief descriptions and camp dates can be found here:

<https://www.uppermidwestcc.org/summer-camp>

For more detailed descriptions of each camp, go

to <https://www.newtonccc.org/scsessions>

Questions? Contact Deb Murphy deb.murphy@fccmpls.org

SH Green Team campaigns for reduced plastic use

The SpringHouse Green Team invites everyone to reduce, recycle, and refuse plastics during Lent. During coffee hour this Sunday, March 12, the team will share information about reducing plastic use during Lent and beyond. Participants will create paper cranes to show a collective commitment to reducing plastic use. A helpful video called "The Story of Plastic Use" is available that portrays the global plastic catastrophe – and how to stop it. The video is at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iO3SA4YyEYU>.

FCC Board Notes

Nineteen people attended the February 21 meeting of FCC's General Board. Highlights of the meeting were as follows:

- Special guest and FCC member Caila Rinker shared her journey toward ordination, which FCC is sponsoring. The board voted unanimously to affirm Caila Rinker for ordination as a Disciples of Christ minister.

- Pastor Laurie reported that position of Office Administrator is once again open. Pastor Laurie put out a call for help to fill this vital staff position at FCC. Kirsten Cackoski and Alice Keith are helping get the worship script and bulletins out, and Andy Rennert is checking the mail.

- The board voted to accept a Wholeness Fund grant proposal for \$8,500 for congregational renewal activities while Pastor Laurie is on sabbatical leave this summer.

- Trustee Paul Rottschaefer summarized recent business of the Trustees, including a request that the Board reconstitute a Stewardship Committee who would review normal church operating expenses and make recommendations to the board about the budget and use of Memorial Funds.

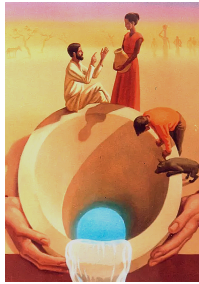
- FCC Treasurer Pat Dunlop reviewed the January 2023 report and the 2022 end-of-year report. Her summary was that we are currently in a good financial position.

Sundays at First Christian Church

Worship at 10:30, in person or
livestreamed at fccmpls.org

Children's U-Pick Hybrid Sunday School, 9:20-10:15 am,
Squiggle Space and Zoom

Revised Common Lectionary
March 12, 2023
The Woman at the Well
John 4: 5-42



Christ at the Well,
painting by Peter
Koenig

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

Reflections on the Word

John 4: 25-26a – The woman said to him, “I know that the Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us. Jesus said to her, “I am he.”

This is the only time that Jesus reveals this truth to another person. That the person he trusts himself to is a Samaritan and a woman is deeply significant not only to John's first-century audience but also to anyone who seeks to understand the Gospel. The gospel becomes life changing for the Samaritan woman's neighbors when she tells them about the Messiah, and she becomes the first and most effective evangelist of John's Gospel.

God, thank you for coming to us in Jesus and revealing yourself as the only one who can satisfy our spirit's deepest thirst. Amen.

Adapted from commentary by Jennifer Garcia Bashaw, on Working Preacher, 3/6/2023.

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

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