

The Courier

April 27, 2023

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis



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UPCOMING Events

Women's Fellowship,
Monday, May 1, 7 pm

Elders Meeting,
Wednesday, May 3,
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.

Tim O'Grady joins FCC's music staff



Tim O'Grady is FCC's new pianist and handbell choir director. Tim grew up in Ft. Collins, CO, and came to Minnesota to study music at St. Olaf College, where he majored in music theory and composition and played percussion in the St. Olaf Orchestra. After college, he found that music jobs came easier for a piano accompanist than for a percussionist, and he has been making his living as a pianist for churches, choral groups and schools. He currently is the accompanist for music groups at Tartan High School.

At home, Tim enjoys listening to classical music, including modern classical, and is an audience regular at the Minnesota Orchestra. He became engaged this past September to Sarah Youngner, who works for the Orchestra. Tim is a member of a

handbell ensemble, [Twin Cities Bronze](#), a group that "has engaged audiences with innovative performances in concert halls, churches, schools and community centers around the country" (from the TCB website). Welcome, Tim!

Pastors witness historic MN votes

In her sermon on April 23, Pastor Laurie Feille gave a moving account of the experience she and Pastor Dan Adolphson had as they stood in the gallery of the State Capitol on April 21 witnessing the historic debate in the Minnesota Senate on three ground-breaking social justice bills for reproductive freedom, for trans refuge, and for a ban on conversion therapy. Pastor Dan noted that the conversion therapy bill has been voted down for the past 10 years. In her sermon, Pastor Laurie stated that the word "love" was used so many times during the debates that the Capitol "almost seemed like church."

Many states in the country are taking a very different legislative approach, and are enacting bans on gender affirming health care and expression. The Disciples LGBTQ+ Alliance issued a statement on April 23 in response this anti-trans wave, urging "congregations to publicly proclaim and manifest the welcome and affirmation of persons of all gender expressions and identities and sexual orientations." You can read the complete Alliance statement at tinyurl.com/bdfy2pyp.

In Our Prayers

We joyfully pray with **Jim and Lynda Lee** on the marriage of their daughter **Elodie** to Jeremiah Satterthwaite.

We pray that **Jay Hillestad's mother Arletta** will successfully adjust to her new pacemaker, with **Ana Wilson** as she begins cancer treatment, that **Diane Hackett** has successful mitral valve replacement surgery, with **Caroline Polovny** who has been ill and whose **great-aunt Helen** recently passed away; for **Jon Sill's friend Dave's** health problems, for **Ann Wolverton** and **Barb Rusinak** as they recover from surgery, and for the family and friends of **Rabbi Sim Glaser** who passed away recently.

We pray for an end to the paroxysm of violence in our country that each week has seen innocent people going about their daily business senselessly gunned down.

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

A Message from Rev. Dr. Laurie Pound Feille

*To two people who make worship richer*

Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed! Easter worship was filled with music, people (online and onsite), flowers on the Cross, Brass and the goodness and love of God. I am so grateful for all who served and participated in our Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services as well as on Easter morning. We have many gifted members and staff who use their gifts in a variety of ways to make our worship services possible. We are still in the Easter season until Pentecost Sunday so feel free to say "Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed!" whenever you want!

There are two people that I want to thank for all that they did during Lent, Holy Week, Easter and the rest of the year. Anna Bliss and Deb Murphy transform our worship space to fit the time of year and our series. It takes time, thought and planning and they do it with grace and ease. So much so that sometimes I forget all the hard work that goes into keeping the worship space a part of the worship experience. During Lent our focus was on Love. By the time we arrived at Good Friday, and I covered the big scrabble tiles that spelled Love with a black cloth when we extinguished the Christ candle, it was heartbreaking. Without that visual reminder of Love for six weeks the power of that moment would not have been the same. Anna and Deb changed what we saw for Palm Sunday, Good Friday and then transformed our worship space into joy on Easter. This transformation allows us to use more of our senses in our worship services.

Our series for this Easter season is Emerge using the imagery of a butterfly. Once again Anna and Deb have transformed our worship space to match the series. I'm not sure how they do it as I get overwhelmed thinking about how to help the worship space match the message and music so that we can have a full worship experience. They do it in such a way that those onsite and those online can experience that fullness.

Thank you, Anna and Deb! Much like our technology crew, you offer your gifts in ways that we don't even know because you make it look so easy. I am grateful for all that you do and marvel at your creative gifts. I look forward to what the rest of this year will bring in creating a worshipful worship space.

Thank you to all who serve in so many ways. We could not be church without you!

Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed! Much love and peace, Pastor Laurie

FCC Calendar for May, 2023

Monthly or One-time Events (on Zoom unless otherwise noted)

Monday, May 1	7 pm - Women's Fellowship
Wednesday, May 3	7 pm - Elders Meeting
Monday, May 8	5 pm - SpringHouse Building Committee 7 pm - SpringHouse Finance Committee
Tuesday, May 9	7 pm - Pastor Dan PRC <i>in person</i>
Wednesday, May 10	Noon - FCC Finance Committee
Thursday, May 11	Noon - Mission and Outreach Team meeting 7 pm - Pastor Laurie PRC
Saturday, May 13	10:30 am - Trustees Meeting
Monday, May 15	7 pm - FCC Book Group
Tuesday, May 17	7 pm - FCC General Board
Tuesday, May 23	6 pm - Worship Committee

Regular Weekly Events:

Sundays	9:20-10:15 - SH Youth Group Open Hours 9:30 am - Children's U-Pick Hybrid Sunday School – Zoom starts at 9:20 10:30 am - Worship (in-person and livestream)
Tuesdays	8:15 am - SpringHouse Lectionary Group 5 pm - Happy Hour 7 pm - The Stable
Wednesdays	9 am - Coffee with Pastors
Thursdays	5 pm - Happy Hour
Saturdays	9 am - Coffee with Pastors

FCC Board Notes

Nineteen people attended the April 18 meeting of FCC's General Board. Highlights of the meeting were as follows:

- The board voted unanimously to approve Katy McFall and Ali Hesano as FCC's representatives to General Assembly this summer.
- The board voted unanimously to approve Rev. Daniel Romero to fill the current vacant elder position.
- Martha Harris reported on a Talking Circle that she and FCC's pastors participated in, part of Lyndale UCC's discernment process as they search for a new pastor.
- Trustee Paul Rottschaefer gave a summary of the recent Trustees meeting. The Trustee checking balance was \$206,024 on March 31. Church Endowment Funds reported principal losses of 14%. The MN unemployment insurance issue has been resolved without penalty. The Trustees will reimburse the church budget for \$7,000 that was put into 2023 capital expenses. The Trustees purchased as 12-month CD for \$50,000 from Sunrise Bank.
- Treasurer Pat Dunlop reviewed the current Financial Position, stating that we are within where we should be in the amounts budgeted. Total revenues through March were \$34,670.

Join an evening of Word and Music on May 25



Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III

Being a white ally means playing a supporting role as BIPOC people take center stage. During this historic shift, how can white Christians embrace roles where they cease to be the stars of the film but are instead cast as extras – people whose advancement of the plot is good but not essential to the future? And how can BIPOC people regain agency and become the leaders they are meant to be?

On the third anniversary of the murder of George Floyd, Minnesota Council of Churches invites people of faith to an evening with music from Sounds of Blackness and a prophetic word from Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III, Senior Pastor of Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago, Illinois. The gathering will be **May 25, 5:30 to 7:30 at Plymouth Congregational Church**. Learn more and register at <https://www.mnchurches.org/shifting-spotlight>.

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,
 in person in the Squiggle Space or Zoom
SH Youth Open Hours with Chelsea Boyden, 9:20-10:15

**Revised Common Lectionary
 for April 30, 2023
 Acts 2: 42-47**



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

Reflections on the Word

Acts 2:46 – Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts

Acts 2 portrays the Holy Spirit at work in the life of the early Christian community. Some people simply heard the good news, and God worked within them to add them to the church. Others experienced the material generosity and joy of the church and were attracted that way. These daily works of the Holy Spirit – works of faith and generosity – instruct, connect and feed us all. *Loving God, Fill us with your Spirit so that we may share your light with the world around us. Amen.*

Jefferson Furtado in *Disciplines*, 2023.

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

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