

June 22, 2023

The COURIER

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis



What's INSIDE:

*A Message from
Pastor Laurie Feille,
page 2*

*July Mission & Outreach,
page 3*

*FCC Board notes,
page 3*

*News Briefs galore,
page 4*

*July calendar,
page 5*

UPCOMING Events:

*PRIDE WEEKEND,
June 24-25*

*Iowa Youth Group at
SpringHouse,
June 25-July 1*

*Caila Rinker Ordination,
during worship July 2*

*Coffee Hours,
Wed & Sat, 9 am;
Happy Hours,
Tu & Thurs 5 pm*

Seen & Heard: Bullets to Bells

An event for Gun Violence Healing
July 15, 2023, 4:00 pm
Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church

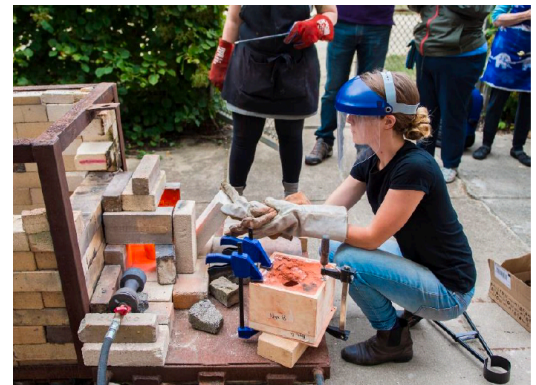
The public is invited to an unusual and important event: a ceremony of healing from gun violence. First Christian and Hennepin Methodist are sponsors of “Seen and Heard: Bullets to Bells,” to be held July 15, 4 pm, at Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church.

The ceremony will feature an artist, Washington DC-based Stephanie Mercedes, who will melt bullet casings and transform them into bells. The ceremony will include music from interfaith choirs, words of lament, the actual melting process, and the ringing of church bells and bell choirs from various churches.

Stephanie Mercedes choreographs large scale performances and installations based on sound. Mercedes has exhibited and performed at the Smithsonian, the Kennedy Center, the Bronx Museum and many other organizations.

Wendy Manuel is the project coordinator for “Seen and Heard,” and she applied for and was granted a Wholeness Fund Grant to help make this event possible. Contact Wendy at

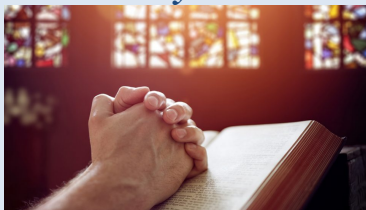
wendy.manuel@alumni.austinseminary.edu for a more information about the artist, about other events to be held, articles and resources about gun violence and much more.



A Thank You Note

To all those at First Christian who make Wholeness Grants possible: THANK YOU! Thank you for all the caring and support you provide. Thank you for the love you pour out. Thank you for supporting art, people, actions, music and so much more. Thank you for loving those in pain and for bringing healing.

Peace and Gratitude, Wendy

In Our Prayers. . .

We pray in joy for **Andy and Soo-Kyung** who recently celebrated their 12th wedding anniversary; for **Juanito Carter** who celebrated his 90th birthday in Paraguay; and for the **group from Baxter Springs, Kansas**, who worshiped with us on June 18, as they paused on their journey to Duluth for a mission trip.

We pray in concern for **Ellie Bowman** who broke her arm in fall.

We pray in sympathy with **Mark Carlson**, whose **cousin Larry** passed away unexpectedly last week, for our pianist **Tim O'Grady** on the death of his grandfather; for the family and friends of **Irene Hackett**, whose memorial service is this Saturday; and for the **families and Somali community** of the **five young women** who died in a tragic accident last weekend.

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 Pastor Laurie Feille*Reflecting on these 10+ years*

It is hard to believe that I have served FCC Minneapolis for 10 ½ years. We have been through births, deaths, and changes during these years. SpringHouse Ministry Center continues to evolve and change as our congregations continue to listen to the call of God and respond to the ever-changing ministries to which we are called. During my time as your Senior Pastor, we have continued to be a presence in our community during the uprising after Mr. George Floyd was murdered and during the lockdown and continued caution due to COVID. We enhanced our worship to make sure that everyone had access to worship during COVID restrictions and we have continued to make sure that everyone has access to our worship services and our committee meetings. We now have members who have never stepped foot in SpringHouse Ministry Center yet are active members by joining in Coffee Hour and Happy Hour and serving in leadership roles such as Elder.

Different generations of members are working together to make sure we have community times of gathering. One example: the Rennerts and the Keiths fed and cared for a group of 27 people from FCC, Baxter Springs, Kansas who stayed at SpringHouse Ministry Center Saturday night. They worshipped with us on Sunday and once again the Rennerts and Keiths provided food for the group as well as FCC and Lyndale UCC. This is only one example as there are many other members who are helping provide food for our after-worship gatherings with Lyndale UCC (Salem Lutheran worships at a different time now.)

Church looks different after COVID, and FCC is living into what it means to be church in a different way. The good news in this is that the essential parts of church are still here. We still worship, gather, meet, share a meal, welcome everyone, care for the community around us and the world, and make every part of our life together accessible to all as much as we can. We will continue to be a church that works to dismantle systemic white supremacy and a church that welcomes without conditions our LGBTQIA+ siblings. In all of this we proclaim the love of God for all people and all of creation.

As a pastor, it is exhausting to reach 10 ½ years with all the joys, struggles, COVID, working and receiving my Doctor of Ministry degree and all the changes. I am grateful that when you called me to be your Senior Pastor you put in my letter of call that I would receive a sabbatical every 5 years. I delayed my first sabbatical due to working on my DMin. I should have taken my first sabbatical in 2018 but delayed it until 2019. At that time our dear member, Sandy Morgan, in all her wisdom, wanted it in the Board Minutes that even though I delayed my first sabbatical I would take my second sabbatical at the appropriate time. Well, the appropriate time has arrived, and I will take my sabbatical August-October this year. I do not have a Lilly Grant this time so this sabbatical will be more low key. You as a congregation will have time for play and fun. I'm not sure what those plans are but I'm sure those who are planning will let you know soon! (*See page 3 for final paragraph*)

Focus on Homelessness and Health in July

FCC's Mission at Our Doorstep project this summer is collecting donations to Augsburg Health Commons, a health-focused, no-cost, drop-in center located at Central Lutheran. It is staffed by nursing faculty and students from Augsburg University. Many of their guests are experiencing homelessness and have the following needs to assist them in maintaining their health:

- Men's and women's underwear-various types and sizes
- Toothpaste, toothbrushes, dental floss
- Travel-size soaps and hair products
- Hand sanitizer
- Deodorant

Here are some facts that you may not know:

- The rate of death is 3 times higher among people who experience homelessness (PEH) in Minnesota than in the Minnesota general population.
- 20-year-olds experiencing homelessness in Minnesota have the same rate of death as 50-year-olds in the general population.
- Mortality across each racial and ethnic group is higher than in the general Minnesota population.
- American Indian persons experiencing homelessness have 1.5 higher rates of death than other PEH and 5 times higher death rates than the general Minnesota population.
- Deaths from substance abuse are 10 times higher among PEH than the general Minnesota population. 1 in 10 substance abuse deaths in Minnesota are among PEH. 1 in 3 of all deaths of PEH are caused by substance abuse, especially opioids, especially fentanyl.

(from Executive summary key findings from "Minnesota Homeless Mortality Report 2017-2021)

You have until July 31 to make donations, and there are several ways to donate: bring products to church and leave them in the sanctuary; contact Bonnie Ford for a pickup at your home; order online and have them delivered to:

Restoration Center at Central Lutheran Church
333 South 12th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55404
(612) 870-4416

FCC Board Notes

Twenty FCC members and staff attended the May 16 meeting of the General Board. Highlights of the meeting include the following:

- The board voted to approve a Wholeness Fund Grant submitted by Wendy Manuel for a project focused on art and healing from gun violence. The grant was for \$5,060.
- The board discussed summer support for Fellowship Hour. Lyndale will be taking the summer off. Volunteers offered to host fellowship hours in June. Also, Upper Midwest Region youth will be staying at SpringHouse. Discussion still needed about providing meals for this group.
- The Board agreed that chairperson Kirsten Cackoski should follow up with an inquiry she had from Generosity Plus about a renewed involvement with that organization, but perhaps in a different way.
- Pastor Laurie presented a list she made of Senior Minister responsibilities. Discussion was held about the reason for the list and how to proceed. There was agreement that the process should be done transparently, openly, faithfully, justly and collaboratively.

Pastor Laurie article, concluded

I look forward to time to relax and discern what is ahead. I'm grateful that you as a congregation will also have the time to do the same! It's been a wonderful and tough 10 ½ years and I thank God that we have shared this ministry together. I look forward to what God has in store for us! Much love and peace, Pastor Laurie

Irene Hackett service June 24



A memorial service for former member Irene Hackett will be this Saturday, June 24, at the Washburn-McReavy Edina Chapel. Visitation at 1 pm, Service at 2 pm.

Send-off for Pastor Laurie

As Pastor Laurie outlined in her article on page 2, she will be taking a sabbatical leave from August 1 to October 31. FCC will have a Send-off Luncheon for Pastor Laurie following worship on Sunday, July 23. FCC is blessed with so many ordained ministers in the congregation; most Sundays, they, along with Pastor Dan on his regular monthly schedule, will be stepping in at the pulpit during the sabbatical. Pastoral care coverage is being arranged by both former pastors and elders.

Pride Booth coverage

This year's Pride Celebration in Loring Park has extended hours, and thus there is more need than ever for volunteers to be in FCC's booth on June 24 and 25. Sign up for your shift at <https://tinyurl.com/5c999bzb>.

SH hosts food share program

SpringHouse is partnering with the Lowry Hill East Neighborhood Association (LHENA) to offer free groceries to those on the community. Community members can pick up two bags of groceries at SHMC from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm on the third Wednesday of every month. A large selection of fresh produce as well as staples will be available. LHENA will be providing the food and volunteers for this program. For more information contact Building Coordinator Allison Jones at Allison.jones@fccmpls.org.



Kansas youth at FCC

Twenty-seven youth and adults had an overnight at FCC on June 17, while on their way to Duluth for a Habitat for Humanity mission project. The Kansas folks were from First Christian Church in Baxter Springs, Kansas, home church for Ron Keith.

They enjoyed pizza on Saturday night, and pulled pork sandwiches, courtesy of Andy and Soo-Kyung Rennert, for Sunday lunch.



Summer SH gardening dates

Gardeners, both novice and experienced, can get their hands in the dirt to keep SpringHouse gardens looking lovely! Summer dates are

Sat, July 15, 10 to noon

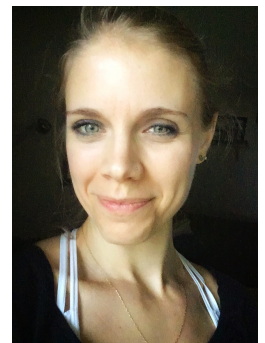
Sat, July 29, 10 to noon

Sat, Aug. 5, 10 to noon.

If you have them, bring garden gloves, tool, and a water bottle.

Ordination in July 2 worship

Caila Rinker will have her ordination ceremony during FCC's worship service on July 2. Caila was recently ordained as a Disciples of Christ minister. She is currently a chaplain at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester. Please join us for this special ceremony.





FCC Calendar for July, 2023

						1 9 am Coffee Hour– Zoom
2 10:30 am Worship in person and livestream, including Caila Rinker Ordination	3	4 	5 9 am Coffee Hour – Zoom	6 5 pm Zoom Happy Hour – Zoom	7	8 9 am Coffee Hour– Zoom
9 10:30 am Worship in person and livestream	10 7 pm SHMC Finance Committee	11 8:15 Lectionary via Zoom	12 9 am Coffee Hour– Zoom 12 noon – FCC Finance, Zoom	13 12 pm: Mission & Outreach Team 5 pm Zoom Happy Hour – Zoom	14	15 9 am Coffee Hour – Zoom
16 10:30 am Worship in person and livestream	17	18 8:15 Lectionary via Zoom 7 pm: FCC Board	19 9 am Coffee Hour – Zoom	20 5 pm Zoom Happy Hour – Zoom	21	22 9 am Coffee Hour – Zoom
23 10:30 am Worship in person and livestream Send-Off Luncheon for Pastor Laurie	24	25 8:15 Lectionary via Zoom 5 pm Zoom Happy Hour – Zoom 6 pm: Worship Committee	26 9 am Coffee Hour – Zoom	27 5 pm Zoom Happy Hour – Zoom	28	29 9 am Coffee Hour – Zoom General Assembly Starts
30 10:30 am Worship in person and livestream General Assembly →	31	August 1				

The full calendar for FCC and SpringHouse is available online at <https://calendar.churchchart.com/calendar/73956030>

Sundays at First Christian Church

Worship at 10:30, in person, and online at fccmpls.org

Children's Table Activities in person during worship. Join us!

Children's Activities are also available online at fccmpls.org

Revised Common Lectionary for Sunday, June 25 Discipleship Matthew 10: 24-39



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

Reflections on the Word

*Matthew 10: 27: What I say
to you in the dark, tell in the
light; and what you hear
whispered, proclaim from the
housetops.*

There is a deep, abiding truth
That only comes to light
When people, for the love of
God,
Contend for what is right.

*God of Darkness and Light,
Give us the courage to speak
out when we see injustice.
Amen*

Hymn verse by Michel Hudson,
from *Songs for the Cycle*

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

Ministry Team

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Next issue deadline is Sunday, July 9

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