

July 13, 2023

The Courier

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis



What's *INSIDE*:

*Poetry by
Galway Kinnell,
page 2*

*FCC Board Notes,
page 3*

*Meet Wendy Eidukas,
page 3*

UPCOMING Events

*BRIEF FCC Board Meeting
for one vote,
Tuesday, July 18,
7 pm on Zoom*

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

“Bullets to Bells” event this Saturday

The resources and talents of FCC are helping to bring a very special event called “Seen and Heard: Bullets to Ballots” to Minneapolis this Saturday, July 15, 4 pm at Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church.

Wendy Manual is the project coordinator for this event, and an FCC Wholeness Grant has helped with the funding to bring D.C.-based artist Stephanie Mercedes to Minneapolis where she will create bells out of bullet casings, an artistic statement against gun violence and gun deaths.

The ceremony will include music from interfaith choirs, words of lament, the actual melting and molding process, music from various church bell choirs and the ringing of church bells.

Don't miss this unique and meaningful event.

Mission & Outreach donations due by July 31

FCC's Mission at Our Doorstep this summer is gathering supplies for 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:

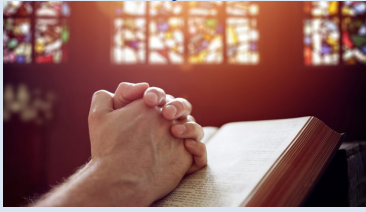
- Men's and women's underwear-various types and sizes
- Toothpaste, toothbrushes, dental floss
- Travel-size soaps and hair products
- Hand sanitizer
- Deodorant

There are several ways for you to donate: bring items to church and leave them in the sanctuary; contact Bonnie Ford for a pickup at your home; or order online and have them delivered to:

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

Pastor Laurie's Sabbatical send-off July 23

Pastor Laurie's Sabbatical begins August 1, but her last Sunday at FCC will be July 23, because the next week she leaves for General Assembly. After worship on July 23, we will have a send-off luncheon for her. Please sign up by July 16 to attend! We need to make sure the caterer will have enough (delicious!) food for everyone! You can sign up on line through the website. If you would like to help with set up or clean up, please contact Karen Kandik.

In Our Prayers

We pray in gratitude for the ordination of **Rev. Caila Rinker** on July 2, and pray with joy as **Lucas Rennert** heads off for church camp.

We pray in concern for **Dennis Sander's mother Maria** recovering from a recent stroke; for **Millie Webb** as she recovers from successful breast cancer surgery; for **Pastor Dan's husband Keith** that he heals from his carpal tunnel surgery; for **Ali Hesano** as she recovers from a recent fall, and for **Zack Hesano** as he has a check-up at Mayo Clinic.

We pray in sympathy for **Anna Bliss and her daughter Solveig** at the loss of their beloved dog **Sugar**, and for **Melinda Nickerson's co-worker** whose grandson died unexpectedly

We pray for those in Texas, Florida and other places suffering from intense heat.

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

Poetry by
Galway Kinnell
1927-2014

**Saint Francis and the Sow**

The bud
stands for all things,
even for those things that don't flower,
for everything flowers, from within, of self-blessing;
though sometimes it is necessary
to reteach a thing its loveliness,
to put a hand on its brow
of the flower
and retell it in words and in touch
it is lovely
until it flowers again from within, of self-blessing;
as Saint Francis
put his hand on the creased forehead
of the sow, and told her in words and in touch
blessings of earth on the sow, and the sow
began remembering all down her thick length,
from the earthen snout all the way
through the fodder and slops to the spiritual curl of the tail,
from the hard spininess spiked out from the spine
down through the great broken heart
to the sheer blue milken dreaminess spurting and shuddering
from the fourteen teats into the fourteen mouths sucking and
blowing beneath them:
the long, perfect loveliness of sow.

From Poetry of Presence: An Anthology of Mindfulness Poems, ed. Phyllis Cole-Dai and Ruby R. Wilson. 2017. Photo Credit by Robert Brown on Poets.org.

Meet Wendy Eidukas!

Wendy Eidukas is FCC's new Office Administrator. Wendy grew up in Mankato and lived in St. Paul before spending 20 years in Oregon. She's been back in MN for 2 years. She has two children, one of whom is a student at Macalester College.

She will be working 10 hours a week: Tuesdays and Thursday in the office from 10 am to 2 pm, and then 2 other flex hours. Please stop by and introduce yourself! And be sure to let her know about FCC calendar and directory additions or changes.



Disciples General Assembly starts July 29

Disciple pastors and delegates will gather for the biennial General Assembly from July 29 to August 1 in Louisville, Kentucky. Pastors Laurie Feille and Dan Adolphson will be attending, as well as FCC's official delegates Ali Hesano and Katy McFall. Several other members of FCC will also attend.

The 2023 General Assembly theme this year is "Kindom of God, Within Us, Among Us." The four-day event will encourage Disciples who gather to celebrate the way that God's expansive love connects each of us as "kin" and to be part of the larger Kindom of God.

Three more SH gardening dates this summer

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.

Rev. Caila Rinker's Ordination celebrated!



Rev. Caila Rinker is shown here with her family: husband David, and sons Levi and Emerson. She was ordained during worship on July 2, with many of her family and friends attending.

FCC Board Notes

Twenty-four members and staff from FCC attended the June 20 meeting of the General Board. Highlights of the meeting included the following:

- Two Wholeness Fund grants were approved. One was for \$1,000 to the South Minneapolis Day Camp for sign language interpreters. The other was a grant of \$3,500 to HopeFullness, an organization founded by Soo-Kyung Rennert.
- At the May 21 meeting of the SpringHouse Board, Treasurer Andy Rennert reported that so far, expenses for 2023 have been \$26,000, which is under the year-to-date budgeted amount of \$29,000. Also good news: Income is higher for building use than expected. The SH kitchen has many more coffee cups than we need, and the kitchen committee is being asked to find a way to disperse unneeded cups to another organization.
- Trustee Paul Rottschaefer reported that the trustees are reviewing two policies, the Memorial Funds Policy and the Trustee Structure and Responsibility Policy.

Other items were discussed. If interested in seeing the full minutes, contact Martha Harris.

Sundays at First Christian Church

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

Children's Table Activities in person during worship: **Join us!**
Children's Activities are also available online at www.fccmpls.org

Revised Common Lectionary
July 16, 2023
Parable of the Sower
Matthew 13: 1-9



Sower by James Tissot, courtesy
of Vanderbilt Library

Reflections on the Word

Matthew 13:4-5a – And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground where they did not have much soil...

The focus of the Parable of the Sower could be on those who are good soil, but it is far more powerful to focus on God as so hopefully in love with all of us that God extravagantly throws seed wherever there might be someone passing by. Our hope is in such a God who refuses to be limited to sowing where the investment possibilities are more promising.

Harvest us too, Lord Jesus, even as we have scattered ourselves to the winds. Amen.

W. Paul Jones in Disciplines, 2020.

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

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
OF MINNEAPOLIS
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)**
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*A Welcoming Community of Faith in the Heart
of the City*

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Next issue deadline is Sunday, July 23