

August 24, 2023

The Courier

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis



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UPCOMING Events

Progressive Open House,
Saturday, August 26

FCC Day at the State Fair,
Monday, August 28

Game Time
during Coffee Hour,
Saturday, September 9

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

Week of Compassion

Hawaii Fires: Pray, Give, Stay

Week of Compassion continues to receive many questions and heartfelt concerns for our neighbors on Maui and the continuously heartbreaking news in light of the hurricane-fed fires that have decimated the island in the past weeks.

When storm, emergency, and crisis come, Disciples always ask
HOW CAN WE HELP?

PRAY *REMAIN STEADFAST IN PRAYER.*
Remember in your personal and congregational worship prayers: affected families and communities, regional ministers, local church pastors, emergency workers, and all who give and respond.

GIVE *GIVE ONLINE, THRU YOUR CHURCH, OR BY MAIL.*
Gifts marked **HAWAII FIRES** bring Disciples alongside our partners answering urgent needs and making long-term plans. www.weekofcompassion.org/give
-OR- mail to POBox 1986, Indianapolis IN 46206

STAY *STAY IN TOUCH, AND FOR NOW, STAY HOME.*
Right now, emergency and trained personnel need room to assess and respond. Later, volunteers will be needed over a long-term recovery. Complete this form (bit.ly/wocVolunteer) and we'll let you know when.

weekofcompassion.org

RIGHT NOW it is important to **PRAY, GIVE, and STAY.**

In this moment, Disciples, our call is to support those affected, with the fervency of our prayers and the generosity of our financial contributions.

Emergency personnel need room for emergency response work. Local leaders have stressed the importance of no uninvited personnel and no material goods arriving on the island at this time.

As the situation has expanded, we have created a designated 'HAWAII FIRES' line item in our [online giving](#) options; gifts sent by mail should be marked the same way. (Understanding the intentions and desires of our donors, any gifts received since Tuesday August 8 which were marked 'US Storms and Fires' have already been included under the designated giving now labeled 'Hawaii Fires'.)

Week of Compassion is in contact with our regional and ecumenical partners on the ground, and with organizational authorities leading onsite in these immediate crisis-response moments.

Donations to Week of Compassion can be done through FCC's Givelify app as well as through the link listed above.

In Our Prayers...

We pray for **Nancy Curry** who moved recently to Lancaster, PA, to join her **husband Tom**, who has been working there for several months. May the whole family adjust to this new phase in their lives.

Prayers continue for **those affected by wildfires** in Washington state and Montana, and for the continued work in Lahaina..

We pray for the **many people who have friends and family in southern California riding out tropical storm Hillary**. We pray also for the many **Disciples congregations** in southern California. That they may be safe.

We pray for the **people of Maui** suffering the loss of family, friends, homes and livelihoods in the devastating fires.

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 Dan*On Blessings new and old*

Where did the summer go? According to the weather report I'm listening to as I write this, it's going to be a scorcher this week, so weather-wise summer is still hanging on, but time-wise as we blessed the backpack tags at our joint SpringHouse worship Sunday, we know that back-to-school, apple-picking, and fall colors are just around the corner.

I'm reminded this week that resolutions at General Assembly *do matter*. A dear friend of mine was ordained Sunday afternoon, and one of the reasons he continued in the process was because he saw all of himself in some of the resolutions we've passed at General Assembly over the past 10 years. As I said in my sermon on August 13, it has long been part of our DNA to be *ambassadors for Christ*, and I'm grateful that our congregation continues to live into being the hands and feet of Christ. Speaking of General Assembly, next month the digital collection of recorded sermons from the worship services and workshops will be released, and I will be sharing with you some of the 'goodies' from Louisville. Stay tuned!

The first month of Pastor Laurie's sabbatical is almost over (again, where is the time going?!), and our sabbatical activities are in full swing. A big thank you to Kirsten and others who have helped put together a slate of activities, both in-person and online, for our congregation. I encourage you to take a moment to visit <https://www.fccminneapolis.org/2023-sabbatical-activities/> and look at the variety of activities that are available for you to participate in. Don't let the fun leave you behind; come and connect with your church family!! As sabbatical continues, through our worship series on Sundays you'll be hearing from several of the clergy voices within our congregation and SpringHouse. Lastly, are you praying for Pastor Laurie and Bryan during this sabbatical time? This is an important time of rest, refreshment, and renewal for them.

Some people have asked for the benediction & blessing I shared at SpringHouse Joint Worship on Sunday. It's called *A Franciscan Blessing*...may we hold these words close in our hearts.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships so that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger, and war, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and to turn their pain to joy.

And may God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in the world, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done.

Sabbatical activities for September, October

Coffee Hour & Game Time – Saturday, September 9 *(Online Event)*

During our morning coffee hour, we will also have a game time! A great way to start the day!

FCC Day At Como Park – Sunday, September 17 *(This is a hybrid event in-person & online)*

Join us after church on Sunday, September 17. Enjoy the zoo, conservatory, mini-golf, etc. We will gather at the picnic shelter from 2-8 pm, with a grilled supper at 6 pm. [Click here to sign up](#)

Nature Art Activity Hosted By Elaine Tucker – Saturday, September 30

Plan to join us on Saturday, September 30, at Eastman Nature Center at Elm Creek Park. Elaine will host a program from 10 am – noon. You can bring your own lunch and stay for more exploration, hosted by Elaine, or on your own from 12 noon – 2 pm. Attend one or both halves. [Click here to sign up](#)

New October highlights

Note: More details about all of these new events can be found online at <https://www.fccminneapolis.org/2023-sabbatical-activities/>

FCC History Presentation – Sunday October 1, after worship. *(This is a hybrid event in-person & online)*

Come learn about the founders of our congregation and some of the places we have gathered prior to moving into SpringHouse. For those on-site, we will gather for a light lunch after worship. The live-streamed presentation will begin at 1pm in the North sanctuary. This will be followed by a bus trip to Lakewood Cemetery to learn more about some of our founders at the places where they are buried. [Click here to sign up for the bus & carpool](#)

Owamni Falling Water Festival, a celebration of Indigenous Minnesota cultures, Saturday, October 7, 1-5 pm at Mill Ruins Park, Water Works and Father Hennepin Bluffs Park.

Gather with other FCC families for this Minneapolis Parks activity! Owámni is what the Dakota called the area at St. Anthony Falls. It means, “whirling or falling water” in the Dakota language, making it an appropriate name for this festival along the Mississippi River.

Tour Time With Pastor Dan – Saturday, October 14

[Click to learn more and sign up](#)

Talent Show – Saturday, October 21 6:30/7 pm *(in-person & online)*

Here’s an opportunity to share your talents (whatever they may be) with your FCC family. For those on-site, pie will be served at 6:30; show starts at 7 pm.

FCC Cidery Crawl – Sunday, October 29, 12:30 – 5:30 pm

Join us as we visit 3 different Twin Cities cideries.

FCC Board Notes

Twenty-four board members and staff plus one guest participated in FCC’s regular monthly board meeting on Tuesday, August 18. Highlights from the meeting include the following:

- Rev. Bruce Barkhauer from Generosity Plus gave a presentation about the markers of vitality in churches.
- Four new Wholeness Fund grant applications were presented to the board, and all were approved: 1) Clergy renewal for BIPOC pastors in Twin Cities, \$5,000; New ACTION Project support, \$3200; Sunday Meals request from ALIGN, \$2200; and request from People Serving People for bedding, \$5000.
- Treasurer Pat Dunlop presented financial report for July. At July’s end, Year-to-Date Income was \$129,172, and YTD Expenditures were \$164,7884. Discussion of the current deficit ensued, and the following action steps were approved: 1) formation of an ad-hoc committee to discuss budget and search for solutions; and 2) a special board meeting on September 5 to discuss financial situation with input from ad-hoc committee.

FCC Calendar for September, 2023



					1	2
3 9 am SH Youth Room open hours 10:30 am Worship in person and livestream	4 Labor Day	5 8:15 Lectionary via Zoom 5 pm Zoom Happy Hour	6 9 am Coffee with Pastors – Zoom 7 pm Elders via Zoom	7 5 pm Zoom Happy Hour	8	9 9 am Coffee hour special: Game Time!
10 9 am SH Youth Room open hours Children's Worship TBD: Watch for news! 10:30 am Worship in person and livestream	11 7 pm Women's Fellowship 5 pm SHMC Building Committee 7 pm SHMC Finance Committee	12 8:15 Lectionary via Zoom 5 pm Zoom Happy Hour 7 pm Pastor Dan's PRC	13 9 am Coffee with Pastors – Zoom Noon: Finance Committee	14 Noon: Mission and Outreach 5 pm Zoom Happy Hour	15	16 9 am Coffee with Pastors – Zoom
17 9 am SH Youth Room open hours Children's Worship TBD: Watch for news! 10:30 am Worship in person and livestream Afternoon – 8 pm FCC Day at Como Park	18 7 pm FCC & Friends Book Group	19 8:15 Lectionary via Zoom 7 pm FCC General Board on Zoom	20 9 am Coffee with Pastors – Zoom	21 5 pm Zoom Happy Hour	22 7 pm CCUM Women's Retreat	23 9 am Coffee with Pastors – Zoom CCUM Women's Retreat
24 9 am SH Youth Room open hours Children's Worship TBD: Watch for news! 10:30 am Worship in person and livestream CCUM Women's Retreat	25	26 8:15 Lectionary via Zoom 5 pm Zoom Happy Hour 7 pm Worship Committee Zoom	27 9 am Coffee with Pastors – Zoom	28 5 pm Zoom Happy Hour	29	30 9 am Coffee with Pastors – Zoom Nature Activity with Elaine, 10 am-Noon

This is Who I Am

Women's Retreat set for September 22-24

"This is Who I Am" will be the theme of the Upper Midwest Disciples Region women's fall retreat, September 22-24 at Lake Koronis in Paynesville, MN.

Rev. Melissa Guthrie will be the keynote speaker. Melissa is the Executive Director + Minister of Disciples LGBTQ+Alliance, and editor of the anthology *Colors of Hope*.

Online registrations are at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/ybw5tyt>

The Facebook page for this year's retreat has this special note about accommodations:

Please note - Based on our smaller numbers and other groups scheduled at the camp, Koronis has asked us to only use Sunrise rooms this year. Most of you already stay in doubles, but we will likely need a few folks to cozy up with 3-4 in your room. Please note in Special Needs/Requests section if you are willing to have 3-4 in your room. We know that there is an extra cost for Sunrise rooms. Partial scholarships are available to help defray the difference in room cost between Pine and Sunrise - Please reach out to [Anna-Maria Bliss](mailto:akb@pobox.com) at akb@pobox.com if you are in need of a full or partial scholarship this year

"Tired of apologizing for a church I don't belong to"

If that statement strikes a chord with you, you will want to participate in a conversation with Rev. Dr. Lillian Daniel, who wrote a book with that title.

The discussion will be Sunday, September 24, at 7 pm and is sponsored by the Upper Midwest Disciples Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciliation Team. Registration is required. Discussion is on Zoom.

Registration link: <https://www.uppermidwestcc.org/registration>

Joint Worship at Wabun Park, August 20:



SpringHouse Board Notes

The SpringHouse Board met Sunday, August 20, following the SH Joint Worship at Minnehaha Falls Wabun Park.

Highlights of meeting:

Updates from the SH congregations:

- Lyndale UCC has formed a Search Committee and hopes to have the search concluded by the end of the year
- The ashes of three Lyndale members will be interred in the SH Memorial Garden sometime this fall. All congregations will be invited to the ceremony.
- The SH library is being "refreshed" – watch for changes.

Andy Rennert's finance report stated that we are ahead in the annual budget at this point. Funds set aside for capital improvements are being invested in interest-bearing CDs.

Reporting for the Building Committee, Mike Cackoski noted that a recent leak was caused by an air conditioner duct, and a window on the east side of the building was broken. Both have been repaired.

Brief discussion about SH fundraising, and mechanisms for giving memorial gifts to SpringHouse. No action taken.

Motions approved:

- SH kitchen committee is authorized to either sell or donate the blue & white dinner service.
- A new twice-a-year Sanctuary Switch schedule was approved, which will start January 2024, and run in a three-year cycle.

Sundays at First Christian Church

Worship (and morning bulletin) at 10:30, online at fccmpls.org
“Children’s Table” activities online at fccmpls.org



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

Reflections on the Word

Hebrews 10: 24-25: And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching. .

Nick Tangeni spoke on this text at the SH Joint Worship on Sunday, August 20, pointing out that our community of three churches is an ideal setting for “provoking” and “encouraging” each other to work both separately and together for the greater good in the wider community and the world. May it be so!

Gracious God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending. We trust that your hand is leading us, and your love supporting us. Amen.

A Welcoming Community of Faith in the Heart of the City

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Next issue deadline is Sunday, September 10.

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