

October 26, 2023

The Courier

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis



What's INSIDE:

*Clergy Appreciation,
page 2*

*Pastor Dan's injury,
page 3*

*FCC Board notes,
page 3*

*November calendar,
page 4*

*"Become an Ally,"
page 5*

UPCOMING Events

*Elders Meeting,
Wednesday, Nov. 1, 7 pm*

*Women's Fellowship,
Monday Nov. 6, 7 pm*

Coffee Hours continue,
9 am on Wed & Sat,
Happy Hours
5 pm Tues & Thurs
(*changes may occur in
this schedule)*

FCC Membership survey coming soon

Since August, the church has been busy with fun and sociable sabbatical activities (pool parties, Como Park picnic, and much more). But at the same time, the church board has been engaged in some serious conversations about our church's future.

At the regular August 18 board meeting, an ad hoc committee was created to consider the challenges we face as our church moves forward into a changed world. This group met August 29 and brought reflections and ideas to a specially-called board meeting on September 5. One idea that emerged from this board meeting was to have small groups of all the members meet to talk about how First Christian can move into the future.

At the regular September 19 board meeting, a group of five people volunteered to start planning for these small group meetings. This group (Kirsten Cackoski, Jay Hillestad, Arlene Jorgenson Hillestad, Ron Keith, and Martha Harris) decided to first create a survey for every member of the church to consider what is important to them about First Christian Church. The results of the survey will be the basis of conversations in small groups. Both the survey and the discussions will be based on these questions:

What is it you most value about First Christian Church?

What is it at First Christian that keeps you connected?

What is First Christian good at that others might be attracted to?

The survey will be sent to each member of the church, either by an email link to the online survey or by U.S. mail. We are asking that the surveys be taken and returned by November 10. The next step will be to meet in small groups, either in person or on zoom, so we can reflect together on what we value about First Christian. More details and dates for these meetings will be coming soon, but right now, we are hoping to schedule them between November 13 and December 9.

As Interim Pastor Bob Brite used to say, "We make plans. God laughs." So, while we have dates in mind for the survey to be sent and returned and for small group meetings to be held, we will be flexible and make changes as needed.

Be sure to keep up with our email blasts and Courier newsletters for more information about all of this. Contact Kirsten Cackoski (612-868-1769) or Martha Harris (763-593-0814) with questions or suggestions, and to let us know if you need to have the survey sent through the U.S. mail – or if you would like assistance in filling it out online.

We look forward to talking and reflecting with everyone in our church as we cultivate a vision for the future of First Christian Church.

In Our Prayers...



We pray for **Dan Adolphson** that he may have comfort and support as he heals from his injuries, and also for his husband **Keith Seifert**, as he cares for Dan. We also celebrate with them on 8 years of marriage and 20 years of togetherness.

We pray also for **Dee Ward** as she heals from recent knee replacement surgery; for **Ron Keith's cousin Randy**; for **Jay and Arlene Hillestad's nephews Mark and Dan**; and for **Rev. Rebecca Voelkel** and others in her family as they continue recovery from injuries.

We offer prayers of sympathy to **Karen, Jim, and Rick Bowman** and the rest of their family as they mourn **Ellie's** passing, for **Amy Dunlop** at the death of her mother **Carol Eggers**.

We pray for our broken world, especially for those whose countries are torn by war.

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



In Appreciation of First Christian's Clergy

Although October is Clergy Appreciation Month, FCC will wait until November to celebrate our Senior Pastor Laurie Feille when she returns from her sabbatical, as well as Associate Pastor Dan Adolphson, who has done such a wonderful job in Laurie's absence but is currently recovering from his recent injury.

So for this last week in October, let us recognize and celebrate the nine clergy who preached during our sabbatical time: Jia Starr Brown, Tammy Rottschaefer, Wendy Manuel, Jay Hillestad, seminary student Justin Carlson, Daniel Romero, Ron Keith, Margaret Hutchens, and Caila Rinker.



We also offer our appreciation for all the other clergy members at FCC: Brian Feille, David Cobb, Kristen Van Heyningen, Christine Isham, Mary Hurlocker, Ana Wilson, Garry Hesser, Lynda Lee, and Dennis McKee. Whether chaplains, pastors in other churches, or retirees, all of these gifted souls are loved and appreciated by First Christian Church.

Pastor Dan injured, has surgery in Iowa



Pastor Dan Adolphson fell from a ladder on Saturday, October 21, while at the All-Congregational Gathering in Newton, Iowa, breaking bones above his ankle. He had surgery at MercyOne Hospital in Des Moines to stabilize and close the wound, but will have more surgery in the Twin Cities to insert plates, screws, etc.

In a Facebook post, Dan explained that he was on a ladder getting fabric off of an outdoor cross that the ladder was leaning on. Two people were holding the ladder, but the cross cracked at the base and Dan had to jump clear, but in the process landed hard and broke the tibia and fibia bones in his right ankle.

Dan wrote, "My dear friend Dianna Clark has been here the whole time, and Margaret Hutchens and Joshua Patty stayed until the surgery began."

Dan expects to be back in Minneapolis this week, and, in an eblast on Monday, October 23, wrote, "Thank you for your prayers and your love for Keith and me! I am receiving wonderful care from MercyOne in Des Moines."

In Dan's absence, pastoral care will be provided by elders; check eblasts for names and contact information for elders who have volunteered to step in. Since Dan sends the eblasts, these notices may be not as regular as we're used to. Possible changes in the Coffee Hour and Happy Hour schedules may occur. And one more thing: Dan's fun-filled Cidery Tour, set for Sunday, October 19, is cancelled.

Music director invites "any and all" to sing!

Music Director Caroline Povolny invites "any and all skill levels" to join the FCC choir from now through Advent. Rehearsals are 9:15 am on Sunday mornings.



SpringHouse groups seeking new members

SpringHouse doesn't just house three churches; these churches share some common goals and activities. One important part of SpringHouse is Child Ministries because spiritual formation for children is a joint project of the three churches. The **Child Ministries Team** envisions what ministry to children and youth can look like and helps make strategic plans for children's ministries. The group meets occasionally, often by Zoom. Contact Deb Murphy or Rev. Rhonda Hlavinka if you can help with this vital team! The **SpringHouse Green Team** is a building-wide committee that focuses on keeping the ministry center as "green" as possible. Contact Melia Derrick (Runningbird68@aol.com) if you can help with this important group.

FCC Board Notes


Thirteen board members and staff participated in FCC's regular monthly board meeting on Tuesday, October 17. Highlights from the meeting include the following:

- FCC has committed to twice-a-month food delivery for EveryMeal at Whittier School. New volunteers are welcome, and can sign up on FCC's website.
- Jay Hillestad reported on the work of the Ad Hoc Visioning Committee, which aims to get input from the congregation about the priorities of FCC's ministries. Input will be from a survey and from small group meetings.
- The Nominating Committee will be contacting people about leadership roles for the coming year. Members are Jen Krengel, Paul Rottschaefer and Mike Hesano.

- Treasurer Pat Dunlop reported that, because income from SpringHouse tenants and ad hoc groups is higher than expected, each church's contribution to the 2023 SH budget may be slightly reduced. She also reported that at the end of September, FCC pledges were running slightly ahead of expectations.

FCC Calendar for November 2023



			1 9 am Coffee with Pastors – Zoom 7 pm Elders via Zoom	2 5 pm Zoom Happy Hour	3	4 9 am Coffee with Pastors – Zoom
5 9 am SH Youth Room open hours 10:30 am Worship in person and livestream	6 7 pm Women's Fellowship	7 8:15 Lectionary via Zoom 5 pm Zoom Happy Hour	8 9 am Coffee with Pastors – Zoom 12:30 Finance Committee	9 Noon: Mission and Outreach 7 pm Pastor Laurie's PRC	10	11 9 am Coffee with Pastors – Zoom
12 10:30 am Worship in person and livestream Welcome home lunch for Pastor Laurie 2 pm SpringHouse Board	13 5 pm SHMC Building Committee 7 pm SHMC Finance Committee	14 8:15 Lectionary via Zoom 7 pm Pastor Dan's PRC	15 9 am Coffee with Pastors – Zoom Noon: Finance Committee	16 5 pm Zoom Happy Hour	17	18 9 am Coffee with Pastors – Zoom
19 19 am SH Youth Room open hours 10:30 am Worship in person and livestream	20 7 pm FCC & Friends Book Group	21 8:15 Lectionary via Zoom 7 pm FCC General Board on Zoom	22 9 am Coffee with Pastors – Zoom	23 	24	25 9 am Coffee with Pastors – Zoom
26 9 am SH Youth Room open hours! 10:30 am Worship in person and livestream	27	28 8:15 Lectionary via Zoom 5 pm Zoom Happy Hour 7 pm Worship Committee Zoom	29 9 am Coffee with Pastors – Zoom	30 5 pm Zoom Happy Hour		

How to “Be An Ally” for people experiencing homelessness

Align Minneapolis is an interfaith collaboration of 17 Minneapolis churches (including First Christian Church), synagogues, mosques and people with lived experiences working together to address homelessness and poverty. The following item was in a recent Align newsletter, and our Align representatives, Pastor Dan Adolphson and Karen Kandik, wanted to share this with our readers:

When we at Align or our partners at Street Voices of Change are speaking in the community and at Align member congregations we are always asked the question "what can I do?" One thing that everyone in our network can do is be an Ally to people experiencing homelessness and over the next few months in our newsletters we will be exploring ways to be an Ally.

Educate yourself and let go of misconceptions. Understand that each person's experience of homelessness is unique and that everyone experiencing homelessness is a whole person worthy of love and dignity. Challenge the common myths that some people have about homelessness.

Myth 1: People experience homelessness because of substance use. The reality is that many people that experience homelessness did

not have prior substance use challenges, but the stress and negative impact of homelessness does cause some people to develop substance use disorders.

Myth 2: People experiencing homelessness should just get a job. Most people experiencing homelessness have income and many work at jobs. The challenge comes in finding rents that are affordable to people who have fixed incomes like social security or disability, or that are affordable with lower wage jobs. Additionally, some background history such as having a prior eviction can make it much harder to find a place to rent.

Myth 3: People experiencing homelessness want to remain homeless. Most people experiencing homelessness want to have their own place that is safe and comfortable. The system of shelter, case management and housing programs has many holes and sometimes people are not able to navigate it to reach their goal of accessing housing. And when someone gets into housing, they may need additional supports to keep the housing.

Do you have questions or ideas about being an ally? Send them to us, email katie@alignmpls.org.

Upper Midwest Region Disciples announce new staff hires

The Upper Midwest Regional Church announced that they have called several new regional staff members:

- **Rev. Katie Hainline** joins as the part-time **Interim Associate Regional Minister for Camp and Connection**.
- **Rev. Andrea Brownless** will serve in the part-time role of **Interim Associate Regional Minister of Vocations**.
- **Rev. Lisa Grace** has been brought on as the part-time **Transitional Executive Regional Minister**.
- **Jerry and Linda Wolf** who were hired as **Interim Co-Directors of the Christian Conference Center**

Sundays at First Christian Church

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

**Revised Common Lectionary
 October 29, 2023
 The Greatest Commandment
 Matthew 22: 34-46**



Los Angeles photo, 2011

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

Reflections on the Word

Matthew 22: 36 – “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?”

Jesus’ interrogators want law, but he gives them love; he insists that love trumps law. Where law divides, love unites. Where law excludes, love includes. Jesus’ clarity about the primacy of love over law allows us to look at our failures and receive grace.

God of love, release us from the letter that kills and help us to dwell trustingly in the Spirit who gives life. Amen.

Adapted from Mary McEntyre,
 from *Disciplines* 2020.

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
 OF MINNEAPOLIS
 (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
 610 W. 28th Street
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*A Welcoming Community of Faith in the Heart of the
 City*

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Next issue deadline is Sunday, November 5