

The Courier

November 22, 2023

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis



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UPCOMING Events

*Interfaith Thanksgiving
Service,
Thursday, Nov. 23, 10 am*

*Advent Study begins,
Wednesday Nov. 29,
7 pm Zoom*

*Women's Fellowship,
Monday, Dec. 4, 7 pm*

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

Advent 2023: Time to give, time to prepare

Advent is right around the corner, beginning on December 3, when the first candle will be lit and the season of reflection and giving will be launched.



FCC's Advent giving project this year will be collecting personal care items for Groveland Foodshelf. Many people experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity also experience food insecurity and struggle to meet their basic needs with limited income and rising cost of food. Additional food stamp benefits (SNAP) that were provided during the height of the pandemic have ended. Align Mpls is highlighting Groveland Food Shelf for their current campaign. Our Mission and Outreach team is asking for donations of the following to Groveland Food Shelf for the guests that are served there. These essentials cannot be purchased with SNAP funds.

- Toilet Paper
- Bar Soap
- Body Wash
- Toothpaste
- Dish Soap
- Laundry Detergent
- Toothbrushes
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Shampoo and Conditioner

Items can be left under the Christmas tree in the sanctuary. Please have them under the tree by Christmas. If you wish to instead donate money towards this project, please use Groveland Food Shelf in the Givelfy app or in the memo line of your check. If you are donating in honor or memory of someone, please let Wendy Eidukas in the office know this information.

Coffee, Cookies, and Crafts, December 9, 9 am – 4 pm at SH

Join us for our second annual Advent event which will combine Coffee Hour, our outreach Advent project for Groveland Foodshelf (above) and Aliveness Project cookie baking event on December 9. Coffee Hour will be hosted live and on Zoom from SpringHouse. Join others for fellowship, crafting, coffee, baking cookies and fun! Drop in at your convenience to start your Advent season.

Advent Study

The Advent Study begins on Wednesday, November 29, at 7 pm on zoom.

The study is based on Amy Ogden's book, "Right Here, Right Now: The Practice of Christian Mindfulness." We will focus on what it means to be truly "present" to God, to ourselves, to each other and to the world. The study includes videos and reflection. All are welcome to join! Here's the link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85636414854>

In Our Prayers...

We pray for all those dealing with health concerns, including **Mitch Grauberger** and **Mitch's mother Karla**; **Melinda Nickerson** and her family; **Jim Lee's sister Becky** and all of their family; **Pastor Dan** as he continues to heal from his injury.

We pray for **Jolene Ronnei** on the anniversary of her sister **Julie's** passing, and for all those missing loved ones this Thanksgiving.

We pray for **Pastor Laurie's father Gomer Pound** and for Laurie, Bryan and Laurie's brother Jeff as they search for a new place for Gomer to live.

We pray for our **trans siblings** to be able to live as their authentic selves without being harassed or endangered.

Continued prayers for **Palestine, Israel and Ukraine**.

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**So much to be thankful for!**

Thank you for allowing me time for a sabbatical! It is such a gift to serve a church that understands that their clergy need time to relax and renew. Bryan and I had a great time at the State Fair and on our travels to Texas, the North Shore and Mexico. As many of you know, the rest of the time was spent caring for my daddy. I have said several times that I could not have cared for him as I needed to if I had not been on sabbatical. For that alone I am so very grateful to you for my sabbatical time.

While I was away you had the opportunity to hear from the gifted preachers in our congregation. I am thankful to each one of them for their sermons! We are beyond blessed to have so many preachers in our congregation. I wish I had been here to hear each one in person. Thank you to all the preachers!

Pastor Dan also had added responsibilities while I was gone. I am so grateful for his leadership and pastoral care. It was a gift knowing that you were cared for, and I could spend time caring for my daddy and enjoying time to relax and renew. Thank you, Pastor Dan! Please continue to keep Pastor Dan in your prayers as he recovers from breaking his ankle.

Our Office Administrator, Wendy, has spent most of her time as our Office Administrator with me gone! She began in the middle of June, and I started my sabbatical on August 1. Thank you to Wendy for jumping in and holding the office together. Also, thank you to all the members who have assisted Wendy along the way.

Our Elders also had added responsibilities during my sabbatical. They helped to cover Coffee and Happy Hours and they covered pastoral care on Fridays. When Pastor Dan broke his ankle before I returned, they jumped in to make sure that the congregation was cared for while you were without both pastors. Thank you to our Elders for their gifts of caring for all of us and for all that they did while I was gone!

I also want to add a special Thank You to our Board Chair, Kirsten Cackoski. Kirstin has worked so hard as our Board Chair over the past 4 years (2020-2023.) When a pastor goes on sabbatical the Board Chair always winds up with planned and unplanned extra responsibilities. Kirsten made sure that everything kept "running" as usual and made sure that the church also had fun while I was gone. Thank you, Kirsten!

The staff at First Christian is simply the best! Beyond Pastor Dan and
(continued on Page 3)

“Cultivating Vision” small groups continue

An exchange you might hear at a Cultivating Vision small group meeting:

“I gave a 5 to the survey question on worshiping in the sanctuary in person. It’s really important to me to worship with other people.”

“Really? I gave that a 2, but a 5 to streaming worship at home! I’m not able to drive any more and I’m so glad to have another way to be at First Christian.”

The purpose of these small group meetings is to give everyone a chance to talk about what they value about FCC, to describe how they think FCC can grow and develop, and to share their thoughts about FCC now and in the future.

The meetings are being held both in person and via Zoom, and last about 90 minutes. There are open spaces at all of the remaining scheduled meetings.

You can now sign up online at fccmpls.org or call or email Kirsten Cackoski (612-788-4826; cackoski@msn.com) or Martha Harris (763-593-0814; harrismartha@mac.com) to indicate the meeting date and time you prefer.

Nov. 27 7 pm Zoom	Dec. 2 1 pm SpringHouse
Nov. 28 7 pm Zoom	Dec. 2 1 pm Zoom
Nov. 29 2 pm SpringHouse	Dec. 3 9 am SpringHouse
Nov. 30 7 pm Keith home	Dec. 5 7 pm Zoom
Dec. 1 2 pm SpringHouse	Dec. 6 1 pm Harris house
Dec. 2 10:30 am Hillestad’s	Dec. 7 7 pm Zoom

(Most of these dates are also on the December calendar, page 4)

These discussions are an important way for your voice to be heard, to hear how others see things at FCC, and to gather information that can be used as we plan for the future.

Pastor Laurie, continued from page 2

and Wendy, I want to offer thanksgiving for Deb, Caroline, Tim, Deanna, Jon and Tyler! We also have the best unpaid technology staff. Thank you to Mike, Melinda, Mark and David!

There are many of you who signed on to help in a variety of ways while I was gone. Some of you are serving on newly created committees and others are serving in new ways or have taken on added ways to serve. Members are the heart of Disciples of Christ churches. We cannot be church without each one of you and the variety of ways that you serve. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Know that this Thanksgiving I am giving thanks for each one of you and for the staff of First Christian. Together we are making a difference in the world, and I look forward to continuing to make a difference into the future. Happy Thanksgiving!
Much love and peace, Pastor Laurie

SpringHouse Board Notes

The SpringHouse Board met Sunday, November 12. Highlights from the meeting include the following:

- SpringHouse Treasurer Andy Rennert reviewed the proposed SH budget for 2024. Budgets for many expense categories were increased slightly, but a few were decreased. The annual congregational shares would be slightly less than in 2022, but the congregations may again be asked to again contribute to the capital budget. The board voted to approve the proposed budget, but it now goes to each congregation’s governing board for approval.
- The meeting dates and leadership rotation were set for 2024. First meeting will be Sunday, February 25, 2 pm by Zoom.
- Mike Cackoski of the Building Committee reviewed various repairs and upcoming inspections



FCC Calendar for December 2023

					1 2 pm Visioning Small Group at SH	2 9 am Coffee with Pastors – Zoom 10 am Justin Carlson Care Team See p. 3 for Small Group times 2:30 Choral Workshop
3 9 am Visioning Small Group at SH 10:30 am Worship in person and livestream 11:30 SH Youth Group	4 7 pm Women's Fellowship	5 8:15 Lectionary via Zoom 5 pm Zoom Happy Hour 7 pm Visioning Small Group on Zoom	6 9 am Coffee with Pastors – Zoom 1 pm Visioning Small Group at SH 7 pm Elders Mtg 7 pm Advent Study	9 7 pm Pastor Laurie's PRC 7 pm Visioning Small Group on Zoom	8	9 9 am Coffee with Pastors – Zoom
10 10:30 am Worship in person and livestream 11:30 SH Youth Group	11 5 pm SHMC Building Committee 7 pm SHMC Finance Committee	12 8:15 Lectionary via Zoom 5 pm Zoom Happy Hour	13 9 am Coffee with Pastors – Zoom Noon: Finance Committee 7 pm Advent Study	14 Noon: Mission and Outreach 7 pm Pastor Laurie PRC	15	16 9 am Coffee with Pastors – Zoom
17 10:30 am Worship in person and livestream 11:30 SH Youth Group	18	19 8:15 Lectionary via Zoom 7 pm FCC General Board on Zoom	20 9 am Coffee with Pastors – Zoom 7 pm Advent Study	21 5 pm Happy Hour on Zoom	22	23 9 am Coffee with Pastors – Zoom
24 10:30 am Worship in person and livestream 11:30 SH Youth Group 7 pm Christmas Eve Service	25 	26 8:15 Lectionary via Zoom	27 9 am Coffee with Pastors – Zoom	28 5 pm Happy Hour on Zoom	29	30 9 am Coffee with Pastors – Zoom 1 pm Celebration/Rememberance Gathering for Mary Lou Norman
31 10:30 am Worship in person and livestream 11:30 SH Youth Group	SAVE THE DATE NancyGrace Norman invites you to gather together to celebrate the life of Mary Lou Norman on Saturday, December 30, from 1-3:00 pm at Parkshore Assisted Living in St. Louis Park. All are welcome to come and share your stories and memories of Mary Lou, on what would have been her 96th birthday.					

Thanksgiving Day *Interfaith Service*

November 23, 10 a.m. In-person and Online
Plymouth Congregational Church, Minneapolis

The Downtown Minneapolis Interfaith Senior Clergy will lead the worship service, featuring a powerful message by Senior Rabbi Marcia Zimmerman (Temple Israel of Minneapolis) and Hamdy El-Sawaf (Islamic Community Center of Minnesota/Masjid Al-Amin) and readings and reflections from Jewish, Islamic, Christian, and Indigenous traditions. We unite in a posture of unity and gratitude to renew our commitment to peace, cooperation, and interfaith dialogue. Come worship with us, joining your voices in a communal service of gratitude and thanksgiving.

SpringHouse
Youth Ministry

YOUTH GROUP IS STARTING!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3RD
11:30AM-12:30PM

**All youth ages 10-18 are
invited!**

**STARTING IN DECEMBER, JOIN US EVERY SUNDAY
FOR GAMES, SNACKS, FELLOWSHIP, AND EXPLORING
FAITH IN THE YOUTH ROOM (BEHIND THE SUNDAY
SCHOOL ROOM)**

**Questions? Email Chelsea at
springhouseyouth@fcmpls.org**

Just in time for holiday choirs!

JUMP-START YOUR CHORAL VOICE

Have you sung in or wish you could sing in your **church choir**, **community choir**, or **school choir**? Did you stop singing at some point? Maybe the **pandemic**, or **life just got in the way**? Maybe your **voice changed** during menopause or hormone therapy and you're just not sure how to **start singing again**.



December 3, 2023
2:30-5:30 PM
SpringHouse Ministries
Uptown, Minneapolis
Three workshops!
\$ pay-what-you-can option available!

Three Workshops:

- **2:30 PM #1** Curative Vocal Exercises for the Aging or Out-of-Practice Voice
- **3:30 PM #2** Small & Large Group Discussion: Mental & Emotional Barriers in Singing
- **4:30 PM #3** Masterclass with Deanna Davis, M.M.

SCAN QR CODE TO SIGN UP!

Contact Deanna directly: deanna.davis@gmail.com

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Sundays at First Christian Church

Worship (and morning bulletin) at 10:30, online at fccmpls.org

“Children’s Table” activities in person or online at fccmpls.org

Youth Group at 11:30-12:30 in Youth Room

Revised Common Lectionary

November 26, 2023

Mark 13: 24-37



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

Reflections on the Word

Mark 13: 37 - “And what I say to you, I say to all: Keep Awake.”

In this parable, the doorkeeper has the special job of staying alert, of watching and waiting. What is our job to help the household of Jesus be ready? Is it encouraging others or teaching or interceding in prayer or any of the other jobs that sustain the household of faith? Jesus is teaching us to find our job, learn how to do it, and then get to it. Stay alert!

Loving Jesus, Teach us to find our jobs and fulfill your plan for us so that your people will be ready to recognize you and welcome you when you come. Amen.

By Keith Beasley-Topliffe,
Disciplines 2020

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

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Next issue deadline is Sunday, December 3

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