

November 9, 2023

The Courier

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis



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UPCOMING Events

*Pastor Laurie PRC,
Thursday, Nov. 9, 7 pm*

*Pastor Laurie's
Welcome Home Lunch,
Sunday, Nov. 12
after worship*

*Finance Committee,
Wednesday, Nov. 15,
12:30 pm*

*FCC Board Meeting,
Tuesday, Nov. 21,
7 pm on Zoom*

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

Making adjustments as we go...

Pastor Laurie Feille returned to her pastoral work on Wednesday, November 1, following her three-month sabbatical. Just two weeks before this, Pastor Dan suffered a complicated foot-ankle break in a fall and is at home recovering from two surgeries, unable to put weight on his right ankle for the next six weeks. So, both pastors, staff, FCC leadership, and the congregation are having to make adjustments to communications with the congregation, as well as some pastoral care changes in Dan's absence.

Jay Hillestad has volunteered to cover pastoral care needs on Fridays (Pastor Laurie's day off). He can be reached by phone at 612-360-7887 or 952-924-5733 or by email at Jay.hillestad@fairview.org. If pastoral care is needed the Friday after Thanksgiving, contact Pastor Laurie.

The regular eblasts, calendar updates, and social media posts are all communication items that Pastor Dan handles, so right now, these are on hold. Pastor Laurie will be sending out emails to try to maintain communication lines. She would appreciate any volunteers that can help with communications.

Pastor Laurie will be back in the pulpit on Sunday, November 12. The congregation will have a Welcome Back Luncheon following the worship service.

Sandwich-making for Groveland Food Shelf coming



Mark your calendar for November 19 when we will be making sandwiches for the Groveland Food Shelf after the worship service. If you have not participated in this activity before, you are missing out on camaraderie and the chance to provide lunches for persons who are food insecure. It takes less than an hour, depending on how many hands are working!

Pictured: June 2023 sandwich-making

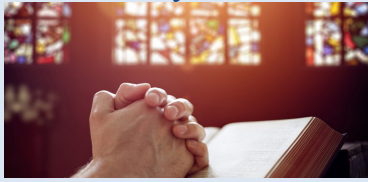
Pronouns and the Church: Why they matter

The Anti-Racism, Pro-Reconciliation Team of the Upper Midwest Disciples invites you to join an educational discussion on November 19 (7 pm on Zoom) to learn about pronouns and why they matter in faith communities.



The event is free but registration is required. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/mp3tmhvm>.

In Our Prayers



Prayers of joy that **Zack Hesano** and his dog **Quartz** graduated from CanDo Canines.

Prayers of concern for **Pastor Dan and Keith** as Dan heals from extensive surgery on his ankle; for **Ron Keith's cousin Randy**, whose cancer has returned; for **Dan's Uncle Merlyn** who was recently hospitalized; for **Dee Ward** as she continues to recover from recent surgery.

Prayers of sympathy for **Arlene Hillestad**, whose dear friend **Maren** recently passed away; for **Melinda and Arlan Nickerson** on the passing of their dog **Max**; for **Anna Bliss** whose dear friend **Andrea** died unexpectedly.

Prayers for Israel and Palestine as war increases daily; continued prayers for an end to the war in Ukraine; prayers for the people in Lewiston, Maine, where another mass shooting happened.

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

Views and Viewpoints by Karen Kandik



A return to a bit of the Before Time

It has been a long time since there has been a need for activity in the church kitchen--long as in pre-COVID. We had a few things here and there but nothing that required organization like in the Before Time. Well, kitchen fun is back!

Belinda Flanagan managed several small events that we had during COVID (Thanks, Belinda!). But suddenly we were faced with several BIG events that required organization like the Before Time. After long-time kitchen manager Sandy Morgan's death, Steve Rusinak had volunteered to be our kitchen representative to the SpringHouse kitchen committee but was not called upon because, you know, *COVID* Time. He recently volunteered to come back in that position; however, no one knew just how much work it would be! (Thanks, Steve!)

Recently, I found myself several times being involved with set- up the day before a food event, serving or taking orders from Steve on the day of the event, helping with clean up, setting tables with a discussion with other volunteers of where the napkin goes (fork on top? napkin to the left of the fork?) Turns out the answer was usually what your mother did!

The day of Laurie's Send Off to Sabbatical Lunch and the recent funerals we (sadly) have had all brought out the generosity of time from so many people who jumped in and helped. It made the tasks so much more fun and was a great connection with some people who have not been in the building since the Before Time!

Of course, there was some sadness, too, as we remembered Sandy quite a lot while we were working. All of us tried not to say to Steve, "Well, SANDY would have done it this way." I think we were successful because we recognized that it is a new era. We also remembered Mary Lou Cain before Sandy; Cleo and Margaret before Mary Lou...and back, I am quite sure, to at least 1890's when Portland Avenue Church of Christ was in its heyday. We are part of a long chain of caring for people through food, with the added benefit of getting closer to those in the congregation who are helping --or eating.

Feel free to volunteer or accept the call to be a kitchen helper! It will benefit you more than you know!

P.S. I guess Steve has been asked several times why he is not wearing high heels. 😊 Sandy's memory does live on.

Small Group gatherings schedule

Small groups to share what you value at FCC

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?

Many of you have filled out the survey on what you most value at First Christian Church. (Still time to fill it out! There is a link on our website at fccmpls.org) The next step is to meet in small groups, either in person or on zoom, so we can reflect together on the survey questions as well as the questions listed above.



Talking together in small groups is a way for you to share what you value and to learn what others value, so that together we can make workable plans for a vital and sustainable future.

Here is the schedule for the small group meetings, subject to change as necessary:

DATE	TIME	PLACE	FACILITATOR
Sat, Nov. 18	10:30 am	Johanna Shores, Arden Hills	Kirsten Cackoski
Sat, Nov. 18	10:30 am	Hillestad house	Jay and Arlene Hillestad
Mon, Nov. 27	7 pm	Zoom	Martha Harris/Kirsten
Tues, Nov. 28	7 pm	Zoom	Jay and Arlene
Wed, Nov. 29	2 pm	SpringHouse	Martha
Thurs, Nov. 30	7 pm	Keith house	Ron Keith
Fri, Dec 1	2 pm	SpringHouse	Kirsten
Sat, Dec. 2	10:30 am	Hillestad house	Jay and Arlene
Sat, Dec. 2	1 pm	SpringHouse	Kirsten
Sat, Dec. 2	1 pm	Zoom	Jay and Arlene
Sun, Dec 3	9 am	SpringHouse	Jay and Arlene
Tues, Dec. 5	7 pm	Zoom	Jay and Arlene
Wed. Dec. 6	1 pm	Harris house	Martha
Thurs, Dec 7	7 pm	Zoom	Martha

Our normal on-line signup system such as we used for the sabbatical activities isn't working as usual during Pastor Dan's recovery period, although it may be soon. You are invited to 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. When you call or email, we will give you the address of meetings that are in people's homes.

You may also get a call or an email from one of the facilitators to find out what meeting you wish attend. We really want to hear from EVERYONE!

Sundays at First Christian Church

Worship at 10:30, in person or
livedstreamed 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
November 12, 2023
Parable of the Talent
Matthew 23: 14-30



"He Hid His Lord's Money," stained glass in Corfe Castle, England

Reflections on the Word

Matthew 25: 25a – "so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground."

Do you have a buried talent? Do you have an idea for a song, a painting, a project? What would it be like to trust that the thing you long to do is what God wants you to do as well? What if you believed that God put the notion in your head in the first place? Ah, what fun we all would have! How the angels would laugh! *God, give me the courage to be all you have created me to be. Teach me to love you more than my own comfort. Amen.*

By Loretta Ross-Gotta, Disciplines, 2020

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

A Welcoming Community of Faith in the Heart of the City

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Next issue deadline is Sunday, November 19

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