

January 11, 2024

The Courier

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis



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UPCOMING Events

FCC Annual Meeting,
Sunday, January 14
following worship

FCC Book Group,
Monday, January 15,
7 pm on Zoom

FCC Board Meeting,
Tuesday, January 16,
7 pm on Zoom

Trustee Meeting,
Saturday, January 20,
10 am

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

Pastor Laurie, others in Preaching project

Pastor Laurie Feille is one of a select group of clergy working in conjunction with Luther Seminary as part of the *Compelling Preaching Initiative*, thanks to a generous grant from the Lilly Foundation. This initiative seeks to cultivate practices among aspiring and active preachers that can help them proclaim the gospel to a variety of audiences in more engaging and effective ways. The participating clergy represent 10 churches from five different states and Quebec, Canada.

Compelling Preaching Initiative

Pastor Laurie is hoping that FCC folks will take the survey for the sermons preached in January, including the January 28 Joint Worship Service sermon. Everyone can take the survey four times. If you miss a Sunday, you can watch it online on FCC's YouTube channel. Just be sure to put in the date the sermon was preached.

The hope is that whenever someone hears/watches the sermon, they will take the survey that day (after worship or later on). The Lily-funded Compelling Preaching cohort group involved in this study will be gathering the data from all of the churches in the survey during January, and will then meet in San Francisco February 1-3 to analyze the data that is received.

You can access the survey by way of the QR code shown on screen in the sanctuary or in the LiveStream chat. You can also access the survey through this link

https://luthersem.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eevXqpTagbPI7kW

Save these 2024 Mission & Outreach dates:

February 9-23: Week of Compassion collections

March: Minnesota Food Share Month. We will be collecting donations for Groveland, both monetary and "real"! We will also be collecting diapers for People Serving People; they have identified this as their highest need. All sizes needed!

April 7: Sandwich making after worship

May 4: A Cinco de Mayo celebration in the Gathering Space! More info to follow!

December 7: (Yes, December!) Another day of fun: crafts, food, mission project!

First Christian has a long history of generosity for those in need; we are small but mighty! Thank you!

In Our Prayers

We offer prayers of joy for improved health conditions of **Jay Hillestad's mother Arletta Drudge** and **Margaret Hutchen's brother Ted**.

We offer prayers of sympathy for **Tim Leach**, whose mother passed away last weekend and for **Margaret Hutchen's friend Kelly** whose sibling passed away.

We offer prayers for health concerns: **Darren Armstrong, Deanna Davis and Jon Sill, Melinda Nickerson, Gary Maanum and also Gary's friend Pete; Tammy Rottschaefer's cousin Arlyss; Pastor Dan's friend Jennifer**.

We pray for the **community in Perry, IA**, suffering from yet another act of senseless violence and death.

We pray for our country, that divisions may be healed and that people may be led to see that trans and queer people are created in the image of God.

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**News sources you need to know!**

I want to take this opportunity to thank you, First Christian Church, for all the love and care that you have shown Keith and me since my accident on October 21 at the Christian Conference Center in Newton. Your texts, phone calls, cards, rides to/from doctor's appointments and church, helping out with house projects, and lending scooters & crutches have meant so much to both of us. As I continue to heal and move forward with more mobility thanks to physical therapy, I see the love of God in each of you and appreciate more than you know.

Sunday morning, you may have been shocked when, during Prayers of the People, you heard me state that there are already 125 anti-trans/anti-LGBTQ bills that have been filed in various state legislatures, with many of them even more hideous than what we saw last year. In hearing that, you may have wondered: *where does Pastor Dan get this information? After all, I'm not hearing or seeing things like this in the news.*

Let me take this moment to introduce you to Erin Reed, of *Erin In the Morning*. Erin (she/her) is a trans queer news and history content creator, LGBTQ+ and repro legislation tracker, and activist trying to change the world to be a better place. On a weekly basis, Erin summarizes all of the important pieces of news and queer news and legislation, with complete links to source documents. [You can learn more about her at her website](#), and you can subscribe to *Erin In the Morning* [here](#). I encourage and highly recommend, if you care about social justice issues especially as it pertains to our trans and queer siblings, to subscribe and follow Erin. I have found that Erin is way ahead of the national media on many items, and more thorough than one would get through our normal media sources.

I would also encourage you, if you don't already, to make sure you are following these organizations on the various socials:

- OutFront Minnesota - <https://www.outfront.org/>
- Human Rights Campaign - <https://www.hrc.org/>
- Lambda Legal - <https://lambdalegal.org/>
- National Center for Transgender Equality - <https://transequality.org/>

And, of course, let us not forget our own denominational organization – Disciples LGBTQ+ Alliance, <https://disciplesallianceq.org/>.

As I said in worship, our trans and queer siblings are made in the image of God, not as political pawns to win points with voters. Living in Minnesota, we are very lucky with the number of laws that have been passed last year to support our trans and queer siblings, yet, we can not be complacent, nor can we not be aware of what is happening in states around us and in our nation. There are organizations that wish to completely erase the LGBTQ+ community, and as followers of Christ, we are called to love and stand with the LGBTQ+ community.

Women's Fellowship events

This year's **New Year Brunch Gathering** for women (cis-gender, non-binary, others identifying as women) is scheduled for:

Saturday January 27, 10:30 am
The Hilltop in Edina
5101 Arcadia Ave (just off Hwy 100)

We'll meet from 10:30 am to whenever but definitely done by 12:30 pm. Lunch is self-pay. **We must have your RSVP by January 22, the Monday before.** Email Kathy Hintz at kathymsw@msn.com to RSVP. Note: If you sent Kathy an RSVP but didn't hear back, please RSVP again.

The next **regular Women's Fellowship meeting** will be Monday, February 5, 7 pm via Zoom. Chapter 11 from the book *Holy Envy* by Barbara Brown Taylor will be the discussion topic for the meeting.

SpringHouse Youth Lock-In Feb. 3-4!

Join SpringHouse Youth Ministry for our Youth Winter Lock-In for a night of fun, fellowship, food, and activities starting on **Saturday, February 3** and ending on **Sunday, February 4** at SpringHouse Ministry Center.

This event is **open to ALL youth ages 10-18**; youth do not need to be an official member of any of the congregations at SpringHouse Ministry Center, so youth are encouraged to invite any/all of their friends!

Physical permission slips and release forms will be available in the youth room and in front of each sanctuary starting Sunday, January 7 and **MUST** be turned in to SpringHouse Youth Minister Chelsea Boyden no later than **Sunday, January 28** unless you have otherwise made arrangements with Chelsea prior.

If you have any questions, you can reach out to Chelsea at springhouseyouth@fccmpls.org. Contact her also to be a **Volunteer Adult Chaperones**.

Link to online permission slip (will still need to complete physical release form): <https://forms.gle/H54ApufcEZTTvuU4A>



Book Discussion invitation

The Upper Midwest Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciliation Team invites you to participate in a 6-week Small Group to discuss *Me and White Supremacy: Combat Racism, Change the World, and Become a Good Ancestor*. The study will run from the first week of February through mid-March.

If you sign up, what are you signing on for?

- Acquiring the book *Me and White Supremacy* by Layla F. Saad. The book will be read over the course of the six weeks; no need to start reading before the first meeting.
- Participating in a once-a-week small group on Zoom for six weeks beginning in early February. Groups will follow "The Circle Way" meaning they are a place for reflection and sharing, not convincing and debating.
- Spending time over 28 days with daily readings and journaling.
- Being open to conversation with other Disciples from across the Upper Midwest region.
- Being willing to challenge yourself to hear new things and think about things differently.

If this sounds like a commitment you would like to make, please choose either the group that meets on Sunday evenings (beginning February 4) at 6:30pm or Tuesday mornings (beginning February 6) at 10am. Register at <http://tinyurl.com/6hn8jp82>. Registrations are limited, so please sign up soon.

If you have questions, please contact Mary Jane Button at maryjane@fccames.org

Sundays at First Christian Church

Worship at 10:30, in person or
livedreamed 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
Philip Invites Nathanael
John 1: 43-51



Reflections on the Word.

John 1: 46 - Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see."

"Come and see." What a beautiful illustration for our faith and the role of discipleship. We are called to invite others through our relationship with God to "come and see." What would it look like to reshape all our interactions with that imaginative proposition, "Come and see"?

Lord, give us the childlike joy of sharing with others your goodness and your works in our lives. Amen.

Ronald Bell, in *Disciplines 2024*.

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

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Next issue deadline is Sunday, January 21.