

The Courier

February 22, 2024

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis



What's **INSIDE**:

A Poem by **Mary Oliver**,
page 2

Three ways to help people,
page 3

Meet our newest member,
page 3

March calendar,
page 4

Baptism class, Event flyers,
page 5

UPCOMING Events

SpringHouse Board
meets Sunday,
Feb. 25, 2 pm

Lenten Study on
Wednesdays, 7 pm

Women's Fellowship,
Monday, March 4, 7 pm

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

Lent 2024: What are you up to?

Hot air balloon decorations currently abound in the Garden Sanctuary. During the Children's Moment, Deb Murphy is talking with the children about the movie "Up" (a wonderful animated movie). What's up with all this?



What's up is the Lenten theme "What are you up to?" Lent is often known as a time of giving something up in order to make room in our lives for spiritual pursuits. Rather than just "giving up" in Lent, the scriptures ask us to consider all that Jesus is "up to" and all that he asks us to be up to in his name. Instead of bemoaning what we can't do, or used to do, in a culture where "measuring up" to external standards seems impossible, this Lent we will celebrate the small things that we can do right now to respond to God's call in our place, for our time.

In addition to the Sundays in Lent, people are invited to join a Wednesday evening Lenten study and also to keep a daily Lenten journal, as described below:

Lenten Study

Pastors Laurie Feille and Dan Adolphson are leading a study at 7 pm through March 20 at 7 pm on Wednesdays. The study will be based on the book *Slow Kingdom Coming* by Jeff Crosby and Kent Annan.

Each week will focus on different chapters in the book. However, you do not need to buy the book unless you want to, because the discussion questions work with or without having read the chapter. Here's an example: "In the preface, the author suggests that we are 'called to be part of God's kingdom coming.' What does that calling mean to you?"

Contact Pastor Laurie if you would like to join the study. The link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85239893851#success>. To join by phone, call (312) 626-6799. Meeting ID: 852 3989 3851.

Lenten Journal

A daily Lenten journal, independent of the Wednesday night study, but linked to the "What are you up to" theme can be downloaded from the home page of FCC's website. Here's a sample of the type of prompts the journal provides each day:

(For Thursday, Feb. 22) How many times have you said to yourself, "when will I ever be caught up on everything I have to do?" Life can feel like a never-ending to-do list. Can you be up to about 30 minutes today that has absolutely nothing to do with the to-do's? What will you do that feels yummy and life-giving?

In Our Prayers...

We pray for the many family members and friends facing health concerns: **Jim Lee's sisters Becky and Pat, Karen Bowman's friend Julia and her husband Tom, Lacey Athey's friend Dallise, Ron Keith's cousin Randy Barnes, Elaine and Ben Tucker's friend Sam, and Wendy Manuel's friend Darla.**

We pray for **Mike Hesano and Lu Griffin** as they face transitions in their workplace.

Our hearts continue to break over violence in our cities and in the world, including the deaths of two police officers and one paramedic in Burnsville, two deaths and many injuries at a celebratory Kansas City parade, deaths and more deaths in Minneapolis and the cities across America, and in Gaza, Israel, Ukraine and the Republic of Congo .

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 poem by Mary Oliver



Storage

When I moved from one house to another
there were many things I had no room
for. What does one do? I rented a storage
space. And filled it. Years passed.
Occasionally I went there and looked in,
but nothing happened, not a single
twinge of the heart.

As I grew older the things I cared
about grew fewer, but were more
important. So one day I undid the lock
and called the trash man. He took
everything.

I felt like the little donkey when
his burden is finally lifted. Things!
Burn them, burn them! Make a beautiful
fire! More room in your heart for love,
for the trees! For the birds who own
nothing—the reason they can fly.

Mary Oliver, 1935-2019

*Published 2020 by Penguin Books in Devotions: The Selected Poems of Mary Oliver. Copyright 2017 by NW Orchard LLC
First published in Felicity, 2015*



FCC Calendar for March 2024

					1	2 9 am Coffee with Pastors
3 3rd Sunday of Lent 9 am Choir rehearsal 10:30 am Worship in person and livestream 11:30 SH Youth Group	4 7 pm Women's Fellowship	5 8:15 SH Lectionary Study 5 pm Happy Hour	6 9 am Coffee with Pastors 7 pm Elders Mtg 7 pm Lenten Study	9 Noon: Mission and Outreach 5 pm Happy Hour	8	9 9 am Coffee with Pastors
10 4th Sunday of Lent Daylight Savings 9 am Choir rehearsal 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 SH Lectionary Study 5 pm Happy Hour	13 9 am Coffee with Pastors 12:30: Finance Committee 7 pm Lenten Study	14 7 pm Pastor Laurie PRC	15	16 9 am Coffee with Pastors
17 5th Sunday of Lent 9 am Choir rehearsal 10:30 am Worship in person and livestream 11:30 SH Youth Group	18 7 pm FCC and Friends Book Group	19 8:15 SH Lectionary Study 7 pm FCC General Board	20 9 am Coffee with Pastors 7 pm Lenten Study	21 5 pm Happy Hour	22	23 9 am Coffee with Pastors
24 Palm Sunday 9 am Choir rehearsal 10:30 am Worship in person and livestream 11:30 SH Youth Group	25	26 8:15 SH Lectionary Study 5 pm Happy Hour	27 9 am Coffee with Pastors	28 Maundy Thursday Watch for details on this service in eblasts and on the FCC website	29 Good Friday Watch for details on this service in eblasts and on the FCC website	30 9 am Coffee with Pastors
31 Easter Sunday 9 am Choir rehearsal 10:30 am Worship in person and livestream 11:30 SH Youth Group	All meetings are on Zoom, unless otherwise noted					



Do You Have Questions About Baptism?

During this Lent enseason, Pastor Laurie is offering a Pastor's Class for anyone (children, youth, adults) who have questions about or just a general interest in baptism. Please reach out to Pastor Laurie (pastor@fccmpls.org) for more information and with any question you have.

It's Girl Scout Cookie Season!



Support your church Girl Scout Elizabeth/Moxie and satisfy your yearly craving for Girl Scout cookies!

Order online any time **before March 22nd** at Tinyurl.com/CookiesMoxie2024 (or click on the QR code in the graphic). Deliveries can be made to Springhouse most Sundays or arranged with Moxie. In-person orders can be made on select Sundays (dates to be announced), with your first chance **BEFORE church on the 18th.**



Shrek The Musical March 1-3: See The Krengel Kids perform!

The girls are in the school play, *Shrek the Musical*, at Lincoln Elementary in White Bear Lake, March 1-3! Emerson is in the opening ensemble and Adalynn is backstage crew.

[Click here to purchase tickets](#)

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

February 25, 2024

Mark 8: 31-38



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

Reflections on the Word

Mark 8:35 – For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it,

It seems counterintuitive that those who save their life will lose it, as Jesus says in this verse. But that seems to be the way God loves to work. After all, this is the same God that brought forth the entire Jewish population from one elderly man and his elderly wife.

God, thank you for all the surprising, often counterintuitive ways that you work in our lives. Give us the courage to lose our lives for your sake. Amen.

By Sandra Stogsdill Brown,
Disciplines 2024

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
OF MINNEAPOLIS
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
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*A Welcoming Community of Faith in the Heart of the
City*

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Next issue deadline is Sunday, March 24