

The Courier

February 1, 2024

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis



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UPCOMING Events

*Women's Fellowship,
Monday, Feb. 5, 7 pm*

*Elders Meeting,
Wednesday, Feb. 7, 7 pm*

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

Align Mpls director gives talk on work



Katie Dillon, Director of Align Mpls, spoke during worship on Sunday, January 21, about Align's work in addressing homelessness in Minneapolis. Ms. Dillon spoke about how Align Mpls (formerly called Downtown Congregations to End Homelessness) prioritizes listening to voices with lived experience of homelessness in order to be more effective. Members of Street Voices of Change, an organization of individuals with current or past personal experiences of homelessness, serve on Align's Steering Committee, and help identify issues that need action.

FCC is an active member of Align Mpls, a coalition of 18 churches working to address housing needs: Pastor Dan Adolphson is the organization's Treasurer and serves on the Steering Committee and Karen Kandik is on the Organizing Team. Our church also supports Align's monthly community meal program, served at Plymouth Congregational Church, as well as other Align programs.

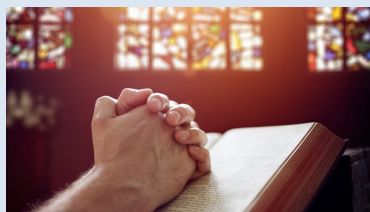
She also spoke about Emergency Rental Assistance, another major Align program that helps people with short-term barriers to keeping up with rent. 114 households got help to stay in their homes last year through this program. Another important Align focus is addressing longer term systemic issues.

Volunteers are always needed. Find out more about Align's work at alignmpls.org.

SpringHouse gathers for a baptism

Wesley Elliot Fast, son of Salem members Erica Larson and Shannon Fast, was baptized January 21, in the Gathering Space on January 21. All three congregations gathered to witness and celebrate Wesley's baptism.



In Our Prayers...

LaceyAthey asks for prayers for the following:

- **Her mother Cherice** has been in the hospital for a week with RSV and was moved out of ICU yesterday and to a regular room as she has improved.
- **Her uncle Alex**, whose group home is closing and has to find new housing and a new caretaker.
- **Her roommate Bones** and their family, as Bones' grandmother passed away last week.

Prayers for **Henri Smith**, who was mugged last week while grocery shopping. She is ok but shaken up.

Prayers for the **husband of a friend of Arlene Hillestad's** who is struggling with mental health issues.

Pastor Dan's next follow-up with the surgeon is this Friday - prayers for a good report and the ability to move on to the next steps.

We pray for all the people suffering from bombings, terror, famine, homelessness and the many other ills that plague our world.

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



Getting Ready for Lent!

Lent is arriving early this year! Ash Wednesday is February 14, which means Easter is March 31. We only have two more Sundays before Lent begins and one of the Sundays, February 11, is Mardi Gras Sunday! We will have a Mardi Gras band during worship, King Cakes, Beads and Mardi Gras decorations. Those who got the plastic babies in their King Cake slice last year will be bringing Mardi Gras cakes to worship that day. This is a Sunday that you want to be present onsite and online!

Our Worship Committee has made the decision that our Ash Wednesday service, February 14, will be on zoom this year. Plan on gathering at 7 pm on zoom as we begin the journey of Lent to Easter morning together.

We will also offer a Lenten Study on Wednesday nights at 7 pm. For this Lenten Study to work we need 6 people to commit to attending for 5 weeks. We will begin Wednesday, February 21 and end on March 20. We will not have a session during Holy Week. Please let me or Pastor Dan know that you will be attending.

I have heard that there are people interested in knowing more about baptism. I would love to offer what Disciples call a "Pastor's Class." This is a time to learn how Disciples of Christ understand baptism, why baptism matters, learn more about the history of our denomination, learn more about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. This is also a time to ask questions about all the above and more. It is important to know that for Disciples of Christ the choice to be baptized is made by the one who is considering baptism. If you participate in the class that does not mean that you must be baptized at the end of the class. The class is intended to help you discern if baptism is something you desire. The best part of the class is the education and experience of exploring more about Disciples of Christ and baptism. If you are interested in a Pastor's Class, please reach out and let me know. We will meet for four weeks during Lent. Once I know who will be attending, we will find a time that works for everyone.

We will have a service(s) during Holy Week so please watch the next newsletter and the eblasts for information about Holy Week. There are variety of ways that you can be engaged with the life of the church during Lent. If there is a way that you would like to be engaged and you don't see it mentioned in this article, please reach out and let me know. We are open to any and all suggestions on how we can help the church journey from Ash Wednesday to Easter Morning.

Much love and peace, Pastor Laurie

Squiggle Space is open Sunday mornings

Kids from birth to age 9 are invited to come to the Squiggle Space on Sunday mornings. From 9 am to 12 noon, there is supervision for our youngest Springhouse members. Bring your kids by to play, craft and have some fun. The Squiggle Space is located on the lower level, next to the Garden Sanctuary. (See page 5; our new Squiggle Space supervisor, Alethia Lee, introduces herself!)

Music director invites singers for Lent and Easter!

Music Director Caroline

Povolny invites "any and all skill levels" to join the FCC choir to sing during Lent and Easter.

Rehearsals begin Sunday,

February 4 and are 9:15 am on Sunday mornings. The choir will sing on Mardi Gras Sunday, February 11, and continue through Lent and Easter.

Come and join!



Child Ministries Team 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!

Day Camp to be in new location on new dates

Please save the date for a great week of fun and faith formation! This year, our ecumenical day camp will be both later in the summer and at a new location - Diamond Lake Lutheran Church (5760 Portland Ave). Our program arc will be Monday - Thursday (August 19 - 22), with a family celebration on

Thursday night. Friday is a bonus fun day. We are excited to welcome children between the ages of entering Kindergarten through middle school, and we hope to have a wonderful crew of high school leaders to support the elementary kiddos. More information to come in the new year.



Day Camp for Kids

FCC Board Notes

Twenty-one board members and staff participated in FCC's regular monthly board meeting on Tuesday, January 16. Highlights from the meeting include the following:

- The one business item on the agenda was a discussion about the board chair position. Jen Kregel of the Nominating Committee reported that the committee asked several people about being board chair, but no one they spoke to volunteered. Kirsten Cackoski said that, although she had announced previously that she would be stepping down, she was willing to stay on until another board chair emerged.
- Many ideas and suggestions were offered on topics such as the duties of the board chair, possibility of leadership from the online members, possible sharing of board chair duties, and the need to revise and update the church bylaws. A motion was made and approved to set aside the bylaws for a period of time as we make some changes and revisit them at the June board meeting
- A motion will be brought to the February 20 board meeting regarding the board chair position.

FCC Calendar for February 2024

Meetings are on Zoom unless otherwise noted



				1 5 pm Happy Hour	2	3 9 am Coffee with Pastors Youth Lock-in at SpringHouse
4 9 am SH Youth Room open hours at Springhouse 10:30 am Worship in person and livestream	5 7 pm Women's Fellowship	7 8:15 SpringHouse Lectionary 5 pm Happy Hour	7 9am Coffee with Pastors 7 pm Elders meeting	8 Noon: Mission and Outreach 5 pm Happy Hour 7 pm Pastor Laurie's PRC	9	10 9 am Coffee with Pastors
11 9 am SH Youth Room open hours at Springhouse 10:30 am 10:30 am Worship in person and livestream 10:30 am MARDI GRAS SUNDAY with Dixieland band and King Cakes	12 5 pm SHMC Building Committee 7 pm SHMC Finance Committee	13 8:15 SpringHouse Lectionary 7 pm Pastor Dan's PRC	14 Ash Wednesday 9 am Coffee with Pastors Noon: Finance Committee 7 pm Ash Wednesday service	15 5 pm Happy Hour	16	17 9 am Coffee with Pastors
18 9 am SH Youth Room open hours at Springhouse 10:30 am Worship in person and livestream	19 7 pm FCC & Friends Book Group, "The Other Einstein"	20 8:15 SpringHouse Lectionary 7 pm FCC General Board	21 9 am Coffee with Pastors 7 pm Lenten Study	22 5 pm Happy Hour	23	24 9 m Coffee with Pastors
25 9 am SH Youth Room open hours at Springhouse 10:30 am Worship in person and livestream 2 pm SpringHouse Board	26	27 8:15 SpringHouse Lectionary 5 pm Happy Hour 7 pm Worship Committee	28 9 am Coffee with Pastors 7 pm Lenten Study	29 Leap Day! 5 pm Happy Hour		

Three New Faces and One Familiar Face!



At the annual Joint Worship Service on January 28, **Deb Murphy** talked to SpringHouse children about the church year calendar.



Lyndale United Church of Christ's new Interim Pastor is **Rev. Gail Irwin**. After serving two settled pastorates in Wisconsin, she has spent the past 12 years specializing in intentional interim ministry. She is an author and freelance writer and lives on a farm with her husband, Charles O'Harrow, who raises dairy heifers. Her daughter Evelyn lives in Minneapolis.



Rev. Carla Nelson is FCC's newest member. She has been worshipping with us online for some time, and contacted Pastor Laurie recently to become a member. She is currently serving as a Bridge (Interim) minister at Community Presbyterian Church in Rochester, but is a longtime DOC pastor in our region, having served in a variety of congregations. Look for a future Courier article with more about Rev. Carla.



Hi! My name is **Alethia Lee**. My grandpa Jim Lee is a member of First Christian, so I have been at SpringHouse several times over the years. I am a junior at the School of Environmental Studies, a magnet school in Apple Valley partnered with the Minnesota Zoo. I have three younger siblings including a toddler, so have lots of experience and comfort working with kids. I'm excited to meet all of the SpringHouse children in the Squiggle Space!

Sundays at First Christian Church

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

February 4, 2024

Jesus heals Peter's mother-in-law

Mark 1: 29-39



Healing Peter's Mother-in-Law, Rembrandt, courtesy Vanderbilt library

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

Reflections on the Word

Mark 1: 31a: He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up.

To mend the broken, heal the sick,
to share the struggles of the poor,
to fight for justice, work for peace,
to warn the foolish and the sure.

God, may we bring this
consciousness,
to every circumstance we face –
With every need you also pair
the possibility of grace.

From *Songs for the Cycle*, by
Michael Hudson

**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, March 11