



**First Christian Church**  
(Disciples of Christ)

A welcoming community  
of faith in the heart  
of the Twin Cities

at SpringHouse Ministry Center  
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Dear Beloved Members and Friends of First Christian,

On the first Sunday of December in 2012 I became your Senior Pastor. It has been a wonderful 12+ years and we have gone through many experiences together. What enticed me to answer the call to be your pastor was your ability to drastically change what church looks like by becoming a partner church at SpringHouse Ministry Center.

In January 2012 First Christian moved into SpringHouse to be in partnership with Salem Lutheran and Lyndale UCC. All three partner churches of SpringHouse had lived together for almost one year at the point that I arrived. I have had the honor and pleasure over the years of being a part of learning how three churches can live and serve together while still having our own identities.

Over the 12+ years we have shared significant moments in our lives. One of the biggest was the Covid shutdown which we survived in creative and meaningful ways. While Covid had an impact on churches across the world we were able to come back and be church in a different way just as the church did in 2012. Using zoom and live streaming our congregation has grown in ways we did not anticipate. Instead of closing as was the case with many churches.

We lived through and participated in the revolution after Mr. George Floyd was murdered and became a church even more committed to diversity, equity and inclusion. We made a commitment to stand with our siblings of color, our Indigenous siblings, our immigrant siblings and our 2SLGBTQ+ siblings. I am so proud of FCC's commitment to justice for all.

We have shared in births, deaths, weddings, hospital calls, surgeries and all other parts of life. I have had the holy privilege of laughing and crying with you. I heard you when you were not pleased with me, and I heard you when you were encouraging. Through it all we have been church and proclaimed God's love to the world.

We did all of this because of our understanding of what it means to be a follower of Jesus and a people who place God at the center of all that we do. I am grateful to serve a church that is faithful in all things.

We have an incredible staff that I have loved serving with and honestly, cannot imagine not serving with them. We had a great year last year with new members, baptisms, more people involved in leadership and ministries and our pledges were higher for 2025. I thank God for the health that our church is experiencing.

With that said, it is time for me to retire and to make my family a priority. My retirement date is June 1, with May 18, being my last Sunday in worship. I am grateful for the gift of serving First Christian and offer my heartfelt thanksgiving to God and to you for this incredible opportunity. You have affirmed my faith in the goodness of God and of humankind.

I am excited to see what the future brings for First Christian. You are a healthy church filled with gifted people who love God. You know the importance of welcoming all and working for justice for all. That says to me that there is only goodness ahead!

We have several months to say our good-byes and I will cherish every moment I have with you. Bryan and I love you all.

Much love and peace,

Pastor Laurie