

The Courier

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis



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UPCOMING Events

Sandwich making for
Groveland Foodshelf,
Sunday, June 8

Board meeting,
Tuesday, June 17,
7 pm on Zoom

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

Summer Mission & Outreach projects

June 8: We will be making sandwiches for Groveland Food Shelf in the Gathering Space after worship. You are all probably aware of the shortage of food available at food shelves right now--in the face of growing need for the use of food shelves. The sandwiches we contribute provide a meal for people *right away*. As the sandwiches come in, they start going out. Please join us for this fun activity; every time we do it, we seem to beat our previous time record! No special skills needed!

July: We will be collecting items and/or financial contributions towards the Drop In Center at Plymouth Congregational, one of the members of AlignMpls. The Drop In Center has been a mission of Plymouth for 50 years! Twice a week activities are held there for low income adults living near Plymouth who have mental health challenges or other special needs. Once a month is a weekly bingo game which is quite popular. Small prizes are given out and those are what we would like to collect in July.

Here is the list of requested items: Gift cards for \$5 or \$10; regular size shampoos, conditioner, lotion; regular size toothpaste; fun napkins; pretty notebooks and journals; socks; adultish coloring books and markers; cat toys; sketch books, colored pencils, picture frames, small all-in-one craft projects; candles; candleholders. You can start bringing these in July and leaving them in the sanctuary. If you wish to contribute money towards this collection, there will be an envelope in Givelify from July 1-31 or you can send a check to the church office and write "teller" on the envelope.

August: We will be collecting diapers for users of this mission of Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, another of our fellow AlignMpls members. All sizes are needed, especially sizes 5 and 6. Again, bring them to the sanctuary in August or send money through Givelify (Mount Olive Diapers--envelope available Aug 1-31) or send a check to the church office. You can also order online and the items will be shipped directly to Mt. Olive.

<https://www.target.com/gift-registry/gift/mountolivediapers>

by Karen Kandik



In Our Prayers



... Prayers of Sympathy to Warren Westphal, daughters Susan and Valerie, and the extended family on passing of Karen Westphal.

Prayers of Concern for **Margaret Hutchens** and **Nat Rosenberg** with their continuing health issues; for **Ardie Armstrong and her daughter Jess** as Ardie faces changes in her life circumstances; for several members of **Jen Kregel's family** (her mom and two brothers Josh and Justin) who have various health challenges; for **Garry Hesser** who is having shoulder issues; for **Carla Nelson's mother** who has pain issues.

Prayers for our siblings in Canada experiencing wildfires, and for the continuing crises in Gaza and Ukraine to come to a peaceful end.

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

Pride News and a little history



June is Pride Month, which means that we will have a presence at two different events:

- **Youth Pride** (held through the Minnesota School Outreach Coalition, of which Pastor Dan is a board member), this Saturday, June 7, from 1-6 pm. It's held at the Como Park Pavilions in St. Paul. David Cobb, KC Helmeid, and Jennifer Stockdale will be there representing FCC.
- **Twin Cities Pride**, June 28 & 29 at Loring Park in downtown Minneapolis. Thanks to the generosity of KC & Jennifer and their family, we're going to have a new addition to our booth – a trivia wheel! We are looking for people to help staff the booth during the weekend; with FCC being in this time of transition, Pastor Dan will be in the booth less time than in past years. It's really a lot of fun and a great way to share both our extravagant welcome and our 5R ministry priorities. Our 'showing up' is so important and makes a big difference! To sign up:

<https://www.fccminneapolis.org/sheet/2025-twin-cities-pride-booth-signup-sheet/>

On this Pride month, I want to take a moment to acquaint/reacquaint you with Disciples LGBTQ+ Alliance, our denominational LGBTQ+ advocacy and support organization. The Alliance began at the 1977 General Assembly in Kansas City, where Carol Blakely read her son's coming out letter on the floor of the assembly, reminding the Church that everyone is God's child. Jennifer Stockdale's dad (Rev. James Stockdale) was the person who yielded the microphone on the floor so Carol could have more time to share her son's letter.

At the 1979 General Assembly in St. Louis, the first 'secret meeting' was held where life stories were shared and the need for an organization to support lesbian and gay Disciples was discussed. In 1981 the first open ordinations of lesbian and gay pastors occurred (Christine Leslie and Debra Peevey), and at the 1985 General Assembly in Des Moines, the first public announcement for a meeting of those who were 'gay and Christian' to meet and several of those people took part in a peace march. In 1986, Findley Steet Christian Church in Seattle was the first the first congregation to openly affirm the membership and full participation of gays and lesbians. 1987 brought the first publishing of the Alliance's newsletter, *Crossbeams*, and in 1987, GLAD Alliance became an official organization. AllianceQ is not a ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and does not receive any funding from the general church (but is recognized by the Office of the General Minister & President). Nearly 50 years of advocacy for our queer community – you can learn more here:

<https://disciplesallianceq.org/>

Karen Westphal service on June 7



Karen Westphal, a long-time member of First Christian, passed away peacefully May 22 after a 15 year battle with Alzheimer's. Karen and her husband Warren have been members of FCC since 1962, except for a four-year break when they lived in Rochester, Minnesota. Karen is best remembered for her many years in the choir, where she sang alto. Besides the choir, Karen was active in

many groups and positions at FCC including Women's Fellowship, Elder, and Chair of the Board. Karen was a nurse for 37 years, primarily at Hennepin Health. Her obituary was in the StarTribune on June 1. Her Celebration of Life service will be Saturday, June 7, with visitation at Noon in the South Sanctuary and service at 1 pm. Expect to hear much beautiful music celebrating Karen.

Many thanks from Laurie and Bryan

Dear FCC,

Thank you so much for celebrating my retirement. I am beyond grateful for all that you did to make my last Sunday a special day. Pastor Dan deserves many thanks for organizing all the videos and special guests as well as the worship service. Thank you to Karen Kandik for working with the caterer for the delicious lunch. Everything from the music to the flowers to the worship to the meal to the program was perfect!

Bryan and I are grateful for all who planned and worked to create the celebration. We are also grateful for the gifts including the love offering. FCC will always hold a special place in our hearts and as I said on my last Sunday, I am beyond blessed to have served the best church in the world! I am so excited to see what is ahead for FCC!

Much love always and peace,
Pastor Laurie and Bryan



Pastor Laurie's joy shines clearly at her Retirement Celebration on May 18

First Christian Board Notes

Nineteen FCC board members and staff attended the May 20 meeting of the General Board. Highlights of the meeting included the following:

- Mike Cackoski explained that TruStone Bank is raising an objection to the financial setup of SpringHouse. A committee is working to get SpringHouse a recognized tax-exempt corporation. The board discussed this, and unanimously approved a motion to support the SpringHouse Board moving forward with pursuing an option to obtain a Federal Tax ID for SpringHouse, something it has never had.

- The Worship Committee is trying to find a time to meet that works for everyone. The Trustees will meet again in July.

- The Elders have agreed to take over presenting the Joys and Concerns of the Congregation during Sunday morning worship.

- Pastor Dan expressed thanks to everyone who helped with Pastor Laurie's retirement celebration on May 18.

- The board discussed and voted to approve a motion to seek an Interim Pastor and to establish a Transition Team to help in the upcoming months while FCC is without a Senior Pastor.

FCC Calendar for June 2025

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS

Sundays 10:30 am Worship, Children's Activity Table
 9-12:30 am SH Youth Room & Activities

Tuesdays 8 am – SH Lectionary Group
 5 pm - Happy Hour

Wednesdays 9 am - Coffee Hour

Thursdays 5 pm - Happy Hour

Saturdays 9 am - Coffee Hour

MONTHLY MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Wed., June 4 7 pm – Elders Meeting

Thurs., June 5 Noon – Mission & Outreach

Sat., June 7 Noon – Karen Westphal Celebration of Life
 1-6 pm Youth Pride at Como Park

Sun., June 8 Noon – Sandwich making for Groveland
 Food shelf

Mon., June 9 7 pm - SH Building Committee
 7 pm – SH Finance Committee

Wed., June 11 Noon – FCC Finance Committee
 7 pm “Greater Boldness” Bible Study

Sun, June 15 **Graduation Sunday** during Worship time

Mon., June 16 7 pm FCC and Friends Book Group

Tues., June 17 7 pm FCC Board Meeting

Tues., June 23 7 pm - Worship Committee

Wed., June 25 7 pm “Greater Boldness” Bible Study

Sat-Sun, June 28-29 – Twin Cities PRIDE at Loring Park

Note: Worship services are hybrid (In person and Streamed); most meetings are on Zoom unless otherwise noted. Links are sent in emails and eblasts.

New groups working to help FCC move to future

Two new committees are already hard at work to make plans for the future of First Christian, following Pastor Laurie Feille's tenure as Senior Pastor for the past 12 years.

The Search Team is led by Anna Bliss. Andy Rennert, Jen Kregel, Paul Rottschafer and KC Helmeid make up the rest of the group, plus Jennifer Stockdale as an alternate. The Search Team will discern the needs of the church as it moves into the future and discern the qualities most needed in a new pastor.

The Transition Team is made up of FCC's co-chairs, Margaret Hutchens and Martha Harris, as well as David Cobb and Lu Griffin. Their first task is to call an Interim Pastor, and then work with the Interim and with Associate Pastor Dan Adolphson to decide on how the two will work together.

Pastor Dan's Schedule

Pastor Dan has Mondays as his Sabbath Day. He will be in his church office on Thursday mornings, and otherwise works from home on other days.



Two Disciples churches in St. Louis, Centennial Christian and Union Avenue Christian, were badly damaged in tornadoes that struck the city several weeks ago. Pet Penelton, a member and leader of Centennial, was killed in the storm. Centennial Christian Church in St. Louis announced a rebuilding plan for their church last week, which will involve a new complex with affordable housing, a medical clinic, green space, and a new worship center, staying rooted in their Fountain Park neighborhood. Donations can be made to both churches through Week of Compassion.



Successful year for EveryMeal

Distribution for Every Meal is now complete for this school year! Through our distributions at Whittier, we provided approximately 1,683 meals this year for kids and their families--families who would probably often not have had food for a weekend. While we have very little contact with the students themselves, a teacher stopped us one day to thank us (actually, many teachers did). The teacher told us that her kindergarten student was so excited by his food bag that he took it to her to show her what was in it. I don't think I ever imagined that a food bag would provide excitement but multiply that student's story by the other 98 kids who got the bags that day.

I would like to thank all of the faithful volunteers who distributed bags this year--who never really knew what the situation would be like when they showed up and any number of times had to work harder to locate lockers that had changed, etc. You all made a HUGE difference by your compassion and cheerfulness! So thanks to Dan Adolphson, Ann Antus, Kirsten Cackoski, Bonnie Ford, KC Helmeid, Martha Harris, Rodney Higgins, Kathy Hintz, Jim Lee, Paul Rottschaefter, Tammy Rottschaefter, and Jennifer Stockdale. Food heroes!

I will be asking for volunteers for next school year quite soon. There are three people who do each distribution. Every Meal needs to know what groups they can count on for next year. If you have never distributed, please feel free to! Ask me or any volunteer what it is like. It has taken about an hour and a half to two hours for each distribution from 10-12, usually on a Thursday. A short amount of time for a big difference in a child's life.

By Karen Kandik

Lyndale UCC welcomes new Pastor, Rev. T. Michael Rock



After two years of searching, Lyndale UCC has welcomed Rev. T. Michael Rock as Lyndale's Pastor for

Congregational Life. Rev. Rock has been an ordained minister, liberation theologian, and educator in the United Church of Christ. He is currently a professor of contextual education and spiritual formation at United Theological Seminary in the Twin Cities

Gardeners: SH needs you!

Please consider lending a hand to maintain the gardens at SpringHouse. Workers are needed to rake, weed and mulch. Gloves and tools will be provided! Next gardening date: **Saturday, June 14, 10 am.**

SpringHouse looking at tax issue

The SpringHouse board is exploring a change in its tax status. A committee is looking into becoming a 501©25 corporation with the three churches as shareholders. If you have questions about this process, contact Mike Cackoski or FCC's SpringHouse board representatives, Martha Harris, Tammy Rottschaefter or Mark Carlson.



Graduation Open House for Moxie Tucker

Sun. June 8 11 AM - 3 PM

[Contact Elaine for more info](#)

Sundays at First Christian Church

Worship at 10:30, in person or
livestreamed 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
Pentecost
June 8, 2025
Acts 2: 1-21



Pentecost, JesusMafa

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

Reflections on the Word

Acts 2:4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

At Pentecost, God moves out beyond the boundaries of the Jewish people to offer to all people that relationship which is at the heart of eternal life. The Holy Spirit living in each believer constitutes a living link binding each individual to other believers, forming a worldwide community.

God, thank you for your gift of the Holy Spirit, our source of power. Help us to be effective witnesses and to proclaim the gospel of Christ. Amen.

Rev. Dr. Rhoda Manzo, in
Disciplines, 2025.

*A Welcoming Community of Faith in the Heart of the
City*

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Next issue deadline is Sunday, June 30

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