

The Courier

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis



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UPCOMING Events

FCC Board meeting,
Tuesday, October 21,
7 pm on Zoom

Coffee Hour,
9 am on Wed
Happy Hour
5 pm Thurs
Breakfast Club,
9 am Sat

Mission & Outreach: mark your calendars!

Thank you to all who gave money—or actual diapers—for Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, one of our Align partners. We were able to provide them quite a few boxes, thanks to your generosity. And thank you for money—or actual items—for Plymouth Congregational's weekly bingo game prizes that are given to the community members who play. Plymouth is also an Align partner.

Every Meal: The first distribution was Oct 3. We will distribute food at Whittier Elementary School every two weeks. The sign up sheet is on the website. We need three people for each distribution. If you have questions, please contact Karen Kandik.

Food Scarcity Sunday is November 16. We will focus on the growing need for food in our area—as evidenced by a huge increase in food shelf usage-- with a concrete way to show our care for God's people. A special Givelify envelope will be available in November ("Food Scarcity Month"). Actual food items are not needed but every monetary donation, small (price of a can of soup) and large (price of caviar) are welcome. Checks can also be sent to the church office or placed in the offering plates any Sunday in November.

Align Fundraiser: Open House (drop in and stay as long as you like) Nov 20, 4-7 pm at Plymouth Congregational Church. Come and learn about Align's activities and hear about the issues facing those experiencing homelessness in our city. Food and drink are provided!

Advent: Save Dec 6 in the morning for Coats, Cookies, and Chrismons! Our Advent project, in lieu of buying poinsettias, will be collecting winter gear for clients of the Aliveness Project. More information to follow! Cookie baking for Aliveness Project will be at 11 am that morning.

Our congregation's generosity has historically far exceeded what would be expected for a congregation of our size. We truly do God's work in the world! Thank you from the Mission and Outreach Team!

HOPE FOR HOME
An Open House Fundraiser for Align Minneapolis

Thursday, November 20, 4-7 PM
Plymouth Congregational Church
Jones Commons
1900 Nicollet Avenue, Minneapolis

Learn more about how
Align Minneapolis serves our community!

Appetizers & small dessert items,
coffee, tea, & water will be served.

www.alignmpls.org/hopeforhome



In Our Prayers



We pray in gratitude for the life and ministry of **Margaret Hutchens**, and we pray for all of those who mourn her passing.

We celebrate with our spiritual siblings on the installation of **Bishop Yehiel Curry** as Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, on the elevation of **Dame Sara Mullally** as Archbishop of Canterbury designate of the Anglican church, and our Disciples colleagues in the Illinois/Wisconsin and Michigan regions in their merger into the new **Living Waters Region**.

We pray for all of those looking for work, and those affected by the shutdown of the US government.

We pray for Portland, Ore, and Chicago as they cope with orders to send in military units.

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 Ben



Following into the Questions and the Adventure

Friends, will you ride the elevator with me to the ninth floor of the Guthrie Theater?

Roll into the foyer of the Dowling Studio, bathed in sunlight filtered through floor-to-ceiling windows tinted pollen yellow. Before you take in the singular view of downtown Minneapolis, notice these words printed above the performance space's entrance, a quotation from former Guthrie Artistic Director Liviu Ciulei:

“A community can be measured by the questions its theater asks.”

During this intentional interim—this sacred pause between saying goodbye to one pastor and calling another—you'll get a measure of your church through the questions you ask each other.

In my first few weeks in ministry at FCC, I've heard plenty of *how* questions. Like: How do we build connections between online and onsite worshippers? Or: How can we encourage new leaders? Or: How can we budget for our values without breaking the budget? These questions tell me that this congregation wants to get things done!

Can you also hear the unasked questions? Like: Who are we? Are we two congregations, online and onsite? Do we have a future beyond our endowment funds? Are we enough?

As your interim minister, I get to nurture space where you ask big questions—the *how* and *who* and *what* of First Christian Church. Along the way we'll remind each other of the *why*. Why are we here? Because God calls us. God empowers us. God sustains us.

In the memory of John's gospel, the first thing the disciples said aloud to Jesus was a question: “Teacher, where are you staying?” (John 1:38) His reply? “Come and see.” My prayer for you, FCC, is that the Spirit would make you curious and courageous to accept the Savior's invitation to follow him into the questions and the holy adventure beyond them.

Onward in the Spirit!

Rev. Ben, your interim minister

In Loving Memory – Margaret Hutchens

It is with sadness that we share the news that Margaret passed away peacefully October 4 at Manly Specialty Care in Manly, Iowa. Margaret's health had declined over the past two weeks, and she was to begin hospice care.



Margaret was a long-time pastor in the Upper Midwest Region, and was pastor for many years at the Disciples church in Charles City, Iowa, our first Open & Affirming congregation in the region.

We celebrate her leadership as our board co-chair, her love for animals, for writing, for those on the margins, for being a pastor who saw everyone at the table.

As soon as we know more information about services, etc. we will share that with you. Please keep her family, our congregation and the people of First Congregational United Church of Christ-Mason City in your prayers.

Cards may be sent to Margaret's sister and family: Marilyn & Ted Wulfekuchler, 11020 Bishop Way, Lansing MI 48911

First Christian Board Notes

Eighteen FCC board members and staff attended the September 16 meeting of the General Board. Highlights of the meeting include the following:

- Pastor Ben Masters was welcomed with brief introductions from everyone. Board members appreciated the September report he submitted for the meeting.
- The board gave unanimous approval for a Wholeness grant of \$3500 for the Hope Fullness program that Soo-Kyung heads.
- Martha Harris gave a brief review of work being done to revise FCC's Constitution and Bylaws. A draft of the documents will be sent in the next few weeks so that the October board meeting can begin discussions.
- Finance chair Mike Cackoski reported the following: a \$20,000 gift was received; \$40,000 has been taken this year from the Look to the Future Fund.
- Pastor Dan shared that SH pastors have been discussing the possibility of all three churches moving to 10 am worship services. Discussion on parking and program ramifications followed.
- Pastor Dan told about his new role as a clergy mentor in the Bethany Fellows Program. He also encouraged everyone to Zoom in next for next Wednesday morning coffee hour to hear an update on Kafifa House.

Search Committee hard at work

Anna Bliss, Search Committee Chairperson, sends this quick update from the Search Committee:

The Search Committee met on Wednesday, October 1, with Pastor Ben joining us for the conversation. We have started reviewing the long form questions we will need to answer for the Congregational Profile, which provide a framework for describing who we are, how we work as a community, and what we value. We are grateful we have our recent congregational survey to help guide our answers along with our "Five R" statements.

We have come to appreciate the different perspectives and experiences we each carry as they help us discern how best to represent FCC Minneapolis using the profile form and questions. There are some questions that, in order to provide a thoughtful response, we will need to dive into our history as a congregation to provide complete answers. We plan to meet again in November to dig more into that history (hopefully with one or two invited guests) and then move on to define next steps I getting the Congregational Profile ready for submission.

FCC Calendar for October 2025

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS

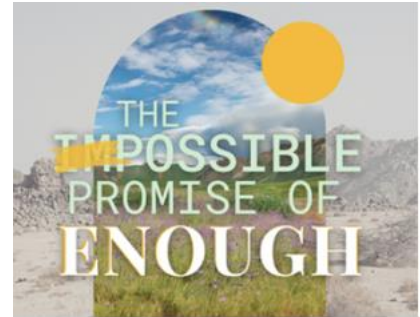
- Sundays 10:30 am Worship, Children's Activity Table
9am -12:30 SH Youth Room & Activities
- Tuesdays 8 am – SH Lectionary Group
- Wednesdays 9 am - Coffee Hour with Community
- Thursdays 5 pm - Happy Hour with Community
- Saturdays 9 am – The Breakfast Club

Note: Check eblasts for changes in Coffee/Happy Hour dates

MONTHLY MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

- Sunday, Oct. 12 10:30 am Stewardship Focus begins
Sandwich-making following Worship
- Mon., Oct. 13 5 pm SH Building Committee
7 pm SH Finance Committee
- Wed., Oct. 15 12:30 pm Finance Committee
- Thurs., Oct. 16 7 pm FCC and Friends Book club
- Sat., Oct. 18 10 am Upper Midwest Regional Gathering
- Tues., Oct. 21 7 pm FCC Board Meeting
- Mon., Oct. 27 7 pm Worship Committee

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



Thoughts on Stewardship

Starting October 12, we at First Christian will turn our attention to Stewardship. We will hear our pastors speak about God's promises and gifts of Provision (manna in the wilderness), Resources (building a tabernacle while on the road), Rest (sabbath laws) and Having Enough (gleaning laws). We'll contemplate questions such as "How can we trust in God's abundance today?" "What are the gifts God has equipped us with, and how can we use them?"

For individuals, stewardship means prayerfully considering how our values line up with how we use our resources. For the church, stewardship is what comes after our gifts are received and how the church is thus equipped to carry out our church's mission and ministry.

How exciting it will be to build up our church's ministry based on the gifts we the members are moved to give in order for us to carry out our call to care for each other!

Watch your mailbox and FCC's eblasts and Facebook posts for more information about our fall Stewardship focus.

FCC Women at Regional Retreat



Sixteen FCC women attended the annual Upper Midwest Women's Retreat Sept. 26-28. Anna Bliss and Elaine Tucker were the coordinators for this year's which featured Dr. Kelly Sherman-Conroy as the keynote speaker, and Kirby Gould as Worship Leader.



Pray Without Ceasing

The SpringHouse pastors are launching a new prayer time for everyone interested, based on an initiative that has been spreading through and beyond ELCA congregations.

According to their website, “Pray Without Ceasing is a prayer movement with a mission of uplifting and uniting communities in prayer, during a time of significant change.” (<https://www.pray-without-ceasing.org>)

Pastor Dan Adolphson and Lyndale’s Pastor T Michael Rock will lead Friday morning prayer at 8 am beginning Friday, October 10. The plan is for 15-30 minute prayer time.

Pastor Rhonda Hlavinka of Salem and Pastor Rebecca Voelkel of Lyndale will lead Wednesday evening prayers. Time and dates for these sessions will be announced soon.

The Zoom link for Pray Without Ceasing is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85258655766?pwd=HGeyxzEU4bggJjSDkpudrsZ0Lw9dk4.1>

Sandwiches for Groveland Oct. 12

We will be making sandwiches for Groveland Food Shelf following worship on Sunday, Oct. 12. Many hands make light work, and it’s fun and goes fast!

Christian Nationalism book study

Pastor Rhonda Hlavinka of Salem is leading a lively discussion of an important book for our times on White Christian Nationalism. The book is Andrew Whitehead’s “American Idolatry: How Christian Nationalism betrays the Gospel and the Church.”

The discussion is open to all SpringHouse folks, and even if you haven’t read the chapters, you can listen and add your thoughts. The next meetings will be October 12 and 19, and November 2 and 9. The meetings are 4 pm on Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86972670709>



It's a Baptism

SpringHouse is excited to “officially” welcome Kjell Jorstad of Salem English Lutheran Church into the family of Christ through the waters of baptism! The baptism will be on October 19 at approximately 10:30 am in the Gathering Space by the baptism fonts.

Gathering together for baptism is one of the treasured traditions of the SpringHouse community. Be sure to join in this sacramental celebration.

Regional Gathering
Christian Conference Center
October 18, 2025

Upper Midwest Disciples will gather October 18 at the Christian Conference in Newton Iowa for a day of fun, fellowship and learning. Pastors Dan and Ben will attend.

FCC needs three voting delegates to join our clergy so that our church can have a voice in the business and organizational decisions that will be made.

Learning Sessions on Centering Prayer, Bible Study, participation in civic life through Disciples Public Presence, and other topics will be offered, as well as Plenary Sessions to hear about Disciples across the region and join together in communion and music.

The gathering will go from 10 am to 3 pm.

[Click here to register and 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

**The ~~im~~Possible Promise of
Enough
October 12, 2025
Manna in the Wilderness
Exodus 16: 2-15**



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

Reflections on the Word

Exodus 16:15b: Moses said to them, "It is the bread the Lord has given you to eat."

The miracle of bread in the wilderness reminds us that stewardship doesn't start with bank accounts, incomes, or budgets, but rather with God's provision. The Israelites have been living under Pharaoh's rule of slavery, scarcity, and violence. In the wilderness, God instructs these chosen people in a new kind of divine/human relationship of generosity, compassion, and graciousness. They (and we!) are no longer subject to the rule of worth determined by work."

Holy Spirit, Help us recognize that because of all you have provided, we have all we need. Help us learn how trust in your promise of enough love and enough grace for all.. Amen

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
OF MINNEAPOLIS
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
610 W. 28th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55408**

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

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Next issue deadline is Sunday, November 2