

# The Courier

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis



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## UPCOMING Events

FCC Board meeting,  
Tuesday, November 18,  
7 pm on Zoom

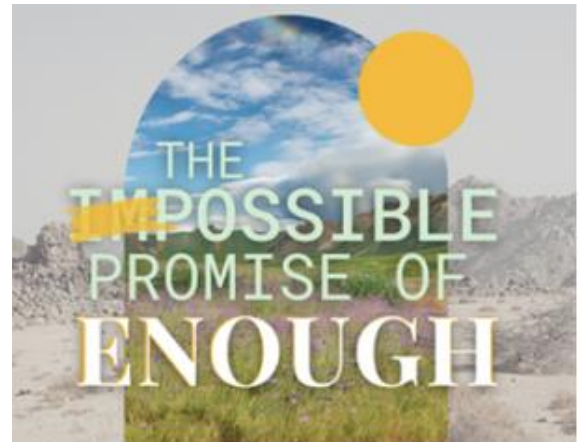
Coffee Hour,  
9 am on Wed  
Happy Hour  
5 pm Thurs  
Breakfast Club,  
9 am Sat

## Highlights of Stewardship focus Sundays

We call this coming Sunday, November 9, “Commitment Sunday.” The biblical focus will be on texts from Leviticus that outline and instruct us on the practice of sabbath and jubilee years – ancient traditions that help God’s people know how to turn rest into abundance.

Some of us have already filled out the online pledge form or sent the pledge cards to the church, but this Sunday is when we mark the end of our focus series on “The Impossible Promise of Enough,” inviting those who haven’t already sent in their pledge cards in to so on this day.

The November 2 service featured Rev. Jia Starr Brown preaching on another text from the Hebrew scriptures about leaving enough for others to share in the abundance of the land. In the Stewardship moment, Lucas Rennert, Kaden Hesser (along with words from Addie Kregel) talked about “What excites us at First Christian.”



Other lay members who shared their thoughts about Stewardship for First Christian throughout the series were Bobbi Hall, Katy McFall, and Tammy Rottschafer. KC Helmeid is scheduled share his thoughts this Sunday. Our pastors Dan Adolphson and Ben Masters as well as “SpringHouse pulpit swap” guest Rev. T. Michael Rock preached on challenging texts from this series.

## In Our Prayers



We pray in gratitude for those we love who are healing, including **Rita Nakashima Brock's sister JoAnn** and **Bobbi Hall's brother** who is now cancer free.

We pray for those with health concerns and scares including **Rev. Bill Hemm**, a close friend of Pastor Dan's, who was recently diagnosed with stage 4 cancer.

We life up our concerns for our siblings who are worrying about where their next meal will come from, where they will sleep tonight, where they will find their next job, whether they will be snatched up from their homes, schools or work, and how they will afford their health insurance.

We pray also for our siblings in Jamaica, Cuba, Haiti, and the Bahamas in the aftermath of Hurricane Melissa.

*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



## Special events in worship and community

There are some upcoming worship and special events coming up that I want to bring your attention to:

### Sun. Nov. 16: *Focus on Food Scarcity Sunday Worship*

We are going to take this Sunday to take a deeper focus on food scarcity.

Here are some sobering statistics:

- Minnesota is home to one of the nation's largest food networks, funneling state and local resources between food banks and food shelves across counties. Federal funds support much of that network. However, earlier this year the U.S. Department of Agriculture suspended \$500 million in food deliveries previously allocated as part of efforts by President Donald Trump's administration to reduce federal spending. The funding was first provided to help food networks struggling through the pandemic.
- Last year, Minnesota food shelves saw a record of nearly 9 million visits.

We will have guest speakers from the Lowry Hill East Neighborhood Association and Groveland Food Shelf, as well as a video from World Central Kitchen. A special offering will be collected to be split between the three organizations. (See page 3 for a few more details.)

### Thurs, Nov. 20: *Hope for Home: An Open House Fundraiser for Align Minneapolis*

Help Support the important work of Align in preventing and ending homelessness!

Join us for this open-house style fundraiser to learn more about Align and Street Voices of Change, hear the vibrant and inspiring voices of the StreetSong choir, enjoy some good food, and give to support our work! Karen Kandik and I invite you to share this with a friend and help us connect more people to how Align makes a difference! (See link below and page 5 for more details.) <https://www.alignmpls.org/hopeforhome>

### Sun. Nov. 23: *Thanksgiving Sunday Worship and Sanctuary Switch*

Our liturgy and service will be focused on giving thanks. Following worship, we will need all handson deck as it's sanctuary switch Sunday – we'll be moving to Garden Sanctuary.

### Thurs. Nov. 27: *Downtown Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, 10 AM, Basilica of St. Mary*

*Story continues on page 3*

## FCC folks helping in time of food crisis

Sandwich making for Groveland: 200 sandwiches in 17 minutes! A new record! Our talented and amazing children wanted to have their own table to make the sandwiches but because of time, adults and children worked together. I think for our next sandwich making, the children will be in charge and give the adults direction! Thanks to all who helped to make users of the food shelf have a better day!



*“Give us this day our daily bread.”*

Every Meal: At the last distribution in October we had 49 bags to deliver to the lockers of kids at Whittier school. The number of bags to be delivered will increase as more sign up. – at the end of last school year almost 100 families were being helped. Thanks to the volunteers who make providing this food possible.

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 Givelify envelope will be available in November (“Food Scarcity Month”). Actual food items are not needed but every monetary donation, small (price of a box of cereal) and large (price of Italian truffles) are welcome. Checks can also be sent to the church office or placed in the offering plates any Sunday in November.

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 (warm coats, thermal socks, insulated gloves and mittens, warm hats, scarves and neck warmers, thermal underwear, waterproof boots, hand and foot warmers) for clients of the Aliveness Project. Cookie baking for Aliveness Project will be at 11 am that morning. Look for more info in e-blasts to follow!

If you would like to join the Mission and Outreach Committee, we would love to have you! We meet the first Tuesday of the month from 2:30-3:30. Let Pastor Dan know if you would like the link to check us out!

### ***Pastor Dan’s story continued from page 2***

**Looking ahead:** Advent will be here before we know it, and there’s going to be a lot going on. We’ll start with SpringHouse Joint Worship on Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>, and then our Advent Worship starting on Dec. 7 will include both the return of Lynda Lee’s beautiful artwork and The First Christian Players! Save the date for Saturday Dec. 6 see Karen’s story above!

## First Christian Board Notes

Seventeen FCC board members and staff attended the October 21 meeting of the General Board. Highlights of the meeting include the following:

- Interim Pastor Ben Masters discussed his new Pastoral Relations Committee, noting that the members will be Justin Carlson, Jim Lee, Katy McFall and Martha Harris. Ben has been reading up on guidelines for PRCs from the denomination. The board voted to approve the formation of this committee.
- The board spent time discussing the revisions of the Constitution and Bylaws that were sent to each board member before the meeting. New two-year terms for elders and deacons were discussed, and board members are invited to send other questions or edits to Martha Harris. The board will be voting on the revisions before the end of the year.
- A request for First Christian to sign a letter in support of the Minneapolis teachers’ union in their contract negotiations was recently received. The board discussed the question of who speaks for the church when such requests come in. Board agreed that further discussion on the question of authority is needed. A motion to sign the letter did not pass.
- Finance chair Mike Cackoski reported that the finance committee is working on a budget for 2026.

## FCC Calendar for November 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 6:30 pm - Pray Without Ceasing
Thursdays	5 pm - Happy Hour with Community
Fridays	8 am - Pray Without Ceasing
Saturdays	9 am – The Breakfast Club 9 am - Grief Support Group at St. Joan of Arc

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

### MONTHLY MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Wed., Nov. 5	8:30 am - Q-Quest 7 pm - Elders meeting
Thurs., Nov. 6	8:30 am - Q-Quest
Sun., Nov. 9	10:30 am – Commitment Sunday
Mon., Nov. 10	5 pm - SH Building Committee 5 pm - SH Finance Committee
Wed., Nov 12	12:30 pm - Finance Committee 7 pm - Dan's PRC
Tues., Nov. 18	7 pm - FCC Board Meeting
Thurs., Nov. 20	7 pm - FCC and Friends Book Group 4 pm - Align Fundraiser at Plymouth Congregational Church
Sun, Nov. 23	Noon - Sanctuary Switch
Mon., Nov. 24	7 pm - Worship Committee
Thurs., Nov. 27	10 am - Downtown Interfaith Thanksgiving Service
Sun., Nov. 30	10:30 am - SH Joint Advent Service

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

## Q-Quest this week!



**Q-Quest** is an event for Queer & Trans and Allied youth across Minnesota and our neighboring states. It is an opportunity for LGBTQIA2S+ youth to enjoy workshops, activities, conversation, and art with other youth in community. Q-Quest is sponsored by the Minnesota School Outreach Coalition. All students attend with chaperones or school groups

High School Day is November 5, and Middle School Day, November 6. Volunteers are needed for various tasks like event coordination, registration, setup, cleanup, and helping support workshops. You can still volunteer even if you are a workshop presenter!

**FCC is a longtime supporter and partner of Q Quest!** Please consider showing your support by [signing up today!](#)

## Appreciation expressed for Clergy and leadership

On behalf of the pastoral relations committees at FCC, Soo-Kyung Rennert, assisted by Addie and Emme Kregel, presented cards, plants, and “comfort tacos” to Pastors Dan Adolphson and Ben Masters, as well as board chair Martha Harris on Sunday, November 2.



## FCC provides Region leadership

At the Upper Midwest regional gathering on October 18, two FCC representatives were appointed to regional leadership roles. Katy McFall will serve on the Regional Board and Dan Adolphson will be on the Nominating Committee.

Pastor Dan and Pastor Ben Masters participated in a Reader's theater workshop titled "Hearts Unbound," sponsored by the region's Open & Affirming Team.

## Refugee work reduced by MCC

The Minnesota Council of Churches (MCC) has significantly reduced all refugee services due to federal budget cuts and the suspension of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program. Federal funds were frozen, forcing the organization to reduce its workforce and curtail its ability to assist both newly arrived and already resettled refugees with vital support like housing, English lessons, and job training. Despite these challenges, the MCC continues to work with the state and rely on private donations to support refugees.

Read their full statement at <https://www.mnchurches.org/blog/2025/07/25/federal-budget-cuts-message-ceo-elder-kelly>

## SpringHouse celebrates with Lyndale's new pastor

The installation service for T. Michael Rock was held in the gathering space at SpringHouse on Sunday, November 2. Pastors Dan Adolphson and Ben Masters were part of the procession of pastors honoring Rev. Rock, and FCC's choir sang Bobby McFerrin's "Psalm 23."



### 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](http://www.alignmpls.org/hopeforhome)

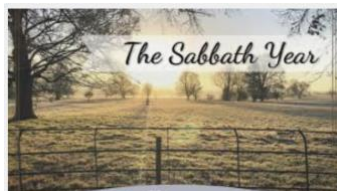


## **Sundays at First Christian Church**

**Worship** at 10:30, in person or  
livestreamed at [fccmpls.org](http://fccmpls.org)

**Children's Table Activities** in person during worship: **Join us!**  
Children's Activities are also available online at [www.fccmpls.org](http://www.fccmpls.org)

**The ~~im~~Possible Promise of  
Enough  
November 9, 2025  
Leviticus 25**



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

## Reflections on the Word

*Leviticus 25:1-2: The Lord said to Moses at Mount Sinai,<sup>2</sup> "Speak to the Israelites and say to them: 'When you enter the land I am going to give you, the land itself must observe a sabbath to the Lord.*

What follows in this chapter is a long list of how to rest the land every 7<sup>th</sup> year and how to carry out a Year of Jubilee every 50 years by, among other things, cancelling debts and restoring land to its original owners. The rules are meant to create a more equitable society and demonstrate that the Israelites were merely tenants on God's land. God seems to believe we humans are capable of working for the common good. Do we have this same faith in humanity? *God of the Ages, Help us in our struggle to bring about your vision for this world you have created. Amen*

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

### **Ministry Team**

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**Next issue deadline is Sunday, November 30**

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