

# The Courier

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis



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## UPCOMING Events

*FCC Board Meeting,  
Tuesday, March 17,  
7 pm on Zoom*

*Coffee with Community,  
9 am on Wed;  
Breakfast Club, Sat, 9 am  
(See eblast for Zoom links)*

## Help us help our neighbors during March Food Share

March is Food Share Month and is a time when we focus on ways we can support our neighbors who are experiencing food insecurity.

### *Groveland Food Shelf:*

- We are challenged to provide 200 packages of ramen noodles during March—or MORE than 200! There is a barrel in the Garden Sanctuary where you can place your gifts of ramen. This is a staple for many families.
- You may also make a monetary contribution to Groveland through Givelify.
- Sandwich making! We will be making 200 sandwiches for Groveland after worship on March 15. It may not be possible to beat our assembly record of 23 minutes...or *is* it possible???



*Agate Housing:* We will make 100 sandwiches on March 15 (200 or 300—not much difference for our expert sandwich makers!)

*Every Meal:* After dipping from 100 to 42 children at Whittier getting food in their backpacks this school year, the number as of last Friday was 95! This means that more children are returning to in-person school. And thanks to the current volunteers who have signed up to deliver bags, the first opening for helping is May 1! If you have not volunteered but are thinking about doing so, please speak to Karen Kandik for more info!

## FCC to host Grief Group Coalition May-August

First Christian will again host in-person Grief Groups at SpringHouse on Saturdays from May 2 through August 29. Volunteers are needed each Saturday morning during our hosting rotation to set up at 9 am, help with the check-in process, provide refreshments, and set out the display library of resource books.

Each Saturday morning session starts at 10 am with a guest speaker on such topics as “The Transformational Nature of Grief” and “Grief Demystified.” The guest speakers include some of the leading Twin Cities grief educators. Following the speaker, small groups gather from 10:30 to 11:30 to share their experiences. The groups are for spouse or partner loss, family or friend loss, and child loss. Some participants come once or twice, while others have been coming for weeks or months.

These sessions are free and open to the public, regardless of religious affiliation. The meetings provide a safe, understanding environment for grief education, comfort and recovery. Please call Ann Wolverton (651-276-9855) if you are able to help one time, every month or more often.

## In Our Prayers



Prayers of Joy for **Deb** finding a freelance costumer job; for **Jen** being honored by her employer; and for **Jim L's** family celebrations.

Prayers of sympathy for **Jimmy B.** mourning the loss of his cousin **Michael**; for **Dan** and his loved ones, grieving **Bruce**, for **Rita** and her loved ones grieving **Dolores**; for the **Tucker family** grieving **Tia**, and **Grace**, grieving **Leonard**.

Prayers of the health challenges of **Debbie**, **Nat**, **Ali**, **Caila**, **Nancy**, **Tammy**, **Rodney**, and **Bonnie's** friend **Robin**.

Prayers of consolation for the families of two young men killed in North Minneapolis; for those facing evictions because fear has kept them from working; for the machinery of war raining death and destruction in Iran, Ukraine and countries throughout the Mideast and the civilians and soldiers including Sargeant Nicole Amot who have lost their lives.

*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



## Committees: the engine of the church

Disciples are congregationally led and believe deeply in lay leadership in all areas of the life of our congregation. Committees play an important role in every facet of the mission of our congregation, from being the legal stewards of our congregation, to helping plan what worship looks like on Sunday mornings, to disseminating how we can best be the hands and feet of Christ, to helping take care of our pastors, and so much more. Committees also play a key role in the myriads of ministries that help make SpringHouse be the awesome ministry center that it is.

A couple of weeks back when Misha was doing his elder meditation, he made a statement that made both Martha and I sit up and take notice when he said: "We don't know what all of the committees are and is there room for people to get involved?" Well, Martha and I are going to help answer that! Some committees are set as far as members due to their setup or operation, while there are others that there is room for YOU!

So, I'm going to hand this off to Martha, and she will explain the different committees and where we have needs.

*Martha:* On pages four and five of the Courier, you'll find a guide to "open" committees which have open invitations to FCC folks to help with the work they do.

We also have committees with defined memberships: The church's bylaws state who should be on the **Finance** and **Wholeness** committees. The pastors invite people to be members of their **Pastoral Relations** committees. Contact me or Dan if you would like to know who is on these committees.

All of the other committees would welcome more helping hands! So, to answer Misha's questions and questions that many others might have, we offer this special guide to encourage you to get involved in the work of First Christian Church.

*Dan again:* If you have any questions or want to get involved, please reach out to me and I will get you connected!!

## Wednesday Lent gatherings continue



Lenten evening prayer and soup suppers will continue through March 25, a joint gathering for all three SpringHouse congregations. Soup, bread and desserts are shared at 6:30, followed by a prayer service at 7 pm, followed by Spiritual Direction conversations.

First Christian will lead the prayer service on March 18, and will provide the soup dinner. Please let Steve Rusinak know if you can bring food for this event.

## FCC Book Group reads coming up

The FCC and Friends Book Group has a line-up of great books to read in the next few months:

MARCH	<b>Solito: A Memoir</b> by Javier Zamora
APRIL	<b>Feeding Ghosts</b> by Tessa Hulls
MAY	<b>Art Spy</b> by Michelle Young
JUNE	<b>A Council of Dolls</b> by Mona Susan Power

The book group meets the third Thursday each month at 7 pm by Zoom, and new readers are always welcome! Contact Kathy at [kathysw@msn.com](mailto:kathysw@msn.com) if you would like to get the link to the March 19 meeting.

## Youth, Choirs move to 9 am time together

### New 10 am worship time continues

FCC, Salem and Lyndale UCC are all worshipping in their different SpringHouse sanctuaries on Sunday mornings at 10 am through the Lent/Easter season. The congregations all worshiped at the same time when SpringHouse Ministry Center opened in 2012, but the pandemic caused some changes in that practice.

The new 10 am worship time means that sanctuary preparation and music rehearsals happen at 9 am. Also, Youth Pastor Chelsea Boyden has announced that **SpringHouse Youth will gather from 9 am to 10 am**. Chelsea is encouraging youth to arrive at or near 9 am so they can begin together and make the most of the time for connection, faith exploration and community building.

Following worship, from 11:15-12:15, SpringHouse people can gather for coffee and fellowship time; faith formation groups and more structured spiritual reflection time are also being planned for this post-worship time.

This experiment will continue past Easter up to the start of Pentecost. At this time the clergy and congregational boards will evaluate the experiment and make decisions for the future.

## Cabinet Meeting Notes

Following the newly-revised and approved bylaws for First Christian Church that call for a Cabinet to meet regularly, the FCC Cabinet met on February 17. The Cabinet consists of Chairs of Trustees, Elders, Deacons, Finance, Mission and Outreach, as well as the Board Chairs, the Recording Secretary and Pastors. Nine people attended the meeting.

- Each Cabinet member spoke about what they were bringing to the meeting.
- Anna Bliss, chair of Trustees as well as head of the Search Committee, spoke about the recent small group meetings held both in person and online. She reported that turnout was good, and different voices were heard. The Search Committee will use their notes from the meetings to help prepare the Church Profile which is needed for the pastor search.
- The main point of discussion for the remainder of the meeting was the whether FCC would continue having two pastors, or more to a single pastor model. The Cabinet agreed to take a motion to the next board meeting on this question.

## Which Committee is calling you?

First Christian has five on-going committees that would welcome new members. Pick one or more that suit your talents!

### MISSION AND OUTREACH

**Karen Kandik, contact person**

**Meets 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays, 1 pm on Zoom**



This group plans, promotes and carries out projects throughout the year to help

FCC reach out in support of people in our community and around the world. The committee plans the projects, gathers the materials needed, and delivers whatever has been collected to the right place.

### FELLOWSHIP

**Steve Rusinak, contact person**

**Participation as needed**



Whenever there is a coffee hour, congregational lunch or social gathering, people in this group are ready to bring food, from cakes and pastries, to soup, salads and

sandwiches. Volunteers are also invited to write cards to visitors or homebound members.

### NOMINATING

**Board Co-Chair, contact person**

**Membership is One Deacon, One Elder, One Trustee**



At the end of each year, some board members' terms expire. The nominating committee starts work sometime in

the fall to seek out members of the congregation to step in to accept the call to be an elder, deacon or trustee

### STEWARDSHIP

**Arlene Jorgenson Hillestad, chairperson**

**Meeting times to be determined**



The Stewardship Committee encourages the congregation to support the work of the church through gifts of time, financial gifts, pledges, or endowments. This year's stewardship initiative starts early and will be a true "movement" with a committee forming in March, 2026. **Arlene @ 612-309-4360** wants 4 volunteers to serve with her as we explore more about "God's world of great abundance and, that if we share, there is enough for all."\* Join this effort now, and let's rain generosity all around us! Please respond **by March 31st** with your willingness to service.

\*Walter Brueggemann, "The Liturgy of Abundance, The Myth of Scarcity," *Christian Century*, March 24-31, 1999.

### WORSHIP

**Pastor Dan Adolphson, contact person**

**Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays, 7 pm on Zoom**



The aim of the Worship committee is to create meaningful worship experiences to enrich the devotional life of the congregation. Creativity and new ideas are always needed!

## *Don't forget SpringHouse Committees!*

**SpringHouse has committees that strive to have representatives from all three congregations. These two committees currently would like to have an FCC representative join in their work.**

### **SPRINGHOUSE GREEN TEAM**

**Malia Derrick, contact person**

**952-220-3081**

**Meets 4<sup>th</sup> Monday, Noon**



The SH Green Team is concerned with all things ecological. They plan outings and encourage sustainable

practices at SpringHouse, and develop other earth-friendly projects. FCC has not been represented on this committee in a while, and would welcome our participation in this work.

### **SPRINGHOUSE GARDENING AND LANDSCAPE**

**Mary Vanderford, contact person**

**mandmvanderford@gmail.com**



This group looks after all the growing things around SpringHouse. They plan projects through emails.

Everyone at SH is welcome to join them for gardening every other Saturday, 10 am to noon, May through June.

### ***FCC Calendar for March 2026***

#### **REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS**

- Sundays    9 am Choir Rehearsal  
               9 am SpringHouse Youth  
               10 am Worship, Children's Activity Table
- Tuesdays    8 am – SH Lectionary Group
- Wednesdays 9 am - Coffee with Community  
                   6:30 pm Lenten supper, service
- Saturdays    9 am – Breakfast Club

#### **MONTHLY MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS**

- Tues, Mar. 17    7 pm - FCC Board Meeting
- Thurs, Mar. 19 7 pm    FCC and Friends Book Group
- Mon, Mar. 23    7 pm - Worship Committee
- Tues, Feb. 24    1 pm – Mission and Outreach Mtg
- Sun, Mar. 29    10 am PALM SUNDAY

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

### **On Stage**

Several in our FCC family are appearing on Twin Cities stages!

**Kaden Hesser** is in *Macbeth* at the Guthrie. His appearance as the young son of MacDuff are as follow: 3/11 @10:30 am; 3/14 @ 7:30 pm; 3/15 @ 1 pm; 3/18,19, & 20 @7 pm; 3/21 @ 1 pm.

**Jimmy Tucker** is in *The Lightening Thief* at Edison High School on these dates:  
 March 12-14 at 7 pm and March 15 at 2 pm.

**Karin Wolverton** will be singing the role of Fidelia in Puccini's *Edgar*, a concert presentation at the Ordway on Friday April 17, 7:30 and Sunday, April 19, 2 pm.

## **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)

**Revised Common Lectionary**  
**March 15, 2026**  
**Fig Tree and Money Tables**  
**Mark 11: 12-26**



### Reflections on the Word

*Mark 11: 14: And he said to it [fig tree], 'May no one ever eat fruit from you again.' And his disciples heard it.*

Once again, our Lenten readings show Jesus acting in what might seem like an un-Jesus way: cursing a fig tree, and soon after, angrily overturning money table in the temple. Jesus used both the fig tree and the temple as object lessons for finding true faith. If we go to a dead temple looking for spiritual fruit, we're going to be disappointed and left hungry. We need another way – another tree from which to eat.

*Loving God, Thank you for sending Jesus, who in all his humanity, helps us find a path to you. Amen*

David McLemore, on  
[thingsofthesort.co.](http://thingsofthesort.co.),

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

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

#### **Ministry Team**

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**Next issue deadline is Sunday, April 5**

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