

The Courier

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis



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UPCOMING Events

*FCC Board Meeting,
Sunday, May 17,
following worship,
In person*

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

May 9: Choose your own activity!

The second Saturday in May is chock-full of activities at SpringHouse! Below is a list of the many goings- on for you to choose from!



Doors Open. For the second year, SpringHouse is part of the city-wide Doors Open event that invites people “to explore the buildings, spaces and stories that shape Minneapolis.” More than 75 locations across Minneapolis will be participating. Come and bring a friend! SpringHouse members might learn something new about our building's history!



Plant Giveaway. May 9 is the fourth annual Mother’s Day Plant Giveaway sponsored by the SH Green Team. All sorts of plants will be given away to our Whittier neighbors. But we are often asked about house plants. If you have house plants to give away to neighbors and friends, this is the day to do it.



Feed My Starving Children. A team from FCC and SpringHouse is going to the Chanhassen warehouse to pack boxes of food to be sent around the world. The shift is on Saturday morning, from 9 am to noon. Call Pastor Day to see if there is a spot for you.



SH Gardening Day. We will meet at 10 am for the last spring gardening day at SpringHouse. You don’t have to be an expert gardener, just someone who doesn’t mind getting their hands dirty. Bring gloves and a hand trowel if you have them Other tools will be provided.

In Our Prayers



Prayers of Joy that **JoJo**, son of **Dan's** college friend **Naomi** has been released from Children's Hospital.

Prayers of Sympathy for **Tammy and Paul Rottschaefer**, at the loss of Tammy's brother **Bob** after his prolonged illness; prayers for **Anna's** friend **Sarah** whose father **Mike** died this week; prayers for the family of **Solomon Crowder**, a young man whose life was cut down just as he was about to graduate from Howard University.

Prayers of Concern for those with health issues on a daily basis including **Tammy, Nat, Rodney, Skip, Garry, Nancy, Pam** and others we hold in our hearts.

We pray for the people around the world threatened each day with famine, violence and war. We pray for those in our nation who are losing needed medical support and care because of budget cuts, and for recent Court decisions that seem to be taking our society backward.

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



The Church is in good hands these days!

Last week I was in Menlo Park, California (south of San Francisco) for the spring Bethany Fellows retreat. Since 1999, Bethany Fellows has served congregations by helping newly ordained, young pastors transition from seminary to sustained congregational ministry with a strong and healthy pastoral identity. Through the collegial support of peers and mentor/leaders, young ministers are better able to navigate the beginnings of a vocation and young adult life transitions. While on retreat the Fellows are engaged in spiritual practices as well as visits with dynamic congregations, fueling creativity and insights to share with their congregations, building confidence and strengthening their leadership.

There's something to be said for being in California in the spring – flowers everywhere, the air is fresh, the blue sky is *really blue* – there's an air of newness, of rebirth and revitalization. This was my first opportunity to meet with the Disciples fellows and share leadership of a small group with Rev. Jenn Simmons (National Avenue CC, Springfield, MO). Let me tell y'all something – the Church is in good hands these days. We've got some amazing, deeply caring, energized young clergy doing good stuff in congregations. The feeling of spring enveloped us as we deeply listened to each other, to what's happening in our circles, and how we can love and support each other. For our *Wise Practice* we spent time learning about and seeing in action *The Church Narrative Project of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)* - an initiative designed to shape a preferred future for the denomination by sharing stories of epiphany. It focuses on transforming conflict, fostering community, and equipping members to engage in challenging conversations through storytelling, often featuring StoryHour events (I was one of the storytellers for the 2024 Upper Midwest Ministers Institute).

Looking ahead to our summer worship series, we're going to be digging into how God gifts hope (among other themes), and one of the ways that we will be doing that will be looking at spiritual practices. Contemplative spiritual practices are a key part of the work of Bethany Fellows, and as the worship committee works together to craft this series for June & July, I look forward to sharing some of that with you. Stay tuned!

Speaking of summer – we've got a lot coming up! I'm working on a couple of fun summer outings for June & July, Twin Cities Pride is coming up at the end of June, and there will be some other SpringHouse events, including Pastor Rhonda's sabbatical sending and Worship in the Park – more to follow!!

FCC Calendar for May 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
Saturdays	9 am – Breakfast Club
	10 am – Grief Support at SpringHouse

MONTHLY MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Wed., May 6	7 pm Elders Meeting
Mon., May 11	5 pm SH Building Committee
	7 pm SH Finance Committee
Tues, May 12	1:30 SHMC Clergy Meeting
Wed., May 13	12:30 Finance Committee
Thurs., May 14	7 pm Pastor Dan's PRC
Sun, May 17	After Worship - FCC Board Meeting (Note: In person meeting at SH)
	2 pm – SH Board meeting on Zoom
Thurs, May 21	7 pm FCC and Friends Book Group
Mon, May 25	7 pm - Worship Committee
Tues, May 26	1 pm – Mission and Outreach Mtg

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

A Gift from the Early Days of FCC History



First Christian recently received an unexpected and amazing gift from Dr Laurie Waters, whose great-grandfather and grandfather were both Trustees of FCC. Murray R Waters joined the church in 1881 and became a Trustee in the early 1890's. His son, Samuel M. Waters, became a Trustee in the early 1930's. The ledger,

which has been passed down through the Waters family, begins with the 1878 election of the first Trustees and ends in 1935.

It contains minutes of Trustee meetings, early and edited bylaws, the original letter from the man who bought the land for the Portland Avenue Church, budgets, election results and so much more! Pat Dunlop has already scanned its pages and the handwritten notes will be transcribed and the ledger indexed. We are so grateful to Dr Waters for seeking us out and donating such a remarkable gift that fills out much of our early history.

By Karen Kandik (pictured above with Dr. Laurie Waters)

FCC Cabinet Notes

Seven people attended the April 21 meeting of the Church Cabinet. Highlights of the meeting include the following:

- Anna Bliss volunteered to be the Pro Tem facilitator for the meeting.
- Mike Cackoski reviewed the March financials. Members discussed reasons that pledge numbers have decreased this year.
- Pastor Ben reviewed some broad goals that are surfacing from the Search Committee and congregation. The goals fall into two types: Relationship-focused and Service-focused. The group spent time discussing and exploring the implication of these goals for FCC's future.
- Pastor Dan brought up the fact that the Interim Pastor contract will end in May. The Cabinet voted unanimously to bring a motion to the next board meeting regarding this timeline.
- The Cabinet members agreed to recommend to the board that the May board meeting be held in person on Sunday, May 17 following worship, and that the next Cabinet meeting will be in person following worship on Sunday, June 14.

Sundays at First Christian Church

Worship at 10 am, 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

May 7, 2026

Acts 17: 22-31



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

Reflections on the Word

Acts 17: 29 – “Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals.”

Paul is speaking to the people of Athens about their “unknown god” shrine. He is acknowledging and affirming their recognition of mystery. But then, he goes further. He invites the Athenians to consider the way God, acting through Christ, is close to each of us, and “in him we live and move and have our being.”

God In this moment, free us from grasping to control, and teach us to dwell in you. Amen.

Rick Quinn, in *Disciplines*, 2023.

A Welcoming Community of Faith in the Heart of the City

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