

The Courier

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis



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UPCOMING Events

Cabinet meeting,
Sunday, June 14,
Following worship, in
person (Zoom link
provided also)

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

Pride, Disciples' LGBTQ+ Alliance focus for June Mission & Outreach projects

TC Pride Festival: FCC continues its proud participation in the annual Twin Cities Pride Festival, happening June 27-28. There are still time slots left for folks to have the fun of greeting people and passing out stickers from the FCC booth. Sign up on the FCC webpage.

Check out the TC Pride website, which is loaded with information about all the events and opportunities connected with this year's celebration: <https://tcpride.org/festival/>



Mission & Outreach June Focus: Our Mission & Outreach focus for June Pride Month will be support for Disciples LGBTQ+ Alliance. The Disciples LGBTQ+ Alliance are members of the Body of Christ, called to join in God's work of transforming the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) into a just and inclusive church that welcomes persons of all gender identities and expressions and sexual orientations into full life and leadership of the church. FCC is officially recognized as an Open & Affirming Congregation, and Pastor Dan has served in a variety of

AllianceQ
Disciples LGBTQ+ Alliance

leadership positions for the Alliance over the years. The Alliance also provides educational support to the wider church on a host of LGBTQ+ issues. You can learn more about the Alliance here: <https://disciplesallianceq.org/>. There is a special envelope in Givelify for your gift to Alliance.Q

Possible July M&O Project: A possible opportunity is available for July—but needs input from you! We have the opportunity to assist with lunch or dinner preparation at Simpson Shelter. The menus are already planned and the ingredients are there; they have a professional chef who in charge of directing volunteers on how to make the meal. There is a maximum of 6 volunteers at a time; minimum age is 10. If you are interested in doing this, please contact Karen Kandik. Date will be determined by the volunteers.

For more information follow this link: <https://simpsonhousing.org/cook-connect/>

See more Mission and Outreach news on page 3

In Our Prayers



Prayers of Joy, for **Jake**, son of **Rev. Rhonda Hlavinka**, whose high school graduation was May 31, and for teachers and children looking forward to summer vacation.

Prayers of Sympathy for the family and friends of **Rev. Margaret Hutchens**, whose memorial service will be held in Iowa on Saturday, June 6.

Prayers of concern for **Rev. Carla Nelson** who is experiencing a variety of health issues, as is her mother; for **Jim Lee** who is having outpatient foot surgery this week; for **Rev. Molly Goodrich**, FCC Oscaloosa, who is home from the hospital, and for Dan's college friend undergoing cancer treatment.

Prayers to neighbors around the world suffering flooding, economic oppression, war, and murderous governments. May all of us, around the world, be moved to help those around us in need, as Jesus showed us.

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



FCC's Profile: a Mirror and a Map for Ministry

A thousand thanks to you, FCC! Thank you for reading the draft congregational profile. Thank you for shared feedback with the Search Committee online. Thank you for gathering after worship on May 31 to discuss how the Spirit might best use this document in our Search & Call process.

A search profile acts like a mirror, reflecting both the activities and self-understanding of a congregation. When asked, "*What in the profile really sounds like who FCC is?*" you recognized yourself in...

- the many ways FCC reaches beyond its walls with acts of care and solidarity to ensure all people are fed, housed, and safe;
- a repeated emphasis on relationships: within the congregation, with SpringHouse partners, and with local and global mission partners.
- honest assessments of how this community navigates conflict;
- our proximity to and participation in social change, especially in response to Operation Metro Surge.

You also shared how the profile could reflect FCC more accurately. Some feedback is easy to incorporate, like emphasizing our Open & Affirming commitment earlier in the profile, or correcting numbers and dates, or clarifying that Book Group discusses fiction *and* non-fiction but does *not* talk about faith. The Search Committee will spend some more time weighing how to synthesize feedback about pastoral care and worship.

In last winter's small groups, some of you were already thinking about how our model of pastoral care might change with only one paid minister. Some groups discussed a shift to "community care," perhaps led by the Elders. These conversations informed one of the five-year goals that the Search Committee suggested for the profile: to equip adults and youth for community-focused leadership, developing skills to build trust, show care, and share soulfully." During the forum after worship on May 31, you asked for clarity. Does "community-focused leadership" to "show care" include home visits? In Section XV of the profile, both "Education and Leader Development" and "Pastoral Care" emerged as preferred areas of ministerial leadership; that same section needs to name our hope for a minister to develop a new care model with members.

You also raised good questions about worship at the May 31 forum. Shouldn't worship renewal be named among the profile's goals? Isn't this a crucial area for ministerial leadership? Worship at FCC deserves sustained attention; in the last year you have set aside purchased, prefabricated series in favor of creating your own, and you are paying attention to the "wordiness" of Sundays. The Search Committee agreed that this discussion merited more reflection in the "Growing Edges" section of the profile.

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Thanks for all the ways we help!

FCC folks have been busy with Mission & Outreach projects!

A big THANKS to those who helped clean up for Earth Day around the block where the church sits. It was amazing how much trash one can actually see when looking for it! At least three large garbage bags—filled!

Another THANK YOU to the volunteers at Feed My Starving Children. It was a fun and productive time, made even more fun by working with people from other churches and organizations.



And *another* THANK YOU to the Every Meal volunteer distributors! School attendance was up and down but was restored to a regular number for the last few months—97 kids! We provided at least 1,000 weekend meals for Whittier families during the past year. Additionally, thanks to some special contributions from persons outside of our congregation, we were also able to help provide rental assistance for some Whittier families.

From Karen Kandik

A powerful play in the works – and we know one of the characters in it!

The Guthrie Theater in partnership with The Public Theater of New York City is developing a documentary play, *North Star*, based on what happened to citizens of Minneapolis during the infamous Metro Surge. A “work in progress” reading of the play was given at the Guthrie on Saturday, May 30.

Seated on stage for the reading were 15 actors, portraying actual Minneapolis people whom the playwrights Jessica Blank and Erik Jensen had interviewed. The actors read the words that the playwrights recorded as they interviewed people from January to March while ICE agents were attacking our city. Of the more than 40 people they interviewed, 15 became characters in the play.

One of the characters in the play is Rev. Hialrd Osorto, pastor of St. Paul’s-San Pablo Lutheran Church – and husband of Rev. Ben Masters. Rev. Hialrd was portrayed by actor Raul Ramos, a longtime Minneapolis artist. Hialrd and Ben were at the reading, which clearly had a powerful effect on the audience at the Guthrie. Even some of the actors on stage were crying!

North Star will have more readings in New York City this month.

FCC Board Notes

Eighteen people attended the meeting of our church board on Sunday, May 17. The meeting was held in person following worship; several members also attended via Zoom. Highlights of the meeting included the following:

The board discussed and voted on five motions which reflect the main topics discussed during the meeting. All of the motions passed unanimously.

- Motion 1: Extend the Intentional Interim Pastor contract with Rev. Ben Masters by three months in accordance language in Rev. Masters’ Letter of Call.
- Motion 2: Use the title “Senior Pastor” in the church profile being prepared by the Search Committee.
- Motion 3: Distribute a Profile draft to the congregation in order to get feedback for a final draft. Feedback needed by May 31.
- Motion 4: Call a special board meeting for Tuesday, June 9, order to approve a final draft of the profile to submit to the Office of Search & Call of the Christian Church. At this meeting, board will also vote on approving the Ethical Guidelines for Congregational Conduct.
- Motion 5: Approve a Wholeness Fund Grant request of \$5,000 brought by Seth Anderson-Matz for a one-day retreat titled “Liminalities and Interfaith Spiritual Retreat for Trans Folk.

FCC Calendar for June 2026

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS

Sundays 9 am Choir Rehearsal, Youth Activities
10:30 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 Group at SpringHouse

MONTHLY MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Wed, June 3 7 pm – Elders Meeting

Thurs, June 4 6 pm – Women's Fellowship at Dee Ward's

Sat, June 6 1 pm – Margaret Hutchens Memorial Service

Sun, June 7 1-4 pm – Lyndale Open Streets

Mon, June 8 7 pm – SH Finance Committee

Tues, June 9 1:30 – SHMC Clergy Meeting

Wed, June 10 12:30 – Finance Committee

Sun, June 14 11:30 - FCC Cabinet Meeting (in person)

Thurs, June 19 7 pm FCC and Friends Book Group

Mon, June 22 7 pm - Worship Committee

Tues, June 23 1 pm – Mission and Outreach Mtg

Sat-Sun, June 27-28 **Twin Cities Pride**

Tues, June 30 6:30 pm Drag Queen Charity Bingo

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

Open Streets Lyndale Back!

Open Streets is coming back to Lyndale this year! Mark your calendar now! Sunday June 7 we will gather on Lyndale with jazz and Popsicles after worship to spend an afternoon dancing and chatting with our neighbors! What better way to work on our Faith and Neighboring Practices than to get into the neighborhood and do some neighboring!

Salem has led the way for this celebration for years, and this year Pastor Rhonda Hlavinka has invited all of the SpringHouse partner congregations to join Salem for this fun event.

A Note of Thanks

Thank you to our FCC Family for all the prayers, hugs, words of sympathy in cards and voice at the loss of my (Tammy's) brother, Bob. Your comforting care has meant so much to us.

With deep gratefulness,
Tammy and Paul Rottschaefer

Pastor Ben's reflection, continued from page 2

A search profile is both like a mirror and like a map: it reflects who you are as a congregation and anticipates where you want to go. I pray that the profile that the Search Committee shares with the Board on June 9 is a gift for you all in years to come. Thank you for your partnership with Anna, KC, Jen, Andy, and Paul to make this profile of the congregation the best it can be. Please remember them in prayer as they prepare to submit the profile to the Region and to interview candidates who encounter FCC through the Office of Search & Call.

Onward in the Spirit!
Rev. Ben, your interim minister

The draft profile has been hosted on a private page of FCC's website; expect a new link to the version after the Board gives its approval and the Region gives its blessing. For copies or questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Anna Bliss, Search Committee Chair, at akb@pobox.com or 612-998-5011.

Women's Pool Party Invitation 2026

Arlene's women's pool party is July 11th of this year,
 Mid-summer is better; by then we're dressed in hot-weather gear.
 As usual, the party will not include dudes,
 But we can tune to the Beatles; we can all sing, "Hey, Jude!"

I'll have chicken salad, sloppy joes and drinks to consume,
 Bring your potluck dishes with you, since we can't swim on Zoom.
 We'll be gathering again from 11:30 to five,
 For those who are athletic, we'd love to see you dive.

Poolside bathing is encouraged or in a chair you can sit,
 And on hand will be, a sun protection kit.
 Please make an appearance, that would be a genuine splash,
 Come to the women's pool party, you're invited to the bash!

**RSVP to Arlene at 612-309-4360 or arlenehillestad@hotmail.com
 Saturday, July 11th – 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

Kafika House Update from Sarah

Sarah Rejman sends us updates about Kafika House, an organization FCC supports. Kafika House is a high-love, low-cost rehabilitative surgery program for children in Northern Tanzania.

I want to talk about the power of partnership: how friends in wild places make so much possible for children who might never access treatment without them.

Because Arusha sits on the doorstep of Tanzania's most famous national parks, we count some incredible safari companies among our partners.

They operate in far-flung locations, engaging with remote communities across the country – and often they bring our outreach team along for the ride.

They make it possible for us to spread our message of hope so much further, and reach so many more children living with disabilities.

We also train their guides and staff to recognize treatable disabilities and refer children to us.



This makes them an invaluable extension of the outreach team: additional eyes and ears across vast and often hard-to-reach landscapes.

It turns out that geography is less of a barrier when the right relationships are in place.

Whenever we head out to the far corners of the country, we send announcements and adverts ahead, so that communities are informed of health screenings they can bring their children to.

Donations to Kafika House can be made at <https://friendsofkafikahouse-bloom.kindful.com/?campaign=1394275>

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

June 7, 2026

Jesus Calls a Tax Collector

Matthew 9: 9-13, 18-26



Jesus and tax collectors, by Alexandre Bida

Reflections on the Word

Matthew 9:0 – As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax-collection station, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he got up and followed him.

As an Indigenous Christian, I see resonance with Indigenous spirituality in this passage. Indigenous practice often prioritizes relational healing over ritual correctness. Just as Jesus calls Matthew into a new life, Indigenous traditions recognize that love and restoration happen through inclusion, not exclusion. A person is not cast out for past failures but invited to walk a new path.

God, Help us invite everyone into the circle of your love. Amen.

By Danny Zacharias, on Working Preacher, for June 7, 2026

*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*

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