

The Courier

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis



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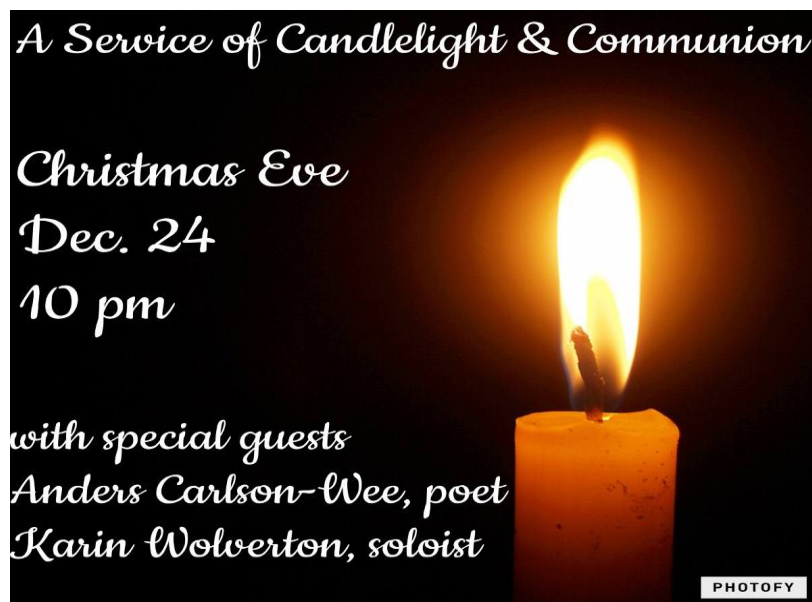
UPCOMING Events

Annual FCC
Congregational Meeting,
Sunday, January 13

Laity Sunday,
January 20

Annual SpringHouse Joint
Worship and Meeting,
Sunday, January 27

Christmas Eve services at First Christian



Come with friends and family to Christmas Eve services at First Christian. Sunday, December 23, the Fourth Sunday in Advent, will also feature poetry by Anders Carlson-Wee, as well as special music. You may bring gifts for Sanctuary Families to any of these services (see page 2 for more information of these gifts).



In Our Prayers

Prayers of Sympathy

For Mike Hesano, whose cousin Tony succumbed to lung cancer

Prayers of Concern

For several people recently involved in car accidents: Mike Hesano's aunt; Mike Morgan and Ernie Brennan; and Grace Madsen's niece Naomi
For Sandy Morgan recovering from surgery
For all those who are homebound, including Bev Singewald and Donald Ulm

Prayers for the World

For the many places in the world yearning for peace, including Syria, Yemen, Israel and Palestine
For all those seeking better lives for their families and, better places to live



A message from
Pastor Laurie Feille



2019 looks to be a whirlwind year!

It is hard to believe that 2019 is almost here! In some ways 2018 has flown by and in other ways it seems like 2018 has lasted longer than any other year. Thank you for the grace you have offered me over the months since my dad had his stroke in July. Your understanding and your prayers have made a tough time easier.

As we look forward to 2019 I almost can't catch my breath. We have an exciting year ahead! 2019 is a General Assembly (GA) year and we are blessed as the Upper Midwest Region to host GA 2019, July 20-24, in Des Moines, Iowa. General Assembly is the time that members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) gather from across the United States and Canada and around the world. The days are filled with business meetings, workshops, outreach efforts, information overload and incredible worships. There is nothing like worshipping with 1,000's of Disciples. It would be wonderful to have as many members of First Christian attend all or part of General Assembly. Here is the website to register and to learn more: <https://ga.disciples.org/> There are many opportunities for volunteering for a day or more. – let me know if you are interested!

During 2019 I will take my three-month sabbatical. During August-October, I will stay in a monastery in Idaho for one week; visit family; attend the Great Minnesota Get Together---the State Fair!; travel Wales and Ireland for six weeks with one week staying in a monastery in Ireland; and other fun relaxing activities. Bryan will be with me some of the time and part of the time I will be on my own (such as at the monasteries). I am able to do this due to the incredible gift of the grant for Clergy Renewal from the Lily Foundation. While I am very excited about my plans I am in some ways more excited about the plans that you as a congregation have made and are still planning. I am excited that you will get to hear great preaching while I am gone: Our General Minister and President, Rev. Dr. Terri Hord Owens; our Regional Minister, Rev. Bill Spangler-Dunning; and the Executive Director of Week of Compassion, Rev. Vy Nguyen. I am so grateful that the grant allows money for the congregation to be able to have renewal time.

We have so many other activities and events happening next year. We will be focusing on drama in worship, which will require participation from more people so if you are interested please let Deb Murphy know. She will be our organizer and "Head of the Drama Department." SpringHouse will be going on a Servant Trip to Duluth, Minnesota lead by Pastor Rhonda, Pastor Rebecca and Youth Pastor Jon Bates. Fundraising will be begin in 2019 for our 2020 Servant Trip to Paraguay.

On top of all of this we have our regular activities of summer camps, children's ministries, adult education, choir, handbells, board meetings, many opportunities for outreach and more! It is going to be a fast-paced year and a year of growth for First Christian. I am excited about what the year will bring and I pray that we all find ways to serve God's children with love, grace and mercy in 2019. Thank you for a wonderful 2018. I am beyond blessed to be your pastor. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Much love and peace, Pastor Laurie

Advent Donations for Sanctuary families

Once again, the worship team will provide the flowers to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. In lieu of flowers from individuals, members of the congregation are invited to make donations for Sanctuary Families. If making donations by



check, make check payable to First Christian and write "Sanctuary" in the memo. If you would like to give more personal gifts, new or gently used clothing such as shirts, pants, sweaters, sweatshirt, jackets, or shoes are welcome in the following sizes:

Girls: sizes 16 and 10-12; shoes size 3

Boys: sizes 10 and 4T; shoes size 2 and children's 9

Men: XXL

Women: Medium petite, loosely fitting, suitable for maternity wear

These items may be brought to the church and placed under the tree.

When you donate an item or money, please put a tag (found in a basket next to the tree) on the tree.

Singers needed for General Assembly choir

The Disciples General Assembly will be in Des Moines this summer. Music is always an important ingredient whenever Disciples gather, and singers are needed for the General Assembly Choir. Three advance rehearsals are planned across the Upper Midwest Region for January 12, March 9 and May 4. If interested, you can sign up for the choir and learn more about the choir and rehearsals at <https://disciplesofchrist.typeform.com/to/xt8stl>




A choir of young angels sang at the SH Children's Pageant

FCC Board Notes

Twelve people attended the regular November meeting of the FCC General Board. Highlights of the meeting include the following:

- Martha Harris reviewed the key revisions to the SpringHouse Covenant and board members discussed the proposed changes in some detail. The board voted to approve the revisions brought by the Covenant Revision Committee.
- Representing the Nominating Committee, Kirsten Cackoski presented the nominations for Elders, Deacons and Trustees to serve in 2019. Sandy Morgan and Anna Bliss were also on the Nominating committee.
- Representing the Wholeness Fund, Kirsten Cackoski presented a request from the South Minneapolis Day Camp for \$1500 to cover expenses of a visiting artist who worked with Middle School children. The motion passed.
- Trustee Skip Wolverton reported on finances in Treasurer Pat Dunlop's stead. Actual year-to-date income is higher than anticipated, and actual expenses are lower than expected, so overall the financial picture is strong. Actual income from October was \$15,000.
- Pastor Laurie Feille was recently elected chair of the Disciples Church Extension Fund.



January 2019 First Christian Church				Sunday Morning Schedule 9:15 Spiritual Formation Classes 10:30 Worship 11:45 Fellowship Time in Gathering Space		
		1 Happy New Year!	2 6:30 Handbells 7:45 FCC Choir	3	4	5
6 South Sanctuary Noon SHMC Board Meeting	7 6:45 SH Building Committee	8 8:30 am Narrative Lectionary Bible Study 6 pm LHENA Community Soup Supper	9 5:30 FCC Finance Committee 6:30 Handbells 7:45 FCC Choir	10 6:30 Pastor Laurie PRC 7 pm SHMC Finance Committee	11	12 10 am FCC Staff Planning Retreat
13 South Sanctuary 11:30 FCC Annual Congregational Meeting 11:45 SH Youth Parent Check-in Noon – Child Ministry Family Event	14	15 8:30 am Narrative Lectionary Bible Study 6 pm Worship Team Mtg 7 pm FCC Board	16 2 pm Mission & Outreach 6:30 Handbells 7:45 FCC Choir	17 4:30 Sanctuary Task Force	18	19
20 South Sanctuary Laity Sunday 11:45 am Middle School \$5 lunch	21 Martin Luther King, Jr Day	22 8:30 am Narrative Lectionary Bible Study 6 pm LHENA Community Soup Supper	23 6:30 Handbells 7:45 FCC Choir	24 7 pm Youth Advisory Group	25	26
27 South Sanctuary 10:30 JOINT WORSHIP 11:30 SHMC Annual Meeting Noon SHMC Lunch	28 7 pm FCC Book Club	29 8:30 am Narrative Lectionary Bible Study	30 6:30 Handbells 7:45 FCC Choir	31 9 am – Ecumenical Women’s Ministry at Irene Hackett’s		

	Elders (Offering elder listed first)	Worship Leader	Children’s Moment	Diaconate	Bus Drivers
January 6	Val Dunham Pat Dunlop	Lu Griffin	Deb Murphy	A. Hesano K. Hintz	Mike Morgan 612.926-9834
January 13	Tom Curry Ann Wolverton	Jay Hillestad	Laurie Feille	S. Lauer E. Tucker	Garry Hesser 612.721.4905
January 20	Martha Harris Kirsten Cackoski	Laity Sunday Young Adults		B. Whitaker B. Hall	Mike Hesano 651-645-6758
January 27	SpringHouse Joint Worship and Annual Meeting				Mike Morgan 612.926-9834

Note: Please call drivers by Saturday for Sunday bus ride

Community Dinners at SpringHouse

Free community dinners are being held at SpringHouse twice a month, sponsored by the Lowry Hill East Neighborhood Association. The neighborhood website describes these meals as “a gift to the community from the community.” 100% of the donations go towards the next and future meals. Community volunteers provide homemade soup and fresh bread.

SH Building Manager Deb Murphy reported that about 20 people attended the initial gatherings, which are held on Tuesday nights, 6-8 pm. The next meals will be January 8 and 22.

Local thrift store relocated, renamed

The Steeple People thrift store, once located at the corner of Lyndale and Franklin, had a banner year just before it was closed and torn down to make way for a new apartment complex. Board members for the store, affiliated with Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church, have found a new location and new name for this popular nonprofit.

The new location is 1901 Nicollet Avenue, and the new name is Old School by Steeple People. Donations are accepted at the store during business hours and also at Hennepin Avenue Methodist on Sundays in the parking lot. The store is open noon to 6 pm Saturdays and Sundays, and 11 am – 5 pm Wednesdays through Fridays.

More information about the store can be found at

<http://www.startribune.com/steeple-people-thrift-store-renamed-old-school-is-now-open-in-mpls/498055101/>

This article was adapted from the StarTribune article by John Ewoldt.

More about Poet Anders Carlson-Wee



FCC’s Advent services have been enriched by the poetry of Anders Carlson-Wee. Anders lives in Minneapolis, but travels the country reading, performing and teaching. His most recent book is *The Low Passions* (Norton, 2019), and his work has appeared in many national publications including BuzzFeed, Ploughshares, Virginia Quarterly Review, The Nation and Kenyon Review.

As a Visiting Writer, he’s been hosted by Phillips Exeter Academy, Emory University and Greenlight Poetry Salon in Brooklyn. Taking poetry to the big screen, he co-directed *Riding the Highline*, a short documentary that won numerous prizes. Anders has also taught creative writing at his alma mater Vanderbilt University, the Midwest Writing Center, and University of Minnesota and other schools and workshops.

Meet Quince Catering

Have you noticed anyone in the SpringHouse kitchen, cooking up a storm? You’re seeing Quince Catering at work, a business that is one of the many tenants at SpringHouse.



Quince Catering’s owner is Brooke Faudre. She and her husband Andrew can frequently be found in the back kitchen doing prep work, preparing meals, and making all-around yummy stuff. They are just starting out in business and being able to use our kitchen has helped them tremendously. They love the space and have enjoyed meeting our members.

If you need use of the kitchens, please talk to Deb Murphy well in advance of the date you would like. With advance warning, Brook is quite able to make accommodations.

This article is from Salem’s newsletter, Salem Scene.

*Sundays at First Christian Church
Worship at 10:30*

Before Worship

Children's Classes, 9:15 am
Joint Adult class 9:30 am

After Worship

Fellowship Time 11:45

**Narrative Lectionary for
Sunday, December 23
Jesus as Immanuel
Matthew 1: 18-25**



Angel Appears to Joseph, by Georges La Tour, 1593-1652.

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

Reflections on the Word

Matthew 1: 20b: "...An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit."

Joseph is receptive to the message in his dream, the means of God's communication to him. He awakens to his call and his destiny as Mary's husband and designated parent of Jesus. He immediately becomes part of God's salvation story, that a child will be born who will be light and life, savior of the world.

Holy God, Open our ears to hear your call. Help us to see, know and trust enough to follow. Amen.

By Lib Campbell, Retired elder and Pastor Emeritus in North Carolina

**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, January 6