

The COURIER

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis



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UPCOMING Events:

Women's Lunch,
Saturday, January 12,
at Macy's, Southdale,
10 am

Annual Congregational
Meeting
Sunday, January 13,
following worship

FCC Board Meeting,
Tuesday, January 15
7 pm

General Minister and President Offers New Year's Resolutions to Reconnect

*"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ." –
Philippians 1:3-5*



Rev. Terri Hord Owens

As we begin a new year together, I am filled with hope for our Church family across the United States and Canada. As individuals, we often use this time to think of a resolution, a goal or intention to set for the year – perhaps to break a bad habit or to develop a new skill. As congregations, and as Disciples, I invite you to join me in considering what a resolution to reconnect might look like in 2019.

It is in this spirit of new beginnings, that I invite you, and your congregation, to prayerfully consider ways you can renew your covenant with our wider Church.

- You might reach out to your [regional ministry](#) to find new ways to collaborate with Disciples in your area this year, like regional assemblies, youth events, and professional development opportunities.
- I hope this covenant includes a commitment to support [Disciples Mission Fund](#), our Church's common funding system that sustains a variety of our life-giving ministries. You can find a variety of resources to help tell the DMF story [online](#).
- Your New Year's Resolution may be to connect with Disciples online by exploring our [general ministries](#)' websites and social media platforms. Your congregation will find a variety of programs to participate in, webinars to attend, and resources to use.
- I would also encourage you and fellow members to attend our [General Assembly](#) in Des Moines, IA this July – an opportunity to witness and participate in the full diversity of our Church. Your congregation might even encourage attendance through sponsorship or fundraising.
- One easily achievable resolution is to report to the [Year Book and Directory](#) by submitting your report by March 15. This action not only secures your nonprofit status, but also demonstrates clearly your connection to the Disciples.

No matter the resolution you set for 2019, I want to thank you for the work you're already doing to carry out God's mission, and I look forward to continuing that work together, "for we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building" (I Corinthians 3:9).

In Our Prayers. . .**Prayers of Sympathy**

For Mary Heller, former FCC member, whose husband Tom Heller died December 25.

Prayers of Concern

For Bobbi Hall's daughter Keri

For Mike Hesano who recently had surgery

For Arlen Nickerson's mother Janet, recovering from a recent stroke

For Nancy Curry's mother

For all our homebound members, especially Kathy Merkel and Evelyn Lawson

Prayers for the world

For people across the country affected by the government shutdown, and for elected leaders to find a solution to this impasse

**Voices and Views**

Pastor Dan Adolphson

***Join Us July 20 - 24 for General Assembly!***

It's not very often that we have General Assembly in our own back yard (the last time it was in Des Moines was in 1985)! Time to load up the bus and go, go, go!

Oh, wait. You don't know what I'm talking about? Let me step back for a moment. Every two years, the entirety of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada gathers together – think of it as the largest family reunion you've ever been to, with approximately 3,500 members of your extended church family.

Imagine this:

Worship that lifts your soul.

Stories that touch your heart.

Educational resources to assist your congregation in ministry.

Conversations that stretch your mind.

Messages that call you to action.

Connections that remind you that God's family is bigger than a local congregation.

All this and more in five short days!

Do you like to sing? Perfect – there's an All-Assembly Choir that you can be a part of.

Are you an elder? There's two learning sessions at this assembly just for you, plus learning opportunities and experiences for all ages on all kinds of subjects.

Like to do mission in the community? There will be many opportunities for you to roll up your sleeves and make a difference in the wider Des Moines community.

And, we know how to have fun! There's going to be a butter chalice, Yoga in the Park, tours of local attractions, and so much more!

Registration **prior to March 31** is only \$165.00 for adults, \$140 for young adults (19-29), \$100 for youth (13-18), and \$85 for preschool/elementary. There are many lodging options, including several that will be served by shuttles.

Want to learn more and to register? Visit the assembly website at ga.disciples.org.

January book club reading "Southernmost"

FCC's book club will discuss "Southernmost" by Silas House, described on Goodreads as "a tender and affecting book, a meditation on love and its consequences." Book club will meet Monday, January 28, at 7 pm; the location will be announced soon.

Child Ministries Family Swim on January 13

SMHC families are going for a swim at the Great River Water Park in St. Paul. Families are invited to join any time during Open Swim from 11 am to 4:30 pm. Cost is around \$5.

Volunteers needed for July General Assembly

As noted by Pastor Dan in his article on page 2, General Assembly will be in our backyard this July, and volunteers are needed and welcome!

The benefits of volunteering are many: meeting people from across the country and around the world; extending hospitality to attendees; developing leadership skills; networking with other Disciples; developing spiritually; and reducing registration cost.



Volunteers are needed in the following roles:

- Ushers
- Deacons
- Communion Preparers
- Hospitality Subs
- Tabulators (must have finance or accounting experience)
- Registration Desk (must be very comfortable with modern technology & have a friendly/patient disposition)
- Lost & Found/Message Center Assistants
- Special Needs Assistants (help with scooters & refrigeration of medication)
- Preschool Helpers
- Elementary School Ministry Helpers
- Security for Technology during Breaks
- Chapel helpers
- Communicators & Promoters throughout the Region
- Meal Ticket Distribution
- Welcoming people to the Greater Des Moines Area

If you are interested in volunteering, email Rev. Doug Pfeiffer at dougpfeiffer60@gmail.com or Gladys Sawyer at gfsawyer@mchsi.com.

FCC Board Notes

Twelve people attended the November 27 meeting of FCC's general board. Highlights of the meeting are as follows:

- The board voted to accept an additional revision to the Covenant of one sentence article 5.3.2.
- Kirsten Cackoski announced the nominees for board positions for 2019:
 - For Elders: Jay Hillestad, Tom Curry, Kirsten Cackoski.
 - For Deacons: Shannon Grady, Elaine Tucker, Becky Whitaker, Melinda Nickerson and Gary Maanum.
 - For Trustees: Dean Creighton taking 1 year term of Max Hurlocker; Karen Kandik and Karen Bowman, 4 years.
- The board approved two grants from the Wholeness Fund: \$2781 to purchase two coolers for the Groveland Foodshelf; and \$800 for worship resources during Advent.
- The board voted to sign on in support of a resolution for the 2019 General Assembly that is being submitted by Galileo Church of Fort Worth. The resolution confirms transgender inclusion.
- Trustee Skip Wolverton gave an item-by-item explanation of the 2019 budget which will be presented at the annual meeting of the congregation on January 13th.

**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, January 13
Jesus Baptism: Matthew
Matthew 3: 1-17**



Castera Bazile, Port-au-Prince,
Haiti (Vanderbilt Divinity
Library)

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

Reflections on the Word

Matthew 3:11b: "He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

We often tend to remember our baptism as a transaction that got us "in" where it is safe, rather than sending us out into the wildness of God's new creation. John in his wildness talks of fire, spirit-wind, burning chaff, threshing: The prospects of an imminent and impending future promise to be fierce and undomesticated, like John himself.

Wild Bird, come to us at the water's edge today, and be ever near us for the living of these days. Amen.

By Rev. Daniel Benedict,
Disciplines, 2019

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

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Next issue deadline is Sunday, January 20, 2019

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