

# The Courier

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis



## Mission & Outreach summer projects

**First,** Apologies for the confusion around the sandwich making for June 23. We WILL be making sandwiches after worship on July 7. Please join us! Fun is always had by all!



**Second:** Here is our Mission activity for July and August:

St Olaf Catholic Church is an important member of AlignMpls. As a downtown church, their Samaritan Ministry provides "hospitality, hope, and service" to those who enter their doors, many of whom are persons experiencing homelessness or who have recently become housed. To assist St Olaf in their mission, we are looking to collect the following:

- \*Gently used or new men's and women's in season (so...summer) clothing, especially large sizes; shoes, boots, and good walking shoes
- \*New underwear for men, women and children (bras can be gently used), socks
- \*Gently used bed sheets (all sizes), towels and washcloths, blankets, pillows (only new pillows, please)
- \*Cooking utensils and cookware, especially pots and pans
- \*Small appliances like toasters, coffeemakers, crockpots (obviously in working order!!)

If you bring items to church, please place them by the north wall of the Garden Sanctuary (the side with the choir chairs). Delivery will be done several times over the next two months.

If you wish to do online ordering, the delivery can be made to:

St Olaf Catholic Church : Social Ministries  
215 S 8th St  
Minneapolis MN 55402

Questions? Ask Karen Kandik or any other of Mission and Outreach team members (Pat Dunlop, Tammy Rottschaefer, Bonnie Ford, or Pastor Laurie)

As you consider what to donate, I invite you to think about the people who will be receiving these items. Each donation makes a difference to someone who has limited resources. Picture in your mind how a new pair of shoes or a coffeemaker will change someone's life. Our church is always beyond generous to those in need; thank you in advance from Mission and Outreach!

**FCC At PRIDE!**  
See page 2 for more



## In Our Prayers



**Prayers of Joy:** We rejoice that FCC was a strong presence at the Pride Festival; with Jim Lee as he begins his retirement this week; for Bobbi Hall's granddaughter Taylor in her new internship; for Arlan Nickerson's new job; for our new section leader Jessi McKinnon; for Margaret Hutchens celebrating the 34<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her ordination.

**Prayers for sympathy:** We offer our sympathy to Bryan and Laurie Feille and the Disciples community on the death of Dr. Eugene Boring; with the family of Caleb Baker, a former camper with Pastor Laurie; with Ardie and Jess Armstrong at the death of their dear friend Carol.

**Prayers of Concern:** For Jim Lee's sister Pat; for Susan Morgan's upcoming surgery; For Pastor Rhonda's husband Bob; for Melinda Nickerson's co-worker Leslie.

**Prayers for the World:** For the ongoing sorrow and misery of people living in Gaza, Israel, Haiti, Ukraine and other places around the world.

*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



## FCC connects with people at Pride

*We're glad to see you here – we always look forward to seeing churches here that truly welcome and care about our community...*

*I didn't know there were Disciples congregations in the Twin Cities...*

*Tell me more about these R statements on the banner...*

*We love your stickers!*

*Tell me more about First Christian Church...*

These statements are just a sample of what we heard over the weekend at our booth in Loring Park for Twin Cities Pride. With the restructure of the numbering system and layout of the park, we were in a new spot in the same zone we've been in for years that was just perfect for greeting people and sharing about who First Christian is. Our presence is always welcomed—for some looked forward to—and always makes a difference. There's always the comment *we didn't know churches like this existed...* one of the things we noticed this year is people stopping to take pictures of our “Let Me Be Perfectly Queer” and “Let Me Be Perfectly Trans” banners. We also observed people just stopping to look at those banners, especially the “We Are Perfectly Trans” one, and you could just see them relax.

It really takes a village to make our Pride events happen each year Thank you to everyone who helped setup and staff the booth: Soo-Kyung, Rodney, Ann, Dennis, Ali, Ben, Elaine, KC, Jennifer, Martha, Rita, Katy, Jon, Emme, Pastor Laurie, Lacey, Jess, Melinda, Anna, and Mitch. Also, Jen, Addy, Jia, Kristin, Tim, Karen and David stopped by to say hi! 3,000 stickers were given out over the weekend!!



## Meet our new section leader Jessi McKinnon



If you are lucky, you have already heard the lovely voice of our new section leader, Jessi McKinnon. She will be singing once a month this summer and then joining the other section leaders and the choir in September. Here are a few things about Jessi to introduce you to her. She was raised in Shakopee; has a degree in music (no surprise!), has two children, ages 5 and 9, enjoys gardening and foraging with her children for things like mushrooms and berries. (She assured me she knows the difference between a poisonous and safe mushroom! Another of her talents!)

Her "day job" is as a volunteer coordinator for a domestic violence agency. Her other jobs include being the Executive Director for Voices of Hope, an organization that builds choral communities in Minnesota state correctional facilities. In this work, she leads a choir at Shakopee prison. She is President of the Board of Directors for Summer Singers, a group that provides choral a cappella concerts during the summer. AND she is the treasurer for Kantorei, a choral ensemble that performs in Minnesota.

We are thrilled to have her with us!

Story by Karen Kandik

## Women's Fellowship: Pool Party and more

The (beginning to be a tradition) **Women's Pool Party at Arlene Jorgenson Hillestad's home** is scheduled for Saturday, July

20. Festivities and food for water sprites and also for those who just like to lounge in the shade will start about 11 am or so and go till about 4:30-5 pm or so....you should plan on coming whenever you want in that time period! Bring your own suits. Arlene promises yummy food

(sloppy joes, beans, buns, veggie tray!) and drinks (frozen margaritas!) and dessert (sorbets!). You bring additional items if you wish, like chips?



A pool party (stock photo)

Our next meeting will be Monday August 5 at 7 pm and we will continue our discussion (chapter 1) of **Learning To Walk In The Dark** by Barbara Brown Taylor. A zoom link will be sent out prior to the meeting.

Our schedule looks like this for the remainder of the year: September 9 (later due to Labor Day), October 7, November 4, and December 2. FYI we do not meet in January as we certainly hope to meet again for Saturday Brunch (just which Saturday has yet to be decided)...it's too nice out to think about January!!!

Story by Kathy Hintz

## FCC Board Notes

Fifteen members and staff attended the June 18 meeting of FCC's General Board. Highlights of the meeting were the following:

- Co-Chair Martha Harris put out a call for volunteers to serve on a committee to revisit and revise FCC's by-laws.
- The Trustees brought a motion to allow the Trustees to harvest the gains above the original amount invested in Church Foundation Mission and Outreach funds to be invested in the Look to the Future Fund for continued support of the congregation. The motion passed unanimously.
- Pastor Laurie reported that the SH pastors met about the next Sanctuary move and are proposing a September 15 date, which is the fall Join Worship Sunday. The 2025 move would be after Easter. No one on FCC's board raised objections to this plan.

- Treasurer Pat Dunlop reported that she and Andy Rennert are working closely to get Andy ready to take over this job next year. Finance Chair Mike Cackoski reviewed the May budgeting results sheet. Member contributions for May came to \$10,746, while May expenses were \$23,360. The current YTD deficit is -\$38,480.

## FCC Calendar for July 2024

### REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS

- Sundays 10:30 am Worship, Children's Activity Table  
11:30 am SH Youth Group
- Tuesdays 8 am – SH Lectionary Group  
5 pm - Happy Hour
- Wednesdays 9 am - Coffee with Pastors
- Thursdays 5 pm - Happy Hour
- Saturdays 9 am - Coffee with Pastors  
10 am - Grief Support groups at SpringHouse

### MONTHLY MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

- Wed., July 3 7 pm - Elders meeting
- Sun., July 7 Noon – Sandwich making after worship
- Mon., July 8 5 pm - SpringHouse Building Committee  
7 pm - SpringHouse Finance Committee
- Wed., July 10 12:30 pm - FCC Finance Committee
- Mon, July 15 7 pm – FCC & Friends Book Group
- Tues, July 16 7 pm - FCC General Board
- Sat., July 20 - 11 am – Women's Pool Party
- Tues., July 23 7 pm - Worship committee

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

## Bicycles wanted



Now that the snow has finally melted, the Minnesota Council of Churches is looking for bicycles to give to refugee families! For almost all our clients, finding regular transportation can be a barrier to feeling at home in the Twin Cities. Not only can a bicycle help them commute to work, but it can also give families a way to explore their new home with comfort and confidence. Do you have an adult bike (in good condition!) that's been sitting in the garage all winter that you're interested in donating? Reach out to Noah

at [noah.wilkerson@mnchurches.org](mailto:noah.wilkerson@mnchurches.org) or 651-724-0944, or feel free to drop it off between 8 am and 6 pm weekdays at our offices, located at 122 Franklin Avenue W, Suite 100.



**2024 Camp Registration Now Open!**



**Beloved Community Day Camp**  
**NEW DATES & NEW LOCATION!**  
**August 19 - 23, 9am - 4pm at Diamond Lake Lutheran Church**

<https://www.uppermidwestcc.org/summer-camp>

<https://www.smplsdaycamp.org>

## News Briefs

### Bullets become bells



The silver handbell (pictured left) is sitting on the welcome table outside the Garden Sanctuary. This bell was commissioned by First Christian Church from the artist Stephanie Mercedes as part of the Bullets to Bells event, July 15, 2023. Wendy Manual was the organizer for this event. The silver bell represents both lament and hope. Inside the bell one can see a bullet buried in the handle. There is no ringer in the bell, with one side ragged, and the other smooth. A person holding the bell may consider the impact of gun violence and how over time healing may occur. Without a ringer one might experience silencing gun violence and make sound of their own to resonate with hope.

### Help out with regional floods

*Regional pastor Josh Patty writes:* "Many parts of our Upper Midwest region are currently facing significant flooding. Several rivers are at their highest flood stages in decades. Some protective levees and dams have failed; others may yet be breached or fail.

"Local pastors and congregations have been supporting affected Disciples. You can make financial donations through Week of Compassion, with the designation US Storms & Fires."

### Postponed dates

The National Women's Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony viewing party at SpringHouse has been postponed until the fall. And as noted on page 1, we will be making 200 sandwiches for Groveland Food shelf this Sunday, July 7.

### Global Ministries features Paraguay

Global Ministries, the international outreach program of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of Christ recently featured the Christian Church in Paraguay in its



weekly promotional email. FCC member John Carter pictured in the article, which offers a prayer for Paraguay as well as information about the

Friendship Mission (which the Carter family helped found), Camp Jack Norment, and the Christian Churches in Paraguay. You can find out more at this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/3h49j98y>

### GALA Choruses Festival in July

The largest LGBTQ+ Chorus Festival in the world, with more than 7000 singers, will be held July 10-14 here in Minneapolis! The schedule includes



performances by local choirs such as Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus, One Voice Mixed Chorus, and Queer Gospel Chorus, all of which have people we know singing! (Pastor Dan, his husband Keith and Lyndale's Allan Henden.) And of course, they will be joining choirs from all over the United States and the world.

More information, including volunteer opportunities, schedules, special events, single ticket sales, streaming passes and more can be found at this link:

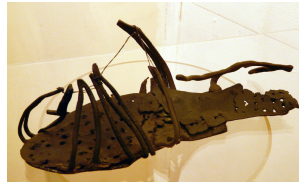
<https://galachoruses.org/festival-2024/>

## 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**  
**Seventh Sunday after**  
**Pentecost**  
**Mark 6: 1-13**



A Roman Sandal

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

### Reflections on the Word.

*Mark 6: 7a-9: He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two. . .He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics*

The amount of trust the disciples must have had in Jesus was staggering. They willfully left not only their earthly possessions behind but also their expectations about what their lives would be like. Can you imagine Jesus calling you up right now, saying it was time to go? What would you do?

*Loving God, Empower us to do your will on earth. Help us have the courage to answer your call. Amen.*

Sarah McWhirt-Toler, *Disciplines* 2024 (adapted)

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
OF MINNEAPOLIS  
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)**  
610 W. 28<sup>th</sup> Street  
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*A Welcoming Community of Faith in the Heart of the  
City*

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**Next issue deadline is Sunday, August 4**