

# The Courier

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis



## What's *INSIDE*:

A message from  
Pastor Laurie Feille,  
page 2

Special Sundays in April,  
page 3

April calendar,  
page 4

SpringHouse News,  
page 5

## UPCOMING Events

Lairy Sunday,  
April 14

FCC Board Meeting,  
Tuesday, April 16,  
7 pm

Baptism Sunday,  
April 28

Coffee Hours continue,  
9 am on Wed & Sat,  
Happy Hours  
5 pm Tues & Thur

## Holy Week culminates in Easter joy

The SpringHouse community gathered once again for a **Palm Sunday parade** to launch the start of Holy Week 2024.



At the conclusion of First Christian's Palm Sunday service, members of the **Pastor's Class**, accompanied by their mentoring Elders, made their confessions of faith.



A feature of the **Maunday Thursday** service was a bowl of water. As people approached the Table, they were invited to imagine the most unlikely person whose feet they could not imagine washing, and then consider what would need to take place to restore a right relationship with that person.

FCC members prayed continuously from 8 pm Thursday to 3 pm Good Friday for the annual **Prayer Vigil**.



**Easter Sunday** brought a sizeable congregation together to celebrate the Resurrection with a brass fanfare, bells, beautiful music, and a stirring sermon.

Pastor Laurie's story on page 2 acknowledges all the people who helped make Holy Week and Easter 2024 so very special.



## In Our Prayers



**Prayers of Sympathy:** For family and friends of Rev. Chris Morton, whose service was held April 3; for family and friends of Rev. Janet Long, who worked with our church last year through Generosity Plus; for the Kregel family on the loss of their pet Cami.

**Prayers for family members:** Jim Lee's sister Becky as she recovers; Deb Murphy's relative Karen.

**Prayers for friends:** Joy, friend of Elaine Tucker; Amanda and her son, friend of Valerie Westphal.

**Prayers for Community:** Our Muslim siblings as they continue to journey through Ramadan; our transgender siblings, in celebration of annual March 31 Day of Visibility.

**Prayers for the World:** Our siblings in Palestine, Israel, Ukraine, Haiti, Sudan and Democratic Republic of Congo, where wars and unrest continue.

*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 Laurie*



## Vitality and energy emerge in Lent

Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed! It was glorious on Sunday to hear our voices joined together onsite and online proclaiming that Christ is Risen! We are a church that does proclaim life in the midst of death. That message is needed in our world today and I am so grateful for the members and friends of FCC who continue to offer a message of life, love, inclusion, justice, grace and mercy.

A special "Thank You!" to all that made Lent, Holy Week and Easter Sunday so special:

Caroline, Tim, Deanna, Jon, Tyler and the Choir; Mike C., Mark and Melinda; Pastor Dan; Deb and Anna; Worship Leaders, Elders and Deacons; those who subbed for Deb for Children's Moments; our Readers on Maundy Thursday; our special music guests on Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday; and our Office Administrator, Wendy, for putting up with extra worship scripts, a mailing to members and friends, last minute changes and making it through her first Lent/Easter Sunday with us!

As we journey through the Easter season to Pentecost we have several special Sundays coming up. This Sunday, April 7, Lyndale UCC has invited Salem and FCC to worship with them. They have a guest choir, 29:11, from South Africa and we will join together as SpringHouse for a worship of celebration and music. On April 14, members who are developing our Narrative Budget for our upcoming Stewardship Invitation will lead our worship. They will be weaving the results from the Congregational Survey throughout the service to share with us what the congregation says is important to us as a church.

On April 28, we will gather before worship with all of SpringHouse to celebrate baptisms. We have young people who are in Pastor's Class and I am thrilled that we will have baptisms! It has been a long time since we have had children old enough for a Pastor's Class and it's been a long time since we had baptisms. There are many at SpringHouse who have never witnessed baptism by immersion so the other two churches are just as excited as we are that the baptistry will be used.

As I look back over Lent, I am overwhelmed and thankful for the vitality and the energy in the church that has emerged. We have visitors who want to learn more about our church with the hope of becoming members. We have had pastors from other States contact Pastor Dan and me to introduce us to their members who are moving to Minneapolis in the hopes they find a home with FCC. Have I mentioned we have baptisms happening in April? Hallelujah!! We have life and we have life in abundance! Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed!

Much love and peace, Pastor Laurie

## Special Sundays coming in April

**April 7 – Joint worship with Lyndale and Salem** as the South African choral group “29:11” leads worship. Currently on tour in the U.S, 29:11 is dedicated to bringing hope and reconciliation through music and cross-cultural collaborations. The group represents 9 tribes and 11 languages, and has performed with the Minnesota Orchestra.

### AFRICAN DRUM



**2024  
USA  
TOUR**  
JANUARY-MAY

5TH STUDIO ALBUM  
COMING SOON!  
VISIT OUR WEBSITE  
2911INTL.ORG

**April 14** – This is Laity Sunday, led by the current Stewardship team. Arlene Jorgenson Hillstead, Tammy Rottschafer, Jen Krengel and Pat Dunlop will deliver a panel-style sermon, highlighting the values of FCC as gleaned from the recent congregational survey and small group discussions.

**April 28** – Three young people who have been in Pastor Class during Lent will be baptized right before the Sunday worship begins. The baptism candidates are Kaden Hesser, Adalynn Krengel and Lucas Rennert. Elders who are mentoring these young people are Jay Hillstead, Tammy Rottschafer and David Cobb. All of the SpringHouse congregations will gather in the Gathering Space to witness and celebrate this special immersion baptism, the first in several years for FCC.

## FCC hosting Grief Group May through August



Beginning May 4, 2024, FCC will host the Downtown Coalition for Grief Support groups in the lower level of SpringHouse each Saturday for four months. Volunteers are needed to set up at 9 am on Saturday mornings by helping with refreshments (or donating for weekly treats), displaying library resource books, and helping with registration and greeting.

The participants gather at 10 am to hear a speaker, and then break into discussion groups for family loss, spouse loss and child loss after the speaker’s talk.

Please contact Ann Wolverton (651-276-9855) if you can help or need more information.

## FCC Board Notes

Sixteen members and staff attended the March 19 meeting of FCC’s General Board. Highlights of the meeting were the following:

- Co-Chair Margaret Hutchens opened the meeting with a reflection called “In the Beginning.”
- The board voted unanimously to pass a motion brought last month by the Trustees regarding a loan payment plan.
- Three elders will serve as mentors for the three young people in the Pastor’s Class who have indicated a desire for baptism.
- The Mission & Outreach team is organizing a sandwich-making session following worship on April 7.
- Mike Cackoski, chair of Finance Committee, presented a simplified budget report which the board said was easier to understand. Mike and Treasurer Pat Dunlap will continue to fine-tune the form.
- The Stewardship Committee is working on developing a Narrative Budget and on leading a Laity Sunday worship on April 14.
- Co-chair Margaret Hutchens spoke about how churches are faring after the pandemic.

## FCC Calendar for April 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

### REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Thur., Apr. 4	12 pm - Mission & Outreach Committee
Sun., Apr. 7	10:30 am, Joint Worship in South Sanctuary Sandwich making following worship
Mon., Apr. 8	5 pm - SpringHouse Building Committee 7 pm - SpringHouse Finance Committee
Wed., Apr. 10	12:30 pm - FCC Finance Committee
Thur., Apr. 11	7 pm - Pastor Laurie PRC
Sun, Apr. 14	Laity Sunday
Mon, Apr. 15	7 pm - FCC Book Group
Tues, Apr. 16	7 pm - FCC General Board
Sat., Apr. 20	10 am - Trustees Meeting
Tues., Apr. 23	7 pm – Worship committee
Sun., April 28	10:15 am - BAPTISM

*Note: Worship services are hybrid (Live and Streamed); most meetings*

## Choir loses Deanna



Deanna Davis, our longtime soprano section leader, had her last Sunday

with FCC on Easter.

She is looking forward to spending more time with Aaron, son of Deanna and tenor section leader Jon Sill. We have been so blessed these past years with her voice and her love for our congregation.

## Rev. Chris Morton remembered

Rev. Chris Morton, Disciples Regional Pastor for Nebraska, passed away unexpectedly on March 18. His service was held April 3 at the Bethany Christian Church, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Chris and his family were members of FCC Minneapolis from 1996 to 2009. He came to Minneapolis in 1995 to take a new job as Director of Minnesota FoodShare. His wife Kathy Hintz and their children Luc and Amy Morton, joined him in 1996, moving into their new house during a fierce Minnesota ice storm!

Chris served as a consultant for the FCC Transition Team, meeting with officials of MIA to iron out details of the sale of the 2201 building.

The family moved to the state of Washington in 2009, when Chris became executive director of the Associated Ministries of Pierce County.

## Registration Links for Day Camp

The South Minneapolis "Building Beloved Community" Day Camp is open for registration for K-8 participants, high school youth leaders and adult volunteers. Day Camp is at a new location, Diamond Lake Lutheran Church, and runs from August 19 – 23, 9 am to 4 pm.

Links to register are here:

K-8<sup>th</sup> grade kids: <https://tinyurl.com/342st2uy>

9-12 grade youth leaders: <https://tinyurl.com/46jyysky>

Adult Volunteers: <https://tinyurl.com/4yk9sjvh>

*Click the link or copy to your computer browser.*

## SpringHouse News

### Call for SpringHouse Art



We are looking to liven up our office space with art from our community! If you create any kind of wall-mounted work that could fit in our office, this call is for you! [Submit an application online](#) or pick up a printed form at SpringHouse. The deadline for

submissions is **Sunday, April 21 at 11:59**

**PM.** Please reach out to Allison Jones, Building Coordinator, at [SHCoordinator@fccmpls.org](mailto:SHCoordinator@fccmpls.org) with any questions.

### Salem launches celebration

Salem English Lutheran Church, our sister congregation here at SpringHouse, has launched a storytelling and fundraising campaign event in celebration of Rev. Roger Livdahl's six decades of ministry and the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ELCA World Hunger and its predecessor organizations.



The campaign began on Easter Sunday, and continues for seven weeks. Event features include remembrances from Roger's 65 years of servant leadership, including his ministry with ELCA World Hunger, and also fundraising with a goal of donating \$5,000 to ELCA World Hunger in honor of Rev. Livdahl.

Our community is pleased to be able to honor our longtime member and friend Roger Livdahl through this special event. For more information go to this link:

<http://support.elca.org/goto/Roger>

### SH Green team outings

1. The Green Team will host a birding outing at the Coldwater Spring area (close to Veterans home area) on May 12, 8:30-9:45 am. This is an area with rich indigenous importance. We will start with a brief history of this area, before searching for birds.

2. Wakan Tipi in St. Paul is another Dakota sacred area that is in need of restoration. We have volunteered on Tuesday nights for the last 2 years. This year we are considering adding a Saturday opportunity if the Youth (14yr+) would be interested. There are no firm dates yet, but it would be June, July, August or October. The work is not necessarily easy--pulling weeds, cutting sticky plants and risking ticks & chiggers. But the area will become a beautiful prairie filled with native plants when the work is done. There is usually a fun information activity before the work starts.

3. For pure fun, we are organizing a kayaking/canoeing day on the Mississippi River June 29 from 9-Noon. Rentals should be available or bring your own. The rentals hold 2 people. Car rides will be arranged to retrieve cars after all is done. The park we will end in has a Nature Center and a picnic area.

Hopefully, this information can be made available in newsletters of the various congregations. The more, the merrier.

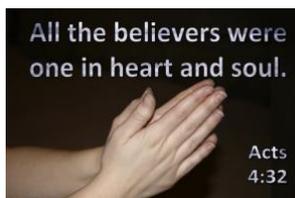
Melia Derrick 952 220 3081

## 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 First Christian Communities Acts 4: 32-35



### Reflections on the Word.

*Acts 4: 32a: Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul.*

“One heart and one soul” recalls the Old Testament charge to Israel: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.” The author of Acts portrays the early Christians as not only devoted to one another but wholly devoted to God. We need to cling to this vision of how intentional a caring community should be.

*God, remind us how much intention it takes to care for others in our lives and in our communities. Amen.*

Theodore Heibert in *Disciplines* 2024.

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

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
OF MINNEAPOLIS  
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)  
610 W. 28<sup>th</sup> Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55408**

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

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**Next issue deadline is Sunday, April 28**