

The Courier

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis



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UPCOMING Events

*Women's Fellowship,
Monday, May 6, 7 pm*

*FCC Board Meeting,
Tuesday, May 21,
7 pm*

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

A Cinco De Mayo party for fun and service

A party plus an outreach project are coming up this Saturday, May 4, a time to gather in person to celebrate Cinco De Mayo and to assemble hygiene kits that bring comfort to families around the world.



The morning begins with coffee hour from 9 to 10 am (coffee hour also online) featuring pastries from a Mexican bakery. From 10 am to noon, we'll put together hygiene kits for Church World Service, and also have a piñata for the kids as well as a craft activity.



The hygiene kits contain soap, toothpaste and toothbrush, fingernail clippers and other personal care items. Tens of thousands of these kits are shipped around the world each year.

All are welcome to this fun and spirit-filled morning. Te veo alli! (See you there!)

Grief Groups at SH, Saturdays May – August

FCC will be the host church for in-person Grief Groups on Saturdays from May 4 through August 31. FCC volunteers are needed each Saturday morning during our hosting rotation to set up at 9 am, help with refreshments, display library resource books, and help with the check in/registration.

Eight churches from the Downtown Coalition of Churches rotate hosting these groups. FCC last hosted in 2022.

Each session starts with a guest speaker on such topics as “The Transformational Nature of Grief” and “Grief Demystified.” Following the speaker, small groups gather for an hour to share their experiences. The groups are for spouse or partner loss, family or friend loss, and child loss. Some participants come once or twice, while others have been coming for weeks or months.

These sessions are free and open to the public, regardless of religious affiliation. The meetings provide a safe, understanding environment for grief education, comfort and recovery. Please call Ann Wolverton (651-646-1106) if you are able to help one time, every month or more often.

In Our Prayers



Prayers of Celebration: For the April 28 baptisms of young people in our church family: Lucas Rennert, Addie Krengel and Kaden Hesser; for Mitch Grauberger's eight years of access to gender-affirming medical care.

Prayers for healing: For Bonnie Ford's sister-in-law Lori and Bonnie's brother Terry; for Dee Ward recovering from valve replacement surgery; for Gomer Pound; for Laurie and Bryan Feille's grandson Towns.

Prayers for friends: Sam Orbovitch of Lyndale and John Sees, a friend of Dan's, who both survived car fires recently.

Prayers for Community: People and communities affected by recent tornadoes in Nebraska, Iowa, Oklahoma and Missouri; for those involved in unrest on college campuses, that peaceful protests will not be disrupted by violence or antisemitism

Prayers for the World: For the release of hostages in Gaza and for war in Ukraine, Palestine, and other places in the world to end.

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



Thinking about things. . .

I'm thinking about the fact that next month (June) is Pride month, which is a big time for us as a church. We have booths at both Youth Pride (June 1) at Como Park Pavilions, and at Twin Cities Pride in Loring Park (June 29 & 30). I'm excited because I'm in the process of making our marketing materials for both events match the information that the Stewardship Committee presented in April.

As we bring a message of Christ's radical inclusive love to the world:

- *We Respect and Receive*
- *We Reflect and Resonate*
- *We Revere and Rejoice*
- *We Reach Out and Raise Awareness*
- *We Revel and Reinvent*

I'm thinking about how excited I am to share who we are as First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Minneapolis in a fresh and invitational way to our LGBTQ+ siblings.

I'm thinking about the first Pride festival I attended and the first Pride parade I ever marched in, which was 38 years ago in Seattle. and how I think there was *maybe* one church there. In that era, churches weren't exactly embracing Pride festivals, or the LGBTQ community. A few here and there did. We've come a long, long way since those days.

I'm thinking about how people over the years have come to FCC because we are open and affirming.

I'm thinking about how excited I still get when another Disciples church joins the open & affirming family. As I write this article Sunday night, I'm rejoicing in the news that earlier today, New Covenant Christian Church in Oklahoma City voted unanimously to establish themselves as an Open & Affirming congregation, and First Christian Church of Puyallup (WA) had a celebration service to celebrate their Open & Affirming vote a while back.

I'm thinking about how, for many of our siblings in the queer community in 2024, church is still not a safe space for them, and how much that saddens me.

I'm thinking about that in 2024, so many politicians, state legislatures, and pundits here in the United States and in other countries around the world felt the best thing they could do was to pass laws that hurt the LGBTQ+ community, that took away their rights, that instilled fear and legislated away their humanity.

I'm thinking about, as Pride season approaches, how grateful I am to serve a faith community that loves me and the rest of my queer siblings as our rainbow colored, glitter filled selves, and does so without any hesitation. I'm thinking about how important our *bringing a message of Christ's radical inclusive love to the world* is still so needed and wanted in 2024.

Joyful morning witnessing Baptisms at FCC

Three young people from our congregation were baptized on Sunday, April 28: Lucas Rennert, Adelaide Kregel and Kaden Hesser. All three come from families with a long history at FCC and in the Disciples denomination.

Members from all three SpringHouse congregations, Lyndale Church of Christ, Salem Lutheran, and FCC, were in the Gathering Space on Sunday morning to witness this sacred and joyful event. Pastor Laurie Pound Feille performed the baptisms.

At the close of the worship service that followed the baptism ceremony, Lucas, Addie and Kaden were showered with gifts from their mentor elders (Jay Hillestad, David Cobb and Tammy Rottschaefer); Deb Murphy, director of spiritual formation for children; Pastor Laurie; and member Bobbi Hall.



Pastor Laurie presents Baptism Certificates



FCC Board Notes

Nineteen members and staff attended the April 16 meeting of FCC’s General Board. Highlights of the meeting were the following:

- Board members shared their responses to the April 14 Laity Sunday presentation about the recent congregational survey and small groups.
- A motion brought by the Finance Committee to name Andy Rennert as assistant treasurer and have him added with signature authority on the checking account passed unanimously.
- Karen Kandik reported that 199 sandwiches were delivered to Groveland Foodshelf. The Mission and Outreach committee is hosting a Cinco De Mayo celebration on May 4; hygiene kits for Church World Service will be put together at the party.
- Martha Harris reported that at the February SpringHouse Board meeting, Treasurer Andy Rennert said that it looks now like the year’s income will cover the capital contributions expense of the congregations.
- Treasurer Pat Dunlop and Finance Chair Mike Cackoski commented on the current budget figures. FCC gave \$1,155 to Groveland Foodshelf through the March Foodshare campaign. March income was \$9,181. Year-to-date income was \$55,227.

FCC Calendar for May 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., May 1	7 pm	Elders meeting
Thur., May 2	12 pm	Mission & Outreach Committee
Sat., May 4	9 am - Noon	Cinco de Mayo gathering
Mon., May 6	7 pm	Women's Fellowship
Mon., May 13	5 pm	SpringHouse Building Committee
	7 pm	SpringHouse Finance Committee
Wed., May 15	12:30	FCC Finance Committee
Thurs, May 16	7 pm	Pastor Dan PRC
Mon, May 20	7 pm	FCC Book Group
Tues, May 21	7 pm	FCC General Board
Tues., May 28	7 pm	Worship committee

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



As part of our new worship series, there is a whiteboard next to the communion table. Each week, Pastor Laurie will place a question on the board for us to reflect on, and as you come up for communion, or after communion, or at the end of the service, you are invited to share your thoughts. If you are online, you can place your thoughts in chat and we'll make sure they get up on the board.

A thank you to FCC

The Rottschaefers family would like to thank all those who prayed for us and for Rose Rottschaefers during her illness and death. It was very comforting during this difficult time.

Paul and Tammy Rottschaefers

Coffee Hour Needs



Sunday Coffee Hour is an important time for us to connect, support and enjoy each other's company. We share the Coffee Hour ministry with members of Lyndale United Church of Christ.

You can help in these ways:

- Bring snacks to share
- Make coffee before worship
- Help clean up and wash dishes after the gathering.

Please let Steve Rusinak know when you can help! You can use the sign-up sheet posted on the kitchen refrigerator or contact Steve at srusinak@comcast.net.

Thank you for helping create a welcoming environment for all of us at SpringHouse.

SpringHouse News

Plant Exchange May 5

The SpringHouse Green Team is planning a fun gardening event on Sunday, May 5, 9:30 am to noon. Now is the time to divide some of your perennials to keep them healthy and blooming the best. Bring any plants you no longer want to SpringHouse and they will be given away. Among the plants donated for this exchange you might find a few to take home and add to your garden.

So far we have tall Siberian iris, wild ginger, perennial geranium and hostas. We also have garlic chives and oregano. What plants can you donate to this plant exchange?

Plants go quickly. So – come early for the best choices. Last year we met many Whittier neighbors who walked by SpringHouse that morning and were happy to receive plants for their home gardens. It was an opportunity to do outreach in the neighborhood. Won't you join us.

Gardeners needed at SH

SpringHouse is sending out the call for volunteers who like to garden. There are TWO tasks which need our attention.

First, the indoor plants have been lovingly cared for by First Christian folks for 10+ years, but due to "retirement" we are seeking others that are willing to care for these plants. A group of folks, including FCC office administrator Wendy Eidukas, are planning which plants to keep, which plants to give away, and which to discard. Some will need to be repotted. Some will need to be fertilized regularly. Would you like to contribute your ideas and opinions to this group?

Second, the outside gardens at SpringHouse have been maintained by members of the Landscape Committee and the Green Team. We would welcome more gardeners to help with this task. Generally, we meet twice a month on a Saturday morning for a couple of hours.

Please contact Mary Vanderford, mandmvanderford@gmail.com, or Wendy, wendye@fccmpls.org if you would consider helping out with either of these two tasks.

Outdoor Outings for all

1. The Green Team will host a birding outing at the Coldwater Spring area (close to Veterans home area, 5601 Minnehaha Park Dr S) 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.

Please join us! 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

Children's Table Activities in person during worship: **Join us!**
Children's Activities are also available online at www.fccmpls.org

Revised Common Lectionary Sixth Sunday of Easter John 15: 9-17



20th century wood carving,
Paszym, Poland

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

Reflections on the Word.

John 15: 12 – “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”.

From a time beyond beginnings
when all worlds were yet unformed
through the first of first creation
when our atoms swirled and swarmed,
through the cooling of the planets
long before a heart was warmed –
We are loved. Ah, we are loved.

From today's unfolding moments
rounding from the recent night,
through the sum of all tomorrows
rising dim or breaking bright,
to the point where every ending
gathers into endless light –
We are loved. Ah, we are loved.

Michael Hudson in *Songs for the Cycle*, Church Publishing, 2004.

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

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