

The Courier

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis



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UPCOMING Events

Women's Fellowship,
Monday, Aug. 5, 7 pm

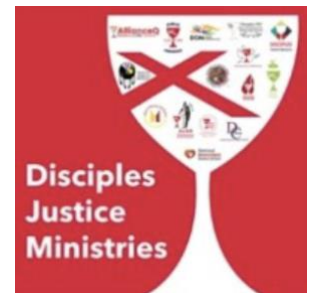
Elders meeting,
Wednesday, Aug. 7, 7 pm

SpringHouse Joint
Worship in the Park,
Sunday, Aug. 18, 10:30
am

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

60 Days of Prayer for Civil Rights from DJM

The Civil Rights Act, signed into law on July 2, 1964, by President Lyndon Johnson, prohibited discrimination in public places, provided for the integration of schools and other public facilities, and made employment discrimination illegal. The Disciples Justice Ministries is commemorating the 60th Anniversary of this important event with 60 Days of Prayer for Civil Rights and Civic Engagement. Each Sunday in July and August, FCC's worship service includes video prayers from DJM ministry partners inviting us to continue the hard work of standing up for civil rights, advocating for justice, and proclaiming the Good News of God's love for all people. Pastor Laurie Feille, a member of the DJM team, offered one of these prayers, shown to Disciple congregations across the country.



FCC members help with LGBTQ+ Youth retreat



FCC Board Co-Chair Margaret Hutchens and Soo-Kyung Rennert are part of a multi-regional Disciple team organizing a

Labor Day weekend retreat in St. Louis for LGBTQ+ youth grades 8-12. The retreat will be from Friday, August 30 to Monday, September 2.

The retreat is meant to be a time for new friendships, sharing of experience, and attending to one's spiritual connection. Retreaters will hear from keynote speaker Soo-Kyung Rennert, share in worship and workshops, and have time to explore some sites of St. Louis. Rev. Hutchens announced recently that the organizers received a grant to cover registration for anyone who wants to participate.

According to Rev. Hutchens, the retreat "was inspired by a clergy parent trying to figure out how to parent a trans child in a denomination that doesn't exactly welcome LGBTQ+ folk. I couldn't pass up the opportunity to work across regional lines to create a retreat that could begin meeting these needs."

This retreat is presented by Walter Scott Camp & Learning Center, a ministry of the Christian Church in IL & WI, in partnership with the Christian Church in Indiana, the Christian Church Michigan Region, the Christian Church in the Upper Midwest, and the Christian Church in Mid-America. Union Avenue Christian Church in St. Louis is hosting the event.

In Our Prayers



Prayers of concern for several FCC members who recently tested positive for COVID (9 reports in the past three weeks!); for family members of **Jim Lee** who are coping with multiple illnesses and care needs; for **Gomer Pound** recovering from a recent fall; for **Katy McFall and David Cobb**, recently injured in a kayaking accident; for **Mitch Grauberger** who was caught in the recent airport shut-downs.

Prayers for our city, where multiple acts of violence including 3 homicides happened in one weekend, the George Floyd memorial was vandalized, and a purse snatching affected two of our church members.

Prayers of gratitude for neighbors and citizens who step in to help when violence happens.

Prayers for those around the country suffering from devastating wildfires and people around the world suffering from the terrors of war. ‘

Gracious God, we lift up these persons in our prayers, asking the blessing of your Grace and outpouring of your Love upon them. Amen



Views and Viewpoints

By Wendy Manuel

Note: Elder Wendy Manuel's communion reflection on Sunday, July 28, was interrupted by technical difficulties. Here are the thoughts she wanted to share. (See page 4 Reflections on the Word for more about the text she references.)

All of creation is truly an US, a We

When I read the text for today, I had the same reaction as Soo-kyung. I was happy to see the title of Laurie's sermon, instantly hearing her voice saying, "Jesus said what?!?" I knew she would help us wade through these waters. Laurie thank you because our raft is still afloat.

Thinking about wading in waters, (how cool it was that the visio divina was waves upon the sand) I remembered something I learned in seminary. Our Hebrew professor taught us that the Hebrew word for water, *mayim*, is never singular. It is always plural. I remembered a sermon he delivered where he described a single tear, composed mostly of water, is not just a single tear. A single tear is more like an ocean, full of waves of emotions.

Water, *mayim* can never really be divided into a single anything. *Mayim*, for me, is a great teacher. For me it is a reminder that humanity, really all of creation is truly an US, a WE. The great creation is not this or that, man or woman, black or white, gendered or not gendered.

At this table, WE are US, always together. The invitation of Jesus is for ALL to share in one loaf, one cup. This table is always big enough, always for all of us.

FCC Calendar for August 2024

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS

Sundays	10:30 am Worship, Children's Activity Table 9am - 12:30 SH Youth Group Open Hours
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 at SH

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Mon., Aug. 5	7 pm Women's Fellowship
Wed., Aug. 7	7 pm Elders Meeting
Mon., Aug. 12	5 pm - SpringHouse Building Committee 7 pm - SpringHouse Finance Committee
Tues., Aug. 13	7 pm - Pastor Dan's PRC
Thurs., Aug. 15	7 pm - Pastor Laurie's PRC
Sun., Aug. 18	10:30 am. SH Joint Worship at Wabun Picnic area SH Board meeting following worship
Aug. 19-23	Beloved Community Day Camp at Diamond Lake Lutheran Church
Tues., Aug. 20	6 pm FCC Book Group at Amy Dunlop's home

NOTE: No FCC Board or Worship committee meetings this month

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

FCC Board Notes

Seventeen people attended the July 16 meeting of FCC's Church Board. Highlights of the meeting include the following:

- Co-Chair Martha Harris reviewed the current status of FCC's bylaws. A motion was made to continue with the suspension of the bylaws (which started in January 2024), with an end-date of the annual meeting in January 2025, for new bylaws to be voted on. Motion passed unanimously.
- A motion was made for the board to NOT meet in August. Motion passed unanimously.
- Pastor Laurie announced that a speaker from the EveryMeal program will speak at the Joint Worship on August 18.

- Karen Kandik reported that she has completed the biographies of FCC's founders and is hoping to put them in a bound book.

- Treasurer Pat Dunlop went through the figures on the June operating budget. June offering income was a healthy \$17,846, but YTD deficit is -\$42,841.

Reminder: Mission & Outreach campaign

During August, FCC members are encouraged to donate clothing and household items for the Samaritan Ministry at St. Olaf Catholic Church. Items needed are •men's and women's summer clothing, shoes, boots and good walking shoes; •new underwear for men, women and children; •gently used bed sheets and other linens; •cooking utensils, especially pots and pans; and •working small appliances like toasters, coffeemakers or crockpots. Items can be brought to the church through August or ordered online to be delivered to St. Olaf Catholic Church, 215 S 8th Street, Minneapolis.

The Samaritan Ministry provides hospitality, hope and service to those who enter their doors, many of whom are unhoused or who have just recently become housed. Each donation makes a difference to someone who has limited resources. The Mission & Outreach Team thanks you for your generosity!

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

Note on Sunday texts:

Texts for the July-August series "May Voices, One Body" have been submitted by FCC members, some old favorites and some meant to challenge the pastors and the listeners.



Mary Magdalene
image

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

Reflections on the Word.

Gospel of Thomas, saying 114:

[In this verse, Simon wants Mary to leave the group, and Jesus answers him in a surprising way to modern ears.]

Type this link into your browser to see the text:

<https://tinyurl.com/4hnh4dr4>

We invite you to listen to the sermon Pastor Laurie preached, trying to help us find a way to understand this out-of-the-ordinary verse from a gospel only recovered in 1945, a gospel not recognized by early Christians as one to be included in the Bible canon.

fccmpls.org – livestream of July 28 service, starting at 35 minutes in

Loving God, Grant us open and inquiring minds so that we can better understand your will for us in this difficult world. Amen.

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

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Next issue deadline is Sunday, September 1

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