

The Courier

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis



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UPCOMING Events

Women's Fellowship,
Monday, Sept. 9, 7 pm

FCC Board Meeting,
Tues., Sept 17, 7 pm

Congregational Meeting,
Sunday, Sept. 22, following
worship

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

Joint Worship, Sanctuary move Sept. 15

Sunday, September 15, will be a "Rally Sunday" when the official church year launches in a Joint Worship Service with our other SpringHouse partners, Lyndale United Church of Christ and Salem Lutheran. If at all possible, please plan to be at SpringHouse in person for this special celebration of our life together at SpringHouse.



Following worship, we will be switching sanctuaries; First Christian will be moving upstairs into the South Sanctuary. Many hands make light work especially when it comes to moving all of the items we use in our worship services. A light meal will be served as part of this fellowship activity. Mark your calendars and join in the celebration!

Stewardship Series and Invitation starting



FCC's next worship series, with the theme of *All Creatures Great and Small*, will be our Stewardship Invitation series, and will run September 22 – October 20.

The series will begin with the Narrative Budget

presentation by the stewardship working group during the sermon time on Sunday, September 22. Following worship, there will be a congregational meeting to further consider and discuss the financial options contained in the Narrative Budget. A light lunch will be served.

We'll continue the series into October, centering the '5Rs' from the Narrative Budget. We will receive our pledges on October 13, and October 20 will be our Celebration Sunday.

Organized around Psalm 104's celebration of all God's creatures, including humanity, this series will help us explore what "being human" is really all about: creativity, generosity, and joy. At any age and stage of life, when we give and care and love, we become the people God made us to be!

In Our Prayers



Prayers for sympathy: Our deep sympathy goes to Pastor Laurie, her husband Bryan, her brother Jeff and her sister Sherry at the passing of Gomer Pound, Laurie's father. We also pray for Lacey Athey and her family at the death of her grandmother.

Prayers of Joy: For Bobbi Hall on the birth of a new great-granddaughter; for Mary and Michael Vanderford (Lyndale UCC) who recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary; for Lacey Athey's new job; for Nat Rosenberg's honorable mention award for her painting at the Minnesota State Fair

Prayers of Concern: For Karen Kandik as she heals from hip injury; for Lumi, a student of Ali Hesano's, who is undergoing chemotherapy; for former member Margo Richardson whose son Jon was killed in a car accident recently.

Prayers for the World: We pray for people of Israel and Gaza over the recent deaths of six hostages and the continuing deaths of civilians and soldiers in a war that we pray ends soon.

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

Poetry by Mahmoud Darwish



Think of Others

As you prepare your breakfast, think of others
(do not forget the pigeon's food).
As you conduct your wars, think of others
(do not forget those who seek peace).
As you pay your water bill, think of others
(those who are nursed by clouds).
As you return home, to your home, think of others
(do not forget the people of the camps).
As you sleep and count the stars, think of others
(those who have nowhere to sleep).
As you liberate yourself in metaphor, think of others
(those who have lost the right to speak).
As you think of others far away, think of yourself
(say: "If only I were a candle in the dark").

Mahmoud Darwish (1941-2008) was an award-winning Palestinian author and poet. Darwish wrote the Palestinian Declaration of Independence, which was the formal declaration for the creation of a State of Palestine. This poem originally appeared in "Almond Blossoms and Beyond." Translated from the original Arabic by Mohammed Shaheen. © Interlink Books, 2010. It was also published in "Poetry of Presence: An Anthology of Mindfulness Poems," ed. Phyllis Cole-Dai and Ruby Wilson, Grayson Books, 2017.



In Loving Memory: Dr. Gomer Pound, July 4, 1927 - August 29, 2024

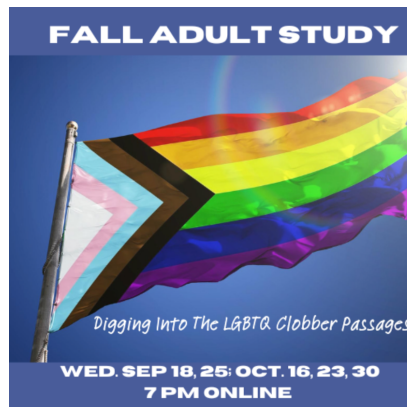
It is with sadness that we share the news that Gomer Pound passed away peacefully in the early morning of August 29, with Pastor Laurie at his bedside. There will be a private family spreading of ashes at a later date in the Gulf of Mexico. Please continue to keep Pastor Laurie & Bryan, Jeff, Sherry, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Thank you to everyone who has reached out by phone, text, Facebook, cards and email to offer condolences at the death of my daddy. We are grateful for the flowers we have received and the food that has been offered to nourish us at this time. Your prayers and presence have meant the world to us. Thank you for being a community that cares for your Pastor and her family. Much love and peace,
Pastor Laurie and Bryan

Dr. Pound's obituary: <https://neptunesociety.com/obituaries/golden-valley-mn/gomer-pound-11970803>

Fall Adult Study on "Clobber Texts"

During one of our summer worship services, Pastor Dan Adolphson preached a powerful sermon on one of the "clobber texts." Pastor Dan will lead a fall adult study called "Digging Into the LGBTQ Clobber Verses." In this study, we will be looking at the 'clobber passages' in the Bible that are used against the LGBTQ+ community. We're going to look at the context of the passage and other cultural influences, pulling from a variety of sources and scholars. We will meet on Wednesday evenings, Sept. 18, 25; Oct. 16, 23, 30 on Zoom at 7 pm. Sign up for this interesting and important study at FCC website, www.fccminneapolis.org.



Grief Support: A thank you from Ann

The Courier received this note of thanks from Ann Wolverton, FCC's Coordinator for Grief Support:

We did it! In January I was overwhelmed by the idea of hosting the groups May through August every Saturday morning. Thanks to the voluntary support of several FCC women, we greeted and registered attendees throughout the Saturdays of this four-month commitment. A special shout-out to Bobbi Hall who provided treats each week. The group moves to Plymouth Congregational beginning in September. We will be asked to host at SpringHouse again in about two years. Thanks again to the volunteers and the church board for supporting this wonderful service.

SpringHouse Board Notes

Thirteen SpringHouse board members and staff attended the August 18 meeting of the SpringHouse board at Minnehaha Falls Park. Items discussed included the following:

- The board discussed the possibility of having non-police security presence on Sunday mornings. Pastor Dan Adolphson said he would check with his contacts at a security firm he has worked with about rates for their services. Pastor Gail Irwin pointed out that Building Engineer Rick Bowman checks around the outside of SHMC each day, and Pastor Laurie Feille shared that staff has indicated they feel safe coming to work at SHMC.

- Emma Jorstad of Salem has drawn up goals for a SpringHouse Marketing Committee, which would involve brainstorming ideas about how SHMC can create more revenue to support our ministries. One or two representatives from each congregation are needed for this work. The group will choose online or in person meetings, whichever would work best, and will start as soon as possible.

- Treasurer Andy Rennert submitted an update on the current budget. The annual capital share contributions from each congregation have been covered. The budget is on track with income year-to-date and expenses are generally in line. We are about \$4K below on the utility budget currently.

FCC Calendar for September 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 Plymouth Congregational

MONTHLY MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Wed., Sept. 4	7 pm - Elders meeting
Thurs, Sept. 5	Noon – Mission and Outreach Mtg
Mon., Sept. 9	7 pm – Women's Fellowship 5 pm - SpringHouse Building Committee 7 pm - SpringHouse Finance Committee
Wed., Sept. 11	12:30 pm - FCC Finance Committee
Sun., Sept. 15	10:30 am Joint Worship Sanctuary Move following Worship
Mon, Sept. 16	7 pm – FCC & Friends Book Group
Tues, Sept. 17	7 pm - FCC General Board
Wed., Sept. 18	7 pm – Adult Bible Study begins
Thurs., Sept. 19	7 pm - Pastor Laurie's PRC
Fri., Sept. 20	4-8 pm – Nat Rosenberg Artist Reception
Sun., Sept. 22	Narrative Budget presentation/luncheon/ discussion
Tues., Sept. 24	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.

Women's Retreat set for Sept. 27-29

The annual Upper Midwest Women's Retreat will again be held at Koronis Ministries Camp and Retreat Center in Paynesville, MN. This year's theme is "Be Humble, Be Kind." The keynote speaker will be Crystal Timberlake. Crystal is an active coach to women who have struggled. She attends Eagle Brook Church in Apple Valley, Minnesota, and is the founder of Boundaries Over Brokenness.

Registration is still open. The link can be found on the FCC website, (www.fccminneapolis.org) under the "Latest News" section.

Every Meal needs volunteers

Many of us heard the excellent speaker from **Every Meal** at Worship in the Park. FCC wants to be involved with the distribution again during the coming school year.

BUT! In order to know how many distribution weeks we can commit to (one or two per month), we need to know how many volunteers we have and an estimate of how often they can distribute food. Some points to remember if you are thinking about volunteering:

- From start to finish, there is a commitment of about 90 minutes. . The amount of time may vary; 90 minutes assumes about 70 children (last year's number).
- The usual distribution days are Fridays but holidays can change the days to Thursdays or very rarely, Wednesdays.
- Three people are needed per distribution. If you do not feel that you can lift a box or a bag, you can be the recorder of bags placed into lockers.
- There are training videos to watch ahead of time and you will always be teamed with experienced people (and YOU may become one of those people!)
- You are not expected to participate in every distribution-unless you want to!

There will be a sign-up sheet on the website as soon as we know how many days we will be able to help with distribution.

Please contact Karen Kandik by Sept. 11 if you want more information or want your name on the volunteer list. Every Meal veterans guarantee that you will feel energized and fulfilled by participating!

News Briefs

Nat R. honored for art

If you've come to worship onsite recently or been on coffee hour, you've had the opportunity to meet Nat Rosenberg. Nat is a painter who lives in the Whittier neighborhood and has been joining our services and activities often.

Nat is pictured with this beautiful painting of Minnehaha Falls that she entered into the Minnesota State Fair AND received an honorable mention in her category (there were 184 entries in the oil/acrylic/mixed media on canvas.) Congratulations Nat!



On September 20 from 4-8 pm, Nat will be hosting "Layers of Legacy," an artist's reception at SpringHouse featuring a collection of Nat's oil paintings representing mindfulness of the beauty that surrounds us. Refreshments will be provided, and entertainment will be by Jo Bolles and Theresa Ronning-Allen. All are welcome to celebrate with Nat!

Women's Fellowship fall dates

FCC's Women's Fellowship meets on Zoom the first Monday of each month. The group is currently reading and discussing the book *Learning to Walk in the Dark* by Barbara Brown Taylor. The fall meeting dates are September 9 (later due to Labor Day), October 7, November 4, and December 2. All members and friends of FCC are welcome to join us. Contact Kathy Hintz for a Zoom link.

FCC and Friends Book Club dates

Here are the meetings and books for the next three months!

September 16, 7 pm ZOOM: Jane Goodall and others: **The Book of Hope: A Survival Guide for Trying Times**. To be fair, there appears to be another Jane Goodall book about hope called *The Reason for Hope: A Spiritual Journey*. And another: *Seeds of Hope: Wisdom and Wonder from the World of Plants*. And a National Geographic special called *The Hope*. So read (or watch) whatever you want about/from Jane Goodall!!! She's really into hope.

October 21, 7 pm ZOOM: Leif Enger, **I Cheerfully Refuse**

November 18, 7 pm ZOOM: Percival Everett, **James**

No book group in December!

Salem friends recognized



Farewell and Godspeed to Diann Uzelac, a member of Salem and a friend to many at SpringHouse. Diann worked with FCC folks on various committees since SH's beginnings. She is moving to

Wisconsin, just a few blocks from where she grew up.

Rev. Jen Nagel, who was Salem's pastor when SpringHouse first started in 2012, will be installed as Bishop of the Minneapolis Synod on September 21. The installation will be at Central Lutheran Church, 333 S. 12th Street, at 10:30 am.



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 For Sunday, Sept. 8 James 1: 17-27



Guarding Words and Actions, by
Stephen Poff

Reflections on the Word.

James 1: 19-20: *You must understand this, my beloved brothers and sisters: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger, for human anger does not produce God's Righteousness.*

Today we will no doubt have the opportunity to be good listeners, and to speak words of affirmation and hope to someone. This could very well be some of the most important work we do today. We never know the difference that it might make in someone's life.

By Andrew Garland Breeden, in
Disciplines, 2024

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

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

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Next issue deadline is Sunday, September 29

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