

The Courier

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis



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UPCOMING Events

Women's Fellowship,
Monday, Oct. 7, 7 pm

FCC Board Meeting,
Tues., Oct. 15, 7 p,

FCC and friends Book Club,
Mon., Oct. 21, 7 pm

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

Serving our neighbors

How to help Groveland Foodshelf



First Christian Church has supported the Groveland Food Shelf for years with donations and volunteers. Lots of changes have occurred in the past few years. They now provide fresh and shelf-stable groceries for 200+ of our church neighbors every weekday! That is twice as many as a few years ago. Guests pick out the food they want, shop without an appointment, and can visit every week if they need to. The food shelf, located in Plymouth Congregational Church, at Nicollet and Groveland in

Minneapolis, operates Monday through Friday 9:30 am to 12 pm. Afternoon/early evening shifts are in the works.

Groveland really needs our help receiving food, stocking shelves, checking guests out, and just being all-around good stewards toward our neighbors. If you can volunteer your time for 2-3 hours weekly or monthly (a regular schedule is preferred but not required), Groveland would love your support. More information can be found on the website <https://www.grovelandfoodshelf.org/volunteer>. You can also talk to [Bryan Feille](#) or [Bobbie Hall](#) (they represent us on the Groveland Board), or [Pastor Laurie](#). Thank you for your help!

EveryMeal volunteers welcome

Every Meal is a program that distributes weekend meals to school children throughout Minnesota. First Christian is responsible for helping with the distribution at Whittier

School, 315 W. 26th Street, Minneapolis. Distribution time is 10 am. Dates are now open for the entire school year. [Click here to sign up!](#)

Stewardship Invitation underway

Stewardship Letter coming soon

October 13: Pledge Sunday

October 20: Celebration Sunday!

See Pastor Laurie's letter on page 2 for more about Stewardship at FCC

In Our Prayers



Prayers of Joy: We celebrate the recent 50th wedding anniversary of Paul and Tammy Rottschaefer, and the recent installation of Bishop Jen Nagel as Bishop of the Minneapolis Area Synod for the Evangelical Church in America.

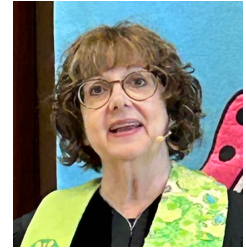
Prayers of Concern: For Nat's recent health concerns; for Robin Hesser's co-worker and friend whose son was in a serious accident, and for a friend of Jess Armstrong's, also in a serious car accident; for Skip Wolverton's sister Pat McDonald, recently injured in a fall; for Pastor Rebecca Voelkel's mother Marguerite.

Prayers after Hurricane Helene: For the families of the 60 lives lost, the 3 million people from Florida to Indiana without power, and the Disciple's camp and conference center Christmount.

Prayers for the Middle East, as the situation continues to escalate, threatening to bring Lebanon into full-scale 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

A Message from Pastor Laurie



An exciting time to dream!

I keep trying to find the right words to offer thanksgiving and gratitude to our Narrative Budget Team. They gave the church a gift by creating and presenting to us a narrative budget. The only words I have are "Thank you!" and "Thanks be to God!" This team has worked for months and months to help us better understand our budget and what we as the congregation say are our priorities for the monies we have. They built upon the good work of the Congregational Survey team. They discovered that what the congregation says are priorities and values matched with our budget. That is wonderful! They then went to work to help us understand what those priorities look like in percentage of our budget and how those priorities are carried out in the life of the church. They created a narrative budget with a lot of prayer, humor, input from the congregation and creativity. Thank you, thank you, thank you to Arlene, Jen, Margaret, Tammy and Pat!

With a Narrative Budget we are now better able to talk and dream about how we use the gifts we have been given. Pat led an excellent discussion after worship on September 22 about all of our funds and what restrictions are tied or not tied to each fund. She shared what our budget could look like if we made no changes in our budget over the next year or two or if we became creative with the funds we have. She also shared that while we always welcome having new members and increases in giving, that alone will not make the changes to our budget that we need to continue the ministries that the congregation has said are important.

Here comes the fun part! We have the opportunity to get creative and in some ways rewrite how we use the gifts that we have received and will receive. The world in 2024 is different than the world in 1950 and it is an exciting time to dream and let the creativity of the congregation shine through!

Our Stewardship Invitation theme this year is "All Creatures Great and Small" and Psalm 104 is the scripture basis for the theme. Our Co-Board Chairs are sending a letter this week to the congregation inviting us to give and to be creative. Along with the letter is a pledge card, a time and talent card and a giving chart for reference. On October 13, we will offer our gifts of time, talent and money in response to all that God has created and continues to create in this world. We also give in the hopes of continuing the ministries of this church so that we might be a glimpse of God's love to a world that needs to know God's love is for all.

On October 20, we will gather for a worship of celebration of all of the gifts we have received. Stewardship time is not a time that pastors look forward to as usually there is talk of shortages and cuts ahead. This year I am very excited because while we have been honest about our budget our Narrative Budget Team has shown us that there is hope and joy ahead if we will be creative. As the writer of Psalm 104 says: Praise be to God!

Much love and peace, Pastor Laurie

Meet new section leader Katie McGannon



Katie McGannon, our new alto section leader, sang her first official Sunday with us on September 29. Katie also just started a new job this fall with the Minneapolis Public Schools as the music teacher at Folwell Elementary School.

Katie graduated from Butler University in Indiana in 2020, majoring in music education. She grew up in New Prague, Minnesota, and currently is living in Maplewood. Her parents also live in the Minneapolis area. She is no stranger to church choirs: she sang in her church's Children's Choir when she was in kindergarten! Katie also plays the clarinet. Be sure to introduce yourself to Katie and welcome her to First Christian.

Chelsea Boynton starts FCC internship

Chelsea Boynton has been the SpringHouse Youth Minister for many months, but on Sunday, September 29, she began an internship with FCC as part of her credit requirements at Luther Seminary.

Chelsea will take on multiple tasks such as preaching, serving at the table, doing the children's moment, and other roles in the worship service. Multigenerational worship also a focus for her. She's also helping teach a Preaching Class at Luther Seminary. Welcome to First Christian, Chelsea!



Chelsea and Kaden during Children's Moment

Hurricane help through Week of Compassion

Hurricane Helene made landfall Thursday September 26 on the Florida Gulf Coast with massive 140 mph winds and 20 ft storm surges. Impact has been widespread and damage assessments are ongoing across the southeast U.S.

Week of Compassion, the worldwide outreach program of the Disciples of Christ, is in contact with Regional and ecumenical leaders, supporting immediate responses and already strategizing what will surely be a long-term recovery.

Gifts to Week of Compassion (WeekOfCompassion.org/give) designated "Hurricane 2024" will be directed to this ongoing response. There is also an urgent need for volunteers who can staff help lines. Simple training is provided, phone and computer with internet are required. Email volunteer@weekofcompassion.org.

First Christian Board Notes

Seventeen board members and staff attended the September 17 meeting of FCC's general board via Zoom. Items discussed included the following:

- Co-Chair Martha Harris led a discussion about the process of revising the church's bylaws, last revised in 1997. Martha brought a motion to drop the section on having a standing Evangelism committee, and the motion passed unanimously. The board also discussed the possibility of having a Cabinet, but tabled this discussion for another meeting.
- Treasurer Pat Dunlop reviewed the budget summary sheet for August. Pledge receipts for the month came to \$17,519. The general fund balance for the month was -\$4,139. She explained that the church borrows against its own dedicated funds to pay expenses, with the aim of finding a way to reimburse these funds at the end of the year.
- The SpringHouse board met August 18. A new Marketing Task force for SpringHouse is being started, and two members from each congregation are needed. Pastor Laurie reported that Nat Rosenberg and Lacey Athey have volunteered to be on this committee.
- Pastor Laurie expressed thanks to everyone who provided food, flowers and comfort during the days following her father's passing.

FCC Calendar for October 2024

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS

Sundays	9 am Choir Rehearsal
	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., Oct. 2	7 pm - Elders meeting
Thurs, Oct. 3	Noon – Mission and Outreach meeting
Mon., Oct. 7	7 pm – Women's Fellowship
Wed., Oct. 9	12:30 pm - FCC Finance Committee
Thurs, Oct. 10	7 pm – Pastor Laurie PRC
Mon, Oct. 14	5 pm - SpringHouse Building Committee
	7 pm - SpringHouse Finance Committee
Tues, Oct. 15	7 pm - FCC General Board
Wed., Oct. 16	7 pm – “Clobber Texts” Bible Study
Mon. Oct. 21	7 pm – FCC and Friends Book Club
Tues., Oct. 22	7 pm - Worship Committee
Wed. Oct. 23	7 pm – “Clobber Texts” Bible Study
Wed. Oct. 30	7 pm – “Clobber Texts” Bible Study

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

Donations delivered

Bags and boxes of household items collected this summer were delivered by Mission and Outreach member Bonnie Ford to Samaritan Ministry at St. Olaf Catholic Church recently. Bonnie said our donations filled their Big Bin! Thanks to everyone who supported this summer Mission & Outreach project.



Did you know that over 20 clergy are members of First Christian Church? We'll recognize all of our pastors and clergy on October 6. Be sure to thank them and celebrate them all!

News Briefs

Reconciliation Offering Oct. 6

The Reconciliation Ministry Special Offering is received each year in congregations on the last Sunday in September and the first Sunday in October (in solidarity with World Communion Sunday). Funds generated by this special emphasis are used throughout the year to provide grants to ministries and congregations actively developing and implementing programs that promote our Church's Pro-Reconciliation and Anti-Racist identity.



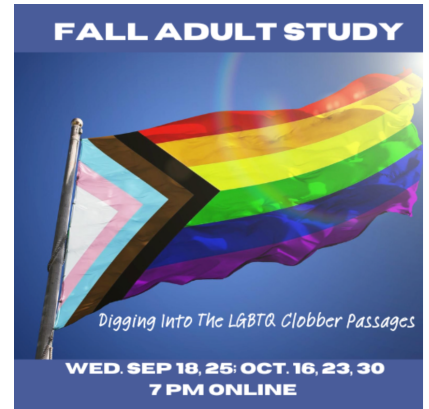
Celebrations for Bishop Jen Nagel



Rev. Jen Nagel was Salem's pastor when Salem, Lyndale United Church of Christ and First Christian first came together more than 10 years ago to form SpringHouse. What a joy to celebrate her recent installation as Bishop of the Minneapolis Synod!

"Clobber Texts" study continues

Pastor Dan Adolphson is leading a Wednesday night Bible study looking at the 'clobber passages' in the Bible that are used against the LGBTQ+ community. The



group started in September, and continues Oct 16, 23 and 30 at 7 pm on Zoom. Over 15 people participated in September, including several of our members who live in other parts of Minnesota and the U.S. You can still join in! Look for links in the eblasts or contact Pastor Dan for the link.

Bylaws revision underway

The Bylaws of First Christian Church were last amended and approved in 1997. A lot has happened since then, including the move to the SpringHouse in partnership with two other churches. FCC's board voted to last February to set aside the bylaws in order to have time to revise and bring them up to date with current policies and practices. The various standing committees and groups are now in the process of examining their sections of bylaws to make revisions, and others on the board are combing through the bylaws document to reflect the current life and operations of the church. The goal is to bring the revisions to the congregation at the annual meeting in January, 2025.

Fall Women's Retreat

Twelve FCC women spent the weekend of September 27-28 at the annual Upper Midwest Women's Retreat. Their smiles tell the story!



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

Stewardship Invitation Text Psalm 104



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

Reflections on the Word.

Psalm 104: 24: *Oh Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.*

God provides food and shelter for every creature. Not only does God provide the basic sustenance, but also provides wine to “gladden the human heart.” It is not an accident that Jesus’ first sign takes place at a Wedding party and involves an abundance of wine. God creates this universe to be enjoyed. Let the love of God overflow today, and help someone else taste the nectar of God’s love through the way you pour it out into their life.

By Steve Thomason, *A Cartoonist’s Take on the Bible*, January, 2018

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

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Next issue deadline is Sunday, November 3, 2024

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