

The Courier

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis



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UPCOMING Events

Leadership Cabinet
meeting,
Tuesday, Feb. 18,
7 pm on Zoom

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

Mission & Outreach: How we help others

By Karen Kandik

Thanks to everyone who contributed winter wear to People Serving People; they were MOST happy to receive it. I delivered the items on a very cold day and was told that they would be put to use immediately!

Thanks also for your donations to the Minnesota Council of Churches for refugee families coming to Minnesota. Lots of kitchen equipment, etc., was received. Your monetary donations were used to order additional items through the MN Council's online Amazon list.

While we will never meet the people who received the items that were donated, please imagine the joy on someone's face to receive a warm coat or boots or hat on our freezing cold days or pots and pans and silverware to start their new life as a refugee in Minnesota. Love in action!



Upcoming Events!

February 16 and 23: Week of Compassion special offerings. Week of Compassion is the relief, refugee and development mission fund of the Disciples of Christ. It works with partners throughout the world to relief suffering. Currently they are operating in California with wildfire relief, Missouri with winter storm relief, Puerto Rico with hurricane recovery, Kentucky with Disaster Site Leadership Training and other places around the globe.

While Week of Compassion offerings can be made at any time during the year, two Sundays in February are set aside to highlight offerings made on those dates. You can contribute through an envelope on Givelify or by check or cash in the offering plate or a check mailed to the church.

February 23: After church Soo-Kyung Rennert will be doing a training on trauma. There will be food involved, also! Donations for her presentation and food will go to Week of Compassion. Watch for more information to follow.

March is Food Share Month. We plan to make sandwiches for Groveland Food Shelf after church on **March 23** so mark your calendars!

March and April: We will be focusing on food donations for both of those months.

In Our Prayers



Prayers of Sympathy for **Theresa Borchardt's** friend **Chris**; for **Val Dunham** and family on the death of **Val's brother-in-law Jack**; for the **Tucker family** on the death of their friend **Emily** and the serious injury of their friend **Amber**.

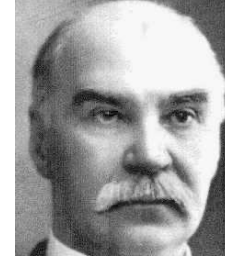
Prayers of Concern for **Jimmy Burnett's** job issues; for **Elaine Tucker's** friend **Tia**; for **Henri Smith's** great-niece **Kora**

Prayers the families and communities suffering losses from the plane and helicopter crash in DC and the medivac plane crash in Philadelphia; for federal workforce employees dealing with job threats and for immigrant families threatened by deportation orders.

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

Happy 148th Anniversary to First Christian Church

NOTE: Karen Kandik has been researching and writing about First Christian's history for several years. She shares this reflection on words by one of the church founders.



Words written in 1898 by A.T. Ankeny (picture above), one of the founders of our church, as he reflected on our church's beginnings on February 14, 1877:

What was the purpose? Was it to merely establish another Church of another name or denomination? Nothing could be further from their (the founders') thoughts. Was it to merely get what is called "a church home"? There were a score or more of such which offered more comforts. It was a deep and abiding conviction that a church should be here established after the original pattern set by the apostles and hearing only the name of the Master and governed only by His laws. A church which deplored invitations or strife and sought only the fruits of peace. There was no thought of saving the individual soul, for that would take care of itself by an upright life and an unswerving faith. It was a determination to reconcile the absolute sovereignty of God and His revelation by His Son, and that revelation to be the law for the church. It was to be emphatically "a pillar and support of the truth", and as such would bless to the utmost all who should come within its reach.

Has it attained success? Measured by everything good it has. No man can estimate its influences in the past 20 years in this city and state. No man in the future can cast the horoscope of what it may still achieve.

I would invite you to reflect on this original mission of the formation of what has become First Christian. How have we fulfilled this original mission and what have we consciously left behind? Some things to consider: "seeking the fruits of peace"—our mission and outreach work. "A pillar and support of the truth"—our work to call out injustice and work to correct it. "Absolute sovereignty of God and His revelation by His Son"—at the heart of our faith, looking to Jesus for examples and guidance about how to live our lives.

I think our founders would be proud—and maybe even amazed!—at how their hopes for the church have blossomed and changed over the years. We face many issues today that they could never envision, yet we have adapted through the years and carry on their dreams today.

Jim Bowman service to be Feb. 13



Jim Bowman, a long-time member of First Christian, passed away on January 19, at age 90. FCC records show that Jim was active at First Christian as far back as 1958, serving in many ways: usher, deacon and chair of deacons, finance committee member, vice-president of Christian Men's Fellowship and many other roles. His wife Eleanor was equally active in the life of the church. His obituary was in the

StarTribune on February 2, and can also be found on the Washburn-McReavy website. Services for Jim will be at FCC/SpringHouse on Thursday, February 13, visitation at 10 am and service at 11 am.

Open invitation to February 18 meeting

The General Board of First Christian invites all members interested in building a hopeful future for FCC to join in a special "Leadership Cabinet" meeting that the board is having at February 18, 7 pm via Zoom. At the December board meeting a motion passed stating that "the [Leadership Cabinet] will meet every other month until at least June, with the goal of providing a clear proposal for the future, including proposal(s) for the 2026 budget with measurable goals for growth and/or budget reductions that allow the congregation to continue beyond its current 2030 end date with current funding models. A zoom link will be send next week."

Choir Director invites you to "Choir-Lite"

Caroline Polovny, FCC's choir director, invites singers to join special "Choir-Lite" rehearsals for the four Sundays starting February 9 leading up to Mardi Gras Sunday. Rehearsals will be at 9:45 (instead of the usual 9 am time) and will focus on special music for Mardi Gras.



Resource page for help in trying times

Pastor Dan Adolphson has created a page with links to resources such as an Executive Orders Resource List from the Disciples' Justice and Advocacy Ministries; the Disciples Immigration Legal Counsel; a Know Your Rights Toolkit from the Immigrant Legal Resource Center, and various LGBTQ+ helplines and Support Services. The Resources list can be found at <https://www.fcminneapolis.org/resources>.

First Christian Board Notes

Twenty-one FCC board members attended the January 21 meeting of the General Board. (Both pastors were in Iowa attending the Ministers Institute.) Items discussed included the following:

- Martha Harris proposed revisions on three of the 1997 Bylaws. The board approved motions eliminating the office of Superintendent and changing the name of the Stewardship Committee to the Finance Committee. Board tabled changes to office of Clerk.
- Soo-Kyung Rennert, new chairperson for Pastor Dan's PRC, presented a proposal for a Lilly Grant application for a sabbatical for Dan in the fall of 2026. After a lengthy discussion Pat Dunlop made a motion to support the development of a Lilly grant, acknowledging a tight deadline for completing the application, and endorsing the PRC in their commitment to this grant application. The board voted 18-0 in favor of the motion.
- Mike Cackoski reviewed the numbers on the December Year End budget report. We ended 2024 in the black, with a \$925 balance, thanks to additional income from our regular interest payments, the Look to the Future drawdown, the Trustee underwrite of insurance and a Wholeness Grant supporting the pastor's Creative Ministries.

FCC Calendar for February 2025

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS

- Sundays 9:45 am Choir-Lite Rehearsals for Mardi Gras
10:30 am Worship, Children's Activity Table
9-12:30 am SH Youth Room & Activities
- 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

- Mon., Feb. 3 7 pm – Women's Fellowship
- Wed., Feb. 5 7 pm – Elders Meeting
- Thurs, Feb. 6 Noon – Mission and Outreach
- Sat, Feb. 8 10 am – Indigenous Ministries Winter Talk
- Sun, Feb. 9 2 pm – SH Board Meeting
- Mon Feb. 10 5 pm - SH Building Committee
7 pm – SH Finance Committee
- Wed, Feb. 12 Noon – FCC Finance Committee
- Thurs, Feb. 13 7 pm – Pastor Laurie's PRC
- Mon, Feb. 17 7 pm - FCC and Friends Book Group
- Tues., Feb. 25 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.

LGBTQ+ Youth Retreat planned for summer

Youth from four Disciples Regions (Christian Churches of Michigan, Indiana, the Upper Midwest and Mid-America) are invited to a retreat at Camp Walter Scott in Dieterich, IL, from August 1 to August 4, 2025. Margaret Hutchens is on the planning team, and Soo-Kyung will be a keynote speaker. Youth from 8th through 12th grades are invited, plus Adult Co-Sponsors – all at no cost, thanks to a grant!

For more information and registration, the link is <https://cciw.regfox.com/2025-lgbtq-retreat>
Registration deadline is July 14, 2025.

Retreats and Camps



Chi Rho and CYF Youth Retreats Feb. 28 - Mar. 2

Register now for the Chi Rho (grades 6-8) and CYF (grades 9-12) midyear retreats! Take a moment to rest and relax and enjoy camp during the year. Both retreats will be held from February 28 to March 2.

[Click here for more information and to register](#)

Interested in counseling? Fill out this [form](#) and someone will be in contact.



**SAVE THE DATE! South Minneapolis Day Camp
June 16-20**

[Click here for more info](#)

SpringHouse News

YOUTH GROUP

Sunday Morning Youth Group—All are Welcome!

- ◆ Youth ages 10-18 years old are all invited!
- ◆ Sundays from 10:00-10:30 am in the Youth Room on the lower level (Come to Salem worship and leave at 10...experience BOTH each Sunday!)
- ◆ Open Youth Room Hours: (just hang out with Chelsea and any others who are around) Sundays 9:00-10:00 am.

Come on down and see what's happening!

SpringHouse Treasurer needed

SpringHouse urgently needs a new treasurer! Without a treasurer, we cannot function as a three-church financial entity. Andy Rennert cannot continue to act in the treasurer role, as he is serving as treasurer for First and best practices preclude him from also acting as SpringHouse treasurer (for example, he can't be a signer for both First and SpringHouse). The SpringHouse treasurer is one of very few people who can act as a signatory for SpringHouse, meaning that without a treasurer, we do not have anyone managing our money market account or CDs. Moreover, there is currently no one acting as a liaison between the Finance Committee and the board.

Here are the SH Treasurer main responsibilities:

- Signer on SpringHouse checks and approver for SpringHouse credit card statements, etc. (i.e. needs to come to the church building somewhat regularly - just on Sundays is fine - in order to get and sign documents from the mail area)
- Member of the SpringHouse board and liaison between the board and Finance Committee
- Creates the SpringHouse budget. This is pretty much plug and chug by now. There's a spreadsheet. Mike C supplies most of the numbers.
- Leads the Finance Committee meetings. Zero prep needed here. We email agenda items prior to the meeting and then just go through them.

SpringHouse Finance is a relatively low-effort church committee. We rarely have homework other than reviewing the financial statements. The primary challenge with the treasurer position is the need for that person to serve on both the Finance Committee and the SpringHouse board. We may need to revisit that requirement in the charter if we cannot find someone to serve as treasurer.

We appreciate you taking this issue seriously. Please reach out to Martha Harris, FCC's SpringHouse Co-Chair, if we can assist with the process.

By Shannon Fast, SH Finance Committee

A note from Allison Jones SH Building Coordinator

Want to keep up with happenings at SpringHouse? Our shared calendar is accessible for all to view! The link can be found [here](#) and on the [SpringHouse website](#). To reserve a room and get an event listed on the calendar, simply email the details to Allison at shcoordinator@fccmpls.org (allison.jones@fccmpls.org works too). Feel free to reach out to me with any questions."

If you missed the annual SH meeting, here are a few highlights from 2024:

- 2024 brought a gradual but steady increase in building use by outside groups
- The Wedge Neighborhood food share now distributes three days each month, and rents out space in the lower level for food storage. They have signed on to a full year contract for 2025!
- Our kitchen tenant Brooke is still our most consistent tenant and our biggest source of rental income.
- Eight different theater and dance groups rented rehearsal space from us this year. Many of the have reported they love using our space, and it seems they're spreading awareness in their communities by word of mouth!

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
February 9, 2025
Blessings and Woes
Luke 4: 17-26



“Blessed are
Those..but Woe”,
print by Cara
Hochhalter

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

Reflections on the Word

Luke 4: 24: But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

The “woes” that Jesus warns about in this passage are focused on those who believe that wealth and riches are ends in themselves. Jesus is warning that trusting external blessings to be the foundation for our lives sets us up for great suffering and pain.

God, Help us to use the gifts and blessings you have given us to make the world look a bit more like your kingdom each day. Amen.

Brandan Robertson, in *Disciplines*, 2022, adapted.

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

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Next issue deadline is Sunday, March 2

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