

The Courier

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis



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UPCOMING Events

*Board meeting,
Tuesday, July 21,
7 pm, Zoom*

*Coffee with Community,
9 am on Wed;
Breakfast Club, Sat, 9 am
(See eblast for Zoom links)*

New style General Assembly starts this weekend

For the Disciples of Christ denomination, a whole new way of joining together begins this year! For many years the Disciples

denomination gathered every two years for General Assembly, a convention with worship services, business meetings, dozens of booths in an Exhibit Hall, service projects and many other activities. Members of FCC have always participated in these inspirational assemblies.

This year marks the start of the new Triennium Calendar for General Assembly, which features two years of online gatherings, and one year for an In-Person meeting. This coming weekend, July 10-11, will be the first Online Assembly. Another Online Assembly will be July 9-10, 2027. In 2028, Disciples will gather in person for a four-day General Assembly July 8-11.

The Disciples website states: “More than just a series of meetings, General Assembly is a covenantal table set for education, discussion, worship, business, fellowship, and action. Each congregation is invited to boldly claim their covenantal place at the table by inviting everyone to attend online and by prayerfully designating 3 delegates to vote at General Assembly. Meeting every year online will allow more Disciples to connect more frequently and to work together more fully “to be the church we say we are.” If you’ve never attended General Assembly before, a special welcome is extended to you.”

Katy McFall, Martha Harris and Pastor Dan Adolphson are the 2026 delegates. The schedule for Friday, July 10, goes from 3 pm to 7:15 pm and includes Orientation, Discussion, and Worship. Saturday, July 11, the schedule goes from 11 am to 6 pm, and includes business session, discussion and worship. The full schedule can be viewed at <https://disciples.org/2026-general-assembly-schedule/>

Going to General Assembly in person means finding transportation, housing, and meals. Going to General Assembly online means a mere \$30 registration fee. You can register at bit.ly/LoveSurpassing to listen in on the discussions, hear the great preachers and get a better understanding of our whole Disciples of Christ Denomination.



In Our Prayers



Prayers of Concern for **Caroline**, mother of **Anna Bliss**, who fell in her apartment and is now regaining strength in transitional care; prayers also for **Rev. Rebecca Voekel** as she is at the bedside of her mother **Marguerite**.

Prayers for **Jimmy Tucker** and four other young men plus two counselors who set off this week for a month-long canoe trip in the Canadian wilderness. May they be safe and healthy, and transformed by the glories of nature they will experience.

Prayers for the work of our **Search Committee**.

Prayers to neighbors in Minnesota, South Dakota and Iowa recently hit by storms and flooding, especially the Christian Church in Elkhart, Iowa that experienced flooding.

Prayers as we observe the 230th birthday of our nation, that we learn to reckon with our past and live up to our ideals as we move into the future.

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



Keeping hearts tender in the face of Empire

“Teacher, which commandment of the Law is the greatest?” Jesus answered: “ ‘You must love the Most High God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind.’ “That is the greatest and first commandment. The second is like it: ‘You must love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments the whole Law is based—and the Prophets as well.” (Matt. 22:36-40, The Inclusive Bible)

As we continue in our *Reveling in Resistance* thematic preaching series, and having just come out of Pride month, I’ve been thinking a lot about this passage. Loving God, loving neighbor, loving self. I wish that we could take an industrial-strength eye dropper full of all of that love and drop it on our nation and around the world.

Recently, a friend of mine in Oslo, Norway was attacked after leaving a gay bar during Oslo’s pride week celebrations. He is resilient and firm, but cracked ribs and cheekbones take a bit to heal. I think about our siblings from Haiti, Syria and other countries whose Temporary Protected Status was erased by the Supreme Court nearly two weeks ago. These are people who many have been in the United States for decades and are facing the prospect of being forcibly returned to countries that are unsafe for them to go back to. There is a haunting photo making the rounds on social media the past couple of days of a lone African-American girl sitting on a DC Metro Rail trail surrounded by Patriot Front members; 400 of them marched in masks and sunglasses through Washington DC on July 4, carrying confederate flags and upside-down US flags with a show of ‘force’ to “reclaim America” (*Insert industrial-strength sigh here*).

It is my hope that during this series, as we have delved into a variety of spiritual practices, that you have found one or two that resonate with you. As I’ve noted in the Bethany Fellows work that I’m involved with, contemplative practice is one of the core teachings that we incorporate into our work. A spiritual practice of any kind helps keeps us grounded, keeps us focused, and keeps us listening to the *still small voice of God*. I would also posit that spiritual practice *helps keep our hearts tender in the face of empire’s desire to harden us against our neighbor*. Being the hands and feet of Christ in the midst of empire’s *othering* is more important than ever in these times – guard your heart, ground yourself, and keep listening for God’s voice as your love your neighbor as you love yourself.

July Outreach: underwear & sheets!

Our July mission project will be fulfilling a request from the Central Lutheran Free Store to support our neighbors who are experiencing homelessness or housing instability with new underwear. Without regular access to laundry and storage, access to clean underwear provides dignity and health. All donations need to be new and in packaging. Needed: Underwear of all sizes for men, women, and children; women's underwear in all sizes is the most in demand.

We will also be collecting new or gently used sheets for the Free Store as well as for the clothes closet at St Olaf Catholic Church. Sheets are one of the most requested items at both places!

Bring items to church and put in the South Sanctuary. If you would like a pick up at your home, please contact Pastor Dan.

August 2: We will be making sandwiches to deliver to Dignity Center. A good time is always had by all at sandwich making! Join us in the Gathering Space right after worship!

Every Meal: a brief update from them: During the last school year, 1,848 food bags=7,087 meals were delivered to Whittier Elementary. FCC's \$5,000 donation allowed us to fully support 11 children. Every Meal's total meal distribution throughout the state was over 1.3 million!!!

From Karen Kandik

Books, dates for Women's Fellowship

The fall book study for Women's Fellowship will be Rachel Held Evans' **Braving The Truth: Essential Essays for Reckoning with and Reimagining Faith**.

Women's Fellowship will not meet in July or August. Our first meeting of the new season will be Monday September 14 (due to Labor Day), but after that our meetings will again be on the first Monday of the month: October 5, November 2, December 7, January 4, February 1, March 1, April 5, May 3, and June 7.

Braving The Truth is divided into six sections, and each section contains numerous essays and comments, by Evans and also by many other writers, more or less familiar names.

Facilitator Kathy Hintz says "This book has a lot to chew on, as my mother used to say. Enjoy your summer and enjoy diving into our book!"

FCC Board Notes

In lieu of the scheduled June Cabinet meeting, a special meeting of the FCC Board was held Tuesday, July 9, to act on the proposed Congregational Profile. Sixteen members attended the Zoom meeting. Highlights of the meeting included the following:

- Pat Dunlop nominated herself to be the Pro Tem chair of the meeting. Board unanimously accepted her nomination.
- The Board discussed the Ethical Guidelines for Congregational Conduct. David Cobb moved that we affirm the guidelines. Motion passed unanimously.
- The Board reviewed the latest draft of the Congregational Profile for which congregational members had provided feedback. Various elements of the compensation package were discussed and the following motions were made and passed:
 - 1) General Assembly expenses will be determined later when actual costs are published.
 - 2) Automobile allowance was set at \$2650, with the recommendation that the Board and Finance Committee later consider changing the policy that is not taxable for the clergy.
 - 3) Authorize the Search Committee to submit this final draft of the congregational profile to the Office of Search and Call.

FCC Calendar for July 2026

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS

Sundays 9 am – SH Youth Activities
 10 am Worship, Children’s Activity Table

Tuesdays 8 am - SH Lectionary Group

Wednesdays 9 am - Coffee with Community

Saturdays 9 am - Breakfast Club
 10 am - Grief Support Group at SpringHouse

MONTHLY MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Wed, July 8 12:30 - FCC Finance Committee
 7 pm - Elders Mtg

Thurs, July 9 7 pm - Pastor Dan’s PRC

Fri-Sat, July 10-11 - General Assembly online

Sat, July 11 11:30 - Women’s Pool Party

Mon, July 13 5 pm - SHMC Building Committee
 7 pm - SHMC Finance Committee

Thurs, July 16 7 pm - FCC and Friends Book Group

Tues, July 21 7 pm - FCC Board Meeting

Mon, July 27 7 pm - Worship Committee

Tues, July 28 1 pm - Mission & Outreach mtg

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

FCC Book Group schedule

FCC’s book group will be meeting through the summer. Here are the dates and books that readers will read and talk about:

July 16, **6 pm at Amy D’s house** (appetizer potluck with dessert!) *Benevolent Society of Ill-Mannered Ladies*, Alison Goodman

August 20, 7 pm, Zoom *Bachelor Brothers Bed & Breakfast*, Bill Richardson

September 17, 7 pm, Zoom *Book Club for Troublesome Women*, Marie Bostwick

All are welcome! Contact Kathy Hintz if you need more information.

MN Council of Churches moves

After decades of being located at the corner of Franklin Avenue and Blaisdell, the Minnesota Council of Churches has a new home: the Spruce Tree Center, 1600 University Ave, St. Paul. The move was prompted by the sale of their Franklin Ave. building, which is being repurposed into affordable housing.

Kafika House’s Most Powerful Tool: A Mother’s Love



Sarah Rejman, Director of Kafika House in Tanzania, shares this aspect of Kafika House’s Outreach Program, one she calls most powerful tool in our bag of tricks: a mother’s love:

Parents often don’t know what is wrong with their babies, let alone that their condition can be treated – that a healthy, happy future is possible. It’s why we make mamas our outreach. When our patients are too little to be without their caregiver, their mothers stay with them at Kafika House, often for months at a time while their babies heal.

We use this opportunity to turn them into advocates for children with disabilities, and champions of our cause. Our Mamas Education Programme furnishes them with business and life skills, and supports their mental health and wellbeing. When it comes time to leave, each mama goes home with a discharge pack. It contains a Kafika House t-shirt featuring our outreach phone number, a flipbook illustrating the conditions we treat, and flyers and posters for them to share at their local healthcare centres, schools, and village council offices.

Each discharge pack costs just \$15. Help us send 200 women home with the tools to transform stigma into hope. <https://www.kafikahouse.org/fund>

A New Parament for FCC

On June 7, 2026, a new parament stitched by Deb Murphy hung from the lectern. A yellow triangle with a periwinkle ring sits atop chevrons of white, pink, and blue, with bands of the rainbow extending beneath. Made especially for Pride month, the parament incorporates flag designs that honor the LGBTQIA+ community. Deb shared that she saw the pattern from a Facebook post that Estelle Worden shared, confirming a sense of the Spirit's serendipity in this new project.

The congregation blessed FCC's new parament at the close of worship. Together, we echoed God's promise in song: "Don't be afraid; my love is stronger, my love is stronger than your fear. Don't be afraid; my love is stronger, and I have promised, promised to be always near" (John Bell). Interim minister Ben led us in a prayer of blessing inspired by images from Scripture, printed below.



Compassionate creator, artist of redemption, send your blessing on this parament, which we dedicate today.

As our eyes linger on its color and pattern, call to our minds your faithful love. At the birth of time your Word summoned every wavelength of light, and through your Word all of creation's diversity radiated forth. In your rainbow promise, you proclaimed peace to every living creature. Your Wisdom, delighting in the human race from age to age, took on the flesh of an artisan, our brother Jesus, whose calloused hands healed sorrow, held children, and offer to us the bread of life.

May this parament adorn our worship and draw us into the beauty of holiness. May it accompany preaching and meditations that proclaim good news: to children like Joseph, who frolicked in his dress of many colors; to fiery folk like Deborah, who rejoiced in justice over oppression; to people like the Ethiopian Eunuch, who kept the faith regardless of exclusion. May its many threads grant, by grace, a glimpse of what the Spirit is doing in our midst: embracing all in the wideness of welcome; weaving many members into one body; forming us to be disciples of Jesus, the savior who came to serve.

In awe of your love, in the power of the Spirit, in Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Thanks to Pastor Ben for sharing this event with us

Sundays at First Christian Church

Worship at 10 am, 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

Reveling in Resistance Text
July 12, 2026
Triumph and Accountability
Revelations 18: 1-5, 11-14;
19: 1-8



Fall of Babylon

Reflections on the Word

Revelations 18:2 – With a mighty voice [the angel] shouted: “Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great!”

This vision of “Babylon the Great” spells out doom for the market economy of the Roman Empire. There is a financial cost factor in resistance, but there is another cost to count: the logic of violence, especially directed at women. The Spirit asks us to examine who bears the cost – rendered in dollars or dignity—of our assumptions and acceptance of the status quo.

Loving God: Guide us with your strength and wisdom to follow your path of resistance in this frightening and bewildering world. Amen

Commentary provided by Pastor Ben Masters.

*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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