August 6, 2026

The Courier

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis

What's INSIDE:

A Message from Pastor Ben Masters, page 2

FCC Board notes, page 3

Sandwiches, EveryMeal, page 3

August Calendar, page 4

Sabbatical Speakers, page 5

UPCOMING Events

Regular Board meeting, Tuesday, August 18, 7 pm, Zoom

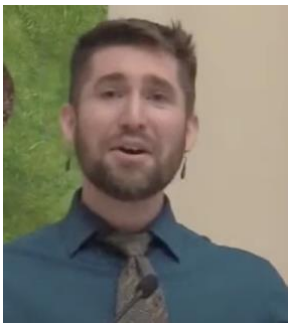
Coffee with Community, 9 am on Wed; Breakfast Club, Sat, 9 am (See eblast for Zoom links)

Rich calendar for August Sunday mornings!

Sundays in August at First Christian will continue a focus on Spiritual Practices with some familiar "guest" preachers as well as the annual Joint Service with our SpringHouse partners.



August 2 featured Music Director Caroline Povolny joining Pastor Dan to speak about "The Power of Music as Spiritual Practice and Resistance." They led us with both words and songs through a reflection on the power of music to uplift and instruct from Biblical times to modern American upheavals.



August 9, Justin Carlson will be reflecting with us on the many insights he has gained from birdwatching. His recent birdwatching experiences in Uruguay will no doubt be a part of his message.



August 16 is the annual Joint Worship at Minnehaha Park with our Salem Lutheran and Lyndale UCC partners. No doubt the SpringHouse clergy have something interesting planned for us in worship, and we will be able to meet Salem's Interim Pastor Antone Melton-Meaux. A bbq meal will be ready for us at the close of worship, prepared in part by Mike Hesano and Lu Griffin.



August 23 will feature Rev. Wendy Manuel in the pulpit. Wendy now lives in Northfield, but she had been a part of FCC's family for many years. Wendy is a published poet writing teacher, and she will share her insights about the power that comes from writing poetry.

August 30 is Sending Sunday, when we will celebrate with Pastor Dan the beginning of his three-month sabbatical. (Note: Page 5 of this newsletter shows the fantastic lineup Dan had put together for Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings during his sabbatical.) A luncheon will follow the worship service.

So don't miss any of these rich Sunday morning worship services we will have in August. And bring a friend!

In Our Prayers



Prayers of Concern for **Bonnie's** son-in-law **Matt,** recently hospitalized with serious health concerns; for **Caroline's** father **Rick** who recently had a scary fall; for **Deb**'s friend **Heather** who is having a biopsy on a mass that was found in her body; for **Father Kevin** of St. Olaf Catholic Church preparing to undergo lung cancer treatment; for former Disciples General Minister **Dick Hamm** who is in remission from cancer, and for many others in our FCC family with health concerns.

Prayers for **Country Homes Christian Church** in Spokane, Washington, under threat of fire and for **Jim**'s relative **Mike** who is working with the Spokane Fire Department.

Prayers of Gratitude that **Avenues for Youth** has opened a new shelter.

Prayers for those in Ukraine, Iran and Gaza who live daily with war's destruction and for the leaders in Russia, Israel and the United States to hear our cries for peace.

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 Ben



Listen to the Spirit here and speaking to us

This fall, when choir members assemble again to lead us in worship, angel wings will hover overhead in the form of FCC's newest piece of collaborative art. Installed on the west wall of the South Sanctuary, the collection of messages to the "angel of FCC" not only sums up our season with the Book of Revelation. Each feather beckons us to pay attention to what God is doing in our midst.

In the opening chapters of Revelation, Christ sends individual messages of comfort and critique to seven regional gatherings of disciples. Each is addressed to "the angel of the church," and each closes with an urgency that echoes down to us: "Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches!"

On July 26, disciples in Minneapolis sat with these letters and pondered, *What message do we have for our "the angel of FCC"?* These messages, penned on feathers and pasted into a pattern that summons images of seraphim instead of Christmas pageant angels, call us to faithfulness.

When you stand in the South Sanctuary, see if you can find these words in the swirling wings:

"Care for one another. Show support to those who need it.
Be true to yourself. Don't give in to oppression."

"Look for the little moments where God is. Don't let your joy get taken away."

"You've built so much. Is it doing what you had hoped?
Does your mission work actually help, or does it just make you feel good?"

"As Minneapolis has been a beacon for the country,
FCC can be a beacon for Minneapolis."

When I gaze at our collective letter to the Angel of FCC, I glimpse God at work in this congregation. The Spirit of Christ is forming you into disciples who faithfully resist any attempt to foreclose on human dignity. The wind that howled on Pentecost whispers to you still, in so many ways.

The Spirit is speaking in your Search Committee. In just a few days, the FCC Board will meet to hear and act on the Search Committee's discernment.

Continued on page 4

Sandwiches and EveryMeal outreach news



Three cheers for Addie, Emme, and Kaden for their leadership in sandwich making for Dignity Center! They helped with shopping for supplies, had a plan and executed it, they made changes as needed, took charge of labeling bags, asked adults to move to another station when help was needed…and everyone had a great time making 200 sandwiches! The process moved right along! And thanks to Kyung-min for helping with shopping, even though he couldn't participate in the making of the sandwiches!

Every Meal will again start delivering bags of food for weekend meals into backpacks at Whittier International Elementary School this fall. The wonderful volunteers from FCC have signed up for another school year but we can always use more! Three people to a shift; each shift is about 11/2-2 hours, depending on the number of bags to be delivered. FCC delivers twice a month, usually Friday mornings. Whittier is filled with energy which makes deliveries fun! No specific commitment is needed; help once a month or once every other month—or twice a month—whatever fits your schedule. Every Meal is providing training this month, either on Zoom or in person. If you would like to try it out, contact Karen Kandik.

A local brewery also supports EveryMeal. Check out their invitation to socialize AND learn more about EveryMeal.

EVERY BREW

GRAB A DRINK. CONNECT. LEARN ABOUT EVERY MEAL.

INDEED BREWING COMPANY

INDEED BREWING

AUGUST 11

5:30 - 7PM

711 NE 15TH AVE
MINNEAPOLIS, MN

FCC Board Notes

Eighteen members attended the July 21 Zoom meeting of the FCC Board. Highlights of the meeting included the following:

• Pastor Ben announced that **KC Helmeid and Jen Krengel have volunteered to stand as Board Co-Chairs from now through 2027. The board voted unanimously to approve appointing them co-chairs of the FCC Board**.

• Pastor Dan presented an extensive outline of how FCC will operate during his sabbatical absence. Seth Anderson-Matz will work a total of 25 hours a week and will take on several roles such as handling the website and Zoom meetings.

• The Board/Cabinet meeting schedule was adjusted for the rest of 2026: Board will meet in August, October and December; Cabinet will meet in September and November. The board agreed to empower Cabinet to vote on the SpringHouse budget if it is presented at the November meeting.

• Finance Chair Mike Cackoski reported that member pledges were higher that the budgeted for the year-to-date, while expenses were running under budget.

• The Trustees and Wholeness Committee agreed to increase the support for EveryMeal this year from $5,000 to $10,000 which will support food for 25 children.

FCC Calendar for August 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, Aug 5 7 pm - Elders Meeting
Thurs, Aug 6 7 pm – **Special Board Meeting**
Mon, Aug 10 7 pm - SHMC Finance Committee
Tues, Aug 11 1:30 – SH Clergy Meeting
Wed, Aug 12 12:30 – FCC Finance Committee
Sun, Aug 16 10 am – SH Joint Worship at Minnehaha Park
11:30 am – SH Board Meeting
Tues, Aug 18 7 pm - FCC Board Meeting
Thurs, Aug 20 7 pm – FCC and Friends Book Group
Mon, Aug 24 7 pm - Worship Committee
Sun., Aug. 30 – Sending Sunday and Luncheon for Pastor Dan's Sabbatical

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

Special Board Meeting

A Special Board Meeting has been called for Thursday, August 6 at 7 pm on Zoom. It is a special meeting to hear and act on the Search Committee's discernment.

Sept. 6: Squiggle Space Cleanout

The SpringHouse Building Committee and Youth Ministry team are on a mission to create a functional space for our youth. Step 1 is to clear out items from the back half of the squiggle space. On **September 6**, all of those items will be moved into the gathering space. We'll need all hands on deck after worship to either get rid of these items or find new, long-term homes for them in the building. Anything left after that day will be promptly discarded.

If you know of any items back there that can be removed, please feel free to do so at any time. Questions or suggestions can be directed to Allison at shcoordinator@fccmpls.org.

Continued from page 2

Listening to the Spirit speaking

Soon, the whole congregation will have an opportunity to listen for God's invitation through Anna, Andy, Jen, KC, and Paul.

The Spirit is speaking in SpringHouse. Thanks to Pastor Dan's sabbatical schedule, the next few months at FCC promise deep discussions about resilience. The still, small voice echoes in the voices of these honored guests, and beckons us beyond them. Spend time with Salem and the Faith & Neighboring Practices team teaching ways to connect with neighbors. Give thanks with Lyndale for ten years of the Center for Sustainable Justice and welcome Bishop Yvette Flunder in October.

The Spirit is speaking through Scripture. Traversing the Book of Revelation with you was a demanding experience, with so many blessings along the way. Don't let this summer be the last time you stand in the divine throne room amidst living creatures and the Lamb. Keep returning to the pathos and poetry, listening for profound truths instead of easy answers.

What a gift to listen, learn, and lead among you, FCC! Onward in the Spirit!

Rev. Ben, your interim minister

Sabbatical Speakers and Events



Grounded in Resilience
Sept. 1 - November 30
www.feminneapolis.org



Dr. Kelly Sherman-Conroy

All Nations Indian Church
Wed. Sept. 16
7 PM - Zoom



Rev. Dr. Cody Sanders

Luther Seminary
Sun. Sept. 20 10 AM Worship
Adult Ed Following



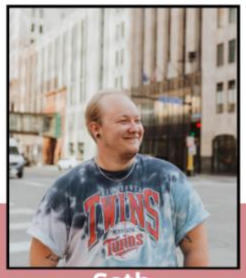
Rev. Dr. Rita Nakashima Brock

Theologian/Author
Sun. Sept. 27; Oct. 4, 11, 18
10 AM Worship; Adult Ed Following



Rev. Dr. Lisa Barnett

Phillips Theological Seminary
Wed. Sep. 30 - 7 PM Zoom



Seth Anderson-Matz

Public Theologian/ Community Minister
Wed. Oct. 14 - 7 PM Zoom



Rev. Melissa Pohlmann

Central Lutheran Church
Wed. Oct. 28 - 7 PM Zoom



Jim Bear Jacobs

MN Interfaith Power & Light
Sun. Nov. 1 10 AM Worship
Adult Ed Following



Rev. Dr. Jia Starr Brown

The Stable/Educator & Activist
Sun. Nov. 8, 15, 22 10 AM Worship
Adult Ed Following (11/8 & 11/15)



Rev. Jae Bates

Preacher/Storyteller
Wed. Nov. 11
7 PM - Zoom



Max Yeshaye Brumberg-Kraus

Interdisciplinary Artist
Wed. Nov. 18
7 PM - Zoom

Light lunch served after worship 9/20, 10/11, 11/1, 11/8

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

The Birds of the Air
August 9, 2026
Matthew 6: 25-34



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

Reflections on the Word

Matthew 6: 26: Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?"

One historian wrote this about this famous passage that puzzles our modern ears: "Now if Jesus had been giving this speech at an ornithological conference, then perhaps it would be relevant to point out specific counter examples (eg barn swallows, purple martins). But he wasn't. He was speaking to a large crowd of roman-era peasants whose understanding of birds was limited to those they had personally seen."

Loving God: Guide us as we work to understand the words Jesus spoke to people living in another time and place. Amen

Commentary on Reddit website r/AskHistorians

A Welcoming Community of Faith in the Heart of the City

Ministry Team

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Next issue deadline is Sunday, August 30

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