

The Courier

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis



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UPCOMING Events

*Cabinet meeting,
Tuesday, September 15,
7 pm, Zoom*

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

Pastor Dan Adolphson named Senior Pastor



Assembled in a special meeting after worship on August 23, the congregation voted unanimously to call Rev. Daniel Adolphson as Senior Minister.

Dan has accompanied FCC Minneapolis through fourteen years of ministry, first in 2012 as a student intern minister and since 2014 as our Associate Pastor. Search Committee Chair Anna Bliss remarked how it became increasingly clear

during the interview process how valuable it was that Dan knows and loves the congregation:

“His practical understanding of our people and our processes, his background outside of FCC, his vision for how he can work with all of us to build onto all that and make FCC a unique community— all of that shone through as what we need right now.”

Before the vote, Pastor Dan shared his gratitude for FCC and his excitement for the congregation's future. “As I've prayed and listened to the Spirit over these past months in my own discernment process, I have felt God's voice calling me to continue in ministry with people I deeply love, who care so much about each other and the people beyond the doors of SpringHouse.”

When Dan returns from sabbatical on December 1, we will welcome him back as FCC's Senior Minister.

A Note from Dan, Day 1....

My dear church family:

As I begin my sabbatical today, I chose a place on the North Shore where I could be alone and take time to breathe, to listen to the waters of Lake Superior come along the rocks, and read the beautiful words of love that you wrote on Sunday for me to take with. I am deeply touched, filled with joy, and laughing over the cards (and a couple of you know me super well 🤪).

Keith and I thank you so much for the beautiful flowers and wonderful service, the words from our SpringHouse friends, and the love we feel. I'm again deeply grateful for your love and support, and that of the Lilly Foundation, as we together begin today on our "Rooted in Resilience" journey. May our hearts be open to God's love and nudges, and I'll see you in December.

Pastor Dan



Stewardship Committee shares...

Thoughts on Stewardship

“The earth was new then, when it welcomed the first human. It’s old now, and some suspect that we have worn out our welcome by casting the Original Instructions aside. From the very beginning of the world, the other species were a lifeboat for the people. Now, we must be theirs.”

How closely stewardship and resilience are linked, as seen in these lines from Robin Wall Kimmerer in her book, Braiding Sweetgrass (page 8.)

Stewardship seen through the lens of resilience raises some big questions for us to look forward to this fall: how to inter-relate, inter-depend, and thrive with all members of our community, our world, our church in the world and among ourselves, and deep inside each one of us?

Are there things we might do less of? More of? Ways to grow our energy? Move our energy around? What are the deeply held hopes that we are waiting to live out, and how might we begin to share those dreams, those gifts, right now?

Many voices will guide us on our way this fall — the written word, our guest preachers, the stories of resilience and care-giving that we share with one another, and of course and as always, the still, small voice that may speak to us at any hour. As we listen, be sure to watch your mailbox and FCC’s e-blasts and Facebook posts. You will find information and encouragement for this year’s Stewardship focus, “What we can do: responding to God’s Generosity.”

FCC Board Notes

The FCC Board met twice in August: August 6 was a Special Board Meeting called to hear a report from the Search Committee, and August 18 was a regular board meeting.

August 6: 22 members and staff attended this Zoom meeting to hear the recommendation of the Search Committee. Anna Bliss, the committee chair, spoke about their process and about their conclusion that Pastor Dan Adolphson was the committee’s choice to be FCC’s next Senior Pastor. Pastor Dan spoke, expressing thanks to everyone and highlighting some of his goals for FCC’s future. He left the meeting and the board members shared their thoughts. The board voted to approve the Search Committee’s choice of Pastor Dan Adolphson and to call a special congregational meeting on August 23 for the members of FCC to vote on that choice.

August 18: 19 members and staff attended this regular meeting of the board. The board approved a motion from the Search Committee and the Transition Team to extend Pastor Ben Master’s contract until September 19, so that he could have time to complete the transition work with the church leadership. The board also discussed some details about the compensation package for the Senior Pastor, the sabbatical plans, in-person meetings, and the need for a Nominating Committee for the 2027 board roles.

Join us for the 2026 Fall Women's Retreat!

JUST KEEP SWIMMING

Speaker: Kirby Hughes Marks

Chaplain: Deb Murphy

Coordinators

Wende Barrett and Becki Whitaker

Sep. 25-27, 2026

Koronis Ministries Retreat Center
Paynesville, MN

Register by September 16 at www.uppermidwestcc.org

FCC Calendar for September 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 Hennepin
 Avenue Methodist Church

MONTHLY MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Wed, Sept 2 7 pm - Elders Meeting
 Sun, Sept 6 **Pastor Ben's last Sunday in FCC's pulpit**
 noon – Squiggle Space Cleanup
 Tues, Sept 8 1:30 – SH Clergy Meeting
 Wed, Sept 9 12:30 – FCC Finance Committee
**Sun, Sept 13 10 am – SH Joint Worship, Pastor Ben last
 SH service**
 Mon, Sept 14 7 pm – Women's Fellowship
 Tues, Sept 15 7 pm - FCC Cabinet
**Wed, Sept 16 7 pm – Dr. Kelly Sherman-Conroy leading
 Adult Ed**
 Thurs, Sept 17 7 pm – FCC and Friends Book Group
**Sun, Sept 20 10 am - Dr. Cody Sanders Preaching and
 Adult Ed following worship**
 Tues, Sept 22 1pm – Mission & Outreach Committee
**Sun, Sept. 27 10 am – Rev. Dr. Rita Nakashima Brock
 preaching and Adult Ed following**
 Mon, Sept 28 7 pm - Worship Committee
**Wed, Sept 30 7 pm – Rev. Dr. Lisa Barnett leading
 Adult Ed**

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



[Learn more about Kelly](#)

[Learn more about Cody](#)

[Learn more about Rita](#)

[Learn more about Lisa](#)

September Speaker Spotlight



Dr. Kelly Sherman-Conroy
 All Nations Indian Church, Minneapolis



Rev. Dr. Cody Sanders
 Luther Seminary



Rev. Dr. Rita Nakashima Brock
 Theologian & Author



Rev. Dr. Lisa Barnett
 Phillips Theological Seminary

Pastor Ben's Interim coming to a close



What a season of farewells this September! One week after wishing Pastor Dan well as he leaves on his sabbatical, on Sunday, September 6, FCC will recognize and celebrate the work Pastor Benjamin Masters has done with us this year. As many were hoping, we will be able to hear one more sermon from Pastor Ben! Everyone is encouraged to be at worship this Sunday (yes! It's Labor Day weekend!). Bring (or mail) a thank-you card!

Pastor Ben will also participate in and be recognized at the Joint SpringHouse service on September 13. And of course, there will be cake for all on this, his last Sunday at SpringHouse.

In his last few weeks with FCC, Pastor Ben will be working with FCC's new co-chairs, helping them plan and prepare for church board business, and will be meeting with other individuals and groups to complete the transition work necessary for us to be ready to welcome our new Senior Pastor.

Writers respond to Metro Surge

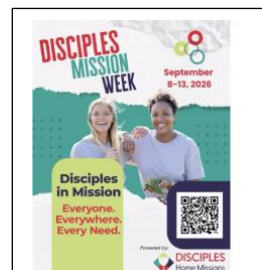
ICE OUT: Minnesota Writers Rising Up is a powerful anthology of poetry and prose responding to the presence of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in Minnesota—and to the human cost of policies that blur the line between law enforcement and occupation. Written in real time by Minnesota writers, poets, immigrants, activists, and witnesses, these pieces capture fear, grief, anger, resolve, and unexpected solidarity as communities confront raids, detentions, and state-sanctioned violence.

Edited with urgency and moral clarity, this collection blends firsthand testimony, lyric resistance, and civic reckoning. Some pieces document specific events; others transform outrage into metaphor, prayer, or defiant humor. Together, they form a record of a place pushed to its limits—and a people choosing empathy over intimidation.

Rev. Wendy Manuel has a poem in this book, titled "Liberty and Justice for all. The book is published by Ian Graham Leask editor, Calumet Editions. It is available with various prices at Abe Books, [Thriftbooks.com](https://www.thriftbooks.com), Walmart and Amazon, as well as independent local bookstores.

Disciples Mission Week September 8-13

Disciples Mission Week is an inspirational week of events organized by Disciples Home Missions (DHM) to highlight the work of local missions and outreach ministries across the life of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). It is built on the foundation of the Disciples Mission HUB, launched in 2025 to engage, network, and learn about local mission and outreach.



There will be compelling and educational webinars offered **Tuesday to Friday, September 8-11**, to address relevant issues that congregations and communities are facing: food and housing insecurity, and healthcare and disability equity. **Saturday, September 12** will be a day of volunteering and service.

[Click here for more info!](#)

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 Potter's Wheel
September 6, 2026
Jeremiah 18: 1-6



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

Reflections on the Word

Jeremiah 18: 6 – “O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter has done,” says the Lord. “Behold, like the clay in the potter’s hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel.”

This story shows both God’s power and His patience. The potter did not immediately throw away the clay when it became marred. God continued working and reshaping it. In the same way, God patiently calls people to repentance and transformation. God lovingly shapes lives according to God’s will.

Loving God: Help us know and trust that we are in your hands and that you are working through us. Amen.

Commentary from “Undaunted Disciple” Facebook page.

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

Ministry Team

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(on Sabbatical)

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Next issue deadline is Sunday, September 27

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