



The Link

Volume 42, Number 17

May 26, 2011

Sunday Worship:

5/29/11 at 9:20 AM

Tim Diebel preaching
"From Ritual to Spirit"
Text: Acts 17:22-31

6/5/11 at 9:20 AM

Tim Diebel preaching
"Raining Strength"
Text: Psalm 68:7-10, 32-35

6/12/11 at 9:20 AM

Tim Diebel preaching
PENTECOST SUNDAY
"More Than Tongues"
Text: 1 Corinthians 12:3-13

Prayer Themes:

May 29: **Summer Camp:** Please pray for the donations to our Camp Scholarship offering, and for all who will be attending camp this summer.

June 1: **Farmers' Market:** Please pray for the opening day and summer ministry of our Farmers' Market.

June 12: **Pentecost:** Please pray for the youth who are participating in the baptism/membership preparation class, and for all who will be baptised on Pentecost Sunday.



SHOUT IT OUT LOUD!!!

15th Anniversary of the Drake Neighborhood Farmers' Market

JUNE 1ST IS OPENING DAY

Our 15th year of presenting this great mission opportunity is about to happen. What a privilege it is to be able to provide the hospitality, indeed a common ground, where members of our neighborhood can gather for fun and fellowship as well as obtaining superior food and other goods for their families

The market will open next week under the management of Rose Scott, Eddie Robinson and Jennifer Thompson, all residents of the Drake neighborhood. They have been working closely with Sondra, our Minister of Community Life, and with our former manager, Ginny Gieseke, to produce a great 15th annual market. There are presently 20 stalls occupied for opening day, including most of our old favorites as well as some new.

Plan to come out on Wednesday, June 1st between 4:00 and 7:00 to pick up your fresh food, baked goods, kettle corn, honey and maybe even a basket. There will be Veggie Toss and balloon animals and of course, our own health booth where you can get your blood pressure checked. A&E Dairies will be there with free samples, and four prepared food booths can provide your supper.

Volunteers are needed at the First Christian Hospitality table and to greet shoppers. People are also needed to act as traffic guides and to assist with setting up at 3:00 and tearing down at 7:00. To help, sign up in Fellowship Hall or call Sondra (250-9895).

Plan now to come and extend your personal hospitality to the folks who live around us. Spread the joy of First Christian Church!



Food for Thought



Change is in the air as it always is at the end of a school year when children move up to the next grade or graduate and most of us shift from school oriented schedules to the structure or lack of that comes with summer. This year we at First Christian face an additional challenge in the preparation for the retirement of our senior minister Aug 31.

It is a time of grief, for Tim has been an integral part of our lives for almost 19 years and he will be missed by many on a very personal level. He has married us, baptized us and our children, comforted us in times of sickness and sorrow, and enlightened us weekly with wisdom and wit as well as his musical talent. He has led us through the closure of funerals and enriched us with Bible study. But, perhaps most significant at this moment is the vision he has shared and the foundation he has helped to establish so that we can move forward even when he is not here.

We have sought to be a church who reaches out to its neighbors. Our English Language program served 190 students over the past year in five classes. Childcare and food and clothing drives were also a part of this program as we endeavored to implement an holistic approach to serving our refugee population. The Boys and Girls' Club on our 4th floor regularly had over 100 students enrolled in after-school activities and will again offer an all day program this summer.

The Farmers' Market team is presently preparing for our 15th annual market and they have signed up 16 vendors thus far. They've joined with the neighborhood association to send out a mailing to 4745 persons in the area to invite them to come to the market and to support the association. They are busy now seeking volunteers for opening day, June 1.

All of these wonderful programs have drawn a diverse population to our building and to our parking lot. Still there is work to be done in extending the message of Christ's love beyond our property line. In a recent Christian Century article, Bradley N. Hill wrote, "Almost every western church is lacking one or two generations - members of 'Gen Y,' known also as millennials, echo boomers and the Net generation, those born between 1976 and 2000." He notes that "Extensive data on church attendance and Gen Y reveal an unmistakable trend: disengagement with the institutions of Christianity." He concludes that the church wants to engage society on our terms not theirs. Instead, we must meet them where they are and talk and listen to discover what it is that they are seeking.

As always, there is work to be done. But praise God for the groundwork which has been firmly developed these last two decades. We are prepared to press on to the high calling of Christ Jesus; all we need is the willingness to accept change and the determination to move forward.

Blessings on us all as we seek to serve our Lord.

Sondra

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH STAFF

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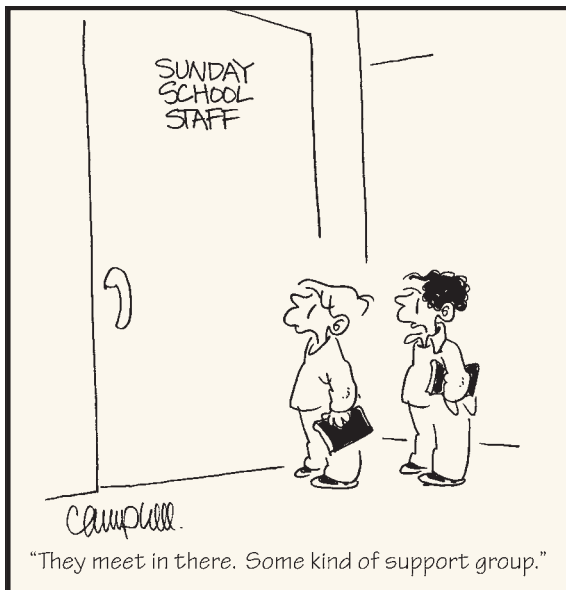
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Teacher Recognition, June 5

For Christians, time spent in study, learning more about God and deepening our relationship with God, is important to our spiritual growth. At First Christian, we are blessed by those who share their love of God and their talents in teaching with us on Sunday mornings. Our Learning Hour teachers help each of us, adults and children alike, to grow in our faith. Please join us in worship on Sunday, June 5 as we honor our Learning Hour teachers.



Fifth Sunday Offering Supports Church Camp

This summer we have 22 children and youth, 3 grandparents and 1 aunt heading to camp at our Camp and Conference Center in Newton. Camps range from a one-night overnight for the youngest, to a full week for the high schoolers. Your contribution to the scholarship fund through the May 29 special offering helps send these folks to camp.

June is "GREEN MONTH"



The Learning Ministry has designated June "Green Month." We will follow the tradition of encouraging all adult Sunday School classes to meet in Fellowship Hall for the Learning Hour. In an effort to continue to look at ways to conserve and protect our environment and be savvy proponents of "going green" we will hear from:

June 5 *First Christian Church Mission Team* who will share their experiences in Guatemala building a greenhouse for the village.

June 12 *Fred Kirschenmann* will return to help us discern "Next Steps" in our efforts to support sustainable agriculture, local Farmers' Markets, and neighborhood gardens.

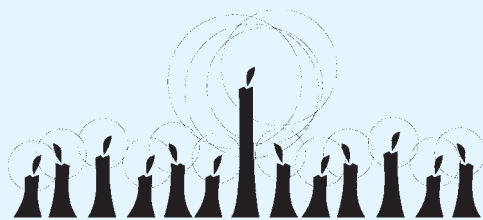
June 19 *David Hance* speaks to us about *Agape Garden* - part of a metro church garden system that last year provided 3000 lbs. of fresh produce to be given away at local metro food pantries.

June 26 *Wendell Saunders, Iowa Interfaith Power & Light* President, will offer suggestions as to how we can become a "Cool Congregation." His presentation will focus on energy efficiency in congregations.

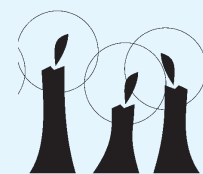
And for our younger members:

Infants through pre-K: Nursery care is provided for our littlest ones during the Learning Hour time (meets in the 1st floor nursery).

Grades K-5: Meets each week to watch a bible-story video, and spend time coloring and playing together (meets in the 1st floor classroom).



The Contemplative Corner



for your Spiritual Journey

A Little Kindness

Several years ago, at a women's retreat, I learned something essential. There were about 30 of us—mostly strangers—and as an icebreaker we were asked to share a time in our lives when we'd been the recipient of a small gesture of kindness. We began, one woman after another, sharing the details of those experiences in what turned out to be an open hearted, revealing session.

They were small things really. And most had occurred many years earlier but were still somehow unforgettable. Notes, words, touches: all were identified as important kindnesses, graciously given and gratefully received. One woman shared how she had been away from her family for an extended period of time while she took a class out of state. To ease her loneliness, a friend made sure she received a short note *every* day while she was gone. This woman still had every postcard and note this friend had sent her. Another shared how after announcing her pregnancy, friends who apparently were as excited as she, had bounded onto her doorstep bearing gifts and well wishes.

As the stories unfolded I remember tears. I remember how the energy in the room shifted, becoming intimate and inclusive. Mostly, I remember being amazed at how little it took to make a difference in someone's life.

We fumble regularly, believing it's only the big stuff that counts, when often—*quite* often, it's really about the little things.

Blessings on your journey,

Mary Jo Franklin



No act of kindness

no matter how small,

is ever wasted ...

(aesop)



Thank You. Thank You!!

First Christian Youth offer a grateful word of thanks for your support of our Rummage, Bake, and Flower sales. Through your support, financially and spiritually, we have the opportunity to spend time together this summer – serving others and spending time exploring in Minneapolis.



Pentecost Offering June 5 - 12

The Pentecost Offering is evenly divided between the region where the offering was taken and New Church Ministry. The offering is used to directly support starting new congregations and funds the recruitment, assessment, training and coaching of our new church planters in the first two years of their new church. We invite you to join us in expanding the new church movement through your prayer and financial assistance.

2011 GENERAL ASSEMBLY
JULY 9-13, 2011 ★ NASHVILLE, TN

Be part of the story.



Tell It!

Repete yo! • ¡Dilo! • 들려 주어라!



**REGISTER
NOW!**

Take advantage of deepest
discounts on registration and
housing until 4/1/2011
www.disciples.org/ga

General Assembly July 9-13, 2011 Nashville, TN

Please keep in your prayers this biennial gathering of the Disciples of Christ of North America.

If you have an interest in attending, please contact Tim Diebel as soon as possible.

More information is available at
<www.disciples.org/ga>

First Christian Church

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Web: www.fccdm.org

Christian Church in the Upper Midwest:

www.uppermidwestcc.org

Sunday Morning Schedule:

9:20 am -- Morning Worship

10:45 am ---- Friendship Time

11:00 am ----- Learning Hour

OFFICE HOURS

Mon-Thurs — 8:30-4:30

Friday — 8:30-1:00

The Link ...

... is published twice per month. Submissions are due Wednesday of the previous week and may be edited for length, clarity, or for consistency with other articles.

NEXT DEADLINE:

June 1 (June 9 issue)



WE ARE DISCIPLES OF CHRIST, an Open & Welcoming community of faith, called to witness to God's creative power in the midst of a richly diverse neighborhood. We are challenged to share in a vibrant Spirit-led common life. As we mature in the Spirit and respond to God's calling, we are empowered and compelled to reach out to neighbors near and far in a reconciling ministry partnership.



Senior Adult Retreat

Our Region's annual Senior Adult Retreat will be held at our Camp and Conference Center in Newton, **September 11-13**. This year our focus will be "**Renew Your Mind**" through life-long learning. Our keynote sessions will share information and conversation around a wide variety of areas - from the physicality of aging and learning, to spiritual practices, and technology as a social and spiritual tool. Make plans now to be part of this time of growth and renewal. Registration forms will be available June 1 at: <http://www.christianconferencecenter.org/2011/golden-years-retreat> or check with the church office.

Don't Forget - VBS!

As summer approaches, please remember to mark your calendars for this summer's vacation bible experience - August 1-5 & 7. We have a Creative Worship Skills Camp planned for children in grades K through 5. Have you thought about leading a class or serving as a helper, securing materials ahead of time, or preparing the meal? Opportunities for serving abound. If you are available to help, please contact Wendy Bollhoefer or Suzanne Stout.

