



The Link

Volume 42, Number 19

June 23, 2011

Sunday Worship:

6/26/11 at 9:20 AM

Tim Diebel preaching

"Finding Open Arms"

Text: Matthew 10:40-42

7/3/11 at 9:20 AM

Tim Diebel preaching

"... Paved with Good Intentions"

Text: Romans 7:15-25a

7/10/11 at 9:20 AM

Suzanne Stout preaching

Prayer Themes:

June 26: **Search Committee:**

Please pray for the committee whose task it is to discern and find an interim minister to serve this church

July 4: **Independence Day:** We give thanks for our freedoms and pray that we all may be responsible leaders and citizens of our country.

July 9-13: **GENERAL ASSEMBLY:** Please pray for our church's biennial denominational gathering, which will meet this year in Nashville, and for those who will be attending.



VBS

Rejoice! What a Wonderful World!

Art, crafts, song, music, dance, steamers, scarves, yummy food and a ton of creative people. Where can you find all of these in one place? Vacation Bible School on August 1 to 5 at First Christian Church. Any child entering kindergarten to 5th grade is invited to participate in this rainbow of creative expression. Each evening children will sing, create, dance or act in a variety of activities. We will explore the colors of the rainbow along with the rainbow of creatures found on Earth. On Sunday, August 7, we will have a colorful worship service, where all the children and volunteers will share their creative expressions. Registration will take place every Sunday in July and will soon be available on-line at <www.fccdm.org>.

August 1-5, 2011

6:00-8:00

5:30 optional meal

\$10 for each child (\$20 family maximum) due prior to August 1

FOR: Children entering kindergarten to 5th grade

Contact: Wendy Bollhoefer <bollhoeferws@netzero.net>

Grace Offering



Change...

Change is hard – but you probably knew that. Change creates so many ripples in so many places in your life that even when it is something you wanted and have longed for it is still not always easy. But no matter what is happening in our lives, no matter what is changing around us, as followers of Christ we know that there will always be one constant – God will be with us. God’s steadfast love and presence with us does not change. Oftentimes we don’t know or can’t see the end from the beginning, but we do know God will be with us in and through it all – and isn’t that enough?

If you’re like me, however, that is often little consolation. I want to know where I’m going before I begin – what’s my destination, what’s the route I’m going to take, what possible difficulties might I face along the way? ... But God asks us to live our lives knowing that our journey has already begun and it is eternity with God, knowing that God is our constant companion helping us choose each day the road we are to take and the stops we are to make along the way.

A few years ago, I took two teenagers to a conference in California and a few days of sightseeing. As we readied to leave, we still didn’t have definite plans of what we would see or where we would go during our free days. The teens told me that what they were looking forward to the most was not knowing where they were going; waking up each day and finding new places to see and new experiences to have. ... If only we could live all of our life that way – open to the possibility of the moment, trusting that God would be with us, knowing that exciting things lie just ahead and being open to experience them.

Sometimes I think we don’t see what lies ahead for us, especially in times of change, because we might be too frightened to take that first step if we knew where it would lead. Trust me, God says, and I hang on – sometimes like a frightened child not daring to look and see what really is. All God asks is that we take the *first* step... and it usually becomes easier from there. The first step. Usually it is only after I take that first step, that I begin to see God’s leading – the direction we were headed. But even then I still only see a little way ahead – and that is good. It helps me to trust more fully that God walks with me; it keeps me more focused on making sure that I walk with God; and it helps me focus on where I am now and what I am called to do, who I am called to be – not worrying about tomorrow but living in today.

God is with you – possibly some of the best words that bring us constant security, comfort, peace, and strength. God is with you, no matter what changes may come. God is with you, trust that the directions will come as you take each step.

Peace,

Suzanne

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JULY LEARNING HOUR

There will be no Learning Hour on July 3.

For the remainder of the month we will be looking at "Three Simple Rules *that will change your world*" a book by Ruben P. Job, former Bishop of the United Methodist Church in Iowa.

At their best, Christians believe that the possibility of living in peace that we may be one with God still exists and is open to all.

Job's three simple rules are - Do No Harm, Do Good, and Stay in Love with God. Suzanne will lead us through these sessions as we discover ways to put into practice these concepts.



Men's Breakfast Dates Extended

After years of early morning, weekday breakfasts, the Disciple Men Fellowship has been experimenting with a monthly Saturday breakfast. At the June breakfast - the last scheduled gathering - the consensus was that the pattern should continue at least through July and August. So, all men - and any friends they would like to invite - should grab their calendar and pen and mark down these additional dates:

Saturday, July 16
Saturday, August 20.

As usual, we will gather at 9 a.m. in Fellowship Hall for a solid breakfast, followed by a Bible Study.



Foundation to Recognize Legacy Givers

Some twenty church members have let us know of their intention to make future gifts to the church through their wills. The FCC Foundation is planning to acknowledge the stewardship of these individuals with a special breakfast gathering Saturday, July 23, in Fellowship Hall.

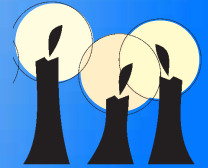
The event is intended to recognize how important their gifts are to the future of First Christian Church, and to let us experience the fellowship of others who share that vision. Kirby Gould from our national Christian Church Foundation will be with us to answer questions and offer suggestions on the best ways to be assured that your legacy gifts accomplish what you intend them to do. This event should be a very interesting and helpful experience.

Members of the FCC Foundation Board will be present, and will have their July Board Meeting following the donor event. This gathering is also open to those who are undecided about whether a legacy gift is something they wish to do, and simply want information about what this might involve. The event is July 23rd, 9:30 a.m., and it would be helpful if donors and others interested would notify the church office in advance if they plan to attend.

— Richard P Walters



The Contemplative Corner



for your *Spiritual Journey*

Meditative Movement

Meditation usually conjures up an image of sitting peacefully with eyes closed and legs crossed, yoga-style, with palms upturned and a quiet breath gently escaping from your lips.

Although this certainly is one type of meditation, it isn't the only kind. There is something to be said for that "puttery" movement which allows you to free your mind while doing something methodical or rhythmic such as dusting, mowing the lawn, or washing the car. My favorite meditative movement is ironing; it never fails to bend my psyche into a different, more Zen-like state. If I have a problem, I find a solution. If I'm in need of creative thinking time, I get it while smoothing all those wrinkles into submission.

I read somewhere that Margaret Thatcher, England's Prime Minister during the Reagan years, used to get up in the middle of the night to clean out her kitchen cabinets. She did this when she had a perplexing issue to mull over. Often during the course of that organizational puttering, she would find the solution that otherwise eluded her.

Everyone has their own methods for getting into the meditative zone—sitting, walking or cleaning out cabinets. In the end, it isn't the method that matters; it's how that method works for you. Here's to finding your zone!

Blessings on your journey,

Mary Jo





Bound for Minneapolis

July 11-14, our high school and middle school youth and their adult sponsors are headed to Minneapolis, MN. Together we will experience a city different from Des Moines, while serving in the Community Emergency Services shelter and spending time in the Phillips Neighborhood. Please hold our youth and adults in prayer that they might be open to all God would have them learn during this trip. Participants are: Cassidy, Thayne, Amy, Emma, Samm, Rachel, Elijah, Ethan, David, Dylan, Steeli, Kelly, and Ashley. Adult sponsors are: Corey H., Angie C., and Suzanne S.

SENIOR ADULT RETREAT 2011

September 11-13

*Renew Your Mind
Romans 12:1-2*



Senior Adult Retreat

All members age 55 & up are invited to the Senior Adult Retreat in September at our camp & conference center in Newton. The cost is only \$100, which includes 2 nights' lodging and 6 meals. The retreat theme is "Renew Your Mind", keynote speakers will be: Roslyn Gunnick, Sue Woods, Adam Frieberg, and Julie Gibson. Thanks to medical advances we live longer and healthier. As we live longer lives, how do we keep our minds fresh? Join us as we learn together about the brain and aging, life-long learning, spiritual practices, and the tools of technology we can use today.

Contact Suzanne for more information, or go online to www.christianconferencecenter.org.

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

Be part of the story.



SHARE
WORSHIP
HELP RECONNECT

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:

July 6 (July 14 issue)



**The Church will be
CLOSED
on Monday, July 4,
for the Independence Day holiday.**

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.

To Camp we Go!



First Christian youth have a couple of busy camp weeks ahead. Please hold in prayer the following campers:

ChiRho Camp #9 (June 27-July 2) -

Dylan M., and Steeli S.

ADAM Camp (July 4-9) -

Amy D., Samantha., Thayne H., Elaina S.,
Anna S., and Rachel H.

GrandCamp #19 (July 8-9) -

Keyla and her grandma, Vivian M.

GrandCamp #22 (July 9-10) -

Grace and her grandma, Deniese O.; and
Raven and her grandma, Marilyn P.

What a wonderful experience is in store for all of them.



**Farmers' Market
Open Wednesdays
4:00-7:00**

**Be sure to come shop for your
locally-produced goodies and
fresh farm produce.**

**Volunteers needed every week.
Sign-ups in the Fellowship Hall.**