

SPRING 2018



First Covenant Church of Saint Paul

first covenant church of saint paul ~ 1280 arcade street ~ saint paul, mn 55106
(651)774-0344 ~ www.first-covenant.org
office@first-covenant.org

COMMUNION SUNDAY

April 29, 2018

9:30 a.m.

Gathering Time

Passing of the Peace

Invitation to Worship

If you are a visitor, have a prayer request or have a change of address, please note this on a Connect Card found in the pew pockets. Place it in the offering plate.

*Opening Hymn 634

Great Source of All Our Life

*Opening Prayer

Scripture Reading

Mark 4:1-8, 13-20, Anja Swenson & Elijah Lokensgard-Wallace

Ministry Highlight

North Park/Bethel Matching Scholarship Program, Tom Cameron

*Song

What A Beautiful Name

Giving and Living Out of Our Abundance

Choral Offertory

Let Us Talent and Tongues Employ (arr. Bradley Ellingboe)
Jamaican folk melody, Elaine Ryden- flute, Doug Jacobson-congas

Children in grades pre-k through 2nd grade are invited to continue worshipping in Children's Church. After the offertory, please meet the teachers in the back of the Sanctuary.

Message

Generosity in an Age of Distraction
Dr. Chris Gehrz, guest preacher

Prayer of Confession

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

We invite all who follow Jesus as Lord to receive and celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion with us.

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

*Closing Hymn 609

Come, All Christians, Be Committed

Postlude

Lord, Dismiss Us With Thy Blessings (arr. Gordon Young)

If you temporarily leave the sanctuary during a Worship service, please return to your seats using the rear sanctuary doors. This will minimize disruptions. Thank you for understanding.

TODAY

Welcome to Worship at First Covenant Church! *Wherever you find yourself on your journey of faith, we are glad you are here! Please join us for a cup of coffee and a treat during the Fellowship Time.*

This morning we welcome Chris Gehrz to preach in Worship and teach in the Adult Spiritual Growth Hour. *Chris is professor of history at Bethel University. He blogs regularly at The Pietist Schoolman and is the author or editor of three books on Pietism, including last year's "The Pietist Option: Hope for the Renewal of Christianity", written with Covenant pastor Mark Pattie. Chris grew up in Covenant churches in Cottage Grove, Eagan, and Stillwater and in 2003 became a member of Salem Covenant in New Brighton, where he served two terms as church chair. Chris lives in Roseville with his wife, Katie, and their twin 2nd graders, Lena and Isaiah.*

9:30am Worship

Nursery Care, (birth through age 3), *Rooms 105 & 106*

Children's Church, children pre-k through 2nd grade are dismissed with leaders during Worship and will return with leaders during Communion, *Room 104.*

10:30-11:30am

Fellowship Hour, *Upper Fellowship Hall*

10:40-11:00am

Youth Group Music Lessons, *Graffiti Room*

11:00am-12:00pm

Spiritual Growth Hour for all ages:

Nursery Care (birth through age 3), *Room 105*

Children's Sunday School, *(all start in Room 104 together)*

Please pick up your children at 12:00pm in the following rooms:

Pre-K - K, *Room 106*

Grades 3-4, *Room 104B*

Grades 1-2, *Room 104A*

Grades 5-6, *Game Room*

Confirmation, *Room 201*

Youth Sunday School, *Graffiti Room*

Adults, Topic: "The Pietist Option for a Multiethnic Church", *Upper Fellowship Hall*

CONFIRMATION WEEK

Wednesday, May 2, Confirmation Trek, Dinner: 5:45pm; Trek 6:15-7:30pm

"Journey" with our Confirmands as they present their projects at our annual Confirmation Trek. This is your opportunity to support our 7th and 8th graders as they communicate what they have learned this past year in their studies through the Old Testament. All are invited!

Sunday, May 6, Confirmation Sunday, 9:30am Worship

Join us as we celebrate our young people's faith journeys during Worship, with a reception following. Because of the reception, there will be no Spiritual Growth Hour.

2018 Confirmands: Angel Johnson, Bianca Levy, Gracia Lokensgard-Wallace, Ishmeal David, Josiah DeLeon, Madison DeGaetano and Samuel Lokensgard-Wallace.

2019 Confirmands: Anders Hagfors, Benji Zupfer, Cody Christensen, Elijah Knox, Emilia Holm, Jen Flanagan, Liam Swenson.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Thank you from Pastor Anne: *Thank you so much for the kindness extended to me last Sunday honoring my 15+ years serving as your pastor. Thank you for the many kind written words collected in the book prepared by Christine Tharseo and the array of photos on display that capture moments of our life together. I am grateful.*

CHIC total amount raised at CHIC Auction was \$7655! We are thankful for all your support shown through attending, donating, and volunteering at this fun event last Saturday!

Our Church Clean Up day was a huge success. Thank you to those who worked hard yesterday to spruce up our church building and grounds.

We extend our sympathies to the family (Doug Nelson and Judy Kline and family), and friends of Adele Nelson who passed away on Tuesday, April 17. Her Service will be held at First Covenant Church today, April 29. Visitation: 4:30pm, Memorial Service: 5:30pm, followed by refreshments. God's peace to all those on a journey through loss and grief.

Stay connected: Weekly worship bulletins and podcasts of each week's message can be found on the church website under the Worship and Arts tab. Stop by the Welcome Center to order a CD of any Worship Service or our current Adult Spiritual Growth Hour.

First Covenant Church Scholarship Fund: Again this year, First Covenant Church is participating with North Park University, North Park Theological Seminary, and Bethel University in their church scholarship matching grant programs to help FCC students attending these institutions with their tuition costs. NPU will match FCC scholarships up to \$500 per year, NPTS will match up to \$500 per semester or \$1000 per year, and Bethel will match up to \$1000 per semester or \$2000 per year. Contributions are tax deductible, and must be received by June 30th in order to be used for the 2018-19 academic year. All checks should be written to "First Covenant Church", and designate in the memo line whether it is for the North Park scholarship fund or the Bethel scholarship fund. Contributions cannot be earmarked for a specific student. If you have any questions ask Executive Pastor Tom Cameron.

SUPPORTING OUR MISSION AND VISION

Financial Update: As of April 24th, we were \$19,744 below the needed giving for April to stay on our ministry budget plan for the fiscal year. This month, our snowy, cancelled Sunday impacted the amount given, and we are grateful for your continued generosity.

Financial commitment cards for the 2018-2019 fiscal year were distributed last Sunday. Your commitment enables our budget and our ministries to move forward. If you need a financial packet, please pick one up at the Welcome Center. Prayerfully consider your financial support of First Covenant and return your commitment card/envelope during Worship on Sunday, May 20. If you are unable to be here that day, return it to the dropbox at the Welcome Center, in the offering plate, or by mail. Questions? Ask Rachel Hanks.

CALENDAR UPDATES

Music Rehearsal Changes this week: Due to the In It Together Prayer Gathering this Thursday, May 3, Gospel Choir and Worship Team rehearsals will be on Tuesday, May 1. Also because of the Confirmation Trek this Wednesday, Sanctuary Choir rehearsal will be from 7:15-8:00pm.

The last Wednesday program night will be May 16. During dinner (5:45-6:15pm), the After-School Program's Vocal and Theater Coaching Group will be providing dinner entertainment, showcasing a year of work with their coaches Benni Gilmore and Lionus Lo. All are invited!

COMMUNITY/PARTNER EVENTS

House needed: Are you or someone you know planning to sell a home in the near future? Jen and Josh Levin, who oversee Jonathan House, are looking to buy. Because the market is so tight, it would be helpful to get connected before the house goes up for sale. Please contact Jeannine Nordland for more details, jeanninenordlund@gmail.com.

In It Together Prayer Gathering, Thursday, May 3, 6:00pm

Contender for the Faith Church, 580 Case Ave East

God hears and answers our prayers! Gather with friends from Contender for the Faith Church, Family Values for Life, and First Covenant Church to pray for our nation, community, and people. Childcare provided. Refreshments following. Questions? Contact Susan Carlson, 651-247-8082.

Family Values for Life Mother Daughter Tea, Saturday, May 12, 10:00am-1:00pm

First Covenant Church

Women of all ages are invited to gather together for this fun and celebrative morning with our partners, Family Values for Life. Join us for tea, delicious food, inspiring speakers and the chance to support local vendors. Questions? Contact Dee Balentine: dbalentine.fvfl@gmail.com.

Rethinking Incarceration, Monday, May 14, 7:00pm

Crosstown Covenant Church, 5540 30th Ave. S., Minneapolis

The United States has more people locked up in jails, prisons, and detention centers than any other country in the history of the world. And the church has unwittingly contributed to the problem. Dominique DuBois Gilliard explores the history and foundation of mass incarceration, examining Christianity's role in its evolution and offering creative solutions and innovative interventions. Rev. Dominique Gilliard is the director of racial righteousness and reconciliation for the Love Mercy Do Justice (LMDJ) initiative of the Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC). All are invited! Sponsored by the Covenant Northwest Conference, Transform MN, and Crosstown Covenant Church

World Vision 2018 Global 6K for Water! May 19, 9:30am

Begin and end at First Covenant Church of Saint Paul

First Covenant Church will join thousands of other participants from around the globe to run OR walk six kilometers or 3.2 miles to bring life-changing clean water to communities in need. There is still time to register! Registration is \$50 for adults and \$25 for children (under 18). With your registration fee, comes a World Vision t-shirt and the name and picture of a child who will be forever impacted by receiving clean water. No fundraising or sponsorship is necessary, but there is a contest among FCC for the participant who registers the most family or friends! For more information or assistance with registering, see the World Vision table set up in Upper Fellowship Hall following Worship today, or check out this link: <http://www.teamworldvision.org/team/fccstpaul6k>