

ADVENT 2016



anticipate...

**"But as for me, I watch in hope for the LORD,
I wait for God my Savior; my God will hear me."
Micah 7:7**

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office@first-covenant.org

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 11, 2016

9:30 a.m.

Gathering Time
Passing of the Peace
Greeting

Please complete the connect card and place in the offering plate.

Invitation to Worship

*Opening Hymn 130

Lighting of the Advent Joy Candle

Song of Response

Scripture Reading

Ministry Highlight

*Songs

Prayer of the People

Giving and Living Out of Our Abundance

Choral Offertory

Advent Joy (arr. Patrick M. Liebergen)

*Children in grades Pre-K through 2nd grade are invited to continue worshipping in Children's Church.
Please meet the teachers in the back of the Sanctuary after the offertory.*

Message

anticipate... JOY
Pastor Anne Vining

*Closing Hymn 663

*Sending Words

Postlude

You Shall Go Out With Joy

Micah 7:7

Woodlands (arr. Paul Manz)

Prayer Time for health and wholeness is offered in the Prayer Chapel following Worship.

TODAY

Welcome to Worship at First Covenant Church! *Wherever you find yourself on your journey of faith, we are glad you are here. The connect card in your bulletin provides a way to give or receive information, or to ask for prayer. Many are already part of our e-mail communication. If you would like to receive periodic church updates electronically, please indicate this on your connect card. Place your completed connect card in the offering plate.*

The Advent Candle is lit this morning by some of our prayer partners: Don & Bev Oren and Sam David, as well as Kara Stromberg and Valerie Quarles. All youth, grades 7-12, are paired with an adult who commits to praying for them in the coming year. These special relationships are meaningful to those involved, and are a key way that we support our youth and families intergenerationally.

9:30am

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

Children's Church, children pre-k - 2nd grade are dismissed with leaders during Worship and will return with leaders during the final song of Worship, *Room 104*

Resource Table for children and youth, please check out this table as you enter Worship, where you will find worship bulletins, crayons and Bibles for children, and worship notes for Confirmation students.

10:30am

Fellowship Time, *Upper Fellowship Hall*

10:40am

No Youth Group Music Lessons until further notice.

11:00am

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

Sunday School, (Pre-K - K), *Room 106*

Oliver! Musical Rehearsal, (Gr. 1-6), *Lower Fellowship Hall*

Confirmation, *Game Room*

Youth Sunday School, (Gr. 7-12), *Graffiti Room*

Adult Spiritual Growth Hour, *Upper Fellowship Hall*

Join us to hear more about the ongoing work of the Paul Carlson Partnership (PCP), and our supported medical clinic in Congo. PCP is the recipient of our 2016 Christmas Eve offering.

Giving Christmas Away, today is the last Sunday to pick an ornament!

Christmas Tree in Upper Fellowship Hall

If you are able, this is your opportunity to purchase new gifts for children, whose families need help this Christmas. Additional ornaments have been added to the tree this week.

Each ornament lists an individual's gender, age and Christmas wish list. To help with tracking, please be sure that your ornament number is recorded before you leave the tree.

By next Sunday, December 18, return your unwrapped gifts, with the numbered ornament attached, to the Christmas Tree. If during the week, please bring to the church office.

Questions? Contact Judie Ramsey, judrams@yahoo.com.

New church directory and giving options verification needed today!

Tables near the Arcade Street west windows

If you have not already done so, we need everyone to stop today to look at your directory entry to indicate any changes, or to let us know if you choose to not be in the directory, which will soon be available for distribution. While you are there, be sure to indicate your preferred method of giving contributions for 2017—a weekly envelope, a monthly envelope, online through the FCC website, or automatic withdrawals from your account. Rachel Hanks and Jan Thoes will be at the tables to answer questions. Thank you for your help!

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Stay connected: Stop by the Welcome Center to order a CD of any worship service. Weekly worship bulletins and podcasts can be found on the church website under the Worship and Arts tab.

Christmas Memorial forms and envelopes are available today at the Welcome Center. The poinsettias that brighten the sanctuary for Christmas are purchased with the donations given in memory of loved ones, who will be listed in the bulletin on Christmas Eve. Include the names of your loved ones on the form, along with cash or a check made out to First Covenant Church. Place the envelope in the offering plate or Rachel Hank's mailbox in the church office. **The deadline is Sunday, December 18.**

Adopt-A-Cop deadline is today to send your officer a Christmas card. Please place your card in the Adopt-A-Cop mailbox in the church office. We still have 2 St. Paul Police Officers who would like a person/family to pray for them. If interested, please contact Jan Mollet (Adopt-A-Cop Coordinator): rjmollet@gmail.com, 651-329-1221,

The Alley Shoppe is closed during the Christmas season. Today is the last day to drop off items until January 1, 2017. If you have items to donate, please hold onto them until then, or donate them to another charity. Thanks for your help!

Needed: a few greeters for Christmas Eve. Would you be able to greet folks coming in for the Christmas Eve Service on Saturday, December 24? You will need to arrive at 3:15pm to greet before the 4:00pm service begins. This "one time" commitment would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Tricia Sargent, trish.sargent@hotmail.com, 651-235-5359.

Part Time Nursery Coordinator Job Posting

First Covenant Church of Saint Paul is seeking to hire a part time Nursery Coordinator. This person will work closely with the Minister of Children and Families to provide leadership to the adult volunteers, ensuring that our nurseries are safe, caring, and nurturing for our little ones. To apply, please send your resume with a cover letter to office@first-covenant.org, attention: Nursery Coordinator Position.

Questions? Please contact Donovan DeGaetano - donovan@first-covenant.org.

THIS WEEK

Final Wednesday Programs, Wednesday, December 14

This week is the final Wednesday for The After School Program, midweek *Oliver!* rehearsals for children, youth group, and Bible Study for adults, until January 11, 2017.

Youth Annual Christmas Party, Wednesday, December 14, 6:15-7:30pm, Youth Wing
Junior and Senior High youth are invited to our annual Christmas Party. Join us in your favorite Christmas outfit for fun, festivities, Christmas Karaoke, games and cookie decorating contests. Questions? Contact Kate Makosky.

Gospel Choir Rehearsals, Thursdays, December 15, 22, 6:00pm, Choir Room

Note: this is a change in rehearsal days. Everyone is welcome to join us as we prepare to sing on Christmas Eve, December 24. CDs are at the Welcome Center.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, CHRISTMAS CAROL EXTRAVAGANZA

9:30am: Children's Special Music, Sanctuary

Children Pre-K - K will perform Christmas Carols as special music during Worship. Questions? Contact Sandy Whitby: sandywhitby3@gmail.com.

11:00am: Adult Spiritual Growth Hour, Upper Fellowship Hall

Joe and Paige Mann will lead us into the history and story behind classic Christmas carols. Discover the backstory that you never knew!

12:00pm: Christmas Caroling, Neighborhood, ending up at Pastor Anne & Gordy's
Children, youth, adults and families are invited to join us as we spread the joy of the season through caroling in our neighborhood and to our community. We will head out from church in separate groups and then rejoin for Dale Pearson's famous chili at Pastor Anne and Gordy's house (1108 E. Hyacinth Avenue). Wear your Christmas attire: santa hat, elf hat, Christmas sweater, etc. Please sign up at the Welcome Center. Questions? Contact Christine Nault: cquaas@msn.com.

LOOKING AHEAD

***Oliver!* rehearsals:** Following the Sunday, December 18 *Oliver!* rehearsal, we will take a break until Sunday, January 8, when we will resume our rehearsals.

Prayer Partner Meet Up, Sunday, January 8, 10:30-11:00am, Graffiti Room

A gathering for youth and their adult prayer partners will be held during the Fellowship Hour on January 8. Prayer partner information will be sent out soon. Questions? Contact Kate Makosky, Minister of Youth and Families, kate@first-covenant.org.

Adventurous Christians Winter Retreat, March 10-12, 2017

Adventurous Christians, Grand Marais, MN

Join us for a fun winter weekend in the beautiful Boundary Waters! This can be as relaxing or active of a weekend as you want at our Covenant owned camp just north of Grand Marais. There will be skiing, snowshoeing, broomball, eating, games, and relaxing. A sign up sheet will be at the Welcome Center in January. Please contact Mandy or Peter Griffin with any questions: mjcline8@gmail.com 612-369-0805.