



MAY INTEGRITY AND UPRIGHTNESS PROTECT ME
BECAUSE MY HOPE, O LORD, IS IN YOU.
PSALM 25:21

CHARACTER

February 12, 2017

9:30 a.m.

Gathering Time

Passing of the Peace

Greeting

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

Invitation to Worship

*Opening Hymn 730

God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand

*Opening Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Scripture Reading

Colossians 3:1-17

Sandy Norris, Donyae Graham

Ministry Highlight

"In It Together" Prayer Gathering, on March 1

*Songs

Revelation Song

Take My Life

Prayer of the People

Giving and Living Out of Our Abundance

Offertory

Chasing After You (Bishop Paul Morton)

Gospel Choir

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

CHARACTER: Self-Discipline

Pastor Anne Vining

*Closing Hymn 405

Jesus, Be My Guide and Teacher

*Sending Words

Psalm 25:21

Postlude

He Who Will Suffer God To Guide Him (J.S. Bach)

* All who are able are invited to stand.

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.*

9:30am

Worship

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*

11:00am

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

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

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

Confirmation, *Game Room*

Youth Sunday School, (Gr. 7-11), *Game Room*

Seniors (12th graders), meet with **College Readiness Team**, *Graffiti Room*

Adult Spiritual Growth Hour, "Conversations Over Coffee", *Upper Fellowship Hall*

All are invited to the Adult Spiritual Growth Hour today, as members of the Leadership Team provide some first-half of the fiscal year updates and share highlights of First Covenant's 2016-2017 year thus far. We will also provide time during this hour to respond to questions from the congregation. We look forward to seeing you there!

12:00

Oliver! Parent/Guardian Meeting, 12:00-12:15pm, *Lower Fellowship Hall*

This is a mandatory informational meeting to go over last minute details for *Oliver!*

NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19

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

Join us to learn more about the origins, elements, and inspirational spirit of Gospel Music as we celebrate Black History Month. Led by Steve Pittman, our Gospel Choir Director, and the M68 (Micah 6:8) racial righteousness ministry team, this will be a meaningful hour!

WEATHER ADVISORY INFORMATION

It's the season of ice, snow, and cold! In case Wednesday activities or Sunday Worship needs to be cancelled due to weather, alerts will be posted on the FCC website, the office voicemail, FCC Facebook, TV Channel 4, and TV Channel 9. Cancellations will be made by 3:00pm for Wednesday activities and by 6:00am for Sunday Worship.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Stay connected: Stop by the Welcome Center to order a CD of any worship service, or of our recent Adult Spiritual Growth series "Pursuing Christ Likeness in the Context of a Sexually Diverse Society". Weekly worship bulletins and podcasts can be found on the church website under the Worship and Arts tab.

Warm Winter Wear Collection

A total of 288 winter items have been collected by First Covenant Church and our friends at Excelsior Covenant Church, which will be distributed to our local schools: Bruce Vento Elementary, Farnsworth Lower and Upper campuses and Johnson High School. Thank you for your generosity!

2016 Contribution Statements have been sent via e-mail or postal mail. If you did not receive your statement, please contact Rachel Hanks, Financial Secretary, 651-234-9844 or rachelhanks11@gmail.com.

THIS WEEK

Easter Choir Rehearsals, Wednesdays, now through April 12, 7:30-8pm, Choir Room
Everyone is welcome to join us in preparation for singing on Good Friday, April 14. This Wednesday, February 15, is the last day to join as we are preparing GOSPEL MASS by Robert Ray, based on Gospel style music. See Richard Voth with any questions.

Living Out Reconciliation: God's Vision; Our Reality, Thursday, February 16, 7-9pm
Minnehaha Academy Upper School, 3100 W. River Parkway, Minneapolis, 55406
Dr. Michael Emerson will share on God's vision for Christians as a reconciled people and his research on reality, followed by a panel discussion by pastors on living out God's vision. Dr. Emerson is a leading scholar on race and religion, provost of North Park University, and author of many books, journal articles and reports. Free admission and open to all.
For more information: northwestconference.org/solid-rock-discipleship/reality.

Confirmation Retreat, Leaves Sunday, February 19 at 11:00am, returns Monday, February 20 at 11:00am
Confirmands are heading on their annual Confirmation Retreat this President's Day weekend at Camp Victory in Zumbro Falls. We are looking forward to a weekend to learn and grow together in fun and faith. Cost \$50, scholarships available. Questions? Contact Kate Makosky

OLIVER! MUSICAL IS FEBRUARY 25 & 26

We need everyone's help to make this year's children's musical a huge success! Many different volunteer opportunities still need to be filled. Please fill out a blue volunteer form and place it in the designated basket (forms and basket are at the Welcome Center). You will be contacted by your area's coordinator with more details. Thank you to those who have already offered to help! Please see Richard Voth with any questions.

LOOKING AHEAD

Adventurous Christians Winter Retreat, March 10-12, 2017, Grand Marais, MN

Join us for a fun winter weekend, reserved just for First Covenant Church, 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 and informational flyers are at the Welcome Center. **Sign up deadline: February 24.** Cost: \$115 per adult, \$58 per child under 12. Please contact Mandy or Peter Griffin with any questions: mjcline8@gmail.com, 612-369-0805.

TWO UPCOMING EVENTS FOR WOMEN

SET APART, A Faith Filled Conference for Women, March 3 & 4, 8:00am - 4:30pm

University of Northwestern-St. Paul, 3003 Snelling Ave. N

Included daily: 3 Workshop Choices, 2 Keynote Speakers (Susie Larson and Ann Voskamp), lunch, worship music, shopping options and fellowship.

Cost: Standard Rate \$55/1 day, \$99/2 days. Group of 10 is \$50/1 day, \$88/2 days.

By signing up at the FCC Welcome Center before February 13, \$25 scholarship per person is available from FCC Women's Fund. No refunds after order is sent in.

Visit: www.SetApartConference.com or FCC east hall bulletin board.

Questions? Contact Lynn Gilmore at 651-770-1536 or gilmork@msn.com.

Women Ministries Northwest Conference Renewal Conference 2017 SHINE!

From 5:30 pm March 17 to 4pm March 18

New London Covenant Church, 207 Main St. N. New London, MN

Speaker: Marnie Swedberg, online mentor, syndicated radio talk show host, and

author. Choose 2 Break Out Sessions from 10 offered, worship, lunch, shopping and

more. Cost: \$20 Friday night only, \$30 Saturday only, \$40 whole event. Sign up, registration materials and possible car pooling information is at the Welcome Center.

\$25 scholarship available from FCC Women's Fund by signing up by March 5 and sending in registration. Visit www.wmnwc.org or east hall bulletin board.

Questions? Contact Lynn Gilmore at 651-770-1536 or gilmork@msn.com.

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Needed for Children's Ministry: single rose vases to use when announcing the births of newborns at our church. If you have extras and would like to donate them, please leave them in the box at the Welcome Center. Questions? See Donovan DeGaetano.

Needed for Youth Ministry: magazine donations. Place them in the box at the Welcome Center - needed by February 19. Questions? See Kate Makosky.

5th Annual Golden Chili Cup and Silent Auction, Saturday, February 18, 5:30pm

Faith United Methodist Church, 1530 Oakdale Avenue, St. Paul, 55118

River Bend Mission Team, in partnership with Be the Tool, (led by our own

Rod Scofield), is raising money for their next mission trip - returning to New Orleans

to help rebuild homes damaged by hurricanes. Cost: \$15 to get in the door and to have

5 votes for the chili competition. Questions? Contact Rod Scofield, 651-248-8495,

rod@bethetool.org.