

LENT 2018



Sabbath: Making Space for Encountering God

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FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

February 18, 2018

9:30 a.m.

Gathering Time

Passing of the Peace

Invitation to Lenten 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 219

I Will Sing the Wondrous Story

*Opening Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Welcome New Members

Ministry Highlight

Covenant World Relief

Scripture Reading

Exodus 20: 3-8, Elijah Lokensgard-Wallace
Matthew 11: 25-30, Sandy Norris

*Song

Oceans

Sabbath Practice

Redeeming the Time, Kate Makosky

Prayer of the People

Giving and Living Out of Our Abundance

Choral Offertory

Day By Day (arr. Karle Prickson)

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

Sabbath: Community Over Commodity
Pastor Anne Vining

*Closing Hymn 455

Be Still My Soul, the Lord Is on Your Side!

*Sending Words

Postlude

O Lord Look Down From Heaven (Johann Pachelbel)

*Stand if you are able

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

*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 following Worship.*

This morning in Worship we have the privilege of welcoming eight individuals into membership at First Covenant Church. These new members were affirmed last Sunday following Worship, have completed our Discovery Class and have met with Members of the Leadership Team. Following Worship, we invite you to greet them at the front of the sanctuary.

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 the last song, *Room 104.*

Resource Table for children and youth: check out this table as you enter Worship for bulletins, crayons & Bibles for children, and Confirmation worship notes.

10:30-11:00am

Fellowship Time, *Upper Fellowship Hall*

11:00am-12:00pm

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, *Room 201 (upstairs)*

Youth (grades 7-12 not in musical), please join Pastor Anne for a conversation about today's message topic, *Graffiti Room*

Adult Spiritual Growth Hour, (February 18, March 4, 11, 18), 2 options:

1. Adult Lent Discussion Groups: Join us as we discuss Walter Brueggemann's "Sabbath as Resistance: Saying No to the Culture of Now" in small group discussions. Existing Life Groups which have met at church on Sundays will serve as discussion groups for our Lenten study. Those who are not a part of a Life Group but want to participate in this study can see Tom Cameron at the Welcome Center following Worship today.

2. Adults not participating in a Lent Discussion Group are invited to join Joe and Paige Mann in Upper Fellowship Hall. This group will cover the same material as the Lent Discussion Groups.

11:00am-3:00pm

Beauty and the Beast Musical Problem Solving Rehearsal, *FCC Lower Fellowship Hall*

Those who need to be there will have been told at Saturday's rehearsal.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER DURING LENT

Lent is the Christian season of preparation before Easter. Ash Wednesday marks the first day, or the start of the season of Lent, which begins 40 days prior to Easter (not including Sundays). Lent is a time for reflection on Jesus Christ - his suffering and his sacrifice, his life, death, burial and resurrection.

What is Covenant World Relief?

Covenant World Relief (CWR) is the humanitarian aid ministry of the Evangelical Covenant Church. As a denomination, we actively contribute funds to God's transforming mission in the world in areas of disaster relief and community development among the most needy and vulnerable people in the world. The CWR mission is to "join God in loving, serving, and working together with the poor, the powerless, and the marginalized". First Covenant's focus on Covenant World Relief begins today and continues through Lent. Financial contributions to CWR will be collected on Easter Sunday, April 1. For more information, stop by the Lent Resource Table or visit the website: www.covchurch.org/relief.

Check out the Lent Resource Table in Upper Fellowship Hall to pick up Lent devotionals, our new Lent Guidebook and other resources to use as we enter the season of Lent.

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 Spiritual Growth Hour.

Jonathan House: We will be continuing to update you with specific needs for the residents of Jonathan House, a residence for three asylum seekers located in the parsonage on our church property. There are no specific requests this week, but a bin is in place by the Welcome Center if you wish to contribute some household items, especially as they are announced in future Sunday bulletins. For any who are interested in volunteering to work directly with the residents, you will need to complete volunteer training. The next training is scheduled for Saturday, March 10, location to be announced. If you are interested in volunteering, being updated on requests for donations or wishing information on the training, you may sign up at the Welcome Center on the Jonathan House sign-up sheet.

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 Sundays.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST, FEBRUARY 23, 24, 25

Beauty and the Beast Inserts: Please use the insert in today's bulletin to invite someone to Beauty and the Beast, which will be held at Johnson High School next weekend, February 23, 24, 25. More inserts can be found at the Welcome Center. **Remember that there will be no Worship at First Covenant Church on Sunday, February 25, due to the musical.**

We especially need parking help, ushers and nursery help! We still need many volunteers to help with the musical! Please fill out a green volunteer form and place it in the basket (both are found at the Welcome Center) **BY TODAY**, so we can plan. Prayerfully consider your part in supporting our youth and in the success of this musical. The coordinators of the area you sign up for will contact you with more details.

SUPPORTING OUR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Trailblazer Retreat: This weekend 6 of our 4th-6th graders, along with Donovan DeGaetano, are at Covenant Pines Bible Camp in McGregor, MN for a retreat. Remember them in prayer.

Children and Youth Volunteer Meeting, Wednesday, February 28th, 5:45pm-7:30pm, UFH
All volunteers are invited to a time to reflect, encourage, and grow. Prior to our meeting, please watch the TreeHouse resource module "Mentoring and Growth Groups" to prepare for our training. This is an evening to care for you, even as we look into the future. Questions? Please contact Donovan DeGaetano, Kate Makosky, Addin Vang, or Chrissy Thomas.

CHIC Fundraiser - Butter Braid Pastry Sales, Sunday, March 4, 10:30-11:00am
Order a Butter Braid Pastry and support our 24 senior high youth attending CHIC, our triennial youth conference. These delicious breakfast pastries are being sold in *Upper Fellowship Hall* one day only and cost \$13 each. Please bring cash or a check written out to First Covenant Church, as they need to be paid for when ordered. The pastries will be available for pick up on Sunday morning, March 25 - just in time for Easter! Questions? Contact Bill Haider, bhaider@focusfinancial.com.

CHIC Update Meeting for Parents and Youth, Sunday, March 4th, 12:00-12:45pm
Are you a parent or caregiver of a youth going to CHIC? Are you going to CHIC? Then please put in your calendars the CHIC Update Meeting for Parents and Youth. In this meeting, we will discuss CHIC related topics such as the fundraising Auction in April, and other important details. *Join us in the Lower Fellowship Hall right after the B&B Cast Party.*

Summer Preview Night, Wednesday, March 7, 6:15-7:30pm, First Covenant Church
Summer 2018 is almost here - are you ready? This night presents opportunities from community partners and our own Covenant Pines Bible Camp to help you think though and get signed up for your summer activities. An informational registration session for parents and caregivers, plus fun activities for children and youth (grades PreK-12th), are a part of this fantastic evening!

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR WOMEN

Set Apart Conference for Women, March 9 and/or March 10, 8:00am- 4:30pm each day
This annual conference at *The University of Northwestern, St. Paul*, includes Christ centered teaching, workshops, insightful speakers and lunch. See FCC East Hall Women's Bulletin Board. Register yourself, and then sign your name on the Welcome Center sheet. Scholarship allowance available. If you have questions, contact Lynn Gilmore, 651-770-1536.

Renewal Conference for NW Conference Women Ministries, at Bloomington Covenant Church
Friday, March 16, 5:30pm and/or Saturday, March 17, 8:00am - 4:00pm
All women are invited to attend part or all of this weekend, featuring an intentional evangelism focus and keynote speaker Pastor March Baumann, from Crossroads Eagan Campus. Lunch is included. Registration forms and information is available at Welcome Center or on the FCC East Hall Women's Bulletin Board.

LOOKING AHEAD

First Covenant Church Adventurous Christians Winter Retreat, March 9-11
Adventurous Christians Camp, Grand Marais, MN

All are welcome to join us in the beautiful, snowy north woods of MN at our Covenant-owned camp! This retreat can be as active or relaxing as you want with skiing, hiking, snowshoeing, sauna, eating, reading, fellowship and worship. There is a sign up sheet and more information at the Welcome Center. Questions? Contact Mandy Griffin, mjcline@gmail.com.