



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

# CHARACTER

**February 19, 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 732

*Lift Every Voice and Sing*

\*Opening Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Ministry Highlight

Black History Month

Scripture Reading

Matthew 19:16-30

Josh Holm, Mercedes Martinez

\*Song

*More To See*

Prayer of the People

Giving and Living Out of Our Abundance

Choral Offertory

*Be Thou My Vision* (arr. Alice Parker)  
accompanied by Marcy Turnquist, harp

*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: Vision

Pastor Anne Vining

\*Closing Song

*Build Your Kingdom Here*

\*Sending Words

Psalm 25:21

Postlude

*Be Thou My Vision* (arr. Gordon Young)

\* 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*

**10:45am**

**Oliver! Rehearsal**, (Gr. 1-6), *Sanctuary*

**11:00am**

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

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

**Youth Sunday School**, youth will join the Adult Spiritual Growth Hour today.

**Adult Spiritual Growth Hour**, *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 Love Mercy Do Justice (formerly M68) ministry team, this will be a meaningful hour!

**Our Confirmation students and leaders will be leaving at 10:45am today** for their annual Confirmation Retreat. They will be at Camp Victory in Zumbro Falls, returning tomorrow at 11:00am. Please remember to pray for these 16 youth and 6 leaders as they share this time together, building relationships and growing in faith.

## **NEXT WEEKEND, FEBRUARY 25, 26 IS OLIVER!**

**Saturday, February 25, 4:00pm**

**Sunday, February 26, 10:30am**, with a reception following.

Please note that both performances will be here in the sanctuary at First Covenant Church. There will be no regular Worship or Spiritual Growth Hour at FCC on Sunday, February 26. Doors will open 30 minutes prior to each performance. This is a free performance, however donations will be taken at the end of each performance to help cover the expenses of *Oliver!*, (checks payable to First Covenant Church). Nursery care will be provided for both performances for newborns and toddlers. Invite your friends and families and come out to support our children who have been working so hard!

## **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.

**Volunteers are still needed next weekend for *Oliver!*** Thank you to all who have offered to help, however, we still need volunteers in a few areas: Sunday reception set up, serving and clean up, and parking. Please see the list at the Welcome Center to sign up.

**The season of Lent begins on Wednesday, March 1,** which is recognized as Ash Wednesday. 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. Lenten resources will be available for you beginning on Saturday, February 25 at *Oliver!*.

**First Covenant and Welcoming the Stranger:** It seems every day our news sources are reporting on issues related to immigration and refugee concerns facing our nation and world. What is our response as Christ followers? as a church? Click on the “Welcoming the Stranger” slide on our website ([www.first-covenant.org](http://www.first-covenant.org)) to read responses from key leaders within our denomination and our partners. If you are interested in learning more, consider attending the upcoming event sponsored by our partner, Transform MN:

**Standing With Refugees, Thursday, March 2, 12:30-2:00pm**

*Calvary Church, 2120 Lexington Ave N, Roseville, MN 55113*

<http://transformmn.org/event/standing-with-refugees/>

Engage with other pastors, ministry leaders, and missionaries around this important, timely topic about Standing with Refugees – as we are both pro-security and pro-refugee. Learn facts and ways to talk about the status of the church’s call and ability to welcome refugees.

### THIS WEEK

**No Wednesday or Thursday music rehearsals will be held this week,** due to much preparation taking place for *Oliver!* This includes Handbells, Choir, Easter Choir, Gospel Choir and Worship Team.

### NEXT WEEK

**“In it Together, A Community Prayer Gathering”, Wednesday, March 1, 6:15pm**  
*Upper Fellowship Hall*

Join us for dinner at 5:45pm followed by this community prayer gathering sponsored by Contender For the Faith Church, Family Values for Life and First Covenant Church’s Love Mercy Do Justice ministry team (formerly M68). This is also Ash Wednesday, however there will be no imposition of ashes this year at First Covenant. If you would like to participate in an Ash Wednesday worship service with the imposition of ashes, you would be warmly welcomed on Wednesday, March 1 from 11:00-11:30am at Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church, 1669 Arcade Street, St. Paul.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Men's Prayer Breakfast, Saturday, March 4, 8:00-9:30am, Game Room**

Join men of all ages for a monthly time of prayer, study and fellowship.

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

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

Visit: [www.SetApartConference.com](http://www.SetApartConference.com) or FCC east hall bulletin board. A sign up sheet and more information is at the Welcome Center.

Questions? Contact Lynn Gilmore at 651-770-1536 or [gilmork@msn.com](mailto:gilmork@msn.com).

### **Talking Circle: Following Christ in Our Sexually Diverse Community, Sunday, March 5, 12:15 - 1:45 p.m., Lower Fellowship Hall**

The Gender and Sexuality Resource Team invites you to continue the conversation begun during the recent Spiritual Growth series. Podcasts and handouts from the series are on the Church website (<http://www.first-covenant.org/#/our-life-together/spiritual-growth-hour>). We will have a light lunch and childcare will be available.

Please sign up at the Welcome Center. Questions? Contact D.D. Peterson, 651-776-7117 or [ddpeterson07@comcast.net](mailto:ddpeterson07@comcast.net)

### **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](mailto:mjcline8@gmail.com), 612-369-0805.

### **Parental Guidance Suggested: The Birds, The Bees and HPV**

**Saturday, March 11 from 9:30-11:30am, First Covenant Church of Saint Paul**

Talking with your kids about sex and their bodies is one of the most important, and often most difficult, conversations to have - and one that you can never start too early. Join us for a conversation where we talk through the hard stuff, so that you can have courageous conversations with your kids and teens. Questions? Contact Kate or Donovan.

### **Women Ministries Northwest Conference Renewal Conference 2017 SHINE!**

**From 5:30 pm March 17 to 4pm March 18 New London Covenant, 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.

**Sign up by March 5** and send in your registration to qualify for a \$25 scholarship available from FCC Women's Fund. Visit [www.wmncw.org](http://www.wmncw.org) or east hall bulletin board. Questions? Contact Lynn Gilmore at 651-770-1536 or [gilmork@msn.com](mailto:gilmork@msn.com).