



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

CHARACTER

February 5, 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 365

Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior

*Opening Prayer

Scripture Reading

Psalm 32:1-2, 85:2-3, 130:3-4, Ephesians 4:32, Colossians 3:13

*Song

Amazing Love

Giving and Living Out of Our Abundance

Choral Offertory

When You Prayed Beneath the Trees (Lloyd Larson)

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.

Scripture Reading

Luke 7:36-50, Valerie Quarles, Doug Nelson

Message

CHARACTER: Forgiveness

Joe Mann

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

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

*Affirmation of Faith

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

*Closing Hymn 359

All My Sins Have Been Forgiven

*Sending Words

Psalm 25:21

Postlude

Hyfrydol (arr. C. Callahan)

* 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.*

Today our guest preacher is Joe Mann. Joe works at Augsburg College and is graduating in May from Luther Seminary. He attends First Covenant with his wife, Paige.

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. 7-12), *Graffiti Room*

Adult Spiritual Growth Hour, *Upper Fellowship Hall*

Today we conclude our four session series sponsored by the Gender and Sexuality Resource Team on, "Following Christ in our Sexually Diverse Community". Our guest speaker for these sessions is Dr. Gary Strauss. **Today's topic:** Issues that each local church will need to address in light of the social and cultural realities of the LGBTQ community. Podcast recordings and handouts from this series can be found on the FCC website. If you would like a CD of any or all of the sessions, sign up at the Welcome Center. There is no charge.

NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Conversations Over Coffee, *11:00am, Upper Fellowship Hall*

All are invited to the Adult Spiritual Growth Hour next Sunday, 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. To help us in our preparation we encourage you to send us questions (by Tuesday, February 7), by e-mailing the church office at office@firstcovenant.org. We look forward to seeing you there!

Oliver! Parent/Guardian Meeting, *12:00-12:30pm, Lower Fellowship Hall*

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

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. Weekly worship bulletins and podcasts can be found on the church website under the Worship and Arts tab.

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.

Warm Winter Wear Collection, last day is today! *Box by the Welcome Center*
Thank you to all who have donated new mittens, hats and scarves for kids in need, distributed by our local schools!

THIS WEEK

Easter Choir Rehearsals, Wednesdays, now through April 12, 7:30pm, Choir Room
We are starting a series of Ethnic Masses over the next 3 years for our Good Friday Concerts, as part of our journey of becoming a more multi-cultural church. This year we will be preparing GOSPEL MASS by Robert Ray, based on Gospel style music. Everyone is welcome to join us in preparation for singing on Good Friday, April 14. Please see Richard Voth with any questions.

Gospel Choir Rehearsal, Thursday, February 9, 6:00pm, Choir Room
All are welcome to join us as we prepare to sing in worship on Sunday, February 12. Please see Steve Pittman with any questions.

CAN YOU HELP?

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 - they MUST be received by February 19. Questions? See Kate Makosky.

Needed to borrow for *Oliver!* musical: two wooden or brown/black plastic saw horses. Please contact Jeannine Nordlund: jeanninenordlund@gmail.com.

GIVING OPPORTUNITY

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.

OPPORTUNITIES DURING FEBRUARY: BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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.

Sunday, February 19, Adult Spiritual Growth Hour, 11:00am, Upper Fellowship Hall

Join the M68 racial righteousness ministry team to learn more about the origins, elements, and inspirational spirit of Gospel Music with Steve Pittman, our Gospel Choir director, as we celebrate Black History Month.

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. Cost: \$115 per person. 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.