



# CELEBRATE

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# COMMUNION SUNDAY

**January 1, 2017**

**10:30 a.m.**

Gathering Time  
Passing of the Peace  
Greeting

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

Call to Worship

\*Opening Hymn 194

*Arise, Your Light Is Come!*

\*Opening Prayer

Scripture Reading

Matthew 25: 31-46

Isabel Patrick and Doug Nelson

\*Song

*We Believe*

Giving and Living Out of Our Abundance

Offertory

*Grateful*  
Steve Pittman

Message

A New Year

Pastor Anne Vining

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

The Apostles Creed

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

\*Closing Hymn 580

*God Bless Your Church with Strength!*

\*Sending Words

Postlude

*Diademata*, by Michael Burkhardt

\* 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 soloist is Steve Pittman, our new Gospel Choir Director.** We are grateful for his gifts and talents, adding to the life of First Covenant Church.

**10:30am**

**Worship**

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

**Children's Church**, there is no Children's Church today. Children are invited to stay in Worship.

**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.

**11:30am**

**Fellowship Time**, *Upper Fellowship Hall*

## NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

**9:30am: Worship**, *Sanctuary*

**10:30am - 11:00am: Prayer Partner Meet Up**, *Graffiti Room*

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

**11:00am: Spiritual Growth Hour resumes for all ages**

**Adult Spiritual Growth Hour**, *Upper Fellowship Hall*

Next Sunday, we will be starting a four session series sponsored by the Gender and Sexuality Resource Team on the what, whys, and how of relating and responding to LGBTQ people within the Christian community and the wider world. Our guest speaker for these sessions is Dr. Gary Strauss, who was formerly on the faculty at Rosemead School of Psychology, a school of Biola University in Southern California, where he also served as a staff psychologist at the Biola Counseling Center. He currently serves as an adjunct professor at Biola teaching an undergraduate course on human sexuality.

**11:00am: *Oliver!* rehearsals resume**, *Lower Fellowship Hall*

**5:00pm: Volunteers are needed to take down sanctuary decorations**, *Sanctuary*

If you are interested in helping out, please contact Michelle Fure, 651-707-7699 or [mkib73@hotmail.com](mailto:mkib73@hotmail.com).

## 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

**2017 Giving Envelopes are now available. Please stop at the table to pick yours up.** Questions? Contact Rachel Hanks, 651-234-9844, rachelhanks11@gmail.com.

**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.

**The Alley Shoppe is closed during the Christmas season.** If you have items to donate, please hold onto them until January 8, or donate them to another charity. Thank you!

### THIS WEEK

**The church office and building will be closed on Monday, January 2.**

**“In it Together, A Community Prayer Gathering”, Wednesday, January 4, 5:45pm: Dinner, 6:15pm: Prayer Gathering begins, *First Covenant Church***  
All are encouraged to attend this community prayer gathering sponsored by Contender For the Faith Church, Family Values for Life and First Covenant Church, St. Paul. Childcare will be available for 6th grade and under.

**Men’s Prayer Breakfast, Saturday, January 7, 8:00-9:30pm, *Upper Fellowship Hall***  
Men of all ages are invited for a time of sharing, prayer and eating breakfast together.

### NEXT WEEK

**Adult Bible Study, Wednesday, January 11, 9:30am**

Join us as we begin the new year with coffee, treats and a Bible Study on the Biblical Book of Joshua, led by Don Pelto.

**Wednesday afternoon/evening programs begin again on Wednesday, January 11.** This includes the After School Program, Handbells, Dinner, Jump Start, Youth Group, *Oliver!* rehearsals, and Choir.

**Gospel Choir Rehearsal, Thursday, January 12, 6:00-7:30pm, *FCC Choir Room***

All are invited to be part of a mass choir, along with our partner churches, to sing for our MLK Partner Celebration on Sunday, January 15 at 5:00pm.

**Jump Start Post Holiday Tea, Saturday, January 14, 10:00am-1:00pm**

*First Covenant Church, Upper Fellowship Hall*

This 6th annual event for all women is sponsored by Family Values for Life, our ministry partner, and will be a day of fun and inspiration. The day includes a continental breakfast, lunch, prizes, with guest speaker and author Joyce Lester.

Cost: \$5 ahead of time, \$10 day of event. To register or for more information: [familyvaluesforlife.org](http://familyvaluesforlife.org), or 651-774-6663. A sign up sheet is at the Welcome Center.

## MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. WEEKEND, JANUARY 15-16

**Partner Churches Potluck, Sunday, January 15, 4:00pm**

*First Covenant Church, Lower Fellowship Hall*

**Partner Churches Worship Celebration, Sunday, January 15, 5:00pm**

*First Covenant Church, Sanctuary*

Join us as we fellowship, eat and worship together with our partner churches, Followers of Christ Hmong Baptist (who worship at FCC on Sunday afternoons), and Haitian Christian Fellowship, (who worship at FCC on Friday and Sunday evenings). More information will be available soon.

**Note: Since this will replace our usual Sunday worship, there will not be a 9:30am Worship service or Spiritual Growth Hour on Sunday, January 15.**

**Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Breakfast, Monday, January 16, 7:00-9:30am**

*Nine neighborhood locations*

Register now for the 27th Annual MLK Holiday Breakfast! This year, the breakfast will be held at the Minneapolis Convention Center, with a live-stream sent to nine locations around the state. The keynote speaker is Myrlie Evers-Williams, widow of civil rights activist Medgar Evers. Everyone is invited to attend, but space for the breakfast is limited so reservations are required. The cost is \$5 for adults/children under 12 are free. Please note that the breakfast will not be held at First Covenant this year, as it was last year. The nearest location to First Covenant is Progressive Baptist Church (1505 Burns Ave, St. Paul). Other locations and registration information can be found at: [interfaithaction.org/mlk](http://interfaithaction.org/mlk)

## LOOKING AHEAD

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