



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

CHARACTER

January 29, 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 306

And Can It Be That I Should Gain

*Opening Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Scripture Reading

Philippians 2:5-8, Louise Wilson

Lamentations 3:24-26, Micah 6:8, Zach Newman

Ministry Highlight

Good Friday Concert - Gospel Mass

*Song

Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord

I Give Myself Away

Prayer of the People

Giving and Living Out of Our Abundance

Choral Offertory

Wondrous Love (arr. Paul Christiansen)

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: A Reality-Based Humility
Pastor Tom Cameron

*Closing Hymn 366

May the Mind of Christ, My Savior

*Sending Words

Psalm 25:21

Postlude

O Love How Deep, How Broad, How High (arr. David N. Johnson)

* 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*

10:40am - No Youth Group Music Lessons until further notice.

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 continue with the third of 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: Ministering to all people in the church, including the LGBTQ community.

Next week's topic (our final session): Issues that each local church will need to address in light of the social and cultural realities of the LGBTQ (etc) 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.

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

Pastor Anne is out of town until this Thursday, February 2, attending the Covenant Retirement Communities Board Meeting. In case of a pastoral emergency while she is gone, please call the church office during regular office hours. If after hours, please contact Ted Nordlund, 763-442-3771.

We extend our sympathies to Sylvia and family, in the death of her son Ray Weiser, who joined the church triumphant on Tuesday, January 24. A memorial service will be held at 11:00am on Friday, February 3, with visitation beginning at 10:00am. A light lunch will follow. All will be held at Anderson Funeral Home, 1401 Arcade Street, St. Paul. God's peace to those on a journey through loss and grief.

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.

New 2017 Church Directories are available at the Welcome Center if you didn't receive one last Sunday. One per household please.

Warm Winter Wear Collection, Now - February 5, Box by the Welcome Center
We have one week left to collect winter clothing items to be distributed to the two Farnsworth campuses, Johnson High School, and Bruce Vento Elementary. Please consider donating new mittens, hats and scarves for kids in need. For more information, please contact the FCC office at office@first-covenant.org or 651-774-0344.

THIS WEEK

Easter Choir Rehearsals begin on Wednesday, February 1, 7:30pm, Choir Room

We are starting a series of Ethnic Masses for 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.

Men's Prayer Breakfast, Saturday, February 4, 8:00-9:30am

Upper Fellowship Hall

All men are invited to join us for a time of study, prayer, food and fellowship. Contact Roger Carlson for more information: hilljumper2@gmail.com.

Children and Youth Ministries Volunteer Meeting, Saturday, February 4, 9:30-11:30am

Upper Fellowship Hall

Come together for a morning of training, encouragement and team building for all children and youth volunteers. If you need childcare for this event, please contact Donovan DeGaetano.

LOOKING AHEAD

Parental Guidance Suggested: Social Media, Saturday, February 11, 9:30-11:30am
Upper Fellowship Hall

Parental Guidance Suggested is designed to inform, encourage and come alongside parents and caregivers as they tackle key parenting challenges in today's world. Geared for parents of children and youth, this is the first of four topics we will be covering this winter and spring. Bring your questions and concerns about screen time, apps and more as we delve into the world of social media. Coffee and donuts provided. Questions? Contact Kate Makosky or Donovan DeGaetano. Need childcare? Contact Donovan DeGaetano

Conversations Over Coffee, Sunday, February 12, 11:00am, Upper Fellowship Hall

All are invited to the Adult Spiritual Growth Hour 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@first-covenant.org. We look forward to seeing you there!

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 some 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), besides 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.