



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

CHARACTER

January 8, 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 458

'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

*Opening Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Scripture Reading

Galations 2:19-21

Jon Fure

*Song

You Are God Alone

Giving and Living Out of Our Abundance

Choral Offertory

Sov'reign Lord, Creator, Righteous One (Mary McDonald)

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: God dependent

Pastor Anne Vining

Habakkuk 1: 1-4, 2:1-4, 3:17-19 Gina Theesfeld (scripture reader)

*Song

You Are My Hiding Place

Prayer of the People

*Closing Hymn 376

When We Walk with the Lord

*Sending Words

Psalm 25:21

Postlude

Joy to the World (arr. David Cherwien)

* 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*

10:30 - 10:55am: Prayer Partner Meet Up, *Graffiti Room*

Prayer partners new and returning have the opportunity to connect, deepen their relationship and discover how to pray for one another. There will be treats in the room, please bypass the regular treat line and come right to the Graffiti Room following Worship.

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 begin a 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, 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. Since returning to Minnesota, Dr. Strauss is a member of Bethlehem Covenant Church in Minneapolis.

Today's topic: Dr. Strauss's personal story, the nature and sources of sexual diversity.

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.

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

This is the last Sunday to pick up your 2017 giving envelopes on the table next to the Welcome Center. Help us save postage by taking yours or your family member's home today. The remainder will be mailed this week. 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 open again following Christmas. Place your donations of clean and gently used clothing and household items in the east entry box. Thank you to Roger Valois for transporting these items each week to the Alley Shoppe.

Thank you to Nate Stromberg for sharing his creative talents by designing our Advent and CHARACTER series images.

THIS WEEK

Minnesota Timberwolves Camp Night, Monday, January 9, 7:00pm

Target Center, Minneapolis

Andrew Wiggins and Karl-Anthony Towns are pumped because COVENANT PINES BIBLE CAMP (CPBC) IS GOING TO THE TWOLVES GAME TOMORROW! The Wolves are having a Camp Night and CPBC is one of the camps that will be there. If CPBC sells the most tickets, they get to talk about camp on the court during half time! Also, a portion of the cost of each ticket comes back to camp. COST: \$17 per ticket. TO SIGN UP: call or email Will Walters. Tell him you're with Covenant Pines! wil.walters@timberwolves.com or (612) 673-8426. More information is available at the Welcome Center.

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.

Mass 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, as we prepare 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, and guest speaker and author Joyce Lester.

Cost: \$5 in advance, \$10 day of event. To register or for more information: familyvaluesforlife.org, or 651-774-6663. A sign up sheet is at the Welcome Center.

GENEROUS GIVING

Your generosity through Giving Christmas Away is appreciated!

Thank you to all who participated in Giving Christmas Away. FCC was able to bless more than 100 children with Christmas gifts because of your generosity.

Warm Winter Wear Collection, January 8 - February 5

Donations will be received at the box by the Welcome Center

Winter clothing items will be collected and distributed to the two Farnsworth campuses, Johnson High School, and Bruce Vento Elementary. Please consider donating new mittens, hats and scarves to be provided to kids in need. For more information, please contact the FCC office at office@first-covenant.org or 651-774-0344.

OLIVER! ANNOUNCEMENT

On Sunday, January 15, there WILL BE an *Oliver!* Rehearsal at 11:00am.

Even though there will not be a regular schedule that day for Worship and Spiritual Growth Hour, *Oliver!* rehearsals will go on as normal that morning. For this day only, the rehearsals will be changed to the Game and Graffiti Rooms in the Youth Wing. Please note that all parts will be announced at this rehearsal.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. WEEKEND, JANUARY 15-16

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

First Covenant Church, Lower Fellowship Hall

FCC folks are asked to bring the following for the potluck (bring food by 3:30pm).

- Last names beginning with A-M: desserts cut and ready to be served
- Last names beginning with N-Z: salads put together and ready to be served

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).

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. (Please see bulletin insert).