

life in EXILE



A STUDY OF THE MINOR PROPHETS

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LIFE IN EXILE: A STUDY OF THE MINOR PROPHETS

July 16, 2017

10:30 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 724

For the Healing of the Nations

*Opening Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Scripture Reading

Micah 6:1-8, Dick Johnson, Charissa Pederson

*Songs

Love Justice

Brother

Giving and Living Out of Our Abundance

Choral Offertory

We Are God's People (Leech - arr. H. Stevenson)

Message

Love the Stranger

Tom Albinson

President, International Association for Refugees

Prayer of the People

*Closing Song 720

Rise Up, O Saints of God!

*Sending Words

Postlude

In Christ There is No East or West (arr. M. Burkhardt)

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.*

Tom Albinson is our guest preacher today. Tom has been serving refugees full-time since 1981, and serves as founder and President of International Association for Refugees (IAFR) - a Christian mission dedicated to helping people survive and recover from forced displacement. IAFR has active ministry locations in the Twin Cities, Atlanta, Ft. Morgan (CO), France, Malta, Italy, Austria, Kenya and Malawi. In 2013, Tom was appointed by World Evangelical Alliance (WEA) to serve as Ambassador for Refugees, Displaced and Stateless People. Among other things, this role gives him access to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Tom is an active founding member of the Refugee Highway Partnership - a growing international network of churches and Christian agencies serving refugees and forcibly displaced people. Tom and his wife Donna attend Awaken Community Church, a Covenant church plant in St. Paul.

10:30am

Worship, Sanctuary

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

11:30am

Fellowship Time, Upper Fellowship Hall

Lunch with the Albinsons, Lower Fellowship Hall

12:00pm

Lunch for Sankofa Participants, Room 201

Covenant Kids Congo resource table: Currently, The Covenant Denomination is offering a matching sponsorship to churches: for every two children sponsored, an anonymous donor will sponsor one child (up to 25 children per church!). \$40/month is all it takes to make a difference in the life of a child – and their community - with things like access to clean water, nutritious food, basic medical care, and the chance to go to school. Sponsorship multiplies the impact of World Vision to communities. Stop by the resource table in Upper Fellowship Hall today to get more information. Please prayerfully consider your commitment.

NEXT SUNDAY, JULY 23

Worship, 9:30am

Our guest preacher will be Rev. Stephen P. Larson, Covenant pastor and father of Emily Caro, our Nursery Coordinator. Dr. Jason & Lisa Como (and hopefully their children!) will be with us to give an update on their work in Haiti and plans going forward.

Congregational Forum, 11:30am-12:00pm

Next Sunday following Worship, you are all invited to join us for this important time together. During this forum, a number of updates will be provided that build on what was shared during the June 25 forum. Among these updates will be a summary of the missional budget process as well as a snapshot of where we stand regarding this year's budget. We also will hear more from Jason & Lisa Como as they share about their global missions journey and opportunities for their family. Hope to see you there!

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Stay connected: Stop by the Welcome Center to order a CD of any worship service. Weekly worship bulletins and podcasts of each week's message can be found on the church website under the Worship and Arts tab.

We extend our sympathies to the family of Rose Pearson, (daughter and son-in-law are DD and Kirk Peterson), who joined the church triumphant this past Thursday. Details about a celebration of Rose's life are in process. God's peace to those on a journey through loss and grief.

Roger and Kay Quant's 50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration, Saturday, August 5, 1-4 pm

First Covenant Church, Upper Fellowship Hall

Please join us at an open house to celebrate this special anniversary. No gifts please. RSVP is appreciated, but not required, call 651-771-4153, or e-mail: kay.quant@hotmail.com.

New Sound System: we are very grateful for our new sound system which includes sound improvements in the Sanctuary, and new speakers in the nursery and at the Welcome Center. We are also thankful for our sound operators: Mike Hult, Dan Taylor and Rod Scofield, who faithfully run the sound board, and who have willingly taken on extra training for our new digital sound mixer. We appreciate your patience during this process as we continue to fine-tune our sound.

Supporting the Petersons in their upcoming move, Thursday, July 27, 6:00-7:00pm

As you may have heard, Karl and Sue Peterson, our missionaries to Mexico, have been able to extend their home assignment for another year. They have found a new home for the next year, and are in need of help for their move from Plymouth to Excelsior. First Covenant and Excelsior Covenant are partnering, with First Covenant loading the truck and Excelsior Covenant unloading the truck. All of the items to load will be in their current garage. Please let Bryan Norris know if you can help: norris.bryan@gmail.com.

Kate Makosky, Minister to Youth and Families, is on a sabbatical leave, returning on August 1. Addin Vang, Summer Youth Ministry Intern, will be providing leadership to youth and families in Kate's absence: addin@first-covenant.org., 651-774-0344, #15.

If you are in need of pastoral care this summer, please contact the church office and you will be connected with the on-call pastor. Ministry Team members will be taking time off at various points throughout the summer, and we want to make sure that you receive the support that you need.

UPCOMING EVENTS THIS MONTH

Gospel Choir Rehearsal, Thursday, July 20, 6:00pm, Choir Room

All are welcome to join us to rehearse in preparation to sing in Worship on Sunday, July 23. CD's and summer schedules are available at the Welcome Center.

Nuke-em Ball Game, Thursday, July 20, 7:00-7:45pm (families with children K-6th grades)

Meet at the First Covenant Playground following Gospel Choir Rehearsal

In It Together Prayer Walk and Ice Cream Social, Thursday, July 27, 6:00-7:30pm

Contender for the Faith Church, 580 Case Avenue E., St. Paul, MN

Join us for a night to pray for our neighborhood and community. We will divide into groups and pray as we walk through the neighborhood. Groups will return to Contender for the Faith for an ice cream social as we continue building relationships between our two churches.

Questions? Contact Susan, susancarlson@northcountryautobody.com.

SUMMER BOOK CLUBS

Summer book clubs are back! Read a good book and get together with others to discuss it at one of our two book clubs this summer. Copies of both books are available for purchase at the Welcome Center for \$5 each, where you can also sign up to attend the book club.

The first book club is: Wednesday, July 19, 6:30pm

Jon and Michelle Fure's Home, 1752 Nebraska Ave. E., St. Paul, MN

Sponsored by our LOVE MERCY DO JUSTICE team, we will be discussing the book "Disunity In Christ", by Christena Cleveland.

Questions? Contact Susan, susancarlson@northcountryautobody.com.

The second book club is: Wednesday, August 2, 7:00pm

First Covenant Church

Sponsored by Adult Spiritual Growth, we will be discussing the book "What Is the Bible?", by Rob Bell. Questions? Contact Joe Mann, jmann.us@gmail.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN AUGUST

Confirmation Orientation Meeting, Tuesday, August 8, 5:30-6:30pm, Graffiti Room

Incoming 7th graders, and a parent or guardian, are invited to this mandatory meeting to get all the information you need about The Confirmation Journey for your confirmand this coming year. Dinner provided. For more information, contact Addin Vang or Pastor Anne.

Baptism Informational Meeting, Tuesday, August 8, 6:30-7:30pm, Upper Fellowship Hall

Is someone in your household interested in being baptized? Join us for a brief time as we explore the meaning and significance of baptism in preparation for our Lake Phalen baptism service on Sunday, August 20. Please let Donovan DeGaetano or Pastor Anne know by Sunday, August 6 if you plan on attending.

Sunday, August 13 is our next Outdoor Worship Service with a Potluck following.

Stay tuned for volunteer opportunities and types of food to bring.

Family Values for Life Back-to-School Golf Classic & Banquet, Monday, August 21

Registration: 11:00am, Shotgun Start: 12:00pm, Banquet: 6:00pm

Keller Golf Course, 2166 Maplewood Drive, Maplewood, MN

Golfers of all ages and abilities are invited to participate in the FVFL Golf Classic Scramble. FVFL is a ministry partner, helping local families to become spiritually, mentally, physically and financially empowered. Stay after the scramble for the banquet. Not a golfer? You are welcome to attend the banquet only. All proceeds will be used to provide backpacks to school age children at the "Back to School" event on August 30th. Register online before August 11 at: familyvaluesforlife.org. For more information, contact Al Frost, 612-834-9867.

First Covenant Church Whole Church Retreat, August 25-27

Covenant Pines Bible Camp, McGregor, MN

Stop by the Retreat Table in Upper Fellowship Hall today for more information or to register. Enjoy one of the last weekends of summer at Covenant Pines Bible Camp with church friends. Registration deadline: August 6. Questions? Ask Jim Hinrichs (hinrichsjd@gmail.com), Christine Tharseo (ctharseo@gmail.com), or Benny Gilmore (brendengilmore86@gmail.com).