

UNITE

June 10, 2018

10:30 a.m.

Gathering Time

Passing of the Peace

Invitation to Worship

*Opening Hymn (see page 3)

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

*Opening Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Ministry Highlight

Celebrating the Little Ones

Scripture Reading (see page 7)

John 4:1-29

Dick Johnson, Deb Berger, Nate Stromberg

*Song

Come to the Water

Future Faith Challenge

Revitalizing Withering Congregations, Chris Penwell

Prayer of the People

Giving and Living Out of Our Abundance

Offertory

Addin Vang, guitar

Message

Where They're From, What They've Done

Pastor Anne Vining

*Closing Song

The Anthem

*Sending Words

Postlude

The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever.

Amen.

TODAY

Welcome to Worship at First Covenant Church! Wherever you find yourself on your journey of faith, we are glad you are here.

10:30am

**Worship, outside on the south lawn, (weather permitting)
Nursery Care, (birth through age 3), Rooms 105 & 106**

11:30am

Potluck, the serving lines are in Upper Fellowship Hall

All are welcome to join us for lunch, whether or not you were able to bring food today. Please follow the lines and get your food in Upper Fellowship Hall, and find a place to sit here on the south lawn or in Upper Fellowship Hall. The Men's Saturday Bible Study will help us celebrate the new babies by serving a special dessert.

12:00pm

Youth "Get Active" Tai Chi, meet in the Graffiti Room

Celebrating the Little Ones in Worship and at the Potluck:

Tyler Ignatius Muapoe was born January 15, 2018. He attends FCC with his mom and dad (Olivia and Bookman), and his sister and brother (Ahlisha and Guarino). Tyler enjoys smiling, eating, and laughing.

Annika Grace Carlson was born February 3, 2018. She attends FCC with her dad and mom (Erik and Kristin), and her brother Soren. Annika likes looking at faces, razzing her lips, and "talking."

Micah Robert Makosky was born March 28, 2018. He attends FCC with his dad and mom (Dan and Kate), and his brother Alex. Micah loves sleeping, eating, cuddling, and smiling. He thinks his hands are the coolest thing ever and loves hanging out in the swing.

Shaun Andrew Field was born March 31, 2018. He attends FCC with his mom and dad (Audra and Clark), and his brother Adam. Shaun enjoys long rides in his stroller. He is starting to smile and talking back to his friends.

NEXT SUNDAY, JUNE 17

Worship, 10:30am

Congregational Forum, 11:45am-12:30pm

Join us as we inform and educate about issues and updates important to our community life together as a church as well as our conference and denomination.

The annual meeting of The Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC) is being held in Minneapolis the following week (June 21-23) where our new president and other key leaders will be approved. Come to learn, ask questions and pray for our future.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

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

Adopt-A-Cop: It is time to send a note of encouragement to our Adopt-A-Cop officers. Please remember to pray for your Officer and place your note in the Adopt-A-Cop Mailbox in the church office by next Sunday, June 17th. Thanks!

Our Generous Living Update: Our church budget for June is \$68,532. As of June 4, we have received \$16,100. Therefore, we need \$52,432 in additional giving in June to meet the June budget, and \$55,800 to meet the September-June budget. Thank you for your ongoing faithful support!

SUMMER BOOK CLUB

Join us this summer for one or more of our three book clubs! All are welcome, but please read the book before attending the session. A few copies of each book will be available at the Welcome Center for purchase.

**"Rethinking Incarceration: Advocating for Justice That Restores",
by Dominique D. Gilliard,
Wednesday, June 20, 6:30-8:00pm**

Jon and Michelle Fure's home, 1752 Nebraska Ave E, Saint Paul

Rev. Gilliard is the Director of Racial Righteousness and Reconciliation for the Evangelical Covenant Church denomination. The U.S. has more people in prisons than any other country in history. Discover how we got here, the church's role, and creative solutions.

**"The Pietist Option", by Christopher Gehrz and Mark Patti
Tuesday, July 24, 6:30-8:00pm**

Pastor Anne and Gordy's home, 1108 Hyacinth Ave E, Saint Paul

This book was given to all the Covenant pastors attending this year's Midwinter Conference in February. We were privileged in April to hear from Dr. Gehrz about how our pietist roots impact our life together and provide a framework to meet the serious challenges the church faces today. Join us for further discussion of this vitally important spiritual movement.

**"Torn: Rescuing the Gospel from the Gays-vs-Christians Debate", by Justin Lee.
Tuesday, August 21, 6:30-8:00pm**

Dave and Joan Brand's home, 1111 Hyacinth Ave E, Saint Paul

In this book, Lee makes a thoughtful yet impassioned plea and challenge for the evangelical church. The author uses both episodes from his personal testimony and an intelligent and balanced interpretation of scripture to make a strong case for peace and unity. This is an important book for our times.

HERO TRAINING CAMP STARTS TOMORROW!

Hero Training Camp Presents: *Amped - Live Fully Alive*, June 11-14, 2:00pm-5:00pm (kindergarten - 6th grade), *Phalen Rec Center, 1000 E. Wheelock Parkway*
Our summer kicks off with our 10th year of Hero Training Camp (HTC)! At HTC, children discover the hero within, will learn from a different hero each day and will learn more about the Greatest Hero of All - Jesus Christ. Each day campers will participate in fun clinics like cooking, drumming, urban gardening, dodgeball and other amazing options. Campers also get into the Bible with age-level groups and learn to live fully alive lives. Cost: \$5 per child, or \$20 per family. Scholarship funds are available. Donovan will be at a table by the playground following Worship today, if you need more information or would like to sign up. You can also register online at www.firscovenant.org.

Hero Training Camp Celebration Dinner, Thursday, June 14, 5:15-6:00pm

First Covenant Church, Lower Fellowship Hall

All are invited to celebrate HTC! Join campers and families for a free dinner provided by Loaves and Fishes. Show your support and enjoy a showcase of all that the campers learned throughout the week.

JUNE EVENTS JUST FOR YOUTH

GET ACTIVE Tai Chi: Sundays, June 10 and 24, following Worship

(incoming 7th - exiting 12th graders)

We are so blessed with awesome, summer weather in Minnesota. Let's use it to our advantage and do things outside! Youth are invited to our twice a month, "Get Active". During "Get Active", we will be doing things such as tai chi, kickball, and more! Come and join us right after Worship, for an hour of fun and movement. Lunch provided.

Youth Bible Study, first Bible Study: Wednesday, June 13th at 5:45pm

All the following Bible studies will be on Thursdays, starting June 21st, 7pm-8pm

(Incoming 7th graders - exiting 12th graders), let's study the Word of God together as a community. We will be going through the CHIC curriculum for the months of June and July then end with going through Ephesians in August. Snacks and drinks provided.

Youth Ministry Grill and Chill , Wednesday, June 20, 6:00 - 8:00pm

(incoming 7th - exiting 12th graders)

It's time to kick off summer! Youth are invited to join us at Phalen Park Picnic Shelter (it's on the island off of the 4th parking lot) for a night of grilling, chilling and fun. Bring a friend and get ready to start your summer off right!

****If you have questions about any of these youth events, please contact Addin Vang, Associate Minister for Youth and Families, addin@first-covenant.org.**

TODDLER MONDAYS!

2nd and 4th Mondays, 9:00-11:00am, starting Monday, June 18, FCC Nursery

Are you looking for something fun to do this summer with your kids ages 0-4 years? Join us for Toddler Mondays! This is geared for our littlest children and their parents and guardians. We look forward to seeing you there!! If you have questions or to pre-register, please talk to Lora Murtha or Donovan DeGaetano.

SUPPORTING OUR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

CHIC Fund: Total needed: \$26,710 to cover 28 students and 4 adult volunteers. Amount still needed: **\$4513**. Please make checks out to First Covenant Church with CHIC in the memo and place it in the offering plate or mail it. CHIC is our denomination's tri-annual youth conference held in Knoxville, TN, July 14-21, 2018. Questions? Please contact Addin Vang.

Every Kid To Camp Fund (EKTC): Total needed: \$10,881 to send 40 children and youth to Covenant Pines Bible Camp. Amount fundraised/paid already: \$4,593. Amount still needed: **\$6,288**. If you would like to donate to this fund, envelopes are available by the camp bus poster in Upper Fellowship Hall. Please place the envelope in the offering plate, in the EKTC mailbox in the church office, or mail it. Please make checks out to First Covenant Church. Questions? Please contact Donovan DeGaetano or Addin Vang.

JUNE EVENTS FOR ALL

Gospel Choir Rehearsal, Thursday, June 14, 6:30-8:00pm, Choir Room

All are invited to join the Gospel Choir and rehearse together as we prepare to sing in Worship on Sunday, June 17. Questions? Contact Steve Pittman, Gospel Choir Director, steve@first-covenant.org.

Jonathan House Brunch, Saturday, June 16, 10:00-11:30pm

Held at Jonathan House, 876 E. Hyacinth, St. Paul, MN (first floor apartment)

Are you wondering how you can personally be involved in the ministry of Jonathan House? Join us for our monthly community meal at Jonathan House where you can get to know the residents, IAfr staff and other volunteers. Please bring a dish to share (no pork products) and RSVP to Jen Levin, jenl@iafr.org by Wednesday, June 13. We'd love to know what you plan to bring so we have a diverse menu. Jonathan House is a residence for three asylum seekers located in the parsonage of our church property. **Thank you** for the wonderful response to our request for items for Jonathan House! To all who have volunteered to donate, please bring your items to the blue bin next to the Welcome Center. Kindness and caring are abundant in this church family!

LOOKING AHEAD

SAVE THE DATE! FCC's Whole Church Retreat is coming soon! August 17-19

Covenant Pines Bible Camp, McGregor, MN

More information to come, but please put the dates on your calendar now so you won't miss it! Cost: adult \$112, child \$56, family max. \$392 includes 2 nights lodging and 5 meals. Contact: Jim Hinrichs 858-349-3867, Christine Tharseo 651-325-1861, Benni Gilmore 763-807-2459.

Sankofa – Journey Toward Racial Righteousness This Fall! September 20-23, 2018

Sankofa attests that we must look at our history before we can faithfully move forward together. Travel from Chicago to historic sites of the South this fall! Connect the past to the present to understand race as a critical component of Christian discipleship and our mission locally and globally as the Church. A limited number of scholarships are available. For more information, contact susan.carlson8@gmail.com or 651-247-8082.

JOHN 4:1-29

Now Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that he was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John—although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples. So he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee. Now he had to go through Samaria. So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, “Will you give me a drink?” (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, “You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?” (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.” “Sir,” the woman said, “you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?”

Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.”

He told her, “Go, call your husband and come back.” “I have no husband,” she replied. Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.”

“Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.”

“Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

The woman said, “I know that Messiah (called Christ) is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.” Then Jesus declared, “I, the one speaking to you—I am he.”

Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, “What do you want?” or “Why are you talking with her?”

Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?”

TAKING THE WORD WITH YOU THIS WEEK

(reflection questions adapted from the CHIC 2018 UNITE curriculum)

Where else do we see Samaritans in the Bible?

What else can we learn about them?

Think back to the “other” groups we identified during worship. How do you think they view you?

Throughout this week, attempt to continuously notice the opinions/judgments you make toward others. How do these opinions/judgments impact your behaviors toward them?

Ask God to forgive you for the ways that you have consciously or unconsciously put individuals or people into “the other” group—even if you’ve only done this in your heart. Ask God to help you change your heart to reflect the heart of Jesus.



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