

# SUMMER 2018



## First Covenant Church of Saint Paul

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# UNITE

**June 24, 2018**

**10:30 a.m.**

Gathering Time

Passing of the Peace

Invitation to Worship

*If you are a visitor, have a prayer request or have a change of address,  
please note this on a Connect Card found in the pew pockets. Place it in the offering plate.*

\*Opening Hymn 579

*The Church's One Foundation*

\*Opening Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Scripture Reading

Ephesians 5:1-11, Sharla Scullen

"Future Faith" Challenge

*Challenge Three: Seeing Through Non-Western Eyes*  
Dale Pearson

Ministry Highlight

GATHER (ECC Annual Meeting)

Delegates: Louise Wilson, Keith Turnquist, Sharla Scullen, Pastor Anne

\*Song

*I Surrender*

Message

Between Extremes  
Rev. Doug Bixby

Prayer of the People

Giving and Living Out of Our Abundance

Offertory

*The Swan* (Camille Saint-Saëns), Ellen Jacobson, piano

\*Closing Song

*We Believe*

\*Sending Words

Postlude

*Today we thank Ted Ryden for covering for Richard Voth, Janet McClellan for covering  
for Pat Kohnen, and Ellen Jacobson for playing piano during the offertory.*

*If you temporarily leave the sanctuary during a Worship service, please return to your seats  
using the rear sanctuary doors. This will minimize disruptions. Thank you for understanding.*

## 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**

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

**Resource Table for children**, please check out this table as you enter Worship, where you will find worship bulletins, crayons and Bibles for children.

**This morning** we have the privilege of hearing from one of the ministers who attended the Annual Meeting this past week, Rev. Doug Bixby, Senior Pastor of the Evangelical Covenant Church in Attleboro, Massachusetts. He is the author of three books, "Challenging the Church Monster", Pilgrim 2002, "The Honest to God Church", Alban 2007, and "Navigating the Nonsense", Cascade 2016. He has been married to Carolyn for 29 years, and has two grown daughters Katie and Kiersten. He also works as a church consultant and has recently developed the four corners approach to talking about the church and human sexuality.

**\*\*Copies of "A Proposed Way Forward: The 4 Corners"** by Rev. Doug Bixby are available at the Welcome Center.

**"Future Faith" Challenge:** Each summer we try to add different pieces to our worship experience that offer week-to-week reflection and hopefully inspiration from laypeople in our congregation. This summer we are looking at a different weekly challenge for the church, from the book, "Future Faith: Ten Challenges Reshaping Christianity in the 21st Century", by Wesley Granberg-Michaelson (and Foreword by North Park Theological Seminary professor, Soong-Chan Rah). There are still a few chapters and weeks available. If you are interested in being one of the presenters, please contact Pastor Anne.

**11:30am, Fellowship Hour:** Please join us for a cup of coffee and a treat!  
*Upper Fellowship Hall*

**11:40am, Youth Group Music Lessons, Graffiti Room**

**12:00pm - 1:30pm, GET ACTIVE Tai Chi**, (Incoming 7th-exiting 12th grade youth)  
*Meet in the Graffiti Room and we will coordinate rides to Addin's house, (1744 Phalen Place).* Join us for an hour of fun and movement. Lunch provided.

### **SUNDAY, JULY 1, 10:30am Worship**

- Karl and Sue Peterson, our missionaries to Mexico, will be preaching in Worship
- we will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion

### **SUNDAY, JULY 8, 10:30am Worship**

• Congregational Business Meeting, immediately following Worship  
You may have heard about some exciting improvement projects to the buildings and grounds in the Congregational Forum on June 17th. FCC has been approved by National Covenant Properties for a loan to fund these projects, but NCP requires a vote by the membership to ratify acceptance of the loan. We will hold a short business meeting in the Sanctuary directly after worship on July 8th to vote on the loan. Please plan to attend as we need a quorum of members present for the vote. Information sheets about the loan can be found at the Welcome Center.

## OUR LIFE TOGETHER

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. If you call after hours, please leave a message on the office voice mail. 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.

**Richard Voth, Minister of Worship and Creative Arts**, is out of the office until Tuesday, June 26. Thank you to all who are covering in Richard's absence. If you have questions, please call the church office.

**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. During the summer, it may take more than one week to receive your ordered CD.

**Our list of modern day Samaritans:** In our outdoor Worship Service on June 10, on post-it notes, we identified groups of people who we see as "Samaritans" today. Pastor Anne also mentioned these groups in her message this past Sunday. Please stop by the kiosk next to the Welcome Center to see the list.

**Interested in serving Communion?** The Worship & Arts team is in need of a few more volunteers to serve communion throughout the year. Communion is served once a month, and servers are generally assigned to serve once during a three-month period. Serving communion is a simple, but meaningful way to contribute to the life of our church. For more information, contact Michelle Fure at [mkib73@hotmail.com](mailto:mkib73@hotmail.com), or 651-707-7699.

## SUMMER BOOK CLUB

**Join us this summer** for one or both of our remaining book clubs! All are welcome, but please read the book before attending the session. A few copies of "Torn" are available at the Welcome Center for \$10 each.

**"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*

Facilitated by Dick and Barb Johnson

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.

## EVENTS JUST FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH @ FCC

**Toddler Mondays start TOMORROW, June 25th, 9:00-11:00am, FCC Nursery**

This is a reminder that our Toddler Mondays start tomorrow morning for children ages 0-4 and their parents/guardians. We will start exploring the Bible, doing crafts, and having fellowship with other families. We look forward to spending our summers growing with the toddlers of our church and hope to see you there! Questions? Please see Lora Murtha or Donovan DeGaetano.

**Youth Bible Study, Thursdays, 7:00-8:00pm, (incoming 7th-exiting 12th graders)**  
*Graffiti Room*

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. If you have questions, please contact Addin Vang, Associate Minister for Youth and Families, [addin@first-covenant.org](mailto:addin@first-covenant.org).

**Summer 2018 Information Table for children and youth:** please visit this table in Upper Fellowship Hall, where you will find information for summer opportunities.

## SUPPORTING OUR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

**Every Kid To Camp Fund (EKTC):** Total needed: \$10,881 to send 40 children and youth to Covenant Pines Bible Camp. **Amount still needed: \$2,588.** 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? Contact Donovan DeGaetano or Addin Vang.

**CHIC Fund:** Total needed: \$26,710 to cover 28 students and 4 adult volunteers. **Amount still needed: \$3,139.** CHIC is our denomination's tri-annual youth conference held in Knoxville, TN. Checks should be payable to First Covenant Church. If you would like to donate or if you have questions, please contact Addin Vang.

**First Covenant Church Scholarship Fund:** Again this year, First Covenant Church is participating with North Park University, North Park Theological Seminary, and Bethel University in their church scholarship matching grant programs to help FCC students attending these institutions with their tuition costs. Contributions are tax deductible, and must be received by June 30th. All checks should be written to "First Covenant Church", and designate in the memo line whether it is for the North Park scholarship fund or the Bethel scholarship fund. Contributions cannot be earmarked for a specific student. If you have any questions ask Executive Pastor Tom Cameron.

**Treehouse Volunteer Training, Monday, June 25, 5:00-7:00pm, Upper Fellowship Hall**  
This training is for Children and Family Ministry Pre-K—6th Grade Leaders. Join us as we tune up our skills with training from our partners, Treehouse. Dinner provided. Questions? Contact Donovan DeGaetano.

**Let's Pray! Praying for our Youth and Families, Monday, July 2, 6 - 7:00pm, Sanctuary**  
All are invited to come and pray for the children, youth and families in our church and community. Each month our prayer will focus on a specific group. June's focus is YOUTH. You can come into the sanctuary at any time during the hour and stay as long as you are able. Questions? Contact Addin Vang.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Gospel Choir Rehearsals, Thursdays, June 28, July 12, July 26, 6:00-7:00pm**  
*Choir Room*

All are invited to join the Gospel Choir and rehearse together as we prepare to sing in Worship on Sunday, July 29 . Questions? Contact Steve Pittman, Gospel Choir Director, [steve@first-covenant.org](mailto:steve@first-covenant.org). Schedules are available at the Welcome Center.

**“Hope Givers: Hope Is Here”, Monday, July 16, 7:00pm**  
*FCC Upper Fellowship Hall*

Presenter: Daisy Rain Martin, author, speaker and domestic violence/sexual assault advocate. Music performed by Emily Bolstorff, worship leader and mother of four. What is a Hope Giver? According to Daisy Rain Martin, it's simple. Hope Givers intentionally put themselves in close proximity to the suffering of others for the sole purpose of pouring out hope. Daisy's story includes childhood sexual abuse within her family of fundamentalist Christian Las Vegas performers. Whether you are in need of hope or have hope to share, this evening is for you. Childcare available. Questions? Contact D.D. Peterson, 651-776-7117 or Dawn Huso, 651-730-5854. For more information: [www.daisyrainmartin.com](http://www.daisyrainmartin.com).

## LOOKING AHEAD

**SAVE THE DATE! FCC's Whole Church Retreat is coming soon! August 17-19, 2018**  
*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](mailto:susan.carlson8@gmail.com) or 651-247-8082.

**Man Camp, November 16-19, 2018**

*Covenant Pines Bible Camp, McGregor, MN*

Men, save the date! To register, go online at <https://covenantpines.org/mens-retreat>. Last year we had ten campers from FCC. More announcements to come. For more information, please contact: Jim Hinrichs 858-349-3867, Roger Valois 651-489-8330.

## **PARTNER EVENTS**

### **Sanneh Soccer Camps, June 25-28 and July 16-19, 1:00-3:30pm**

*Phalen Rec Center, 1000 E. Wheelock Parkway, St. Paul*

The Sanneh Foundation's FREE community camps provide thousands of kids ages 5-12 from the Twin Cities a fun, positive and inclusive day camp experience, welcoming kids from all backgrounds. Participants receive daily soccer instruction, a free t-shirt and more! To register: [thesannehfoundation.org](http://thesannehfoundation.org). For more information, contact Chrissy Thomas: [Christian.familyvaluesforlife@gmail.com](mailto:Christian.familyvaluesforlife@gmail.com).

### **Followers of Christ Hmong Baptist Church Vacation Bible School, July 9-13, 6-9pm**

*First Covenant Church Youth and Children's Wing*

Our building partner is hosting a Vacation Bible School and invites all children in our church and the community to attend. To register: <http://fochbaptist.org>.

### **Family Values for Life 2018 Back to School Golf Classic, Monday, July 23**

**Registration: 11:00am, Shotgun starts at 12:00pm, Banquet: 6:00pm**

*Keller Golf Course, 2166 Maplewood Drive, St. Paul, MN*

The 2nd Annual Back to School Golf Classic helps to support more than 3,000 individuals that FVFL serves. Golfers of all abilities are needed. The scramble format takes all the pressure off so you can focus on having fun while supporting a great cause! Not a golfer? All are invited to the evening banquet. Cost: Banquet only: \$30. Golf Classic with the banquet: \$100. To register: call 651-774-6663, or register on-line at [familyvaluesforlife.org](http://familyvaluesforlife.org).

### **Family Values for Life Backpack Event, Wednesday, August 29, 4:30-7:30pm**

*Bruce Vento Elementary School (409 Case Avenue)*

Whether you will be needing school supplies for your children, or you are available to volunteer, plan ahead and put this event on your calendar! Attendees receive free backpacks filled with school supplies for school-aged children. A parent must accompany children in order for them to receive a backpack. Community resources are also available including food, games, free haircuts and more. For more information: [familyvaluesforlife.org](http://familyvaluesforlife.org).

**Jonathan House:** Thank you all 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 by June 30. Kindness and caring are abundant in this church family!