LENT GUIDEBOOK
FEBRUARY 14 - APRIL 1, 2018

FIRST COVENANT CHURCH OF SAINT PAUL
1280 ARCADE STREET
SAINT PAUL, MN 55106

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SABBATH: MAKING SPACE FOR ENCOUNTERING GOD
I'm writing this on a flight to Chicago to attend our denomination's annual Midwinter Pastor's Conference. Its been a long and somewhat strange 24 hours. To add insult to injury following the Vikings devastating loss, a snow storm the following morning delayed and then cancelled flights at MSP for 1000's of travelers-including me. I spent the night at a nearby hotel with two women I met in the rebooking line. (Granted, they both have roots in our denomination. One was traveling to Midwinter and one was going to visit her new grandbaby.) Like I said, a strange 24 hours.

The clouds hovered as I made my way to the airport in the hotel shuttle this morning. The snow has blanketed our land and it offers an austere beauty. But soon after take off the plane soars through the clouds and here we are above the clouds and the sun is pouring through my window. Both perspectives are real, but it can be difficult for us to remember the sun still shines, when enveloped in white and gray.

I'm reminded yet again how this dual perspective is needed in our daily living. Its easy to get so caught up in the day to day pace, responsibilities, worries, routines, dare I say, ruts, that we fail to capture this high level perspective-we forget that God is still God. God is actively involved in redeeming and re-creating that which has been broken in this world-including us. Jesus Christ came for this very purpose of making all things new.

The season of Lent is the forty days in our church year before Easter when we are invited to make space in our daily living for intentional practices that cause us to remember this high level perspective: of who God is, and what God has done for us in Jesus Christ's life and sacrificial death. The season of Lent helps us to love God more deeply, follow Christ more fully as we then celebrate the miracle of resurrection on Easter Sunday.

This year we are inviting you into these intentional practices by remembering the Sabbath, and creating intentional practices to keep it holy. We are using Walter Brueggemann's book, "Sabbath as Resistance: Saying NO to the Culture of Now" to challenge and inspire us in living out this ancient, holy practice. Brueggemann writes: "In our own contemporary context of the rat race of anxiety, the Sabbath is an act of both resistance and alternative. It is resistance because it is a visible insistence that our lives are not defined by the production and consumption of commodity goods...It is an alternative to the demanding, chattering, pervasive presence of advertising and its great liturgical claim of professional sports that devour all our 'rest time'."

This theme, **Sabbath, Making Space for Encountering God** will be evident in our worship experiences as well as during the Spiritual Growth hour in the large group gathering and discussion groups that will be meeting for Bible study, conversation and accountability. Join us as we discover new ways to integrate fresh new habits rooted in the holy activities of God.

*Pastor Anne*

*About the Cover Artwork:*

*God is always challenging us to stretch out of our structured and safe box.*

*Jesus, the Lamb of God, is leaping through. All space is His space.*

*-Janet Cameron, artist*
WORSHIP: ASH WEDNESDAY THROUGH EASTER SUNDAY

Lent is the Christian season of preparation before Easter. Ash Wednesday marks the first day, or the start of the season of Lent, which begins 40 days prior to Easter (not including Sundays). Lent is a time for reflection on Jesus Christ - his suffering and his sacrifice, his life, death, burial and resurrection. In addition to participating in these worship opportunities, we encourage you to take advantage of the other Lenten resources available (devotionals, Covenant World Relief information and more!) at the Lent Resource table in the Upper Fellowship Hall.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14
6:15pm
Ash Wednesday
MAKING SPACE FOR ENCOUNTERING GOD
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
Join us for this intergenerational & intercultural worship service with the imposition of ashes.

SUNDAY, MARCH 4
9:30am
Third Sunday of Lent
Sacrament of Holy Communion
Beauty and the Beast Cast Singing

SABBATH AS RESISTANCE TO ANXIETY
Exodus 20:12-17
Matthew 6:25-34

SABBATH: COMMUNITY OVER COMMODITY
Exodus 20:3-7
Matthew 11:29-30
Ministry Highlight: Covenant World Relief

SUNDAY, MARCH 11
9:30am
Fourth Sunday of Lent
Rev. Kara Stromberg, preaching

SABBATH: AN INVITATION TO BRIDGE BUILDING
Isaiah 56:1-8
Galatians 5:19-24

SUNDAY, MARCH 18
9:30am
Fifth Sunday of Lent
Pastor Tom Cameron, preaching

SABBATH: RESISTANCE TO MULTITASKING
Amos 8:4-8
Matthew 6:24
Ministry Highlight:
Every Kid To Camp

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SUNDAY, MARCH 25
9:30am
Palm Sunday
Partner Service with Haitian Christian Fellowship

CELEBRATION AND SORROW
Exodus 20:17
Mark 11:1-11
11:00am Palm Sunday Brunch
Please join us for a fundraiser brunch sponsored by Haitian Christian Fellowship. (see page 3)

SUNDAY, APRIL 1
10:30am
Easter Sunday
Covenant World Relief offering received

WHAT DO YOU SEE?
John 20:1-18
1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Easter and Handbell Choirs
Brass and Chamber Ensembles
PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP
Sunday, March 25, 9:30am
Join us as we join with brothers and sisters from the Haitian Christian Fellowship on the journey from the Hosannas of the Triumphant entry into Jerusalem to the shouts of "crucify him!"

Brunch Supporting Haitian Christian Fellowship
11:00am
Lower Fellowship Hall
Gather with old and new friends over delicious food as we support our brothers and sisters as they continue to raise funds for their new building.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS
Wednesday, March 28, 5:30pm - 7:30pm
Throughout the Main Floor
There is no regular programming or dinner for children, youth or adults this evening but guides will be available for a journey retracing the final days of Jesus Christ with interactive stations for reflection. The purpose is to provide for our community, across generations, a time of prayer and meditation about the sacrifice Jesus made for us. Experiences for families and contemplatives alike will help us consider anew God's great love, and the enormity of our salvation.

MAUNDY THURSDAY COMMUNION SERVICE
Thursday, March 29, 12:00pm
Upper Fellowship Hall
Join us for the sacrament of Holy Communion, representing the Last Supper Jesus shared with his disciples.
Stations of the Cross open (unhosted): 9:00am-5:00pm
Misa Criolla Dress Rehearsal from 6:00pm-9:00pm

GOOD FRIDAY CONCERT
Friday, March 30, 7:00pm
The journey of becoming a multicultural church, second in a series. "Misa Criolla" (Hispanic Mass) by Ariel Ramirez is performed by First Covenant’s Easter Choir and features Argentinian guest musicians on indigenous instruments, as well as First Covenant’s Handbell Choir, and Chamber Ensemble.
Stations of the Cross open (unhosted): 5:30pm-7:00pm

EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP
Sunday, April 1, 10:30am
Join us as we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ in worship with the Easter and Handbell Choirs, as well as the Chamber and Brass Ensembles. Covenant World Relief offering received this morning.

Easter Memorial gifts are used to purchase flowering plants that beautifully adorn our sanctuary for worship on Easter Sunday. If you would like to honor the memory of a loved one, please provide their name(s) along with a financial gift (cash or check written out to First Covenant Church), either to the church office or place in the offering plate on any Sunday morning by Palm Sunday. Envelopes are available at the Welcome Center. All names received will be listed in the bulletin on Easter Sunday.
OUR LIFE TOGETHER

COVENANT WORLD RELIEF ANNUAL OFFERING

Covenant World Relief (CWR) is the Evangelical Covenant Church’s work to serve the most vulnerable people in the world. CWR works with Covenanters and other partners around the world to respond to the needs of those who suffer due to extreme poverty, hunger, disease, injustice, and natural disaster. The CWR mission is to “love, serve, and work together with the poor, the powerless, and the marginalized.” Every year First Covenant participates in raising funds for Covenant World Relief. This year a designated offering will occur as part of the Easter Sunday worship service on April 1.

Just for Children and Families: Each week in Sunday School children will be learning about CWR’s emphasis on clean water. Each class will be raising awareness and funds to support this offering.

JONATHAN HOUSE COMMUNITY MEAL

Saturday February 17 and March 17, 10:00am-11:30am
876 Hyacinth Avenue East, Saint Paul, MN 55106

Get to know our neighbors at Jonathan House! Drop by for a once-a-month community meal. Jonathan House is a project of International Association for Refugees (IAFR), a Christian nonprofit agency devoted to the mission of helping people survive and recover from forced displacement. Bring a dish to share and stay for company, conversation and kinship. Questions about Jonathan House? Contact Jeannine Nordlund, Trish Sargeant or Louise Wilson.

ADVENTUROUS CHRISTIANS WINTER RETREAT

March 9 - 11, 2018
Adventurous Christians, Grand Marais, MN

This is your chance to get away from it all and relax in the beautiful northwoods at our Covenant owned camp. This retreat can be as active or relaxing as you want and gives you a chance to enjoy creation while reconnecting to God and others. Sign up and more details at Welcome Center. Questions? Contact Mandy Griffin at mjkline8@gmail.com.

First Covenant Church of Saint Paul, Family Values for Life, Farnsworth Aerospace Grades 7-8 and Johnson Senior High School Grades 9-12 proudly present

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

THE BROADWAY MUSICAL

©Disney

Performances

Friday, February 23 at 7:00pm
Saturday, February 24 at 6:00pm
Sunday, February 25 at 10:30am

Free Admission

Johnson High School Auditorium
(1349 Arcade Street)
ADULT SPIRITUAL GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAYS
weekly from 11:00am-12:00pm

LENT DISCUSSION GROUPS
Join us as we discuss Walter Brueggemann’s "Sabbath as Resistance: Saying No to the Culture of Now" in small group discussions (similar to the Community Bible Experience in Fall 2016). Existing Life Groups which have historically met at church on Sundays will serve as discussion groups for our Lenten study. Those who are not a part of a LG that meets on Sunday can sign up to join a Lent Discussion at the Welcome Center. Questions? Contact Pastor Tom Cameron at tom@first-covenant.org.

ADULT SPIRITUAL GROWTH HOUR
Adults not participating in a Lent Discussion Group or LifeGroup are invited to join the Spiritual Growth Hour. Led by Joe and Paige Mann these discussions dive deeper into the morning’s theme as we continue learning what it means to practice Sabbath together.

WEDNESDAYS
WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY
weekly from 9:30am-11:00am
Upper Fellowship Hall
Come and enjoy coffee, fellowship, worship, and a study of Romans, led by Don Pelto.

THE ADULT JOURNEY
weekly from 6:15pm-7:30pm
Conference Room
Our journey continues through the New Testament, creating space for the love of Christ that undergirds the New Testament, to form our lives. For more information contact Pastor Anne at anne@first-covenant.org.

SATURDAYS
MEN’S PRAYER BREAKFAST
March 3, 8:00am-9:30am
Upper Fellowship Hall
Rise up early and be encouraged by one another! All men (young and old) are invited to gather with us monthly for our Men’s Prayer Breakfast. In this gathering, we will share a meal, study a text from the Bible, and pray for each other. For more information, please contact Jim Hinrichs at jhinrichs1596@gmail.com.

ESPECIALLY FOR WOMEN
SET APART CONFERENCE
March 9-10, 8:00am-4:30pm daily
University of Northwestern - St. Paul
Come and set one or two days apart to spend with your friends old and new, impactful worship, Christ-centered teaching, workshops, and insightful speakers.

RENEWAL CONFERENCE
Friday, March 16 at 5:30pm - Saturday, March 17 at 4:00pm
Bloomington Covenant Church
Be refreshed, renewed, and transformed at this women's conference sponsored by the Northwest Conference. Featuring an intentional evangelism focus and keynote speaker Pastor Marcy Baumann (Crossroads Covenant Church, Eagan Campus).

For more information on either of these events, please check the Women's Ministries Bulletin Board or contact Lynn Gilmore at gilmork@msn.com.
CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

SUNDAYS
9:30am  Nursery (birth - age 3)
         Children’s Church (PreK - 2nd grade)
         Worship (3rd -12th grade)
10:40am  Youth Music Lessons (beg. March 11)
11:00am  Nursery (birth - age 3)
         Children’s Sunday School (PreK - 6th grade)
         Confirmation (7th - 8th grade) (beg. February 18)
         Youth Sunday School (9th - 12th grade) (beg. March 11)
         *(Youth in musical rehearsals February 4 - March 4)*

WEDNESDAYS
4:00pm  The After School Program (K - 12th grade)
5:45pm  free dinner for all from Loaves and Fishes
6:15pm  Nursery (birth - age 3)  Little G’s (PreK + K)
         Big G’s (1st - 4th grade)  Super G’s (5th - 6th grade)
         Youth Group (7th - 12th grade) (beg. March 14)
         *(Youth in musical rehearsals February 7 - 21)*

Check the February/March calendar for changes in schedule.

OTHER IMPORTANT EVENTS

CHILDREN AND YOUTH VOLUNTEER MEETING
Wednesday, February 28, 5:45pm - 7:30pm
*Upper Fellowship Hall*
All volunteers are invited to a time to reflect, encourage, and grow.
Prior to our care meeting, please watch the TreeHouse resource module "Mentoring and Growth Groups" to prepare for our training. This is an evening to care for you, even as we look to the future. Questions? Please contact Donovan DeGaetano, Kate Makosky, Addin Vang, or Chrissy Thomas.

CHIC FUNDRAISER - BUTTER BRAID SALES
Sunday, March 4 from 10:30am-11:00am
*Upper Fellowship Hall*
Buy a Butter Braid and support our 24 senior highers attending CHIC, our triennial youth conference. These delicious breakfast pastries are being sold during the Fellowship Hour one day only and will be available for pick up on Sunday, March 25 - just in time for Easter! Questions? Contact Bill Haider at bhaider@focusfinancial.com.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST CAST PARTY
Sunday, March 4 from 11:00am - 12:00pm
*Lower Fellowship Hall*
Join us as we celebrate a job well done! All Beauty and the Beast cast, crew, and workshop members along with youth mentors, production teams and parents and caregivers are invited to our celebrative time to look back at the performance.

SUMMER PREVIEW NIGHT
Wednesday, March 7 from 6:15pm - 7:30pm
Summer 2018 is nearly here - are you ready? This night presents opportunities from community partners and our own Covenant Pines Bible Camp to help you think through and get signed up for your summer activities! Activities for children and youth (grades PreK - 12th) as well as an informational registration session for parents and caregivers. Join us for a fun and fantastic evening!

THINKING THEOLOGICALLY ABOUT SCIENCE
March 28 from 11:00am - 12:00pm (9th - 12th graders)
*Graffiti Room*
Bethel University is excited to offer our Sunday School the opportunity to have a "Living the Questions" Youth Crew lead a discussion about science and faith. If you’ve ever wondered how faith and science interact, this is for you! Come with an open mind and heart to learn from this fantastic opportunity.
LOOKING AHEAD

MOVE (MISSION. OUTREACH. VENTURE. ENCOUNTER)
Friday, April 6 - Saturday, April 7 (9th - 12th graders)
Minnehaha Academy
MOVE is a 24-hour, urban retreat that focuses on compassion, mercy, and justice. High School students and leaders from the North West Conference all come together to worship, serve, learn, and have fun together. There are general sessions with an amazing speaker, the chance to serve in local ministry and community gatherings, late night games, and more! Don't miss this awesome chance to fellowship and grow together. Questions? Contact Addin Vang at addin@first-covenant.org.

CHIC DESSERT AND AUCTION
Saturday, April 21 from 6:30 - 8:30pm
Save the date for a fun and funny night where the proceeds help our 23 senior highers attend CHIC. CHIC is our denomination’s triennial youth conference in July. This once in a lifetime experience is a faith catalyst for our young people - and on this special night you get to help make that a reality (and possibly win something very cool in the process!).

Help with the CHIC Auction - the fundraising committee is in need for silent auction donations. Items can range from services provided, themed baskets, fellowship or hosting a meal or event at your house, gift cards, get aways and adventures to a cabin or event. If you are able to help, please sign up at our google form: https://goo.gl/forms/ajneuStqBpyDFZ7N2 or by contacting Janel Haider at johaider@mmm.com.

NORTHWEST CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING
Friday, April 27 - Saturday, April 28
Buffalo Covenant Church
Stay tuned for information related to this important annual meeting, including how you could be involved as a delegate!

TEAM WORLD VISION 6K FOR WATER
Saturday, May 19
6 kilometers is the average distance that people in the developing world walk for water—water that is often contaminated with life-threatening diseases. Join thousands of participants from around the globe to walk or run 6k to bring life-changing clean water to communities in need. Questions? Contact Team Captain, Christine Tharseo at ctharseo@gmail.com.

SANKOFA REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!
Thursday, May 17 - Sunday, May 20
Departs from and returns to the Covenant Offices in Chicago
If you'd like to learn more about our history surrounding the Civil Rights movement, do not delay! This popular and high-impact bus tour will help you gain new insights into culture and race as we tour significant Civil Rights locations in the south. Visit https://covchurch.org/justice/racial-righteousness/sankofa/ for information and registration. The Love Mercy Do Justice team at FCC would love to help you with a scholarship, find a partner or answer any questions you may have. Contact Susan Carlson at 651-247-8082.
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<td>Adult Bible Study</td>
<td>Community Bible Study</td>
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<td>4:00pm - *Regular Afternoon and Evening Programming Discovery Class</td>
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<td>Leadership Team Gospel Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>Worship Team Rehearsal</td>
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<td>Beauty &amp; The Beast Rehearsal @ JHS</td>
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<td>11</td>
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<td>The After School Program Handbells Rehearsal Confirmation (7th-8th gr.) Dinner (Loaves and Fishes)</td>
<td>Community Bible Study</td>
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<td>17</td>
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<td>Musical Rehearsal (7th-12th gr.) Nursery (birth-3 year olds) Jump Start to the New You (adults) Ash Wednesday Worship (children and adults)</td>
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<td>Beauty &amp; The Beast Informative Meeting</td>
<td>Community Bible Study</td>
<td>1:00pm - 5:00pm</td>
<td>Beauty &amp; The Beast Rehearsal @ JHS</td>
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<td>7:30pm</td>
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<td>Beauty &amp; The Beast Rehearsal @ JHS</td>
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<td>Beauty &amp; The Beast Rehearsal @ JHS</td>
<td>Beauty &amp; The Beast Performance @ JHS</td>
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<td>7:00pm A.A.</td>
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<td>Adult Bible Study</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>4:30pm</td>
<td>Handbells Rehearsal</td>
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<td>Beauty &amp; The Beast Dress Rehearsal @ JHS</td>
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<td>Beauty &amp; The Beast Rehearsal @ JHS</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>5:45pm</td>
<td>Spring Training for Children and Youth Volunteers</td>
<td>6:00pm</td>
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<td>Beauty &amp; The Beast Rehearsal @ JHS</td>
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<td>6:15pm - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>7:30pm</td>
<td>Easter Choir Rehearsal</td>
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**REGULAR WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING PROGRAMS**

- 4:00pm The After School Program
- 4:30pm Handbells Rehearsal
- 5:00pm Confirmation (7th-8th graders)
- 5:45pm Dinner (Loaves and Fishes)
- 6:00pm Beauty and the Beast Rehearsal (7th-12th Graders)
- 6:15pm Nursery (birth-3 year olds) Big G’s Neighborhood (PreK-6th graders)
- Adult Journey Bible Study (adults) Jump Start to the New You (adults)
- Sanctuary Choir (adults)
- 7:30pm Easter Choir Rehearsal
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<tr>
<td>Third Sunday of Lent Sacrament of Holy Communion</td>
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<td>Community Bible Study</td>
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<td>Worship</td>
<td>Beauty &amp; The Beast Cast Party</td>
<td>Regular Spiritual Growth Opportunities</td>
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<td>Community Bible Study</td>
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<td>Men's Prayer Breakfast</td>
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<td>Fourth Sunday of Lent Daylight Savings Time Begins Guest Preacher: Rev. Kara Stromberg</td>
<td>9:30am</td>
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<td>Adult Bible Study</td>
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<td>AC Retreat at Adventurous Christians</td>
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<td>Set Apart Conference at University of</td>
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<td>4:30pm - 8:30pm</td>
<td>*Regular Afternoon and Evening Programming</td>
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<td>Summer Preview Night for Children, Youth and Parents!</td>
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<td>Fifth Sunday of Lent Guest Preacher: Pastor Tom Cameron</td>
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<td>Adult Bible Study</td>
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<td>Renewal Conference at Bloomington Covenant</td>
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<td>Confirmation Meeting</td>
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<td>Palm Sunday</td>
<td>9:30am</td>
<td>11:00am</td>
<td>No Regular Programming</td>
<td>Handbells Rehearsal</td>
<td>Stations of the Cross</td>
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<td>Worship</td>
<td>No Regular Spiritual Growth</td>
<td>Haitian Christian Fellowship Fundraiser</td>
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<td>4:30pm</td>
<td>5:30 - 7:30pm</td>
<td>Maundy Thursday</td>
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<td>Easter Choir Rehearsal</td>
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<td>Good Friday Dress</td>
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<td>Stations of the Cross</td>
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<td>Maundy Thursday</td>
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<td>Worship Team Rehearsal</td>
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<td>Good Friday Dress</td>
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<td>Sanctuary Choir (adults)</td>
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<td>Rehearsal</td>
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<td>Good Friday Concert</td>
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**REGULAR WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING PROGRAMS**

| 4:00pm | The After School Program | 6:15pm | Nursery (birth-3 year olds) | | Big G's Neighborhood (PreK-6th graders) |
| 4:30pm | Handbells Rehearsal | | Youth Group (7th-12th graders) | | Adult Journey Bible Study (adults) |
| 5:45pm | Dinner (Loaves and Fishes) | | Jump Start to the New You (adults) | | Sanctuary Choir (adults) |
|         | | | | | | |