



What does
it mean to
follow
JESUS?

SERIOUSLY.

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WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO FOLLOW JESUS? SERIOUSLY.

October 8, 2017

9:30 a.m.

Gathering Time

Passing of the Peace

Invitation to Worship Through Song

Grace Like Rain

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 Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Amazing Grace in the Word

Psalm 36:5-7, Jett Robinson

Ephesians 2:8-10, Janet Peterson

Faith Witness

Elijah Lokensgard-Wallace

*Songs

I Am What You See

Friend of God (Houghton, Gunger)

Giving and Living Out of Our Abundance

Choral Offertory

O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee (Dale Wood)

Children in grades Pre-K through 2nd Grade are invited to continue worshipping in Children's Church. Please meet the teachers in the back of the sanctuary.

Message

God loves me just the way I am. Seriously?
Pastor Anne Vining

Prayer of the People

*Closing Hymn 440

I Know Not Why God's Wondrous Grace

*Sending Words

Postlude

St Anne, O God, Our Help (arr. Gordon Young)

Prayer Time for Health and Wholeness is offered in the Prayer Chapel following Worship.

**You are invited to stand if you are able.*

TODAY

Welcome to Worship at First Covenant Church! Wherever you find yourself on your journey of faith, we are glad you are here! We invite you to join us for coffee and treats in the Upper Fellowship Hall area following Worship.

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 closing hymn in Worship, *Room 104*

Resource Table for children and youth: check out this table as you enter Worship for bulletins, crayons & Bibles for children, and Confirmation worship notes.

10:30-11:00am

Fellowship Time, *Upper Fellowship Hall*

10:40-11:00am

Youth Group Music Lessons, *Graffiti Room*

11:00am-12:00pm

Nursery Care (birth through age 3), *Room 105*

Children's Sunday School, *(all start in Room 104 together)*

Please pick up your children at 12:00pm in the following rooms:

Pre-K - K, *Room 106*

Grades 3-4, *Room 104B*

Grades 1-2, *Room 104A*

Grades 5-6, *Room 201 (upstairs)*

Confirmation Class, *Game Room*

Youth, *Graffiti Room*

Adult Spiritual Growth Hour, *Upper Fellowship Hall*

Joe Mann will lead a Bible study and discussion on today's sermon topic, "God loves me just the way I am."

NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15

10:30-11:00am, Prayer Opportunities Overview, *Upper Fellowship Hall*

Next Sunday we will be focusing on ways to pray here at First Covenant Church.

There are many ways to support our ministries, families, and community through prayer: Mom's in Prayer, FCC Prayer Teams, Youth Prayer Partners, and Adopt-a-Cop. Please visit the information tables set up in Upper Fellowship Hall, immediately following the worship service to learn more and to sign up to be part of them.

10:30-11:00am, Prayer Partner Meet Up, *Graffiti Room*. All prayer partners and youth (7th-12th graders) are invited to connect and grow in our relationships together.

Prayer Partners are special relationships where an adult prays for a specific youth throughout the year. We are in need of additional prayer partners this year.

If you are interested, please contact Addin Vang.

11:00am-12:00pm, Adult Spiritual Growth Hour, *Upper Fellowship Hall*

Dr. Joel Light, associate professor of biology at University of Northwestern, St. Paul, will be our guest speaker. Dr. Light will provide an overview of the Biblical call to care for God's creation and the vulnerable through the integration of science and theology, helping us to define what justice is in the context of creation care.

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 or Spiritual Growth Hour. September 24 Spiritual Growth Hour topic: Human Trafficking and Slavery.

New Volunteer Server Schedules for October, November and December are available at the Welcome Center.

Communication request from the Ministry Team: If you have items you would like to donate to the church, please check with a Ministry Team Member to make sure there is a need for the item. Also, when placing items in the mailboxes of Ministry Team Members, please identify who it is from. Thanks!

Team World Vision: Congratulations to those who ran in last Sunday's Twin Cities Marathon on behalf of clean water for Congo: Diane Carlson, Jill DeGaetano, Madison DeGaetano and Kevin Flanagan. Our FCC team of 4 raised \$5,966! Thank you to all who donated.

Wednesday Night Dinner help: Could you help with prep, serving and/or clean up, assisting our partner, Loaves and Fishes? We have lots of flexibility with times and dates. Sign up at the Welcome Center or contact Judy Kline, judy@first-covenant.org.

PRAY FOR AND SUPPORT OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN NEED

Covenant World Relief (CWR): CWR is the Evangelical Covenant Church's arm of responding to human suffering and injustice in the world through disaster relief and community development. CWR has been on the ground working with partners in Texas and Florida to provide funds for recovery efforts following Harvey and Irma. CWR is also partnering with U.S. and Puerto Rican churches who are responding directly to individuals and communities in need with water, food, medicines clothing and other basic needs. For more information or to donate to CWR: covchurch.org/relief/give

Minnehaha Academy (MA) Upper Campus, Minneapolis: A gas explosion on August 2nd changed many lives and families, but also deepened a greater dependence on the Lord within Minnehaha's community. Founded in 1913, MA is owned by the Northwest Conference of the Covenant Denomination. The Upper Campus has relocated to Mendota Heights, and there is a campaign to help with the rebuilding of the school at their original location. To donate, visit minnehahaacademy.net/giving/funddonation

Freedom Sunday: On September 24, during Worship and Spiritual Growth Hour, the issues of human slavery and trafficking were highlighted. Don and Bev Oren (owners of Dart Transit Company), and two of their drivers, Mike and Beverly, presented how we all need to become aware of those held against their will. This has local implications as it happens in our malls, streets, and communities as well as globally. Handouts are available at the Welcome Center that show how to help or donate.

LOOKING AHEAD

Wednesday, October 18: Due to the long MEA weekend, there will be no After School Program, dinner or regular programs for children, youth and adults. There WILL BE Handbell Choir, Sanctuary Choir and Jump Start.

***Same Kind of Different as Me* Movie Opportunity, Wednesday, October 18**

Same Kind of Different As Me tells the compelling true story of an international art dealer who befriends a homeless man in the hopes of saving his marriage.

October 18 is the Red Carpet Premiere night, sponsored by the Union Gospel Mission of Saint Paul (UGM). Tickets are available online by going to the Union Gospel Mission website, www.ugmtc.org, and clicking on the appropriate prompts. Cost: \$10, which includes a small pop and popcorn, a small gift and a special donation to UGM. Because FCC does not have programs that night, this is a wonderful opportunity to ask someone you would like to get to know better and attend together! If you are unable to make it on this night, there are other showings for the general public starting October 20.

Broadway Dinner Night (BDN), Friday, November 10, 6:00pm, First Covenant Church

It's the fifth year of Broadway Dinner Night! Plan now to attend an evening filled with Broadway tunes presented by our church, as well as a delicious sit-down dinner. This is an outreach/fundraising event to help cover the costs of our musicals with our neighborhood partners Farnsworth Schools and Johnson High School. The show is always "sold-out", so don't delay, buy your tickets beginning next Sunday, October 15. Cost: Adults - \$20, Under 18 - \$10, Under 5 - free. Child care will be provided.

Mark your 2018 calendar - "Beauty and the Beast" musical will be February 23-25.

COVENANT PINES MINISTRIES

MEA Retreats for Youth, Covenant Pines Bible Camp, McGregor, MN

October 18-20: Junior High (7th-8th graders)

October 20-22: Senior High (9th-12th graders)

For more information, or if you have a scholarship need, see Addin Vang.

Adventurous Christians 2017 Ministry Fundraising Banquet

Saturday, October 28, 6:00pm Gathering Time, 6:30pm Dinner

Salem Covenant Church, 2655 Fifth Street NW, new Brighton, MN

Cost: \$10. Register by October 20: 218-388-2286 or adventurouschristians.org/banquet

Men, Save the Dates: Man Camp at Covenant Pines, November 17-19

Covenant Pines Bible Camp, McGregor, MN

Wherever you are spiritually, Man Camp is an opportunity to separate yourself from the routine, to turn down the volume of the world, and speak authentically with other guys. And, of course, there will be tons of fun stuff to do. Cost: \$104 if you sign up by October 15 (\$144 for deluxe accommodations). For more information:

covenantpines.org - retreats - adult retreats - man camp. Pick up a flyer at the Welcome Center, or contact Jim Hinrichs, hinrichsjd@gmail.com, 858-349-3867, or Roger Valois, rlvalois@q.com, 651-489-8330.