



What does
it mean to
follow
JESUS?

SERIOUSLY.

first covenant church of saint paul ~ 1280 arcade street ~ saint paul, mn 55106
(651)774-0344 ~ www.first-covenant.org
office@first-covenant.org

WELCOME SUNDAY

September 10, 2017

9:30 a.m.

Gathering Time

*Please complete the Connect Card if you are a visitor,
have a prayer request or have a change of address. Place it in the offering plate.*

Passing of the Peace

Invitation to Worship

*Opening Song

God of Wonders

*Opening Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Catching a Glimpse of God's Perspective Ephesians 3:16-21 (NIV), Mark Severson
Ephesians 3:14-21 (The Message), Mercedes Martinez

*Song

Movin' Forward, Gospel Choir

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

Prayer of the People

Giving and Living Out of Our Abundance

Choral Offertory *When You Believe from Prince of Egypt* (S. Schwartz - arr. A. Snyder
Isabel Patrick and Lionus Lo, soloists)

Message

A Jesus Following Perspective
(I have decided to follow Jesus. Seriously.)
Matthew 16: 24-26
Pastor Anne Vining

Prayer of Response

*Closing Song

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus (English & Spanish)

*Sending Words

The Doxology

Postlude

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow (arr. Michael 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.

9:30am

Worship, Sanctuary

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

Children's Church Starts Today During Worship

Children's Church is for children in grades Pre-k - 2nd. The children are invited to go to Children's Church today after the Gospel Choir sings. They will meet their leaders at the back of the sanctuary, and head to Room 104. They return to their families during the closing song at the end of Worship. If you have any questions please contact Jennifer Herman or Donovan DeGaetano.

Immediately following Worship for adults:

Annual Meeting, Upper Fellowship Hall

Immediately following Worship for children:

Birth through 3 years old, Room 105

Grades pre-k - 6th grade, Room 104

Immediately following Worship for youth:

7-12 graders will get together to gather information about the fall, Graffiti Room

12:00pm, Celebrate!

Special treats by the east entry

Tours of the newly renovated parsonage (our church-owned house across the parking lot at 876 Hyacinth).

NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Next Sunday we will return to our regular fall schedule:

9:30am, Worship

10:30am, Fellowship Time

11:00am, Spiritual Growth Hour for all ages

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.

Annual Reports and 2017 September/October Calendars: If you have not picked up these important informational pieces, you can find them in Upper Fellowship Hall.

Security System Changes: After many years, our security system has been updated, allowing us to monitor building access and enabling us to keep track of key cards. If you currently have a key card for the parking lot door, it no longer functions and will need to be re-entered into the updated system. Please bring your current key card to Jan in the church office on Tuesdays (noon-3pm), Wednesdays (9am-3pm), Thursdays (11am-5pm) or next Sunday (September 17). Based on approval, your key card will be re-programmed.

An informal celebration of Rose Pearson's life will be held on Saturday, September 30, 11:00am - 2:00pm at Como Park Pavilion, 1199 Midway Parkway. Friends of all ages are welcome. A picnic lunch will be served, rain or shine. Contact D.D. Peterson if you can join us, ddpeterson07@comcast.net or 651-776-7117.

Responses from the Covenant Denomination's President: We invite you to go to the FCC website: www.first-covenant.org, then the "Welcoming the Stranger" slide, to read our president Gary Walter's call to take seriously Jesus' command to Welcome the Stranger.

Thank you for giving to the Benevolent Fund! Initiated by our Love Mercy Do Justice Team, \$500.00 from First Covenant was able to be sent to Covenant World Relief to aid in Hurricane Harvey response efforts! It's not too late to donate. Log onto the Covenant Denomination website: covchurch.org. The direct link for Covenant World Relief is on the home page.

THIS WEEK

Wednesday, September 13

9:30am - 11:00am, Adult Bible Study starts, *Upper Fellowship Hall*

The morning together includes coffee time, singing a few hymns and studying I and II Peter, led by Dick and Barb Johnson. All are invited!

5:45-6:15pm, Free dinner for all from our partner, Loaves and Fishes, *Upper Fellowship*

6:15-7:30pm, Open House for children, youth and adults to learn about different opportunities this year. Register and meet your amazing leaders! Sanctuary Choir meets.

Community Bible Study, Thursday, September 14, 9:15-11:15am, First Covenant Church

All are invited to join us as we study "the Red Sea to the Jordan River" - a journey through Exodus, Leviticus and Numbers. These books of the Bible tell of God's faithfulness to His people, from Egyptian slavery to their identity as a new nation. Class begins Thursday, September 14. For more information, contact Jill Weiss, jillianweiss@yahoo.com.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

After-School Program Volunteers Needed! Wednesdays, 4:00-5:45pm

Our After School Program will be kicking off another year of Wednesday Nights for our children and youth starting on September 20. We are seeking volunteers in the area of gym activities, one-on-one mentoring, homework help and more. For more information visit the Welcome Center or e-mail Chrissy Thomas, Christian.familyvaluesforlife@gmail.com.

Dinner Volunteers Needed

Would you be able to help prep, serve and/or clean up on one or two Wednesday nights a month with our partner Loaves and Fishes beginning on September 13? We need volunteers between 4:30-6:45pm, or whatever works for you. We also need one more person to share the dishwashing responsibilities with another. For more information, contact Judy Kline, judy@first-covenant.org.

Looking for Fellowship Hosts for Sunday mornings

Once a year, could you host Fellowship Time following Worship? Duties involves supplying treats, setting up/cleaning up, and making coffee (the machine isn't scary). The current list has anyone who has hosted in the last 3 years. If you want to be added to the list, please contact Wendy Bain at jwbkbain@usfamily.net.

Opportunities to serve through music at FCC

Are you wondering how you can share your gifts? If you like to sing, or if you play an instrument, come and join us!

Handbells: rehearses every Wednesday, 4:30-5:45pm, contact Richard Voth

Sanctuary Choir: rehearses every Wednesday, 6:15-7:30pm, contact Richard Voth

Gospel Choir: rehearses every other Thursday, 6:00-7:30pm, contact Steve Pittman

Worship Team: rehearses Thursdays, 7:30-9:00pm, contact Richard or Addin Vang

Youth Music Lessons: rehearses Sundays, 10:40-11:00am, contact Richard or Addin

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, September 20

Regular Wednesday evening programming begins, along with our first After School Program starting at 4:00pm.

Golf Outing, Saturday, September 23, 12:00 noon

Badlands Golf Course, Roberts, WI

All golfers are invited to a golf outing (Scramble Format). Cost: \$25. Sign up as a team or individual at the Welcome Center, or email Bryan Norris: Norris.Bryan@gmail.com.

Birthday Party for 80+ Royalty, Friday, October 6, 12:00 noon

Mark your calendars for the annual 80 plus birthday party. Those who are 80 years and older and their guest, will receive a royal invitation approximately two weeks prior to the event, held in upper fellowship hall. We will have a fabulous lunch fit for royalty, planned by Connie Benson and Corrine Pearson. And you will love the entertainment! If you need a ride, we will provide, call Mary Jane Rogers, Congregational Life Commission, 612.716.9131, sixmilecross@comcast.net.