

10,000 REASONS
(BLESS THE LORD)

WORSHIP & ANNUAL MEETING
2018

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

COMMUNION SUNDAY

September 2 , 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 652

This is a Time to Remember

*Opening Prayer

Who We Are

Scripture Reading

Mark 8:34-38

Living the Mission

*Song

Hope Will Rise

Celebrating God's Faithfulness through God's Faithful People

Offertory

10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)

Rachel Luchsinger & Rosemary Peck, piano duet

Surprise the World! Conclusion

Pray of Confession and Commitment

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

We invite all who follow Jesus as Savior and Lord to receive and celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion with us.

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

*Closing Song

10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)

*Sending Words

Postlude

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, Sanctuary

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.

11:30am

Annual Meeting, Upper Fellowship Hall

Join us as we look back on the past year, and also look forward to the year ahead! We ask that you quickly grab your treats and find a place to sit in Upper Fellowship Hall.

Childcare during Annual Meeting:

Ages 0-3, Room 105

Ages 4-5, Room 106

Grades 1-5, Outside on the playground (Game Room if raining)

Annual Reports: will be handed out as you leave Worship today. This informative booklet covers the ministry and events of First Covenant Church from September 1, 2017–August 31, 2018.

Wake Up! Fall Guidebooks: If you didn't get your new guidebook last week, they will be handed out by the ushers as you leave Worship today. Make sure you bring one home so that you can stay updated on and participate in the exciting things that are happening at FCC this fall!

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Stay connected: Weekly worship bulletins 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.

Thanks to Sandy Norris for playing the piano today, and to Rachel Luchsinger and Rosemary Peck for the piano duet.

Building and Grounds Update: Work is almost complete on the remodel of the Upper Fellowship Hall kitchen, and resurfacing of the parking lot will be done this week. Thank you for your patience, understanding, and financial support as these are much needed projects for the church building that will enhance hospitality and ministry for many years to come!

The church office and building will be closed tomorrow, Labor Day, September 3.

UPCOMING WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

REFUEL: Children and Youth Ministry Volunteer Training Wednesday, September 5, 5:30pm-8:00pm - NOTE TIME CHANGE

5:30pm: dinner, including training for volunteers

6:00pm: Traverse Training for all

All children (not nursery) and youth adult volunteers need to attend this first training for the Fall. Traverse Counseling & Consulting will be providing training to equip us to serve and help individuals and families struggling with the challenges of stress and anxiety. If you are not a children or youth volunteer and would like to attend, please sign up at the Welcome Center, to help us in our planning.

Dinner and training will begin at 5:30pm.

Childcare will be provided for children up 3rd grade.

If you have any questions please contact Donovan - donovan@first-covenant.org or

Addin - addin@first-covenant.org

RECHARGE: Registration Night for Children, Youth, Parents, and Caregivers (birth-12th grade) Wednesday, September 12, 5:15pm - 7:00pm

This is a special night JUST for our children and youth ministries. Join us for dinner and an abbreviated program where you'll meet your leaders, get reacquainted with our TreeHouse expectations, revisit our partners, and get registered for the year! Handbells and choir still rehearse this evening, however there are no other programs on this night.

RELAUNCH: WELCOME WEDNESDAY, First full Wednesday of programming! Wednesday, September 19, 4:00pm-7:30pm

4:00pm, The After School Program (K-12th Grade)

4:30pm, Handbell Choir Rehearsal

5:45pm, Free Dinner for all from Loaves and Fishes

6:15pm

- Nursery (birth-age 3)
- Big G's Neighborhood (pre-K-6th grade)
- Youth Group (7th-12th grade)
- "Inspired" Bible Study (adults)
- Jump Start to The New You (adult women)
- Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (adults)

SHARE YOUR TIME AND TALENTS ON WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

The After School Program: we will be kicking off another year of our After School Program for our children and youth starting on September 19. We are seeking volunteers in the area of gym activities, one-on-one mentoring, homework help and more. The After School Program meets on Wednesdays from 4:00-5:45pm. Questions? Contact Chrissy Thomas at Christian.familyvaluesforlife.org.

Dinner: would you be able to help out by doing easy prep, serving and cleaning up one Wednesday night a month? We need volunteers between 4:30-6:45pm, or whatever works for you. We have lots of fun, and it is a wonderful way to serve others without a large time commitment. We also need someone to consistently run the dishwasher. For more information, contact Judy Kline, Wednesday dinner coordinator, judy@first-covenant.org.

LOOKING AHEAD TO SUNDAYS

Sunday, September 9: Last 10:30am Worship Service of the summer, *Sanctuary*
Welcome Sunday Block Party Community BBQ, 12:00pm-2:00pm
Following Worship, everyone is invited to the playground at Farnsworth (across the street) for a BBQ lunch with our church family, partners in ministry, and our community. No need to bring anything, all the food and beverages will be provided! Games, food, and fellowship – it's a great way to begin the Fall! (See flyer in your bulletin). **We still need volunteers!** Please stop by the white board in Upper Fellowship Hall to sign up. Contact Donovan DeGaetano or Addin Vang for more information. Thank you for helping to engage the community, and build momentum for the upcoming year!

Sunday, September 16: Worship returns to 9:30am
Spiritual Growth Hour for all ages at 11:00am.

UPCOMING SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Men's Prayer Breakfast, Saturday, September 8, 8:00pm-9:30am
Upper Fellowship Hall

Note this change from the usual first Saturday of the month. Meet with us each month to share a meal, study God's Word, pray for each other, and encourage one another on our walk with Jesus. Questions? Contact Jim Hinrichs, jhinrichs1596@gmail.com.

Edge to Center with Jamie Wright, Saturday, September 8, 7:00pm-9:00pm
Steppingstone Theatre, 55 North Victoria St., St. Paul, MN 55104

This is the first event in a series of events put together by a coalition of Twin Cities Covenant churches that gives center stage to voices on the edge of mainstream faith. Together we will learn and listen to teachers with messages that need to be moved to the center of our lives. The series kicks off with author, blogger, speaker Jamie "The Very Worst Missionary" Wright. This event is free.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study, (beginning September 12) weekly, 9:30am-11:00am
Upper Fellowship Hall

All are invited to enjoy coffee, conversation, friendships and a Bible study on the Gospel of Mark. Be renewed and encouraged as we study Jesus in action as He overcomes storms, Feeds multitudes, and offers victory over death. Led by Dick and Barb Johnson.

Fall Golf Outing, Saturday, September 22, 12:00pm

River Oaks Golf Course, 11900 US-61, Cottage Grove, MN 55016

All are invited to a golf outing (scramble format). Sign up at the Welcome Center individually or as a group. Questions? Contact Bryan Norris, norris.bryan@gmail.com.

*For more information on upcoming events, please see our Wake Up! Fall Guidebook.

Prayer of Confession and Commitment

Holy and gracious God,
we thank you for the gift of your amazing love and grace
for knowing us and our being known as your precious children.
We also recognize our identity is both a gift and a responsibility.
We come before you, acknowledging the ways we have failed to
live as one of your own.
We humble ourselves now in confession:

**We want to be followers of Jesus,
but we do not always want to follow Jesus.
We prefer to indulge ourselves.
We are eager to put down our crosses.
We cling tightly to our lives.
We grasp at worldly rewards.**

Merciful God,
forgive our thoughts and actions
that would protect us from the path of Christ.
Forgive us for our daily decisions of complacency.
Happiness has been our god, believing we're entitled to it.

Forgive us for our excuses, for blaming others for their hypocrisy
yet failing to look at our own,
all to often complaining about being bored as we sit and do nothing.

Forgive us for the times we've tried to make
carrying the cross more comfortable,
obsessed with our iphones and the latest new gadgets
that make the cross lighter, smaller, and cushioned.

Forgive us for not going with you because we were more concerned
About our health, safety, reputation, and financial security
than the pursuit of your kingdom priorities.

Forgive us for the times we've not followed you
because it wasn't convenient.
We didn't want to go out of our way to see the needs around us
because then we'd end up feeling guilty.
Forgive us for trying to pacify our conscience
by giving just enough to feel good about ourselves
but not enough to inconvenience our lifestyle.

Today, Lord,
We once again dare to make this bold claim
To take up our cross and follow you;
even if the path is uncertain or leads in unexpected directions.

Hold on to our shaky lives,
until we learn to clasp your goodness to our hearts,
so we can give it away to those around us.

May our love for you be a driving force to live with joyful surrender.
Scratch out the busyness on our schedules that limits us
from experiencing the joy and fulfillment that comes from following you.

All we are and all we have, we relinquish to you with open hands
knowing You will meet our every need as we seek to go with you.
Today we take up our cross and courageously follow you.
in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Amen.