



What does
it mean to
follow
JESUS?

SERIOUSLY.

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FREEDOM SUNDAY

September 24, 2017

9:30 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 299

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

*Opening Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

God's Relentless Love

Luke 4:14-21

Lisa & Jason Como

*Song

Freedom (Trent Cory)

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.

Luke 15:1-7

Zach Newman

Message

Slavery is a thing of the past. Seriously?!

Pastor Anne Vining

*Song of Response

Hear Our Prayer

Giving and Living Out of Our Abundance

Offertory

Freedom (Eddie James), Gospel Choir

Prayer of the People

*Closing Song

I Will Change Your Name

*Sending Words

Postlude

Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices (arr. Paul Manz)

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.

Today we recognize Freedom Sunday in Worship and the Adult Spiritual Growth Hour, as we unite with churches across the nation who seek God's heart for justice. Together, we take a stand for the millions of people trapped in slavery. Come alive with the hope of seeing them rescued and restored! God's plan to end slavery begins with God's people.

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 final song in Worship, *Room 104*

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

NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

The Twin Cities Marathon is next Sunday! Four members of our First Covenant faith family will be running in the Twin Cities marathon as part of Team World Vision (TWV): Diane Carlson, Madison DeGaetano, Jill DeGaetano, and Kevin Flanagan. They are running to raise money to provide clean, sustainable water sources to communities in the Democratic Republic of Congo, including the community of Gemena. \$50 provides life-changing clean water to children in need. We encourage you to be generous in your support, both in your contributions of money and in going out to the race site after Worship next Sunday to cheer for our TWV runners. There will be no Spiritual Growth Hour or Youth Group Music Lessons next Sunday as a way of promoting attendance at the marathon. For more information or to donate: www.teamworldvision.org/twincities. Click: donate to this event. Team: First Covenant Church. Maps of the TWV gathering spot are available at the Welcome Center.

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 Adult Spiritual Growth Hour.

DON'T MISS OUT - RSVP TODAY for the Intercultural Development Inventory!

You're invited to participate in an important opportunity for our church to grow in cultural understanding and how we can live more intentionally into our mission of being intercultural and intergenerational. All are encouraged to participate in this Intercultural Development Inventory - it's both an individual and group evaluation. You will receive personal results and contribute to the group results for First Covenant Church. Members from the Love Mercy Do Justice team will be at the Welcome Center today for more information and signups. We need you! Questions: contact susan.carlson8@gmail.com, 651-247-8082. (Note to FCC leaders: please see your email dated 9/12 to RSVP).

Adopt-A-Cop: For all those praying for a Saint Paul East Side police officer, please have your fall note card in the Adopt-A-Cop mailbox in the church office by next Sunday, October 1st. There is such a need to pray for our officers. If you would like to be part of this ministry, by committing to pray for an officer and writing an occasional note, please contact Jan Mollet at rjmollet@gmail.com, or the church office.

THIS WEEK

Jonathan House Volunteer Training: Saturday, September 30, 9:00am-3:00pm

First Covenant Church, Upper Fellowship Hall

Recently were so excited to announce to the congregation our new partnership with Jonathan House! Our parsonage across the parking lot is the first of their housing for asylum-seeking refugees. For anyone interested in volunteering with Jonathan House, this is the first crucial step to becoming equipped to be a good friend and neighbor to asylum-seeking refugees. Led by International Association for Refugee's (IAFR), we will cover: Looking at Forcible Displacement, IAFR's Continuum of Recovery, Christian Witness in a Humanitarian Context, Asylum Seekers in the U.S., Opportunities with Jonathan House. This training is required for anyone who would like to volunteer with Jonathan House residents. Lunch will be catered by Subway and available for \$10/person. Please register by September 27 at bit.ly/IAFR IAFR - Training, to help us plan adequately for lunch and to help us prepare training materials. Contact Sarah Miller, sarah@iafr.org with any questions.

Celebration of Rose Pearson's life, Saturday, September 30, 11:00am - 2:00pm

Como Park Pavilion, 1199 Midway Parkway

Friends of all ages are welcome. A picnic lunch will be served, rain or shine. If you can join us, contact D.D. Peterson, ddpeterson07@comcast.net or 651-776-7117.

EVENTS JUST FOR YOUTH

Confirmation Get Together (7-8th graders) - Pumpkin Palooza!

Friday, October 6, 7:00-8:30pm

Pastor Anne and Gordy's Home (1108 Hyacinth Ave. E., St. Paul)

Join us for our annual fall get together! This is a fun night to get to know one another outside of Confirmation class, eat good food, and have some pumpkin-themed fun. RSVP and let us know if you need a ride by Wednesday, October 4 with Addin Vang or Kate Makosky.

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)

Don't miss your chance to get away to Covenant Pines this MEA Break!

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

Sign up by October 1.

LOOKING AHEAD

Building and Grounds Fall Clean Up Day, Saturday, October 7, 7:00am-1:00pm

First Covenant Church

All are invited to join the FCC Building and Grounds Committee and Men's Bible Study Group for a fun day at FCC that includes a "pot-luck" breakfast, painting, cleaning and general fix-up. We have jobs for everyone, no matter what your skill level. Breakfast will begin at 7:00am; bring a favorite dish to share. Coffee and juice will be provided. Work projects begin around 8:00am. All supplies will be provided. For more information contact Bob Johnson, johnsrp24@gmail.com.

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 Oct. 15 (\$144 for deluxe accommodations).

For more information: covenantpines.org - retreats - adult retreats - man camp, or contact Jim Hinrichs, hinrichsjd@gmail.com, 858-349-3867, or Roger Valois, rvalois@q.com, 651-489-8330. A registration table will be set up in Upper Fellowship Hall on October 1, 8, 15.