

TODAY, MARCH 13, 2016

8:30 a.m.

- Dwelling in Prayer and the Word (Swedish room)

9:30 a.m.

- Worship and communion (sanctuary)
- Children's programming during worship
Nursery – infants through age 3 (Nursery & Toddler Room)
Children's church – ages 4 through 5th grade (Room 252)

11:00 a.m.

- Playtime for kids and parents (gym)
- Adjourned annual meeting (sanctuary)
- All-church meal (fellowship hall)

Dan Collison, Lead Pastor / dcollison@1stcov.org

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MetroKids Early Childhood Education

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Charice Deegan, Executive Director / cdeegan@metrokids.org

THIS WEEK AT FIRST COVENANT

MONDAY, MARCH 14

11:30 a.m. Interlude

TUESDAY, MARCH 15

6:30 p.m. *United International Christian Fellowship*

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16

1:00 p.m. *Christian Legal Aid*

THURSDAY, MARCH 17

6:30 p.m. Gospel Choir rehearsal (lounge)

FRIDAY, MARCH 18

Church office closed

SATURDAY, MARCH 19

9:30 a.m. Team World Vision Run/Walk 6K

6:30 p.m. *United International Christian Fellowship*

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 20

8:30 a.m.

- **Holy Week Wake-Up** (gym)

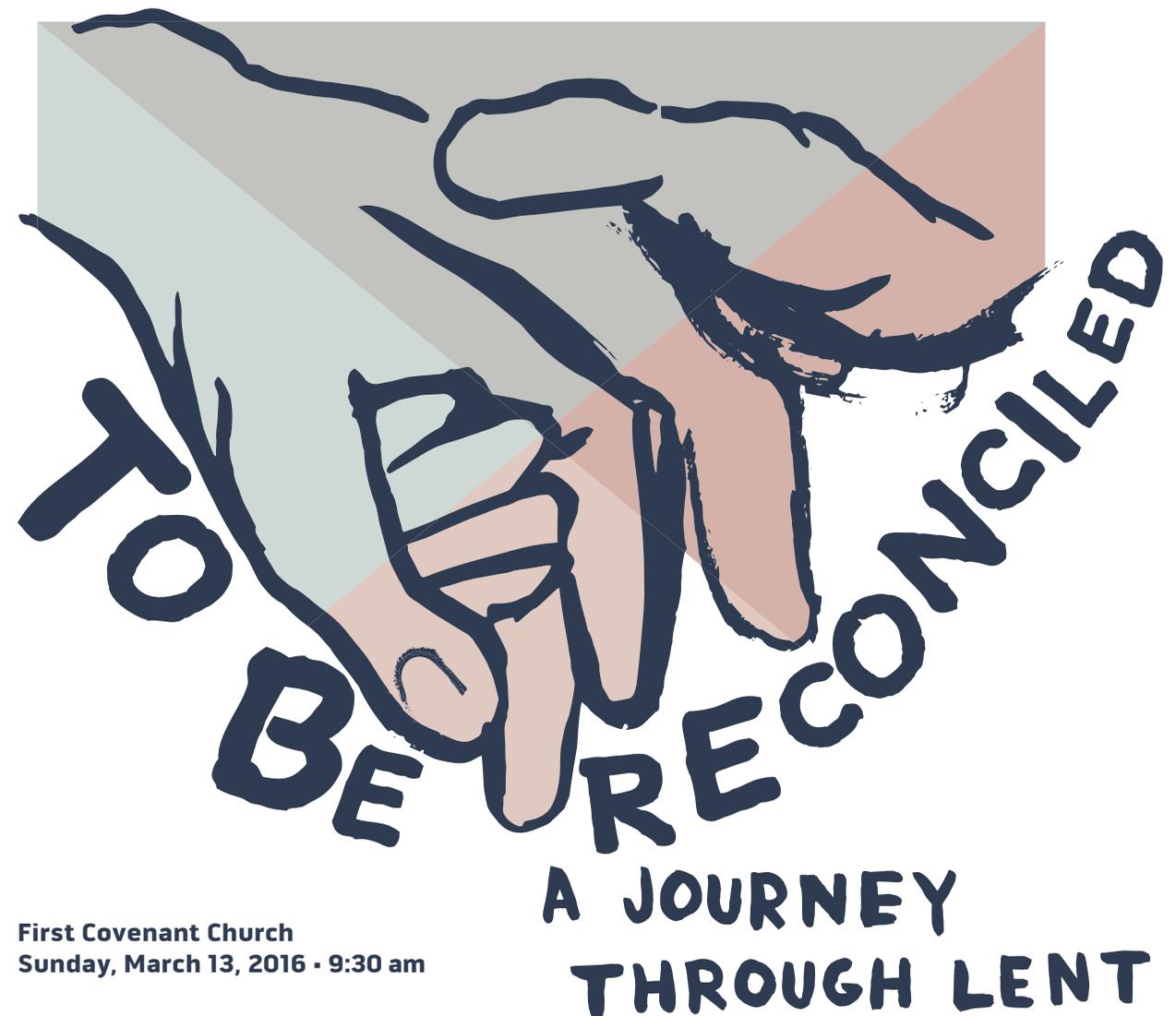
9:30 a.m.

- **Worship** (sanctuary)
- **Children's programming during worship**
Nursery – infants through age 3 (nursery & toddler room)
Children's church – ages 4 through 5th grade (room 252)

11:00 a.m.

- **Playtime for kids and parents** (gym)
- **Congregational forum** (multi-purpose room)

First Covenant Church events are listed in bold type.



First Covenant Church
Sunday, March 13, 2016 - 9:30 am

Call to worship

"Jesus is a Rock"

Welcome and announcements

"Trading My Sorrows"

"Highest Praise/Awesome God"

"Oh How I Love Jesus"

(Children are excused for children's church)

Offering

Women's History Month: "Where I'm From"

Message: "A New Kind of Confidence" (Philippians 3:4b-14)

"We Are Not Ashamed"

Benediction

Welcome!

First Covenant Church is a diverse, multi-generational, urban Christian community offering hope and transformation through the love of God and the life and teachings of Jesus.

Visitors, we would love to meet you. After the worship service, stop by the front of the Sanctuary for a warm welcome by ministry staff.

"A NEW KIND OF CONFIDENCE"

Glad You're Here

Welcome, children: Care for infants through age three is available beginning at 9:20 a.m. for the worship service. Children's church (ages 4 through fifth grade) begins right before the sermon starts. An announcement will be made and teachers will guide kids to Room 252. After the worship service, pick up your children and stick around for conversation and coffee.

Get your caffeine jolt: The Kafeino Coffee stand offers delicious coffee beverages at a reduced rate. Or pick up a free cup of coffee in the foyer.

How can we help you? The connection card in your worship guide is one way to ask for prayer, get information, and let your voice be heard. Fill out a card and drop it in the offering plate. If you have a question or prayer request, write it on the back. Pastors and staff meet every week to pray.

Read all about it: First Covenant's newsletter, *First Things*, is available in the foyer and usher stands. To receive future newsletters electronically, write your email address on the back of your connection card and place it in the offering.

Bibles are available: If you would like to have a Bible of your own, ask an usher.

The FCC website: Check out 1stcov.org for up-to-date event schedules, ministry opportunities, and sermon MP3s and PDFs.

Community

The speaker today is Dan Collison, Lead Pastor of First Covenant Church.

Dwelling in Prayer and the Word: From 8:30–9:15 a.m., you are invited to a quiet space where you will receive Sunday morning's scripture to read and meditate upon. It's an opportunity to prepare for worship, reflect in the quiet, listen for God's voice, and seek God in prayer. Dwelling is available every Sunday (except when there are Wake-Ups) in the Swedish Room located at the top of the ramp in the foyer.

Adjourned Annual Meeting / All-church meal: Our Adjourned Annual Meeting will be held today, immediately following the church service. We will share ministry updates, the pastor's report, and update you on several important matters and opportunities before our congregation. Immediately following the meeting, we will enjoy an all-church meal in the Fellowship Hall. We encourage all to make time to attend; you do not need to be a member as the purpose of this meeting is for the sharing of information and to celebrate the continuing life of our church community and how God is actively leading FCC.

This month we are celebrating Women's History Month by exploring matters related to gender, faith, and justice. During our service today, we will feature "I am from" reflections by some of our community members. Then, next week, join us for the Committee on Racial and Economic Justice at 11 a.m., which will focus on issues of gender, race, and justice.

Shelter volunteers: The First Covenant temporary homeless shelter is going strong. Will you assist Salvation Army staff during a short evening or morning shift? Please check out the online volunteer calendar for open dates (www.1stcov.org/missional/homeless-shelter) or contact Shelter Volunteer Coordinator Norm Blagman (shelter@1stcov.org or 612-927-3125).

Quarterly offering opportunity: Four times each year, FCC offers a special giving opportunity to ministry partners. The gifts received go directly to these organizations to assist in their important work. The first quarter's organization is Downtown Congregation to End Homelessness (DCEH) whose vision is to ensure that everyone has access to safe, decent, and affordable housing in Minneapolis. To learn more about DCEH, visit their website at DCEH.org. To participate, use the First Quarter Special Giving envelope from your offering envelopes or write First Quarter Special Giving on your check. Thank you for your support of this important ministry.

Tom and Donna Albinson serve in Minneapolis with International Association for Refugees. Please pray for them this week. IAFR comes alongside refugee churches in the world's forgotten refugee camps, helps along the Refugee Highway, and helps churches welcome and love refugees as they are resettled into our cities and communities (www.iafr.org).

What's Ahead

Recharge, refresh: Next Sunday, experience God at First Covenant Church through music, scripture, the arts, and community. The worship service begins at 9:30 a.m. The message, "The Path of Humility," is the third week in our Lenten series, "To Be Reconciled." Please join us as we celebrate Palm Sunday.

Gospel Choir (Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.): Join us in the lounge this week and lend your voice to the First Covenant Gospel Choir led by Robert Robinson. No choir experience is necessary. You are needed and wanted.

Homeless Day on the Hill (Tuesday, March 15, 7:45 a.m.-3:00 p.m.): As a church community who provides seasonal shelter for people experiencing homelessness, we have learned a lot about the different factors that cause people to become homeless. While we continue to offer compassion through our shelter, we ultimately want to help bring an end to homelessness! Please join us on March 15 from 7:45am-3pm our annual Homeless Day on the Hill, as we join hundreds of other advocates from around the state to share with our state legislators about the need for affordable housing and other

important programs which address the root causes of homelessness. All are welcome and no prior advocacy experience is required.

Run or Walk 6K for Clean Water (Saturday, March 19, 9:30 a.m. Doors open at 9 a.m.): Join your First Covenant friends and family on March 19th for a family oriented 6k run/walk for clean water! Meet here at FCC, and enjoy a beautiful run/walk along the Mississippi river. 6 kilometers is the average distance that women and children in developing countries walk to reach unsafe drinking water. You can walk, you can run, you can bring your kids, your stroller, your dog, your non-running self and friends! Register today after the service or at: <http://bit.ly/roundtheriver6k> Contact Nick Cross with questions at nhcross@gmail.com (740) 701-3459 or to volunteer.

Holy Week Wake-Up (Sunday, March 20, 8:30 a.m.): Wake-Ups are multi-generational, family friendly times where everyone is welcomed as we gather to awaken our hearts and bodies to the love and presence of God. Our Holy Week Wake Up will include some time of reflection, painting our prayers and an invitation to enjoy deliciousness both spiritually and physically. For more information please contact Todd Bratulich at tbratulich@1stcov.org or Carma Gjerner at belovedcarma@gmail.com.

Maundy Thursday Service (Thursday, March 24, 7:00 p.m.): Join us for a special Maundy Thursday service as we come to the end of the season of lent and journey through Holy Week. Experience "The Table of Reconciliation" as we enter into the story of Jesus' last night with his disciples on the eve of his death through reflection, worship, and participation in the sacraments Jesus instituted on that solemn night. Childcare will be provided.

Spring Overnight Retreat (Friday, May 13, 7:00 p.m.– Saturday, May 14, 5:30 p.m.): You are invited to a time of rest, renewal and delight in the midst of the fullness of your life on the Spring Sabbath Retreat. The Sabbath Retreat will be 24 hours of slowing and holding the sacred gift of your life with God. We will be retreating at the Villa Maria Retreat Center which is a beautiful retreat center located 10 miles south of Redwing. This retreat is for women and men, singles, couples, old and young, anyone who is longing for a holy pause and an extended time to quiet the mind and hear God! For answers to questions and more information about cost and details and a registration brochure please contact Carma Gjerner at belovedcarma@gmail.com.