

TODAY, DECEMBER 11, 2016

THIS WEEK AT FIRST COVENANT

8:30 a.m.

- Dwelling in Prayer and the Word (Swedish room)

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.

- All-church meal (fellowship hall)

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

Ashley Aamot, Administrative Assistant / info@1stcov.org

Heather Albinson, Volunteer Visual Arts Associate / halbinson@1stcov.org

Lisa Albinson, Volunteer Visual Artist / lalbinson@1stcov.org

Bruce Balgaard, Director of Worship / bbalgaard@1stcov.org

Norm Blagman, Homeless Shelter Volunteer Coordinator / shelter@1stcov.org

Todd Bratulich, Pastor for Community and Mission Engagement / tbratulich@1stcov.org

Joy Erickson, Pastor of Congregational Care / jerickson@1stcov.org

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Robert Robinson, Artist in Residence / rrobinson@1stcov.org

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MetroKids Early Childhood Education

612-332-5437 / www.metrokids.org

Charice Deegan, Executive Director

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Minneapolis

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MONDAY, DECEMBER 12

11:30 a.m. Interlude

6:30 p.m. "While We Wait" Advent class (lounge)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13

6:30 p.m. *United International Christian Fellowship* (lounge)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14

10:00 a.m. Life Group at Augustana Senior Apartments

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16

Church office closed

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

6:30 p.m. *United International Christian Fellowship* (lounge)

NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

8:30 a.m.

• **Dwelling in Prayer and the Word** (Swedish room)

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.

• **Committee on Racial and Economic Justice** (lounge)

12:00 p.m.

Vikings game – volunteers needed

First Covenant Church events are listed in bold type.

A Long Awaited Hope



First Covenant Church
Sunday, December 11, 2016 - 9:30 am

Call to worship

"Break Forth"

Welcome and announcements

Congregational prayer

"Love Came Down at Christmas"

"Change the World"

"Away in a Manger"

(Children are dismissed for children's church)

God at work: Sara Wilhelm Garbers

Offering

Message: "Bearing Hope" (Luke 1:46b-55)

"Once in Royal David's City"

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.

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.

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. You can also find digital versions of current and previous issues in the News section of our website at 1stcov.org.

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 Todd Bratulich, Pastor for Community and Mission Engagement.

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 in the Swedish Room located at the top of the ramp in the foyer.

All-church meal today: Get ready for a feast! After today's service, please join us down in the fellowship hall for our monthly all-church meal. We'll see you there!

The Downtown Congregations to End Homelessness (DCEH) is seeking volunteers to assist with our new Emergency Rental Assistance program. Volunteers will assist applicants with the application process. Training will be provided. Stop by the info table in the foyer after today's service or contact Marlys Nygren by email at marlys@dceh.org for more information or to sign up to volunteer.

Monthly Group Runs: First Covenant runners of all abilities are welcome to join a new monthly group running group. Join us the first Saturday of every month in the First Covenant parking lot for a morning jog by the river. We'll decide on distance that morning and brunch after!

Shelter volunteers needed! Season six of our shelter is underway! We are looking for volunteers in a couple of capacities.

1. Serve a meal. Sign up as an individual or organize a group to help purchase, prepare and serve an evening meal to our shelter guests. The schedule is filling up fast, so check out the calendar of available dates at 1stcov.org/shelter. Then, pick a date for your group and email Norm Blagman at shelter@1stcov.org to reserve your date. OR, talk to Pastor Todd Bratulich to sign up for one of the already reserved First Covenant dates (every second Wednesday of the month).

2. Serve as a volunteer advocate. Advocates work more directly with guests by assisting Salvation Army staff with nightly check-in process, building connections with staff & guests, and helping guide volunteer groups as needed. Position requires a somewhat consistent presence (weekly or biweekly preferred). Training will be provided. We'd love to provide a volunteer advocate every night of the week! Contact Todd or Norm for more information.

This week, pray for Urban Homeworks, a nonprofit organization in North Minneapolis. First Covenant partners with Urban Homeworks "to perpetuate the hope of Jesus Christ through innovative community development that provides dignified housing for low-income families."

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, "Naming Hope," will mark the third week of our Advent series, "A Long Awaited Hope."

"Oliver Holiday and the Cinnamon Sabotage," presented by the Good Arts Collective (Monday, December 19 and Tuesday, December 20, 7:30 p.m.): The Good Arts Collective is happy to announce the anticipated sequel story of everyone's favorite Christmas detective. We present "Oliver Holiday & the Cinnamon Sabotage," a variety show for the whole family this holiday. We'll see what Oliver is up to, meet some kooky characters, hear some great music and laugh along the way. The show runs Monday and Tuesday, December 19 & 20 starting at 7:30 p.m. in the First Covenant sanctuary. Get tickets and more information at <http://www.goodartscollective.com/oliver-holiday-and-the-cinnamon-sabotage>.

"The Birth of Hope" – Christmas Eve service (Saturday, December 24, 5:00 p.m.): It's a wonderful tradition at First Covenant: gathering together to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Christmas celebration will be on Christmas Eve. There will be no Sunday morning worship service, so you can celebrate Christmas Day with your family and loved ones.

Winter Sabbath Retreat (January 20–21, 2017): You are invited to begin the new year finding rest, renewal and delight in the midst of the fullness of your life on the WINTER 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 Franciscan Retreat Center located in beautiful Prior Lake, MN. There are great walking trails, cozy rooms, great food and intimate times connecting with God through silence, guided reflection, listening, creative prayer, and play. We will begin our retreat on Friday evening at 7pm. You are welcome to come anytime on Friday and have a little more time of rest. 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.

Event Parking Volunteer Opportunity: Now that the Vikings are once again playing across the street from First Covenant, our parking lot has provided us with a unique opportunity for revenue. Each Vikings game represents a \$10,000 opportunity for First Covenant, and presents a great way for each member of our church to make a huge impact. For each event, eight volunteers are needed, with duties including setting up and taking down event signage, watching the Impark pay station and assisting customers, directing traffic and more.

Volunteers are needed for the following home games—please contact Brian Ogren at bogren@1stcov.org to get involved!

Sunday, December 18
vs. Indianapolis Colts
12:00 p.m.