

THIS WEEK'S OPPORTUNITY

Be a special part!! One of the ways we express love for God and others (and are shaped by Him) is through serving others.

One opportunity to check out is:

Sunday Jr. Church Leaders

- ❖ Want the opportunity to share truths about God and experience the energy of 5-7 yr. olds? If so Jr. Church would be a great fit for you! The lesson plan and outline are provided, you would only need to lead this time during second service. Current rotation is five weeks, but our goal is to add at least enough teachers that it would mean only teaching once every two months! Let Neil know if you have any questions or are interested in helping out! neil@rfcov.org

FINANCIAL UPDATE

ELECTRONIC GIVING:

Go to www.rfcov.org and click on the *Electronic Tithing* link under Resources.

Weekly Operational need: \$12,794.00
Regular Giving 12.23.18: \$21,494.32
Mortgage balance as of 12.1.18: \$550,929.10
Attendance on 12.23.18: 136 & 166=302
Attendance on 12.24.18: 230 & 210= 440

CONTACT US!

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[Facebook.com/firstcovenantchurch](https://www.facebook.com/firstcovenantchurch) Instagram & Twitter: @FirstCovRF

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Emily Gabriel | Interim Worship Co-Leader: 715-307-3351 or emily@rfcov.org

Jake Jacobs | Interim Worship Co-Leader: 715-222-8611 or jakejam@gmail.com

THANK YOU!

GREETERS: John & Marly Aune
WORSHIP TEAM: Emily Gabriel, Sarah Manche,
Wendy Larson, Dave Schatz, Paul Schatz
SOUND | LIGHT: Jake Jacobs
VIDEO: Ben Gabriel
THE HUB: Linda Lundstrom
NURSERY: Bonnie Swanson, Tina & Gracie Hull
JR. CHURCH: Clint & Joy St. John
USHERS: Jerry Hallstrom, Rod Hanson,
Matt Fitzgerald
PRAYER PARTNERS: Bob Hoaglund, Bill Hickox
COFFEE FELLOWSHIP: Laura Schatz, Joni Kolb
PRODUCE PICK UP: Dan Schmalstig

THIS WEEK

TODAY 12/30
10:00a Worship Service
No Sunday School Classes
MONDAY 12/31
12:00p Church Office will close
TUESDAY 1/1
Church Office Closed Happy New Year!
WEDNESDAY 1/2
No Wednesday Ministries
3:15-8:30p Confirmation Parent Conferences
THURSDAY 1/3
6:30p Leadership Team Meeting
8:10p Iron: Men's Group
SUNDAY 1/6
8:15 & 10:45a Worship Services w/Missionaries Jared &
Hannah Baker
9:30a Sunday School Classes

FIRST COVENANT CHURCH

"On the Journey: Sharing Christ, Growing Together"

Sunday, December 30, 2018 | 10:00a

OPENING SONG

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORSHIP SONGS

OFFERING

Children ages 5-7 can go to Rm 303 for Junior Church.
Please pick up your child there after the service.

SERMON

Recognizing and Responding to Christ

Neil Vance

CLOSING SONG

Prayer Partners for your prayer needs are up front after the service.

WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP CELEBRATION!

Guests, we welcome you!

- ✓ **WELCOME PADS** help us to care and connect! Please write your contact info, pass it down the row, and then pass it back. Inside are cards for prayer requests, sign up for the weekly e-news, and more. *If you leave your address, we will send you a Welcome Letter with next step ideas to get to know us...and no extra mailings!*
- ✓ **CHILDREN/FAMILIES:** (The Ushers would love to help you too!).
 - ***Nurseries** (Infants to 4 y.o.).
 - ❖ 8:15- Nursery Room (To the right of the main entrance).
 - ❖ 10:45- Nursery Room.
 - ***Infant Room**—Hear the service too. On right as you enter Worship Center.
 - ***10:45- Junior Church**—5-7 y.o. in Rm 303.
 - ***Children's Activity Bulletins** (ages 4-7) and **Jr. Sermon Notes** (ages 8-12) are available on the usher's cart AND **"Busy Bags" for kids** @theHub!
- ✓ **OFFERING** is an act of worship and a privilege of our church family. We are just glad you are here to worship with us today!
- ✓ **FREE GIFT:** As an expression of appreciation, pick up a gift @theHub and get to know us from the info.



Starts Sunday, January 6
Join us at Sunday School (9:30a)
Each of our Sunday School classes
(children, middle school, high school, & adult)
study the same Bible passages!

Why check this out? (& learn more over there →→)

- Study the whole Bible in an accessible way (and you can join any time to benefit!).
- See how the WHOLE Bible is pointing to Jesus (not just the New Testament).
- Our generations, including families, will be studying the SAME PASSAGES so there is opportunity for deeper discussions across ages.

Please pray with us as we take these new steps to bring ALL of the Bible to ALL of the ages so, together, we can ALL grow in knowing and loving God and His story!

CHURCH LIFE

- ❖ **NEXT WEEK: (Jan. 6) Jared & Hannah Baker**, Covenant missionaries currently serving in France will bring us the message from John 1:1-4, 14 "Dwell Among: Food, Friends, Fêtes (Fun), & Funerals". All welcome to meet with the Bakers at China Moon after second service. Note: Communion Sunday will be Jan. 13.
- ❖ **JANUARY CLARION** newsletters were e-mailed on Friday and paper copies are available @theHub Info Rack.
- ❖ **THANK YOU!** The Christmas Eve offerings totaled \$2,579.50 and will be divided equally among these 6 River Falls Compassion Fund groups: Food Shelf, Turning Point, Options for Women, Our Neighbors' Place, ARC, and Servant of the Shepherd outreach.
- ❖ **FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY:** Learn financial wisdom and even how to get out of debt. Begins Mon., Jan. 14 for nine-weeks. **Childcare available** by *RSVP-ing* your needs with the office. **Register: fpu.com/1068634** **For a lot more info, see Luke Strehlau** (luke.strehlau@gmail.com), the office, or the weekly e-news.
- ❖ **WEDDING SHOWER:** Sat., Jan. 12 9:30a for Melanie (Gillis) & Sam Gershman who were married on Dec. 15. Melanie is registered at Target, Amazon, and Menards.
- ❖ **CHIC 2021 PARENT MEETING!** If you are a parent of a current 7th-10th grade student then this meeting is for you! Come on Sun., Jan. 13 at 1:00p to discuss fundraising plans and more for the next CHIC trip in 2021.
- ❖ **DUE JAN. 15: SAFETY/WELLNESS RENEWAL** An email has been sent with the policy and any forms you need. *It is important to know and practice FirstCov's Safety & Wellness.* Please review it, sign and return to the box in the office.
- ❖ **DISCERNING Our Priorities for the Coming Year!** Sat., Jan. 19 from 9:00a-2:00p (lunch provided). Learn much more in the Wednesday E-news and RSVP through the E-news link or @theHub.

DREAM AGAIN WORKSHOP!

2019: NEW YEAR'S NOTES

- ❖ **Wednesday, Jan. 2**
 - No ministries *but Confirmation Parent Conferences will be held.*
- ❖ **Sunday, Jan. 6**
 - Covenant missionaries, Jared & Hannah Baker (France) will bring the message
 - ALL (2 y.o. to Adult) Sunday School classes resume
- ❖ **Wednesday, Jan. 9** All Wednesday Ministries resume
- ❖ **Saturday, Jan. 12**
 - Men's Breakfast 8:00a
 - Bridal Shower: 9:30a
 - Grand Prix Workshop 9:00a-12:00p

NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL FOCUS

The Gospel Project

Starting next Sun., Jan. 6, 2019!! 9:30a

Study the same Bible passages across ages!!

Where Can I Find It?

- **Children:** Sunday School
- **Middle School:** Sunday School
- **High School:** Sunday School (at times)
- **Adults:** Sunday School

How May You Gain?

- **Study the whole Bible** with others.
- **Be equipped to engage your family or other generations** who are studying the same passages.
- **Have Jesus glorified to you in new ways.**
- **Use the resources** given to the children and youth as a teaching time with your child.

MEN!

- ❖ **MEN'S BREAKFAST** will be held at FirstCov on Sat., Jan.12 at 8:00a. FirstCov'er Brian Aust shares his faith journey and his role as Evangelism Coordinator for Intervarsity Christian Fellowship for the Twin City Metropolitan area. Sign up through E-news or @theHub.
- ❖ **NO REGRETS** Men's Conference simulcast tickets are on sale through our website. No Regrets is a special time for guys to seek Christ and get inspired! Sat., Feb. 2, 2019. For info, see Vern Larson or the office.

PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK

December 30, 2018

- ❖ That we may be renewed by Christ for 2019, with God's grace
- ❖ For our December Focus on Life: Starvation/Hunger
- ❖ For our Missionaries of the Week John & Letha Kerl
- ❖ For our College Student of the week: Melanie (Gillis) Gershman
- ❖ For Healing and Help: Jean Elefson, Angie Martini, Juanita Amundson, Lila Hilden, David Petersen, Barry Hophan, Nora Munson, Monica Lucht, Joan Bystrom, Brenda Pomfret
- ❖ As we move forward from our Vitality, continue to pray for our next phase called Strategic Ministry Planning and for these team members: Pastor Todd, Pastor Brian, Melissa Falde, Jason Hull, Evan Carstedt, Kathi Nelson, Krista Majerus, and Pat Stevens
- ❖ For our Northwest Conference Leaders (see below)
- ❖ For our church staff: Pastor Todd, Pastor Brian, Neil Vance, Jackie Wallace

We are glad to pray for you in joy or in times of need. Needs will be listed for up to four weeks, but please let us know if you would like it longer.

THOSE IN THE MILITARY

For: Sam & Isaac Witt, Brent Wiersma, Roland Pomfret, Mike Findlay, Aaron Riess, Ryan Neel, John Meier, Colin Arneson, Mckenzie Curtis, Max Elliott

OUR NORTHWEST CONFERENCE LEADERS

Northwest Conference Office: 3106 47th Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN

The Mission of the Northwest Conference is to engage, empower and equip healthy missional leaders, as we believe that this is a key to growing healthy missional churches.

Mark R. Stromberg, Superintendent; **Mike Brown**, Director of Church Planting;
Jon Kramka, Director of Congregational Vitality; **Bryan Malley**, Director of Communications;
Ginny Olson, Director of Youth Ministry; **Kara Stromberg**, Director of Children & Family Ministry; **Jeff Burton**, Director of Pastoral Care & Development;
Greg Ellis, Coordinator for CHET NWC; **Sandy Norris**, Director of Finance;
Cheryl Theilen, Director of Administration; **Jessa Anderson**, Administrative Coordinator

COLLEGE STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Melanie (Gillis) Gershman daughter of Mark & Joann Gillis. Melanie just got married to Sam Gershman on Dec. 15 and she is a Junior at Winona State University in the Nursing program. You can e-mail her at: Melanie.gillis95@gmail.com

MISSIONARIES OF THE WEEK

John & Letha Kerl, Covenant missionaries serving as Regional Coordinators for Europe and Russia. They ask: for God's anointing on each of our missionaries as they seek to follow Jesus and reach out in His name to those in their local sphere of ministry, for the deepening of trust and mutual respect with our partner churches in Europe and Russia, for strengthening of our focus of ministry among the marginalized and refugee populations of Europe, and for safety. Their e-mail is letha-john.kerl@covchurch.org

RECOGNIZING AND RESPONDING TO CHRIST

JOHN 2:1-11 / NEIL VANCE

The Wedding at Cana is a story many of us have heard, but it is about far more than Jesus serving a party from going bad. As we dig in we will see in the midst of this odd miracle Jesus performs many embedded lessons for us to pay attention to today.

To have a healthy spiritual life we must:

1. Seek and respond _____.
2. Recognize _____.
3. Acknowledge _____.