

February 2021



FIRST COVENANT CHURCH + RED WING, MN

MESSENGER

# Pastor Jim Looks Ahead

Hello! It's such an honor to be invited to be your pastor. Our welcome here has been so warm and friendly. Thank you for helping us unload our moving truck, sharing meals with us, and making us feel at home in our new community. I and my family have appreciated you all so much.

My first few weeks have been focused on meeting people, getting to know staff and some leadership, making immediate care connections, getting oriented to FCC's internal systems and needs, and establishing rhythms and contacts for planning worship services, all while settling into my office, unpacking at our temporary house rental, looking for a new home to buy, getting our daughter registered for school and volleyball, and other personal matters that accompany a big move like this. I'm thankful for the opportunity to be here and look forward to working with you all as we seek to build a healthy-missional church leading people to a better future in Christ.

Looking ahead, a few things we're discussing right now include the following.

## Resuming Two Services?

Because we've been experiencing attendance that has exceeded our capacity (under current guidelines) and have had to make use of an overflow room, we feel it's time to explore resuming a second service. We don't have a date set yet but are beginning to explore what it will take to do this. These two services would likely have different styles of worship and would continue to follow the guidelines we've established to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus. There are quite a few conversations to be had with various people and teams before we can start a second service, though. So, we're going to be thorough and consider all factors involved before moving forward. We'll let you know what we come up with.

## Changing the Overflow Location

In the meantime, if you happen to be among those who end up sitting in overflow, you'll be happy to know that starting Jan 31<sup>st</sup>, its location will no longer be the gym. Instead, it'll be in the Fireside area. There, we have a nice big 75" TV screen, good speakers, and comfy physically spaced chairs. We think you'll have a more positive experience there and you'll feel a little more connected to everyone else before and after the service.

## COVID-19

We are all anxious for things to return to "normal" however, we must remain vigilant and continue to do our best to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. As you attend services, please continue to wear properly fitted masks, touch as few things in the building as possible, avoid shaking hands (fist bumps can be fun), be cautious of too much crowding, and use hand sanitizer on your way in and on your way out so we can all reduce the spread of the coronavirus.

Again, I'm excited to be here and what God has in store for us all in the future ahead!

Pastor Jim

# Mission Focus for Feb – MN Adult and Teen Challenge

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*"Heal me, Lord, and I will be healed. Save me and I will be saved, for you are the one I praise. Jer. 17:14*

Since 1983, MN Adult and Teen Challenge has assisted teens and adults to gain freedom from chemical addiction and other life-controlling problems by addressing their physical, emotional and spiritual needs. They offer a full range of treatment and recovery services: they work with teens and their communities through their prevention program *Know the Truth*, and lead Lakeside Academy, a Christian behavior and recovery center for teen boys; for men and women, they provide residential and outpatient treatment, long-term residential recovery programs with co-occurring mental health services, and comprehensive aftercare support. Because of the pandemic, substance use has increased in our state and across the nation, emphasizing the importance of the unique ministry, treatment and recovery programs that MN Adult and Teen Challenge offers.



In our service on January 31st, we have the privilege of hearing individuals bring inspiring testimony of how their lives have been changed and their hope restored by their encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ through the ministry of MN Adult and Teen Challenge. We encourage you to be a part of this service, either in person or on-line, and to invite others to join you. You will be blessed! A special offering will be collected for this ministry, and you may participate in that offering either at the service, at the church office, by mail or on-line.

## From the Church Chair

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At Pastor Jim's service of installation on January 24<sup>th</sup>, he spoke to us from Jeremiah 29. He reminded us from the situation of the people of Israel that God is with us in the present situation. God gave his people instruction for living in their unfamiliar present and he promised them he had plans for their future.

On Sunday February 7<sup>th</sup> we meet for our annual meeting. As required by our constitution, we will receive written reports from the pastors and organizations (committees). We will elect officers and council members and other needed persons for the business of the church in 2021. Together we will Thank God for His guidance this past year, celebrate his presence with us in the now, and seek His direction as we move ahead in ministry. Please plan to be present for our meeting at 11:15.

Roger Johnson

## Library Corner

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We are in the process of relocating our children's library books to the family room right behind the sanctuary. The checking out process will stay the same. Sign the card in the pocket and put in the container on the top shelf. We ask that you return the books to the plastic tote in front of the adult library as you have been doing. We have separated the children and adult books to give more space for each. We are continually adding new books to each library. Please check out the glass display case, these are new books that we have gotten in and hope you will enjoy them. We are always interested in any recommendations for Christian authors you might have. Just let the library committee know.

Library committee  
Jan Jordahl, Diane Goudy

# Financial Secretary Offering Updates

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## **OFFERING UPDATES:**

**2021 Budget:** (\$8,841/week needed)

4 weeks 2021 - \$34,363 (-3.9% under budget)

4 weeks 2020 - \$49,514

4 weeks 2019 - \$31,916



## Congregational Care

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I have to admit that I am not often grateful for the invention of the computer chip...but it certainly has enabled us to reach out to others while we are a "homebound" population! It has also enabled me to grow my vocabulary with words like Zoom (does not mean to go fast) and Duo (not meaning a couple). I can keep my telephone in my pocket or the car and not worry about how far I can go with my phone cord before it pulls out of the phone base...just amazing!

I enjoy Sunday morning Worship from my living room and the sense of being a part of "my church community" when it isn't wise for us "over-the-hillers" to be in large group gatherings. I enjoy the fact that we can keep connected with calls and notes and cards just to say that we have others on our minds and in our hearts.

Let's keep, keeping in touch!  
Char Hayes, Congregational Care

## Note of Thanks

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Thank you to everyone for the prayers, cards, words of encouragement, and food Rick and I received during my recent illness. I am doing much better and am back at work. God is good! Blessings to you!

Pam Peterson

# Lake Beauty Bible Camp - Trailblazer Winter Retreat

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## Trailblazer Winter Retreat

Grades 3-5

February 27-28, 2021

Lake Beauty Bible Camp, Long Prairie, MN

Camp in the winter?! Enjoy exciting chapel services with your favorite camp songs and teaching. Live it up with activities like snow tubing, broom-ball and much more!

Cost: \$65. After February 10: \$75.

Arrival/Check-in: Saturday 11:00-12:00 PM

Departure: Sunday 1:00 PM

**Guest Speaker:** Lori McCain, Mounds View, MN

To register or for more information – [lbbc.com](http://lbbc.com)

### What to Bring

Bible, Sleeping Bag, Pillow, Seasonal Clothing (ie - super warm winter stuff as there will be much outside playtime), Towel, Personal Care Items (toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, etc), and if you want, money for the Camp Store (optional).



## Kids Ministries Discovery Hour

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This has been a big area that needed our attention most since the pandemic shut things down. We have experimented with a few things over the last few months that lead to some great memories and cool little stories to share, but we believe we have the capacity to start gathering our younger families more consistently.

**Starting at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday morning,** we have an amazing team of volunteers who will host a kids discovery hour gathering in the gym. Join us for an upbeat opening song, a fun little gathering, and a lesson as we continue through the Gospel Project! Parents are encouraged to come and sit with their kids (if able). This is intended for students in grades Pre K through 6th grade, but older students are welcome to join or even volunteer to help! We will end at 9:45a.m., just in time to head up stairs for the worship service. We hope your family will consider joining us!

## Youth Group is BACK

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Youth Group meets Sunday nights with junior high (grades 6-8) from 6:00-7:00 p.m., and senior high (grades 9-12) from 7:15-8:15 p.m. down in the youth room. Please enter using the youth room entrance around the side of the building.

Our theme for the Spring semester will be Foundations. You always have to start somewhere. When you build a house, you start with the foundation. When you learn math, you start with the basics. From there, you can build elaborate structures or understand the most complex problems. The same is true in figuring out who we are and why we exist. During this series we will tackle some of the most basic questions about life and faith!



# February

2021

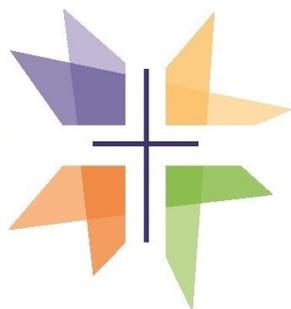
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1 9:00am CDEAP	2 9:00am CDEAP 9:30am Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Schmidt Life Group	3 6:30pm Confirmation	4 9:30am Men's Bible Study 6:00pm Worship Team Practice	5	6
7 <b>Holy Communion I Annual Meeting</b> 9:00am Kids Discovery Hour 10:00am Worship 11:15am Annual Meeting 6:00pm Jr High Life Group 7:15pm Sr High Life Group	8 9:00am CDEAP	9 9:00am CDEAP 9:30am Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Schmidt Life Group	10	11 9:30am Men's Bible Study 6:00pm Worship Team Practice	12	13
14 <b>Council Installation</b> 9:00am Kids Discovery Hour 10:00am Worship 6:00pm Jr High Life Group 7:15pm Sr High Life Group	15 9:00am CDEAP	16 9:00am CDEAP 9:30am Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Schmidt Life Group	17	18 9:30am Men's Bible Study 6:00pm Worship Team Practice	19	20
21 9:00am Kids Discovery Hour 10:00am Worship 6:00pm Jr High Life Group 7:15pm Sr High Life Group	22 9:00am CDEAP 6:30pm Council Meeting	23 9:00am CDEAP 9:30am Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Schmidt Life Group	24	25 9:30am Men's Bible Study 6:00pm Worship Team Practice	26	27
28 9:00am Kids Discovery Hour 10:00am Worship 6:00pm Jr High Life Group 7:15pm Sr High Life Group						

# Remembering Our Birthday Friends with Prayer

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1st	Martin Gardzinski, Warren Fox	15th	Marie Bengtson
2nd	Bonnie Mercer, Stacey Anderson	16th	Josh Hanson
3rd	Darold Glander	18th	Anna Bechtold
8th	Spring Reisner, Gabe Quiboloy, Jim Murphy	19th	Carolyn Fishback
9th	Treasure Wachholz, Keith Johnson	20th	Paul Kramp
13th	Ryan Buck, Cory Doden	21st	Mary Thomforde
14th	Beatrice Keehn	24th	Jeff Hanson, Lacy Quiboloy
		27th	Lucy Hoffman

Prayer is a vital part of the life of our church. In order to help us focus on praying for one another, please use our list of birthday friends in each month's Messenger to pray for them and their families. There will be enough names to pray for someone throughout the month. Let's make praying for one another a means of encouragement to us all!



First Covenant Church  
2302 Twin Bluff Road  
Red Wing, MN 55066  
651-388-2385  
[www.redwingfirstcov.org](http://www.redwingfirstcov.org)

First Covenant Church

Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 7, 2021

11:15 a.m.