



FIRST EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH  
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# First Word

A CHURCH FAMILY PUBLICATION OF FIRST EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

APRIL 2019

## *A Journey to the Cross* BY JOEL SUTTON

Back in the year 2000, the National Gallery in London decided that the most appropriate way to celebrate the arrival of the new millennium was to mount an exhibition of art on "the Image of Christ". It was presented in the belief that even secular audiences could engage with the different artist's portrayals of the life and death of Jesus. Near the end of the exhibition, the visitor encountered Salvador Dali's Christ of St. John of the Cross, painted in 1951.

When first displayed it was met with considerable criticism from the experts. Yet within the first two months, fifty thousand people of all types came through to see it and a press report commented, "Men entering the room where the picture is hung instinctively take off their hats. Crowds of chattering, high-spirited school children are hushed into awed silence when they see it."

Before the cross of Christ countless men and women of every generation and culture have stood in hushed awe and humbled silence. The cross stands at the very heart of the

Christian faith displaying God's love, effecting salvation from sin, and inviting reconciliation with God.

But along Jesus' journey to the cross, there were other significant events and symbols that tell the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection.

There was the **trade** Pilate made - Barabbas for Jesus - in order to satisfy the Jewish crowd and the chief priests. Jesus, an innocent man, ended up being crucified in place of Barabbas, a murderer. In the same way, Jesus took our place - "(Jesus) to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." 2 Corinthians 5:21

There is a **tree**. Jesus died hanging on a tree. The Old Testament tells us, "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree." Paul reminds us, "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us." (Galatians 3:13).

When Jesus died on that cross, the curtain in the temple **tears** from top to bottom. A super-natural event.

And a symbol that now the way into the Holy of Holies is open for all people, for all time, both Jew and Gentile.

Then course there is the **tomb**, where Jesus' dead and bloodied body was buried. It was a day of pain, hopelessness and darkness.

But then came Easter - Jesus' resurrection and the **throne**. Jesus sat down at the right hand of His Father, God. The resurrection of Christ is the good news that His work was completed. He sits on the throne and waits for everything to be brought under his feet. He sits because the work is done. "Because of one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy." (Hebrews 10:14)

During this month of April, I want to invite you to join us as we walk with Jesus on his journey to the cross and encounter these symbols. And then celebrate with us on Easter Sunday morning the fact that Jesus' work is completed and your sins have been paid for and you have been made holy forever.

## *This Month* @ FIRST FREE

### NO CLUBS OR VELOCITY APRIL 3RD

There will be no Creekside Clubs or Velocity meeting on April 3rd due to Spring Break.

### MEN'S NIGHT OUT

Men's Night Out is April 8th at 7:00 p.m. at First Free. There will be pizza, games, predictions and prizes. Bring a snack to share and invite your friends!

### BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

Sunday April 14th there is a Blood Pressure Screening at 10 a.m.

### GOOD FRIDAY AND EASTER SUNDAY

Join us for our Good Friday service at 7 p.m. and our Easter Sunday services at 9:00 and 10:30 a.m.

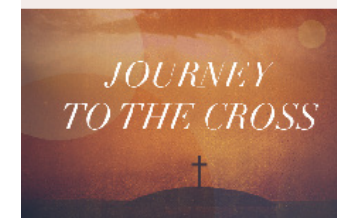
### PINEWOOD DERBY

Start your engines! The Pinewood Derby is on Friday, April 26th. Come at 6:15 p.m. to vote on car designs and have some snacks. Races start at 7:00!

### DISCOVERING FIRST FREE

Interested in membership? Join us Sunday April 28th and May 5th at 9:00 a.m. in Room 109. Contact the church office to register.

## MORE PICTURES FROM TOC



### UPCOMING SERIES | JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

MARCH 31	Trade (Mark 15:1-15)	APRIL 21	Throne (Mark 16:1-20)
APRIL 7	Tree (Mark 15:21-32)		
APRIL 14	Tear (Mark 15:33-41)		
APRIL 19	Good Friday, Tomb (Mark 15:42-47)		

OUR MISSION:  
TO HELP  
INDIVIDUALS  
BECOME  
CHRIST-CENTERED  
& CHRIST-SENT  
TOGETHER

WANT MORE INFO?

Web: [www.firstfreechurch.org](http://www.firstfreechurch.org)  
facebook.com/firstfreechurch  
Instagram: @firstfreechurchmpls  
Twitter: @FEFCMpls

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SEE MORE INFO AT:  
[www.firstfreechurch.org](http://www.firstfreechurch.org)

# MEN'S NIGHT OUT

by Ross Olson

Mark down Monday, April 8, for men of all ages to gather at church for fun, food and competition. The NCAA Basketball final will be playing on the screens and all sorts of other games and contests will be going on. Pizza, pop, chips and fruit will be provided. You can also bring your favorite junk food to share.

There will be interesting and possibly valuable prizes for predicting the outcome of the big basketball game and for the winners of some of the many contests you can try yourself. What are the games? Gaga ball, 9 square, car-petball, ping pong and maybe more. What are they? Come and see! There will also be an informal half-court basketball game.

Come at 7:00 pm, the big game starts at 8:00 pm. Awards and prizes will be given at half time. Stay to the end of the game if you wish, but you can collect your coveted prizes long before that. The most challenging contest is predicting the statement made by the coach who gets interviewed heading towards the locker room at halftime. Brush up on your sports clichés!



## Church Family News

Hope Sutton's wedding shower, (Pastor Joel and Becky Sutton's daughter) is on May 4th at 10 a.m. in rooms 105/106. Hope and her fiance Sawyer are registered at Crate and Barrel, Target and Amazon.

Congratulations to Kim and Matt Lawrence on the birth of their son, Cooper Isaac Lawrence born on March 12th!

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# VACATION BIBLE CAMP

## JUNE 24-28, 2019 9 AM TO NOON

For kids entering grades K-6.

### VBC KICK-OFF: APRIL 28

Join us in the gym during fellowship time to kick off VBC! Meet the leadership team and start registering kids and volunteers!

### WATCH FOR UPCOMING WORK DAYS

### CHECK [FIRSTFREECHURCH.ORG/VBC](http://FIRSTFREECHURCH.ORG/VBC) FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION

Questions? Email [vbc@firstfreechurch.org](mailto:vbc@firstfreechurch.org)



## Terrace on Chicago 2019 Recap

Wow, can you believe it? Terrace on Chicago 2019 is in the books! We raised over \$19,500! Thank you all so much for all your support and for coming out to eat such a great meal! Thank you for showing the love of Christ to our students, supporting them as they get ready to go share the hope of Jesus on the streets of Chicago, partner with a local church in the Czech Republic to lead an english camp for the purpose of relational disciple-making and as they get ready to go have the time of their lives at Rock Ridge this summer! We are so grateful to be apart of a Church that supports Velocity Student Ministries so much!

