



FIRST EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH  
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# First Word

A CHURCH FAMILY PUBLICATION OF FIRST EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

AUGUST 2018



## FALL KICK-OFF SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9



Join us as we kick off the fall season here at First Free! We'll return to our two Worship Gatherings with community groups and K-12 classes starting up.

### YOUTH GROUP KICK-OFF

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

Welcome to another great start of the school year with Youth Group resuming September 12th at 6:30 p.m.!

### CREEKSIDE CLUBS

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Creekside Clubs start September 19th at 6:30 p.m. for kids grades 1-6. See you there!

### WOMEN'S NEIGHBORHOOD BIBLE STUDY:

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

Join us Wednesday, September 12th, 9:30-11 a.m. at the church as we start a new study. Free childcare provided for kids ages infant to 5 years.

## Taking on the Giants BY JAY POUND

*But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus (Ph. 3.13b-14, NIV).*

Fighting giants is, by definition, hard work. We don't call them giants for nothing. The giants of fear and anger, bitterness and temptation are more likely to present a life-long struggle than a challenge to be won in an afternoon. And more often than not, it is the duration of the struggle that wears us down and ultimately defeats us. We are all capable of tremendous effort when the end is near and in plain sight. Much greater fortitude is required to keep going, even on an easy path, when you have no idea where or when the end will come.

I was reminded of this when Heidi and I took our girls hiking our a

recent trip to visit family in Colorado. Liesl and Evie did admirably well for an 8 and 7 year old, and in fact it became clear early on that they were capable of far more than we - and especially they - imagined. The biggest obstacle (at least in the hikes we attempted) was neither the elevation nor the length, it was the fact that they don't have a strong grasp of distance. Because of that, progress meant nothing - until the end was actually in sight. Then of course, two girls who were threatening collapse minutes before would all of the sudden discover they could run.

In many ways, taking on these giants we have discussed can feel like embarking on a hike of an unknown distance. There are times where you feel like you are making progress, but also times when the end, when victory, seems as far away as it has ever been. At those times, I like to remember C.S. Lewis's famous comment about God: "God is easy

to please, but hard to satisfy."

Lewis captures a profound truth in a concise package. God is so pleased by every effort we make out of obedience to him, by every step we take toward becoming more like Jesus. Every time we stand to face down our giants, God rejoices.

But the other half is just as true: while God rejoices over every step in the right direction, no matter how small, he will not be satisfied until we have been fully conformed to the image of his Son. He will always cheer our progress and share our joy at how far we have come, but he will also always call us to take the next step. And the next.

Fighting the giants is hard work and a long journey, but God is with us every step of the way, cheering our progress and calling us on. So let us follow Paul's example and fight the good fight. Let us strain toward what lies ahead and press on toward the goal to win the prize, for which God himself has called us in Christ Jesus.



### CURRENT SERIES: KILLING GIANTS

AUGUST 5	Giant of Loneliness	AUG. 26	Student Ministry Report
AUGUST 12	Giant of Resentment	SEPT. 2	Giant of Disappointment
AUGUST 19	Teen Challenge Choir		

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

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# Student Ministry Summer Trips

## CHALLENGE

In July, 34 teens and 9 leaders went to Kansas City, MO for Challenge 2018. We were challenged to follow in the bold moves of Jesus. We were challenged to kneel to the Lordship of Jesus and surrender our lives, stand up for truth in the ways Jesus did, and walk in love towards people who need to know the good news of the Gospel. Our students had opportunities throughout the week to bond with each other, have fun by exploring the city, worship and pray together, and learn strategies to deepen and share their faith from great speakers during the equipping labs.

Midweek, we spent an afternoon serving by removing rubble, composting, weeding, and cleaning up the outside of a community property. We also had the opportunity to go out and do a prayer walk around the city. We also went through the Apex Experience to understand what life is like in the Middle East beyond our preconceived notions and even experienced a simulated refugee scenario that was quite impactful. We had chances to have some great conversations about our experiences, eat some meals together, and enjoy an afternoon at a water park together.

## JUNIOR HIGH ADVENTURE TRIP

The week at Rock Ridge was a stretching experience. Students had opportunities to go outside their comfort zones and bond with each other through hiking some rougher terrain, rock climbing and rappelling, and canoeing (even with some portaging). We were kept busy



from morning until night with these adventures. In devotional times with our adventure crews and in chapel we talked about the authenticity of the love of God.



Join us on Sunday, August 26th to hear from the students about what they experienced this summer!

## VBC 2018 Recap

We had a great time at VBC in June! We had around 300 boys and girls attend and raised over \$2600 to provide water filters for families in Puerto Rico through SERV International. God Sightings were evident everywhere, from relationships being built on the nursery and kitchen teams to preschoolers praying for their snacks to several kids sharing that they prayed to follow Jesus! Thank you to our church family for your prayers and support and to the 160 volunteers! What FUN we had!



# This Month @ FIRST FREE

## BAPTISM AND PICNIC: AUGUST 5

Have you taken the step of being baptized? Contact the church office or talk to a pastor if interested!

After the worship gathering on Sunday, August 5th, join us at Lake Nokomis to celebrate those being baptized with a picnic to follow. For the picnic, the church will provide sandwiches, drinks and chips. Please bring your own chairs or picnic blankets and something to share according to last name: A-M bring a dessert, N-Z bring a salad or side dish.

## CPR CERTIFICATION COURSE: AUGUST 11, 9:00 AM - NOON

The Faith Community Nurses will be offering a blended learning course for certification in CPR through the Red Cross. The online portion of the course (to be completed before August 11th) will take about 2.5 hours. The certification and checkoff will be in person on Saturday, August 11th, 9:00 a.m. to noon at the church. The price for certification is \$28. Sign up online at [firstfreechurch.org/nursing](http://firstfreechurch.org/nursing) or [firstfreechurch.org/comingsoon](http://firstfreechurch.org/comingsoon). Contact Jeanine Bruen with questions ([jeanine.brue@firstfreechurch.org](mailto:jeanine.brue@firstfreechurch.org)).

## HONORING CHOICES: AUGUST 19 OR 26

Learn about filling out a health care directive, which gives your designated health care agent the ability to carry out your personal care choices in the event of injury or illness that leaves you unable to make your own medical decisions. Join us August 19th or 26th at 11:30 a.m.

## STUDENT MISSIONS CELEBRATION: AUGUST 26

Join us as we celebrate our students and the experiences they had this summer at Challenge and the Jr. High Adventure trip. Hear students share about what they learned and how God worked during the worship gathering at 10:00 a.m. and stick around to talk to them more during fellowship time.

## FALL KICKOFF: SEPTEMBER 9

Join us as we kick off the fall season! We'll return to our two worship gatherings with community groups and K-6 classes starting up. More ministry launch dates on the back!

## End of Fiscal Year Financials

Praise the Lord and thanks to each of you for your part in meeting the needs our ministries this past year! Our income was \$14,728 less than projected but expenses were less by \$21,340 so we ended the year in the black. We are thankful!

Operations	June. 2018	YTD Budget *	YTD	Variance to Budget
Income	\$ 64,731	975,163	960,435	(14,728)
Disbursements (includes outreach)	\$ (81,585)	(975,163)	(953,823)	21,340
<b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ (16,854)</b>	-	<b>6,613</b>	<b>6,613</b>
<b>Operating Cash on Hand - EOM</b>	<b>\$ 65,879</b>	*seasonally adjusted		

## Worship Pastor Call Committee Update

The Worship Pastor Call Committee continues to meet regularly. We have received and continue to receive applications and are in the process of reviewing the applicants. As a committee, we seek the wisdom that only God can give through this process. We pray that He leads the right person to apply for the job and that our desires and perspectives are in tune with His will. Please pray with us that God directs us to the right person for this very important role at First Free.

Thank you for your support through this process.

Carrie Boyum,  
 Worship Pastor Call Committee Chair