



FIRST EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH
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First Word

A CHURCH FAMILY PUBLICATION OF FIRST EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH
DECEMBER 2019

What is in a Name? BY JOEL SUTTON

Choosing a baby's name is can be stressful! Most of us have been involved in that process at some time in our lives. And we want to choose the perfect name.

I remember when Becky and I were trying to figure out what we would name our daughter. We went to a Barnes and Nobles bookstore and found a couple of books filled with names. I started at the end of the alphabet, with the 'Z' names. Becky started at the beginning, with the 'A' names and we met somewhere in the middle.

Names are significant. They connect memories and hope, promise and power, past and future. Choosing a name is a major step in shaping a child's identity. Choosing a name is the beginning of charting a child's future.

In the Old Testament world, a name was not merely a label, but it would often times describe the person who carried it. In I Samuel 25:25 Abigail says to David, "May my lord pay no attention to that wicked man Nabal. *He is just like his name - his name is Fool and folly goes with him.*" (Emphasis is mine)

Choosing a name is serious business.

God through the prophet Isaiah chose four names for his son: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace (Is. 9:6). These names were full of power and promise. They provided great hope for those who were going through the dark days of Isaiah's time.

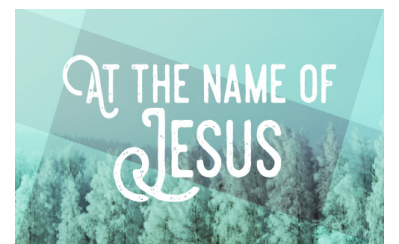
In these four names God gave us insight as to Christ's identity. He provides answers. His son will be victorious. He will be personal and intimate. And he will provide peace.

This Christmas, who do you know that needs to know the hope of these four names? They are as significant now as they were when Isaiah gave them. Invite someone to join you on Sunday mornings during this season, someone who needs to hear the message of a Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.

*"For to us a child
is born, to us a son
is given; and the
government shall be
upon his shoulder, and
his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace."*

*Our Christmas Eve Services are on Dec.
24th at 3:00 and 4:30 p.m.*

ADVENT SERIES AT THE NAME OF JESUS



- DEC. 1 Wonderful Counselor
- DEC. 8 Mighty God
- DEC. 15 Everlasting Father
- DEC. 22 Prince of Peace
- DEC. 24 Christmas Eve: Name Above Every Name

**Merry
Christmas!**
From First Free Church

Christmas Eve Services

DECEMBER 24, 3:00 & 4:30 PM

Nursery available during the 3:00 service

Blue Christmas

A contemplative service of remembrance, comfort and hope.

Dec 15 @ 7:00 p.m.



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

WANT MORE INFO?

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SEE MORE INFO AT:
www.firstfreechurch.org



WE'RE UPDATING THE PHOTO DIRECTORY

PHOTO DATES: DEC 22,
JAN 5, 12, 19 & 26

CALL FOR ART!

Our Advent & Christmas Art Gallery
this season we will be reflecting on
the messianic promises of Isaiah 9:6-7

Artwork will be accepted
beginning November 25th



Merry Christmas from the First Free Staff!



Church Family News 2019

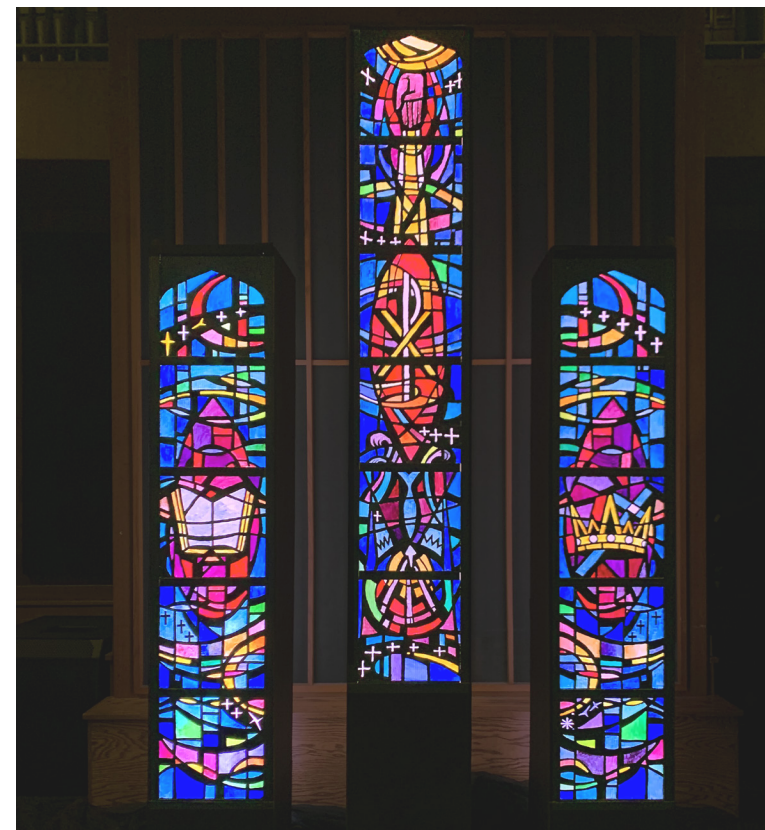
Welcome New Members!

- Brian and Kelly Voigt
- Carey and Lindsay Robinson
- Elsa McClun
- Eve McClun

Nine babies were born this year!
Congratulations to all of the
families!

The CES Fall Food Drive collected
approximately 1200 pounds of
food! Thanks to everyone who
donated!

New in the Sanctuary



The newest additions to the sanctuary are these painted reproductions of the stained glass windows that are above the entry door facing Chicago Avenue. Originally the windows were located in the wall behind the altar in the sanctuary, but were moved to make room for the pipe organ pipes. The original windows were a gift of Mr. & Mrs. Albin E. Anderson.

The three lancets depict the Word, The Trinity, and Eternity. In the lancet on the left, has been placed the open Bible, the source of all revelation. In the center lancet are the symbols of the Trinity. The top symbol is the universal sign of God, the hand. No man hath seen God. Even Moses was permitted to behold just a part of God's revelation of Himself. The hand speaks of God's creative power, loving discipline, bountiful benevolence, and wise guidance. In the middle are the letters Chi Rho (X-R). These are the first two letters of the Greek name, Christ. This symbol appears on the earliest known Christian coins. It is also supposed to have been the sign seen by Constantine. Below these letters is the dove, the well-known symbol of the Holy Spirit. The lancet on the right, speaks of eternity. The crown of life is a reminder that those in whose memory the windows are presented and the many others who have gone on to their reward were not crowned with death—but with life.

This Month @FIRST FREE

CHRISTMAS EVE GATHERING

Join us in celebrating God coming to earth and dwelling among us at our annual Christmas Eve Gathering on Tuesday, December 24th at 3:00 and 4:30 pm. Nursery only available during the 3:00 p.m. service.

CALL FOR ADVENT ART

Visual artists of all ages and skill levels are invited to participate in our second annual Advent & Christmas Art Gallery! This season we will be reflecting on the messianic promises of Isaiah 9:6-7 and encourage artists to consider how they can portray the hope of the Prince of Peace. Art & photography can be submitted to the church office or digitally to paul.anleitner@firstfreechurch.org beginning November 25th.

CHRISTMAS ORCHESTRA

The Christmas multi-generational orchestra will be reassembling soon to help lead us in worship on Sunday Morning December 15th. Those who have participated in the past should have already received a Planning Center email with more information about rehearsals, songs, etc; but if you have not participated before and are interested in getting involved, contact Cheryl Polland at jpolland@usfamily.net or our Worship Pastor, Paul Anleitner at paul.anleitner@firstfreechurch.org

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE: DECEMBER 15TH, 7:00 P.M.

A service of remembrance and hope for those who are experiencing loss this Christmas Season. Invite someone you know who needs God's hope during this season.

ONE SERVICE DECEMBER 29TH

There will be one Worship Service on December 29th at 10:00 a.m.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED ON:

The Church office will be closed on December 24th, 25th and January 1st.