



FIRST EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH
5150 CHICAGO AVE S.
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55417

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Pumpkin Smash 2018

A Creekside Clubs event on October 31st



- 50 boys and girls showed up to Pumpkin Smash this year
- Club leaders lead activity stations such as cookie decorating, pumpkin relays and a photobooth
- The night ended with a watching a giant 50+lbs pumpkin falling from the ceiling



First Word

A CHURCH FAMILY PUBLICATION OF FIRST EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

DECEMBER 2018

Promise of Better Days Ahead BY JOEL SUTTON

Early this past fall, as my wife was cleaning out our son's closet, she came across his North Face winter coat. Our son, Jacob, had not taken it to college, because the zipper was broken.

But then my wife remembered North Face's promise, their lifetime guarantee behind defects in all materials and workmanship. So we decided to test their promise. We sent the coat back to them - to see if they would fix the zipper - never really expecting a response

To our surprise and joy, six weeks later Jacob's winter coat was returned to us - completely fixed. It was like it was brand new. And it didn't cost us a penny.

God is like North Face. Throughout Scripture, God makes all sorts of outlandish promises we cannot bring ourselves to believe. One of the greatest of those was His promise through the prophets of the Old Testament that better days are ahead.

"Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up from David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land." (Jeremiah 33:14-15).

Faithful to His word, God kept His promise with the gift of His Son on that first Christmas morning. We are the recipients of that joy!

Jonathan Edwards, the 18th century American clergyman, observed, "Christ is not only a remedy for your weariness and trouble, but he will give you an abundance of the contrary: joy and delight. They who come to Christ do not only come to a resting-place after they have been wandering in a wilderness, but they come to a banqueting-house where they may rest and where they may feast. They may cease from their former troubles and toils and they may enter upon a course of delights and spiritual joys."

Jesus is God's promise kept. This year's Christmas celebration provides yet another opportunity to praise God for His infinite love and His never-ending faithfulness.

May God's gift bring you great joy this Christmas!

By the way, why not now begin praying for those who you might want to invite to join you at church this Advent Season? What a great privilege we have to help friends find joy of Christmas.



MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM FIRST FREE!



ADVENT SERIES | PROMISE OF BETTER DAYS

- | | | | |
|--------|--|---------|-----------------------|
| DEC. 2 | The Power of Hope | DEC. 16 | A Homecoming! |
| DEC. 9 | Lava Soap In the Hands of a Loving God | DEC. 23 | Our Peace |
| | | DEC. 24 | Christmas Eve Service |

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

WANT MORE INFO?

Visit www.firstfreechurch.org
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FIRST FREE STAFF

JOEL SUTTON
SENIOR PASTOR
joel.sutton@firstfreechurch.org

JAY POUND
ASSOCIATE PASTOR
jay.pound@firstfreechurch.org

JASON PENSA
STUDENT PASTOR
jason.pensa@firstfreechurch.org

BETH BROWN
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY DIRECTOR
beth.brown@firstfreechurch.org

PAUL ANLEITNER
WORSHIP PASTOR
paul.anleitner@firstfreechurch.org

**MAUREEN JUAREZ &
JEANINE BRUEN**
FAITH COMMUNITY NURSES
nurses@firstfreechurch.org

WINFORD MORRISEY
OFFICE MANAGER
winford.morrissey@firstfreechurch.org

DAN FERGUS/SARAH COOK
DESIGN/WEBSITE
sarah.cook@firstfreechurch.org

SCOTT BECKETT
FACILITIES TECHNICIAN
scott.beckett@firstfreechurch.org

DAVID KRIESEL-KOLL
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR
david.kriesel-koll@firstfreechurch.org



SEE MORE INFO AT:
www.firstfreechurch.org

Meet a First Free Council Member

Darlene Swanson

Tell us a little about yourself.

I grew up in Richfield, MN in an Evangelical Free household. I've been going to church since I was about two weeks old. Growing up, I was involved in Pioneer Girls, youth group, and church choir. Later, I became an AWANA game leader, church treasurer, and an active worship ministries member (singing, playing woodwinds, running sermon slides and the sound system). Currently, I am single and a resident of Bloomington where I am the parent to an 11-year-old Miniature Pincher named Kysa.



I earned my BA in Business Administration & Bible Studies from the University of Northwestern St. Paul, and after graduation, I toured for a summer with the Continental Singers as an Alto Sax player. After that, I began my career in the workforce where I had the opportunity to work for the Holiday Companies, Rollerblade and C.H. Robinson. In January 2018, I started a new position as a Business Analyst with The Toro Company which has been an answer to many prayers in many ways. In addition to work and church, I am an active member of the St. Louis Park Community Band where I am a clarinetist.

What excites you about where First Free is going?

It is an honor and privilege to be one of the Council Members here at First. I love being able to serve the First Free family and look forward to helping the church continue to be a Bible based, relevant church community. We have a great staff to help with our ministries and appreciate worshipping, learning and being challenged each Sunday.

What is a fun fact about you?

- My sport of choice (though out of practice now):** Volleyball
- Most frequented vacation destination:** Branson MO
- Number of States visited:** I've been to all 50!
- State I would like to live in:** It is fun to visit elsewhere, but there is no place like MINNESOTA.

Visual Arts Announcement

At First Free we recognize that music need not be the only avenue of artistic expression to be celebrated and practiced together as a church community.


The Church has a rich history of celebrating visual arts and commissioning artists to create art that provides an aesthetic experience that ultimately draws others toward the transcendent source of beauty- God.

This Advent we will be launching our Visual Arts ministry by inviting artists of all skill levels and ages to submit photos, paintings, drawings, graphic designs, or other expressions of art for consideration to be shared with our church community during Advent.

Our theme this Advent and Christmas season is entitled "The Promise of Better Days," and throughout our building, as well as on our website and social media we will be highlighting art from our community that expresses the longing of the season for God's setting right of world.

Whether it is art that you have created years ago or whether you feel inspired to create something in the coming weeks that you think captures the hope of the holiday season, we encourage you to share what you've created with Worship Pastor Paul Anleitner at paul.anleitner@firstfreechurch.org

How to Give

			
Mail	Online	In Person	Text
<small>(5150 Chicago Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55417)</small>	<small>https://firstfreepls.church-center.com/giving</small>	<small>Cash or Check</small>	<small>Or text 84321</small>

During the Christmas season as we celebrate God's gift of love, we are truly grateful for the many ways each of you have shared your love for First Free church. Your stewardship through your offerings and gifts have had a direct impact on enabling us to help individuals become Christ-centered and Christ-sent together.

As you consider your year-end giving we would ask you to consider giving generously to First Free. You can find out more information on how to give on our church website, www.firstfreechurch.org/give.

Thank you for your partnership in the gospel of Jesus Christ!

Church Family News

- Congratulations to Karli and Luke Lundberg on the birth of their daughter Esther Rose Louise Lundberg, who was born on November 8th.
- The CES Fall Food Drive collected 100-110 bags, which totaled 1,309 pounds! Thanks to everyone who donated!

This Month @ FIRST FREE

CHRISTMAS EVE

Join us in celebrating God coming to earth and dwelling among us at our annual Christmas Eve Gathering on Monday, December 24th at 3:00 and 4:30 pm.

ADVENT INVITATIONS

Who's on your High Five list? Invite them to one of our Advent services. Invite cards are available at the welcome desk.

POINSETTIAS AVAILABLE

If you would like to honor or remember loved ones by purchasing a poinsettia to be displayed in our church sanctuary this Christmas season, please fill out the form at the welcome desk and return it to the church office by Sunday, December 16th. Plants may be taken home after our Christmas Eve Service.

MEN'S SOUL SHARE: DECEMBER 8TH

Men: join us for breakfast and discussion at 9:00 a.m. in room 105. Contact Ross Olson (ross@rossolson.org) for more information or to get on the email list.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CHOIR: DECEMBER 9TH

First Free's K-6th graders will be participating in the Children's Christmas Choir on Sunday, December 9th during both worship gatherings.

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE: DECEMBER 16TH, 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.