



FIRST EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH
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A CHURCH FAMILY PUBLICATION OF FIRST EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH
FEBRUARY 2021

Want to Have Influence? BY JOEL SUTTON

Are Christians powerless or can we exert influence in this world for Jesus Christ?

As we move into this new year of 2021 with the pandemic still raging, our nation more divided than ever, and violence on the rise in Minneapolis, we ask, "What can we do?" We wring our hands in a holy kind of dismay. We say, "Society is rotten to the core, Everything is hopeless. There is no hope but the return of Jesus Christ."

Yes, we believe that when Jesus Christ comes he will set everything right. But it would be a mistake to say that we cannot have an influence.

In Matthew 5, Jesus calls us as His church the "salt of the earth" and "the light of the world". He is illustrating the influence we are to have on our non-Christian world.

The world, Jesus says, is like rotting meat. But you are to be the world's salt. Like salt in rotting meat, Christians are to hinder social decay.

The world is like a dark night, but you are to be the light. Like light in

the prevailing darkness, Christians are to illumine society and show it a better way.

Most of us can accept that there is to be a distinction between the Christian and the non-Christian, between the church and the world. But too often we stop there. We become preoccupied with survival rather than influence.

"We (the Church) become preoccupied with survival rather than influence."

Salt and light are not just different from their environment. They are also to be a powerful influence on their environment. The salt is to be rubbed into the meat in order to stop the rot. The light is to shine into the darkness. It is to be set upon a lamp stand to give light.

We are to have an influence on our world. And that is quite different from mere survival. So how do we

have this influence? One major way is through prayer.

Prayer is an indispensable part of the Christian's life and of the church's life. Prayer is powerful. And the church's first duty toward society and its leaders is to pray for them.

Paul says in I Timothy 2:1-4, "I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—or kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth."

If in the city there is more violence than peace, more indecency than modesty, more oppression than justice, more secularism than godliness, might the reason be that the church is not praying for these things?

Might we be salt and light in Minneapolis and in our world for Jesus Christ. And might it begin through God-dependent prayer.

QUARTERLY CELEBRATION

(BUSINESS MEETING)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8

7:00 p.m. **ON ZOOM**

join us to hear what God is doing through our ministry

Velocity Student Ministries resumed
in-person on January 20th.



WATCH SUNDAY SERMONS ON:

firstfreechurch.org/sermons

or

firstfreetv on YouTube



Would you like to receive the newsletter via email?

Contact the office at info@firstfreechurch.org

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

WANT MORE INFO?

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www.firstfreechurch.org

ANSWERS TO PRAYER

Amazing Adoption by Jon & Petra Fager

For those of you that don't know us, we are Jon and Petra Fager and we have been coming to First Free since November of 2019. We've been working on an adoption since mid 2019 of 4 siblings from Ukraine. Our whole story is a long story, which we'd be happy to share with any of you sometime, but right now we find ourselves in Ukraine for the second time almost ready to bring the kids home (Ages 7, 11, 12 and 14)!

Monday, January the 25th was supposed to be our court date, but instead after a long day of waiting our hearing was cancelled and postponed until February 2nd. We haven't seen our big kids in person since mid November. Even on the day of our original hearing we only got a 2 minute video call with them. Please pray

that we and they would have patience, and that the path would be cleared for us to complete the court process and get the children home as soon as possible. Once the hearing happens we have another week or two of business before we will be able to return... but we will return with children!

We don't currently have any children, so we are thrilled to have our family expand through adoption. God has been so faithful to us in each step of the way, through waiting and frustration, financial provision, and connections with the children despite limited time together. We can't wait to eventually introduce them to the First Free community! Thank you for all types of support and prayer we have already received!



Overcoming Cancer by David & Gabrielle Hauge

(In October of 2019, Gabrielle and David Hauge started a difficult journey as their daughter Lydia was diagnosed with Ewing's Sarcoma of her cheek. After surgery, chemo and radiation and many ups and downs, Lydia completed cancer treatment summer of 2020. In January 2021 she celebrated 6 months cancer free.)

in areas like vision, hearing, and pituitary function. Besides the extra doctor appointments, we are enjoying life with an energetic four and one year old. We continue to be grateful for the prayers and support we have received from you all, our church family.



CREEKSIDE

In-Person Sunday Mornings | Clubs In-person Wed. Nights



VELOCITY

In-Person Sunday Mornings | Alternating Online and In-Person Wed.

a preview of
**VELOCITY STUDENT
MINISTRIES
2021 SUMMER TRIPS**

for more info contact Jason Pensa



M
**MIDDLE SCHOOL
ADVENTURE
TRIP** August 7-11



H
**HIGH SCHOOL
ADVENTURE
TRIP** July 24-30

Want to Receive Weekly Updates?

If you are not receiving our weekly email updates from Pastor Joel, please email the church office at office@firstfreechurch.org

OR

If your information has changed recently (address/email/phone number) please contact the office so we can update it in our system.

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

- Our condolences to the family of Chris Vatsaas, who passed away at the age of 92. Funeral arrangements yet to be announced.



Call for Art

Calling artists of all ages to submit artwork for our 3rd Annual Lent and Easter art gallery.