



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

Want to receive First Word
via email? Contact the office
at info@firstfreechurch.org

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
TWIN CITIES MN
PERMIT NO 32622

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



First Word

A CHURCH FAMILY PUBLICATION OF FIRST EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

JANUARY 2019

More Than Faithful BY JAY POUND

Genesis 12; 2 Sam 7; Mt. 28

Back when Abraham was still Abram, back when he was a nomad, when he travelled wherever he could find good grazing, Yahweh, the God of all creation broke suddenly into his life. Yahweh gave Abram a new identity, and many spectacular promises. Though Abraham had no children, Yahweh promised to give him so many descendants that their number would rival the number of stars in the sky. And he promised that there would be more than a few kings among them. Yahweh promised that they would be blessed, and that through them all the nations of the earth would be blessed. He promised that they would be his people and he would be their God. Heady stuff for a shepherd and nomad; heady stuff for anyone.

Generations later, a descendant of Abraham would sit on the throne of Israel, a promised kingly descendant, ruling over a promised nation of descendants in the Promised Land. Grandiose as those promises must have seemed to Abraham, Yahweh had in fact

been faithful—and more than faithful. Already Yahweh had done more than Abraham could have ever imagined. But he was not done.

When this King, David, began to muse that it was time to build Yahweh a temple, a permanent home among his people, Yahweh politely declined the offer and countered with one of his own: He would build David a house. Not a house of stone, as any old mason might manage, Yahweh would instead establish the throne and kingdom of David and his descendants forever. Heady stuff for the king of small nation dwarfed by his neighbors; heady stuff for anyone.

And yet generations later, in the city of David, a new king and savior was born—Jesus, a king heralded not by mortals, but by angels. Through him salvation has been made freely available to all, so that the whole world has indeed been blessed. And through him, Yahweh has chosen to adopt men and women from all tongues and

tribes and nations into the family of Abraham so that it is no exaggeration to number the descendants of Abraham in the billions.

And because of the perfect faithfulness of Jesus, because of his obedience to God even to death on the cross, Yahweh has raised him to his own right hand, and has given him all authority in heaven and on earth. And so today a flesh and blood descendant of David, a descendant of Abraham, sits in heaven at the right hand of Yahweh, ruling over all creation in a kingdom that will never fail and never end. Fantastic as his promises to David must have seemed, not even a king could have dared to dream of a fulfillment such as this—that his descendant would rule alongside Yahweh himself. And yet he does.

Surely Yahweh has been faithful and beyond faithful. Surely he has done far, far more than Abraham or David or anyone in between or after could have ever imagined. And he is still not done.

Coming this Spring at First Free

Discovering First Free

February 2 & 10 during 2nd service

Men's Retreat

March 1-3 @ Camp Shamineau

Terrace On Chicago

Saturday March 23 @ First Free

Connections

Coming later this Spring at the Lehnars



UPCOMING SERIES | PROMISED LAND LIVING

JAN. 6 Call to Risk
JAN. 13 Choices Matter
JAN. 20 Gift of Delay

AFTER PROMISED LAND LIVING-
"LIVING A LIFE THAT COUNTS"

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

WANT MORE INFO?

Visit www.firstfreechurch.org
Visit our Facebook page
Find us on Instagram

FIRST FREE STAFF

JOEL SUTTON
SENIOR PASTOR
joel.sutton@firstfreechurch.org

JAY POUND
ASSOCIATE PASTOR
jay.pound@firstfreechurch.org

JASON PENZA
STUDENT PASTOR
jason.penza@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

Marriage Matters



Save the Date:

Saturday Morning,
February 2nd

Few things, if any, have a larger impact on our life and happiness more than our marriage. And marriage is complicated, touching on nearly every aspect of our lives, from where we eat and live, to

how we raise our children and spend our money. And yet, despite the enormity of its impact and complexity, we often devote very little time specifically to understanding and improving our marriages.

This February, First Free will provide an opportunity to do just that at our Marriage Matters Workshop. Join us, together with your spouse, on Saturday morning Feb. 2nd and work together to improve your communication and conflict management skills. The workshop will be led by Steve Sanford, President and Academic Dean at Nicolet Bible Institute, and will include several training sessions, as well as opportunities to debrief with your spouse so you can begin putting the new tools into practice right away. Look for more details on our Website in the following weeks.



About Steve Sanford:

Dr. Steve Sanford is the President of the Nicolet Bible Institute in White Lake, Wisconsin and currently has over 25 years of teaching experience at NBI and serving on staff at Silver Birch Ranch. Prior to coming to NBI, he served as a Youth and Associate Pastor at Powderhorn Park Baptist Church in Minneapolis for seven years. His educational background includes

a B.S degree from the University of Minnesota (1980), Master of Divinity degree from Bethel Seminary (1985) and a Doctor of Ministry in Marriage and Family Systems degree from Bethel Seminary (2003). Over the years he has conducted tons of pre-marital counseling (of which Jason and Emm have benefitted from). He is married to Becky and they have three adult children and six grandchildren. Steve has played a significant role in Jason's personal and spiritual development over the past decade and a half.

Czech Republic Mission Trip

July 8-23rd (10-12th Grade)



We have the unique opportunity to go on a missions trip to the Czech Republic and to partner with Josiah Venture and a local Czech Church to run an English Camp for the purpose of outreach through relational evangelism.

The purpose of the Czech Republic Mission Trip is to see a local youth group in a local Czech church grow and multiply disciples. English Camp provides an opportunity for local youth leaders to raise up a team of students to be equipped in the areas of evangelism and discipleship.

Students will be encouraged to reach out to their friends at school and invite them to the camp. They will then have the opportunity to share the hope of Christ with their friends in a relational environment. They will also have the opportunity to serve in ministry throughout camp. Everything that happens at camp impacts their youth ministry the rest of the year.

Students who will have graduated from grades 10th-12th (by June 2019) are eligible to apply to be apart of this team. Our students who are more serious about their faith I would challenge, why not consider applying to be on this high-commitment team where you will have an opportunity to encourage disciples of Jesus in a country where less than 1% of the population is Christian? Why not consider how God might want to use you in a country where you will see a real spiritual darkness and hunger? You can find more information on how to apply at firstfreechurch.org/studentevents



This Month @ FIRST FREE

WOMEN'S NEIGHBORHOOD BIBLE STUDY-JANUARY 9

We invite you to join us for Women's Neighborhood Bible Study, we are starting a new study: God's Word-Power to Shape Our Lives. Beginning January 9th 9:30-11:00 a.m. Great (free!) program for children ages infant to 5 years. We hope to see you there!

MEN UNITED JANUARY 11

Men United will be resuming on Friday January 11 at 6:15 a.m.

LEAD THE CAUSE PARENT & STUDENT MEETING

Sunday January 20th there is a parent and student meeting about the Lead the Cause summer trip at 12:00 p.m.

JR HIGH ADVENTURE TRIP PARENT & STUDENT MEETING

Sunday January 27th there is a parent and student meeting about the Jr High Adventure Trip at 12:00 p.m.

VELOCITY STUDENT MINISTRY

Youth Group resumes on January 16th at 6:30 p.m.

CREEKSIDE CLUBS

Creekside Clubs resume on January 16th at 6:30 p.m.

WINTER WEATHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Check our website (under the "News and Events" tab) or call the church office for cancellations and weather related announcements in the event of severe winter weather.

