

FIRST FREE CHURCH
Minneapolis

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MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55417

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“Prayer” by: Pastor Joel

I always feel like I am on a learning curve—as a Senior Pastor, as a father, as a Christ-follower. And one of the areas I desire to continue to grow in is my prayer life.

Prayer. It is one of the habits of the Christian life most often talked about and probably the least understood. One day we are excited about it. And the next we have given up on it. We are told to “pray without ceasing”, yet we wonder, “How can I do that?”

It was such a mystery that Jesus’ own disciples asked him, “Master, would you teach us to pray?” They could have asked him to teach them how to walk on water, or to heal the sick or how to preach to thousands. But the only thing recorded in Scripture that the disciples asked Jesus to teach them was how to pray. Why? What had they seen that prompted them to ask him, “teach us to pray?”

Was it the way he prayed? His style? The words He used? Did He pray in some dramatic way?

No. I think what they saw was the depth of spiritual community Jesus had with his heavenly Father. “But He Himself would often slip away to the wilderness and pray.” (Luke 5:16; underline added) They saw Jesus and the Father in intimate fellowship. And they said, “I want that.”

Do you want deep, intimate fellowship with God? Pray. Learn to pray.

As we move into this summer season, I want to invite you to slow down and pray. Pray for our church. Pray for our community. Pray for our leadership. Pray for me.

Zechariah 4:6 says, “Not my might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts.” Fulfilling our mission of helping individuals become Christ-centered and Christ-sent together will not happen because of our strength or in our wisdom. It will only happen as we learn to be dependent upon God. In other words, we must learn to pray.

“Prayer is one of the most important aspects of building disciples. If one is to help men grow in the knowledge of Jesus Christ, he must pray. Indeed, if he does everything else right in terms of building disciples, yet fails to pray, nothing significant will happen.” (Carl Wilson, “With Christ in the School of Disciple Building”)

Let’s join together as disciples of Christ and ask, “Master, teach me how to pray.”

**NEW SERMON SERIES:
WHAT DOES GOD WANT FROM ME?**

- June 8 - God's Desire for Obedience
- June 15 - God's Desire for Justice/Mercy
- June 22 - God's Desire for Humility
- June 29 - God's Desire for Trust
- July 6 - God's Desire for Worship
- July 13 - God's Desire for a Hope-Filled Faith
- July 20 - God's Desire for Restoration
- July 27 - Satisfy God's Desire for Changed Lives
- August 3 - To Be Determined
- August 10 - God's Desire for Righteousness
- August 17 - God's Desire for Honor
- August 24 - God's Desire for Dependence
- August 31 - To Be Determined

JOIN US FOR A ONE-OF-A-KIND ADVENTURE!
JUNE 16-20 FROM 9 A.M. - NOON
FOR KIDS ENTERING GRADES K-6



NEEDED: (REW LEADERS & NURSERY CAREGIVERS!)

ALL VOLUNTEERS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO COME TO OUR FUN-FILLED VBC TRAINING SESSION ON JUNE 4TH OR JUNE 9TH FROM 6:30 P.M. TO 8:30 P.M. (PLEASE CONTACT BETH BROWN IF YOU CAN'T COME!)



UPCOMING @ First Free

FIRST FREE SUMMER SCHEDULE

JUNE 2014

EXPRESSIONS – JUNE 9TH, 16TH, 30TH & JULY 14TH & 28TH @ 7:00 P.M.
For those struggling with chronic or devastating disease, join us at 7:00 P.M. in room 103.

FIRST FREE BLOOD DRIVE – JUNE 11TH @ 3-6 P.M.
See the Coming Soon page or the Welcome Desk to sign up. Contact Maureen Juarez if you have any questions.

VBC 2014 – JUNE 16-20 @ 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

STREETFEST – JUNE 19TH @ 6:00 P.M.

JULY 2014

SUMMER SERVICE SCHEDULE – ONE SERVICE @ 9:15 A.M., JULY & AUGUST
One Service only from July-August at 9:15 a.m. No classes and no Community Groups will be meeting on Sundays.

SERVICE AT MINNEHAHA FALLS – JULY 27TH @ 10:30 A.M.

PICNIC & BAPTISM AT LAKE NOKOMIS – AUGUST 3RD @ 9:15 A.M.

SERVE MINNEAPOLIS – AUGUST 9TH @ 8:00 A.M. – NOON

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

Check out our website!

Visit at www.firstfreechurch.org

Visit our Facebook page!
First Free is now on twitter
@ FEFCMpls

Church Family News

Congratulations to Stuart Klenk who graduated from the University of Northwestern– St. Paul in May!

Happy Birthday to Marian Nyquist who recently turned 101!

Happy Birthday to Estella Roberts who recently turned 102!

GRADUATION OPEN HOUSES

ARIANNA OWENS
SATURDAY, JUNE 21ST 1-4 P.M.
5020 15TH AVENUE SOUTH
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55417

RACHEL FERGUS
SATURDAY, JUNE 21ST, 2-6 P.M.
4312 11TH AVENUE SOUTH
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55407

Special Congratulations!

Grant and Donna Butterworth had their 70th wedding anniversary on May 20th, Donna turned 90 on May 13th, and Grant will be 90 on June 19th. Congratulations you two!



SEE MORE INFO AT:
www.firstfreechurch.org

FIRST FREE STAFF

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JOIN US FOR FOOD, FUN, & AND FELLOWSHIP WITH
YOUR CHURCH FAMILY AND OUR NEIGHBORS!

Special Congratulations!

To Don & Gen Erickson
on their 65th Wedding Anniversary!
Best wishes and love from your children—
Lori & John, James & Kathy, Kara



Nokomis Farmer's Market

Come enjoy local grown food in our neighborhood starting June 25th from 4:00-8:00 p.m.
Be sure to come back for more on July 23rd and August 27th. Located just across the street
from First Free at the corner of 52nd Street & Chicago Avenue.

VALUE #3: MISSIONAL MINDSET by: Jay Pound

Editor's Note: Below is the continuation of our discussion of our values and how that drives our mission here at First Free. Be sure to be on the look out for these values to be discussed further in future editions of First Word.

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." (Mt. 5.14-16)

We often take from this little metaphor that we have the light, and should share it with others, picturing ourselves perhaps holding little oil lamps. But the picture is actually that we are the lamps - God's lamps as it were. We don't have the light, we are the light (v.14). The point of verse 15 is then that if you or I would not light a lamp and place it under a bowl, God most certainly would not either. We are God's lamps, and he has placed us right where he wants us—put us where we can shine.

We have titled our fourth value "Missional Mindset" to try and capture just that truth. The Christian mission is not just for certain people, not just for certain days or trips, not only to be pursued in certain places. All believers are God's lamps, and we have all been placed by God right where he wants us. Mission is for all of us all of the time—it is a mindset. Shine where God has placed you: in your homes, schools, workplaces and neighborhoods. And join us as together we strive to be a lamppost - to shine in South Minneapolis.