



FIRST EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH
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A CHURCH FAMILY PUBLICATION OF FIRST EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH
JUNE/JULY 2021

Embracing All of the Bible. Even the Really Tough Parts.

BY PAUL ANLEITNER

SUMMER PICNICS

SUNDAYS AFTER CHURCH @ TRIANGLE PARK

(Bring your own food)

JUNE 27TH

JULY 11TH

AUGUST 8TH

After a year of quarantines and social distancing, we know there is a need to reconnect with each other. With that in mind, we want to provide some opportunities for our church family to simply spend time together and eat together.

Weather permitting, we are planning to schedule 3 church picnics this Summer. On one Sunday each month, following our 10:00am Sunday service, we will invite everyone to bring their own food and join us at a park. We hope you can join us, we look forward to seeing all of you there!

If we're honest, the Bible can feel like a very strange book to us at times. That's because it is a very ancient book. In fact, it may be more appropriate to think of the Bible as an ancient library of books, poems, and letters collected into a single book. The collection of writings in our Biblical library are written across hundreds of years, by varying authors, with different writing "rules" that change based on the genre of literature they are writing in. Read the book of Revelation and read the book of Proverbs and it's obvious that these two books are written very differently with a different set of writing rules. These differences in genre between books and the differences between our modern cultural context and their ancient context can sometimes make reading the Bible downright perplexing.

In our particular church tradition, we like to use words like "inspired" or "infallible" to describe the Bible, but sometimes we get confused into thinking that the way we read the Bible is the inspired part. But what happens when you get a bunch of people together in a room and ask them, "Hey, what do you think this

passage in the Bible means?" and you get a bunch of wildly different answers? Clearly, not everyone can be right. If we want to understand the meaning of the Scriptures, we need to try our best to understand what God was trying to say through the original author in their original context. That's how we get to the inspired part, and admittedly that can feel really hard without the right tools or expertise.

Sometimes well-intended people who haven't given themselves to the hard work of humbly stepping into the ancient world of the Scriptures have tried to explain some of the difficult books of the Bible to us. Even though these explanations can come from people with good motives, the results of some of these poor explanations sometimes lead us to even more difficult questions, confusion, or just utterly wrong conceptions of God and his story. Some of us may feel pretty good reading something like the Gospel of Luke and getting the basic gist of what that ancient biography on Jesus was all about but be utterly terrified of opening up to a book like Ecclesiastes, Job, or Revelation.

If we just functionally chop out some of these difficult books of the Bible by never reading them, we end up missing out on the whole story God intended to tell in the canon of Scripture. There's a reason the early Christians believed that each of these books played an important role in God's story, and as followers of Jesus we want to better understand those reasons.

This summer, your pastors want to help remedy some of the confusion you may experience when you read certain portions of the Bible. Throughout this summer we'll be going through some of the more challenging and perplexing books of the Bible during our Sunday morning sermons so that you can grow in your confidence to read all of the Scriptures and be shaped by the profound, timeless messages these books contain. In fact, I believe that many of you will find that some of these books that you may have been steering clear of actually contain some of the most relevant and transformative truths for this very moment in your life.



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Please update the church office if your phone number,
email or home address has changed recently

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

WANT MORE INFO?

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www.firstfreechurch.org

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY EVELYN PETERSON!



(Written by Mae Olson)

It would have been impossible to even dream that when Evelyn Erickson (Peterson, later) and I met at Powderhorn Park Baptist Church, that our friendship would grow and still be going strong 78 years later.

Powderhorn Church was an excellent place for our friendship to grow, especially when we joined the Youth group, because we worked side by side so often, especially on Sundays. Sundays started with Sunday School and the worship service. We went home for a quick dinner, and then back to church for youth group at 4 o'clock. Youth group seemed to be defined for anyone between 15 and 50. Then it was down to the kitchen to prepare supper for all, and then the evening service. Evelyn and I sang in the choir at the morning service, evening service, and at the weekly broadcast.

Evelyn and I seemed to have many similar interests and found ourselves going to evening classes together at Northwestern College, usually preceded by supper at the Normandy Hotel, often veal cutlets and popovers. I also remember enjoying time with her at Youth for Christ programs and specials productions at the Minneapolis auditorium, as well as other concerts and events. The parties she threw at her attic apartment were also something to remember fondly.

Our friendship was shared when we both married. I was married to Ron with Evelyn as my Maid of Honor, and she was married to Paul Peterson. Her marriage to Paul made her a preacher's wife which soon took them to Waltham, Massachusetts. But in time we both found each other again at First Free Church - still friends. Thanks for the memories Evie! Happy 100th Birthday!

-Mae Olson



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firstfreechurch.org/sermons
or
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Want to Receive Weekly Updates?

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

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

- Congratulations to Hannah and Bryant Dittmer on the birth of their daughter Edith Victoria Dittmer!
- Congratulations to all the children who were dedicated this past month! Hudson Robinson, Gena, Grisha, Nastya, & Luba Fager, Russell Burns, Liv Pope, Beatrice O'Neil, Laura Waller, Liliana Ogren, Isla & Remy Ekstrom, Ozzy & Evie Moss.