



FIRST EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH
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Up Close & Personal BY PASTOR JOEL

Howard Hendricks, the longtime professor at Dallas Seminary once said, "You can impress people at a distance; you can only impact them up close".

People usually don't trust those they don't know. Add to that, in our day and our culture there is a general mistrust of organized religion. So how do you get the message of the gospel out? Put yourself in the shoes of the unchurched. What would make you change your mind about Christ and His church? Certainly not what they see on TV. Or what they hear in the news.

The only way is through a personal relationship with a Christ-follower. Think about Jesus. He left the comforts of His heavenly home and entered into our world. He didn't rent a large stadium and hold large meetings. Instead, He became known as a "friend of sinners". He was continually pursuing relationships with those who were far from God, in order to bring them to God.

Instead of ignoring him or dismissing him, Jesus called Zacchaeus, the unpopular, unethical little tax collector, down from that tree and asked to have dinner with him at his house. He cared for him and showed it by his eagerness to spend time with him (Luke 19:5).

Jesus stopped by a well and struck up a conversation with an adulterous Samaritan woman.

He displayed interest in her life and it resulted in an opportunity to share with her that He was the long awaited Messiah.

Jesus had time to enjoy a party at Matthew's home with many of Matthew's tax collector friends. He found an open spot in his busy calendar go to Jarius' home to raise his daughter from the dead. Jesus touched lepers and healed the blind. He got up close to people—even those who were outcasts and undesirable.

"...a goal that in the next school year (2016-2017) 50% of our church family will spend one meal (breakfast, lunch, supper) a month with someone far from God, for intentional relationship building."

Jesus' ministry, from the very beginning was intentionally relational. Why? For the purpose of bringing those who didn't know God into a relationship with God.

We must learn from Jesus' example.

With that in mind, we have set as a goal that in the next school year (2016-2017) 50% of our church family will spend one meal (breakfast, lunch, supper) a month with someone far from God, for intentional relationship building.

Who do you know that is far from God? Why not text that person right now and invite them out for a lunch? or set up a dinner date? Begin praying for them. How might you help them take the next step towards Jesus?

After all, you can only impact them for Christ, when you get up close and personal.



VBC 2016: JUNE 20-24

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

VBC
PREP

WORK DAYS! Come when you can; snacks provided!

Dates & Times: June 8: 9:00 am-2:00 pm
June 14: 9:00 am-2:00 pm
June 17: 9:00 am-2:00 pm

The week before VBC, check-in to see what else is needed! *Questions? Contact Beth Brown*

VOLUNTEER TRAINING DATES

Come to either volunteer training dates on:
Wednesday, June 8 @ 6:30 pm-8:30 pm *or*
Thursday, June 9 @ 6:30 pm-8:30 pm

Contact Beth Brown to let her know if you can't come!



CAN YOU LEND A HAND?

Talk to Beth Brown, Caving Guide at
beth.brown@firstfreechurch.org



- For the kids
- For the volunteers
- For the leadership team
- For beautiful weather...no rain!

PRAY!



OUR CURRENT SERMON SERIES: SEVEN: LESSONS TO THE CHURCHES IN REVELATION

June 5	Lesson in Love	July 3	Lesson in Discontentment
June 12	Lesson in Suffering	July 10	Lesson in Witnessing
June 19	Lesson in Truth	July 17	Lesson in Growth
June 26	Lesson in Purity	July 24	Worship @ The Falls

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 Twitter
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SEE MORE INFO AT:
www.firstfreechurch.org

Three Years of Ministry

BY BETH BROWN

3 years ago Tess Dutton made a commitment to be the small group leader for a group of kindergartners and stick with them for the next 3 years. As Tess graduates, we thank her for her faithful service to this group of now 2nd graders. These boys and girls have had the blessing of having a consistent leader. Thank you, Tess! Who will take her place?



What's been the most rewarding and encouraging part of your experience in Children's Church?

Tess: To watch these children grow, and learn to love and live throughout these three years has been a blessing and honor. The fulfillment within FEFC's children's ministry is far beyond just weekly classes with sweet kids for an hour. Rather, this opportunity has enriched my life with love and joy. These amazing little ones have taught me just as much, if not more, than I have taught them. The words, heart, hugs and love are a priceless experience worth every minute.



A Great Problem!

BY JOEL SUTTON

What a great problem to have!

- Did you know that on the last youth group night of this school year, there were 93 high school and middle school students jam packed into rooms 108/109?



- Did you know that there were so many Tree Climbers (first and second grade boys) at the end of this year, that they have requested a second room next fall?

- Did you know that last summer our gym overflowed with 300 children at Vacation Bible Camp, all sitting on the floor, taking up every square inch?

- Did you know that Pastor Jason has already begun brainstorming what he will need to do in order to divide up the

Middle School students and the Senior High School students—so these groups can continue to grow?

These are great opportunities we have, but we have run out of room. We have a space crunch. So we have to be creative. That is why the Finance and Property Board and the Church Council are discussing ways to better utilize our limited church space. In the days ahead we ask for you to pray for this planning process. How do we continue to expand our student and children's ministries with the challenges we have on Wednesday nights (and other event nights) with space?



Growth is a great problem to have. But what do we do?

This June & July @ FIRST FREE

June 2016

VBC 2016: Cave Quest — June 20-24 9:00 a.m. – Noon

VBC: Cave Quest registration is now available for children (entering grades K-6) and volunteers. Nursery and preschool VBC is available for children of volunteers only. Sign up online or learn more info at firstfreechurch.org/vbc. Questions? Contact Beth Brown, the Caving Guide, at beth.brown@firstfreechurch.org.

Nokomis Farmer's Market — Wednesdays, Starting June 15 @ 4:00 p.m.

Come enjoy locally grown food in our neighborhood starting June 15 from 4:00-8:00 pm. Be sure to come back for more Wednesdays from June 15th through September 28th. Located in our church parking lot. If interested in helping represent First Free, contact the church office at info@firstfreechurch.org.

Streetfest — Thursday, June 23 @ 6:00 p.m.

All are invited to this outdoor, community event on Thursday, June 23 at 6:00 p.m. Join us for food, fun, and fellowship with our church family and our neighbors!

Blood Drive — Monday, June 27 @ 2-7:30 p.m.

The Annual First Free Blood Drive is scheduled for Monday, June 27 from 2-7:30 pm. The goal for this year is 35 units. Blood is especially needed because of the July 4th weekend that follows. Sign up today by visiting firstfreechurch.org/nursing.

July 2016

Church Office Closed — Monday, July 4 for Holiday

The church office will be closed on Monday, July 4, in observance of the 4th of July holiday. Normal church office hours will resume normally on Tuesday, July 5.

Summer Worship Schedule — Sundays, July 3–September 4 @ 9:15 a.m. only

Join us for our Summer worship schedule! We'll be having one worship gathering starting July 3 through September 4 at 9:15 a.m. There will be no adult community groups or K-12 classes being held.

Worship Gathering at Minnehaha Falls — Sunday, July 24 @ 10:30 a.m.

Join us for worship at Minnehaha Falls on Sunday, July 24 at 10:30 a.m.

Streetfest, June 23rd @ 6pm

JOIN US FOR FREE FOOD, FUN, GAMES, & MORE AT OUR ANNUAL SUMMER NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK PARTY

Church Family News

We extend our deepest condolences to the family of Ralph Roberts, who passed away on Friday, April 29. His funeral was held on Monday, May 16th here at First Free.

We extend our deepest condolences to the family of Nick Poot, who passed away on Sunday, May 8. Funeral details TBD.

Congratulations to the families whose children were dedicated on Sunday, May 8!

Joshua Peters (son of Allan & Maria Peters)
Stella Dittmer (Daughter of Bryant & Hannah Dittmer)
Scout Graden (Daughter of David & Keri Graden)
Edynio Pierre-Louis (Son of Eddy Louis & Sabina)

Uriella Dablaka (Daughter of Pascal Dablaka & Tchotchovi Amavi)
Paneil Hueckman (Daughter of Seth & Mallory Hueckman)
Avery Aunan (Daughter of Tyler & Amy Aunan)
Violet Beckett (Daughter of Matt & Erin Beckett)