



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

Upcoming Camp Opportunities

CAMP DISCOUNTS:

We love camp and want every student in grades 1-12 to experience it so much that we provide discounts! If your child or grandchild regularly attends a First Free kids/youth program, we will provide a discount on the camp fee for either Camp Shamineau, Rock Ridge or Camp Nathanael!

Get a \$100 discount for a full week of camp or \$75 toward a partial week. Visit firstfreechurch.org/camp or pick up a flyer at the Creekside Canteen. Contact Beth Brown or Jason Pensa with questions or for more info!

RETREAT 46:

Retreat 46 is a weekend retreat at Camp Shamineau designed just for 4th, 5th, and 6th graders! It's a perfect opportunity for boys and girls to get a taste of camp (and parents can sign up, too)! We bring our own adult chaperones & camp takes care of all the fun details!

When: April 13-15 Cost: \$75
Sign up: Register at firstfreechurch.org/children.
Contact Beth Brown with questions!

CAMP SHAMINEAU

Camp Shamineau, located in Motley, is a place "for your children where they will engage in high energy outdoor activities and edifying group experiences that are led by quality summer staff who love Jesus and want to show them how to have an eternal relationship with Him".

Please check out all that camp has to offer at www.shamineau.org.

CAMP NATHANAEL

Camp Nathanael is a Christian, all-boys summer camp just 90 minutes from the Twin Cities. Nathanael is a rustic camp offering rugged outdoor experiences. Their mission is to "raise up boys and young men to be Christ-following leaders". Check them out at campnathanael.com!



First Word

A CHURCH FAMILY PUBLICATION OF FIRST EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

MARCH 2018

Missing the Point BY JOEL SUTTON

Finally, a high-profile working father who gets it!

Mohamed El-Erian resigned from his position of chief executive at PIMCO. He was the head of a \$2 trillion dollar investment fund, but he gave it all up because of a letter his 10-year-old daughter wrote him.

What was in it? A list of 22 milestones that Mohamed had missed in her life so far. The list included: her first day of school, first soccer match, parent-teacher meetings, and a Halloween parade. Mohamed said, "I felt awful and got defensive: I had a good excuse for each missed event! Travel, important meetings, an urgent phone call, sudden to-do. But it dawned on me that I was missing an infinitely more important point ... I was not making nearly enough time for her."

Isn't it amazing how the things which we think are important distract us

from the most important things?

Luke tells a familiar story about a time that Jesus was visiting the busy home of Martha and Mary. While Mary was sitting at the Lords' feet listening to what he said, Martha was in the kitchen distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. While Martha was doing a good thing, Mary was doing the better thing - she was giving her full attention to the One in the room with whom every minute is truly worthy.

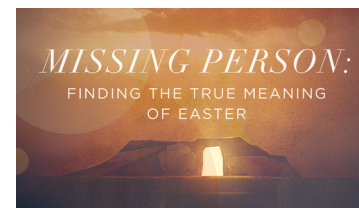
This is a lesson we must continue to learn. If we are to have spiritual power in our lives, we must fix our eyes on Jesus and open our ears to His words. We must grow in our understanding of God - His character, His nature, His power. We must worship Him because He is worthy above all else.

The Book of Revelation declares that one day those of us who have put

our trust in Christ will find ourselves moved to worship God in a way for which we are just beginning to be trained in this life. When that day comes, we will look around and see angelic beings bowing before God's throne and singing, "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power. . . (Rev. 4:11).

What if Jesus, like Mohamed's daughter, came to us with a list of things we missed because we were too busy focusing on ourselves and not on him?

As you enter into this month of March, why not use it to prepare for Easter (April 1)? Don't let this world take from you a holy obsession to know God, to listen to God, to live in God more deeply. Don't miss the significance of Christ's sacrifice on the cross and the hope of the empty tomb.



EASTER
SERIES

MISSING PERSON: FINDING THE TRUE
MEANING OF EASTER

MARCH 11
MARCH 18

What Judas Missed
What Pilate Missed

MARCH 25
APRIL 1

What Thomas Missed
What Peter Found

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
@ FEFCMpls

FIRST FREE STAFF

JOEL SUTTON
SENIOR PASTOR
joel.sutton@firstfreechurch.org

JAY POUND
ASSOCIATE PASTOR
jay.pound@firstfreechurch.org

JASON PENSA
STUDENT PASTOR
jason.pensa@firstfreechurch.org

BETH BROWN
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY DIRECTOR
beth.brown@firstfreechurch.org

MIKE GRAFF
WORSHIP PASTOR
mike.graff@firstfreechurch.org

MAUREEN JUAREZ & JEANINE BRUEN
FAITH COMMUNITY NURSES
nurses@firstfreechurch.org

ANNE PETERSON
OFFICE MANAGER
anne.peterson@firstfreechurch.org

MARY QUINT
DESIGN/OFFICE ASSISTANT
mary.quint@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

Terrace on Chicago:

Saturday, March 10th

Our annual youth fundraiser dinner is just around the corner! Terrace on Chicago is a chance to get dressed up, see the church transformed into a fancy restaurant, have a gourmet dinner, and support our youth group. Though the food is reason enough, attending Terrace on Chicago makes it possible for students to have amazing experiences that are formative for them and their faith. Here are the two trips our students are taking this summer.

Challenge

Our senior high students will be headed to the EFCA national conference, Challenge. It is a week filled with passionate worship, relevant speakers, and chances to serve on afternoon missions projects.

It has proven to be a catalytic environment challenging students to live on mission with God every day. At Challenge 2018, our students will be called to see Jesus and to walk in his steps along with over 5,000 students from all over the country. This year, Challenge will be in Kansas City, MO.

Jr. High Adventure Trip

Our junior high students will be headed to Rock Ridge in Ely, MN for the Junior High Adventure Trip, which will combine fun and exciting outdoor activities and a camp-like cabin experience for students completing grades 6 and 7. We will engage one another through hands-on experiences and varied outdoor adventures. Under the guidance of leaders who recognize the individual uniqueness of middle schoolers, young students thrive in new and exciting ways. By encouraging each other to step outside our comfort zones and see who we are in Jesus, we will expand our horizons, bond with fellow students, and have fun!

Terrace on Chicago is coming up this year on March 10th. It takes an "all-hands-on-deck" team of students (6-12th graders) and parents to help make Terrace on Chicago happen. We are blown away every year by how generous our church is and the support our students receive from the local body of Christ. It's a great chance to not only enjoy a wonderful delicious meal but also hang out with your small group or others from First Free and get to know some of the students in our ministry.



Students and volunteers at TOC 2017

Make a reservation today!
Visit firstfreechurch.org/toc

Good Friday Service:

March 30th at 7:00 p.m. Nursery childcare available.

Easter Sunday:

April 1st at 9:15 and 11:00 a.m. No community groups, youth group, or K-6 classes

Missing Person: Finding the True Meaning of Easter

Even those closest to the Easter event missed the significance of the cross and the empty tomb. Join us this Easter season as we celebrate Jesus' resurrection and discover forgiveness and hope through what others missed.

Staff Update

Dear First Free Family,

We have all experienced transitions. At First Free we are experiencing a transition as Pastor Mike Graff has resigned as our Worship Pastor.

Mike has been on staff here at First Free since November of 2011. At that time, he started as our part-time worship pastor and in June of 2015 we called Mike as our full-time Worship Pastor.

For the past couple of years, Mike has been creating music resources for worship leaders and videographers and now he is ready to make the move to go full-time with that business.

Here are some other details:

In order to help us make this a smooth transition, we have asked Mike to stay on staff until the end of May. On Sunday, May 6th, the day of our Annual Celebration, as a church body we will say "Thank you" to Mike and Kaitlin.

In the meantime, we will be starting the search process for a full-time worship pastor. We may also be recruiting an "interim worship leader" to give us the time needed to find the right person.

I would ask that you continue to be in prayer for our church body through this search process. Pray for wisdom for the leadership, for unity in the church body and for God's leading to the right person. And continue to pray for Mike and Kait and their family as they make this transition as well.

In Him,

Pastor Joel Sutton and Council Chair Jeff Dutton

This Month @ FIRST FREE

Daylight Saving Time Starts: March 11

Don't forget to set your clocks ahead on Saturday night!

The DEEP: March 21

Come, be refreshed and encouraged. Join us for a time of worship and prayer at The DEEP on Wednesday, March 21st at 6:30 p.m. Childcare will be provided.

Stockade Overnight (boys grades 3-6): March 23-24

Come for a fun guys' night in, Friday March 23rd to Saturday March 24th. We'll be playing games, watching movies, eating snacks, and more!

Good Friday Service: March 30 at 7:00 p.m.

Join us as we remember the sacrifice and death of Jesus Christ at our Good Friday Gathering, Friday, March 30 at 7:00 p.m. Childcare will be provided.

Easter Sunday: April 1

Celebrate with us the resurrection of our Savior on April 1st at 9:15 and 11:00 a.m. No community groups, youth group, or K-6 classes will be held. We will have fellowship time and nursery/preschool programs will be available.

Men's March Madness: April 2

Join us for a men's night out! Watch the NCAA basketball final at First Free and enjoy food, games, predictions, prizes, and more. All ages welcome.

Church Family News

Congratulations to Nicole and Eric Black on the birth of their daughter, Madison Sue Black, who was born on February 16th.