



FIRST EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH
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MAY 2022

God at Work BY JOEL SUTTON

Phillip Yancey writes about a friend of his that went swimming in a large lake at dusk. As this friend was paddling at a leisurely pace about 100 yards offshore, a freak evening fog rolled in across the water. Suddenly he could see nothing: no horizon, no landmarks, no objects or lights on shore. Because the fog diffused all light, he could not even discern which direction the sun was setting.

For thirty minutes this friend splashed around in panic. He would start off in one direction, lose confidence, and turn ninety degrees to the right. Or left--it made no difference which way he turned. He would stop and float, trying to conserve energy, and concentrate on breathing slower. Then he would strike out again, blindly, of course, for he had lost all orientation. He was utterly lost until, finally, he heard voices calling from shore and was able to guide himself by the sounds.

Coming out of the Covid pandemic, when it comes to your work, you might be feeling a bit fogged in. It could be

that for you, your work has you simply living for the weekend. Maybe you are just stoically enduring your job, needing to make ends meet. Maybe you work at home or at an office. Maybe you work with others or by yourself. No matter the setting or circumstances you might find yourself wondering, "How does my work connect with my Christian faith?"

David Miller, who is one of the foremost thinkers on faith and work speaks to the issue of our divided worlds - where our faith and our work seldom connect. David observes, "Many who are Christians complain of a 'Sunday-Monday gap', where their Sunday worship hour bears little to no relevance to the issues they face in their Monday workplace hours."

If you feeling fogged in when it comes to your faith and work, if you sense a sizable 'Sunday-Monday gap', let me assure you that God through his grace has a way forward. During this month of May, we will be focusing our attention on how we can live out our faith at work in our sermon series, "God at Work".

What does the Bible say about our work? What does God intend for our work? What would it look like if we connect our Sunday faith to our Monday work?

Each Sunday we will be asking different people in our church family three questions:

1. *What is your job?*
2. *How do you live out your faith in your workplace?*
3. *How does your work further God's purpose?*

How would you answer those same three questions?

We all find ourselves at different places in our faith journeys, but as we explore the rich truths of Scripture, my prayerful hope is that some of the fog in your mind might clear and you will experience a Sunday faith that connects more seamlessly to your Monday work.

Would you like to receive the newsletter via email?
Contact the office at info@firstfreechurch.org

ANNUAL CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, MAY 22 @ 10:30 AM

SINGLE WORSHIP GATHERING @ 9:00 AM

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

- Our condolences to the family of Dean Larson who passed away at the age of 90.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

We will have study materials for the summer to keep you in the Word. More to come. Contact the church office (612-827-4705) with any questions.

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

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JASON PENSA SUMMER SABBATICAL

When Peter said "let's go fishing" in John 21, I think we can all relate that he and the other disciples were seeking for something "normal" after all tumultuous times leading up to and after Jesus' death. We all have been looking for something a little more "normal" after the past few years. But normal is not what we need. A return to our pre-pandemic lives will not provide the healing that our souls so desperately need. It's interesting that this idea of "rest" is a very Biblical one. Jesus gets away from the crowds, puts a pause on His earthly ministry to pray and spend time with the Father.

What we really need is the sabbath rest that only God can provide. Our church is graciously allowing me to take a sabbath rest this summer from mid-June through mid-August.

My sabbatical will include some intentional spiritual retreats. I will spend time reading some books I've been wanting to read and spending time praying and just thinking. I also hope to spend time doing some hands-on projects around my house. I find it rejuvenating to do something artistic and make things with my hands. I would covet the prayers of those of you who feel so led to pray for me and I would ask that you would pray for God's leading while I spend this intentional time away.

While I am gone, Casey Foss and Kimber Carter will be heading up our two High School summer trips and Doug Nelson will be heading up our Middle School Missions Trip. Our events coordinator, Jess Wagner will continue to be available to help with communications and trip paperwork needs. If you have any questions or concerns Student Ministry or Pastoral related, please feel free to reach out to Doug Nelson or Jay Pound.

-Jason Pensa



Why art making is meaningful for you as you worship *by Marlene Maloney*

I have enjoyed participating in the seasonal art gallery at First Free that has portrayed the themes of Christmas and Easter these past few years. It has given me the opportunity to use my artwork to think deeply about my faith and beliefs. Creating art has allowed me to express thoughts and emotions which can be difficult to say out loud. As a form of worship it involves me as an artist and also the viewer in an opportunity to ponder events and beliefs in a new way and hopefully inspire deeper devotion. In my Easter piece, I wanted to express the explosive power of the resurrection. I used an abstract style with bold, bright colors to express joy and celebration. Remembering the resurrection gives us hope and reminds us of God's victory over sin and death.

A few of us experienced artists are offering a class at church called Created to Create, for anyone ages 10-Adult to exercise their creative potential. There will be monthly art classes exploring different art mediums. Our first class will be on Tuesday, May 10th from 6:00-8:00 pm. It will be a simple painting of sunflowers in the style of Vincent Van Gogh to honor Ukraine. Preliminary drawings will be included with the materials for those intimidated by drawing. Please sign up at firstfreechurch.org no later than 10 days prior to the class.

Creating art is another way to give glory to God!



CREEKSIDE & VELOCITY UPCOMING SCHEDULE

May 6 from 6-8pm Creekside Family Party
June 4 from 9-12noon Creekside Family Hike
June 20-23 from 6-8pm Vacation Bible Camp

May 11 Graduation Night
May 18 Last Night of Youth Group
June 15 Velocity Bike Ride (Middle + High School)



LENT ART 2022



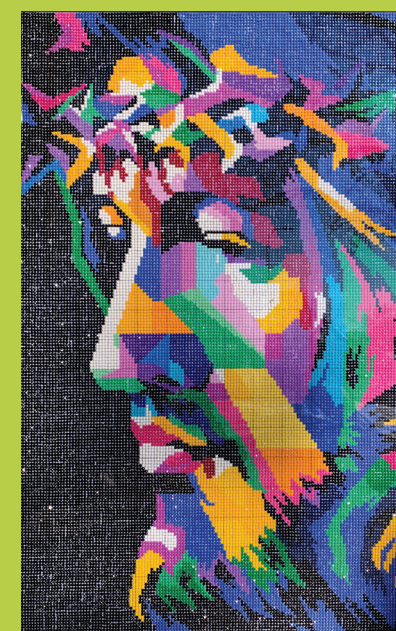
Earl Wentzel



Karen Manos



Earl Wentzel



Janielle & Esther Nordell



Wyatt Skanse