



FIRST EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH
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First Word

A CHURCH FAMILY PUBLICATION OF FIRST EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

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Saved Into God's Family BY JAY POUND

One of the most common ways that the New Testament authors describe our salvation is through the language of family. That imagery is deeply rooted in the Old Testament, and also specifically in the teaching of Jesus, who instructed us to pray to “Our Father.” And while there are many implications that flow from this kind of language, one of the more obvious is that we are saved into a family, into a community. To receive salvation is to gain entrance into a community, to be adopted into a family; there is simply no way to gain one without the other.

This fact—of being saved into one family, one people—is not a minor, peripheral issue. A large percentage of the New Testament is concerned specifically with helping people from all different backgrounds and nations, who speak different languages and eat different foods, learn how to live as part of the same family. For the apostle Paul in particular, it is this jew + gentile community of believers (what we would

call the church), loving and serving one another that testifies most powerfully to the truth of what God has done in Christ. When we accept one another, love one another and serve one another, we point most clearly to our God—who in Christ—accepted us, loved us and served us (Romans 15:1-9).

After the past six months, most of us do not need to be reminded of the importance of connection and community. As is so often the case, it is the absence of a thing which reminds us of how important it actually is. I would assume that all of you, like me, have missed worshipping together, missed learning and praying together, and missed the simple (but wonderful!) fellowship of our church family. And while we are now able again to have in-person worship, we know that for a variety of reasons, that is not a wise (or even possible) option for many of you.

So whether you are able to attend in person on Sundays or not, we want

to encourage you to make sure that you have an opportunity to connect regularly with other believers. We have a variety of ways you can be part of a community right now: several men's and women's groups have started meeting, many with an online option; many of our Sunday community groups continue to meet periodically, both in person and online; and Small Groups continue to provide an opportunity for community and connection at a time when many of us need it more than ever.

We know that life is full of uncertainty and new challenges for everyone at the moment, but in many ways that makes it the perfect time to find fellow believers who will walk alongside you. If you are not yet connected in community here at First Free, we want to encourage you to take that next step today. Contact the church office, or Pastor Jay directly (Jay.Pound@firstfreechurch.org).

I would be happy to talk with you about what option might be best for you.

STAY UP TO DATE WITH THESE LINKS:



FIRST FREE firstfreechurch.org



CREEKSIDE firstfreechurch.org/children



VELOCITY firstfreechurch.org/students



Watch Sunday Sermons:
firstfreechurch.org/sermons
OR [firstfreetv](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...) on YouTube



JOIN THE CLEANING TEAM!

help clean the sanctuary between services

Contact the Faith Community Nurses
at nurses@firstfreechurch.org

GET CONNECTED.



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



CREEKSIDE KIDS BIBLE TIME

Creekside Kids Bible Time looks a little different this year. Knowing that many of our church families would be doing church from home, we made some changes to the curriculum and how we're making Bible Time available to families. Kids birth-5th grade can come to church on Sunday mornings and jump into a class and learn with a teacher and their peers. Kids who are doing church at home can also access a weekly video with the Bible story, a Bible verse song, a mission moment and a little teaching from Carrie. Parents at home can also download or pick up from church the same activity pages the kids are using at church.

The curriculum we're using this year is called The Gospel Project. A few of the reasons we are studying with the Gospel Project this year is that it has a strong and pointed message about the Gospel every week. It also provides a digital component that allows us to share it with families at home. The Gospel Project also has each grade aligned so that all children are learning the same Bible Story each week, regardless of age. Our hope is that families will have richer conversations about the lessons learned at Bible Time at church or at home, since everyone is focused on the same Bible truths.

CREEKSIDE CLUBS

We are excited about Creekside Clubs! The leaders of Clubs are hard at work coming up with creative plans for this Fall.

Creekside Clubs is going "Limited Edition" this Fall. Wednesday night Clubs are for kids 1st through 5th grade. Boys and girls are split into groups based on grade and gender. Kids will have fun doing activities, being creative with hands-on projects, and hanging out with leaders who care about kids and want to see them grow in a relationship with Jesus Christ. Clubs will be meeting from 6:30-8:00 p.m. on the following Wednesday nights: October 7 & 21, November 4 & 18, and December 9.



We have decided to send a group to Fall Fling this month. Fall Fling is October 23-25th. Registration is open now until October 14th. Would you like to register a student for Fall Fling? Would you like to know more information about the precautions we and Camp Shamineau are taking to prevent the spread of COVID-19? Would you like more information about what activities are offered this year at Fall Fling or who is speaking or leading worship?

You can find all information regarding everything Fall Fling at firstfreempls.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/551811

WEDNESDAY NIGHT PRAYER ON ZOOM

ABOVE ALL PRAY!

Wherever I read in the book of Acts, a prayer meeting is taking place. It was in prayer that they drew lots over Matthias. They were in prayer when the day of Pentecost arrived and the Spirit fell. While some were in jail, others were praying. After Saul encountered Christ, he spent three days in prayer.

Prayer is the driving force behind all the power and the miracles and the expectant faith in the early church. Prayer is everywhere in Acts!

"Pray for great things, expect great things, work for great things, but above all pray." R.A. Torrey

I want to invite you to join us on Wednesday nights, from 7:00-8:00 p.m. as we join together on Zoom to pray. The Zoom invite can be found each week on the weekly prayer guide that is sent out by email or you can call the church office.

Let us, like the early church, be "devoted...to prayer." Acts 2:42.

-Pastor Joel



This fall we launched a hybrid model for student ministry on Wednesday nights at 7:00pm. We've already done several weeks that have alternated between being online and in-person. This model has included online components as well as in-person gatherings. Wednesday night Youth Group has always been the main focus of our Student Ministries. We love Wednesday night Youth Group because we get to connect students to a caring adult in the form of a Small Group Leader. It is always my hope that this small group centric ministry will help propel each student closer to Jesus.

In weeks we've been together in person we've had the middle school and high school in separate ends of the building, we've been careful to be socially distant and required our leaders and students to wear masks at all times in the building. We also provide online teaching on youtube on these "in-person" weeks and encourage students or leaders who can't be with us in person to watch the teaching there and join their small groups using zoom. For the weeks where we're all online we'll be using a combination where youth group starts on YouTube and we switch to Zoom for small groups this past week the weather was so nice on our online week that many of our small groups opted to meet together and watch youth group online and then gather around a campfire for their small group time.

Adjustments have been made to the Wednesday Night Calendar for October, visit firstfreechurch.org/studentevents for the most current dates.

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS:

**Congratulations to these
Seniors who have been married
65 years or more!**

Chris and Marilyn Vatsaas
June 18 | 65 years

George and Lorraine Kalb
Sept. 10 | 66 years

Ron and Mae Olson
Sept. 19 | 67 years

Bob and Lois Chapman
Aug. 9 | 68 years

Norbert and Margaret Jensen
Aug. 28 | 72 years

WELCOME JOANN BURNS!

Meet our new Office Administrator,
JoAnn Burns

JoAnn is joining us in the office as our Office Administrator. The Burns family have been attending First Free Church for sixteen years, volunteering and serving in many areas of ministry. JoAnn's favorite ministry to serve with is the VBC program. JoAnn and Joel have four children; Emma is a senior at Creighton University in Omaha, NE, Jack is a freshman at the University of St. Thomas, Rohan is a sophomore in high school, and Henry is in eighth grade.



WANT MORE INFO?

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Instagram: @firstfreechurchmpls
Twitter: @FEFCMpls

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