



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

First Word

A CHURCH FAMILY PUBLICATION OF FIRST EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

OCTOBER 2022

Transformed BY JAY POUND

The story of Zacchaeus is fascinating and a long-standing favorite of children. Children like it because Zacchaeus was both eager to see Jesus and short. Because of this combination, he climbed a sycamore tree in order to make sure he would have an unobstructed view of Jesus (a fact that many, like me, no doubt learned from the song). Now that is certainly unusual, and perhaps even a bit funny, at least for a full grown (and wealthy) man. But the detail I find most instructive comes later in the story. Later, when Jesus has seen Zacchaeus and invited himself over for dinner, Zacchaeus interrupts the meal with a pronouncement. He stands, and declares to Jesus, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount!" (19.8).

In response to this proclamation, and to the grumbling of onlookers that Jesus has made himself the guest of a sinner, Jesus says; "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost" (19.9-10).

We are right to recognize and respect the effort Zacchaeus goes to to see and meet Jesus; Zacchaeus recognized the value in what Jesus taught and offered, and he would not be kept away. But what really sets Zacchaeus apart, and perhaps the reason Jesus singles him out, is how he responds to Jesus. Others in the gospels find a way to speak to

Jesus, only to ignore him or argue, or simply to leave disappointed. Zacchaeus not only sees Jesus, not only hears his message, he receives it.

"But what really sets Zacchaeus apart, and perhaps the reason Jesus singles him out, is how he responds to Jesus."

And when Zacchaeus encounters Jesus, when he receives Jesus' message, he is transformed. There is simply no other word for it. A man who had spent his entire life thus far in the pursuit of wealth, of money and possessions, turned on a dime in the course of one meal. This man, who by his own admission had cheated others for his own gain, simply turned over half of his net worth to the poor. He promised to make restitution to anyone he had cheated four times over.

The gospel should transform us. If God really has freely and graciously offered us forgiveness, then those of us who have received it should be more willing to forgive others (Mt. 18.23-35). If God has called and commissioned us to be partners in his work, then our character and priorities ought to look more like the character and priorities of our Lord, and less like what we find on our televisions (Lk. 10.25-37). If we have received eternal life through the victory of Jesus, then we should gladly spend the temporary resources of this life to

store up friends and treasure in the age to come Mt. 13.44; Lk. 16.1-13).

Zacchaeus rightly recognized that what Jesus' offer was not simply a new and interesting perspective on the law and obedience, but a message that was both life and world changing. Jesus' message was life changing because it was world changing. God's Kingdom had come, and the limitless grace and forgiveness of God had come with it! It was simply impossible for Zacchaeus to believe that, and then to go on living as he had before. When Zacchaeus believed, he left his old life, his old priorities, and his old ambitions behind. He did it gladly, he had found something far better.

"Jesus' message was life changing because it was world changing."

Our series this Fall on our Five Extraordinary Norms is an invitation to follow the example of Zacchaeus, to look for and celebrate the ways God is transforming us through truth of the gospel and and the power of his Spirit. Join us as we celebrate the areas where we already can see transformation. Walk with us as we seek out the areas where God is even now at work in us as individuals and as a church. Pray with us that God would continue that work, and that we would see Christ formed more fully in us all.

CREEKSIDE FAMILY HIKE

SATURDAY OCT. 1ST 1:00 P.M.
CROSBY FARM REGIONAL PARK



FALL FLING 2022

Sign up online for Fall Fling 2022, October 28-30th!



If your information has changed recently (address/email/phone number) please contact the office so we can update it in our system.

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

FIRST FREE STAFF

JOEL SUTTON
SENIOR PASTOR
joel.sutton@firstfreechurch.org

JAY POUND
ASSOCIATE PASTOR
jay.pound@firstfreechurch.org

PAUL ANLEITNER
WORSHIP PASTOR
paul.anleitner@firstfreechurch.org

JASON PENZA
STUDENT PASTOR
jason.pensa@firstfreechurch.org

CARRIE BOYUM
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY DIRECTOR
carrie.boyum@firstfreechurch.org

STACEY URBANZ
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY ASSOCIATE
stacey.urbanz@firstfreechurch.org

JEANINE BRUEN
FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE
nurses@firstfreechurch.org

SCOTT BECKETT
FACILITIES TECHNICIAN
scott.beckett@firstfreechurch.org

JOANN BURNS
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR
joann.burns@firstfreechurch.org

DAN FERGUS
TECH DIRECTOR/COMMUNICATIONS
dan.fergus@firstfreechurch.org

SARAH OLSON
GRAPHIC DESIGNER
sarah.olson@firstfreechurch.org

EMMA DELISI
WORSHIP ASSOCIATE
emma.burns@firstfreechurch.org

DOUG NELSON
MIDDLE SCHOOL DIRECTOR
doug.nelson@firstfreechurch.org

VISIT US ONLINE

www.firstfreechurch.org



SOCIAL MEDIA

youtube.com/firstfreetv

facebook.com/firstfreechurch

instagram.com/firstfreechurchmpls

OUTREACH WEEKEND

Saturday, October 15th 10:00 a.m.

- Lenka Bragg will share about her trip to Czech Republic to volunteer at an English Camp.
- Casey Foss and Kimber Carter will share about the High School trip to Lead the Cause in Colorado.
- Doug Nelson will share about the Middle School trip to Duluth, MN.

Sunday, October 16th 9:00 & 10:30 a.m.

- Rick Mackey will be preaching about the calling of a missionary and how First Free can pray for missionaries.
- Both hours Katie Dudgeon will be sharing about her trip to Ukraine this past summer in Room 105.
- First hour in Room 103, Becky Mackey will be sharing more about Rick and Becky's ministry in the Dominican Republic.



for more information go to [firstfreechurch.org/partners](https://www.firstfreechurch.org/partners)

TAKE THE NEXT STEP

Join a Small Group, Community Group, or Affinity Group

What is Your Next Step? We are so glad that you have chosen to make First Free your home church. This Fall, we want to encourage you to take the next step. We believe that if we are to grow into healthy, mature followers of Jesus, we need to be regularly worshipping together, in community together, serving together and on mission together. As you look through that list, we want to encourage you this Fall to ask yourself, "What is my next step?" If your next step is getting connected to a significant Christian community, we would invite you to do that today. First Free has several options, including Small Groups, Community Groups and Affinity Groups.

Small Groups typically have 6-12 people, and meet at a time and place chosen by the group. Small Groups are places where people "do life" together: supporting and encouraging each other, praying for each other, serving and seeking biblical wisdom together. If you would like more information about joining a Small Group, contact Jay Pound at jay.pound@firstfreechurch.org or visit <https://www.firstfreechurch.org/smallgroups> to find our online sign-up.

Affinity Groups (like MOPS or Men United) usually focus on a specific need or objective. They typically meet at church, and

are open to any who want to drop in and join. You can find the full list of groups and more information on each at: <https://www.firstfreechurch.org/affinity-groups>

Community Groups are medium sized groups of 15-40 people that meet on Sunday mornings during one of our Worship Gatherings (@ 9 and 10:30). They are organized around life stages to provide a natural setting for studying and applying God's word to real-life issues together. Community Groups focus on providing relevant teaching and equipping for everyday ministry. All Community Groups are open to everyone, so feel free to check one out anytime! <https://www.firstfreechurch.org/community-groups>

Or, find a place to serve. If your next step is finding a place to serve, the Fall is the perfect time to get involved. All of our ministries are getting started for the year, and we are always looking for new ministry partners. If there is an area where you feel God is leading you to serve, contact any of our staff members - we would love to connect you to a ministry team.



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



We will be collecting goods for CES on Sunday, November 6th and Sunday, November 13th.



CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

- Our condolences to the family of Grace Beck (Vandervolt) who passed away on September 21st. Grace was a former missionary connected with First Free.

CREATED TO CREATE

Tuesday, October 11th will be our next Created to Create Class, Pumpkin Still Life in Pastels. We'll learn some techniques for using soft pastels on a sanded surface & build on some of the skills we've already practiced in class such as drawing in 3D with the help of drawing tools previously handed out & light to dark values. If you are new & want to jump in, welcome; we will bring you up to speed.



UPOMING SERMON SERIES

GOOD SINCE | Past Truth For Present Life

- Oct. 23 - MEA - Since We have Such Great Hope - 2 Corinthians 3:7-18
- Oct. 30 - Since We have a Great High Priest - Heb. 4:14-16
- Nov. 6 - Since Christ Suffered in the Body - 1 Peter 4:1-6
- Nov. 13 - Since we Live By the Spirit - Galatians 5:16-26
- Nov. 20 - Since God has loved us; 1 John 4:7-21

Have you heard someone say, "I've felt better since..." They are referring to a time in the past that has effected the present. That is the power of "since". In this next series we will be looking at some spiritual past truths that effect how we live in the present.