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First Word

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The Gospel According to Luke BY JAY POUND

I'd like you to put yourself in the apostle Paul's shoes for a moment. You are a proudly Jewish, highly educated, Greek (also Hebrew, Aramaic and possibly Latin) speaking man of the Mediterranean world. You have become a passionate and utterly convinced follower of Jesus the Messiah because you have been confronted and called to ministry by Jesus in person. That experience must have left very little doubt in your mind that Jesus was now, in fact, the Lord of all creation. And so now you bear a powerful burden to bring this very good news to your fellow Jews scattered around the world, and even to the gentiles (Jesus is their Lord too, after all).

In obedience to this call that has been placed on your life, you now find yourself in the greek city Corinth. And Corinth is Greek. They are proud of their Greek heritage, proud of the great culture to which they are the heirs. They are also proud of their status within the new Roman Empire, and are eager to display their loyalty to Caesar. They are surrounded by architecture, money and soldiers that all declare the ancient greatness of Greece and the present power of Rome. By contrast, while most of them know about the Jews and even

know one, few would be able to explain where the land of Israel was, let alone what they actually believe.

And so here you are, an apostle of Jesus Christ in Corinth, ready to declare the gospel. Where do you start? How do you begin to tell these people, surrounded by the the symbols and trappings of imperial power, sounded too by the legacy of their own proud culture, that a crucified—that is executed—Jewish carpenter and itinerant teacher—is the rightful King of all creation? And that by definition, Caesar is not? If that sounds like a hard sell, especially in a city where only a handful of others would have either heard or believed that message before now - you are right. And what is more, Paul knew it, and owned it: "but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles" (1 Cor. 1.23).

And yet here is the amazing thing: everywhere he went, people heard that message and believed. Not all, not most, maybe not even all that many—but some did, enough to start the greatest movement in human history. And Paul makes it clear, on a number of occasions, that his success had nothing to do with his style or delivery and everything to

do with the message itself. This message —this gospel was itself the power and wisdom of God for salvation (1.24).

I know we are now in the habit of thinking that our own culture has become more hostile to Christianity, a more difficult mission field. And that may in fact be true. But if you are concerned about the difficulty, we still have nothing on Paul. And if Paul were here, I have no doubt that the first thing he would tell us is that gospel has lost none of its power, that the foolishness of the cross is still wiser than any human wisdom (1.25). The same message that utterly captivated and transformed people then is still transforming hearts and lives today.

Starting this Fall, we will be walking through one of the Biblical accounts of this gospel message—the gospel according to Luke. We will take most of the school year to preach through Luke, and we will invite Community Groups to follow the same journey by discussing what they read and hear. Whatever else has changed, the gospel is still good news for all people, still wiser than human wisdom, and still the power of God for salvation. Join us as we study the gospel together this Fall.



On Sunday August 16th we had our first in person worship since March 8th.

We had 91 total at the in person worship and 79 households watched the live stream at home.

Starting September 13th we will have two services at 9:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Come join us and worship in-person or watch the livestream of the service on our YouTube channel Firstfreetv or on our Facebook page.

Tech and Video Stream Team Volunteers Needed!

As we begin to regather for worship together in the building on Sunday mornings, our worship ministry is looking for volunteers who would be interested in serving on rotation in the following roles:

- -Slides/Projection
- -Video Stream Team

For more information, conatact Paul Anleitner at Paul.anleitner@firstfreechurch.org

WELCOME HOME SUNDAY!

Sept. 13th (more details inside)

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

WANT MORE INFO?

Web: www.firstfreechurch.org
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SEE MORE INFO AT:
www.firstfreechurch.org

MOPS Fall 2020

What is MOPS?

Here at FEFC MOPS, we gather and support moms. We believe in the simple but revolutionary idea that remarkable things happen when moms come together, face to face. That's why we rally women to come together in our neighborhood and help each other through this thing called motherhood, one gathering at a time.

MOPS is a group of mothers with children of ALL ages. We have mothers with newborn babies, and mothers with grown babies, our cherished "Mentor Moms". We create space for friendship, fun, and faith to grow. This fall we are meeting during the evening, in person and virtually.

For more information, please visit us at www.mops.firstfreechurch.org or contact Renea Reichenbach-Carr at reneamarie@hotmail.com

Please join us, we have saved you a seat.



Creekside Kids Bible Time:

Creekside Kids Bible Time is coming this Fall, starting September 20th, and we're excited to be learning about Jesus the Messiah. If you attend on Sunday mornings at church, kids can jump into a Bible Time class with a teacher during the first hour at 9:00 a.m. If you are doing church at home, you can receive weekly emails which will include a Bible story, a video, and some discussion points to talk about as a family. Every age group this year will be learning the same Bible truths each week, which hopefully encourages good family discussions. Parents, you are the most influential people in your kids' lives. We would LOVE for you to participate in their spiritual growth and to partner with us as we learn from the Bible together. Register your kids—Babies through Fifth Grade—for Bible Time! Whether you're doing church at church or at home, we would like for you to register and keep you in the loop!

Creekside Clubs:

Creekside Clubs is going Limited Edition this Fall. We are going to start our Clubs programs on October 7th and will meet every other Wednesday night at church from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Boys and Girls will have an opportunity to spend time with leaders who care about them and want to invest in their lives—while pointing them to Jesus Christ. We will be doing socially distant activities, hands on projects, and learning from the Bible together. Meeting every other week lets the kids of Creekside Clubs to have use of the whole building, allowing us to spread out. While on the opposite weeks, Velocity Youth group will have the entire building for their use. Please register your 1st through 5th graders on the church website for Creekside Clubs on Wednesday nights. We would love to have time with your kids and to help enrich their lives for Christ.

2020 FALL SCHEDULE

THURSDAYS 7-8:30 PM

SEPTEMBER 17...IN-PERSON KICK-OFF MEETING

OCTOBER 1...IN-PERSON MEETING

OCTOBER 15...VIRTUAL MEETING

NOVEMBER 5...IN-PERSON MEETING

NOVEMBER 19...VIRTUAL MEETING

DECEMBER 3...IN-PERSON MEETING

DECEMBER 17...VIRTUAL MEETING

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FEFC MOPS 2020-2021

WNBS Fall 2020

Women's Neighborhood Bible Study is a cross generational and cross denominational group, and many women who attend the study are not members of First Free. We will be resuming this Fall with a new study called, "Meeting the Spirit." This is a new ten week study that examines the person and work of the Spirit, which will run from the week of September 13 through the week of December 15, with breaks during MEA and Thanksgiving.

Although things will be different, we are excited to have you join us for our study either in person or on-line via Zoom. To pre-register or see a full list of the different meeting times, head over to firstfreechurch.org/wnbs. Our hope is this new schedule will make WNBS a possibility for everyone.



We hope you will join us; the Spirit of God is eager to work in your life and draw you to God!

WELCOME HOME SUNDAY!

Sunday, Sept. 13th 9:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Join us as we kick-off the Fall ministry season together!

- We will have 2 Worship Services @ 9:00 & 10:30 a.m.
- Nursery and Preschool rooms will be open for childcare during the 1st service
- Children can meet their teachers during an open house following the 1st service
- Students and their parents can meet with Pastor Jason and other Youth Leaders, also following the 1st service

Creekside Kids & Velocity will meet for the first time the following Sunday, Sept. 20, during the 1st service only. We hope to resume Adult Community Groups later this Fall.



Sunday Morning:

This fall starting September 20th, on Sunday mornings our Velocity Students will be exploring how Jesus is our Messiah through a look in the Gospels at 9:00 a.m. at Church or from home. It is our goal to equip you as parents with a tool to help center your student's discipleship in the home. Your student will be able to sign up to receive emails with links to video teaching and digital hand-outs. Parents, you will also receive resources over email to give you some discussion points as a family. We hope this will help each student to have a deeper understanding of the Scripture and that your family will be equipped to continue the conversation and application in the home.

Wednesday Evenings:

We continue to hope and pray Wednesday night Youth Group will help propel each student closer to Jesus. This fall our Velocity Student Ministries is going "hybrid" on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. We've chosen to go with a model that features alternating weeks between being online and in-person. Everyone will be wearing masks and practicing social distancing and hand sanitizing when in person we'll still have an online component on those weeks. On the weeks where the entire youth group will be meeting online we'll be using youtube and zoom. Regardless of how much or in what format your student connects with our Velocity Student Ministries, we pray that they will be encouraged to be Christ-centered and Christ-sent alongside their peers.