



FIRST EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH  
5150 CHICAGO AVE S.  
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55417

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# First Word

A CHURCH FAMILY PUBLICATION OF FIRST EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2017

## Fall Kickoff Dates

### FALL KICKOFF: SEPTEMBER 10

Join us as we kick off the fall season! We'll return to our two worship gatherings at 9:15 & 11:00 a.m. with community groups and K-12 classes starting up.

#### Children's Ministry Schedule for Sundays:

- Creekside Nursery and Preschool classes are available all Sunday morning.
- Creekside Bible Time (grades K-6): 9:15 to 10:30 a.m. **K-4 Parents must pick up children at 10:30.**
- Creekside Church (grades K-6): 11:30-noon. Kids stay with parents until dismissed during second service.

### WOMEN'S NEIGHBORHOOD BIBLE STUDY: SEPTEMBER 13

Join us Wednesday, September 13th, 9:30-11 a.m. as we start a new study. Free childcare provided for kids ages infant to 5 years. Questions? Contact the church office.

More info at [firstfreechurch.org](http://firstfreechurch.org)

### YOUTH GROUP KICKOFF: SEPT. 13

Youth Group starts September 13th at 6:30 p.m. for students 7-12th grade. Join us in room 107/108.

### MEN UNITED: SEPTEMBER 15

Men United meets on Fridays, 6:15-7:30 a.m. in room 103 starting September 15th. Men United is a group open to all men that provides biblical teaching, accountability, and closer connection to Christ.

### MOPS: SEPTEMBER 15

The first MOPS (Mothers of Preshoolers) session will be September 15th at 9:30 a.m. Are you a mother of school-age kids? Join us for MOMSnext! Registration (required) and more information at [mops.firstfreechurch.org](http://mops.firstfreechurch.org).

### CREEKSIDE CLUBS: SEPT. 20

Creekside Clubs start September 20th at 6:30 p.m. for kids grades 1-6. Please register online at [firstfreechurch.org/children](http://firstfreechurch.org/children). Contact Beth Brown with questions.

## Awe of God BY JOEL SUTTON

Did you get to see the eclipse?

Although it was cloudy here in Minneapolis, and I was only able to see a partial eclipse, I was caught up in the excitement of the whole event. The Farmer's Almanac says that the last time a total solar eclipse occurred here in the lower 48 states was back in 1979 - and that was only visible from a few states. Not only does this type of thing happen very rarely, in totality it was only two minutes long. Two minutes of an awe inspiring sight!

I was not the only one excited to see this rare event. Pictures of people staring up at the eclipse (with proper viewing glasses on) or putting their heads in cereal boxes (using the pinhole projector method) were all over social media. It seemed everyone was caught up in the excitement of the huge event.

But then think about this. If we are so enthralled with the fleeting beauty of a solar eclipse, with the momentary glory of the moon blocking out sun

(and rightly so), how much more should we be in awe of the One who made it all, the Creator of such a beautiful spectacle, the One to which this beauty is but a twinkle in his eye? Psalm 19:1-6 (ESV) says:

*"The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.*

*Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.*

*There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard.*

*Their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.*

*In them he has set a tent for the sun, which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber, and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.*

*Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them, and there is nothing hidden from its heat."*

How are you doing when it comes to being in awe of God? Have you lost the sense of wonder at God's activity? Have His sustaining works, His everyday miracles, become mundane, ordinary, expected?

Let me warn you, there is a danger if we lose the awe of God. We no longer stand back in amazement or fear. God becomes routine. And when that happens, we lose our sense of dependence, our need for obedience and our trust in His faithfulness. To live in awe of God means that we live before God and the rest of reality in such a way that we take nothing for granted, everything is a gift. We are always poised for surprise before the mystery of God, others, and ourselves. We worship.

On Sundays during our Worship Gatherings our desire is that each person will experience a sense of glorious wonder. God will be "high and lifted up" (Isa. 6:1). Together we will join with the heavenly choir singing, "Holy, holy, holy." We desire worship, to once again experience the awe of God!



## UPCOMING SERIES: FROM HERE TO THERE

- |          |  |         |                              |
|----------|--|---------|------------------------------|
| SEPT. 10 | Keeping the Awe Alive; Joshua 1          | OCT. 1  | Faithfulness First; Joshua 5 |
| SEPT. 17 | In Her Majesty's Secret Service; Josh. 2 | OCT. 8  | Winning the Battle; Joshua 6 |
| SEPT. 24 | Stones of Remembrance; Joshua 3-4        | OCT. 15 | Setbacks, Sin and Surrender  |

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

WANT MORE INFO?

Visit [www.firstfreechurch.org](http://www.firstfreechurch.org)  
Visit our Facebook page  
Find us on Twitter  
@FEFCMpls

## FIRST FREE STAFF

JOEL SUTTON  
SENIOR PASTOR  
[joel.sutton@firstfreechurch.org](mailto:joel.sutton@firstfreechurch.org)

JAY POUND  
ASSOCIATE PASTOR  
[jay.pound@firstfreechurch.org](mailto:jay.pound@firstfreechurch.org)

JASON PENZA  
STUDENT PASTOR  
[jason.penza@firstfreechurch.org](mailto:jason.penza@firstfreechurch.org)

BETH BROWN  
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY  
DIRECTOR  
[beth.brown@firstfreechurch.org](mailto:beth.brown@firstfreechurch.org)

MIKE GRAFF  
WORSHIP PASTOR  
[mike.graff@firstfreechurch.org](mailto:mike.graff@firstfreechurch.org)

MAUREEN JUAREZ &  
JEANINE BRUEN  
FAITH COMMUNITY NURSES  
[nurses@firstfreechurch.org](mailto:nurses@firstfreechurch.org)

ANNE PETERSON  
OFFICE MANAGER  
[anne.peterson@firstfreechurch.org](mailto:anne.peterson@firstfreechurch.org)

MARY QUINT  
DESIGN/OFFICE ASSISTANT  
[mary.quint@firstfreechurch.org](mailto:mary.quint@firstfreechurch.org)

SCOTT BECKETT  
FACILITIES TECHNICIAN  
[scott.beckett@firstfreechurch.org](mailto:scott.beckett@firstfreechurch.org)

DAVID KRIESEL-KOLL  
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR  
[david.kriesel-koll@firstfreechurch.org](mailto:david.kriesel-koll@firstfreechurch.org)



SEE MORE INFO AT:  
[www.firstfreechurch.org](http://www.firstfreechurch.org)

# Summer Student Ministry

Here's a look at what our students experienced this summer and what they had to say.

## Nicaragua

From the challenges of no air conditioning and floor sleeping, to navigating language barriers and cultural differences, the Nicaragua trip was a growing experience for our students and leaders as they served God in a new context.

Praying Pelican Missions connected the team with a partner church in Sebaco to host them and facilitate their service throughout the trip. Our team represented the church by accompanying local church members on home visits. They distributed food and supplies, talked, and prayed with people in the community.

*"On one of our first nights in Nicaragua, our whole group got together and assembled bags of food to give out to families in the church. The next morning, we split up, going house to house delivering the food. However, we did not just hand over the food and move on. At each home, with the help of our interpreters, we were able to have conversations with the families. We asked questions from what their favorite food was, to how had they seen God working in their life. Throughout some of our house visits, there were multiple times when the people we were praying for completely broke down. They were crying because they believed so strongly in the words we were saying and in God's power to give them it if it was in His will. Almost everyone we prayed for was completely overjoyed and thankful for any prayers we said. Through these people and their reverence toward prayer, I learned what it really meant to actually believe in prayer."* -Emily Holliday

In the afternoons, the team helped run a vacation Bible school for about 200 children at a local school. They sang songs in Spanish, told Bible stories with the help of translators, and led craft and game times. The team helped the church work on their building project as well. Using donations collected at First Free's VBC, we were able to leave the church with funds to hire local skilled workers



to finish their building. This allows the church to invest in their local community.

Another way the Nicaragua team got to connect with their partner church was by sharing their testimonies in an evening service. Reflecting on their testimonies and sharing it with a crowd was a powerful experience for the students.

*"Me and Jason started talking about where I was with my faith and where I wanted to be. I realized that the way I thought about God was like an accessory and I would only go to him when things weren't going my way. But I learned that the best way to see God is like your best friend that you can tell anything to, someone you can talk to with anything not just when stuff gets rough. While we were talking one of the translators, Steven, came to us and we prayed and I reaccepted Jesus as my lord and savior. An hour later I shared my testimony. At first I was so nervous but when I was done it was honestly one of the best feelings ever."* -Gabe Flomo

## Lead the Cause

After a long and crowded drive in one van, the team arrived in Colorado and began their training on discipleship and sharing the gospel. Our students heard powerful messages from speakers, took part in awesome times of worship, prayed together, and strategized to share the gospel.

One of the most impactful events was visiting Columbine High School. The team prayed over the school and visited the memorial. Though this was an emotional experience, the leaders used it as an opportunity to stress the need for Jesus and sharing the gospel in light of life's uncertainty.

*"It was especially powerful when we walked to the memorial on the school grounds. There were plaques with the stories of the thirteen students who died. This was so impactful because along with the believers who had died there were unbelievers, whose lives ended so abruptly and unfairly. We wrote goals of what we wanted our schools to look like by our*



*senior year. I want everyone at my school to know Jesus."* -Isaac Stacey

Throughout the conference, the group was trained in evangelism and how to start spiritual conversations. They then applied that training by stepping outside their comfort zones and hitting the streets of Denver to talk to people about the gospel. This was a scary experience for students and leaders, but God showed up.

*"Before Lead the Cause I wasn't actively sharing my faith. The idea of opening up and talking to someone about Jesus was alien to me... We spoke to several strangers about their faith and what they believed. I ended up talking to many fellow believers, and it was encouraging to know we are not alone in our mission."* -Isaac Stacey

*"A man came up to us and asked for money. I asked him if he would talk to me for a bit. I talked about my faith and he talked about how he never really went to church since his grandma died. So I explained the gospel and he said he wanted to become Christian. So I had him pray the sinner's prayer and he left reading the Bible."* -Elliot Klenk

On the last day, the team went up into the mountains to wrap up the week.

*"On Friday we went up on a mountain and had our evening session there and afterward our youth group leaders anointed us with oil. That night I was weeping because of the whole week how 22 people came to Christ because of the the students talking about Christ on the streets, that this was the first time I had ever really prayed, and how this*



*was the first time I had been that close to Christ. After this trip I know that I'm in God's kingdom."* -Jackson Cupersmith

## Junior High Adventure Trip

In August we took thirteen junior high students to eastern Wisconsin where we bonded and spent time together without the interruption of electronics. For some of the junior high kids, this was their first introduction to being in youth group. We had fun with activities such as mini-golf, amusement park rides, horse riding, campfires, hayrides, and eating a lot of pizza. These students went outside their comfort zones by trying new things such as zip-lining & white water rafting down the Wolf River. We had some amazing times getting into the Word and learning about our identity in Christ.



## Camp Shamineau

Several of our students worked at Camp Shamineau this summer. A few were counselors while others worked in a variety of jobs including grounds, kitchen, and maintenance. Their service helped make the camp experience great for the younger campers and prepared them to be spiritual leaders there.

*"I think it was one of the best experiences I have ever had. I had so much fun and I grew closer to God more I ever have when I was there."* -Claire Stoelzing



We're excited about how God worked in the lives of the students this summer. With financial support from Terrace on Chicago, and spiritual support in the form of faithful prayers, our students were able to serve and share with so many people. Please pray that our students will carry this spirit of service and sharing with them as they start this school year!

# This Month @ FIRST FREE

## Fall Kickoff: September 10

Join us as we kick off the Fall season at First Free! We'll be returning to our two worship gatherings at 9:15 and 11:00 a.m. with community groups and K-12 classes starting up. More details on back.

## Prayer Room Open House: September 10

Check out our new prayer room! Located in the lobby across from the Welcome Desk. Prayer teams will be available during both services.

## Alzheimer's and Dementia Class: Sept. 5, 12, and 26

Learn more about dementia, memory loss, and Alzheimer's disease. Three classes will be offered at First Free by the Alzheimer's Association. Topics include dementia and Alzheimer's basics, effective communication strategies, and healthy living for body and brain. Join us September 5th, 12th, and 26th in room 105, 7-8:30 p.m.

## Quarterly Celebration (Business Meeting): Sept. 11

Join us as we celebrate God's faithfulness to us on Monday, September 11th at 7:00 p.m.

## The DEEP: September 13

Join us for a time of worship and prayer at The DEEP on Wednesday, September 13th at 6:30 p.m.

## CPR/AED/Epi Pen Class: Sept. 17

The annual CPR/AED/Epi Pen training will take place on September 17th, following the second service 12:30-3:30 p.m. in room 105. There will be a small lunch before the training. Register online at [firstfreechurch.org/nursing](http://firstfreechurch.org/nursing) or call the church office.

## CSB Banquet: Sept. 30

Christian Service Brigade is 80 years old! Alumni and current Brigaders are invited to come celebrate with old friends and fellow alumni and enjoy a great dinner prepared by Unit #74 at First Free. September 30th from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. Register by clicking on the link at [firstfreechurch.org/comingsoon](http://firstfreechurch.org/comingsoon).