



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



First Word

A CHURCH FAMILY PUBLICATION OF FIRST EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2019

This Month @ FIRST FREE

MARRIAGE MATTERS FEBRUARY 2ND

Join us, together with your spouse, on Saturday, February 2nd from 8:45-noon; Dr. Steve Sandford (President of the Nicolet Bible Institute) will lead sessions on communication and conflict management. Check the website for registration information and updates. Child care available for infants through 4th grade.

MEN'S SOUL SHARE FEBRUARY 9TH

Men—come join us for breakfast, fellowship and discussion at 9:00 a.m. in room 105. Contact Ross Olson (ross@rossolson.org) for more information or to get on the e-mail list.

QUARTERLY CELEBRATION FEBRUARY 11TH

Join us as we celebrate God's faithfulness and discuss church business on February 11th at 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT WORSHIP AND PRAYER

"The Deep" has been renamed to Wednesday Night Worship and Prayer. Join us Feb. 20th, 6:45-7:45 p.m.

OUTREACH WEEKEND FEBRUARY 23-24

Join us on Saturday for the Outreach panel and brunch. Then on Sunday during the 9:00 and 10:30 services, come hear the keynote speaker and our other missionaries, who will be giving elective-style presentations.

WE LOVE SHAMINEAU WEEK FEBRUARY 10-13

Creekside Clubs and Velocity will be celebrating Camp Shamineau with guest speakers, games, and activities on Sunday the 10th and at Clubs and youth group on Wednesday the 13th. Parents—are you thinking about sending your kids to camp this summer? Teens—have you thought about a summer job at the camp? Come and learn all about Shamineau.

TERRACE ON CHICAGO

Save the date—March 23rd—for Terrace on Chicago! We're looking forward to seeing you at the Student Ministry's annual fund-raising event for their summer missions trip.

The King's Strategy BY JOEL SUTTON

In Matthew's gospel Jesus gives a parable that describes the process of building the kingdom. Jesus chooses his words carefully and deliberately.

The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son, and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come. Again he sent other servants, saying, "Tell those who are invited, 'See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast.'" But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business...Then he said to his servants, "The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find." And those servants went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good. So the wedding hall was

filled with guests (Matthew 22:2-5, 8-10).

There are two operative words in this parable that Jesus uses, "Come" and "Go". The king adds to his first command of "come to" with a "go to" strategy. Both strategies are required to build God's kingdom.

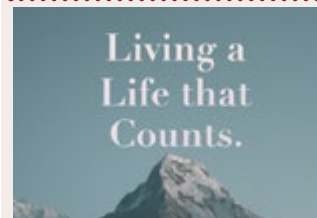
When we invite people to "come to" church we want them to enjoy their experience. We want them to be surprised by the quality and authenticity of what our church offers. We want them to experience teaching that is practical, music that is excellent, a children's ministry they can hardly pull their kids away from and a youth group their teenager loves. They should be left mumbling the words of the queen of Sheba and singing the church's praises, "I did not believe these things until I came and saw with my own eyes. Indeed, not even half was told me...you have far exceeded the report I heard." (1 Kings 10:7).

But if we, as Christ's church, rely only on inviting we will not be reaching all we could be reaching. We need to strategize on how to "go to" as much as we do "come to". We need to invest in our neighbors and friends as well as invite them.

Jesus modeled this type of relational investment. He sees Zacchaeus up in a tree, stops what he is doing and arranges to have a dinner get-together. Jesus joined all of Matthew's tax collector friends for a dinner party at Matthew's house. And it is in the context of these relationships that Jesus presents the transformational truth of the gospel.

So let me give you the First Free challenge for 2019: Invest and Invite. Invest in a relationship with someone who is not a believer. On a regular basis, leave the huddle of close Christian fellowship, take some risks and "go out" and spend time with non-churched people. This will mean reaching out in the neighborhood,

(continues on next page)



UPCOMING SERIES | LIVING A LIFE THAT COUNTS

FEB. 3	Counting the Days—Ps. 90	FEB. 24	Outreach Weekend
FEB. 10	Being in the Zone—1 Peter	MARCH 3	One Thing—Mark 10
FEB. 17	Handling Your Money—var.		

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

WANT MORE INFO?

Web: www.firstfreechurch.org
 facebook.com/firstfreechurch
 Instagram: @firstfreechurchmpls
 Twitter: @FEFCMpls

FIRST FREE STAFF

JOEL SUTTON
 SENIOR PASTOR
joel.sutton@firstfreechurch.org

JAY POUND
 ASSOCIATE PASTOR
jay.pound@firstfreechurch.org

JASON PENSA
 STUDENT PASTOR
jason.pensa@firstfreechurch.org

BETH BROWN
 CHILDREN'S MINISTRY DIRECTOR
beth.brown@firstfreechurch.org

PAUL ANLEITNER
 WORSHIP PASTOR
paul.anleitner@firstfreechurch.org

**MAUREEN JUAREZ &
 JEANINE BRUEN**
 FAITH COMMUNITY NURSES
nurses@firstfreechurch.org

WINFORD MORRISEY
 OFFICE MANAGER
winford.morrisey@firstfreechurch.org

SARAH COOK
 GRAPHIC DESIGNER
sarah.cook@firstfreechurch.org

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

SCOTT BECKETT
 FACILITIES TECHNICIAN
scott.beckett@firstfreechurch.org

DAVID KRIESEL-KOLL
 BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR
david.kriesel-koll@firstfreechurch.org



SEE MORE INFO AT:
www.firstfreechurch.org

(continued from cover)

inviting a neighbor over for dinner, golfing with those at work who don't know Christ. We have to "go out."

Next, invite. In Romans 10:14 Paul writes, "How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?" Our unbelieving friends have got to hear. Invite them to an appropriate program here at First Free - MOPS, or VBC, or Sunday morning or to your small group. Someone has got to invite them to "come to" Christ.

Will you, this next year, make a commitment to "Invest and Invite"? Will you follow the strategy of the king?

Men's Retreat

March 1-3 at Camp Shamineau

Why should I go on the Men's Retreat?

by Pete Lehner

Many of you know me as the guy who is always promoting Connections. That's because I believe it is so important to get connected early on in your church experience. But it doesn't really stop there! To really be a part of a church community you have to keep getting connected and keep forging relationships. Yet that can be hard to do on Sunday AM when you run into a service and run out without connecting in a more meaningful way. Many of us also have other responsibilities Sunday morning that may prevent us from going deeper with one another. This is why I think coming to the Men's Retreat is so critical. It's a time to unplug and really connect with other men in our church body.

Jesus and His disciples spent a lot of side by side time together walking places, sitting on a boat, sharing meals and more. They had side by side time and a lot of it. This time together fostered deep relationships that, among other things, allowed them to weather the storms of life.

If we want to be able to weather the storms of life that come our way we need to have deeper connections with other men. Coming to Camp Shamineau for the Men's Overhaul Weekend Retreat is one of the ways you can make that happen! Please join me and a few dozen other men from our Church for a fun weekend!

When: Friday March 1-3

Where: Camp Shamineau

Who: All men out of high school and their friends are invited

How Much: \$109 per person

How To Sign Up: Visit shamineau.org/overhaul for complete details

Ride Share: Rides will be coordinated closer to the trip

Outreach Weekend:

FEBRUARY 23-24

Join us as missionaries share their stories

Saturday, Feb 23rd 10:30 a.m.-noon
 Brunch and Outreach Panel. Each missionary will give an overview of their work. An opportunity to get to know them and their ministries.

Sunday, Feb 24th 9:00 and 10:30
 Keynote speaker (Brian Farone) during worship gatherings and missionaries will give elective style presentations at 9:00 and 10:30.

Following the second service is a potluck at 11:30 with guest speaker Herb Bloomquist.

GET TO KNOW THE MISSIONARIES:



Brian Farone

is Superintendent of the North Central District (NCD) of the EFCA. The NCD is one of 17 Districts in the EFCA. He and his wife Teri have children in high school and college in Minnesota. Brian is passionate

about leading the NCD team to serve pastors, church leaders, and churches in the NCD.



Carl Johnson

was elected to the Trinity International University (TIU) Board of Regents more than 22 years ago. While on the TIU board, he helped develop a strategic plan for TIU. An obvious visionary, his TIU

emphasis is to serve EFCA churches, and raise funds for TIU. He and Sharon have grown children.



Herb and Deb Bloomquist

both grew up at First Free Mpls. While a student at St. Paul Bible College (Crown College) and after, Herb worked

for Christian Service Brigade (CSB). Herb and Deb came to Camp Shamineau in the fall of '86 and have been there since. In 1999 Herb became the Executive Director of Shamineau Ministries. They were married in 1983 and have three daughters.



Garth Warren

is the Chief Development and Communications Officer for the EFCA. His passion is to help men grow in Biblical leadership in their home, work, church, and community. He has mentored dozens of men and their families

around the U.S. He and his wife have grown children.



John Carlson and his wife Mary served in China with EFCM (aka Reach Global) from 1990-2011. In 2003 they founded Shamineau East in northern Inner Mongolia—the first residential youth camp in China. They also founded Prairie Bridge International to provide encouragement and support for the Chinese Christian Camping movement.