



FIRST EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH
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First Word

A CHURCH FAMILY PUBLICATION OF FIRST EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

JUNE & JULY 2015

EVEREST

Conquering Challenges with
God's Mighty Power

**JOIN US FOR AN ICY EXPEDITION &
CONQUERING CHALLENGES!**
JUNE 22-26, 9AM-NOON
FOR KIDS ENTERING GRADES K-6

Volunteers needed, especially Crew Leaders & Nursery Caregivers

Continue to pray with us as we prepare and trust God to
prepare the hearts of all who participate in VBC this year.



First Free's Mission — To help individuals become Christ-centered and Christ-sent together.

Becoming Pray-ers BY PASTOR JOEL

Fourteen years ago, when I came to First Free as your Senior Pastor, the task appeared huge. Daunting. Impossible. So I prayed. And others prayed.

That is what we tend to do when things in front of us seem impossible; we pray. But when everything is going well and the road in front appears to be smooth, we don't pray like we should.

Our vision at First Free is to be a community of Christ-centered and Christ-sent people who are part of a city-shaping movement of the gospel of Jesus Christ. We envision First Free being known for its compassion, a servant society that pours out its time and wealth for the common good of the city. We imagine First Free together being an Outpost, a people sent out for Christ, a Signpost, a people that point to Christ and a Lamppost, a people that shine the light of Christ everywhere we go.

I have one word for all this vision: Impossible!

That is the reason we must pray. If you read the Old Testament, you will come across those places where there was renewal in the nation of Israel. And they are all different. Some are spontaneous, some are more formal. Some are led by strong leaders. Others come up from the grassroots. But the one constant in each of these renewals is prayer. The people did more than just say their prayers, they cried out to the Lord.

In the New Testament, you turn to the book of Acts. And despite the fact that the believers are filled with the Holy Spirit, there was a continual need for the fullness of the Spirit.

And prayer. The disciples of Jesus were in prayer when the day of Pentecost arrived. Later on when some were in jail, others were praying. After Saul encountered Christ, he spent three days in prayer. In the early church, every Christian was a "prayer-meeting" Christian.

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

What will it take for First Free to do the impossible? What will it take for us to see the vision that God has given to us to be lived out and for us to become the church that God has called us to be in the city? Corporate, prevailing, intensive, kingdom-centered prayer.

This summer, on Sunday mornings, we are taking a look at some of the great prayers of Scripture by some of the great pray-ers in Scripture. Not only do I want to encourage you to join us, but my hope and prayer is that as a church, God might move us to follow the example of those in both the Old Testament and New Testament—pray like it matters! Because it does!

CURRENT SERMON SERIES: *The Prayers of Pray-ers*

- July 7 Serving the Kingdom
- July 14 Prayer of the Desperate: Praying with Hezekiah - Isaiah 37: 14-20
- July 21 Surprised by Answered Prayer - Acts 12:1-6
- July 28 Prayer from the Darkness: Praying with Heman - Psalm 88
- July 5 Praying as Jesus Taught - Matthew 6:5-15
- July 12 Praying with Jesus - John 17
- July 19 Prayer of a Pastor: Praying with Paul - Ephesians 3:14-21
- July 26 Worship @ Minnehaha Falls - 10:30 a.m.

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

WANT MORE INFO?
Visit www.firstfreechurch.org

Visit our Facebook page!
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@ FEFCMpls

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SEE MORE INFO AT:
www.firstfreechurch.org

Summer Schedule @ FIRST FREE

JUNE 7-JUNE 29 Worship Gatherings @ 9:15 & 11:00 a.m.
JUNE 22-26 Vacation Bible Camp @ 9:00 a.m.-Noon
JUNE 25 Streetfest @ 6:00 p.m.
JUNE 29 Blood Drive @ 2:00-7:00 p.m.
JULY 5-SEPT. 6 One Worship Gathering @ 9:15 a.m.
JULY 26 Worship Gathering @ Minnehaha Falls @ 10:30 a.m.
AUG. 2 Baptism/Picnic @ Nokomis
AUG. 8 Serve: Minneapolis

TO VIEW MORE DETAILED SUMMER SCHEDULE, VISIT FIRSTFREECHURCH.ORG/SUMMER-SCHEDULE

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Our deepest condolences go out to the family of Evelyn Seaberg. Evelyn passed away on Wednesday, May 27th. Her funeral was on Thursday, June 4th at Hillside Cemetery.



WELCOME JASON & EMM PENSA TO FIRST FREE

We want to welcome Jason (and Emmanuelle) Pensa to First Free as our new Youth Pastor. Jason will start on staff on July 15th and they will be going down to New Orleans with the youth group on their mission trip. Here is a quick introduction to Jason and Emm:

First Word: Jason, tell us a little bit about yourself and Emm. What are some of your favorite pastimes and/or hobbies?

Jason: While we live in southern New England now, I am originally from Chicago and Emm is from Canada. We both enjoy movies, board games, camping, biking, white water rafting and the outdoors. Emm likes reading outdoors, painting, biking, cooking and baking. I enjoy photography, video games, tech-gadgets, coffee and driving with the windows down with the music turned up.

FW: What are you and Emm looking forward to most coming to First Free?

Jason: We are looking forward to getting to know students, parents and youth leaders. Emm and I are excited to get settled into Minneapolis and to begin exploring every nook of the city. I am looking forward to being incorporated into the team as I work alongside the ministry staff at First Free.

FW: What are your and Emm's favorite candy and/or chocolate?

Jason: Emm and I both love dark chocolate. Emm likes Cadbury cream eggs (as well as Canada exclusive Crunchies). I like Twix and double-stuffed Oreos. We love dark-chocolate ice cream and chocolate-chip-cookie dough.

FW: How can we as a body be praying for you during your transition moving from the East coast to Minneapolis?

Jason: Please be praying as we begin to say our farewells to family and friends both in the church as well as the greater northeast area. This next month will be super busy and stressful as we pack, visit friends and family and wrap things up at our current church.

Upcoming @ FIRST FREE

June 2015

EXPRESSIONS — JUNE 14 & 28 FROM 3:30-5:30 P.M.

A time of journaling for those dealing with chronic illness or pain. Join us from 3:30-5:30 p.m. in room 103.

FARMER'S MARKET — STARTING JUNE 17 FROM 4:00-8:00 P.M.

Come enjoy local grown food in our neighborhood starting June 17th from 4:00-8:00 p.m. Be sure to come back for more Wednesdays from June 17th through September 30th. Located just across the street from First Free at the corner of 52nd Street & Chicago Avenue.

EVEREST VBC 2015! — JUNE 22-26 FROM 9:00 A.M.-NOON

Embark with us on an expedition where kids overcome obstacles with God's awesome power. We'll be learning to be anchored in rock-solid Bible truths that will guide kids through life's challenges. Join us June 22-26 from 9:00 a.m. to Noon! Questions? Contact Beth Brown or visit our VBC page at www.firstfreechurch.org/vbc to learn more.

STREETFEST — JUNE 25TH FROM 6:00-8:00 P.M.

All are invited to this outdoor, community event on Thursday, June 25th at 6:00 p.m. Join us for food, fun, and fellowship with our church family and our neighbors!

BLOOD DRIVE — JUNE 29TH FROM 2:00-7:00 P.M.

Join us with Urban Refuge Church as we serve our community. Together, we're hosting a blood drive on Monday, June 29th from 2:00-7:00 p.m. To sign up, call the church office, or visit firstfreechurch.org/faith-community-nurses.

July 2015

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED — JULY 3RD IN OBSERVANCE OF INDEPENDENCE DAY HOLIDAY

EXPRESSIONS — JULY 12 & 19 FROM 3:30-5:30 P.M.

A time of journaling for those dealing with chronic illness or pain. Join us from 3:30-5:30 p.m. in room 103.

FARMER'S MARKET — JULY 1-SEPTEMBER 30 FROM 4:00-8:00 P.M.

Come enjoy local grown food in our neighborhood starting June 17th from 4:00-8:00 p.m. Be sure to come back for more Wednesdays from June 17th through September 30th. Located just across the street from First Free at the corner of 52nd Street & Chicago Avenue.

WORSHIP @ THE FALLS — JULY 26 @ 10:30 A.M.

Join us for worship at Minnehaha Falls on Sunday, July 26 at 10:30 a.m.

Streetfest!

June 25 @ 6:00 pm

JOIN US FOR FREE FOOD, FUN, GAMES, & MORE AT
OUR ANNUAL SUMMER NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK PARTY