



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

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GOD OF THIS CITY: A CHILDREN'S MUSICAL

Starting in January! Kids & Parents interested need to come on January 6th!

WHO can be involved: boys & girls in grades K-6.

WHAT this musical is about: children share the message that kids can make a difference by serving in the city!

WHERE will the rehearsals happen: In the sanctuary on Wednesdays starting January 6th from 5pm-6:15pm. Kids staying for clubs will need to bring a bag supper.

WHEN are the performances: Sunday, March 6th, during both worship gatherings.

WHY should you come on January 6th: it will be a parent informational meeting plus the kids can try out for speaking parts. A pizza supper will be provided for everyone!

Rehearsals are on Wednesdays starting January 6th. The director is Kari Taylor. Please let Beth Brown know if you are coming!

Questions?

Contact Beth Brown at beth.brown@firstfreechurch.org.

CONNECTED FAMILIES

*An Interview with Doug Brown
Experienced school teacher
and a parent of teenagers.*



1. You recently attended a training conference run by Connected Families. What would you say was your most significant take-away?

The reminder of connecting with your kids. The only way to do that is to spend time with them and listen to them!

2. As a parent of teens and someone who works professionally with teenagers, is there anything you have already been able to implement?

If you use their framework at home with your family and it's working, it will also work with any group of people. Who does not want to know that you are safe, you are loved, you are God's workmanship, and you are responsible! I try to incorporate these principles in whatever group I'm leading. Even the most challenging kids in Minneapolis need these things.

3. Anything else you want any perspective attendees in January to know?

The time spent with Jim and Lynne make their sessions very interesting with specific examples and role plays. You will walk out at the end with specific things you will want to use at home.

Here Am I! Send Me! BY PASTOR JOEL

Isaiah worshipped!

His was a fourfold experience of worship. He saw something. He heard something. He felt something. And he did something.

Isaiah saw something. "I saw the Lord seated on the throne, high and exalted" (Isaiah. 6:1). John, in his gospel, tells us that Isaiah saw Jesus Christ (John. 12:41). For Isaiah, the invisible became visible and the spiritual became real. It was a life-changing experience.

You and I today, in all probability, will not experience this same kind of vision, but through the pages of the Scriptures we can still behold the glory of the Lord. When we lift up the eyes of our hearts, we can see the glory of God all around us, sometimes in nature, sometimes in special experiences, sometimes in the simple ordinary events of life.

Isaiah heard something. He heard the voices of the heavenly creatures as they praised God. And then, "At the sound of their voices, the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke" (Is. 6:3-4). As Isaiah heard the angels praising God, he saw a vivid portrayal of the holiness of God as the temple trembled.

Isaiah felt something. His response to what he saw and heard, led him to cry out "Woe to me!". When we accurately see the Lord and hear from Him, we will also see ourselves as we are—and we will feel convicted.

However, Isaiah's experience did not stop there. The prophet next felt a live coal touched to his mouth and experienced the forgiveness which accompanied it. "Your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for" (Is. 6:6-7). Our worship experience is incomplete and we are vulnerable if it only produces conviction but doesn't lead to cleansing.

It is unfortunate that we often times minimize the importance of feelings in our experience of worship. While we certainly want to avoid shallow emotionalism, we dare not grieve the Holy Spirit in our desire to be "proper". I want to feel something within as I worship God—a sense of glorious wonder, a joyful acceptance, a brokenness because of my sin, a touch by His Spirit.

But if the prophet's experience stopped there, it wouldn't have been true worship. Next *Isaiah did something*: he surrendered himself to God for His special service. "Here am I! Send me" (Is. 6:8).

Isaiah's worship began with sight—he saw the Lord. It led to insight—he saw himself as an unclean sinner. It moved to response—he felt God's forgiveness and cleansing. And it ended with vision—he wanted to serve God. Real worship always leads to service.

Pastor Mike and his worship team take time each week to carefully craft a worship gathering that leads to this outcome. Each service starts with adoration, moves to confession, then to assurance and thanksgiving leading to the instruction from God's Word. When we come together we are doing more than just singing a few songs and listening to a sermon—we are coming to offer our whole selves to God in service.

Romans 12:1 says, "I appeal to you, therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship".

My prayer is that in this new year of 2016, in response to our gathering together each Sunday morning each one of us will say with Isaiah, "Here am I! Send me!"



OUR JANUARY & FEBRUARY SERMON SERIES: FLOURISH! THRIVING IN OUR HOSTILE WORLD

Jan. 3	<i>God is Here!</i> - Daniel 1
Jan. 10	<i>When The World Falls Apart</i> - Daniel 2
Jan. 17	<i>Faith In The Furnace</i> - Daniel 3
Jan. 24	<i>Misdirected Glory</i> - Daniel 4
Jan. 31	<i>Is God Fixing This?</i> - Daniel 5

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

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SEE MORE INFO AT:
www.firstfreechurch.org



Serving God

with Kids Alive on a mission trip to Constanza, Dominican Republic impacted my life as I assisted the Physical Education teachers. I was blessed to be able to work alongside these teachers, teaching volleyball skills to all ages. After two days I felt God's call to return to Constanza when I noticed girls at the school had the desire to learn volleyball, softball, and other sports. The impact of that short-term mission trip has now resulted in a new mission of developing a volleyball and softball ministry for girls along with developing their relationships with Christ. A highlight for me occurred the first day we arrived at the school. On his way to class a young boy named Anuedy came running up to me, jumped, and had faith that I would catch him. That made my day. If we would have such faith in our Heavenly Father, how pleased would He be? Please pray for God to move in a culture that might not see the benefit of girls participating in sports. December 14, 2015 I returned to Constanza to serve with Kids Alive. Please pray for wisdom and open doors. Come to the Dominican Republic with the group from First Free in April and visit me!



Dominican Republic Missions Trip This Spring!

By Julie Danielson

As you know, teams from our church have partnered with Kids Alive in the Dominican Republic several times in the past 18 years. Our brothers and sisters in Christ in the Dominican Republic have become very dear to us. We are planning to take a team again from April 9 through April 17 to El Arca Constanza, which is a Kids Alive orphanage. The team does a variety of things while we are there. We have worked on construction and/or painting projects, spent time interacting with kids in sports, crafts, homework, etc. We also try to be a blessing and come alongside the house parents who work tirelessly to provide a nurturing and loving home for the kids. If you have some Spanish aptitude your opportunities for interaction are even greater (but not a requirement).

Costs for the trip will run approximately \$1,500-1,800 per person. On past trips the Outreach Commission has covered a portion of the cost for team members that request it—which has been around \$500. Also, many have sent support letters for the trip. It's been exciting to see how these needs have been met on past trips—God is good! If the Holy Spirit prompts you to consider going, begin praying and preparing right away. We will be looking for commitments as early as this month in January.

As you may know, Rebekah Polland (see story above), was on the trip in April 2014 and decided to take a short term assignment in Constanza. Lord willing we will also have an opportunity to connect with her while we are there.

Our collective experience on past trips is that God will use this experience to change you and grow you and use you to bless others! If you have questions or need more information before making a decision, you can visit www.kidsalive.org or contact John Symington (jsymington@earthlink.net) or me (wjdaniels@usfamily.net) for more information. Even if this opportunity doesn't work for you at this time, please spread the word and let God do the rest! We look forward to seeing how He works in and through us as we respond to His call to be Christ-sent in this way!

This Month @ FIRST FREE

The Deep: January 20 @ 6:30 p.m.

Worship. Pray. Refresh. Together. Join us for a time of worship and prayer together at The Deep on Wednesday, January 20 at 6:30 p.m. Childcare will be provided.

TOGETHER: A Gathering for Women: January 23rd @ 9:30 a.m.

SAVE THE DATE! Come together as women in fellowship for a Winter breakfast on Saturday, January 23rd at 9:30 a.m. Questions? Contact Kate Goodman at 612-702-8389 or at kate.goodman@me.com.

Connected Families: Discipline That Connects With Your Child's Heart

Connected Families Workshop - coming Friday, January 29th from 6:30-8 pm - save the date! Come join us for an insightful and practical workshop on "Discipline that Connects". This workshop provides training in wise and biblical approaches to discipline that will help parents use discipline more effectively, and is helpful for parents of young children and teens. We encourage you to invite any who may be interested (or any who may benefit)!

The cost will be \$10/person, or \$15/couple. Childcare will also be available. Grandparents and parents of children ages 2-18 are welcome to attend!

Class 101: January 31 @ 4:00 p.m.

Interested in learning more about what it means to be a member at First Free? Check out our membership class, Class 101 on Sunday, January 31 at 4:00 p.m. For questions or to sign up, contact the church office.

Connections: Upcoming on February 3, 10, 17, & 24

Community is like a great pair of pants; it can be hard to find, and the same style won't work for everybody. We get it, and we want to help you—whether you are new to First Free, or if you have been coming here for a while. Connections is new way to help you find the community that is right for you. The Connections Community group will meet for four weeks on Wednesday evenings for a potluck style dinner at Skip and Korey Stoelzing's house from 6:30-8:30 p.m. There you will get the chance to know others from First Free, as well as learn about the different opportunities to get connected.

If you are looking to get connected, try Connections this February. Sign-up via welcome card, by a call to the office, or through our church website.



Church Family News

Congratulations to Pete and Erica Lehner on the birth of their son, Everett James Lehner, who was born on Monday, November 23 weighing 8lbs and 6oz!

Congratulations to Brian & Holly Doble on the birth of their daughter, Olivia Doble! Olivia was born on Saturday, November 28 weighing 8lbs and 3oz.

Congratulations to Amorita Dimitrius on the birth of her daughter, Nina Marcella Luis, who was born on Sunday, December 6, at 10:47 p.m.!