

## Meet Our New Council Members

### Joel Burns

**Family:** Wife, JoAnn, Kids, Emma (8), Jack (6), Rohan (3) and Henry (1).  
**Where did you grow up?** Other than some college-year wonderings, a life long South Minneapolis resident.



**When did you receive Christ?** In my second grade Sunday School class.

**Favorite Biblical story?** Reading about the life of Abraham. Learning how God developed him through his family's trials and triumphs, which culminated into a wonderful relationship between man and a loving and patient God. It's a real encouragement and a reminder for JoAnn and me to strive to surrender all to God.

**How long have you been at First Free?** Since 2005.

### Alan Peterson - Chairman

**Family:** Wife, Lori, Kids, Anne 16, Connor 14, James 7

**Where did you grow up?** I grew up in Minneapolis.



**When did you receive Christ?** As a young boy of about 6 years of age.

**Favorite Biblical story?** The swashbuckling tale of Paul's voyage to Rome in Acts 27.

**How long have you been at First Free?** Since 1992.

### Johanna Holliday

**Family:** Husband, Troy, Kids: Andrew 12, James 10, Emily 7, Jessica 7, Lauren 4, Abby 2, Baby Girl!

**Where did you grow up?** I was born and raised on a beef farm in NorthCentral Wisconsin.

**When did you receive Christ?** I received Jesus Christ at age 7 or 8 during a youth outreach program at the church my family attended at the time and was baptized at age 17 upon returning from a missions trip to India.

**Favorite Biblical story?** Elijah and the prophets of Baal because God displayed His power in such grand fashion and Elijah was bold enough to stand alone and call on his great Almighty God.

**How Long have you been at First Free?** Almost 5 yrs.



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# Firstword

First Evangelical Free Church

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## Is God Tame?

"I can't believe in a God who would condemn anyone to hell. I believe in a God of love, who wants us to be happy."

Ever heard that? People want a tame God - a nice, safe God who accepts us where we are and although he wishes we would do better, he sighs and smiles indulgently and forgives without demanding change.

But in Disney's recent release of the movie, Prince Caspian, based upon C.S. Lewis's widely popular series, The Chronicles of Narnia, we encounter an altogether different portrait of God. Just as in "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe", the Lion-god of Narnia causes the children's knees to knock so much that they are almost unable to stand.

"Then he isn't safe?" asks Lucy. "Safe?" replies Mr. Beaver. "Course he isn't safe. But he is good."

Not safe, but good. A strange description for God - don't you think?

But listen to how Scripture describes God: "For the Lord your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God." (Deut. 4:24; NIV). Everything God consumes, every place where God's fire comes, he purifies and makes holy. Many of us want to come near to God out of curiosity. We want to check God out and get close to his warmth, but we're terrified to get inside of God and let God get inside of us, because every place where God is becomes holy. His consuming fire purifies. And when he purifies, he swallows up, he consumes, he burns up all our pride, our greed, our jealousy, our bitterness, our anger, our self-righteousness, even our dreams, our hopes, our visions for ourselves.

God ignores our desire for safety, instead He calls us to take the risk of encountering Him. God is not safe. Nor is He tame. But we can still trust that God is good.

Throughout Scripture, we are reminded over and over again, "Do not be afraid." So this summer, in our preaching series titled, "How To Whistle in the Dark", we will be taking a look at some of our fears: fear of enemies, fear of overwhelming situations, fear of financial problems. These fears need not stop us.

Yet at the same time, there is one fear which we are instructed to have: the fear of God. Because it is when you draw near to Him in fear, the One who is "a consuming fire", you will discover His mercy and His goodness.

- Pastor Joel

## Why Does Jesus Make Me so Nervous?

- June 1st - Judge and Jury - Matthew 7:1-6
- June 8th - Door Knocker - Matthew 7:7-12
- June 15th - A True Test - Matthew 7:13-23
- June 22nd - A Firm Foundation - Matthew 7:24-27

## How to Whistle in the Dark

- June 29 - Making Music in the Face of Fear - Psalm 27
- July 6 - When the Fight Seems Too Much - 2 Chronicles 20:1-30
- July 13 - When You are Afraid of Financial Problems - Heb. 13:1-8
- July 20 - Guest Preacher -
- July 27 - Guest Preacher - Troy Holliday

We exist to  
BRING people  
into a relationship  
with Jesus

CONNECT them  
to God's family

MATURE them  
in their faith

EQUIP them  
for ministry

so that God's name  
is EXALTED

Help Kids Discover the Power of Jesus this Summer as

## First Free Turns into POWER LAB!!

June 23rd - 27th 9:00am - Noon

For Kids Entering Kindergarten thru Grade 6

Invite your Kids, Neighbors, Friends, or Grandkids to experience...



Sizzling Craft Experiments  
Hyperspeed Games  
Wacky Snacks  
Cinema Science



Plus! Meet the Sorenson family who are missionaries to the Deaf in Thailand. Mark, Lou and their 7 children are all Deaf and they recently starred in the "God Man" movie which was filmed for children. (We watched it here at church a few weeks back!) AND... Mark happens to be Beth Brown's brother!

Pick up a registration form at the Creekside Canteen or register kids or to volunteer online at <http://www.firstfreechurch.org/vbc>

Questions? Contact Beth Brown 612-827-4705 or [beth.brown@firstfreechurch.org](mailto:beth.brown@firstfreechurch.org)



POWER LAB Training  
Come on Either  
Thursday, June 5th  
or  
Wednesday, June 18th  
6:30-8:00 PM - Room 105

## ADULTS!!

Come have FUN with Kids!  
Plug in at POWER LAB!

2 of our biggest needs are...

YOU and YOU!

We NEED you to be...

Lab Crew Leaders - FUN<sup>2</sup>

-Participate in fun activities while building  
relationships with a small group of kids!

AND...

Nursery Caregivers

It's not rocket science...you just need to love babies!  
Come on the days that you can and help out!!

## SUPPLIES NEEDED!!

Check out the  
Donation Station  
in the church for items that  
are EASY to donate.

Also needed...

- ▲Science related decorations
- ▲White lab coats
- ▲Goggles
- ▲Neon colored hula hoops



Items are needed  
by Sunday, June 15th

One of our adult leaders said ~ "It was so easy to be a leader. Everything was done for me, I just had to show up!"

## Summer Schedule and Room Changes

We value evangelism. That is one reason we have been so excited to see our numbers continue to grow in our Sunday morning worship services. More people are exalting God.

This summer we want to continue to provide multiple open doors for people to join us for worship so we will be continuing to offer two worship services at 9:30 AM and 11:00 AM each Sunday through the end of July. In August we will cut back to just one service at 9:30 AM.

Starting on Sunday, June 15th through Sunday, July 27th all children's Bible Time classes will meet during the 9:30 AM service. And during the 11:00 AM service there will be no K-6th grade classes. Instead children will be part of the worship service. Also take special note of when and where your Adult Bible Fellowship will be meeting.

9:30 AM	ROOM #	11:00 AM	ROOM#
Nursery - Infant to age 2	204-206	Nursery - Infant to age 2	204-206
Preschool - Ages 3-5	202/203	Preschool - Ages 3-5	202/203
Kindergarten - Grade 2	102		
Grades 3-5	101		
		<b>Adult Bible Fellowships</b>	
Youth	107/108	Metamorphosis - Post High School	109
		Marakarios - Young Married	104
<b>Adult Bible Fellowships</b>		Agape - 50's	103
Life-30's	103	Seniors	105
Sojourners-40's	105	Seekers - International	107/108
Parents of Teens	104	Prayer Group	

## YOUTH SUMMER MISSIONS - PLEASE PRAY FOR US!!

- For those who are going to Mission 180 - June 16th -21st  
Bailey Berry, Rachel Byer, JG Ferguson, Anthony Larson, BJ Pierce, Rebekah Polland, Alicia Symington.  
Leaders going are: Mark and Melinda Meyers.

- For those Jr. Highers who are going to Martin SD - July 13th-18th  
Olivia Clayborn, Madison Berry, Tracy Brill, Precious Collins, Amy Larson, Ken Mayo, Josh Pierce, Christian Vatsaas. Leaders going are: Luke Amstutz, Aaron Rusnak, Brenda Audette, John Symington and Heather Pierce.

- For those who are going to Costa Rica - July 28th - August 6th  
Luke Amstutz, Bailey Berry, Ben Byer, Kimisha Collins, JG Ferguson, Ryan Friesen, Anthony Larson, Anne Peterson, BJ Pierce, Alicia Symington, Ingrid Vatsaas. Leaders going are: Mark and Melinda Meyers and Chad and Heidi Hollinbeck.