

*First Evangelical Free Church exists to:*

Create a church in the city that makes a difference for Christ where people  
**Connect** to Christ, **Grow** in Christ, and **Serve** with Christ.

### ***Upcoming Series***

We all know people who consider themselves Christians, but seldom attend church. So we ask, "Why the church? Why can't I just have a relationship with Jesus and forget about the church? Is the church really necessary?" As we begin this new year of 2012, my hope is that we can answer those questions by looking through the insightful lens of four Biblical metaphors at what God has designed the church to be and to do in the world. Join us as we ask, "Who Are We? The Church in Four Pictures."

**Jan. 8** – The "I's" Have It (1 John 4:4, Matthew 5:13-16 )

**Jan. 15** – *Who are We? The church in Four pictures – Household of God (1 Peter 2:4-6; 1 Timothy 3:14-15).*

**Jan. 22** – *Who are We? The church in Four pictures – People of God (1 Peter 2:9-10; 11-12)*

**Jan. 29** – *Who are We? The church in Four pictures – Bride of Christ (Ephesians 5:21-33.)*

**Feb. 5** – *Who are We? The church in Four pictures - Body of Christ (Ephesians . 1:15-23)*

### ***Contact Us!***

The staff at First Free would love to hear from you today!

#### ***Pastoral Staff***

Senior Pastor, Joel Sutton ([joel.sutton@firstfreechurch.org](mailto:joel.sutton@firstfreechurch.org))  
Youth Pastor, Mark Meyers ([mark.meyers@firstfreechurch.org](mailto:mark.meyers@firstfreechurch.org))  
Pastoral Intern, Jay Pound ([jay.pound@firstfreechurch.org](mailto:jay.pound@firstfreechurch.org))

#### ***Ministry Staff***

Worship Director, Mike Graff  
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Children's Ministry Director, Beth Brown  
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#### ***Parish Nurse***

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#### ***Administrative Staff***

Facilities Technician, Scott Beckett  
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**WELCOME**  
where the difference is... the relationship

Children & Youth Ministries

Sunday Mornings:



Creekside Friends

9:30 –12:00 PM:

Nursery (Infant–2 Years)

2's Bees (2 Years)

Preschool (3–5 Years)

Mothers' Room located in Room 207

\*\* Creekside Bible Time \*\*

Children's Bible Time (K-6) 9:30am–10:30am

\*\* Creekside Children's Church \*\*

Children's Church (K-6 kids dismissed from service)

11:30am–12pm

(Kids Activity Bags Available In The Foyer.)

**Wednesday Evenings (6:30 PM):**

Creekside Clubs

(Gr. 1-6)



Hey guys!

Camp Shamaineau  
Father-Son Retreat  
February 3-5, 2012



Clubs will  
resume  
January  
11, 2012!

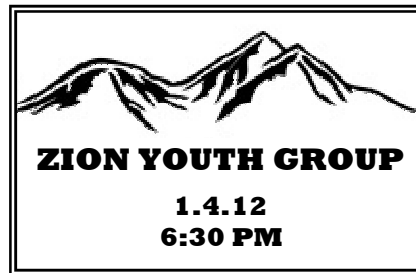
Zion Student Ministry (Gr. 7-12)

**Sunday Mornings (9:30 AM):**

Youth Church

**Wednesday Evenings (6:30 PM):**

Zion Youth Group



JUNIOR HIGH  
RETREAT

Registration due  
January 11, 2012



Adult Ministries

Sunday Mornings:

**Adult Bible Fellowships**

\*Note: No ABFs today

**9:30 AM**

**Living Life** (Room #103) ~ Joel & JoAnn Burns  
*Singles, Couples, & Parents of Pre-school and  
Elementary Age Children—30s & 40s*

**Faith Builders (Room #105)** ~ Jim & Joyce  
Friesen

*Singles, Couples, & Parents of Teenagers,  
& College Students—40s & 50s* Singles &  
Couples – 65+

**Prayer Group (Pastor Joel's Office)**

~ Facilitator: Grace Elasky

**11:00 AM**

**Metamorphosis** (Room #109) ~ Wayne & Julie  
Danielson

*Post High School, College & Early Career*

**Seekers** (Room #108) ~ Audrey Sollie, Bob Gu &  
Jesse Horst

*Multi-culture Class*

**Makarios** (Room #104) ~ Eric & Susan Stabnow

*Singles & Couples in their 20s & 30s*

**Agape (Room #103)** ~ John Symington

*Singles & Couples – 50s & 60s*

**Seniors (Room #105)** ~ Char Boyles & Jerry Young



**Alpha**

Do you have a neighbor, a co-worker,  
or a family member who is asking  
questions about life and the meaning  
of faith?

"Alpha" is a practical introduction to  
the Christian faith. It starts **January  
19th** and will continue Thursday  
evenings for ten weeks, with an eve-  
ning meal and child-care provided.

Volunteers are needed. Contact Pam  
or Scott Bookhout:  
612-721-6144

Our prayers go out to Herb Bloomquist  
and family for the loss of their mother,  
Dorothy Bloomquist, whose funeral  
was on Friday .

CONNECT TO CHRIST

GROW IN CHRIST

This week at FEFC.... *January 1-7, 2012*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> <u>New Year's Day Service</u> 11:00 AM	<b>2</b> 8:30 PM Men's Basketball	<b>3</b> 7:00 PM Worship Team Rehearsal	<b>4</b> 6:30 PM Zion Youth Group  6:45 PM Prayer	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>

Opportunities



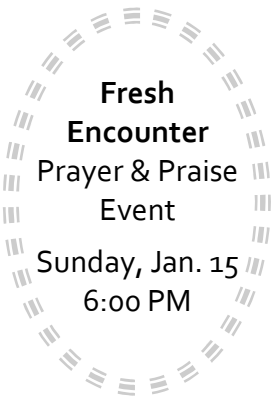
**NEW ORLEANS**  
**FEBRUARY 5-11, 2012**

Trip registration is **due TODAY!**  
 (\$75 deposit— checks payable to FEFC)  
 Drop off registration/deposit in the envelope located in the “NOLA Transform” mailbox in the church office today!

**Child Dedication**

**1-8-2012**

Interested in having your child dedicated to the Lord? Contact the church office with the name of your child and which service ( 9:30 or 11 AM) works best for you for Sunday, January 8, 2012.



**Fresh Encounter**  
 Prayer & Praise  
 Event  
 Sunday, Jan. 15  
 6:00 PM

**M-HOZ\***

**MN Weather is unpredictable!**  
 Church activity cancellations found:

- FEFC’s & KTIS’ Websites
- Church Office
- Your Inbox (if on FEFC mailing list)

**Class 101: Exploring Church Membership**

If you would like to find out more about becoming a member of First Free, our next class will be held **January 29th, at 4PM**. Dinner will be provided. Please mark your welcome card or call the church office to attend.

**—Baptism Service—**

SUNDAY, JAN. 15, 2012

Contact the church office if interested in being baptized.

*Expressions*

For those struggling with a chronic diagnosis or devastating disease, visual journaling is an excellent self-healing therapy to work through emotional pain. You are welcome to join us on Monday nights. We begin promptly at 7:00 PM in room 103.

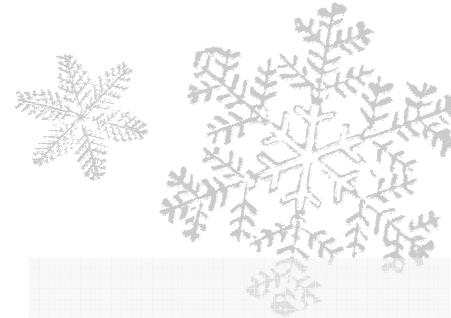
Upcoming Expressions group meetings:

- January 9 and 23
- February 6 and 20



Share your blessings on the tree in the lobby! Pick up a gift tag.

**Sunday, January 1, 2012**



*Communion*

First Free Church welcomes all Christians who are forsaking sin and trusting in Jesus for salvation to participate in the Lord’s Supper with us today. If you are not able to participate, please use this time to meditate on one of the prayers located after the discussion questions on page 4.

**Welcome/Announcements**

*“Word of God, Speak”*

*“The Stand”*

*“All Who are Thirsty”*

*(No kids church—infant and pre-school childcare provided)*

**Prayer**

**Message:**

*Best Place to Live in 2012*—Mark 11:12-26  
 Joel Sutton

**Communion**

*“To the Only God”*

**Offering**

**Benediction**

**First Time Visitor?**

**If you are new to First Free, we extend a special welcome to you today.**  
 We hope that you will find the following information helpful:

**Information Request:** We ask each attendee to *fill out the enclosed Welcome Card* and place it in the offering plate each week. Our church uses this information for First Free communications only...plus, we would just like to get to know you! *Information will not be shared with outside sources.*

**This Morning’s Offering** is for those who call First Free their church home. You are our guest. Please do not feel obligated to participate.

**Restrooms:** Three are located in the building: below the foyer (Women’s: Handicap Accessible), across from the gym, and a unisex handicap accessible restroom may be found by the nursery near the North Entrance.

**Nurseries, Classrooms, and Children’s & Adult Ministry:** Stop at the Welcome Center for maps! Class times and locations are located on the inside of this bulletin.

**A Gift!** We invite you to also stop by the **Welcome Center** to receive a gift and additional information about our church. *Thank you for joining us today!*

**Sermon Notes**  
**Best Place to Live in 2012**  
**Mark 11:12-26**

Where is the best place to “\_\_\_\_\_”?

- In the “\_\_\_\_\_” (v. 17)
  - There is always the danger of reducing religion to
    - a \_\_\_\_\_.
  - The contrast to “religion as transaction”. . .
    - is \_\_\_\_\_.

Prayer is \_\_\_\_\_ to God.  
 (vv. 15-18)

Prayer produces \_\_\_\_\_. vv. 12-14; 20-21

Prayer requires \_\_\_\_\_. vv. 22-24

Prayer requires \_\_\_\_\_. v. 25

**Take Home Idea:** The \_\_\_\_\_ place to live in 2012 is  
 \_\_\_\_\_.

**Discussion Questions:**

Best Place to Live in 2012– Mark 11:12-25

**Opening:** Where has been your favorite place to live? Or, if you could live anywhere where would you choose to live?

Look over the Take Home Idea. Explain it in your own words.

**Dig:** What was Jesus threatening when he called the temple a “den of robbers” (see Jer. 7:9-15)? What did Pastor Joel mean when he described the cursing of the fig tree a “living parable”? Can you name another “living parable” of Jesus? What was the point of this parable?

How does the story of the fig tree relate to the clearing of the temple?

What conditions for effective prayer are listed here in vs. 20-25?

How do we typically handle these words of Jesus in vv. 22-24? What do you see is the problem with that? Look at Zachariah 14:4. How does that help you understand what Jesus is saying here? What was Pastor Joel’s explanation of these words?

Why does Jesus include forgiveness as a requirement for effective prayer?

**Reflect:** Of the conditions of prayer here, which stretches you the most? Why?

Close by spending some time together as a group, sharing prayer requests and praying for each other.

Prayer of those Searching for the Truth

God, Jesus declares that He is the Way, the Truth and the Life. If what He claims is true, please guide me, teach me, and open my mind and heart to the reality of who He is. Give me an understanding of Him that is coherent and convincing and that leads to the life You promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before dared to admit, but through You I am more loved and accepted than I ever before dared to hope. I thank You for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that You have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and trust You as my Saving-Lord. Amen.