

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

On November 11 First Free hosted its 4th annual Operation Christmas Child packing party. Good energy filled the gym as many came to pack boxes to be sent around the world to needy children. The goal is that the receivers of these boxes will hear the Gospel and make decisions to accept Christ as their Lord and Savior. We know based on personal testimonies of adults who received boxes as children and are now living in the U.S., how impactful this experience can be. We know with certainty that the lives of children, their families and indeed whole communities are changed forever for eternity.



2017



Sending the message of **GOD'S LOVE** one shoebox at a time!



Many thanks to the church body for supporting this cause in so many ways. The number of boxes packed at the party was 2263 + 370 boxes packed at home = 2633 boxes!



Now preparations for 2018 begin. As you are doing your holiday shopping keep an eye out for those bargains and drop any product in the OCC box in the coat closet nearest the library.

FIRST FREE SUNDAY MORNINGS

(Unless otherwise noted in *This Week at First Free*)

WORSHIP SERVICES

Blended - 9 a.m.
Contemporary - 10:45 a.m.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

Great attention is given to provide the best possible care for our infants through Pre-K. Silent paging, security IDs, and a separate nursing mothers' room help to make a safe and secure environment for your little ones.

Birth-Age 5 - 9 & 10:45 a.m.

ELEMENTARY/YOUTH

Sunday School Grades K-12 - 9 a.m.
Kids Choir Grades 3-6 - 10:15 a.m.
Chapel Time/Kids Choir Grades K-2 - 10:45 a.m.

PRAYER MEETINGS

The First Free family is invited to join together in prayer. God hears our prayers! Some pray silently, others pray out loud. Everyone is welcome!
Sundays: 8:30 a.m. & 5 p.m. - Room 202
(Times subject to change; see *This Week at First Free*.)

SERMON RECORDINGS

Recordings of this morning's message (and any prior Sunday's message) can be found on our website, or a CD may be ordered by emailing Tara Larsen (tlarsen@firstefc.org).

ADULTS

Mini-Congregations are our Sunday morning adult Bible study and fellowship groups. Get to know a group of people more intimately as we encourage one another to be fully devoted followers of Christ.

9 a.m.	Room
The Bridge	101
CrossTrainers	102
Body Builders	103
@the.CORE (2 nd , 4 th /5 th Sundays)	201

10:15 a.m.	Room
The Point Gathering	JH Youth Center

10:45 a.m.	Room
Bereans	201
Disciplemakers	202
Faithful Followers	204
Koinonia	HS Youth Center

INFORMATION TABLES

For more information on the following ministries, visit the table(s) in the lobby:

- Offering Envelopes
- Free Calendars

PRAYER NETWORK for urgent requests
Paige Lincoln (651.785.8220)
Carol Jaehnert (651.776.9859)

PRAYER, PRAISE OR FAMILY HAPPENING

Submit by filling out a gold communication card. Drop it in the offering plate, the box at the Welcome Center, turn it in to the church office, or email lwhorton@firstefc.org.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT DEADLINE

Must be in writing or email to ckeller@firstefc.org by noon on Tuesday.

BUILDING USAGE

All building use must be reserved through the church office by completing a Reservation Request form. Forms can be found on our website or picked up in the church office.

Welcome

DECEMBER 3, 2017

FIRST EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH SERVICES | 9 & 10:45 A.M.

We exist to glorify **GOD** by making and maturing disciples of **JESUS CHRIST** to minister to the world with the Gospel by the **HOLY SPIRIT**

PRINCE OF PEACE

ISAIAH 9:6-7, 2 THESSALONIANS 3:16

PASTOR DAVID CAPISTRANT

HIGHLIGHTS

ENCOUNTER: A NIGHT OF WORSHIP & PRAYER

CHRISTMAS GOODIE BUFFET

CHRISTMAS CONCERTS



If this is your first time at First Free, you are our guest, and we extend a warm **WELCOME** to you! Be sure to pick up a Welcome Gift at our Welcome Center and plan to join us at a Newcomer's Lunch, offered monthly.



Join us for **COFFEE** & fellowship in the Lobby between services.



HEARING Assistance devices are available at the Welcome Center.



Please silence all **MOBILE DEVICES** during the service.



**FIRST EVANGELICAL
FREE CHURCH**

2696 HAZELWOOD STREET
MAPLEWOOD, MN 55109
P 651.777.5180 WWW.FIRSTEFC.ORG

2018 OFFERING ENVELOPES

2018 offering envelopes are available to pick up in the lobby. If you give online and no longer need envelopes, or if you have never received envelopes and would like them, please email our accountant, Kari Berglund (kberglund@firstefc.org). If you have already set up re-occurring giving online, now might be a good time to double check that your reoccurring gift hasn't expired. It has come to our attention that this has happened to some of our members without them realizing.

WEATHER CANCELLATIONS

If at any time during the winter months a decision is made to cancel services due to the weather, this information will be posted on our website, www.firstefc.org, and a message will be left on the church voicemail system.

LOST & FOUND

An assortment of clothing, Bibles, mugs, and other items have made their way to our Lost & Found. Please take time to check for items that may belong to you or your family members. Our Lost & Found is located at the north end of the lower level, near the elevator. Note that valuables, such as eyeglasses, car keys, jewelry, etc. are kept locked in the Church Office. Also check the Kitchen Lost & Found for dishes left behind.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

Greeters and Welcome Desk Attendants are often the first impression a visitor will have of our fellowship on Sunday mornings. We'd love to have additional members on our Welcome team! Please contact Shirley Kulzer (612.738.8129) for more information.

ENCOUNTER: A NIGHT OF WORSHIP & PRAYER

TODAY | 5:30 p.m. | Gym (meal)
6 p.m. | Youth Center (worship)

We invite the church family to Encounter: A Night of Worship & Prayer. Childcare provided through grade 5. Coffee and a light meal will be served.

ELDER PRAYER FOCUS FOR NOVEMBER

Please join the Elders as they pray for:

- The future of church planting
- General fund giving to meet the budget
- The lost and revival

NEWCOMERS LUNCH

TODAY | 12:30 p.m.
Lower Fellowship Hall

Come meet our Pastors and hear about our Church over lunch. If you are new to First Free and are interested in learning more and getting connected, join us! Pastor Todd, along with some of our staff, will share about the mission and vision of First Free and how you fit into it.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Weds., Dec. 6 | 9 - Noon

Volunteers are needed to go to the OCC Processing Center in Lakeville to check the shoe boxes. Please let Annette Peterson (651.653.7433) know if you can help. Reservations are necessary. The bus will leave church at 8 a.m.

GRACE GROUP

God Reigns Against Cancer's Efforts
Thur., Dec. 14 | 1 p.m.

A group of women who have or have had cancer meet to share news, personal experiences, helpful information, encouragement and prayer. We are invited to the Christmas House. Contact Pat Plooster (651.777.3322 or 651.325.7867) if you can come. You may invite a friend.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS GOODIE BUFFET

Sun., Dec. 17 | 9-noon | Gym

Bring Christmas treats to share while you enjoy fellowship with our church family.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Sun., Dec. 24 | 9 a.m. | 10:45 a.m. | Worship Center

Come and celebrate with your church family the greatness of God's gift in Christ Jesus. Childcare provided through age 5.

Sun., Dec. 24 | 4:30 p.m. | Worship Center

Join us for a Christmas Eve candlelight service that celebrates the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Childcare provided through age 5.

Concerts

"Good News, Great Joy!"

Sat., Dec. 9 | 4 or 6:30 p.m.
Worship Center

A celebration of Christmas featuring the Worship Choir, Worship Orchestra, The First Free Singers, a brass ensemble, as well as Scripture reading, Christmas hymns, and a Gospel presentation. Childcare provided through age 5.

"Christmas Collective"

Sun., Dec. 17 | 6:30 p.m.
Worship Center

Take a break from shopping and decorating and come enjoy a great evening out! We will celebrate Christmas with a live band and drama in a fun Christmas atmosphere for the whole family! Feel free to invite a friend, neighbor, or co-worker to share in the gift of Christmas! Childcare provided through age 5.

A note from the treasurer—

If you're a member or regular attendee at First Free, you should have received a letter that described some calendar year-end financial goals related to our General Fund. The letter challenged us to pray that giving to the General Fund would exceed \$300,000 between Thanksgiving and the end of the calendar year. This goal was established so that we might eliminate our current deficit and to set us up well for the next 6 months of our fiscal year. To give you an update on our progress, giving on Sunday, November 26, was \$31,374. This means that there is approximately \$268,626 to be received for us to achieve this goal. Would you please join me in praying that the remaining funds would be received during the final weeks of

the calendar year? For those who have already given, thank you! If you have not yet given, please prayerfully consider a special gift.

A few of you have periodically donated appreciated stocks or bonds to First Free. By making a gift of appreciated securities, one can avoid paying capital gains tax that would otherwise be due if you sold these assets. If you have any questions about how to make such a donation, please contact our accounting office. If you've recently made such a donation, please also make sure our accounting office is informed so that we can appropriately record your gift/designation.

In Christ,
Caleb Hardacre, Treasurer

THIS WEEK AT FIRST FREE

Today, Dec. 3

8:30 a.m. - Sunday Morning Prayer - 202
9 a.m. - Blended Worship - WC
Nursery, Preschool, Sunday School (K-12),
Adult mini-Congregations
10:15 a.m. - Kids' Choir (3-6)
10:45 a.m. - Contemporary Worship - WC
Nursery, Preschool, Chapel Time/Kids' Choir (K-2),
Adult mini-Congregations
12:30 p.m. - New Comers Lunch - FH
5:30 p.m. - Encounter Meal - Gym
6 p.m. - Encounter: A Night of Worship & Prayer - YC

Monday, Dec. 4

10 a.m. - GriefShare - 202
6:30 p.m. - Men's Basketball - Gym

Tuesday, Dec. 5

9:30 a.m. - Women in the Word - YC
7 p.m. - Evening Women in the Word - 201

Wednesday, Dec. 6

9:45 a.m. - Senior Adult Bible Study - 204
10 a.m. - Women's Study of John - 201
6:30 p.m. - Expedition, Nursery-Gr. 6 - AC
Junior High Gr. 7-8 - Gym
Women's Study of John - 106
Men's Growth through Discovery - FH
Women's Growth through Discovery - 201
Worship Choir Rehearsal - WC
8 p.m. - High School Gr. 9-12 - Gym

Thursday, Dec. 7

7:30 a.m. - Men's Prayer Meeting - 202
9 a.m. - Creators Crafters - FH
9 a.m. - Mom's Day Away - 212
6:30 p.m. - Men's Basketball - Gym

Saturday, Dec. 9

8 a.m. - Men's Bible Study - 202
4 & 6:30 p.m. - Good News, Great Joy - WC

AC - Activity Center
PO - Pastor Todd's Office
WC - Worship Center
YC - Youth Center

FH - lower Fellowship Hall
RR - Reception Room
HG - Harvest Gardens

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

Army

Sean Brownlee
Kyle Fenstermacher

Army National Guard

Andrew Beach
Matthew Longendyke

Marines

Paul Addington
Peter Gillen

Air Force

Nathan Persons

Air Force National Guard

Roger Hall, Jr.
Taylor Juvland

Air Force Reserves

Dale Buetow

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

NOV. 26, 2017

GENERAL GIVING*

Offering: \$ 31,374
Receipts: \$572,745**
Expenditures: \$596,661**
Net change: (\$23,916)

SHORT-TERM MISSIONS

Offering: \$367
Receipts: \$30,764**
Expenditures: \$19,722**
Net change: \$11,042

* Average weekly need is \$35,403 to meet our 2017/18 budget

** For the period 7/1/17-10/31/17

and HE shall be their Peace

MICAH 5:5