

MATHEWS
TODD & CHRISTINE
 AMANDA
 TRENTON
 AARON



CRU

Samir exclaimed, "This is my first time to ever hold a Bible!" Samir is a UC Berkeley student from Tunisia. His entire family and the majority of people in his home country follow Islam, but he wants to learn about Jesus. When he came to the U.S. he was curious about Christianity, yet skeptical. For two weeks he came to a Cru weekly dinner at UC Berkeley and enjoyed the food and conversation but wouldn't join the Bible study. On his third visit, he cautiously sat down at the edge of the group and joined the discussion. Each week Samir joins other students from the Middle East, India, and China to learn about Jesus. Our prayer is that soon he will make a commitment to follow Christ! In January Cru hosted a "Vision" conference in Washington D.C. where over 750 students from 83 different countries attended. By the end of the conference, 34 indicated decisions to become followers of Christ. The Gospel is powerful! Right here in Orlando we have the University of Central Florida. It is now the largest university in the U.S. with over 60,000 enrolled. 4,300 are from other nations (many that are generally closed to the Gospel). We were able to meet many international students who would like to meet and hear more about God. The local team in Orlando is working to follow up with those students. In February we had the joy of training 70 new Cru missionaries. There were 28 in my workshop for the week. It's a privilege to hear the stories of God's gracious hand to save and call these servants into the mission. C.J. is one of the staff we trained. He grew up viewing God as the cosmic justice whose standards he had to live up to if he wanted to stay out of hell. In high school he was treated poorly by classmates. He hated everyone, including himself. One guy on the football team was a Christian, and C.J. could visibly see God's work in his life. He cared for those around him and truly loved everyone. Two years passed before C.J. finally asked God to change his life and follow him. While at Montana State University C.J. had the opportunity to go on a short-term mission trip, and later found out about a ministry Montana State had launched in Alaska. C.J. took a trip there and was burdened by the needs as he heard the statistics of high suicide and violent crime rates. God is leading C.J. to be an ambassador for Christ to Alaska so that students there can learn the same hope he found in Christ. The February training marked our 25th anniversary for joining Cru staff. Thank you for faithfully standing with us in this work.

FAMILY MATTERS

PRAISE

Thank you for all the prayers for the speedy recovery of little Mario. Influenza plus pneumonia on a small child with a heart condition could have been serious. (Jeanne Sorell)

Join me in praising the Lord for his protection over me while I was in Nigeria recently. The Lord is good. (Joshua Ogundepo)

FAMILY NEWS

We extend our sympathy to Muriel Gustafson in the home going of her brother, Maurice Kellander, on March 4, 2018 in East Chain, MN.

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
Faith Connections	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:

- India Prayer Team
- Widow and Widowers Event
- Easter Breakfast

PRAYER NETWORK for urgent requests
 Paige Lincoln (651.785.8220)

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

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

PLOT AGAINST JESUS

MATTHEW 26:1-5, 14-30
 PASTOR TODD OLSON

HIGHLIGHTS

BAPTISM CLASS

MEN'S BACON & BASKETBALL

WIDOWS AND WIDOWERS



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



Please let the pastoral staff know when you are admitted to a HOSPITAL by calling 651.777.5180.

WELCOME JORDAN MONSON



We are excited to welcome Jordan Monson to our staff as Church Planting Pastor.

Continue to pray for the church as we prepare ourselves and Jordan to plant in St. Paul.

Jordan, Aubrey, Everett & Jameson

BAPTISM CLASS

TODAY | 9 a.m. | Room 106

If you are a believer and would like to be baptized, attend this class to be a part of the Easter baptism service.

LIBRARY MINISTRY

The church library will not be open during its normal hours from March 8-15. Please utilize the library during both hours on Sunday, March 11 and it will reopen on Friday, March 16 from 8:15 a.m.- noon.

WITHOUT BORDERS

May 4-5 | Cost \$59.99 by April 20
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Without Borders is a women's conference that supports and equips Christians in building new friendships with Muslim women. Teachings, workshops and testimonies help break down walls of suspicion and prejudice in order to better understand and engage Muslims. The cost goes up after April 20. See website for more information crescentproject.org or contact Maridee Farrow at 612.816.6871.

WIDOWS AND WIDOWERS

Sat., March 24 | 11 a.m - 2:30 p.m.
Union Gospel Mission

Come join us for the Union Gospel Mission's annual, Soup for the Homeless Soul event to celebrate the transformation of men and women facing homelessness, poverty, and addiction!

- Enjoy a FREE soup lunch including breadsticks and dessert
 - Take a tour of the Men's Campus
 - Worship with the Changed Lives Choir
 - Hear student testimonies
 - Pottery demonstrations
- Bus leaves the church at 11 a.m.
Sign up in the Lobby today or next Sunday!

ELDER PRAYER FOCUS FOR MARCH

Please join the Elders as they pray for:

- Praise that we met our General Fund financial goals in 2017
- Church planting
- More followers of Jesus

GRACE GROUP

God Reigns Against Cancer's Efforts
Wed., March 21 | 4:30 p.m.
Baker's Square on White Bear Ave.

A group of women who have or have had cancer meet to share news, personal experiences, helpful information, encouragement and prayer. Caregivers are always welcome. In case of inclement weather, or if you have questions, contact Pat Plooster (651.777.3322) or Diane Johnson (651.777.0041).

CREATOR'S CRAFTERS

Thur., March 22 | 9 a.m.- Noon
Fellowship Hall

All are welcome to join the Creator's Crafters as we make warm quilts for friends, neighbors and those in need. Anyone interested in serving our Lord through the gifts of our hands and hearts are encouraged to join! If you have questions contact Kally Walcott at 651.330.1954.

MEN'S BACON & BASKETBALL

Tues., March 13 | 6:30 p.m. | Gym

Men and boys, join us for a night of fun and food. We'll enjoy some basketball skills games, a movie and some snacks! Give us your prediction for the winner of the NCAA Final Four! Prizes will be handed out after the tournament ends March 31 to those who predicted correctly.

Please pray for our short-term team in Texas for the coming week.



ELDER CORNER

We are asking all church members to nominate fellow church members for two open positions on the Nominating Committee. These people will be elected by the membership at the Congregational Meeting on May 20. The main task of the Nominating Committee is to oversee the nomination process for the selection of Elders. This Committee consists of four church members at large, two Elders, and the Senior Pastor.

The current Committee members who will continue are Kevin Jacobson and Brad Keller. Elders serving this year are Mike Anderson and Dan Larsen.

As you consider individuals, please keep in mind the following Constitutional requirements: "Nominees for the Nominating Committee shall be members in the highest regard, and shall have demonstrated commitment and leadership to the church and knowledge of the congregation." (Church members are designated in the church directory by an asterisk.)

Please indicate your nominees (men or women) on the card mailed to members and place it in the "Nomination Box" at the Welcome Center by Sunday, April 15. Please be sure to ask your nominees if they'd like to be nominated before submitting.

Prayerfully,

Dan Larsen
Nominating Committee Chair

HARVEST GARDENS



PLAY SET NEEDED

Looking for a used children's play set to be relocated to Harvest Gardens. If you know of one available, please contact Jon Addington (jladdington.fefc@gmail.com or 651 283-2404).

THIS WEEK AT FIRST FREE

Today, March 11

8:30 a.m. - Sunday Morning Prayer - 202
9 a.m. - Baptism Class - 106
9 a.m. - Blended Worship - WC
Nursery, Preschool, Sunday School (K-6),
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
5 p.m. - Prayer Meeting - 202

Monday, March 12

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

Tuesday, March 13

9:30 a.m. - Women In The Word - YC
6:30 p.m. - Men's Bacon & Basketball - Gym
7:00 p.m. - Evening Women In The Word - 201

Wednesday, March 14

9:30-11:30 a.m. - Preschool Playtime - AC
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
Marriage Class - 101
8 p.m. - High School Gr. 9-12 - Gym

Thursday, March 15

7:30 a.m. - Men's Prayer Meeting - 202
9 a.m. - Mom's Day Away - 212

Saturday, March 17

8 a.m. - Men's Bible Study - 202

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

FH - Lower Fellowship Hall
YC - Youth Center
HG - Harvest Gardens

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

Air Force
Nathan Persons

Air Force National Guard
Roger Hall, Jr.
Taylor Juvland

Air Force Reserves
Dale Buetow

Army
Sean Brownlee
Kyle Fenstermacher
Jonathan Laansma

Army National Guard
Andrew Beach
Matthew Longendyke

Marines
Paul Addington
Peter Gillen

Navy
Jarrod Schad

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

MARCH 4, 2018

GENERAL GIVING*

Offering: \$52,933
Receipts: \$1,258,392**
Expenditures: \$1,220,831**
Net change: \$37,561

SHORT-TERM MISSIONS

Offering: \$800
Receipts: \$53,158**
Expenditures: \$46,991**
Net change: \$6,167

* Average weekly need is \$35,403 to meet our 2017/18 budget
** For the period 7/1/17-2/28/18

plot
noun \ 'plät \

[a plan made in secret by a group of people to do something illegal or harmful.]