

Celebrating First Evangelical Free Church's 76th Anniversary



Sept. 1934
Where it all began
Small townhall behind
Horlick's Dam

1940
Union Gospel Center
First church building
At Olive and Russet
Building had been enlarged.
A small white house stands
there now.



1957
Name was changed to First
Evangelical Free Church
Behind Donut shop on Lathrop
Ave.

1970-Present
First Evangelical Free Church
2401 Ohio St.
First services held Oct. 18th.



Some Historical Highlights

- 1930's A Sunday School was started in a building near Horlick Dam by Mr. and Mrs. Clark DeGarmo.
- 1938 A lot at Olive and Russet Street was given by Mr. and Mrs. Clark DeGarmo. The first church building was erected there and called the Union Gospel Center.
- 1940 An addition and steeple were built on to the church through the labors of the congregation.
- 1947 Affiliation was made with the Evangelical Free Church of America and the name was changed to the First Evangelical Free Church
- 1955 Across the street on Olive and Lathrop, lots were purchased and a new church building was constructed.
- 1961 Parsonage built and dedicated at 2400 Virginia
- 1969 We gratefully accepted the building site of our present location given by the Garrett Veenstra Foundation. Then the property on Lathrop and Olive St. was sold. While our present building was being constructed, the congregation rented a church building at 1425 West Blvd.
- 1970 Present building completed at 2401 Ohio St. The first Services were held October 18th.

Pastors, Regular and Interim

Mr. Clark DeGarmo, Founder
Rev. Cecil DeGarmo
Mr. Willard Innes
Rev. Fred Anspaugh
Rev. Frank Sterbin
Rev. Benjamin Johnson
Dr. Charles Pfeiffer
Rev. Albin E. Berglund
Rev. Gordon Langlie

Rev. Irving Johnson
Rev. Vincent Bushre
Rev. Donald Wise
Mr. David Fry
Rev. Roy Anderson
Rev. Leander Fast
Pastor Richard Kraft
Pastor Phillip Poe
Pastor John Bodnar



FIRST EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

Mission and Vision Statement

Our Mission

Our purpose is to love the Lord our God by: ¹

- Being committed to His Word.
- Preaching the Gospel of Salvation in our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Making disciples by equipping believers to obey God's commands.

¹ Matthew 28:19-20 ; Matthew 22:37-40 ; II Timothy 2:1,2

Our Vision

To be a growing body of believers who passionately model the life of Christ. Specifically, we believe God has called us to focus on reaching people who do not attend church regularly. This focus will be Racine and the surrounding communities, as well as other parts of the world. ¹

To accomplish this, First Evangelical Free Church of Racine, WI will become an equipping center where every Christian can be developed to either his or her full potential for ministry. ² This development will occur through:

- Inspirational worship. ³
- Biblical teaching and discipleship. ⁴
- Diligent prayer. ⁵
- Supportive fellowship. ⁶
- Opportunities for outreach into the community in service and evangelism. ⁷

As we apply these principles to our daily lives we learn and grow in our understanding of God. This defining influence will flow into our homes, into the work place, and into every realm of life. ⁸

We also will identify, train, and support believers who will carry this ministry into the world.

- ¹ Acts 1:8
- ² II Timothy 3:16-17
- ³ Psalm 66:2 ; John 4:4,23-24 ; Revelation 5:9
- ⁴ II Timothy 3:16 ; Matthew 28:19-20 ; Ephesians 4:12
- ⁵ I Thessalonians 5:17 ; Colossians 1:7-12 ; John 16:24 ; Proverbs 12:27
- ⁶ Hebrews 10:23-25 ; Acts 21:42
- ⁷ Acts 1:8 ; Mark 16:15 ; Luke 24:47
- ⁸ Colossians 1:28

Definitions

- Inspirational Worship - Inspiring worship is not driven by a particular style, but rather a shared experience of God's awesome presence. This will be evidenced by times of joyous exaltation and times of quiet reverence.
- Biblical Teaching and Discipleship is the teaching and preaching that is grounded in God's Word so as to present everyone mature in Christ.
- Diligent Prayer is encouraging ongoing communication with God on behalf of all men. This is to be practiced both personally and corporately in the Body of Christ.
- Supportive Fellowship is loving relationships whereby we intentionally demonstrate God's love, which builds genuine Christian community and brings others into God's Kingdom.
- Community Outreach Service & Evangelism - We need to individually and corporately recognize the need to cultivate relationships with pre-Christians so they can become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.