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THE NEXT DOOR NEIGHBOR

Christmas in Five Letters

HOLLIE SELL,
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT



Heart & Home Family Ministry is excited to announce that our first Family event is happening on Friday, December 5th, from 6-7:30 pm! The event is Christmas in Five Letters, which goes through the events leading up to Jesus' birth. This event is family-led, so families will come and take their time at five stations that will spell out five letters, J-E-S-U-S. Heart & Home is also partnering with the Art Chapel to have creative stations where families are able to do activities and just spend some time together having fun! We hope that your family is able to come, have fun, and connect with Jesus as a family.

If you have any questions, please email Hollie at hollie@fstreetchurch.org

This issue:

Christmas in Five Letters	PAGE 01
Black Belt in Jesus	PAGE 02
Angel Tree Ministry 2025	PAGE 03
New Sunday Bible Study Art Chapel Christmas Party	PAGE 04
Advent Season	PAGE 05
Double the Offering F Street Youth	PAGE 06
Did God really do that?	PAGE 07
Special Project	PAGE 08
Missionary Corner Transportation Driver	PAGE 09
December Schedule Birthdays & Anniversaries	PAGE 10

A Black Belt in Jesus

JEFF HEERSPINK, LEAD PASTOR

Recently, I sat with a friend who enjoys Martial Arts and is quite proficient in it. He shared that as he begins learning a new discipline, he goes back to wearing a White Belt. He said his original white belt is his favorite—dirty, worn, and never washed. That's the tradition in Martial Arts: you don't wash away the sweat and tears that shaped you.

He also mentioned a story about how the Black Belt may have originated. (I couldn't verify it, but it's a great picture regardless.) The idea is that your belt changes color simply through years of use. You start with a clean white belt, which begins to yellow from sweat, then darken from hits and kicks, eventually turning black. The belt becomes valuable not because it's clean, but because of what it represents—much like a game-worn jersey carries far more meaning than one never used.

That image says a lot about the person wearing it. A Black Belt reflects years of dedication and practice. And it made me think about following Jesus.

We don't become people of prayer without wearing out the knees of our jeans. We don't grow wise in Scripture without our Bibles becoming tattered, marked up, and worn from use. We don't grow in anything without practice. We don't build relationships without time invested. And we don't bear lasting fruit without abiding in Jesus—which takes time, effort, and intentional practice.

Not long ago, I received two Bibles after the deaths of two different friends from F Street. One was well-worn and marked up—given to me by the family. The other I found while cleaning out a friend's apartment, filled with pressed flowers. Both made me reflect on what mattered to these men. And even more, they made me ask myself: What am I practicing? What marks would show it? As I look ahead, I hope to wear out many Bibles. I hope to fill many journals with prayers.

What are you hoping to wear out as you practice your relationship with Jesus?



Angel Tree Ministry 2025

HANNAH WEHMEYER, BENEVOLENCE LEADER

December is the big month for buying, wrapping, and delivering gifts! Thanks to the Prison Fellowship team, F Street will be blessing a good number of kids right here in the neighborhood with Christmas gifts on behalf of their incarcerated parent. As of the time I'm writing this article, we have almost 20 kids to get gifts for.

The F Street Angel Tree team will be collecting the gifts here at the church and then wrapping them along with some Gospel materials, a form to request a free Bible, and information on other Prison Fellowship ministries. Pray with us that this transactional event will bring relational connection and opportunity for the Gospel to transform hearts.

Part of our team will be delivering gifts to the homes of the recipients before Christmas. Pray also for safety, peace, and God's goodness to surround those doing this part of the work.

(The Angel Tree gift-giving event provides opportunities for incarcerated parents to give gifts to their children/children in their homes with the help of the local church. For more information, reach out to Hannah or look them up at prisonfellowship.org.)

New Sunday Morning Bible Study: Starting January 4th!

CATHY GROVE, CHURCH MEMEBR

Have you been wanting to explore the Old Testament, but it seems too overwhelming? Then consider joining our Sunday morning Bible study.

Discover the beautiful pattern of the book of Genesis that illuminates the richness of the New Testament.

Have fun with other seekers in an atmosphere where everyone shares their insights and questions without any demands or judgment.

We will be reading the book of Genesis, all 50 chapters – and, yes, this is doable! Our framework for this is simple: we gather at 9:00 a.m. in the Art Chapel and take turns reading out loud a selected chapter. And then, we talk about it. Questions, comments, observations, and insights are all on the table.

You do not need previous Bible knowledge because we are all learning. We'd love for you to consider joining us! If you have any other questions, please see Vince or Cathy Grove.

What: Bible study on the book of Genesis

When: Sunday mornings, 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., starting January 4th

Where: Art Chapel

Bring: A Bible - if you don't have one, we will provide one for you.

Art Chapel Christmas Party

On Saturday, December 13, the Art Chapel is having a Christmas Party from 10 am to 4 pm, and YOU ARE INVITED! This will be a chance to make one or two Christmas items in our beautiful space while enjoying snacks and fellowship. Please register at www.artchapelink.org if you want to attend one of these classes:

- At 1 pm, we will paint a manger scene on a wood round door hanger. You'll be guided step by step, and the design is simple enough to do with your child.
- At 3 pm, you'll have a chance to make a 3 ft. tall wooden Christmas tree. This hands-on project will require a power screwdriver; please bring one if you have one! We will have a couple on hand as well.

In between, we'll have spaces set up to make snowflakes, decorate ornaments, make cardboard gingerbread-look houses, or purchase Art Chapel wearables.

Any of these crafts would look great in your home or make meaningful gifts. Please plan to come, and invite your friends and family!

This is a free event, but your donations to support our programming are always welcome.

Advent Season 2025: “Unexpected”

BILL THORNTON, TEACHING PASTOR

As we look forward to Christmas (and the birth of Jesus, whom we celebrate), our F Street Neighborhood Church family will observe the season of Advent with our friends at the Northern Lighthouse. We are praying that this will be a time of preparation and anticipation for Christ to have renewed access into our hearts and lives as believers. May we find ourselves longing for those beautiful qualities that the coming of Jesus brings to us: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. The following is a schedule of messages and preachers during the Advent season:

November 30th, First Sunday of Advent...

Candle: Hope

Preacher: Pastor Bill Thornton

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:5-25

Preaching Theme: Zechariah: Unexpected Hope

December 7th, Second Sunday of Advent...

Candle: Peace

Preacher: Pastor Jon Keyzer

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:26-38

Preaching Theme: Mary: Unexpected Peace

December 14th, Third Sunday of Advent...

Candle: Joy

Preacher: Pastor RJ Coburn

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:39-56

Preaching Theme: Elizabeth: Unexpected Joy

December 21st, Fourth Sunday of Advent...

Candle: Love

Preacher: Pastor Sam Keyzer

Scripture Reading: Matthew 1:18-25

Preaching Theme: Joseph: Unexpected Love

December 24th, Christmas Eve...

Candle: Christ

Preacher: Pastor Bill Thornton

Scripture Reading: II Corinthians 9:15

Preaching Theme: Jesus: The Unspeakable Gift

Format: Combined service with the Northern Lighthouse.

Double the Offering - December

JEFF HEERSPINK, LEAD PASTOR

F Street is a generous church. I get to see it firsthand—people stepping up to give to others in need, from jackets and winter wear to the behind-the-scenes gifts no one else ever knows about. This year alone, we have given over \$11,000 to missions, above and beyond our regular offerings.

Your generosity in the offering matters. It pays the bills that allow us to do ministry here on the corner of 13th and F. Each year, we've been blessed to see growth in our local giving, and that increase helps us continue serving this neighborhood well. I personally believe that having, maintaining, and using a physical church building is important. People know they can come here to find hope and help. They see that we are committed to caring for them and for this community.

As we enter December, we are once again asking you to prayerfully consider your giving toward the operating budget of F Street Church. Each year, we invite everyone to consider “Doubling Your Offering” to help us finish the year with a balanced budget—and, if possible, even ahead—as we continue pursuing our vision of being a place of acceptance and direction.

Note: You can give online at fstreetchurch.org/donate to set up a one-time or recurring gift.

F Street Youth

SAGE PETERSON, YOUTH DIRECTOR



There are only three weeks left in the semester for F Street Youth! December 16th, we will be celebrating Christmas to close out the semester as our monthly event. F Street Youth will then resume on January 6th for the 2nd semester. We pray that during this season, your family may find time to connect and enjoy the season together! There are some awesome things planned for the next semester, and we're excited to have your student be a part of it!

Did God really just do that?

HANNAH WEHMEYER, PRAYER TEAM LEADER

Two weeks ago, on a Tuesday, I went into the ER with debilitating pain in my back. No known injury, and my CT scan had a list of things that didn't make sense to me. There was a kidney stone that the doctor was sure was NOT the cause of my pain. He said that my pain was from a musculoskeletal malfunction.

After a few days, the pain was not improving. I went to my primary care provider, and she offered some solutions to help me until I could see a specialist. The pain medication made it possible for me to function, but when it wore off, I was down for the count again. The pain was so bad, Rich (my husband) had to take some days off work to tend to the house and kids.

Pain still consistent, and still with unknown cause and very little relief, I came to church that Sunday and had a few of the prayer team members lay hands and pray for me. Within an hour, I was back to normal. Cleaning my floors and feeling so good, I set the Christmas tree up (I was so glad to feel better that I wanted to host a feast!).

My first inclination was to rationalize the sudden change in my physical state. It must have been the kidney stone, and it did whatever kidney stones do (I'm foreign to this concept, so bear with me). Or maybe I just happened to move the right way to set my back straight again. Why was it so far-fetched for me to think that God might have healed me in response to the prayer team's petition over me? The more time that goes by, the more I'm thinking that's precisely what He did.

It's still a mystery what caused the pain. It's been over a week now, and the miraculous relief that took place has been consistent.

Moral of this story? A few things:

- Come and be prayed for by the prayer team. We never know what God will do when we cry out to Him.
- Jesus has the power to heal, and sometimes He does just that. Sometimes, He doesn't, but His answer is always good.
- Modern medicine is one of God's best gifts to us!

Special Project: Front Doors

JEFF HEERSPINK, LEAD PASTOR

This year, our amazing church building turns 100 years old. Each month, we'll be sharing more about the history of this beautiful space on the corner of 13th and F. While doing some research, I discovered that the original front doors were solid wood. Mel Schroeder remembers when those doors were removed and replaced with glass, and how that change brightened the entrance. I also came across a note that on June 29, 1926, the congregation held their first service outside and then entered the building together through those front doors—excited for the new space God had provided.

All of this got me thinking about our current front doors. Because of their age, the glass and frames are no longer energy efficient, and the gap between the doors lets in drafts. I've also had ongoing concerns about safety. We are unable to install breakaway bars due to the thickness of the existing doors. A breakaway bar allows someone to exit while the door locks behind them. Without it, there have been several times when someone stepped out, unable to lock the doors, and the building remained unlocked. Likewise, our office door doesn't always close securely, which leads to it being left unlocked unintentionally.

For these reasons, we are inviting the church to help fund a Front Door Project. This is a special project—similar to last year's elevator replacement—and will only move forward once the funds are secured. The current estimate for the new doors and office door is just under \$19,000.

If you feel led to support this project, please mark your gift with "Front Doors" on your envelope or memo line, or give online under "Front Door Project."

Thank you for helping us care for this historic building and for the people who walk through its doors every week.

Missionary Corner

Prayer Requests

If you have any prayer requests, please fill out the back of the communication card or come up to the front after church service.

Up to Date

To keep information up to date, please fill out a communication card or email Hollie at hollie@fstreetchurch.org

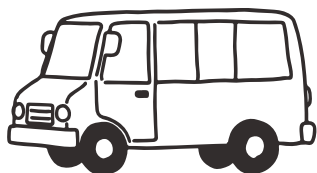
Email Updates

To be added to regular email updates about the church, email fstreetchurch@gmail.com

Transportation Driver Needed

TAD STYKER, ELDER

The Transportation Team is a vital part of our church. Would you like to join? Friendliness, dependability, steadiness and good vision are some of the requirements to be a Transportation Team member. If interested & want to know the qualifications, please call or text Tad Stryker at 402-802-0597.



11/16/25 - The Walhofs

It's holiday season in North America, and we know your inboxes are full of requests for year-end pledges and donations. There are so many people and places in need. We understand.

If your year-end giving is not fully committed, please consider donating to Kapsowar Mission Hospital. The hospital is facing another financial crisis, as payments from the government and other insurance companies have dropped to nearly zero. Our incoming funds are a fraction of what is needed to pay for medication and supplies to care for patients, let alone staff salaries.

To help close the gap, the OB/Gyn Department has committed to raising funds to reimburse the hospital \$200 USD for every c-section performed in November, December, and January. Two hundred dollars doesn't cover the entire cost of a C-section, but it will help reduce the money lost while we provide life-saving care.

If you live in the US or donate in US Dollars, consider donating through the Friends of Kapsowar website. If you live in Canada or donate in Canadian dollars, you can give through The Great Commission Foundation.

If you have recently made a donation through our Serge account, or to Friends of Kapsowar or the Great Commission Foundation, and would like your donation to be directed toward this effort, please reply to this email to let me know. Donations made on the Friends of Kapsowar site, which are marked as "C-Section," will automatically be used for this fund. Thank you!

Here are the sites:
friednsofkapsowar.org/c-section
thegc.org/ca/projects/serge-walholf

11/1/25 - The Howells

Dear friends,

A piece of life that we don't often consciously consider in ministry is our home and family life. Of course, we have students in our home, but often that is after the kids are in bed. We refer to our children in the classroom or with students, but our students do not often interact with our children. And yet, there is a surprising number of times that students reflect on our parenting or family life as something different from their own families or the parenting styles with which they are familiar.

Many families in this region of the world are broken; a parent(s) may be abusive, experience addictions, be divorced, be married but live in different countries due to work or finances. Although this is "normal" for families, it's not the way God intended marriage or families to be.

There is no such thing as "the perfect parents". We know that we have our weaknesses, but we seek to be faithful in loving our children well, raising them to love God and others and live responsibly and thoughtfully in community. And then we are humbled when our students notice the love and intentionality in our parenting.

Please pray:

- For other students with whom we interact. Pray that our (intentional and unintentional) interactions would reflect the love of God and the gift of Jesus for them.
- For our family as we all participate in ministry together. Pray for strength, wisdom, and joy for each of us.

Thank you for standing with us,
The Howells

December

2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
Block Party 10:30am - Sunday Service	Eze 44-45 3-8pm - Open Studio	Eze 46-48 6:30am - Prayer 7-8:30pm - Youth Group	Dan 1-2 6:30pm - Celebrate Recovery	Dan 3-4 5:30pm - FoodNet 7:11pm - Young Adults	Dan 5-6 10am - Women of the Word	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10:30am - Sunday Service	Dan 7-9 3-8pm - Open Studio	Dan 10-11 6:30am - Prayer 7-8:30pm - Youth Group	Dan 12, Hos 1-4 6:30pm - Celebrate Recovery	Hos 5-10 5:30pm - FoodNet 7:11pm - Young Adults	Hos 11-14; Joe 1-2 10am - Women of the Word	10am & 1PM - Art Chapel Christmas Party
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
10:30am - Sunday Service	Joe 3; Amo 1-4 3-8pm - Open Studio	Amo 5-8 6:30am - Prayer 7-8:30pm - Youth Group	Amo 9; Obadiah Jon 1-4 6:30pm - Celebrate Recovery	Mic 1-6 5:30pm - FoodNet 7:11pm - Young Adults	Mic 7; Nah 1-3; Hab 1 10am - Women of the Word	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
10:30am - Sunday Service	Hab 2-3; Zep 1-3 3-8pm - Open Studio	Hag 1-2; Zec 1-2 6:30am - Prayer	Zec 3-8 7pm - Christmas Eve Service	Zec 9-13 Christmas Day	Zec 14; Mal 1-4	
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
Block Party 10:30am - Sunday Service No Children's Ministry	3-8pm - Open Studio	6:30am - Prayer	6:30pm - Celebrate Recovery New Year's Eve	5:30pm - FoodNet New Year's Day	10am - Women of the Word	

Birthdays

1st - Shamsoun Dikori
2nd - Brandon Osterholt
6th - Neveah Mattie
8th - Amanda Myers
10th - Dave Hogan
12th - Lennon Proctor
14th - Sonya Turcò

16th - Omega Fristoe
18th - Alyssa Mueller
Barb Woodckman
19th - Guy David Black Elk
21st - Winona Harper
22nd - Caleb Heerspink
31st - Caitlin Mattison

Anniversaries

17th - Jeff & Beth Heerspink