



VOL. 12 ISSUE 1 • JANUARY 2026

# THE NEXT DOOR NEIGHBOR

## Calvin Seminary Students

JEFF HEERSPINK, LEAD PASTOR

This month, we are blessed to be joined by three guys who are studying to be pastors at Calvin Seminary in Grand Rapids, Michigan. I refer to them as the Boy Band, as their names are Josh, Eric, and Joey, but I have great respect for them as they prepare to serve God. Their goal is to learn ministry in a unique culture, and we hope to both serve them and equip them for ministry as they observe Acceptance and Direction Ministry here at F Street.

I want to ask not only that you engage them at church, but I would also love it if you were to invite them over for dinner or even for lunch. If you are interested in scheduling them to come over for dinner, please let me know, and I will get that on their schedule. You can text me to find out their free evenings at 402-805-2667.

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## F Street Community Groups

ANDY BUTLER, PASTORAL RESIDENT

For those of you who are unaware, we have several Community Groups here at F Street! We want each of our community groups to have both community/relational aspects as well as the value of study and growth through the hearing and learning of God's word. In their own ways, each of our Community Groups does that. With that, I thought it would be good to provide a list of our existing Community Groups, with information on how to be a part of one of them if you'd like. Here's that:

Young Adults - Led by Pastor Bill and Marcia Thornton in the "Grace Room" every Thursday at 7:11 pm. Talk to Pastor Bill if you are a young adult and would like to join the group!

Women of the Word - Led by Beth Heerspink (and others) every Friday morning at 10 am in the "Fireside Room."

There is a group led by Vince and Cathy Grove, currently studying the Old Testament in Genesis. They meet on Sunday mornings at 9 am in the Art Chapel, prior to church starting.

We have a monthly 8 am Men's Breakfast and Bible study lead by Drew Peters! The week of the month rotates, so be sure to look out for the announcement in church or ask Drew to be texted about the day!

I will be starting the "F Street Book Club." We will be starting on Sunday, February 1st, at 8:30 am, before church starts, in the Grace Room. The location is subject to change, but for now, that's it. It is a 7-week, guided book study on the book "Death to Deconstruction: Reclaiming Faith as an Act of Rebellion." It is a very well-written, smooth read with a study guide—nothing to be intimidated about. Reach out to me, Andy Butler, if you're interested!

Lastly, if you have an interest in being a part of any of our Community Groups, or even just visiting one for a week or two, please reach out to me here: [andy@fstreetchurch.org](mailto:andy@fstreetchurch.org) or by phone (308-991-2511). Or reach out to one of the group leaders! Additionally, if you have an interest in starting a Bible Study or Community Group yourself, please get in touch with me! As a church, we'd love to help you get the group started. I am praying weekly for new Community Groups and new leaders for them at F Street Neighborhood Church, because I believe they are an essential part of our growth and discipleship as followers of Jesus.



## Angel Tree Ministry 2025

HANNAH WEHMEYER, BENEVOLENCE LEADER

By the time you read this letter, the F Street angel tree team will have delivered gifts to 27 kids in the community who are without one of their parental figures, due to incarceration, for Christmas. Thank you to those who generously donated their time and gifts for each of these children. This has been a blessing to us to take part in, and we pray it blesses each family even more. Each child and their caregivers will have been invited to service at F Street, as well.

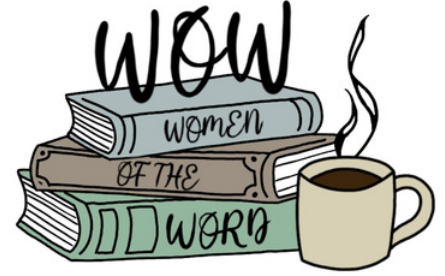
Some of the team were able to gather and wrap gifts on a December Saturday and had a blast celebrating the success God gave us with this program for the year!





## Women of the Word

BETH HEERSPINK, TLC COACH



Ladies of F Street Church, will you join us as we study the book of Ruth? We would love for you to join us on Friday mornings in the Fellowship Hall (basement of F Street Church), from 10:00-11:30. Our first meeting of the year will be January 9, where we'll discuss Lesson 1 of A Study of Ruth: God of the Ordinary. Please reach out to Beth Heerspink ([beth@fstreetchurch.org](mailto:beth@fstreetchurch.org)) if you would like to purchase a book (\$8) ahead of time. Here's a brief description of the book, from [truthforlife.org](http://truthforlife.org):

"The book of Ruth may be one of the loveliest short stories ever written, telling an unforgettable tale of purity, faithfulness, innocence, loyalty, duty, and love. Yet it is set in dark times: the final verse of the book of Judges, which precedes Ruth in the Bible, tells us that 'in those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.' As one commentator writes, the time was marked by 'violent invasions, apostate religion, unchecked lawlessness, and tribal civil war.'

Against this backdrop of strife and chaos, Ruth is a story of ordinary people in Bethlehem making the most of their bad situation—and finding God in the midst of it. Alistair Begg reminds us that no matter how dark or dramatic our days may seem, God still protects His people and accomplishes His purposes. Within life's humdrum and routine events, we discover His loving hand at work."

See you in January!

## F Street Youth

SAGE PETERSON, YOUTH DIRECTOR



The new year is here, and we have a bunch of awesome new opportunities for your students to get involved with F Street Youth. Our group will be starting the new semester on Tuesday, Jan 6 at 7p. Here are a few of the upcoming events:

- Saturday, Jan 17 - Dodgeball
  - We're joining with our friends at Hope Church to play a bunch of rounds of dodgeball. Join us and have a ton of fun! This event is free and available to all grades (6th-12th).
- Sunday, Feb 1 - The Walk signups are due
  - The Walk is a 9-week course that is available to all students. During this course, students will be reading through the book of Mark while also attending Sunday classes and meeting weekly with a mentor. This is a great opportunity for students to grow deeper in their faith while building strong relationships with other Christ-followers.
- Saturday, Feb 21 - Day of Love
  - Day of Love is a yearly event that we do here at F Street, where we partner with other youth groups to serve all over town, all day, all to glorify God! This day is my favorite of the year! It's always awesome to see our youth serve in amazing ways and make connections in our city. Students choose the team that they want to be on, then serve with that team all day, and then at the end of the day, compete with their team against the others to be crowned Day of Love Champion! This event is open to all students and does have a registration cost.

## New Class of **LINCOLN SCHOOL OF MINISTRY** begins January

BILL THORNTON, TEACHING PASTOR

### **FIRST CENTURY WISDOM FOR 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY CHURCH LEADERS**

#### **An Interdisciplinary Study Exploring Paul's Letters to Timothy & Titus**

- Are you interested in receiving college-level Bible training?
- This is a great time to begin (or continue) preparing for ministry!
- Join us on Monday nights from 7-9 pm.
- Part 1 (I Timothy) starts January 19<sup>th</sup> and goes through February 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Part 2 (Titus & II Timothy) starts March 9<sup>th</sup> and goes through April 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Gain practical ministry skills; learn principles of spiritual leadership; and develop qualities of Godly character.
- Please contact Pastor Bill for more information or to sign up.

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## **Worship Arts**

JEAN STRYKER, CREATIVE ARTS DIRECTOR

This month, we are beginning a new sermon series from the book of Matthew, "Building on the Rock: Learning to Live Wisely with Jesus." This title, drawn from Matthew 7, immediately brings to mind an image of a little house built on a rock, hunkering down against a battering storm. When you think about building a life of wisdom that's well-grounded and won't be shaken by the storms of life, what images come to mind?

Starting January 4, we'll have a "tree of life" artwork under construction on the stage. As you watch the tree take shape over the weeks, consider the ways trees are used throughout scripture to illustrate strength, prosperity, growth, shelter, etc. Ask the Lord to show you how he wants to shape your life to be steadfast and faithful. Consider what things you can do to become "like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do." Psalm 1:3

## 1926 - 2026

### JEFF HEERSPINK, LEAD PASTOR

Several cool and notable things happened in 1926. The first liquid-fueled rocket was launched. Marilyn Monroe was born. Harry Houdini died. Those are notable, but what matters most to us is that a small church, begun in 1873, had grown enough to build its fourth church building in just 50 years.

Our first building—now known as the Art Chapel—was built in 1873 on land given by the State of Nebraska to help establish churches around the new State Capital. The simple 36x20 structure cost \$600 to build, and recent renovations revealed reminders that early builders truly “built with what they had.”

By 1896, the church—then called St. Paul’s Evangelical Church—built a second church with a parsonage in the rear. The original building was moved and repurposed as a schoolhouse and later caretaker’s quarters. In 1905, further renovation and a brick veneer created what was considered the third church building.

In 1921, a fund was started for a new church at 13th and F. Once \$30,000 was secured, in 1925, construction began with the plan to spend no more than \$70,000. The cornerstone was laid on November 8, 1925. Services were first held in the basement on Easter of 1926, and on June 27 of that year, the first service was held in what we now know as F Street Neighborhood Church.

As Mel Schroder has said, “The Word of God has been preached on the corner of 13th and F for over 150 years.” We are blessed to be a small part of God’s ongoing story in this building located in this great neighborhood.



## Group Coaching **PARENTING CLASS**

**SUNDAYS IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY  
BEGINNING JANUARY 11, FROM 2:30–4:00PM**

Grow in confidence and connection. Develop and implement skills that will reduce frustration. Explore solutions and research-based strategies.

✓ \$25 suggested donation

✓ Light Snacks Provided

✓ Meet at TLC (1037 S. 13<sup>th</sup> Street)



**Questions? Call us at:**  
402-802-4955



**Register online at:**  
[www.transformedcoaching.org](http://www.transformedcoaching.org)



This group will be facilitated by Beth Heerspink, a certified Life Coach on staff at F Street Neighborhood Church, and parent of four kids. Together we will explore and implement the principles found in “Common Sense Parenting” by Bridgett Barnes.



## New Sermon Series Begins in January

BILL THORNTON, TEACHING PASTOR

BUILDING ON THE ROCK: Learning to Live Wisely with Jesus

A Preaching Series from the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7)

January 4	"The Beatitudes"	Matthew 5:1-12
January 11	"The Power of Influence"	Matthew 5:13-20
January 18	"Settle Matters Quickly"	Matthew 5:21-26
January 25	"Let Your 'Yes' be Yes" Part 1	Matthew 5:27-32
February 1	"Let Your 'Yes' be Yes" Part 2	Matthew 5:33-37
February 8	"Love Your Enemies"	Matthew 5:38-48
February 15	"What is Done in Secret"	Matt. 6:1-4, 16-18
February 22	"How You Should Pray"	Matthew 6:5-15
March 1	"Do Not Worry"	Matthew 6:19-34
March 8	"Reciprocal Relationships"	Matthew 7:1-12
March 15	"The Choices We Make"	Matthew 7:13-20
March 22	"Doing God's Will"	Matthew 7:21-29
March 29	Palm Sunday	Matthew 21:1-11
April 5	Easter Sunday	Matthew 28:1-10



### 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.

We need to add another driver to our team. Are you willing to drive the church van one to three times a month to allow other people to come to F Street Church? It could be for a Sunday service, a Wednesday night CR meeting, or (likely) both.

Qualifications for being a Transportation Team member:

- Must have a current Nebraska driver's license
- Reliability, friendliness, and the ability to work positively with others
- Report for duty unimpaired by drugs or alcohol
- Available to drive people to church (and home again afterward). Time slots would be Sunday (approximately 8:45 a.m.-1 p.m. availability the day you drive, although days with church dinners or block parties will go later) and Wednesday (approximately 5-9 p.m.)

**If interested, please call or text Tad Stryker at 402-802-0597.**

## 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](mailto:hollie@fstreetchurch.org)

### Email Updates

To be added to regular email updates about the church, email [fstreetchurch@gmail.com](mailto:fstreetchurch@gmail.com)

#### 12/1/25 – The Walhofs

This Advent season, I'm feeling a conspicuous absence of *waiting*. In theory, this should be one of our least hectic Christmas seasons yet. We aren't traveling anywhere. Kris' classes concluded with a joyous graduation a couple of weeks ago. Kim has a partner at work AND a short-term physician coming to help out this month. Dominic has a teacher to supervise his schoolwork. And yet, we somehow manage to continue to overfill our schedules, leaving little room for contemplation and anticipation, and celebration of this season. Conditions conspire – don't they always? – to distract us and dominate our attention.

The distractions aren't necessarily bad things. Community to celebrate. Important meetings to attend. Critical work to do. I know I'm not the only one to let these urgent appointments overshadow the importance of Emmanuel: God has come to dwell *with us*.

In the sometimes craziness of this Advent season, I hope you will join me in trying to find time, to *make* time, to turn toward the miracle of the incarnation: God, dwelling with us in the person of Jesus, humbling himself to bring us hope, life, and peace.

With Love from Kapsowar,  
Kristopher, Kim, and Dominic

#### 12/21/25 – The Howells

Dear friends,

It seems that not long ago, we wrote about the beginning of the academic year, in which we were grateful for natural spaces to *reflect* on and renew the *vision* and *mission* of the university and of the sure *call* that we feel to be here. Now we are on the other side of the semester, looking back with *gratitude* on many instances (easy, normal, and/or challenging) where we *saw God's hand* in the classroom, in executive meetings and decisions, in relationships with colleagues and students, in youth gatherings, in one-on-one or small group conversations.

Now the *last* exam has been given and graded. The *last* "end-of-semester" event is complete. December graduation is *over*, from which we sent a few more dear students in whom we have invested over their chapter at LCC, trusting that God goes before them to use them for his kingdom in their new chapter.

Now, as we celebrate Christ's birth at Christmas, we are also thankful for natural spaces and time set apart to rest and refresh, and have time just with our family. Please join us in praying:

- Thanking God for the completion of a rich and meaningful semester.
- For the growth and transformation observed in many of our students.
- For the work of the Holy Spirit on campus this semester.
- That this Christmas break would be one of rest and renewal for many.
- For the "Saltshaker" youth conference that will run over New Year's at LCC International University. Pray for all the preparation for that, including for Michelle as she prepares to lead one of the breakout sessions again.

Thank you for standing with us,  
The Howells

# January

2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
<b><u>Block Party</u></b> 10:30am - Sunday Service	<b><u>Mk 1</u></b>	<b><u>Mk 2</u></b> 6:30am - Prayer 7-8:30pm - Youth Group	<b><u>Mk 3</u></b> 6:30pm - Celebrate Recovery <b><u>New Year's Eve</u></b>	<b><u>Mk 4</u></b> 5:30pm - FoodNet <b><u>New Year's Day</u></b>	<b><u>Mk 5</u></b>	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10:30am - Sunday Service	<b><u>Mk 6</u></b> 3-8pm - Open Studio	<b><u>Mk 7</u></b> 6:30am - Prayer 7-8:30pm - Youth Group	<b><u>Mk 8</u></b> 6:30pm - Celebrate Recovery	<b><u>Mk 9</u></b> 5:30pm - FoodNet	<b><u>Mk 10</u></b> 10am - Women of the Word	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10:30am - Sunday Service	<b><u>Mk 11</u></b> 3-8pm - Open Studio	<b><u>Mk 12</u></b> 6:30am - Prayer 7-8:30pm - Youth Group	<b><u>Mk 13</u></b> 6:30pm - Celebrate Recovery	<b><u>Mk 14</u></b> 5:30pm - FoodNet	<b><u>Mk 15</u></b> 10am - Women of the Word	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10:30am - Sunday Service	<b><u>Mk 16</u></b> 3-8pm - Open Studio	<b><u>Acts 1</u></b> 6:30am - Prayer 7-8:30pm - Youth Group	<b><u>Acts 2</u></b> 6:30pm - Celebrate Recovery	<b><u>Acts 3</u></b> 5:30pm - FoodNet 7:11pm - Young Adults	<b><u>Acts 4</u></b> 10am - Women of the Word	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
<b><u>Block Party</u></b> 10:30am - Sunday Service	<b><u>Acts 5</u></b> 3-8pm - Open Studio	<b><u>Acts 6</u></b> 6:30am - Prayer 7-8:30pm - Youth Group	<b><u>Acts 7</u></b> 6:30pm - Celebrate Recovery	<b><u>Acts 8</u></b> 5:30pm - FoodNet	<b><u>Acts 9</u></b> 10am - Women of the Word	

## **Birthdays**

**1st** - Ken Curtis  
Susie Kinsey  
**4th** - Lisa Thompson  
**9th** - Maria Krause  
Julia Soule  
**11th** - Derek Hoffman

**18th** - Dean Hassel  
**20th** - Duane Dallmann  
**21st** - Michael Jahn  
**22nd** - Amy Whyte  
**26th** - Matt Rauterkaus  
**29th** - Brett Wood

## **Anniversaries**

**8th** - Brent & Susie Kinsey  
**10th** - Jim & Lisa Schultz  
**15th** - Johnny & Sarah Mann  
**31st** - Wayne & Linoma Wingate