FIRST & Weekly Update December 12, 2025

firstandcalvary.org. | blessings@firstandcalvary.org | firstandcalvary | firstandcalvary | 820 E. Cherry St. Springfield, MO 65806 | (417)862-5068

The Christmas Story of Isaiah | Dec. 14

Join us during the 11 AM service to experience The Christmas Story of Isaiah. An original song cycle by Faith Zimmer that beautifully blends scripture, music, and worship in celebration of the coming of Christ. This service will feature our choir, strings, and percussion.

Congregational Meeting This Sunday

A brief but important Special Meeting of the Congregation will be held immediately following the 11:00 a.m. worship service (at 12:00 p.m.) in the Sanctuary. The purpose of the meeting is to present and act upon a slate for the 2028 Class of Session Elders, Deacons, and the Nominations Committee.

Elder Nominees: Bary Brown, Suzy Milburn, Randy Van Landuyt, Rick Uffmann Deacon Nominees: Jim George, Marcia Mitchell, Ann Schaller, Tom Dancey Nominating Committee: Brenda Bauer, Elizabeth Strong

We encourage all members to attend.



This Sunday's Sermon:

The Ruler to be Born

Questions for Reflection & **Discussions:**

- 1. What are your earliest memories of hearing about Bethlehem? What images, feelings, details come to mind first when you think about Bethlehem today?
- details Micah's What in prophecy about Bethlehem stand out most to you? What questions does it raise? How do Micah's words of foretelling help you more fully comprehend Luke's words of fulfillment?

in Bethlehem Rev. Don Everts Micah 5:2 Luke 2:1-5 3. What manifestations of darkness in our fallen world bother you most? Spend time praying for the light of Jesus to shine in those areas.



Click the picture to watch the latest FACE time with Pastor Don.

Congregational & Session Meeting Notices

- Called Session Meeting: January 6, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.
- Annual Congregational Meeting: January 25, 2026, at 10:45 a.m.

Sunday Morning Adult Classes at 9:45 am

Click here for a list of Sunday & Weekday classes.





We invite you to join us this Christmas Eve as we celebrate the birth of Christ with two beautiful worship services.

4:00 PM – Interactive Nativity & Candlelight

A family-friendly service featuring interactive elements for children, beloved Christmas carols accompanied by a brass quartet, and Silent Night sung by candlelight.

7:00 PM – Choir, Communion & Candlelight

A traditional candlelight service with music led by our choir, Christmas carols with brass quartet, communion, and Silent Night by candlelight.

As part of our Christmas tradition of generosity, this year's Christmas Eve Offering will support <u>Care to Learn</u>, providing for the emergent needs of children in our community.

We hope you'll join us for this meaningful night of worship and celebration.



Click Here to order your Poinsettia for our Christmas Eve Services.

Giving Credit for 2025

Hey F&C, just a reminder that if you want to receive giving credit for 2025, you will need to get your gift in before December 31st. Gifts dropped in the mail and postmarked by the 31st will also work.



NATIVITY SPECTACULAR

SAT, DEC 20 • 5:00-8:30 PM

SANTA • PETTING ZOO • CRAFTS • FUN

AT FIRST & CALVARY PRESBYTERIAN • 820 E CHERRY STREET

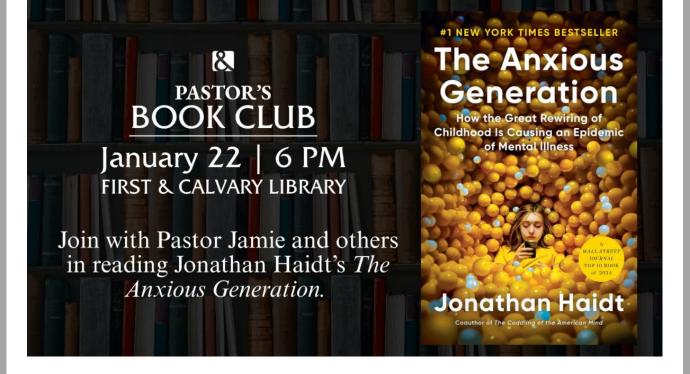
NATIVITYSPECTACULAR.COM

Last year, First & Calvary was grateful to host Christian Youth Theatre as they offered theatre lessons in our space. This year, the program has reorganized and is now RAFT — Redeeming Arts Family Theatre, and we are thankful to continue partnering with them as they present a LIVE Nativity here at First & Calvary.

Our church and the wider community are invited to this free, family-friendly event, featuring a living nativity that brings to life the greatest story ever told. In addition to the performance, the evening will include a petting zoo, cookies to decorate, photos with Santa, a barbershop quartet, crafts, an Ugly Christmas Sweater Fashion Show, and more.

Bring your friends, family, and neighbors for a night of festive fun, meaningful fellowship, and a joyful celebration of the story that started it all. This event is free and open to everyone.





In this vital work, Haidt maps out how the "rewiring" of childhood through smartphones and social media has impacted the mental well-being of young people, while offering actionable advice for families and communities to reclaim a healthier life.

LIFE OF THE CHURCH



<u>CLICK HERE</u> to read a personal story Steve Young shares from his life and faith journey.



Call for Track Leaders!

Do you have a creative skill, art form, or craft you'd love to share with kids? This July, our week-long Faith & the Arts Academy returns—and we're looking for track leaders from within our congregation!

Each child that registers chooses their top picks from focused "tracks" (painting, drumming, fable writing, etc.) where they learn from passionate leaders and create something they're proud of. While the projects themselves don't have to be overtly faith-based, we believe that creating things helps kids grow in their faith—learning that their creativity is a gift from God and something they can use to honor Him.

If you have an idea for a track you'd be excited to lead—visual art, music, writing, design, crafts, or something outside the box—we'd love to hear from you! No lesson plans needed yet; at this stage we're simply gathering ideas. All submissions will be reviewed by our team as we shape the final set of tracks for this summer.

Share your track idea using our short interest form by **clicking here.**

Thanks for helping us nurture imagination, creativity, and faith in the next generation!



Advent Devotionals!

Over 115 of us are reading Darkness, Then Light together, a 4-week devotional published by Christianity Today! Extra copies are available during office hours and at our entrances on Sunday morning while supplies last.

Join the Advent Group on Our Church App:

We will encourage each other as we read together by connecting through a feature in our church app. To access this, download the First & Calvary app on your smartphone and create an account with your email. Further instructions will be emailed to you ahead of the plan's beginning.

Preview the Advent Devotional here: **CLICK HERE**

Questions? Email Pastor Jamie at **j.swope@firstandcalvary.org**.



Contemporary Service Livestream

Can't make it in person? Join us online! Each Sunday at 9:45 a.m., we livestream our Contemporary Worship Service, allowing you to stay connected wherever you are. Click the link in the Weekly Update to watch the service live. Whether you're traveling, homebound, or just tuning in from afar, we're glad to worship with you!

Click here to watch the 9:45 AM Contemporary Service

Let's continue growing in faith—together, wherever we are.





Deadline Extended to December 14!

You and your family are invited to join First & Calvary in serving with Crosslines Community Outreach at their annual Christmas Distribution on Saturday, December 20, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Ozarks Fairgrounds Eplex. Children and families are welcome, and Crosslines is still in need of additional volunteers.

This is a high-energy, family-friendly event that makes a real impact. The morning begins with a brief training and orientation, after which volunteers walk alongside families as they select Christmas toys for their children and receive groceries for a holiday meal. Last year, more than 400 volunteers served thousands of neighbors—and many from First & Calvary were part of that meaningful work.

First & Calvary helped found Crosslines Food Pantry and the Holiday Distribution, and serving together is a powerful way to celebrate Advent by being Christ's hands and feet in our community.

Sign-ups have been extended through Sunday, December 14, as Crosslines continues to welcome more volunteers.

If you have questions or would like to help, please contact Philip Herzog at **philipeherzog@gmail.com**.

Sign Up to Volunteer



Friday 12/12

12:00 pm – Women's Table Talk / Room 114

Saturday 12/13

9:00 am – Griefshare / Little Bacon Room

Sunday 12/14

8:45 am – Service / Sanctuary

9:45 am – Sunday Morning Classes

9:45 am – Service / Multi-Purpose Room

11:00 am – Service / Sanctuary

12:00 pm - Called Congregational Meeting / Sanctuary

Tuesday 12/16

6:30 pm - Men's Bible Study / Room 015

Wednesday 12/17

5:00 pm – College Bible Study & Dinner / Youth Lounge

6:00 pm – Adult Pickleball / Gym

7:15 pm — Chancel Choir / Choir Room

Thursday 12/18

11:00 am – Prayer Meeting / Prayer Chapel

Friday 12/19

12:00 pm - Women's Table Talk / Room 114

Saturday 12/20

1:00 pm - The Living Nativity

To see the full church calendar, <u>visit our events page here</u> (the calendar is at the bottom).

The Weekly Update is sent out Friday mornings. To post events or messages, please complete this Communications Request form or contact Mary Charpentier at 417-862-5068 or at m.charpentier@firstandcalvary.org for assistance. Events submitted prior to the end of the day on Tuesday will be posted on the Friday of that week. Events submitted past that deadline will be

posted on the following Friday.

First & Calvary Presbyterian Church







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