



relentless
we never stop

from the pastor



Hey there First Church,

God has blessed us. In just five years, our church has grown 700%, however, we also live in a radically different cultural landscape. Watching the news, it's easy to feel like we, as Christians, are out-gunned and out-matched. The fastest growing religion in America is Atheism and unaffiliated/none. While it's true this is growing fast, it's still only 25% of Americans.

It reminds me of a scene in *The Patriot* with Mel Gibson. The American troops continually buckle and retreat in battle after battle in spite of their superior numbers and strategic position. Finally, recognizing they have the advantage, Mel Gibson's character grabs the American flag and runs to the front of the retreating line shouting, "HOLD THE LINE, MEN!! HOLD THE LINE!!" The troops turn around and charge into the British lines, breaking them, and take the land.

I feel like this is a great metaphor for the church. We are watching our lines buckle and our ranks run. We may feel like we are losing, but we have the advantage. It's time to hold the line and charge. We could sit here in this citadel of light that we have built in Wheatfield, but we are not called to sit. Friends, we are called to glory for Christ and His kingdom. "HOLD THE LINE, CHURCH! TAKE THE LAND!" Let's press our advantage. Let's charge and liberate. Let's go to Hebron because we are called to glory!

Within this booklet, we have provided information and hopefully inspiration for why we are going on this adventure together. I can't wait to look back with you twenty years from now and thank God for all that He has done! The patriot was fighting for freedom for his country. We're fighting for freedom for eternal souls. ... Failure is not an option!

For Christ and His Kingdom,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Hill".



The Outlasters Capital Campaign seems like it was ages ago, probably because God has done so much! For those of you who are new to First Church, Outlasters was a three-year capital campaign that helped raise just over 5.5 million dollars to fund our current facilities here in Wheatfield. Some of us had the opportunity to be a part of that capital campaign... many of us did not. This is your opportunity to be involved!

Jesus told us to go into all the world and preach the gospel (Mark 16:15). At First Church, we have done just that. Over the last four years, we have seen incredible life change through Jesus! Lives have been transformed, marriages have been restored and renewed, and people who were once far from God have a thriving relationship with Jesus as their Leader and Forgiver! Since 2015, we have witnessed over 400 professions of faith and nearly 150 baptisms. This is a direct result of God's grace and provision along with the shared financial sacrifice from the people of First Church.

From the outside looking in, First Church appears to be an "overnight success." This could not be further from the truth. From our modest beginning 126 years ago, First Church has witnessed God's faithfulness. Thousands of people have come to know and learn more about Jesus because of the sacrifice of 23 families over 100 years ago. More recently, in 2006, First Church purchased



the 35 acres our current campus resides on. We wanted to be obedient to Jesus' call to follow Him and be fishers of men (Matthew 4:19). We also realized it was time to modernize some of our methods. Through culturally relevant and biblically inspiring messages, warm and inviting life groups, vibrant youth and children's ministry combined with people continuing to invite other people, we have grown sevenfold over the last five years!

As God continues to bless us with ministry opportunities, we look towards Hebron to relentlessly pursue our Kingdom impact. Jesus told us as He ascended into Heaven that His Holy Spirit would empower us to tell people about Him in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8). Please pray for the Holy Spirit to empower us as we continue to obediently follow Him to Hebron and the ends of the earth!



the history



the ministry benefits



seven things to look forward to:

- A building of like-kind and quality to our Wheatfield location for half the price
- A multi-generational, weekend outreach-oriented church in a town that has few other options
- A youth program for the next generation that focuses on reaching kids right where they are with the good news of Jesus
- An incredible kids' space that will be the envy of child-oriented organizations in the region
- A Wheatfield campus that can continue at four services and not have to stretch volunteers or further crowd the lobby and parking lots
- The excitement of welcoming new people through our doors and into our church family
- Getting to see people far from God brought to new life in Christ



FIRST CHURCH
Generation After Generation

Alvin Hoffman

Over the past 65 years of being an owner of First Church, I have witnessed an abundance of change. While some of the changes we've made as a church have been difficult for me, I recognized the need. When the old way doesn't work, you have to be willing to try something new because the results are always worth it. I have absolutely loved seeing our community get more involved and our church bloom.

Years ago, a group of men and I felt God's calling to go to Ethiopia and share the Good News. Although it was extremely difficult for me to leave my wife, Eleanor, and our young children for six weeks, the experience taught me that when God urges you to go somewhere, you go.

Eleanor and I used to teach Sunday School. We now get to see the orneriest kids we once taught become extremely involved and leaders within the church community. I love getting to witness the generation I once taught take the reins and teach the next generation. It is one of my greatest joys as a parent to see my children grow up to love Jesus because of the legacy my parents started by attending First Church over 100 years ago. It is so good here, but I am excited for all that God has in store for us. The legacy I am a part of is just one of the many more to come. We can't stop here, and if God is nudging us to go to Hebron, then we need to go.



Linda Douglas

I was always under the impression that I wasn't good enough and that I didn't fit in with people who went to church in this community. I felt as if I was an outsider, and I couldn't have been more wrong. From the very beginning of my First Church journey, I was met with warm hearts and gentle, welcoming people. Although I knew not a soul on my first day at First Church, I will always remember the breathtaking energy and love I felt. I was absolutely blown away.

After watching the church get built and going through a bad time, I started attending First Church on March 4, 2018, and on March 9, 2018, I accepted Jesus into my life. It's been amazing to see Jesus help me through sin and addiction and to bring me where I am today. I finally understand the story where God leaves the 99 sheep to find the one that was lost. I was the lost sheep, and because of the sacrifice that was made to construct this building, God brought me home.

My favorite song is "Scars" by I Am They. The lyrics represent what God has done in my life and what He can do for others: "I can see now with open eyes / Darkest water and deepest pain / I wouldn't trade it for anything / 'Cause my brokenness brought me to You / And these wounds are a story You'll use / So I am thankful for the scars."

God found me and brought me here despite my living in the dark, and "In His hands, In His feet / I found my victory." I'm going to use what He has done in my life to show others what He can do in theirs because God can bring victory for everyone.



Derek Hammons

Paul is one of my favorite characters from the Bible. Before Jesus, he murdered Christians and was actively working against God, but through redemption from Jesus, Paul was completely transformed and made new despite the sinful life he had lived before. He is the perfect example of Pastor John's statement, "No one is perfect, everyone is welcome." Before I became a follower of Jesus, I was a devout atheist. I would consistently study the Bible in a way that would allow me to tear down Christians. I was on the same path of spiritual destruction as Paul, but like Paul, God redeemed me.

Because of my past, I came to First Church with a fear that I would be rejected or judged, but instead, I was met with so much joy. From the very beginning, I could see God working through the people at First Church to meet me where I was at. The authenticity demonstrated by the phrase, "No one is perfect, everyone is welcome," has come to mean so much to me every single day. I continually remind myself of the grace I've been given and how I need to fully give that grace to others.

I have a heart for reaching others with the true love of Jesus, and whether they are from this area or across the globe, I want them to experience God's grace. I know that God's grace covers every part of my past and because of the grace I was shown when I came to First Church, I have a desire to see lives changed and redeemed because of the forgiveness of Jesus. I was destined to go to Hell, but because someone at First Church showed me the grace of God, I now get to spend an eternity with Him. I cannot and will not stop working to further the Kingdom of Heaven.



Shane & Jill Crowley

My wife, Jill, was sought out and pursued for an entire year by a woman who attended First Church. Because of this woman's commitment to us as well as some medical troubles that came our way, we finally decided to try out First Church in the first months of 2017. That woman's pursuit of Jill has inspired us to pursue others just as we once were. Being at First Church has definitely changed my perspective because of the genuine love of the people, and now, we truly have become part of the family.

Although I never would have previously described myself as a "people person," rather more of a hermit, pursuing others is now a habit and part of our daily routines, especially with the men I work with. Although it has been challenging to reach those closest to us, I know that pursuing those we love and letting Jesus work in our lives will result in them receiving so much freedom and grace. My fears are small in light of eternity and the truth.

We became owners of First Church in the fall of 2017, and since then, Jill and I have enjoyed bringing our four children and setting the example of why we love to serve. Setting that example for them even at a young age is so important because we want to see our children become leaders and reach others for Jesus the same way we were once reached.

Within our couples' life group, we love to watch our children build relationships while Jill and I lead and serve with the other moms and dads. It has been so awesome to grow closer to people on Sundays and then see those relationships be brought out into the community and not just remain within the church walls. Because we are passionate about seeing the next generation be reached for Jesus, we will continue to pursue others just as we once were.



computer-modeled design of future building in hebron



the funding plan

- This Chart of Gifts shows how our church can reach a campaign goal of \$3,000,000.
- A three-year financial commitment (called “Three-Year Amount”) can be broken down into a weekly, monthly, or annual contribution.
- Each “Three-Year Amount” corresponds with the number of individual commitments needed from households at our church to reach the goal.
- It is the hope that every household will find a “Three-Year Amount” that fits their budget and resources, but also includes a “stretch” of faith and sacrifice!
- This Chart of Gifts shows that our Capital Campaign will succeed with equal sacrifice, not equal gifts.

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Matthew 6:19-21



GIFTS NEEDED TO MAKE HEBRON HAPPEN

# INDIVIDUAL HOUSEHOLDS	THREE YEAR AMOUNT	WEEKLY AMOUNT	MONTHLY AMOUNT	ANNUAL AMOUNT	COLLECTIVE THREE-YEAR
1	\$500,000	\$3,205	\$13,889	\$166,667	\$500,000
1	\$250,000	\$1,603	\$6,944	\$83,333	\$250,000
1	\$200,000	\$1,282	\$5,556	\$66,667	\$200,000
3	\$75,000	\$481	\$2,083	\$25,000	\$225,000
5	\$50,000	\$321	\$1,389	\$16,667	\$250,000
12	\$25,000	\$160	\$694	\$8,333	\$300,000
25	\$15,000	\$96	\$417	\$5,000	\$375,000
25	\$10,000	\$64	\$278	\$3,333	\$250,000
30	\$7,500	\$48	\$208	\$2,500	\$225,000
35	\$5,000	\$32	\$139	\$1,667	\$175,000
40	\$3,000	\$19	\$83	\$1,000	\$120,000
50	\$1,500	\$10	\$42	\$500	\$75,000
32	\$1,000	\$6	\$28	\$333	\$32,000
30	\$500	\$3	\$14	\$167	\$15,000
24	\$250	\$2	\$7	\$83	\$6,000
20	\$100	\$1	\$3	\$33	\$2,000
334					\$3,000,000

If you were to ask anyone who was financially involved with the last capital campaign, many of them would say our current ministry outreach has exceeded their expectations. That is because we serve a God who is able to accomplish more than we could ever ask or imagine (Ephesians 3:20).

This same God who has called us to go into all the world and preach the gospel, the One who is capable of doing more than we could ever ask or imagine, continues to tell us to work on bringing in the great harvest (Matthew 9:37).

As we move ahead with being obedient to Christ and His great commission as a church, please prayerfully consider how you might be able to contribute financially to our Relentless campaign. There is no gift too big or too small. We are not asking for equal giving, but equal sacrifice. The Chart of Gifts gives a rough templet of how we intend to achieve this God-sized goal. Remember, we are not asking for equal giving but equal sacrifice. Jesus told his disciples the poor widow gave more with her two coins than the rich people did with their large amounts (Mark 12:41-44).

Please take a moment and reread these four short paragraphs. Thank God for His faithfulness. Reflect on your obedience to Him and prayerfully consider what you are being asked to sacrifice. Jesus tells us to not store up treasures here on earth, but rather store our treasures in Heaven because where our treasure is, our heart will be also (Matthew 6:19-21).

—Rich Heemstra, General Chair of the Relentless Capital Campaign



the funding plan



relentless
we never stop

the next steps

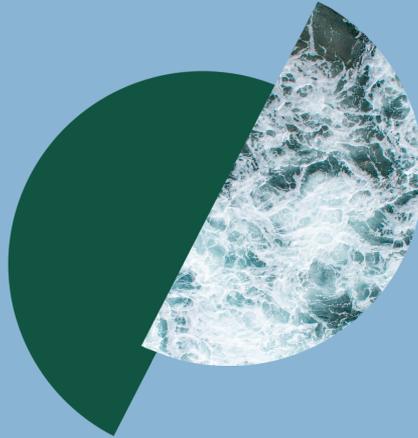
what do i do now?

- PRAY** That God would lead in your decision to make a commitment that represents personal sacrifice.
- DISCUSS** Your commitment with your spouse and/or other members of your family.
- COMMIT** Complete the Commitment Card and place in the envelope provided.
- RESPOND** **For those attending the Advance Challenge Meeting:** Return your sealed envelope personally to Rich Heemstra, Tim Belstra, Wilb Hamstra, Nick DeKryger, or to the specially marked box at the Relentless Information Table in the lobby by November 10.

For the congregation: Return your sealed envelope on Commitment Sunday, November 24, when you come to worship.







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