

The Word on the (F) Street

A Little History

Jeff Heerspink, Pastor

Where do I begin? With God of course, for the entire history of “F” Street Neighborhood Church is a testimony to God and his faithfulness. Our history also speaks to the power of God’s people when they are faithful. I say that, pointing not to me the one telling our story, but to the countless people who have helped with the start of “F” Street Church, and made possible its continuation. May you see the hand of God and the works of his people as you read what God has done.

For me, this story goes back to more than ten -plus years. I read an article in the Lincoln Journal Star about what they were calling the “Core of Lincoln.” This was an area I knew only as the place that many from the Northern Lighthouse (NL) lived, and where many inmates lived after getting out of prison. So, having a church there was an idea we often thought would be the best thing for the inmates who were released from prisons, needed a church that accepted them, yet was not filled with currently incarcerated people.

In 2008, as I stood at F Street Rec Center, I saw this beautiful church building across the street. Hearing of another church in Lincoln getting a building for \$1, I asked God to do the same, and let us start a church in the neighborhood. It appeared that nothing was happening, however, God was preparing us, day he would allow us neighborhood.

It appeared that nothing was happening, however, God was preparing us...for the day he would allow us to begin ministry in the neighborhood.

Around 2010 we began Reformed Church of es in the Lincoln area and Living Life), to see we worked together. lished some mutual partnering with the America (RCA) church- (Hope, Pella, Holland, what God would do if By 2013 we had estab- trust, and we were be- ginning pilot projects, like the block party trailer. God knew we would need this partnership for “F” Street Church to begin.

In 2012, God had brought a young couple to F Street who, unlike most, stayed and started to get connected. They felt a call to care for the prisoners, not avoid them. Brett and Natalie knew many at the NL, as Natalie had served with several of our church members at the People City Mission. Jonathan and Anna Keyzer had recently become more involved at NL, and helped in many ways including worship and preaching.

While at a church-planter gathering in Lincoln, in 2013, I was told by the associate Pastor of Grace (at that time, Ben Loos) that the church on the corner of 13th and F was interested in selling their church. My heart was excited as I recalled that prayer in 2008. Ben connected me with the pas- tor, and we walked through this great building, that we now call home, for the first time.

At this point, I often say that we courted, with the members of St Paul UCC, for some time. The pastor spoke about how much they should get for the building, and we responded with how we, literally, had no money, just a strong desire to see a church in the neighborhood that was made up of people from the neighborhood.



**Happy 5th
Anniversary to
“F” Street
Neighborhood Church
2014-2019**

Calendar for June 2019

1st: **Happy Birthday Sheena Lase, Kevin Rogers**
2nd: Sunday Service
4th: 6am Prayer; 7:30pm Freedom Through Christ
Happy Birthday Melvin Schroeder
5th: 6pm Youth Group; **Happy Birthday Rachael Mailand**
6th: 6:30pm FoodNet; **Happy Birthday Lynn Davis, Jolene Wilson**
9th: Sunday Service; **Happy Birthday Todd Schmeekle**
11th: 6am Prayer; 7:30pm Freedom Through Christ
13th: 6:30pm FoodNet; **Happy Birthday Robert Bender**
16th: Sunday Service
18th: 6am Prayer; 7:30pm Freedom Through Christ;
Happy Birthday David Drazic, Anna Leigh Nitzel
19th: 6pm Youth Group
20th: 6:30pm FoodNet
21st: **Happy Birthday Jean Stryker**
23rd: Sunday Service
25th: 6am Prayer; 7:30pm Freedom Through Christ
27th: 6:30pm FoodNet
30th: Sunday Service

Please keep us up to date on birthdays & anniversaries! If you aren't sure that we have your information, talk to Jane Mailand or simply fill out a Welcome Card and hand it to her. In addition, if your address, phone, or email has changed, let Jane know.

One day, while in prayer, I felt led to call a friend of the ministry who had blessed the NL in the past. I think the conversation went on for about three minutes, with me sharing about the opportunity, when he instructed me to make a specific offer. An offer not with our money, but with his, and an incredible act of faith. The first offer was rejected, and the donor instructed me to make a counteroffer. This offer was not rejected but I was told they would get back to me.

On November 3 of 2013, I was sitting in my living room watching a movie with my kids when the phone rang. It was Beryl from St. Paul UCC. I answered the phone, curious about what he wanted on a Sunday night. Unknown to me, the remaining congregation of St. Paul United Church of Christ had voted to sell the church to us. I know they had at least one other offer from a larger church here in Lincoln, but somehow God was allowing us to step into this great neighborhood, and worship in the amazing historic church building.

The church congregation wanted to worship here until Easter (April 20 of 2013). That was really good news, for we had no idea what we were doing, and needed time to put together some plan. Like the greyhound who spends his life chasing the rabbit, and one day catches it, now what do we do? We had dreamed, but how do you plan for this? We had to still do some negotiations, we had to figure out who was going staff-wise. But what people would be leaving the NL, what impact this would have on the NL? We had so much to do, we did not even have a name.

There were meetings, larger gatherings, where we talked about name, vision, time of service, etc. There were smaller meetings, with a core of ten people who were our original leadership. We came up with the name "F" Street Neighborhood Church (we wanted Community Church but we thought that would be too similar to the F Street Community Center. Turns out we like it better as *Neighborhood* as it represents the *hood* and it is a stronger biblical term for us).

Again, God knew what he was doing. He had brought us two men: Brett, a very gifted preacher, who lived in the neighborhood, and Jonathan, who made a great co-pastor at the NL. Only trouble was we still had no money. But God, (one of my favorite biblical statements), had established a relationship with the RCA and they offered to support us in this new work. They paid the salaries of Brett and Jonathan for the first year and in part the next two years. The Christian Reformed Church gave us 15,000 for start-up money.

Then came April 21, when we went to the title company and the dream became a reality. We owned the church. We had keys (an enormous key ring that I still use from time to time), and we had a lot of work to do. We began with five preview services, these were times we sought to figure out what we were doing in this great space.

On June 1st we had our first service. With about 120 people in attendance we worshiped, and Brett preached. Since then God has continued to be faithful. Other churches desired to rent, allowing us to have additional income, to help pay for the utilities. They are also partners in the gospel, sharing the good

news of Jesus with people in the neighborhood (after all, the harvest is still plentiful and the workers are still too few).

We adopted the Farmers Market from St. Paul UCC, and have seen it faithfully serve the neighborhood for the past five years. We maintained the relationship with the AA groups, and welcomed the FoodNet program.

Because we believe that the harvest is plentiful and the workers few, we have worked to create means to fulfill our biblical call of equipping the church – or, making disciples. With the help of the RCA and CRC, we began Immerse. This summer will be its fourth year. We started the Lincoln School of Ministry in partnership with Jacob's Well two years ago, to train up the local leaders for ministry.

A few years in, we were also gifted the use of the Redeemer building, at 8th and D, where we were able to move several of our ministries. More importantly, the use of this building allowed us to dream again, and we connected with ATLAS. Once again, God provided not only the funding, but Brody, to be the director of this incredible ministry, that is having a kingdom impact in our neighborhood.

hood.

This past year, we saw God provide the fulfillment of another dream, with the development of the Transformations Thrift Store. From the initial phone call (giving us the option to rent the current location), to the development of the Transformations team, we are excited to be opening this month. I am excited for the sustainable income for ATLAS that this ministry will provide, and also that it will meet a need in the neighborhood for quality, cheap clothing, along with a place to connect the people in the neighborhood.

There are more developments in ministries, more people who have been specific answers to prayer, and more projects that are in the works. I could go on sharing the stories of victories in Christ as well as the challenges. We have sent people off in ministry, and lost loved ones to death and addiction. Yet through it all God has provided for us.

It is my prayer that each of these opportunities, these steps of faith, and these experiences will lead to God being glorified and more lives transformed.

Thanks for being a part of the journey with us.



Farmer's Market Begins!

Tuesday, June 11, 4:30-7:00 p.m.

Good Food, Good Fun

Don't Miss It

June 16, Join us on Father's Day, for a special gift for all the men, as we celebrate the role of fathers, and honor all the men in our community.



"F" Street Neighborhood Church

Block Party, Sunday, June 30

Make a day of it -

Come at 9:30 a.m. for the Biscuits & Gravy,

*Celebrate with us in Worship, then
join in the fun at the **Block Party**.*

*Bring yourself, a friend, and enjoy
some free burgers, hotdogs, and a
great time.*



Thank You Jeff Heerspink, Pastor

I would like to make a specific thank-you to the family at "F" Street Neighborhood Church, who helped to put together, and who donated towards, the great gift given to Beth and myself on May 26th at church. We love serving here and the community of people that God has brought here so Thanks for letting us be a part of your lives.



Fight Jeff Heerspink, Pastor

I love the new series that we are about to begin, together, on June 9th. This series is a study of the book of 1st Peter. I have always liked 1st Peter, because of the practical call to live a life of authenticity for Jesus. It is a call for us to fight, not sit idle, and to endure hardship for the sake of the gospel. In fact, I have stated it before, but I think it is one of the greatest books on evangelism. It calls us to live a life of extreme integrity in all times, no matter the cost, no matter what others think, no matter how we are treated, with the hope that our lives would point to Jesus and cause others to ask us for the reason why. How great is that? Our lives of integrity point to Jesus, and give us the opportunity to share the hope of Christ!

Make no mistake, this is not easy. It is a daily fight to not get discouraged. It is an hourly fight to keep ourselves pure, and to live with integrity when others seem to get away with immorality. It is a fight to not accept the status quo of comfort and prosperity, for a life of generosity and grace.

Therefore, this is a series with the strong hope of being an encouragement to each of us to keep up the fight. Fight, not only for the reward in our lives, but for the call on us to live lives that point to Jesus, so that others too might hear the good news of Jesus.

Be Part of the Blessing With Summer Giving Tad Stryker, Elder

"F" Street Neighborhood Church shifts into high gear for summer ministry. Some of our favorite events, including Neighborhood Block Parties and the Farmers Market, are summer-long events. We enjoy the fun and fellowship. We can also enjoy the opportunity to be used by God to provide these areas of ministry.

For this article, let's focus on Block Parties. The most important thing about these parties is the opportunity to show the love of Christ to our neighbors through caring conversations, as we listen to their stories, and share our own. We also bless the neighborhood by providing a free meal to everyone who shows up. It's no surprise that each party costs hundreds of dollars. The church buys burgers, hot dogs, buns, and plenty of condiments that feed the hundreds of people who show up. You provide homemade side-dishes, (delicious!) and volunteer to do the many jobs. These include grilling, serving, setup, teardown and clean-up. Our church offerings help pay for expenses like these throughout the summer.

Giving to God's work is a blessing for everyone who takes part. Remember: God doesn't need your money. He owns the whole universe, but yet he calls us to give generously to his work. God doesn't need anything, but the people in the 'hood do! God is counting on us to meet those needs. Are you praying about how you can be involved?

Offerings Through April Tad Stryker, Elder

The board of elders has set a financial goal of \$6,000 per month in local giving.

Through the end of April, we are averaging \$4,095 per month, or about 68 percent of our goal. Let's work together to raise this monthly total!

January	\$4,270
February	\$3,513
March	\$5,489
April	\$3,107

Hospitality & Discipleship

Diana Rogers, Prayer Team and Greeter

"Hospitality" is defined as the friendly and generous reception of guests, visitors, or strangers. "Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling." *1 Peter 4:8-9*

A "disciple" is one who believes in and follows the teachings of Christ and leads others to do the same. "Go therefore and make disciples..." *Matthew 28:19*

I initially met Kayla Wilson, Hospitality & Discipleship Team Developer, at a small group Bible study and was inspired by her desire to learn, share, and pray over the Word. A few weeks later she invited me for coffee, so we could get to know each other

a little better. The first thing I observed about Kayla (after her infectious smile and bright disposition) is that she is really good at asking good questions. That's important to any conversation but especially important for engaging and encouraging discipleship.

If there's anything about Kayla that is clearly evident, it is her passion for working with people. She generates a sense of hospitality and accessibility by her very presence. I believe that who we are is as important as what we teach, and it is Kayla's character that motivates me to grow in faith.

So if you're looking for a way to help out and serve others, please consider joining Kayla's team. We'd love to have you!



Meet Your 2019 Immerse Interns

Beth Heerspink, Director, Immerse

We are excited to kick off another Immerse season. Throughout the months of June and July we will be sending out teams throughout the city of Lincoln, serving various organizations, churches, and families. If you know of a family who could use assistance with yard work, gutters, painting, light repairs, moving, etc., please talk to Beth about scheduling a service slot. We have an amazing group of Interns here to work with the teams for the summer. Please take the time to meet them and extend a warm "F" Street Church welcome.

Evan Bomgaars is from Maurice, Iowa, a small town about 45 minutes north of Sioux City. His father works for a local dairy and his mother owns a bakery/cupcake shop. He works full-time at Maurice Tire and Repair, where he does a lot of tire work and general automotive repairs, from oil changes to complete motor rebuilds. He enjoys racing pickups, working on cars and hanging out with friends.

Jordan Clason grew up in Johnston, IA (a suburb of Des Moines). She is the oldest in her family, and has a younger brother who is 17. She is currently a junior at The University of Northern Iowa where she studies Leisure, Youth, and Human Services (a long name for youth development and non-profit management). In her spare time, she enjoys hanging out with her friends, being outside, or a cup of coffee.

Morgan Kramer grew up in Central City, Nebraska, and is the oldest of three children. She and her husband Chandler live on their farm in Malcolm, with their St. Bernard named Tiny, cat named Smelly, and a slew of cows. She went to Northwestern College and studied Elementary Education. She currently teaches 1st grade at Malcolm public schools.

Sarah Siglin just finished her junior year at Dordt College, (soon to be University) in NW Iowa, and will finish with a degree in Social Work. She is currently a youth leader at Mauric Reformed Church, and enjoys reading, exploring, and shopping. Her parents, Dan and Sherry Siglin (who recently brought a truckload of items to donate to the thrift store!) live in Vinton, Iowa.

The following groups will be staying at the church, and serving throughout Lincoln, on these dates:

First Reformed Church, Edgerton, Minnesota—June 11-16
Hope Reformed Church, Kalamazoon, Michigan—June 25-30
Hope Community Church, Lincoln, Nebraska—July 9-14
Woodhaven Church, Byron Center, Michigan—July 16-21
Zion Reformed Church, Grandville, Michigan—July 23-28

Thanks for your ongoing support of the Immerse ministry. If you are interested in cooking a meal for a team, hosting a team in your home, sharing your testimony (story of God at work in your life) with a team, or if you know of a family who could use a service team, please talk to Beth (402-217-2352). The strength of this ministry is the engagement with the groups with our local ministry. Thanks for your engagement!



ATLAS of Lincoln: June Update

Brody M. Van Roekel, Director, Atlas: Lincoln

About a week ago, I was downtown, sitting down with a friend for coffee and conversation. We were chatting through some ideas and details for a networking event we held at the Atlas office. A gentleman came into the coffee shop and sat down near us. His name is Adam.

I had talked to him a couple times previously. He struggles with severe schizophrenia, but in our previous interactions, he had been pretty amenable. This day however was different. Adam was having a bad day. I tried to talk with him and de-escalate the situation, but he wasn't having it. After a bit, I simply told him I was going to finish my meeting, but he was beginning to speak more sharply, getting increasingly angry. An employee of the shop came and asked him to leave. It took him a while to go, as he was still angry, but Adam eventually left.

Afterwards, my friend and I talked about the minor confrontation. Friends like Adam remind me how much we need to rely on the Lord when we serve people who are in tough places. We can often believe we have all the answers for the people we meet. With folks like Adam though, we see how helpless we are in many situation. Even in that helplessness, we can still love and pray for our hurting people. Ultimately, we must be totally reliant on the Holy Spirit to move in the lives of our friends, and ourselves, every hour of every day. We just get to go along for the ride...and what an amazing ride it is!

As is often said, the harvest is plentiful and the workers are few. We are always in need of people who want to be the hands and feet of Christ by being prayer partners, mentors, and financial investors. Atlas can use volunteers with many sorts of giftings. If you have a desire to serve your community through Atlas: Lincoln (whether its multiple hours a week or a few hours a year), there are many opportunities to do so. Contact Brody at 712.441.5403 or brody@atlaslincoln.org and let's talk about ways we can touch lives for Christ together.



Full Front
12" wide x 5.6" tall
Colors used
White



Full Back
12" wide x 12.7" tall
Colors used
White

"F" Street Neighborhood Church tee shirts \$10 each

Community Groups

Thursday Group: 7:00-9:00 p.m. at Keith Morrissey's home.
Contact Keith Morrissey, 402-525-4897.

Sunday Group: 12:00-1:00 p.m. at "F" Street Church. Contact
Keith Morrissey, 402-525-4897.

Sunday Group: 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Art & Kayla Wilson's home.
Contact them, 402-318-4968.



Outdoor Worship Night

Featuring Guest Speaker,
Curtis Center Alumni—Rob Robinson

Friday, June 14

At the People's City Mission

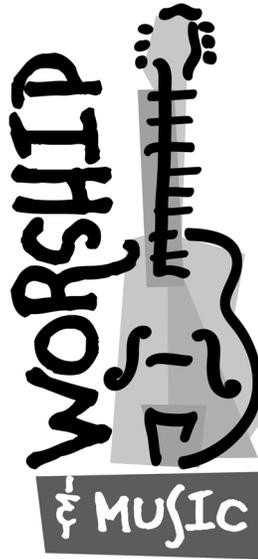
6:00 p.m.

Ice Cream and Children's Activities

7:00 p.m.

Outdoor Worship led by

"F" Street Neighborhood Church



Wisdom Literature

Monthly Bible Reading Plan

June	Psalms	June	Psalms	June	Psalms	June	Psalms	July	Psalms
3	<input type="checkbox"/> 68	10	<input type="checkbox"/> 73	17	<input type="checkbox"/> 78	24	<input type="checkbox"/> 83	1	<input type="checkbox"/> 88
4	<input type="checkbox"/> 69	11	<input type="checkbox"/> 74	18	<input type="checkbox"/> 79	25	<input type="checkbox"/> 84	2	<input type="checkbox"/> 89
5	<input type="checkbox"/> 70	12	<input type="checkbox"/> 75	19	<input type="checkbox"/> 80	26	<input type="checkbox"/> 85	3	<input type="checkbox"/> 90
6	<input type="checkbox"/> 71	13	<input type="checkbox"/> 76	20	<input type="checkbox"/> 81	27	<input type="checkbox"/> 86	4	<input type="checkbox"/> 91
7	<input type="checkbox"/> 72	14	<input type="checkbox"/> 77	21	<input type="checkbox"/> 82	28	<input type="checkbox"/> 87	5	<input type="checkbox"/> 92