

# The Word on the (F) Street

## Community Groups

Jeff Heerspink, Pastor

I was given a book, recently, about Christian community. There is no question that the author of the book is an extremely intelligent person, and knows a lot about Christian community and our current culture, or does he? Without getting into the details, there are some practical reasons, in my opinion, that make me question his actual experience, or ability, to live in community.

To be quite honest, I have met plenty of people who idealize community in their heads, but struggle to actually live in it. In fact, don't we all struggle with this? Making it even more difficult, is social media, that gives us the thought that we are in community, and have lots of "friends," only do we? Don't we all long for community and want to have the community where we are always laughing, always blessed, and always known?

However, that is generally Experience, and the Bible, community is tough. That is instructions have to do with brokenness of community.



not how community works. teach us that living in community most of the biblical how to deal with the brokenness of community.

The challenge then, is not but healthy community. Community that does have conflict, and works it out is healthy. Community, where people are willing to bear with one another, encourage one another, pray for one another, submit to one another, forgive one another, is what makes a community healthy. As all humanity is broken, there will be no perfect community, but we can strive a healthy one.

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I say this, because I want "F" Street Church to be a place where we live in healthy community; a church where we are known for our love for one another. The primary means for community to happen, and for you to find it, come from our Community Groups.

Currently, there are five Community Groups that are being offered, and I want to encourage each of you to consider being a part of one of these groups. Each of them has its own identity by the people that make it up, and by the study of the Bible that they are doing.

## Daylight Savings

Just a reminder that on Sunday, March 8, it is time to set your clock forward one hour. This means that you will lose one hour of sleep. It also means that it will be light later into the evening as we approach spring.



*A Place of Acceptance and Direction*  
*"F" Street Neighborhood Church*

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### Calendar for March 2020

- 1st: Sunday Service
- 3rd: 6am Prayer; 7:30pm Freedom Through Christ;  
**Happy Birthday Vicki Hatfield, Jeff Heerspink**
- 4th: 6pm Youth Group
- 5th: 6:30pm FoodNet
- 6th: **Happy Birthday Scott Hatfield**
- 8th: Sunday Service
- 9th: **Happy Birthday Timothy Mailand**
- 10th: 6am Prayer; 7:30pm Freedom Through Christ;  
**Happy Birthday Kaylei Bridges**
- 12th: 6:30pm FoodNet; **Happy Birthday Shirley Robinson**
- 15th: Sunday Service
- 17th: 6am Prayer; 7:30pm Freedom Through Christ
- 18th: 6pm Youth Group; **Happy Birthday Johnny Mann**
- 19th: 6:30pm FoodNet; **Happy Birthday Anthony Thompson**
- 22nd: Sunday Service
- 24th: 6am Prayer; 7:30pm Freedom Through Christ  
**Happy Birthday Jack Dicter**
- 26th: 6:30pm FoodNet
- 27th: **Happy Birthday Elise Richard**
- 28th: **Happy Birthday Jonathan Delay**
- 29th: Sunday Service
- 31st: 6am Prayer; 7:30pm Freedom Through Christ;  
**Happy Birthday Andrea Mailand; Keith Morrissey**

*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.*



## Lincoln School of Ministry:

### Third Trimester Jeff Heerspink, Pastor

As spring approaches, so does the third trimester of the Lincoln School of Ministry. This new session starts on Thursday, March 19, at the Redeemer Building. If you have ever considered being a part of the Lincoln School of Ministry, then this is a great time to check it out, as the third trimester is one of my favorites.

This one is titled "Leadership," and covers some of the key relationships of the leader, art in ministry, poverty and its affects, how to study the Bible, church planting. We also learn lots about ourselves. This may be why I like it the most - me being a little ADHD. All the unique topics, and different teachers makes it great.

You are always welcomed to take just one trimester, and start at any time. Cost is \$100 per trimester, and applications are in the back of church.

## Why does "F" Street Neighborhood Church Help Other Ministries if We're so Poor? Tad Stryker, Elder



You may have noticed that Pastor Jeff occasionally reminds us "F" Street Church's monthly financial report has never been real impressive. You may also have noticed that we sometimes take offerings for other ministries, ranging from the Hispanic church, which meets in the recreation center across the street, to missionaries who serve overseas.

At first glance, that doesn't seem to make sense. If we're not flush with cash, why don't we keep all the offerings right here at "F" Street Church? Well, it's important to acknowledge that God works through many different people and ministries, not just ours.

We believe it's scriptural to be generous to others. First off, did you know that 10 percent of all local offerings year-round go to our benevolence fund, to help people in need, here in our neighborhood? And beyond that, here's more about why we take special offerings.

The Apostle Paul teaches about generosity in 2 Corinthians 8:1-5, where he highlights the generosity of the churches in Macedonia, which, even though they were quite poor themselves, eagerly donated to a special offering. This passage teaches two things:

1. That it's important to give ourselves to God daily, despite

our circumstances, and

2. That God calls us to learn to give out of poverty.

Ultimately, God measures the generosity of our hearts, not necessarily the amount of money we give. And, frankly, the headline for this story is misleading ("F" Street Church is not poor, compared to a lot of churches around the world), but I wanted to get your attention.

We haven't taken a special offering for a while, but that's about to change. We plan to take a special offering for Atlas on March 1.

### You Can Give Electronically!

When it comes to financial giving, we're trying to make it more convenient for you. Please investigate two ways you can give electronically to the ministry of "F" Street Neighborhood Church.

You can give using our website ([www.fstreetchurch.org](http://www.fstreetchurch.org)): Choose the "Donate" link, and use the interface. You can give cash, a gift card, a vehicle, or various large or long-term assets including stock, mutual funds, business assets or real estate.

Use the free Generosity by Lifeway app: Download it to your smartphone and you'll be set up to give no matter where you are.

If you have trouble remembering to give, you can designate that your gift be made, weekly, monthly, quarterly or annually. Once you set it up, it will happen automatically. \

Do you have questions about electronic giving? Ask CeCe Robinson, or Tad Stryker.

## A Common Rule Lifestyle Savannah Clapper

As Christians we have a rhythm in our lives. We are abiding in our Lord, and we are responding. It is like a pendulum swinging back and forth: we abide, and we respond. This lent season, as we lean into Jesus' story to the cross, to see our need, our own brokenness, we are going to give you some tools for you to lean into abiding, to lean into responding.

Specifically, we are going through "The Common Rule, Habits of Purpose for an Age of Distraction," by Justin Whitmel Earley. A Common Rule is a way of life. It gives you a pattern, a goal, it helps give order to your life.

Every Sunday in Lent, we will go over one chapter about a habit, a tool. Then that week, we are encouraging you to practice, specifically, that weeks' "habit." You can either do each week separately, so you can grow in ways for you to respond to the Holy Spirit, or slowly add each habit, so at the end you are doing all of them together as a Common Rule.

Each habit is placed with intention. It will either be with the purpose of embracing God, or helping you resist something. It will also help you grow in capacity to love God, and love your neighbor. Some of these habits are daily habits, and some are weekly habits.

### How to Start a Common Rule lifestyle:

### First step: Wake up call.

This is it. This is your wake up call, and we are providing a space for you to do something about it. Lean in and step up. Commit to something that can be deeply formative for your life, because of what the Holy Spirit is about to do. Come expectant of change, come expecting to put in effort. You need a change? You want rest? Lean in and take part in this journey with us.

### Second step: Find friends

That is what we, FSNC, are here for. Every week we will gather and learn a new habit. Every week, during coffee and bagels, we encourage you to tell one another how it is going. Every week, attend a Community Group, and invite them into your journey. Every week, lean into this community. You aren't doing this alone, but in order to gain community you have to be willing to be vulnerable and tell others how it is going.

### Third Step: Set a time frame

We are starting this week. With our end date being Easter week. It's pretty simple. 8 weeks. Are you in?

### Fourth step: Be ready to fail.

I think many of our journeys know what failure can look like. Failure is inevitable. We come knowing that we will fail, and that there is grace. But get back up and try again. It's okay, just please try again.

You can buy the book for \$10 in the back after service, so you can not only learn each Sunday, but so that you can read more into what we mean. Maybe use it as a reminder. Maybe it will help you prepare for the coming weeks. Our hope is that you gain some direct examples and ways for you to abide with God, and to respond to God.

## Health Ministry Corner Kat Weise

Hey y'all! I am super excited to be joining the Benevolence Team. My husband, Scott, and I had been praying about how we could serve in a new capacity and give more intimately. This opportunity felt like an answer to that prayer.

For the past two years, I have served in the Children's Ministry, which had a huge impact on my walk with Christ. For the first time I was responsible for sharing, and knowing, the message of God with our most impressionable members of the body. It made me more accountable for my faith and additionally, I felt like I was learning, with wondrous eyes, just like our young people.

As work has been more demanding, it didn't make sense to continue serving in the Journey group. I am so grateful for the relationships I built with our youth, and I fully intend on continue to invest in those. With the Benevolence Team, I have a little more flexibility. I am able to help serve our church, and community, with some of its most basic and urgent needs, as well as support our very hardworking Parish Nurse.

This month, I will be in the church on Fridays, from 8:00 - 10 a.m., to answer calls, record messages, and relay information. Don't hesitate to reach out during this time!



## Community Groups

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

**Monday Night Men's Group:** 7:00 p.m. at "F" Street Church Fireside Room. Contact Tad Stryker, 402.802.0957.

**Wednesday Afternoon Group:** 2:00 p.m. at the VA Victory Park Apartments, 445 Honor Dr., Lincoln, NE. Contact Pastor Jeff Heerspink, 402.805.2667.

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

**Friday Morning Women's Group:** 9:15 a.m. at "F" Street Church Fireside Room. Contact Beth Heerspink, 402.217.2352, or Jean Stryker, 402.784.1599.

