

The Word on the (F) Street

Special Easter Edition

How to be the Church

Jeff Heerspink, Pastor

This time is hard, odd, unique, and even enjoyable. There are many terms that all of us can use to describe the moments that we find ourselves in. What is also unique is the way in which this is, and will continue to, shape the church. Sometimes I have wrestled with the words of Francis Chan, who wrote, that if someone grew up on a deserted island, with a Bible, they would never come up with, or imagine the church to look like it does (my paraphrase of his thought). As we go through this time, one thing is sure is that we are learning to do church in a different way.

“...there is no question that things will look different, and some things will be even more challenging.”

But I do believe that we side of this, whether months before we are But then what? Will we Will some of you con- from your computer while on your couch of in your bed?

will emerge on the other that be a month, or two able to gather again. go back to what is was? tinue to watch church

In the moment, we will continue to hold daily prayer services on Zoom, strive to reach out to everyone via calls, and notes, and host our weekend services online. We will also continue to encourage each of you to be making the most of this time, to grow spiritually yourselves.

When we do emerge on the other side of this, there is no question that things will look different, and some things will be even more challenging. I hope that you will find “F” Street Neighborhood Church, at this time as well as in the future, to be a vital part of your spiritual growth. I hope that we will, together, look at how we remain - and even sharpen our focus as a church, to serve our neighborhood, our city, the country, and the world with the gospel of Jesus.

If you have ideas about what we can do in the moment, as well as moving forward, to serve you and our neighborhood please let me know.



Easter Jeff Heerspink, Pastor

I was told that, the other night, a newscaster made the comment that for the first time in American history Easter will be canceled. Easter is not canceled, nor is our church. We will be hosting our service live on our church Youtube channel, with some great elements in the service to help you, and all those who watch be a part of this celebration of the resurrection.

Find our service online: Go to [Youtbe.com](https://www.youtube.com) and search for F Street Neighborhood Church.



*A Place of Acceptance and Direction
“F” Street Neighborhood Church*

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Lincoln, NE 68508*

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NOTE: Because of cautions regarding COVID-19 virus, all scheduled church activities are subject to change. Please contact your group leaders, or the church office, with questions.

Calendar for April 2020

2nd: 6:30pm FoodNet

5th: Sunday Service Online

Happy Birthday Rose Marie Bridger-King

7th: 6am Prayer

9th: 6:30pm FoodNet; **Happy Birthday Xander Mailand**

12th: Sunday Service Online

14th: 6am Prayer

16th: 6:30pm FoodNet

19th: Sunday Service Online

20th: **Happy Birthday Chad Triplett**

21st: 6am Prayer

23rd: 6:30pm FoodNet

26th: Sunday Service Online

28th: 6am Prayer

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.

Mighty Warriors Jeff Heerspink, Pastor

At this time, we are beginning a new series, *Becoming Mighty Warriors*, (started April 5) where we are looking at what it means, and how we can become the mighty warriors God has called us to be. Let me be really clear, some struggle with the imagery of battle, war, or fighting, and I understand. But I do believe that God calls us to be his mighty warriors, who battle not only for our souls, and salvation, but also for the hearts of others. Paul makes it clear that we are to put on the full armor of God because we are fighting a battle. Paul also makes it clear that we are fighting a spiritual battle, not against flesh and blood, but against the spiritual forces.

We fight not against people, but we fight for people. We fight not to create war, but to bring peace. We fight not with conventional weapons of war but with love, forgiveness, integrity, hope, humility, and the gospel.

However, we do not possess these and other qualities without some help, training and intentionality. That is why we will be looking at some of the steps in that process to help each of us mature in our relationship with God, and allow him to transform us, encourage us, train us and send us.

I believe now, more than ever, is the time for the church (you and I who make up the church) to be the mighty warriors who serve, care, submit, speak up for, and of course listen to others.

Streams in the Dessert

Meg Arbogast, Resident Director of Youth Ministries

The best holiday is coming quickly! No question, Easter is the best. Don't even try to convince me otherwise. It won't work.

Under the current circumstances, Easter may look very different this year. I'm not going to lie, my heart is getting heavy with all the doom and gloom going around. Reminds me of how Jesus' friends may have felt before he rose again.

Before this virus came along, I had all kinds of exciting plans: plans to save money for a future adoption, plans to make new friends, plans to serve a couple weeks in Kenya, plans to possibly even be engaged, etc. Then all hell broke loose and I couldn't help but be bitter and heartbroken that I didn't get my way. After all, I know how to make some fabulous arrangements.

In the midst of this virus crisis, my thoughts go to you who also made plans or had hopes for some great things or experiences that are now being put on pause or canceled.

I believe that God loves when we dream and make goals. Though within my planning, I forgot one key ingredient: the mindset of saying "if it's God's will, I will _____." See, I'm very good at dreaming FOR God instead of WITH God. But I bet you anything, Christ would've loved to be in on my imagination.

Jesus, before making the ultimate sacrifice, asked if there was any other way, but was sure to also say "not my will but yours though."

Corona virus, was not a part of any of our plans (except maybe Satan's), but God allowed it, and God does NOT make mistakes.

If God was able to turn the brutal crucifixion of a perfect "man" into the most beautiful story ever, you better believe He can make a time as this into a drop-dead, gorgeous blessing. We have nothing to be anxious about.

No matter how we end up celebrating our salvation, whether in our homes, on the street, or in church, I pray all of you will experience the joy that surpasses all understanding.

Isaiah 43:19, "See I am doing a new thing. Do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."



ATLAS: Lincoln Brody Van Roekel, Director

Good Day to You, Dear Friend of Atlas,

I hope this note finds you well, in spite of the circumstances that surround us today. In the past, I have enjoyed sharing stories of our work with Atlas. Stories of mentors and mentees working together, stories of difficult realities, stories of victory and growth in the midst of hard times.

Something that ties all of us together, every single one of us, is "story." Yet, our stories are often very different. Some folks grow up in safe and stable homes. Other folks slept on the street last night. Some people overcome the struggles of their addictions and others succumb to them.

Perhaps, one of the silver linings, in the midst of these difficult times, lies in story. Each of our stories has been intimately tied together by this virus. All of us have experienced the fear of the unknown. All of us have experienced loss in some way or another, whether it's a job or a loved one or our sense of security. Schedules have been upset, activities cancelled, the opportunity to make memories often lost.

We are intimately tied in the midst of loss. It is reminiscent of the liturgical season in which we find ourselves. In Lent, loss brings us together. But that's not the end either. We look forward to Easter Sunday during this time of loss and separation.

We find joy in sorrow. What are you joyful for today? What are you grateful for today? What's your story in this world? I am grateful for you, dear friend of Atlas. I am grateful for you, and I am grateful for your story.. Grace and peace,



Transformations Thrift Store

Cece Robinson and Andrea Mailand

Luke 1:74 says, "We have been rescued from our enemies so we can serve God without fear,..."

During this time of COVID-19, that may sound reckless. I assure you, at Transformations, we are consistently asking for wisdom

and discernment. So what is our purpose during this time?

- We are the touchstone for people in the neighborhood needing human contact and stability in their routine
- We are still providing a place for people needing support to maintain sobriety
- We are handing out non-perishable food items, books, colors, etc., for free
- We are accepting donations, as you do spring cleaning like has never been seen before
- We are seeking resources for people not knowing where to seek services ".....so we can serve God without fear..."

I invite you to join us...safely. Here is how you can help us:

- Keep your amazing donations of goods and spring and summer clothes coming in
- Consider purchasing a voucher or gift certificate for a family in need (can be done over the phone)
- Consider making a tax deductible donation of any amount to us to help us cover our rent and utilities (charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/transformations).
- Pray, Pray, Pray

Thank you so much for all you've done and continue to do.

Health Ministry Corner Barb Douglas, PHM

Hello and Happy Easter, Resurrection Sunday to Everyone,

This is the season of new growth and new beginnings. I truly hope you are all able to get out and enjoy this beautiful weather we are having. If March goes out like a lion, because it came in like a lamb, bless us all to enjoy that too! Soon the flowers and birds will be back in full bloom, and singing beautifully. Please remember to thank our Lord Jesus for his sacrifice on the cross, that we might have true freedom through him. We are reminded, in John 6:47, "Truly I say unto you, those that believe in me have everlasting life." In John 11:25-26, "Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection and the life; he that believes in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. And whosoever lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

Christ's promises are as good today as they were 2,000 years ago. And if you can believe that you, too, will have eternal life, as in 1 John 2:25, "...and this is the promise that he promised us, even eternal life." God the Father has given us all good things. If you don't feel that is true, perhaps looking into your own life will give you some answers as to why you feel that way. Nahum 1:7 says, "The Lord is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knows those who trust in him." Psalm 18:2, "The Lord is my rock and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength in whom I will trust; my shield and the strength of my salvation, and my high tower." Do you trust God this way? Do you turn to Christ in prayer when trouble comes? If these practices are not part of your daily life, then perhaps it isn't God you cannot trust, but yourself. Only the very foolish will put their trust in themselves.

Start new habits today, put prayer and conversation with the Lord Jesus as a daily habit. Begin to read the written word of

God, the Holy Bible, daily. The promises of God, through Christ, will become more evident with every passing day. This is not my promise, this is the promise of Jesus himself, "Psalm 31:23 " O love the Lord, all ye saints: for the Lord preserves the faithful, and plentifully rewards those who do His Will."

Begin new growth in Christ today, allow his beautiful spring-time to make you bloom and become the person he has created you to be. God's blessings to you all, and may His truth fill your lives.

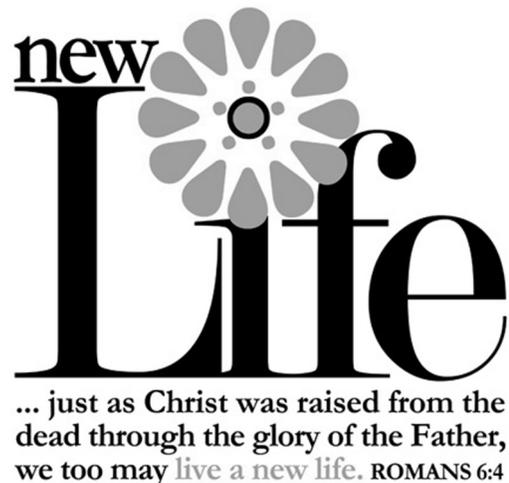
Your Parish Health Minister, Barbara J. Douglas

Regular Email Updates

If you would like to, but are not getting regular updates about things at "F" Street Neighborhood Church, please send a request to be added to the email list at fstreetchurch@gmail.com

Prayer Requests

If you have prayer requests, please send them to our office email at fsncoffice@gmail.com



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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.

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