

# The Word on the (F) Street

## Better Together

Jeff Heerspink, Pastor

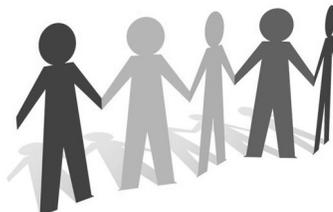
*Better Together* is the theme for this period of time, as we merge, with Jacob's Well, to be one church. Taken from the word of God, "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work." (Ecclesiastes 4:9). Although this passage was written for two individuals, we believe that this is true for us, as our two church communities combine into one service. That we will be *Better Together* able to better serve each other (building up the body), as well as better serve our neighborhood that God has called us to. Therefore, this idea of *Better Together* is something that we hope to promote, encourage, and experience at "F" Street Neighborhood Church.

To do that, we are opening in June, with a message series titled *Better Together*, focused primarily on Acts 2:42-47. In the near future, we hope to create some opportunities and experiences, to display, and encourage the principle of *Better Together*.

What a fascinating time this is, for us to be promoting *Better Together*, than when we are separated physically in so many ways. One thought that has occurred to me is how the early church was called to go to Jerusalem and await the Holy Spirit's arrival. In Acts 1:8 Jesus states, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." A verse that we have used many times, as we believe that we are called to this neighborhood, Lincoln, the United States and around the world. Yet, the disciples seemed to find that they were *Better Together*, and sort of stayed in Jerusalem, until persecution drove them to all the places including the ends of the earth.

As much as we long for the time when we will all gather together and worship; as much as we want to reflect the early church with the summarization we read in Acts 2:44 "All the believers were together and had everything in common;" may we also realize that God is at work in this time while we are working to join together. Many are meeting neighbors in new ways, as they stay home, and walk the neighborhoods. Many are also able to spend more time with family and loved ones during this time, maybe enjoying family game nights, and sitting for a meal together. Some are making the most of a slower pace of life to read the Bible more. Many can partake in prayer in fresh ways or to serve people in ways time did not allow before.

I guess to sum it up, we believe that our two churches merging is obedience to God, and that we will be *Better Together*, yet we have to make the most of the opportunities that we are in to bring glory to God in every challenge.



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

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# Better TOGETHER

### Calendar for June 2020

- 1st: **Happy Birthday Travis Skinner**
- 2nd: 6:30am Prayer
- 3rd: **Happy Birthday Joey Sikyta**
- 4th: 6:30pm FoodNet; **Happy Birthday Mel Schroeder**
- 5th: **Happy Birthday Rachael Mailand**
- 7th: Sunday Service Online
- 9th: 6:30am Prayer; **Happy Birthday Todd Schmeekle**
- 11th: 6:30pm FoodNet
- 13th: **Happy Birthday Rob Bender**
- 14th: Sunday Service Online
- 16th: 6:30am Prayer
- 18th: 6:30pm FoodNet; **Happy Birthday Beverly Bowman, David Drazic, Anna Nitzel**
- 21st: Sunday Service Online; **Happy Birthday Jean Stryker**
- 23rd: 6:30am Prayer
- 25th: 6:30pm FoodNet
- 28th: Sunday Service Online
- 30th: 6:30am 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.



## Reopening Sunday, June 7

We are excited, as we have decided to reopen the church on June 7<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to the many who have helped to clean, and we are grateful to God that the Corona virus seems to be on the downward trend. We are welcoming all who wish to, and feel in good health, to join us Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m.

What to expect: Ushers will be present, welcoming you through the front doors of the church, helping you to find a seat. Masks are encouraged, but not required. There will be no Children's Ministry or Nursery, and the coffee and snack will be served in the church parking lot, just before the service. Access to the basement, balcony, or upstairs, is restricted, other than the restrooms.

Special parts: There will also be some special parts in this service, as we give thanks to Meg Arbogast for her work with the Youth, and install Bill Thornton as both pastor, and elder at "F" Street Neighborhood Church.

3 Venues: We will still be broadcasting online. And for those who like the weather, or are not quite ready to go back inside, there is the outdoor worship space. So, you have three ways to take in the service.

## Greetings **Bill Thornton, Teaching Pastor**

Marcia and I are very excited about the new season of ministry that is beginning for us, and for all the others who have been a part of our Sunday night gatherings at "F" Street Church. In this article, we want to take a few moments to provide a brief introduction.

Both of us grew up in the church, and became followers of Jesus at an early age. We met and married while in college, and for the past 40+ years we have been partners together in ministry. Now we are eager to begin this latest opportunity to serve with the "F" Street Neighborhood Church.

Our family includes four adult children, a son-in-law, and six grandchildren who are regular reminders of God's goodness (and sense of humor!). We look forward to getting better acquainted with all of you in the days ahead as we seek to become a place of acceptance and direction for our neighborhood.

## Consider Prayerfully Ramping Up Your Giving **Tad Stryker, Elder**

Our church family has been separated by unexpected circumstances, but the time is at hand when we will resume worship services in our building. Throughout the past couple of months, many of our church's financial obligations and ministry opportu-

nities have continued, and many of you have given generously to help meet those needs. First, let me thank you for doing that. Frankly, the increase in online giving has kept our church's financial situations healthier than expected.

Now, we look to the future. I think that as our society opens up, our "F" Street Church ministry opportunities will expand. In turn, that will require extra financial support from our people. Knowing that our ministry already has demanded a lot from Pastor Jeff, we as an elder board recently voted to hire a second pastor. In mid-September, Bill Thornton will officially join our staff as Teaching Pastor, although he will be very much involved starting in June, when he will become an elder and share the preaching load with Pastor Jeff. Pastor Bill's other responsibilities will be developed and explained over the rest of the year, but I believe he will be a valuable asset to "F" Street Church. I ask you to pray specifically, and then give generously - as generously as you believe God has enabled and directed you. I believe God will be honored in your life as you make this a lifelong practice.

You may soon have an opportunity to drop your gift into the offering plate at a worship service, but remember that you can help financially support "F" Street Church even if you don't walk through our front door.

- 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.

## Transportation Team Looking For New Members **Tad Stryker, Elder**



We need to replace two of our Transportation Team members. Are you willing to drive the church van once a month to allow other people to come to "F" Street Church?

Our goal is to finish our route and arrive at the church between 9:30 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. Although, as long as COVID-19 restrictions are in place, we may need to plan for two or three smaller loads, instead of one large load of people before and after services. After the service, they will be returned home. Qualifications for being a Transportation Team member:

- Must have a current Nebraska driver's license
- Reliability, friendliness, hospitality, the ability to work positively with others.- Report for duty unimpaired by drugs or alcohol

- Available to drive people to church (and home again afterward) at least once every month. (approximately 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. availability the day you drive)

If interested, please call or text Tad Stryker at 402-802-0597.



## Neighborhood Parties

**Savannah Clapper, Mentor Coordinator, Atlas Lincoln**

We want to be a family that gathers around the table together, eats together, celebrates, and hurts together--to invest in one another in a way that radically changes how we think and act. That is what we are about here at FSNC. That is why we are in the neighborhood. That is why we place importance on gathering to eat, every last week of the month. However, in the last few months, this hasn't been able to happen. We haven't gathered, but we eventually will. Eventually, we will eat, laugh, pray, and commune together. Fellowship in the hope that we all carry, as we gather around the table, that we feast at, the table where Jesus broke the bread and cup.

Consider joining the neighborhood party team! Volunteer in set up, planning with other churches to come, and/or discussing what kind of spaces we want to create. We will eventually be back to gathering, every last Sunday of the month, for a meal. We hope that through all of our hurts and joys, we simply come to the table, grow in connections, and learn to love our neighbors better. Let's be more than the food, let's be a community. Contact Savannah with questions or interest: [savannah@atlaslincoln.org](mailto:savannah@atlaslincoln.org).



## Atlas: Lincoln, June Update

**Brody M. Van Roekel, Director, Atlas: Lincoln**

Almost halfway through 2020, and I'm sure no one knew how this year was going to go. Regardless, Atlas is continuing to serve hurting people in the midst of the virus-pandemic. In the first half of the year, we have seen some amazing things happen. People continue to reach out for the relational support, and peer-to-peer mentorship provided by Atlas. We had four new pairings in the first quarter, and other potential partnerships in the works. We added another part-time staff person, as well as celebrating an amazingly generous "Give to Lincoln Day." We have been so blessed this year already, and plan to continue "helping the hurting," "equipping the saints," and "uniting the community."



## Farmers Market Joy Nealeigh, Director, Farmer's Market

The market season is here, folks! I'm gonna be real with you here. It feels like the world has been turned upside down with the COVID-19 shutdown, and small businesses are hurting. Many of our friends and neighbors have leveraged everything to make their dreams for a small business a reality, and now those dreams are in jeopardy.

Will you join us in supporting these businesses that we love? Folks, I am so excited! This year we have the Community Crops Veggie Van! Guess what, Lulu's on 'N' is now a Vendor at the Market! There are gonna be serious eats on Tuesday nights!

Are your kids bored at home? We want keep your kids learning through the COVID-19 shutdown with books, games, and activities that they can do at home. Sign up for the Farmer's Market Kid's Club from our website!

There are many things we can't do at the market this year, but I want to focus on what we CAN do: We can still be together, and we can support our friends and neighbors through this difficult time. Join us.



## Immerse Update Beth Heerspink, Director, Immerse

As the days turn hot, and the world turns green, I reflect on the *anticipation* I am normally filled with during this season. It is an anticipation laden with an excitement and stress that drives me to diligently prepare for more than one hundred middle school students, high school students, and brave youth group leaders to fill our church building, and community for the months of June and July. Six youth groups from various churches in Iowa were booked to come to Lincoln and stay at "F" Street Church this summer, for the Immerse program. Each group was planning to stay from a Tuesday evening through the following Sunday afternoon, spending time serving organizations and families and engaging in the community.

Although it was a difficult decision, we felt it was necessary to cancel Immerse this summer because of COVID-19. However, as with so many things right now, we are forced to seek creative alternatives, and continually and prayerfully try to determine what will and will not work within the given set of limitations. At this point, we are considering taking some smaller groups for weekend trips, as we head into late summer and early fall. If restrictions continue to lift, and if parents, families, and organi-

zations are comfortable with sending and receiving groups, we will seek to put plans in place for this at the beginning of July.

I want to take a moment to thank those who I know were already preparing to cook a meal, share a testimony, go out on the streets with the kids, or serve alongside them. I feel incredibly blessed to be a part of a church that so wholeheartedly engages with the Immerse kids, and is so willing to serve and assist with this program. I eagerly anticipate whatever is in store down the road, whether that is this year or maybe next. In the meantime, I anticipate being able to gather together again as a church family. May you be blessed!

### **Greeting Team** Beth Heerspink, Team Leader

Do you enjoy meeting new people? Do you like helping newcomers (and also regular attenders!) feel welcome? If you are looking for a team to serve on and would be willing to come early on Sunday mornings (approximately once a month) to greet people, hand out bulletins, direct newcomers, and be a friendly presence at "F" Street Church, please talk to me. I am looking for several individuals to join this team, especially as we merge. Please call me (Beth Heerspink) at 402-217-2352 if you have an interest in learning more about being on the Greeting Team. Thanks!

### **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](mailto:fstreetchurch@gmail.com)

### **Prayer Requests**

If you have prayer requests, please send them to our office email at [fsncoffice@gmail.com](mailto:fsncoffice@gmail.com)

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