

The Word on the (F) Street

“Am I Part of a Team?” Jeff Heersopink, Pastor

Maybe you have noted that there is new “F Street swag,” in the form of a t-shirt, worn by many of those who call F Street Neighborhood Church home, or maybe not. Either way, these not-for-sale Tees were the gift given to our volunteers that serve on a team at F Street Church (hence the tag line on the back “I am a part of a team”). We handed out nearly 65 tees to people who serve on teams, as well as special gifts to our Team Leaders, at our Volunteer Banquet held on October 4th.

We have extra tees and would love to give those to you for joining a team. Of course, it should be more than about getting a free F Street Church t-shirt, but about being an active part of the community at F Street Church. Teams are a great way to serve, as we are called to be active in ministry as followers of Jesus. Each of our teams has a core part to play in the fulfillment of our church’s vision to be a place of Acceptance and Direction. Because they are teams, they are also a great way to get to know others in the church family as well as get to know people in the neighborhood we are called to.

If you are interested in being a part of a team, or learning more about teams, you can reach out to me (Pastor Jeff), or there are up-to-date team forms with a list of all the current teams, some basic explanation of what each team does, who leads it, and what you can expect.

It is our desire that everyone who calls F Street Neighborhood Church home will be an active part of a team, serving in some capacity, to help us fulfill our vision of being “A Place of Acceptance and Direction.”



A Place of Acceptance and Direction
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Calendar for November 2020

1st: Sunday Service
3rd: 6:30am Prayer
5th: 6:30pm FoodNet; **Happy Birthday Justin Thomas**
8th: Sunday Service; **Happy Birthday Maddie Mailand**
10th: 6:30am Prayer
11th: **Happy Birthday Natalia Fuller**
12th: 6:30pm FoodNet; **Happy Birthday Rachelle Kastner**
15th: Sunday Service
16th: **Happy Birthday Joe Nelson**
17th: 6:30am Prayer
19th: 6:30pm FoodNet; **Happy Birthday Schyler Bertalot**
20th: **Happy Birthday Natasha Ingerham**
22nd: Sunday Service
24th: 6:30am Prayer; **Happy Birthday Ramon Gable**
25th: **Happy Birthday Dain Vasina**
26th: 6:30pm FoodNet
29th: Sunday Service
30th: **Happy Birthday Darby Lytle**

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.



The “Big Three” Jeff Heersopink, Pastor

Recently I was given the privilege to preach at a supporting church in NW Iowa. While there, I referenced what I called the “Big Three,” or what I consider three of the biggest challenges that all of us are facing right now: 1. Divisive Election 2. Racial injustice and unrest, and 3. The COVID-19 pandemic. That is not to mention all the trials that many of us face regularly in life.

What makes these “Big Three” so troubling is that even bringing them up in conversation begins to bring division in our church. None of us would likely agree on our views, experiences, and perceived outcomes on any of these topics, let alone unify an entire congregation around them.

Yet we cannot ignore any of them, nor can we ignore the negative effects that are taking place because of them. Things like division, fear, isolation, pride, conspiracy theories, and even more hatred are real results of each or all these topics in our world.

We know not when the next racial injustice will happen, or how the election will play out, or how long and what effects COVID-19 will have on all of us. But I think that is why we must be careful that we put into practice a few things that the Bible teaches us.

Let me propose 3 thoughts that can counter the “Big Three:”

1. God is still God: I fear that during many of these situations we can lose sight of who God is and the promises that he has given to us. We make statements like: “This person cannot be God’s candidate for President,” as if God has lost control of the world. Or we begin to trust science over the power of God (Do we believe that God can still heal our land?). That is not to say that we should not trust science, but do we trust God over science? Do we believe that God loves all people, and that we are to care for all people and that we are to seek reconciliation as he has reconciled us?

God is still God, and he is still in control even when our worlds seem out of control.

Let’s not forget who is in control, and let us find our rest and our trust in God, regardless of how any of these turn out.

2. “Love your neighbor” is still the second greatest commandment: I believe that one of the greatest tactics of Satan in a time such as this is to confuse you and me about who our real enemy is. Paul states, *“Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.”*

I can say that, personally, I have too often allowed my frustration - because of a different viewpoint - cause me to see someone as an enemy rather than as a child of God, who I am personally called to love. Too often we in the world, and in the church, can be, as Paul also speaks of being “a clanging gong” if we do not have love (1 Corinthians 13:1); a lot of noise but of little value. There is no time when we can relinquish our calling, and the priority to love our neighbors as ourselves. Regardless of race or political views, regardless of their anxiety, etc., love still is our calling, and I believe loving individuals is still the way we will change the world.

Let’s not see the ones we are called to love as our enemies and let us continue to go out of our way to love, even if in small ways.

3. Pray: Knowing that God is still in control and that we are to love, should remind us that we are to pray to God and for others. Prayer is communion with God, and should itself give us rest and allow us to center, again, on who is in control. One of the best ways to love but, not limited to, is prayer. There is only so much that we can do for others and there is so much that God can and wants to do. But also when it comes to the “Big Three” we are instructed to pray for our leaders regardless if you agree with them or not (1 Timothy 2:2) and to pray for the healing of our nation (2

Chronicles 7:14) and to trust God to be the ultimate Judge (1 Peter 2:23).

Let’s remember to pray and to encourage one another to pray as we go through these challenging times.

I do not have the answers, nor do I think any of you have them all either. We need to trust, love and pray.



Enrollment is Open for Winter Classes at Lincoln School of Ministry

Bill Thornton, Teaching Pastor

With the fall session of LSOM ending the first week in December, plans are now underway for the winter classes that will soon be offered. Our focus for this coming series will be on developing ministry skills in areas such as communication, pastoral care, and evangelism. If you would like more information about how to be a part of these equipping classes, please talk with Pastor Bill. Our winter session is scheduled to begin on Thursday, January 7, and will meet at the Redeemer Building located at the corner of 8th and D Streets.

Interested in Baptism?

Perhaps you have been present when a friend or family member has been baptized, and you have wondered about whether you should experience this too. We believe that baptism is a significant event in one’s life as a Christ follower. As a church family we want to provide the spiritual encouragement and understanding that should accompany your decision to be baptized. If you are interested in learning more about this, please contact Pastor Bill or Pastor Jeff.



Thanksgiving Celebration

We are excited to announce that this year F Street Neighborhood Church and Jacob’s Well will be partnering to provide the neighborhood with a wonderful turkey dinner the Sunday after Thanksgiving. This will be the November Block Party and we will need help, both with preparing food, and with distributing it. More details to come!



Transportation Team Needs Another Driver

Tad Stryker, Eder

Friendliness, dependability, steadiness, and good vision! Those are some of the requirements to be a Transportation Team member.

We need to add one more driver to our team. 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 and 9:45 a.m. 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, 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.-1:00 p.m. availability the day you drive, although days with church dinners or block parties will go later)

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

Health Ministry Corner Barb Douglas, PHM

Greetings to all my brothers and sisters in Christ.

We have been enjoying some beautiful weather changes so far this fall. For me, this is probably the most enjoyable time of the year. I love the weather, the color changes, the holidays coming up, Thanksgiving and Christmas!

Thanksgiving is soon upon us! I do know that holidays can be a very depressing time of year for some of us. They are not always marked by family gatherings, fun, and lightheartedness. I have spent a few dreary lonely holidays as well. But I have to say that, as lonely and depressing as they were at the time, I learned a very valuable lesson: That, if we allow it, God can fill those lonely depressed times with his joy and light, in ways we could never imagine.

Now, I would like to talk a little about *living water*. Water is one of the most basic elements of life, and is important to all living things. It is the most abundant substance on the earth, and in our bodies. Sixty percent of the human body is water. All living things need water to function and grow properly. Even Jesus was thirsty. When he met the woman at the well, Jesus asked her for a drink of water. We are blessed with an abundant supply of drinkable water here in our country of America.

Yet many of us do not drink enough plain water. Unless a doctor has directed you otherwise you should drink approximately 8-8oz. glasses of water every day. Following are nine benefits of drinking enough water daily:

1. Removes waste products effectively
2. Assists in digestion and metabolism
3. Helps regulate our body temperature

4. Lubricates our joints
5. Improves our energy
6. Helps maintain our fluid balance
7. Increases our mental and physical performance
8. Keeps our skin healthy and glowing
9. Reduces headaches and dizziness

These are, of course, the benefits of regular water to our bodies. God's living water has provided living water for our spirits. Without it, we can become spiritually dried up. Thinking of that familiar glass of refreshing water as a symbol for life makes a whole lot of sense both physically and spiritually. Focusing our minds on each drink of water we take can remind us to also drink from God's "living water" for our spirits. Of course, the best way to drink that living water is to read God's word daily.

Now, getting back to those depressing, lonely holiday times we all suffer with occasionally. These times are representative of not getting enough living water into our systems, so that when these trying times arise, we are left wanting and in need. These following verses from God's amazing word are given to help you and those around you to help you gain insight into the powerful love God has for each and every one of us.

Proverbs 8:17 - *I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me.*

Psalm 37:4 *Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.*

Nehemiah 9:17a - *God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness.*

Psalm 32:7 - *Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance.*

I hope and pray that you all can enjoy this beautiful season of God's grace. God's blessings to each and every one of you.

With love from your 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 fstretchurch@gmail.com

Prayer Requests

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



Community Groups

Group: **Women's Study**

Location: Fireplace Room at Church Building

Contact: Jean Stryker or Beth Heerspink

Day/Time: Sundays, 3:30-5:00 p.m.

Group: **Men's Bible Study**

Location: Green Room at Church Building

Contact: Tad Stryker

Day/Time: Mondays, 7-8:30 p.m.

Group: **VA Small Group Study**

Location: Victory Apartments (445 Honor Drive)

Contact: Jeff Heerspink or Carlos Gomez

Day/Time: Wednesdays, 2-3:00 p.m.

Group: **Keith Morrissey's House**

Location: 1750 Prospect Street

Contact: Keith Morrissey

Day/Time: Thursdays, 7-9:00 p.m.

