

# The Word on the (F) Street

## Oh God...Our Eyes Are On You

Bill Thornton, Teaching Pastor

In 2 Chronicles:20 we can read the account of King Jehoshaphat and the nation of Judah when confronted by neighboring armies from Ammon, Moab, and Edom who threatened to go to war against them. To the credit of God's people, in the face of this impending crisis, they sought the LORD in these memorable words, "We are powerless against this mighty army that is about to attack us. We do not know what to do, but **we are looking to you for help.**"

I think these words offer great counsel and perspective for those occasions when life presents challenging circumstances that leave us wondering what to do. While it certainly is true that we are not confronted by armies of Ammonites, Moabites, or Edomites today, still, as a congregation we do face unique challenges in our neighborhood that include distressing things like poverty, addiction, mental illness, and crime. Honestly, it can be easy to feel overwhelmed by it all, wondering if the transformation that we long for, and those who live around us, will ever be realized in Christ-like lifestyles, relationships, marriages, and families.

**"...We do not know what to do, but we are looking to you for help."**

Personally, I think that this transformation must begin within each of us when we, like Jehoshaphat and his people long ago, acknowledge our own powerlessness to bring about lasting change. And, at the same time, it is when we look to God for his help that we find ourselves in the rightful posture to witness His mighty hand at work through our F Street Church family.

Even now, as a post-pandemic world seems to be dawning, and we are seeing folks returning as well as new faces joining our Sunday morning gatherings, it seems imperative that we be ones who are looking for both the leadership and the provision of our LORD, as we seek to be the place of acceptance and direction that our neighborhood needs in the days ahead.

## Acceptance and Direction

Jeff Heerspink, Pastor

I have learned that although I love it when there is peace and unity, that sometimes the greatest power, change, and transformation comes in the tension. Like the rubber band is useless until it is stretched, yet when stretched it can hold things together, seal things off or even fly.

At F Street Neighborhood Church, our ministry mission statement is a tension, *Acceptance and Direction*.

On the one hand, we have radical acceptance or as Jesus put it, grace: the welcoming of people regardless of what they have done, where they have been, or how they think. We want people to feel welcomed or as stated in another way, we want people to know that they are loved, valued and cared for.

On the other hand (the hand that pulls the rubber band tight), is direction or as Jesus stated it, truth. People need to not only know that they are love and cared for but that, God loves them, that God has a plan for them, that God has a way for them to live. The world is not all relative but there



### Calendar for May 2021

- 2nd: Sunday Service
- 4th: 6:30am Prayer
- 5th: **Happy Birthday Theodore Buford**
- 6th: 6:30pm FoodNet
- 8th: **Happy Birthday Tina Sears**
- 9th: Sunday Service; 6pm Youth Group;
- 11th: 6:30am Prayer
- 13th: 6:30pm FoodNet; **Happy Birthday Peter Kolozsy**
- 16th: Sunday Service
- 18th: 6:30am Prayer
- 20th: 6:30pm FoodNet; **Happy Birthday Jessica Hernandez**
- 23rd: Sunday Service; 6pm Youth Group
- 25th: 6:30am Prayer
- 27th: 6:30pm FoodNet
- 29th: **Happy Birthday Jeff Wise**
- 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.*

are truths and the primary truth is in the way of Christ and the truth of His Word.

Therefore neither of these sides of the coin are easy, but together they are worth a lot and together when we accept others as Jesus accepted us and when we share the truth of Jesus and the word of God with others as we need it ourselves we find the power of the gospel for us and for our neighborhood.

May we strive to live in the tension of *Acceptance and Direction* and see what powerful ways God might change us and the Neighborhood.

### Spring Cleaning at F Street

Saturday May 22 1:00 -3:00 p.m.

It is our hope that many of you will come out to help us do some work here at F Street Church. Projects will include yard transformation, deep cleaning, organization, and the removal of stuff from an old storage space. It's a chance for all of us to work together to improve our space in the neighborhood.

If you would like to know more or have a specific area that you would like to serve in please contact Pastor Jeff or Dave Widman.

### Why Family Meetings?

We have in the past spent a lot of time talking about who should attend family meetings at F Street Neighborhood Church. We want to make sure people are aware that if this is their church family we would like for them to attend. But Why?



First, there are some things that are simply not something we want to address on a Sunday morning, but should be understood as something important for those who are members. This might include vision for the future, building projects, financial reports, etc.

Second, there are subjects on which we want your input. As the members of the family at F Street Church, these are times for you to give input into what happens here, what ways can we encourage the growth of our members, the impact in our community, Elder nominations, and such.

Finally, I find that they are an opportunity for us to get to know one another better, to be family, and to hear the hearts of others. I do hope that if you are able you will attend the family meeting, Wednesday, April, 28<sup>th</sup>.

### Give to Lincoln Day



This month it is our hope that you will consider giving to one of the non-profits that are connected to F Street Neighborhood Church. This month is *Give to Lincoln*, on Tuesday, May 25. There are many non-profits that are doing good in Lincoln, but we have a special heart for three of them, as they have directors who attend F Street Church, and they all seek to serve our community.

*ATLAS of Lincoln*: Atlas: Lincoln exists to serve the people of

Lincoln through local, intentional, and relational Christ-based peer-support and mentorship.

*Jacob's Well*: Jacob's Well has been working in the neighborhood for over a decade now with the goal of connecting people in need with resources to better their lives both spiritually and physically. Through things like food distributions, block parties, weekly kids club, and community garden spaces, the objective is to show God's love in downtown Lincoln.

*Transformations Thrift Store*: Transformations provides high quality, low cost goods to the people in this and surrounding neighborhoods. In addition, we serve our community by providing a place for volunteer hours for all people and serve as a resource to our community for anyone needing connected with existing services or navigating through various programs and processes.

*Immerse*: This ministry does not take part Give to Lincoln, but we are taking an offering for them on, May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### Pulpit vs Politics Keith Morrissey, Elder

*"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."* (Heb 13:8) Read Numbers 23:19-20.

*"The problems we face were created by the previous administration."* Joe Biden, Donald Trump, Barack Obama, etc.

One of the first things Barack Obama did when he took office was to blame the ills of this country on George Bush's administration. He then proceeded to undo all that Bush had accomplished and to implement his own agenda and ideology. Then, Donald Trump came along and blamed our troubles on Obama's administration, and he proceeded to undo all that Obama had accomplished with his own agenda and promises. Then we have a repeat by Joe Biden blaming Trump and writing a score of "executive orders" to shut down Trump's and introduce yet another agenda and ideology. In a few years somebody else will see Joe Biden as the problem and repeat the scenario. There is nothing new under the sun, and we absolutely refuse to learn from history.

The bad news is: No president, politician, or person has ever been able to keep all their promises or solve all our problems despite their agenda or ideology.

The good news is: God has never failed to keep every promise he ever made or to provide a solution for every problem we have ever faced.

The problems we face today may involve guns and mass shootings, race relations and riots, teen suicides, depression and anxiety. But, these are only symptoms, as is homelessness, illegal immigration, and pandemics. The problem is not the president or the politician, past or present. Nor are they the answer. The problem is "we the people." We the people who have rejected the truth in favor of our own agendas and ideologies, then elected presidents and politicians who promise to support them and make them work, because we the people cannot.

Despite the promises and answers given by the presidents and politicians we the people elect, they have no solution. Instead,

they just add to the problems we have and create more. We, the people are still eating from the wrong tree. We, the people are still seeking to be like gods. We the people are still failing because we are still refusing to learn from history.

We were never meant to like or dislike history. We were meant to accept it as it is, good or bad, and learn from it, But when we reject the truth of it and try to rewrite the parts of it we don't like, we repeat it instead of learning from it. We the people once believed that our rights were given by the Creator, including the right to pursue happiness. Happiness once meant morality, meaning and the purpose of life. Now our rights are granted by whoever rules, and happiness is the fulfillment of our lusts, wants and perversions. Is it any wonder that we, the people, are confused, frustrated, angry, depressed, anxious, suicidal and homicidal. We need to learn from history and return to the only God who keeps all his promises and has the solutions.



## Mission Offering **Beth Heerspink, Immerse Director**

*How will the offering for Immerse be used?* I want to thank our church for taking an offering for Immerse during the month of May. Our church is incredibly supportive in hosting the teams throughout the summer and I am so appreciative. 100% of the money given in the offering will be used as "Blessing Money."

Throughout the summer, we serve multiple families and organizations. Projects are varied. This summer we are staining a house, building shelves for a laundry room, staining multiple decks, painting a front porch, planting flowers, building a fence, fixing a wheelchair ramp, repairing a shed, hosting BBQs at the V.A. and at Transformations, building bean bag tosses, repairing a bathroom, painting a couple of ceilings, running Neighborhood Bible Club, taking kids from the Mission on field trips, and probably a lot more.

When we do these projects, we provide the free labor and the people we are serving purchase the supplies. I know that for some people (and organizations), it is a stretch to purchase the necessary items (or they are unable to do the work project because of the cost of materials). I will be using any money given from the offering to purchase supplies (lumber, paint, etc.) for the families and organizations that we serve throughout the summer. If you are able to give, that is wonderful. I appreciate your prayers and support of the Immerse program. (p.s. One of the projects that Immerse would like to do is to plant flowers and shrubs along the west side of the F Street Church building. If you would like to give to this specifically, please let me know, or indicate on your check. Thanks!)



## Transformations Thrift Store

**Cece Robinson, Transformations Thrift Store Director**

Spring is here! Transformations is excited for the opportunity to have another year to serve. Last year presented challenges but we were able to serve in the midst of it all: walking alongside the hurting, connecting people to necessary resources, providing for basic household needs and offering compassion and fellowship. We conducted over 6,600 transactions and volunteers logged over 2,500 hours, many of which allowed people to complete court ordered community service hours. In September we began making monthly donations of 10% of total revenue to Atlas: Lincoln, totaling \$2,325.70. We provided coloring pages for a virtual city-wide Easter Egg hunt, hosted 2 voter registration events, provided food boxes for over 75 members of our community, and hosted a lunch sack give away with LuLu's on N St. Our Halloween event was host to a group from a treatment center in the neighborhood. We enjoyed a meal, fellowship and hearing some of their stories while sharing some of ours. The relational connections that result from what we do are priceless.

Your financial donations to Transformations on Give to Lincoln Day keep our ministry strong. Every donation received between May 1 and May 25 on the Give to Lincoln Day platform gets a proportional share of a \$500,000.00 challenge match fund provided by Lincoln Community Foundation and the event sponsors.

For more information about Give to Lincoln Day and the ways you can give, visit [www.givetolincoln.com](http://www.givetolincoln.com) or use this QR Code to make your online donation. Thank you for your support.



## Youth Group Update **Jennifer Arnold, Director**

Can I just take a moment and tell you how much FUN I've had getting to know the youth of F Street Neighborhood Church? We have gone bowling, played Minute to Win It games, watched a movie, gone mini golfing and chatted 'round a fire pit at Pastor Bill and Marcia's house. We have been meeting twice a month and I can already see that real friendships are forming and growing. I have very fond memories of being involved in church youth

group when I was in middle and high school and I WANT THAT for our youth! What can you do to help make that happen?! First of all, you can pray for us. I know for a fact that the youth of today are being bombarded by some very hard life lessons. Knowing that people are praying for our youth and specifically for us to have productive (and still fun!) youth group hang outs brings me a real sense of peace. Thank you for praying for us! Secondly, you can open up your home to host us! We'd LOVE to get to know the adults of FSNC. If you'd be willing to share your testimony, favorite Bible verse, funny memories of YOUR youth group days, words of encouragement, games and snacks, please contact me and I'll get you on our calendar! Upcoming F Street Youth Group Meetings:

Sunday, April 25, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m., Sallingers hosting

Sunday, May 9, Mother's Day, No Youth Group

Sunday, May 23, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m., Widmans hosting



## Health Ministry Corner Barb Douglas, HMFNSC

God's Blessings and Happy Easter to all my Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The weather doesn't seem to know for sure whether it's moving on to summer or bouncing back to winter! It's really been anybody's guess, huh! Well though the weather can't decide, we are moving right along though the year of 2021, without reprieve. It's May already, and several holidays coming up as well, Mothers Day, and Memorial Day, to name a couple. I hope you all enjoy the first FSNC Block Party/Outreach for 2021, on April 25<sup>th</sup>.

May is promising to be a great month for Outreach as well. Please join us on May 30<sup>th</sup>, at the FSNC Outreach, and welcome Transformations Thrift Store. They will be here to talk about the store experience, donation possibilities, volunteer opportunities, and much more. So be there, or be square! (Sorry I just had a little blast into the past.)

Now onto more serious subjects. May is a month for remembering. Remembering our moms, and those heroes in our lives, that have made living free a possibility. Mother's day is May 9<sup>th</sup> this year, and that date has a very special person in my life attached to it. That is my youngest daughter's birthday! Her name is Amy Vortman, she lives in Missouri. She is the mother of six of my beautiful grandchildren, and grandmother to three of my great grandchildren! So this year Mother's Day has a very special meaning for me. Not that every year isn't, it just intersects beautifully this year for me. In addition, on the 29<sup>th</sup> of May, one of my grandsons will celebrate his birthday, while in the U.S. Armed forces. He was enlisted in January 2021. This will be his first birthday in the Army! He will be 20 years old. So Memorial Day, May 31<sup>st</sup>, will also be a day of new memories for me. I hope and pray God will bring wonderful memories and a kind of thoughtfulness you may not experience every day of the year. May God bless you all as you remember Moms, and heroes from

the past and present.

Following are a few verses of wisdom from the Lord to all of us on how to love and respect our parents:

Ephesians 6:1-3, "*Children obey your parents in the Lord, for it is right. Honor your father and mother, which is the first commandment with promise: That it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.*"

Proverbs 31:28, "*Her children rise up and call her blessed, her husband also, and he praises her.*"

Here is a nice poem I found on a very nice Mother's Day card: "*May you be blessed with the compassion and wisdom that God provides, strength for everyday challenges, joy in little smiles, warm hugs, and rooms filled with laughter. And may you know that every loving, patient moment you invest will someday return to you in blessings to fill your heart for a lifetime.*"

Happy Mother's Day to all who are mothers whether by birth or by God's grace. God's blessings also for all those who were or are veterans. We thank you for your service to this country and your unfailing love of family, friends, and strangers. What you have done or are doing is one of the most selfless giving of time, energy, and life that anyone can ever give.

Here is a wonderful verse from John 15:13 "*Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.*" In many cases that life was laid down by a woman as well. And not only for friends, but, as mentioned before, for strangers. I certainly hope that everyone can enjoy the beautiful weather that is here and is coming.. Stay safe and God's blessings to you all.

## Community Groups

Group: "**Isaiah**" Women's Study

Location: Zoom call format

Contact: Jean Stryker

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

Group: "**Anxiety**" Women's Study

Location: Fireplace Room at Church Building

Contact: Beth Heerspink

Day/Time: Wednesday, 11:00 a.m.

Group: "**Stepping Up**" Men's Bible Study

Location: Fireplace Room at Church Building

Contact: Tad Stryker

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

Group: "**II Corinthians**" VA Small Group Study

Location: Victory Apartments (445 Honor Drive)

Contact: Jeff Heerspink

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

Group: "**Mere Christianity**" Keith Morrissey's House

Location: 1750 Prospect Street

Contact: Keith Morrissey

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

## 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)



## Monthly Bible Reading Schedule

### Matthew: Overview

The book of Matthew is not only the first book of the New Testament, it is likely the most treasured of the gospels by most Christ followers. From the famous “Christmas Story,” to the most famous “Sermon on the Mount,” the many beloved parables, and the poignant account of the crucifixion with the dramatic account of the resurrection; it is all capped off by the greatest of challenges to GO and make disciples.

I have said several times that if we read the gospels, begin to apply them to our lives, and let them sink into our hearts, that we will forever be ruined. We will see Jesus as the Lord and it will affect how we do everything. We will see Jesus as our savior and it will forever change what we treasure. It is my prayer that you will take the challenge to read this great gift from God, and that it will change you forever.

### Romans: Overview

Romans is a great read that is filled with the truth of the Gospel. It is such a powerful book, that while I was in college it was the only book of the Bible that had its own course - and was a requirement for every student at Moody Bible Institute.

Romans 1:16 is frequently quoted, from: *“I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes,”* to Romans 12:1-2, *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

I hope that you will jump in this month and see what God has to say to you through this great book of the Bible.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
April 26– Matt 13	April 27 – Matt 14	April 28 – Matt 15	April 29 – Matt 16	April 30 – Matt 17
May 3 – Matt 18	May 4 – Matt 19	May 5 – Matt 20	May 6 – Matt 21	May 7 – Matt 22
May 10 – Matt 23	May 11 – Matt 24	May 12 – Matt 25	May 13 – Matt 26	May 14 – Matt 27
May 17 – Matt 28	May 18 – Rom 1	May 19 – Rom 2	May 20 – Rom 3	May 21 – Rom 4
May 24 – Rom 5	May 25 – Rom 6	May 26 – Rom 7	May 27 – Rom 8	May 28 – Rom 9