

The Word on the (F) Street



Happy New Year



Calendar for January 2021

3rd: Sunday Service
4th: **Happy Birthday Susie Kinsey, Sara Watson**
5th: 6:30am Prayer
6th: 6:30pm FoodNet
10th: Sunday Service
11th: **Happy Birthday Kenneth Curtis**
12th: 6:30am Prayer
14th: 6:30pm FoodNet
17th: Sunday Service
19th: 6:30am Prayer
20th: **Happy Birthday Neva Holstein**
21st: 6:30pm FoodNet
22nd: **Happy Birthday John Golden**
24th: Sunday Service
26th: 6:30am Prayer
28th: 6:30pm FoodNet
29th: **Happy Birthday Brett Wood**
31st: 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.

2021 Changes Jeff Heerspink, Teaching

I am not one to tell anyone what the future holds. I know that I could not have predicted what we are still going through in 2020. No way would I have guessed that we would have a pandemic, merged two churches, moved our offices, or brought on more staffing.

But there are a few things that I do see happening as we look towards 2021:

Farmers Market: We will start with the bad news. The Farmers Market has had, what I believe to be, six good years under F Street Church. It is however, being let go. When we started F Street Neighborhood Church, we said we would do our best to preserve the Farmers Market, as the former St. Paul Church had started it in connection with the F Street Rec Center. Andrea Mailand stepped in to be our Manager and rocked it for four years. Joy Nealeigh stepped in, helping us, to not only survive this past year under the pandemic, but we added vendors and kids programming.

However, Joy stepped down, and we have not found someone who carries the passions and giftings for the Farmers Market, and the Elders have decided to end its run. This has been exceedingly difficult for me, as I have loved the hangout environment it has created and connections with our church and neighborhood.

New Bathrooms: This is exciting news. I still recall, after we purchased this building, the awe that it could seat so many yet had so few restrooms. (Seriously, did people not need restrooms in the roaring '20s?) Although this will take a few phases to complete, we have recently completed phase 1 of 4, replacing the line to the sewer. Phase 2 is building some additional storage space. Phase 3, is installing a new women's restroom in the Farmers Market area, and phase 4 is redoing the current restrooms into the men's restroom. You should notice more work in the basement soon.

Celebrate Recovery: This too is exciting, as we are hoping to start up Celebrate Recovery at F Street Church. We have supported, and will continue to support, many 12-step programs. But we are now starting Celebrate Recovery in the months ahead, and it is a Christ-based 12-steps. We are working to develop the team for leading this new ministry, and excited as we see Christ and recovery as two of the main things that are needed in our neighborhood. If you are interested in learning more about this please speak with Pastor Jeff.

I am sure that there will be more things to come, and more things to go, but I look forward to what I see God doing in the neighborhood and the lives of those who are a part of F Street Church.

Unimaginable: A preaching series from The Book of Mark that looks at some of the unimaginable things that Jesus did, and can still do today. Mark has a unique way of telling the story of Jesus that sets him apart with words like, "immediately," and "then," just moving from one example of what Jesus did, to the next with little warning or commentary. Regardless of who is telling the story, the hope of this series is that each of us will grow more in awe of Jesus and the work that He did and is still doing today.





Media Team Leader Jeff Heerspink, Pastor

There are currently over 15 team leaders at F Street Neighborhood Church, serving on the over 20 teams that we have. This is one of the highest numbers we have ever had in our history. Team Leaders oversee areas of ministry that are vital for our church to be a place of acceptance and direction in the neighborhood. These Team Leaders are responsible for recruiting, encouraging, and equipping their teams and have met the qualifications of a Team Leader.

We are looking for qualified Team Leaders for a few more teams. One that I would love for us to fill in the near future would be our Media Team Leader. This team would be responsible for our website, FaceBook page, Instagram, etc. We know today that many people get their first impressions from our website and social media. Our social media is also a great way for us to communicate with each other about events, opportunities and needs.

If you are interested in learning more about what it means to be Team Leader, who has interests, skills and experience with Web design and editing than please come talk to Pastor Jeff.

Opportunities Bill Thornton, Teaching Pastor

Dear F Street Neighborhood Church Family,

Before leaving 2020 behind, Marcia and I would like to express our thanks for the cards and gifts that have been received during the Christmas season. We have felt loved and appreciated by our church family. As the New Year 2021 begins, I wanted you to be aware of the following opportunities for growth and care in our congregation.

Enrollment is Open for Winter Classes at the Lincoln School of Ministry: Our focus in the coming weeks 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, and 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.

In Need of Pastoral Care or Counseling? The Elders at F Street Neighborhood Church desire to help the Chief Shepherd (Jesus) care for the people who make up our congregation. You can

help us be aware of needs that are physical, emotional, and/or spiritual by using the Communication Card and placing it in the offering on Sunday mornings, or by contacting any of the following, Tad Stryker, Keith Morrissey, Jeff Heerspink, or myself.



A New Position at FSNC

Jean Stryker, Creative Arts Director

The great cathedrals of the world are covered with art: carvings, stained glass, sculpture. They were built for a population that was mostly illiterate, and the idea was to use the building itself as a way to communicate the reality of God to people who couldn't read about him in a book. We are not an illiterate population, but art still has the power to communicate in ways that words alone can't match. We're all familiar with certain images, like a swoosh on a shoe, or a big green circle on a cup of coffee. There are songs that make us want to dance, and movie scenes that make our hearts pound or bring us to tears.

Here at F Street Neighborhood Church, we want to use every possible means to reach our neighborhood with the message of the gospel.

Beginning January, Jean Stryker will join the F Street Church staff, part-time, as our Creative Arts Director. She will have a studio in what was previously the pastors' office. Her job will be to:

- Create artworks, installations, and other creative components for services.
- Using classes and other art-related events, reach out to creatives in our church, neighborhood, and city.
- Help F Street's artists grow in their faith and their artistic skills.
- Help connect artists with ways to use their skills to serve the church and neighborhood.
- Make art in response to family life at F Street Church
- Supply creative necessities or helps for the church: half sheets, slides, banners, etc.
- Continue to explore and develop the Art Chapel project.

If you are interested in art and want to explore your creative potential, or if you have an art-related outreach idea, talk to Jean!





Health Ministry Corner Barb Douglas, PHM

Hello Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I hope you all had a wonderful Christ-filled Christmas. I pray that you were all able to stay warm during that cold snap we endured during the days just preceding Christmas. But it is winter in Nebraska, so that was no surprise!

God's love should follow all of us throughout this new year. He came to save us from our sins, and lead the way to Heaven, his home. His greatest desire is to share it with us for an eternity. God's Word tells us in Psalm 146:8 *"The Lord opens the eyes of the blind: the Lord raises them that are bowed down: the Lord loves the righteous."* This verse is just one of many in which God shows his great love and care for our health and wellbeing. My prayer for each one of you this year, in 2021, is that God will show you his amazing love and care in ways you can never expect or understand. May each one of us experience God's love and care, and amazing grace!

No one truly knows what 2021 will bring. But one thing is for certain, and it is found in John 3:16, *"For God so loved the world, that he gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him, should not perish, but have everlasting life."* I pray that each of you has the unforgettable experience of meeting the Son of God right where you are, and realizes his great love and affection for you. I also pray that each of you find a home here at F Street Neighborhood Church, a place of acceptance and direction.

We have many services, and assistance for anyone that asks. In Hosea 4:6, God tells us, *"MY people are destroyed for lack of knowledge."* But in James 1:5, we are told, *"If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him."* So my advice to everyone, for navigating the troubled waters of 2021, is to pray for wisdom from God. He is always right and cares for his people.

God's blessings to each and every one of you throughout the year. I hope I can serve you as needed. I am regularly at the church Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, and Linoma Wingate is manning the phones on Mondays. Our hours are from 10:00 a.m., through noon, on those days. Each Friday, Pastor Bill is answering the phone. So remember we are here for you, ask questions about health, assistance with financial difficulties, loneliness, or in need of prayer. Just call and we will help as much as possible.

The number to reach the church office is 402-435-3673, Monday-Friday 10:00 a.m. until noon. If you cannot call at exactly that time. Just leave a message with your name and the best time to call you back, one of us will give you a call back ASAP. Thank you so much for reading this message.

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



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: Fireplace 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.



New Testament for the New Year (January) Jeff Heerspink, Pastor

There are a lot of goals that are good. There are a lot of actions that are important. There are a lot of resolutions that are valuable. However, few can compare to growing in our relationship with God through the reading of his word.

As a church, we strive to be a place of acceptance and direction. Therefore, it is important that we not only remain a place where people feel welcome to come as they are, but that each of us also find direction for our lives from the word of God (Psalm 119:105 *"Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path."*)

I want to challenge you, encourage you, and ask of you to consider joining us in reading through the New Testament over the next year. This is an easy plan that might take you a little over five minutes to read, five days a week. Of course, reading alone will not mean that you are growing in Christ. But it is the word of God, and there is great power in it. I also want to encourage you to set aside time to seek answers to the questions that you have; to journal, to highlight, to pray, to meditate on and to discuss it with others to really grow in the knowledge of the word and in relationship with God.

Each month, I will give you a calendar of the text to read, and an overview of the books that are included in each month reading. Of course, if you have another plan that you are reading, that is great, and we simply want to encourage you to stick with it.

Mark: Overview (Italics text taken from The New American Commentary)

We start off our reading with the Gospel of Mark. As you may note, that means we are not reading the New Testament in perfect order, but with a bit of jumping around. That said, it is not without intention. The Gospel of Mark is often believed to have been the first of the gospels written. In fact, the belief is that Matthew and Luke used it as an outline for their gospel accounts - adding things like the birth of Jesus, and details to some of the stories as well as additional stories. For that reason I have always liked Mark. I feel I can relate to Mark because he does not go into a lot of detail, he simply tells the story of Jesus in a simple bare bone sort of way.

In short Mark's primary purpose was not to set forth historical facts as objectively as possible. His purpose was to describe Jesus in such a way as to promote loyalty to him and his teaching. Mark is more than a book about Jesus. It is also a book about being a disciple of Jesus. For Mark discipleship was following Jesus in suffering and mission. May we all be more compelled to follow Jesus in these ways as we read the text.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Jan 4 – Mark 1	Jan 5 – Mark 2	Jan 6 – Mark 3	Jan 7 – Mark 4	Jan 8 – Mark 5
Jan 11 - Mark 6	Jan 12 – Mark 7	Jan 13 – Mark 8	Jan 14 – Mark 9	Jan 15 – Mark 10
Jan 18 – Mark 11	Jan 19 – Mark 12	Jan 20 – Mark 13	Jan 21 – Mark 14	Jan 22 – Mark 15
Jan 25 – Mark 16	Jan 26 – Mark 17	Jan 27 – Mark 18	Jan 28 – Mark 19	Jan 29- Mark 20