

The Word on the (F) Street

The One Who Never Changes

Bill Thornton, Teaching Pastor

It is snowing outside today as I write my monthly article for our church newsletter, and I find myself working from home in search of some inspiration.

As I look through the window, the white stuff is rapidly accumulating on our driveway and sidewalks. It is tempting to wonder just how much more snow we will get this time before it eventually comes to an end. Of course, my life experience tells me that the snow will not only stop falling, but it will also, eventually, melt away. It may be several days from now, but without fail the snow will all be gone, and I can resume counting the days until spring.

I like living in a place with four seasons, where the weather is constantly changing. Sometimes, though, it really stretches me when it feels like we are experiencing all four seasons on the same day. I must admit that I don't care for that kind of weather day. That is simply too much unpredictability for this old soul.

Sometimes life in our neighborhood seems to mirror the volatility of the weather. The storms of life can suddenly disrupt the peace of our daily routine, and we can, in a moment, feel like we are holding on for dear life and to our loved ones.

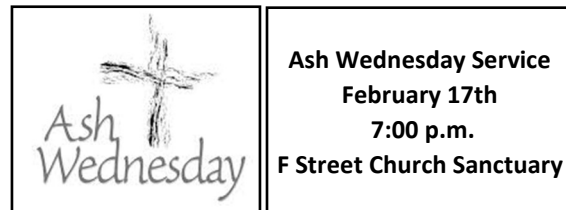
The unpredictability of life is one reason why I am really enjoying our current sermon series, "Unimaginable," from the Book of Mark. Each week we are seeing the attributes of Jesus remind us that he is the One Person who is greater than our stormy circumstances, and the only One who we can always count on.

The snow will fall, and then melt away.

Our loved ones will make promises, and then disappoint us.

We will set out to do great things, and then falter in our efforts.

Isn't it good to be reminded that there is One who will never leave or forsake, that we need not be afraid of what lies ahead? What a wonderful Savior is Jesus our Lord! Let us trust in His unfailing power and love!



Beginning of Lenten Season Bill Thornton, Teaching Pastor

In the church calendar, Ash Wednesday has long marked the beginning of the season of Lent—a time of penitence, discipline, and renewal.

Why should we attend such a service? On Ash Wednesday we are reminded of our mortality, we confess our sins, and we experience forgiveness through Christ's death and resurrection. A practice called the "imposition of ashes" is a central part of the service. During this time, we will be invited to come forward to receive the ashes on our foreheads.

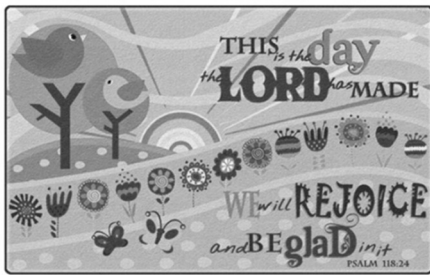


Calendar for February 2021

2nd: 6:30am Prayer
4th: 6:30pm FoodNet
7th: Sunday Service
9th: 6:30am Prayer
11th: 6:30pm FoodNet
12th: **Happy Birthday Zephyr Ingerham**
13th: **Happy Birthday Jo Robinson, Marcia Thornton**
14th: Sunday Service; 6pm Youth Group;
Happy Birthday, Jenna Fuller,
Carlos Gomez
16th: 6:30am Prayer
18th: 6:30pm FoodNet
19th: **Happy Birthday Bill Thornton**
21st: Sunday Service; **Happy Birthday Leaudrie Foster**
23rd: 6:30am Prayer
25th: 6:30pm FoodNet; **Happy Birthday Connie Pillow**
28th: Sunday Service; 6pm Youth Group

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.

We plan to observe Ash Wednesday this year in the sanctuary on Wednesday, February 17th at 7:00 p.m. Please plan on joining us for this unique and moving service.



Coming Soon! March 14th

The nursery (ages 0-4 years) and Journey Group (ages 5-5th grade) will be returning! We have missed these kids and are excited about getting to see them again!

Pulpit vs Politics Keith Morrissey, Elder

Before reading the following article, read Luke 23:13-25, *“What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun. Is there anything of which one can say ‘Look! This is something new’? It was already here long ago; it was here before our time.”* Ecc.1:9-10. In the passage from Luke above, please note the following verses: vs 18, *“With one voice they cried out”*; vs 21, *“...they kept shouting, Crucify Him! Crucify Him!”*; vs 23, *“...with loud shouts they intently demanded that he be crucified, and their shouts prevailed.”*; vs 25, (Pilate) *“...surrendered Jesus to their will.”*

Can you imagine a frenzied mob shouting down a designated speaker just because they did not want to hear the truth, or an opinion different to theirs? Pilate is saying “free him,” because neither he nor Herod could find any fault in him. Yet the crowd kept shouting him down.

Can you imagine a frenzied pharisee running to and fro through the crowd, paying people to shout, “crucify him” every time they saw Pilate try to open his mouth? They didn’t even know who they were crucifying or why, but they took the money and shouted. Some were shouting for the money. Some were shouting for a false ideology. Others were shouting for fear of losing their power, None were shouting for the truth, or their concern for their neighbor.

I find the above scenarios easy to imagine because I have seen them in this day and age. So have you. We have seen them on campus, at colleges, universities, and high schools. We have seen it at capitol buildings, courthouses, and street corners. There is nothing new under the sun. Don’t heed the shouting. Don’t, for sure, get caught up in the shouting. Just listen to and for the calming, peaceful voice of Jesus saying “seek the truth,” “love your neighbor,” and “follow me”.

Pilate had a choice to free a man who was completely innocent, but he chose a man who was guilty of murder and insurrection. From this we can see how easy it is to get our leaders to make choices that they know are wrong and unjust just by our

shouting. Many of our leaders are really followers of the crowds; others lead the crowds, knowing that once the mob is roused, no further stimulant is needed to get the general population to toe the line.

The lesson for us to learn from these scriptures, and from history, is to be careful whom we choose to follow, and whom our leaders choose to follow. Do we choose a leader who follows the rule of a mob, a murderer, or a Messiah?

Block Party Update Savannah Clapper

Because of the cold weather and COVID, we are taking a break from block parties. Though we really value the space to get together and eat with one another, we don’t believe that the weather is permitting us, nor do we want to spread the virus when we take down our masks to eat. We are saddened by this, but we hope to kick them back into gear as soon as possible. Hope to see you all around the table soon!

Youth Group Jennifer Arnold

F Street Neighborhood Church Youth Group will be starting back up! We will be meeting the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. This group is for grades 6 - 12. Our desire is for different people to host our youth group one meeting a month. This is a way to strengthen intergenerational relationships within our church body. We hope our hosts will share their testimony or a short Bible study. The other meeting each month will be a fun activity of some kind. Our kick off will be Sunday, February 14, and we will be bowling! Please contact Jenny Arnold at 402.805.1412, if you are interested in helping lead this group, or if you would like to be a host.

Book Review: The Relentless

Elimination of Hurry Jeff Heerspink, Pastor

In preparing for my sabbatical, I reached out to a few friends for some recommendations on books to read. Brett Byford was quick to recommend *“The Relentless Elimination of Hurry,”* by John Mark Comer. Followed by a classic Brett line of, *“...but I have not read it yet.”*

Because my sabbatical was in part to work on the remodeling of a home we had purchased, and because I retain (stay focused) more when I listen than read, I downloaded the audio version and began the book.

My first reaction was, “I hate this guy.” The title of the book comes from a quote that Dallas Willard stated to John Ortberg, in response to a question, “What do I come the me I need to do to be want to be?” After a long pause Willard responded ruthlessly eliminate your life.” As not- seems like an oxymoron to say that we have to work (ruthlessly eliminate) to find rest, but this fits with Jesus teaching in *Matthew 11:28* (I will let you look that up)

We live in a world of distraction and things that take, and even steal our time.

I listened to the book twice, ordered a hard copy, and gave Brett a glowing review of the book he had recommended without reading. Why the change? The reason is that he was cutting to the truth for me. In the constant pressure to “succeed” to “get ahead” to be “all the others want me to be”, paired with my own brokenness, I have and can easily get caught up in hurry. We live in a world of distraction and things that take, and even steal our time.

Comer does not leave us in the convicted state of how we are driven and distracted, but encourages us in the way of Jesus to eliminate hurry from our lives, making the case for Sabbath, and a “rule of life” (Some of you may remember last Lent Season we worked through a rule of life in church from the book: The Common Rule).

I think that this book is a great read for anyone who feels hurried in life, and wants to live more by the way of Jesus than that way of the world. Yet it is also a good book with great practical thoughts for anyone who wants to live a life connected to Jesus, and that finds rest for the soul.

Personally I would encourage everyone in our church read this book.

Note: I did see that they have this book at Barnes and Noble and you can order it online.



Three Ways to not be Bored This

Summer Beth Heerspink, Immerse Director

F Street Church plays a *huge* role in impacting the lives of nearly 100 youth each summer. We bring in three Interns to help run the program, but we can't do it alone! Here are three ways we are looking for involvement from the greater church:

1. Serve With a Bunch of Teenagers

The opportunities are endless. The kids go out to multiple organizations (Help Center, Homeless Shelter, Center for People in Need, Matt Talbot, and more) but they also can serve at our church and in our neighborhood.

I am looking for two types of people:

A. People with ideas—Imagine what a group of 6-10 teenagers can do with a 2.5 or 5 hour time block. They can **garden, pack, move boxes, organize, distribute food, clean gutters, visit people, paint, repair, build, lead children's programs...**the sky is the limit.

Do you know a person or a family who could benefit from the service of a group of teens?

Do you know an elderly person or a person who is physically limited who could use help around their house?

Are you currently involved in a program or ministry or organization that could utilize the help of teenagers? (This can be either a one-time project or an ongoing project throughout the summer).

B. People with time and/or skills: Do you have professional skills you would be willing to share? If someone asked us to build a wheelchair ramp or refinish a deck, would you be willing to offer a day and help a group of teenagers complete a task (with adult leaders)? I am looking for knowledgeable individuals who might be willing to donate a little bit of time and expertise and serve in this way.

There will be a meeting for anyone interested in helping with any aspect of *service* during the summer on the evening of Wednesday, February 24 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside room. This will be brainstorming, and sharing ideas about meaningful ways for our youth to engage in our city. Even if you don't have much time to give, I would love your ideas and presence at this meeting.

2. Share Your Story With a Bunch of Teenagers

Almost without fail, the favorite part of the trip for many of the teenagers is hearing stories. Each day of Immerse, we have something called a “Power Hour” where someone shares a testimony of life change.

If you would be interested in learning more about sharing your story, please consider attending a meeting in April (Date TBA as we get closer). We will walk through different questions/prompts to consider your own story (highlights, lowlights, etc.) and have the opportunity to share with one another.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, please let me know if you have an interest in sharing your story even one time!

3. Feed a Bunch of Teenagers

As you can imagine, this can be a challenge! They pack sack lunches every day, but we provide all of the dinners. I am looking for:

A. People who would be willing to host a team for dinner. This is “just” a fun night. You could play yard games, have a fire, have a water fight, worship, jump on a trampoline, whatever! Typically it would be a Friday night.

B. People who would be willing to provide a meal. If you would be willing to cook a meal for a team and deliver it to the church, that would be wonderful. We also would welcome meals for the Interns during orientation week, snacks for the groups, and such.

If you are comfortable cooking and are willing to serve in this way, would you talk to Beth? I will have a sign-up sheets with all of the dates available and you can let me know if you would like to cook one or more meals.

Thank you for considering a partnership with the Immerse Team this summer. I am so excited to see what God does through all of us together.





Health Ministry

Health Ministry Corner Barb Douglas, PHM

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

The year has gotten off to a snowy start hasn't it? I think this is the most snow that I've seen here in Nebraska for at least 20 years! But God is good, the snow is pretty much light and airy. The land can use this moisture come summer. I hope spring is getting a jump start for all the gardeners out there. I don't pay much attention to the political scene, because I know God is in control no matter what the storm looks like. I am encouraging everyone to remember that as this year progresses. God's grace abounds all around us whether we can see it or realize it or not.

Experiencing his grace in the middle of all this insanity, is one of his greatest gifts to all who believe in him and follow his way. That doesn't mean we won't feel scared, or alone at times. It doesn't mean we are always happy, and carefree either. It just means we know who is in control, and who we are in him. His children needn't worry or cower in fear before the evil we may encounter. We, as his children, can know we are safe in his embrace at all times. Disease and pestilence is often equated with sin in the Bible. His Word is filled with these assurances, and I want to share a few of those beautiful words with you:

Psalm 46:1-2, *"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be removed, and the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea."*

Psalm 84:11-12, *"For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly. O Lord of hosts, blessed is the man that trusts in thee."*

Proverbs 3:5-6, *"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."*

Nahum 1:7, *"The Lord is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knows them that trust in him."*

Psalm 37:24, *"Though we fall, we shall not be utterly cast down: For the Lord upholds us with his hand."*

1 John 1:7, *"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his son will cleanse us from all our sins."*

Mark 9:3, *"Jesus said unto him, 'If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believes.'"*

Thank you all for reading the newsletter. I sincerely hope that these words will comfort and guide you no matter what your new year looks like. Please remember we are here at the church to serve you. If you have any questions about your health or health decisions, please call, make an appointment to visit, and I will be happy to go over anything that is bothering you, or is of

Support Sarah

On Sunday, February 7, we will be taking a special offering for the support of Sarah Siglin, Sarah served at F Street Church for two summers, as an intern with Immerse. The following is a letter to our church family about her trip. You may also sign up to support here at <https://send.org/give/missionaries/siglin>.

Dear F Street Church,

Life has been bittersweet lately, and I'm surprised that a year has already passed since I've last been with you. I miss all of you immensely. This year has been challenging, but I hang on to the thought that I have had the opportunity to love and be loved for 2 summers by the community that F Street boasts. Your joy carries me forward.

I am writing this letter to all of you now because I have big news! Although I couldn't spend this last summer in Lincoln because of the pandemic, I am looking ahead to a different dream—and this dream needs your help! Around May of this year, I accepted a missionary internship with SEND International, a group dedicated to spreading the gospel internationally. I get to teach high school students about Jesus in Tokyo, Japan for 3 months. Right now, less than 1% of the Japanese population knows Christ.

Because COVID-19 has made things confusing for everyone, I have no idea when in 2021 I'll be able to go to Japan, but I'm not letting that discourage me. If the gospel is truly life-changing and life-giving, which it is, then I want to share it with my last breath. So, I will continue to ready myself until the borders reopen and I get to take my first step as a missionary.

Since being accepted, I get to raise a large chunk of money to fly and sustain me while I'm abroad; however, I also need people to pray for me for now and when I finally get there. If you feel moved to join me in my mission, please talk to Beth or Jeff about receiving one of my support cards.

Forever yours, Sarah Siglin



importance to you. We are also here to pray with you over any concerns you may have to deal with at this time.

The Benevolence Team is ready and willing to take your calls Monday- Friday 10:00 a.m.-1 p.m. If you have a need at times other than that time, please call and leave us a message, telling us in a short message how we can serve you with your name, problem or need, and your phone number, and someone will call you back as soon as possible. The church number is 402-435-3673. Thank you all again, and God's Blessings to each one of you.

Your Parish Nurse/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



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.

Monthly Bible Reading Schedule

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

I love the book of Acts. Sometimes it is called the Acts of the Apostles. I prefer to call it the Acts of the Holy Spirit because it is a biblical account of the supernatural ways that the Holy Spirit empowered the young followers of Jesus to do great things in challenging times.

The Book of Acts is in a real sense a book for renewal. It calls the church back to its roots—to the early church in the upper room in its undivided devotion to prayer, to its missionary fervor, its fellowship and sharing, its mutual trust and unity. It sets a pattern for faithful discipleship, for a witness that walks in the footsteps of the Master, a wholehearted commitment with a willingness to sacrifice and even to suffer. It speaks to us when discouraged, reminding us that all time is in God's hands, reassuring us of the reality of his Spirit in our lives and witness. It challenges us to open our hearts to the power of the Spirit that we might be faithful witnesses to the word and come to experience anew its triumph in our own time.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Feb 1 – Acts 5	Feb 2 – Acts 6	Feb 3 – Acts 7	Feb 4 – Acts 8	Feb 5 – Acts 9
Feb 8 – Acts 10	Feb 9 – Acts 11	Feb 10 – Acts 12	Feb 11 – Acts 13	Feb 12 – Acts 14
Feb 15 – Acts 15	Feb 16 – Acts 16	Feb 17 – Acts 17	Feb 18 – Acts 18	Feb 19 – Acts 19
Feb 22 – Acts 20	Feb 23 – Acts 21	Feb 24 – Acts 22	Feb 25 – Acts 23	Feb 26 – Acts 24