

The Word on the (F) Street

Springtime Comes to the Neighborhood


Bill Thornton, Teaching Pastor

Marcia and I have lived in our downtown home for several years now. In that time, we have observed a few annual springtime rituals that occur as the weather starts to warm. The birds begin to sing, the grass greens, and the trees leaf out. We also notice that more of our neighbors are outside, and that there is an increase of pedestrian traffic in front of our house. With more of these signs of life, we also hear an increase of the sounds that accompany a neighborhood that seems to be waking up from a long, winter's nap.

Some of the sounds are happy. There are children at play; neighbors greeting one another; and outdoor activities being enjoyed. At the same time, there are also sounds that sadden my heart when I hear them. Drivers expressing road rage, domestic disputes escalate in volume. Occasionally, even gun shots being fired. There is something about the winter quiet of the neighborhood that can deceive us into thinking that all is peaceful and calm around us. Then the emergence of spring reminds us that the noisiness of human life has only been shut indoors for a season. It was there all the time, and now as we move outside ourselves, we bring all these underlying problems with us.

For us at F Street Neighborhood Church, this means that the work of preaching the Gospel, making disciples, and loving God and neighbor goes on, in season and out of season. In the coming weeks we will see more and more evidence of the great need that our neighborhood has for the life transforming work of God. As we do so, may we follow our Lord's lead by doing as he did long ago: Living in the daily tension that exists between showing grace and speaking truth, and offering acceptance and direction to our neighbors that we have been called to love. This is our mission.






Daylight Savings begins
March 14! Set your clocks
ahead one hour before you go
to bed. You will lose an hour of
sleep, but you don't want to
miss church on Sunday!

Calendar for March 2021

2nd: 6:30am Prayer
3rd: **Happy Birthday Vicki Hatfield, Jeff Heerspink**
4th: 6:30pm FoodNet
6th: **Happy Birthday Scott Hatfield**
7th: Sunday Service
9th: 6:30am Prayer; **Happy Birthday Timothy Mailand**
10th: **Happy Birthday Kaylei Bridges**
11th: 6:30pm FoodNet
12th: **Happy Birthday Shirley Robinson**
14th: Sunday Service; 6pm Youth Group;
16th: 6:30am Prayer
18th: 6:30pm FoodNet; **Happy Birthday Johnny Mann**
21st: Sunday Service
23rd: 6:30am Prayer
25th: 6:30pm FoodNet
27th: **Happy Birthday Elis Richard**
28th: Sunday Service; 6pm Youth Group;
Happy Birthday Jonathan Delay
31st: **Happy Birthday Andrea Mailand; Keith Morrissey**
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.



Lincoln School of Ministry will begin its
Spring Session on Thursday,
March 25. Tuition is \$100 and includes
ten class sessions on Leadership.

A Tale of Two Funerals Jeff Heerspink, Pastor

I am in the midst of preparing to do a funeral in the next week for Joe Nelson. At the same time, I got a message this morning that an old acquaintance of mine, Terry DeValois, had just passed away. The passing of these two men has left me thinking about what it means to live life well.

I got to know Joe, primarily by proximity to Casey's. He was a regular there, and I had done a funeral for a friend of his a few years back, someone he used to drink coffee with at Casey's. Joe had spent many years of his life in self-centered, wild living. Consequently, he spent a great portion of his life in prison, and the last years of his life here in the neighborhood. It was while in prison that Joe changed his life, and from all signs, surrendered it to the Lord. All I had the privilege to see was the later portion of his life, so all I saw was a man who was humble, always willing to talk to people, help others with rides, buying cases of food for our food box in front of our house, and giving gas and food to people in need at Casey's. I also saw the man who was working to be reconciled to his children. He was over-

whelmed with joy after a trip to the west coast, where both of his daughters lived, after decades of not seeing them.

My acquaintance of the past, Terry, lived a different life. I got to know him while I was working on a dairy farm. He owned the farm behind the one that I was working on. The two farmers shared a lot of resources as friends. That was the way Terry was, generous and friendly to all. He also was a teacher and the Athletic Director for the public school. He too was humble. My favorite story about



Terry, was that when he purchased a late '50s white Corvette for his wife. The problem was, his stick (and he pointed out that she did not want to learn), and child (only 2 seats). Terry kept the car, knowing it was nice, but that really did not matter to him, and used it as his commuter car to school. One day (30 years or so later) he needed to take his manure spreader to the shop, and opted to do this on his way to school. There was Terry, driving his white 1950 'Vette, with his green John Deere manure spreader, going down the road. The contrast never dawned on him. It was just a car that conveniently had a chrome hitch. He too, was generous helping others and lending a hand or giving a smile or sharing his resources whenever he could. One of the lines from a tribute to Terry stated: "You believed no one was below you, that there was no one above you, but God himself."

I expect that Joe's funeral will be attended by a good-sized number of people from the neighborhood, who were impacted, and blessed to know him. I also expect that Terry's funeral will be a packed house, after years of being a kind and gentle spirit, engaged in the community. Regardless of the size of the funeral, both men have finished well. They gave their lives (at least the end of them) to serve others, never thinking too highly of themselves or their possessions and simply wanted to find the joy in others.

May we, with God, do the same.

OPEN STUDIO

THE CREATIVE ARTS STUDIO AT
F STREET NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCH
IS OPEN FOR YOUR USE EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT
FROM 7 - 10 PM

THIS IS A TIME FOR YOU TO
WORK ON SOMETHING YOU'VE DONE BEFORE
TRY SOMETHING NEW
JUST BE CREATIVE

TALK TO JEAN STRYKER FOR MORE INFO
402.784.1599

Wanted: Your Wedding Photos

Would you share your wedding photos with us? If you're willing, please send a digital copy to Jean at:

jeanstrykerart@gmail.com

by March 14. These will be used in a church service only and won't be published online.



Youth Group **Jeff Heerspink, Pastor**

As a parent, and pastor, I am genuinely excited for the youth ministry that is starting up here at F Street Neighborhood Church. Thanks to Jenny Arnold for taking the leadership of this.

Prior to moving to Lincoln, Beth and I served as youth pastors. We had a large and growing youth group. Regrettably, we prided ourselves on it being a church, in and of itself. We had games, often for the first hour, and then we had worship, and a sermon. The idea was great, but today I am regretful. Many of these students did not transfer into the church. As they graduated from high school, too many of them graduated from the church community, and even their faith.

One of the things that we are hoping to do with the Youth Ministry, at F Street Church, is connect our great group of students with the adults in our church. That is why we want the youth group to come to the homes, or be hosted by, the adults of our church. They might then hang out, play games, eat with, or share a lesson or testimony.

We want the students of our church to be connected to the adults; to get to know, and learn from those in the church. We also want the adults to get to know some of the great kids that attend. We would love to see kids being active on church teams, and in the functions, so that they get to learn and see the values of such things.

If you are interested in hosting the kids at your house, or at another location, (summer will come again and we can go to parks, beaches and other fun places) please contact Jenny Arnold at 402-805-1412 (She is often up-front singing on the worship team).

Youth Group activities for March

March 14, movie night in the Fireside Room, 6:00 p.m.

March 28, meeting at the Thornton's, 6:00 p.m.

Electronic Giving Helps Keep Us Going

Tad Stryker, Elder

Although we are having weekly worship services, COVID-19 still affects us all. It affects our church attendance and our normal activities.

This is just a reminder that although our church family has been

disrupted by unexpected circumstances, many of our church's ongoing financial obligations and ministry opportunities are still going on.

Remember that you can help financially support F Street Neighborhood Church even if you can't walk through our front door.

- You can give using our website (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 Tad Stryker, 402-802-0597.



We Send Email Messages!

Do You Receive Them? Tad Stryker, Elder

Sometimes Pastor Jeff or others at F Street Church send email messages to a wide group. And sometimes we try to send them to our entire church family.

Have you received one of our emails? If not, you are missing out. If you want email from church, share your email address with us and we'll add it to the Church Directory.

Shoot it over to us (by email, of course!) at:

fstreetchurch@gmail.com

Meet Hollie Hollie Sell, Intern

Hello! My name is Hollie Sell. I am the new intern at F St. Neighborhood Church. I am a student at Hope International University and majoring in Family Life and Counseling. I am from a small town in Nebraska, but I currently live in Lincoln. God has been a part of my life since high school. This last year has been one of the hardest seasons of my life. A lot has changed, but it has grown my relationship with God even more than what it was. He is currently teaching me to be in the moment, and not to stress about the future as much as I have in the past. God is also teaching patience in all aspects of my life and how to be with him while in a season of quietness. I am looking forward to meeting everyone, getting to know you, and being in community with you.



Share Your Story Beth Heerspink, Immerse Director

The theme of Immerse this year is "Out of Control." When our lives feel out of control, what do we do? What makes us feel out of control? Who or what do we give control to? How do we give control to God, and how will that make a difference for us, and those around us? We will be urging the Immerse students to give more control of their lives to Jesus, especially when their lives feel out of control.

How about you? Have portions of your life ever felt out of control? Who or what did you turn to? How did you experience God in the midst of those times? What did you learn about God? What did you learn about yourself? What is YOUR story?

One of the most meaningful parts of Immerse for the students is generally the testimonies, or stories they hear. We call it, "Power Hour," and it's a time of debrief, worship, and a story from someone in our local community.

If you have any interest in sharing your story with one or more of the Immerse groups, please consider coming to a meeting in the fireside room at F Street Church, on March 31. We will talk about what makes a meaningful story and begin articulating our own stories in a way we can share with others. Thanks for your consideration!

Please RSVP to Beth Heerspink at 402-217-2352.



Health Ministry

Health Ministry Corner Barb Douglas, PHM

Hello Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

I truly hope and pray that everyone made it through these last few weeks of such extreme cold and weather conditions. It was, to say the least, brutal! I pray that spring is on its way, and with it mild temperatures and beautiful weather. We all need a little reprieve! There has also been a nasty stomach bug going around as well. I hope none of you were bothered with it. But if you were, know that you were being prayed for, every day. Respiratory flu bugs are in the air as well. Be sure to be taking those vitamins that help prevent these nasty winter diseases. They are:

1. Vitamin C, found in so many fruits and vegetables, namely orange juice, or any citrus fruit of your choosing.
2. Zinc is also very necessary to keep your immune system revved up. Sources are oysters, red meats and poultry, beans, nuts, sea foods like crab or lobster, and dairy products.
3. Turmeric, is a spice that can be added to several foods, like scrambled eggs, roasted vegetables, rice, with greens, or soups.

4. Blueberries are a wonderful source of antioxidants that are needed to keep our bodies healthy and give our immune system a great boost.
5. Spinach, broccoli, and red bell peppers, whether they are fresh, canned or frozen, are also great immune system boosters.
6. Ginger and garlic are great immune boosters and are also good for the stomach, they soothe and fortify the lining and keep digestive juices in order.

These are just a few immune boosting foods that are good for us and nutritious all the time. I hope that you all stay healthy and in God's Grace. He is always watching over us in every situation.

Please remember these wonderful verses from God's Word. They will help you remember how much God loves all of us, believers and unbelievers alike. For those who believe in our dear Lord Jesus Christ, the following verses will uplift you at any time.

1. John 14:27, *"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you, not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."*

2. Psalm 23:4-5, *"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over."*

3. Hebrews 13:6, *"So that we may say boldly, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me."*

4. Isaiah 54:14, *"In righteousness thou shalt be established: thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou shalt not fear; and from terror; for it shall not come near thee."*

5. Psalm 46:1, *"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."*

6. Proverbs 3:24, *"When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid; yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet."*

Brothers and sisters, I truly pray that these verses will give you comfort and courage for any and all strife or problem that may lie ahead for all of us. Please remember that the office is open Monday- Friday for calls and/or appointments. You may call anytime and leave a message with your name, phone number, request, and the best time to return your call. The number is 402-435-3673, and either Pastor Bill, myself (Barbara Douglas), or Linoma Wingate will call you back.

With much love and care, your Health Minister,

Barbara J. Douglas HMFSNC

Special Offering in March

Jonathan Keyzer, Pastor at Northern Lighthouse

Northern Lighthouse Church is a Gospel-Centered Church Family with a heart to reach those who are incarcerated, in recovery, and those struggling with poverty and homelessness.



We believe in God's power to restore and bring healing! And we believe that God's grace is radical and the most transforming force in the universe.

We offer an outreach to CCCL (Community Corrections Center, Lincoln), as well as our Charity Autos Program (which features volunteers who fix cars for folks from the community for the cost of parts), and a Reintegration Program on Monday nights (for those in recovery). We also work within our Emerging Leaders Program to equip believers for ministry.

Marked by Ashes, Walter Brueggemann (b. 1933)
(This poem was submitted by Savannah Clapper. Although Ash Wednesday has passed, this is still timely.)

Ruler of the Night, Guarantor of the day

"This day" a gift from you.

This day - like none other you have ever given, or we have ever received.

This Wednesday dazzles us with gift and newness and possibility.

This Wednesday burdens us with the tasks of the day, for we are already

halfway home

halfway back to committees and memos,

halfway back to calls and appointments,

halfway on to next Sunday,

halfway back, half frazzled, half expectant,

half turned toward you, half rather not.

This Wednesday is a long way from Ash Wednesday,

but all our Wednesdays are marked by ashes we begin this day with that taste of ash in our mouth:

of failed hope and broken promises,

of forgotten children and frightened women,

we ourselves are ashes to ashes, dust to dust;

we can taste our mortality as we roll the ash around on our tongues.

We are able to ponder our ashness with

some confidence, only because our every Wednesday of ashes anticipates your Easter victory over that dry, flaky taste of death.

On this Wednesday, we submit our ashen way to you,

you Easter parade of newness.

Before the sun sets, take our Wednesday and Easter us,

Easter us to joy and energy and courage and freedom;

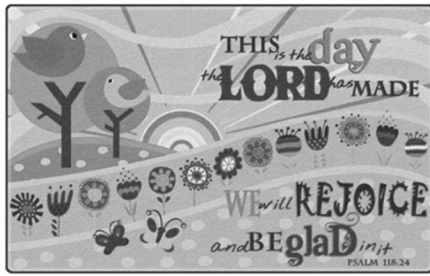
Easter us that we may be fearless for your truth.

Come here and Easter our Wednesday with

mercy and justice and peace and generosity.

We pray as we wait for the Risen One who comes soon.

*For over thirty years now, Walter Brueggemann (b. 1933) has combined the best of critical scholarship with love For the local church in service to the kingdom of God. Now a professor emeritus of Old Testament studies at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia, Brueggemann has authored over seventy books. Taken from his *Prayers for a Privileged People <https://www.journeywithjesus.net/BookNotes/Walter_Brueggemann_Prayers_For_A_Privileged_People.shtml>* (Nashville: Abingdon, 2008), pp. 27-28.*



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!

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 fstretchchurch@gmail.com

Prayer Requests

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



Monthly Bible Reading Schedule

Hebrews: Overview

Hebrews is a great book for anyone to read. It has a certain feel, like it is being written by a coach motivating his team for the second half, after they have fallen behind in the game. It is written as a persuasive letter to encourage someone to hold fast to the truth of Jesus. This is a good read that reminds us of the person of Jesus Christ, and role that faith has played throughout the history of the church.

Although its author is unknown, I hope that you will read through this 13 chapter book and find a fresh encouragement in the faith.

James: Overview

If the first two books that we are reading through this year are calling us to keep the faith, then James is teaching us how to live by faith. James, the brother of Jesus, writes this book to the early converts living among non-believers.

It is a book that we could and maybe should read every day as a reminder of how to live. When I first came to Jesus, it was the book that I was encouraged to read everyday for a month, as a means to soak it in and have influence on my life. To this day, it remains a favorite, yet still a challenge to live out. I hope it will be that for you as well.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
March 1 – Acts 25	March 2 – Acts 26	March 3 – Acts 27	March 4 – Acts 28	Mar 5 – Heb 1
Mar 8 – Heb 2	Mar 9 – Heb 3	Mar 10 – Heb 4	Mar 11- Heb 5	Mar 12 – Heb 6
Mar 15 – Heb 7	Mar 16 – Heb 8	Mar 17 – Heb 9	Mar 18 – Heb 10	Mar 19 – Heb 11
Mar 22 – Heb 12	Mar 23 – Heb 13	Mar 24 – James 1	Mar 25 – James 2	Mar 26 – James 3