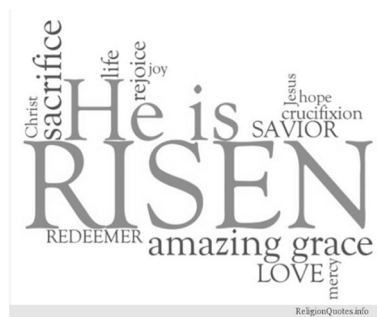


The Word on the (F) Street



A Place of Acceptance and Direction
F Street Neighborhood Church
1302 F Street
Lincoln, NE 68508
Pastor Jeff Heerspink
Pastor Bill Thornton
www.fstreetchurch.org
fstreetchurch@gmail.com
Volume 7, Issue 4
April 2021



God is Moving Jeff Heerspink, Pastor

There are a number of things that I can point to as a means to show that we are seeing God at work at F Street Neighborhood Church. To begin with: the answer to the prayer (of a few of my close friends), a little over a year ago, that I would have a partner in ministry. The answer to that prayer was the blessing of Bill, a respected, gifted pastor with (many) years of experience, coming on staff. Those who were part of Jacob’s Well have all been answers to the prayer, that we have prayed from the first day we started F Street Church: *“Bring workers, for the harvest is plentiful and the workers are few.”* Today many of our Team Leaders are a result of the merge. There are also those who are the answer to the prayer, who were not attending either church. As we have moved through the pandemic, God has been so faithful to bring a number of people to F Street Church, who have a great heart for God, and for the people of our neighborhood.

We also see God at work in the lives of people who are just getting to know and understand the grace of God, and those who are interested, or looking to be baptized. God works in the lives of people who have struggles with addictions and are making steps in their recovery.

New members have been added to our staff, with Savannah, and Jean (both part time and raising 50% of their own salary). As well as Hollie, serving as our resident.

I believe that people are the priority. With great people, I am excited to think about what God might want to do - or be able to do - with us, as we strive to be a place of acceptance and direction.

Finances are not the answer to all of our problems, but they can be a sign of health and of God at work.

We are excited to see building projects that are happening. The office remodel is completed, with a new roof over the education wing, and we are nearing the end of Phase 2 (four total phases) for our bathroom remodels.

Although many of you may not have seen anything happening yet, we have replaced the sewer line to the alley, (a must for the new bathrooms) built a new storage closet on the stage, in the basement, to accommodate all the storage that we are losing for the women’s restroom (thanks Dave and Barry for the work on this, and have the plans drawn up for the new restrooms.

God has provided the funds for new cameras. Now we have two cameras that are able to pan, tilt, and zoom making our online presence better, eliminating the need for a camera on the floor of the sanctuary.

Finances are not the answer to all of our problems, but they can be a sign of health and of God at work. We are seeing some of our best months ever in the history of F Street Neighborhood Church, although we are still short of our actual budget, God continues to provide.

Just Dots, No Lines...Yet!

In connection to God moving, I see where God is placing dots, waiting for us to connect them, to see what a beautiful picture he is creating in partnership with us as we follow and trust him. In the recent months there are things that I see that may be dots that are simply awaiting the lines.

Providing homes for transitions, recovery, or discipleship, seems to be a

Calendar for April 2021
1st: 6:30pm FoodNet
4th: **Easter Sunday Service**
5th: **Happy Birthday Rose Marie Bridger-King**
6th: 6:30am Prayer
7th: **Happy Birthday Brian Acevedo**
8th: 6:30pm FoodNet
9th: **Happy Birthday Xander Mailand**
10th: **Happy Birthday Bryce Pierce**
11th: Sunday Service; 6pm Youth Group;
13th: 6:30am Prayer; **Happy birthday Christian Dantor**
14th: **Happy Birthday Linoma Wingate**
15th: 6:30pm FoodNet
18th: Sunday Service
20th: 6:30am Prayer; **Happy Birthday Chad Triplett**
22nd: 6:30pm FoodNet
25th: 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.

common theme in many of the discussions that I am having of late. Homes that can help serve people in our neighborhood, who have the need for housing. I know that we could legitimately start 12- plus homes, each with a different purpose. However, we need to continue to pray, talk and see what God is asking us to do and, if the Lord leads, be willing to take the first step.

There are a few of us who have also been praying about the original church building, outback. Again dots...no lines... yet! We have called it a chapel, or "The 13th Street Chapel." A chapel is defined as, "a small building for Christian worship, typically one attached to an institution." What if this were a place where people could drop in, and be greeted by a person who is there to engage, to love and to serve? There is still a part of the building with pews where someone could sit and meet with God. There are rooms. One room might be where people are able to sign up to pray, to spend an hour alone, to intercede for our neighborhood, our city, our country, our world, maybe we begin to pray as a church, 24/7. There are other rooms for people to meet with someone who can listen, coach and teach.

I cannot know if God will allow us to see the complete picture, how God might even change the vision for any of these dots, or if he will even stop them all together. But I cannot help but be excited that he is at work in our midst and wanting to do something great with the people and property of F Street for his glory to be revealed to many.

Celebrate Recovery

I have mentioned, in a previous newsletter, that we are in hopes of starting Celebrate Recovery (CR) here at F Street Church, with the hopes of bridging the gap, if you will, between the church and the recovery world. There has been a team of people who are attending the only current CR in town, at Berean Church. There are also others, who have recovery experience, and are interested in being a part of what God wants to do through this ministry.



At this point I am thrilled to say that it is our prayerful desire to start CR in September of this year. We hope to start the large group program (open group) on Wednesday nights at the church. Also we hope to begin the step studies (small groups) on another night in spring of 2022.

I want to invite you to be a part of the process by engaging in any of the following ways:

Pray – as we know, prayer is a purpose that we have, as we engage in the neighborhood that we are called to. Please join us in praying for the team that God is pulling together, for the process we are going through to be prepared, for the hearts of those God is going to bring to the gathering.

Serve- we are open to others joining, as we know that it is going to take many people to make this happen. We need people to run security, to greet, to make food, to run sound, to teach, to be present, to pray and to simply be present. If you are interested in helping or learning more at this moment I will say please come and talk with me (Pastor Jeff) at any time.

Family Meeting

It is past time for another Family Meeting. In a normal year, we strive to have no less than three of these meetings (roughly, Jan., April, Sept.) to gather as the members of F Street Neighborhood Church, to discuss and process things that are important to the family of Christ here.

Our next family meeting will be Wednesday, April 28 at 7:00 p.m., in the Sanctuary.

Although some of the agenda is still being planned and prayed over, we do know that we will be running through a few financials, vision processing questions, discussing the process for adding Elders, and a few other things I am sure.

Who should be there: We invite and encourage anyone who is a member defined by the following.

- Active and growing relationship with Jesus Christ
- Active in attending regularly
- Active in serving at F Street Church
- Active in giving financially to F Street Church

We hope to see all of you who can make it, attend this meeting, as we seek to keep you informed as well and give you space to ask questions and process the direction of F Street Church.

OPEN STUDIO

The Creative Arts Studio at
F Street Neighborhood Church
Is open for your use every Thursday night
From 7-10 PM
Come with a friend!

This is a time for you to:
Try something new
Work on something you've done before
Just have a little creative fun

Talk to Jean Stryker
402.784.1599

Love Your Neighbor as Yourself

Bill Thornton, Teaching Pastor

There was another murder in the neighborhood this past weekend. While still under investigation, regardless of the cause, the loss of any human life is tragic. We all know that to be true.

For at least 3,000 years there have been two great commandments that have guided God's people in terms of our conduct: Love for God and Love for Neighbor. It is the second one that I want to bring to our attention today. There are several practical ways that we can love those who live near us, especially in the neighborhood served by our congregation.

One thing that I have noticed about living downtown is the high volume of pedestrian foot traffic on the sidewalk by our house, our church building, and the community garden where I have a

plot. With each passerby comes the opportunity to extend a greeting. Admittedly, some of these seem to fall on disinterested ears, but more often I have found my greeting returned with a kind response. **Love your neighbor as yourself.**

With the arrival of spring each year, I cannot help but notice the presence of litter that has accumulated over the winter. As the weather warms up, there are more opportunities to walk in the neighborhood. How about taking along a bag to pick up the unsightly trash that others have left behind? Those who work in the field of Community Development report that this sort of behavior can be contagious. Others will follow our lead in making the neighborhood look more presentable, indicating that people care. **Love your neighbor as yourself.**



Beyond what we can do as individuals and families, together as a church, we can show love for our neighbors, too. One practical way is when we park our vehicles at church gatherings and activities. For example, rather than taking a spot close to the building, how about parking a little farther away so that space can be used by someone with limited mobility or arriving late? By the way, did you know that there are an additional 17 parking spaces available to us on Sunday mornings in the adjacent Nebraska Realty lot located across the alley, north of the church building, as well as several off-street spaces on the south side of G Street near 13th Street? If you do park on the street, as some of us do, please be careful not to block driveways or alleys. These are some simple ways to **Love your neighbor as yourself.**

Now I realize that to some folks what I have written about today may not seem overly spiritual, but I would beg to differ. Let's remember what Jesus said long ago, *"Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you. This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets (Matthew 7:12)."*

Love your neighbor as yourself. It begins by doing the "little things" in our neighborhood.

Pulpit vs Politics Keith Morrissey, Elder

"It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, to search out a matter is the glory of kings." (Prov 25:2) (Isaiah 55:8-9)

"The facts are from God, the explanations from men." (Charles Hodge)

As we consider both the facts and the explanations, we would do well to consider the source of each. The one is from God, is fact, and is not subject to change. The other is from people, and is therefore subject to change, depending on what has been sought out and the opinion of who is running the show at the time.

Charles Hodge was both a contemporary and a critic of Charles Darwin. Each was dealing with the same facts, but came up with totally different explanations. One was trying to glorify God as the creator, the other was trying to do away with God as the creator. One appealed to the religious of the day, the other appealed to the scientists of the day. In this article, I appeal to the realist of the day.

As we consider both the facts and the explanations, we would do well to consider the source of each.

In the latter chapter we read the story God was preparing Canaan, (I don't know why). That is how's are opinions

of the book Genesis, of Joseph. In a nutshell, a famine for Egypt and know why), and Joseph in that role (he didn't know why). The why's and or the results of scientific research, which are subject to challenge and change,

Today, God has not been preparing us not for a famine, but a pandemic (I don't know why, I have an opinion, but God's thoughts and ways are far beyond me). In finding the answer to this pandemic, we must be aware that God gave us both the church and the scientist. Joseph used "scientific" methods to survive the famine. We will use science to survive COVID. God has had the answer all along. It is up to the king to find it.

Now that we have found what God had hidden (a vaccination), let us not mistake to whom we shall give the glory. In Hodge's day, the scientists were seeking it. He was told "You are not a scientist and therefore have no right to speak". Christians have been told the same ever since. You can be sure that scientists will try to claim the glory, as will the politicians, and the church will be told we have no right to speak because we are not scientists, Republicans or Democrats or whatever.

But, we must speak out! We must speak the facts: God created the world, evolution is just a theory or opinion. God only created two genders, anything else is just an opinion. God gave us equality, 'sameness" is just an opinion. But don't fall into their trap of thinking that they have no right to speak because they are not "Christians". Let them speak, so that we can answer with love, with facts, with the gospel, and bring them into the glory of God.

Mission Offering

On Sunday, April 4th, we will be taking a Mission's Offering for Jacob's Well. We encourage all of you to consider how God





WOMEN!

You're invited to a
Creative Night Out

Come and make a step-by-step painting
in the company of your F Street Church friends!
Friday, April 23
6:30-9:00 p.m.
Fireplace Room
Bring a snack to share and a blow-dryer
Please contact Jean Stryker to register

might be calling you to participate in this offering. Here is the information from director Mark Thornton:

“Jacob’s Well has been working in the neighborhood for over a decade now with the goal of connecting people in need with the resources to better their lives both spiritually and physically. Through things like food distributions, block parties, weekly kids club, and community garden spaces, we try our best to show others God’s love. This is also something we do as neighbors and residents of downtown Lincoln. We are thankful for our friendships we’ve made with members at F Street Neighborhood Church and I look forward to seeing how God can use us as partners serving in the neighborhood together for years to come!”



Spring Cleaning!

Cece Robinson, Transformations Thrift Store Director

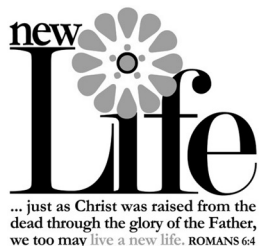
Spring is here! At Transformations we are excited for the warmer weather, cookouts and spring cleaning. That’s right! I said **Spring Cleaning!** As you make room for everything the new year has in store, don’t forget to consider donating your gently used yard, garden and plant supplies to Transformations. Every year we get a number of people seeking pots, yard ornaments, and pretty much anything they can use to brighten up their environment after the dark dreary winter. When you donate to Transformations you are also supporting the mentoring ministry of Atlas. It’s a 2 for 1 kind of deal (they’re the best).

That’s not the only way to help support Transformations and the neighborhood. There are other ways you can engage as well.

- Bring us your Best Choice Labels
- Bring us your plastic grocery sacks
- Bring us your small, clean household items and appliances in working condition
- Bring us your clean, gently used clothing items
- Volunteer with us for an hour or two during a time that fits YOUR schedule
- Shop with us, pray for us, tell your friends about us!

Want to keep up on what’s just around the corner at the store? For sale dates and special promotions as well as community engagement opportunities follow us on Facebook or check out our website at www.transformationsthriftstore.org

Be sure to call us if you have any questions or shoot us an email at transformations.lincoln@gmail.com



Block Parties Are Back! Savannah Clapper

I know I am aching for a little bit of community to come back in my life: gathering around a table, eating together. We are holding onto the hope that this is not as it is supposed to be, all the while trying to love our neighbor well, through social distancing. It is a hard balance, but as the weather is getting nicer, I have found a little more joy in my step, and one of those reasons is that we can start to meet outside again. We have had a gathering space outside all throughout the winter, but now we will start to use it even more, as outside feels more and more inviting.

With that invitation comes the heart for block parties! We seek to create spaces where our neighbors and our congregation can gather. April is our kick-off month, and we are so excited to have some new sponsors lined up, tables to be set, and food to be shared! This is a reminder that block parties are on the last Sunday of each month. There will be tables, but you will still need to sit distanced from one another. Through all of this, we hope that you can come. So get excited to gather together at the block parties, where we can laugh, eat, and rejoice.



Health Ministry Corner Barb Douglas, HMFSNC

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

I would like to talk to you about health, in Christ, today. I know many of you are perhaps confused or fearful about these current times of COVID, and other issues. The Bible has many things to say about this fearfulness, especially for those who trust in and believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. He is faithful and true to help us through every crisis, and problem. In his Word he promises to be with us in every trouble, to lift our hearts from every fear. He promises to always be with us no matter what happens to us in this fallen world. We live in prosperous times in this country, so it’s very probable that most of us live in a (or at least what appears to be) safety bubble, because we have grown accustomed to everything working for us. And we might notice that things are not necessarily seeming to be that way now. However God is still on his throne, and nothing happens in God's world by surprise or accident. That should encourage all of us.

But I would like to give you some reassurance from God's Word that will help you in every trouble:

1. Psalm 37:39, *"But the Salvation of the righteous is of the Lord: he is their strength in the time of trouble."*
2. Psalm 42:11, *"Why art thou cast down, O my soul? And why are thou disquieted within me? Hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance."*
3. Psalm 73:26, *"My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion forever."*
4. Psalm 91:10-11, *"There shall no evil befall thee neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways."*
5. Psalm 9:9, *"The Lord also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble."*
6. Psalm 138:7, *"Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me: thou shalt stretch forth thine hand against the wrath of mine enemies, and thy right hand shall save me."*
7. Psalm 34:19, *"Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all."*
8. Psalm 18:2, *"The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer, my strength in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower."*
9. John 16:33, *"These things have I spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world you shall have tribulation: But be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."*

God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ have given us these words of comfort to help us overcome any fears or strife we may have. And I truly hope they do. If you have any questions about the current problems we are facing, please don't hesitate to come in or call and talk to me or one of the staff. We are here to help you in any way we can. I would like to remind everyone, now that the warmer weather will soon be here, please remember how important drinking enough water is to the health and wellbeing of our bodies. "Jesus said, *"Everyone who drinks this water will get thirsty again. But no one who drinks the water I give will ever be thirsty again. The water I give is like a flowing fountain that gives eternal life."* John 4:13-14.

Living water for our bodies

Water is one of the most basic elements of life, and 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, he asked her for a drink of water.

How much do I need a drink?

We are a blessed society to have a fresh and abundant water supply at our fingertips. Yet most of us do not drink enough plain drinking water. Unless the doctor has told you differently, we need approximately 6 to 8 (8oz) glasses of water each

day.

What does water do for us?

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.

Living Water for our spirits.

Our Creator God has provided living water for our spirits. 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.

Remember this Easter season what God has done for us. He gave his one and only begotten and sinless Son to die for the remission of our sins. Then he arose again from the dead to provide a permanent Way for all who believe in him to his eternal home in heaven. Praise be to God!

Happy Resurrection Day to everyone!

Barbara J. Douglas HMFSNC

Christ
is
Risen!

"F" STREET 
Neighborhood
CHURCH



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.

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.

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



Upcoming Sermon Series from the Book of Romans Bill Thornton, Teaching Pastor

Some of the most well-known people in the history of the Church have been profoundly influenced by their reading of the Book of Romans, perhaps the greatest of Paul’s letters in the New Testament. Men like Augustine, Martin Luther, as well as John and Charles Wesley have acknowledged their gratitude for the wonderful themes that are addressed in its contents. God used the book to change their lives!

Beginning April 11, and going through June 27, Pastor Jeff and I will be teaching through the first seven chapters of Romans. We will give special attention to the wonderful change that God desires to accomplish in our lives through the Gospel. We hope that you will be here (or listen online) each week as we spend time in God’s Word together.

Below is the schedule we will be following:

April 11	Introducing Change	Romans 1:1-17
April 18	The Pagans Need Change	Romans 1:18-32
April 25	The Religious Need Change #1	Romans 2:1-16
May 2	The Religious Need Change #2	Romans 2:17-29
May 9	Everyone Needs Change	Romans 3:1-20
May 16	Change: A Diamond on a Black Cloth	Romans 3:21-31
May 23	When Change Started	Romans 4:1-25
May 30	What Change Brings	Romans 5:1-11
June 6	Why Change Comes	Romans 5:12-21
June 13	Change: United in Christ	Romans 6:1-14
June 20	Change of Ownership	Romans 6:15-7:6
June 27	Change in Relationship to Sin	Romans 7:7-25

Monthly Bible Reading Schedule

Galatians: Overview

Where Hebrews is the pep talk, Galatians is the sit down in the principal's office. Some times that is what we need. Paul is the author of this great little book, that is all about the gospel of Jesus Christ. The author is holding back nothing as he calls out the Galatians for their departure from the truth.

As some of you may recall, we preached through this book at the end of last year, because it has so much for us to learn. Some of the most famous teaching from Galatians includes the "fruit of the Spirit," but there is a lot more that we can learn through the Holy Spirit if we are willing to read this letter to us.

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.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Mar 29 – James 4	Mar 30 – James 5	Mar 31 – Gal 1	April 1 – Gal 2	April 2 – Gal 3
April 5 – Gal 4	April 6 – Gal 5	April 7 – Gal 6	April 8 – Matt 1	April 9 – Matt 2
April 12 – Matt 3	April 13 – Matt 4	April 14 – Matt 5	April 15 – Matt 6	April 16 – Matt 7
April 19 – Matt 8	April 20 – Matt 9	April 21 – Matt 10	April 22 – Matt 11	April 23 – Matt 12