

The Word on the (F) Street



Seven Years + 1 Jeff Heerspink, Pastor

Time never really does stand still, and yet there are times that it is hard to imagine it has already been seven years since F Street Neighborhood Church started. None of us really seemed to know what we were doing at the beginning. We simply had prayed for this church, God set it up and suddenly we were trying to get ready to start a church in this incredible church building, June 1st 2014.

I still remember listening to Brett Byford preach that opening day service, not knowing how many people would come, if really anyone would. Yet in the past seven years we church, and a large Jesus. We have also wish would have stuck it would have not fallen,

Then, there is the plus reading this joined us thing, again, that took if it really would be neighborhood, and the



have seen many come to number come to faith in seen many leave, many we out with us, many we wish and many we failed.

one, where many of you from Jacob's Well. Some-faith on all our parts to see *Better Together* for us, the kingdom.

This year, as we celebrate seven years of ministry as F Street Neighborhood Church, let's be clear that this really is, and must continue to be, the work of God.

God has been so faithful, providing the opportunity to start this church with a small group of people out of the Northern Lighthouse; God providing a donor to purchase the building outright for us; God providing the people; God providing the ongoing support; God changing hearts; God calling many people here - even some just for a season; God answering prayers for healing; God leading us to a merge; God's incredible timing with Bill and Marcia, and the closing of Nebraska Christian College; God doing what he does best, being God.

I hope that you will take a moment this season to thank God for all the things that he has done over the past 7 years, in and through F Street Neighborhood Church (whether you have been here for it all, or not, you are a part of our story as you read this).

I also hope that you will join us for our seven year anniversary party at Copper Park, on June 6, following our F Street Church worship service.

The Parable of the Life Saving Station and Its Hauntings

On a dangerous seacoast where shipwrecks often occur, there was once a crude little life-saving station. The building was just a hut, and there was only one boat, but the few devoted members kept a constant watch over the sea, and with no thought for themselves went out day and night tirelessly searching for those who were lost. Some of those who were saved and various others in the surrounding area wanted to become associated with the station and gave of their time, money, and effort to support its work. New boats were bought and new crews trained. The little lifesaving station grew.

Some of the members of the lifesaving station were unhappy that the building was so crude and poorly equipped. They felt that a more comfortable place should be provided as the first refuge of those saved from the sea. They replaced the emergency cots with beds and put better furniture in the



Calendar for June 2021

1st: 6:30am Prayer

3rd: 6:30pm FoodNet; **Happy Birthday**

Brandie Waxton-Brown

4th: **Happy Birthday Melvin Schroeder**

5th: **Happy Birthday Rachael Mailand**

6th: Sunday Service; 6pm Youth Group; **Happy Birthday**

Jolene Wilson

8th: 6:30am Prayer

10th: 6:30pm FoodNet

11th: **Happy Birthday Heather Franks**

13th: Sunday Service; **Happy Birthday Robert Bener**

14th: **Happy Birthday Patricia Kozak**

15th: 6:30am Prayer

17th: 6:30pm FoodNet

18th: **Happy Birthday Beverly Bowman, David Drazic**

20th: Sunday Service; 6pm Youth Group;

Happy Birthday Nathan Larsen

21st: **Happy Birthday Jean Stryker**

22nd: 6:30am Prayer; **Happy Birthday Matthew Tatum**

24th: 6:30pm FoodNet

27th: Sunday Service

29th: 6:30am Prayer; **Happy Birthday Schyler Zerus**

enlarged building.

Now the lifesaving station became a popular gathering place for its members, and they decorated it beautifully because they used it as a sort of club. Fewer members were now interested in going to sea on life-saving missions, so they hired lifeboat crews to do this work. The lifesaving motif still prevailed in the club's decorations, and there was a liturgical lifeboat in the room where the club's initiations were held. About this time a large ship wrecked off the coast, and the hired crews brought in boatloads of cold, wet, and half-drowned people. They were dirty and sick. The beautiful new club was in chaos. So the property committee immediately had a shower house built outside the club where victims of shipwrecks could be cleaned up before coming inside.

At the next meeting, there was a split among the club membership. Most of the members wanted to stop the club's lifesaving activities as being unpleasant and a hindrance to the normal social life of the club. Some members insisted upon life-saving as their primary purpose and pointed out that they were still called a life-saving station. But they were finally voted down and told that if they wanted to save the lives of all the various kinds of people who were shipwrecked in those waters, they could begin their own lifesaving station. So they did.

As the years went by, the new station experienced the same changes that had occurred in the old. It evolved into a club, and yet another lifesaving station was founded. History continued to repeat itself, and if you visit that seacoast today, you will find a number of exclusive clubs along that shore. Shipwrecks are frequent in those waters, but most of the people drown.

I first heard this parable when I started in Youth Ministry at a church that was struggling to have any connections beyond its lifelong members. I first wrote it, as it appears on many websites with no author listed. Yet in recent days this parable has haunted me because I see the ease in which any of us (myself included) and even any church (F Street Church included) can shift from the mission of Jesus to go and make disciples, to the care and protection of buildings and people. Not that care for the members of the building are not important, but do they take the place of the mission?

We can not let the mission, that God has called us to.....fade away.

Some of this comes as we work to fix up our building with new offices for staff, new bathrooms for attendees, new landscaping for all to see. Each of these I, personally, have been in support of, worked with and enjoy seeing happen. Yet this parable has been a reminder to me: We cannot let the mission, that God has called us to (here at F Street Church, to be a place of Acceptance and Direction) in and for the neighborhood, fade away.

Our care for the beautiful building that God has given to us needs to be for the purpose of serving all people. That the beauty serves, not just those coming to the building, but the neighborhood as well. That care of our own people leads us to be equipped for the work of ministry, the building up of others.

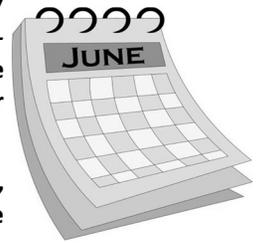
Mark Your Calendar

June 6, F Street Neighborhood Church 7 year anniversary + 1 year *mergivarsar-My*, LSOM graduation and Immerse Intern introduction. Party at Cooper Park following the service.

June 13, Baptisms, first Immerse group, Taco Party Celebration following the service at F Street

June 20, Father's Day with gifts for all the men at F Street Church, Immerse Group.

June 27, F Street Church Block Party.



Lincoln School of Ministry Graduation

Bill Thornton, Teaching Pastor

Lincoln School of Ministry Graduation, Sunday, June 6th

Last Thursday, May 27th, marked the last class session for the 2020-2021 Lincoln School of Ministry. Marcia and I hosted the group for a cookout, and then we spent time talking about the importance of hospitality and the ministry of being present. What a great evening we enjoyed together!

Since last September our students have been receiving training that will equip them to be ministers of Christ in our neighborhood and the world beyond. On Sunday, June 6th we will be honoring those students who have completed all three sessions of LSOM classes. That includes those who were not able to finish up last year due to COVID- 19.

Graduating this year are the following:

- Rodney Bredemeier
- Jessica Hernandez
- Natasha Ingram
- Johnny Mann
- Jessie Myles
- Stacey Preble
- Trevin Preble



The next time you see them, please be sure to congratulate them on a job well done! If you are interested in attending next year's LSOM, please let me know.

On another note, as you have probably noticed, our number of in-person worship attendees has been growing! We are very excited about that as we move into a post-pandemic season of doing life and ministry as a church family. One way that you can help us (you have heard me say this before!) is by reserving our church parking lot on the east side of the church building for those who are older, have small children, or limited mobility. We have recently added additional handicapped parking, and we are requesting that all those who are able to please try to park in the parking lot north of the building, the off street parking near 13th and G Streets, or the parking spaces in front of the F Street Rec Center. Even the loading area in front (south) of the church building on F Street is available to us on Sunday mornings. This is one more way for us to provide the place of

acceptance and direction that we are seeking to be for our neighbors.

Pulpit vs Politics Keith Morrissey, Elder

"Listen, my sons, to a father's instructions," Proverbs 4:1

"The goal is to do family better, not to dismantle it." John Stonestreet

Recently The National Council on Family Relations hosted a webinar entitled *"Toward Dismantling Family Privilege"*, while another popular politically correct organization professed on its website its goal to *"disrupt the Western-prescribed nuclear family."*

These organizations note that families with a married mom and dad raising their children tend to fare better than any other family arrangements. However, within a worldview that sees everything in terms of oppressor/oppressed, this outcome must come from a system that advantages some and disadvantages others. This Marxist philosophy and teaches that the nuclear family is bad because it oppresses other arrangements.

It is the solemn obligation of parents to give their children the instruction and direction that belong to a Christian upbringing.

A Christian worldview contends that these benefits are inherent to a nuclear family because it is *God's* design for the family. Stronger bonds, better social outcomes, better health, and higher rates of happiness are more common in the nuclear family because that is how *God* intended families to do life together.

Jesus told parents to bring our children to him, and to bring them up in the way they should go. He didn't say to take them to Karl Marx, or to the state, or to the local school board to teach them their way. In fact he tells us that it would be better for all if a millstone were tied around their necks and thrown into the sea, than our children be taught their ways. (Matt 18:6-7, Lk 17:2)

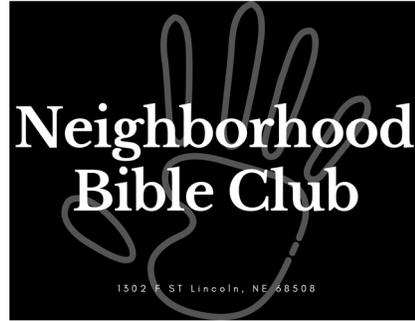
It is the solemn obligation of parents to give their children the instruction and direction that belong to a Christian upbringing. It is not the school's job, or the state's, the federal government's or society's job.

Many of us were not brought up in the way we should go, and so it is very difficult for us to teach our children. But, the good news is that it is never too late. Whether our children are adults or still minors, we can advise them and guide them according to God's directions, and pray and rejoice that they will be better parents than we have been. Along with the church, we should be the loudest voice in celebrating and defending marriage and the family as God intended it. We can make things better for our-

Monday Men's Group Schedule

The Monday night men's group is on summer break. It will start again in September.

elves and for our children. After all, if we didn't do things perfectly, we don't dismantle God's plan, we do it better. We must walk and chew gum at the same time.



Neighborhood Bible Club is Back!

Beth Heerspink, Immerse Director

Kids ages, 5 years through 5th grade, are invited to meet at F Street Neighborhood Church from 1:00-3:00 p.m. on the following Saturdays: June 12, June 19, July 10, July 17, and July 24. The Immerse teams will host NBC, and will provide games, snacks, a Bible story, and a craft for the kids. We will also be bringing kids from the People's city Mission to our church to be part of Neighborhood Bible Club. The Immerse groups will be leading the various elements, along with two of our Interns, Haven and Hollie. We hope to see lots of kids from our church attend! Also, spread the word to friends and neighborhood kids. If you are an adult (or teen) at our church and enjoy children's ministry, it would be wonderful to have a few extra familiar, smiling faces to be present each week (since the Immerse teams change each week). Please talk to Beth (402-217-2352) if you are interested in engaging in this ministry this summer. No planning or prep necessary!



Hey Parents! Beth Heerspink, Immerse Director

Want a night out? Immerse is hosting a FREE BABYSITTING NIGHT on Friday, June 11, at the Northern Lighthouse Church from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Drop off starts at 6:45 p.m.. We will have a group of 12-13 high school students, adult leaders, and Interns to watch your children! There is a playground set out there, and we will have lots of activities along to play with, including face paint, 4-square, bubbles, sidewalk chalk, and lots more. We will have the nursery staffed inside, for babies and small children.

If you are a parent who needs a break, take advantage of this opportunity! Please just pre-register your child(ren) ASAP, with Beth Heerspink at 402-217-2352, so we know how many kids to expect. Thanks!

Can You Give Someone a Ride to Church?

Tad Stryker, Elder

This is an opportunity to be a blessing to a woman who wants to return to our Sunday morning service, but needs a ride from 10th & O Street. She is physically challenged, carries an oxygen supply when traveling, and is unable to step up into our church van, even with assistance.



Would you prayerfully consider this ministry opportunity? You could do this weekly, or be part of a team that takes turns. If interested, please call or text Tad Stryker at 402-802-0597 or Barb Douglas at 402-419-4738.



Health Ministry Corner Barb Douglas, HMFSNC

Hello Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This is your Health Minister, Barbara Douglas, wishing you all good things for this summer. I don't know about you, but I have really enjoyed the last few months of spring. The weather has been quite mild really, and conducive to being outdoors. I hope you are all enjoying this time as well. Since the mask mandate has been lifted, I hope and pray things are on the mend. (Both with people and the atmosphere!) Immerse is back on track. Please welcome all the young people and their sponsors as they come among us to serve this neighborhood, in the name of Christ.

I want to remind everyone that though these mandates have been lifted, we need to continue to practice good health habits, and eat as healthy as possible. Continue to practice good hand-washing, cover your mouth when coughing, and stay home if you're not feeling tiptop. Remember Psalm 31:24, *"Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all you that hope in the Lord."* Keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, and trust in him always. Proverbs 17:22a says, *"A merry heart doeth good like a medicine,"* and God the Father has good plans for all who trust in him. In Romans 8:26-27, we are told, *"In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weaknesses. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints (us) in accordance with God's will."* Please keep each other foremost in your minds. Help one another in any ways possible. Perhaps think of ways to help a neighbor or a friend this summer. The Immerse teams are here to help, but in the meantime and perhaps year round, we can also chime in, in the spirit of brotherly love, and help each other whenever possible. Romans 12:9-10 reminds us, *"Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves."* So if the

mood strikes you, help someone today. I would like to inform you all that, here in the United States, June is National Safety month. Let's practice a little safety, around the home and in your personal space. Here's a list of helpful things we can do (no matter what our age or ability),

1. Keep floors clear of obstacles: Children pick up your toys. Young people pick up your books, games, etc. keep your rooms neat and clutter free. Mom and Dad, help by checking doors, and entrances for any problems that would make entering or exiting the house or rooms problematic, like broken flooring in entryways, or rugs that may present a stumbling problem.
2. Check for adequate lighting, especially in entryways, like to basements, or garages, and in hallways.
3. Keep outlets clear of clutter, and make sure they have no broken plates around the outlet, or light sockets. Don't plug in too many things, overwhelming an outlet or breaker.
4. Keep furnace and water heater areas clear of clutter. Keep that space around them clear of paper or dirt, or articles of clothing.

Help each other, lovingly, to keep our space, no matter how large or small, clean and safe.

The Apostle John in 1 John 3:18 reminds us, *"My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed, and in truth."* So let's all make June 2021 the safest month ever, primarily by helping each other with a loving heart and a clear conscience. 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: (On Summer Break)

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

Prayer Requests

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



Monthly Bible Reading Schedule

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. ² 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.”*

Ephesians: Overview

This is a very descriptive book for the church. It helps us to understand who we are in Christ and how we are to live as a church. It holds one of the great teachings, on the armor of God, and how we are to stand against the devil. In this six-chapter book of the Bible, Paul is not addressing a specific moral issue in the church, but seeks to build up the believer in their faith helping them to become mature believers in Christ. May you be encouraged, challenged, and grow in maturity, as you read through this book of the New Testament.

Philippians: Overview

Known as the “book of encouragement,” this text is believed to be Paul’s last of the four books that he wrote while in prison. He used this as an opportunity to express his affection and appreciation for them, and the support that they have shown to him.

Philippians brims over with often quoted passages: “He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus,” “To live is Christ and to die is gain,” and “I can do all things through him who strengthens me.” These are just a few, but the portrait of Jesus Christ, as a humble servant, is as the core of Paul’s teaching in this letter.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
May 31 – Rom 10	June 1 – Rom 11	June 2 – Rom 12	June 3 – Rom 13	June 4 – Rom 14
June 7 – Rom 15	June 8 – Rom 16	June 9 – Eph 1	June 10 – Eph 2	June 11 – Eph 3
June 14 – Eph 4	June 15 – Eph 5	June 16 – Eph 6	June 17 – Phil 1	June 18 – Phil 2
June 21 – Phil 3	June 22 – Phil 4	June 23 – Col 1	June 24 – Col 2	June 25 – Col 3