

# The Word on the (F) Street



## 8 Years in the Neighborhood Jeff Heerspink, Pastor

“3” is the magic number and “7” is the number of completion but “8” seems... well a bit boring or even scary. “8” is noted for the number of legs on a spider and the number of tentacles on an octopus (both unpleasant creatures to me), and it is now the number of planets in the solar system (sorry Pluto, you no longer count).

Yet, “8” is significant to it is significant to you and years ago, on June 1<sup>st</sup>, service at F Street Neighbor-clear vision back then, to and direction,” and we We see a need for people a place to belong and be hope and truth from the word of God.



me, and I hope and pray that the neighborhood. It was 8 when we held our first public borhood Church. We had a be “a place of acceptance strive to continue that today. in our neighborhood to have welcomed, as well as to find

When we began, there were two common themes:

1. We have no idea what we are doing, we are only trying to be faithful, and
2. We don’t have a lot of money, only trusting God to be faithful.

God has been more than faithful in always giving us what we need, whether it be the funds for a special project, or simply to keep the ministry going with the lights on. He has always been faithful as well to give us the people we have needed. Some have been here for a season and others continue to be a part of the community. Many times, we still do not know what we are doing when it comes to facing the challenges of our culture and context, but we continue on with the word of God, hoping only to be faithful to him regardless of what the outcome is.

I am grateful for the opportunity to minister here in the neighborhood, and to be able to see what God has done - and is doing - in our neighborhood. I hope and pray that you also are excited to be a part of F Street Church, and to see the power of God at work in our own lives and in our community.

Thanks be to God for the 8 years of his abundant faithfulness and thanks to each of you for your faithfulness to follow Jesus, attend worship, serve our community, and give towards the work here.

We are....*Still Better Together.*

A few things that have been highlights through the years.

- 2014 - June 1st started F Street Neighborhood Church
- 2015 – Heerspink’s moved into the neighborhood
- 2016 – Started Immerse (501c3)
- 2017 – Started Lincoln School of Ministry
- 2018 – Started Atlas (501c3)
- 2019 – Started Transformations Thrift Store (501c3)
- 2020 – Merged with Jacob’s Well
- 2021 – Started Celebrate Recovery
- 2022 – Hope to Start Art Chapel Ministry

### Calendar for June 2022

1st: 6:30pm Celebrate Recovery  
2nd: 5:30pm FoodNet  
3rd: **Happy Birthday Brandie Watson-Brown**  
4th: **Happy Birthday Melvin Schroeder**  
5th: Sunday Service; **Happy Birthday Rachael Mailand**  
6th: **Happy Birthday Grace Proctor**  
7th: 6:30am Prayer  
8th: 6:30pm Celebrate Recovery  
9th: 5:30pm FoodNet  
12th: Sunday Service  
13th: **Happy Birthday Robert Bender**  
14th: 6:30am Prayer  
15th: 6:30pm Celebrate Recovery  
16th: 5:30pm FoodNet  
18th: **Happy Birthday Davic Drazic**  
19th: Sunday Service  
20th: **Happy Birthday Nathan Larsen**  
21st: 6:30am Prayer; **Happy Birthday Jean Stryker**  
22nd: 6:30pm Celebrate Recovery  
23rd: 5:30pm FoodNet  
25th: **Happy Birthday Katherine Connett**  
26th: Sunday Service  
28th: 6:30am Prayer; **Happy Birthday Shane Plaster**  
29th: 6:30pm Celebrate Recovery; **Happy Birthday Schyler Zerus**  
30th: 5:30pm FoodNet

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.

## Solitude Jeff Heerspink, Pastor

Solitude is not just being alone, but it is inner fulfillment that comes from being with Jesus - apart from distractions. Loneliness is common, and even an epidemic in our culture. Loneliness is not the same as solitude, as loneliness is an internal emptiness and un-desired.

I have come to believe that we will never find solitude apart from great intention and discipline. If we want to find solitude in a culture of 24/7, portable handheld computers that we call phones, where busyness and distractions abound, then we will need to find ways to be alone with Jesus. If we are to find solitude, we will need to recognize it as a discipline.

A few months ago, I noted that Jesus not only often withdrew to a place of solitude, but that he was often distracted in trying to do so. There are multiple passages that highlight Jesus attempting to get away from the crowds by getting in a boat, only to be followed by the crowds, or other interruptions. Disruptions will happen rather by others or our own wanderings.

In my own life, this is not a simple discipline to practice. It takes daily effort to not allow my wandering mind, the busy schedule, the ever-building list of tasks, or the moment glance at my phone that turns into a mindless scroll on Facebook or YouTube, to focus on Jesus.

It also does not help when solitude is tied to the idea of silence (according to Richard Foster in his book *The Celebration of Disciplines*, the outline for our monthly disciplines). We are a people who love noise, music, voices (podcasts, talk shows), TV shows and moving, or having people around at all times. Silence is difficult.

However, it is in those precious, and sometimes difficult moments of solitude and silence that we can find the fulfillment of being with God. May we strive to be present with God in the precious moments of limited distractions from our world.

Foster points out a few ways to find solitude.

1. Take advantage of the little moments we have each day. Maybe before everyone else wakes up, in the car, at the end of the day. When are there little moments already given to you that you can use to find internal fulfillment?
2. Find a quiet space. It may be a place in your home or apartment, even your office. It could also be in taking a walk or a specific bench in the park or on your porch. Where can you find a quiet space?
3. Practice silence. It is often out of having solitude that we are more comfortable not speaking, not needing to find our confidence in the words we say, but the reverse is also true. It is in not speaking that we can find a deeper sense of God in our lives. I recently was on a trip with Pastors where we had a 24-hour period of silence. We ate meals and cleaned up in utter silence. It was amazing how we were able to get by just fine, but it was also amazing to hear how God had spoken to many of us in that time.
4. Getaway for an extended period of time. When was the last time you planned a day or two away with God? Not a vacation just a time of fulfillment with Jesus.



## New Community Group Launch

Bill Thornton, Teaching Pastor

- ◆ Meeting at Drew and Sarah Peters' house (6730 So. 41st St.) every other Thursday, **starting on June 2nd**.
- ◆ Planning to start at **6:30 p.m.**, and end around 7:45-8:00 p.m.
- ◆ Planning to study from *Spiritual Classics* which is edited by Richard Foster.
- ◆ Each chapter has a short reading (1-2 pages, then a Bible passage and then suggested activities to experiment with the spiritual discipline we are studying.)
- ◆ A great opportunity to grow in your relationship with the Lord!



## Lincoln School of Ministry Graduation, Sunday, June 5th

Bill Thornton, Teaching Pastor

Last Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, marked the last class session for the 2021-2022 Lincoln School of Ministry. Marcia and I hosted the group for a meal, 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 5<sup>th</sup> we will be honoring those students who have completed all three sessions of LSOM classes.

Graduating this year are the following:

Amanda Chenell  
Dave Hogan  
Sage Peterson  
Hollie Sell  
Adam Wockman

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.

## Parking Options for Our Growing

### Church **Bill Thornton, Teaching Pastor**

As you have probably noticed, our number of in-person worship attendees has been growing! We are very excited about that. 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 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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.



### Team Time **Beth Heerspink**

Chuck Swindoll mentions this story in his book *Growing Strong in the Seasons of Life*:

“Once upon a time, the animals decided they should do something meaningful to meet the problems of the new world. So they organized a school. They adopted an activity curriculum of running, climbing, swimming and flying. To make it easier to administer, all the animals took all the subjects.

The duck was excellent in swimming. In fact, he was better than his instructor! However, he made only passing grades in flying, and was very poor in running. Since he was so slow in running, he had to drop swimming and stay after school to practice running. This caused his webbed feet to be badly worn so he became only average in swimming. But “average” was quite acceptable, therefore nobody worried about it—except the duck.

The rabbit started at the top of his class in running, but he developed a nervous twitch in his leg muscles because he had so much makeup work to do in swimming.

The squirrel was excellent in climbing, but he encountered constant frustration in flying class because his teacher made him start from the ground up instead of from the treetop down. He developed “charley horses” from overexertion, so he only got a “C” in climbing and a “D” in running.

The eagle was a problem child and was severely disciplined for being a nonconformist. In climbing classes, he beat all the others to the top but insisted on using his own way of getting there!”

How about you? Were you designed to swim, run, climb, or fly? Or build, create, teach, decorate, cook, grow, tend, shepherd, serve, give, administrate, counsel, problem solve?

At times I do believe God will call us to do things outside of what we are comfortable with or even good at. He may want to equip and stretch us. We must be obedient even when he calls us to do something outside our comfort zone. Sometimes the Christian life requires sacrifice and hardship, and we are not to tell the Lord, “I’m just not passionate about that” or “I’m just not good at that” when he clearly gives us a task to fulfill (see the story of Moses).

On the other hand, however, each of us have been given unique gifts, capabilities, and passions, which enable us to excel in certain areas of ministry and life. When we nurture and grow in those strengths (instead of operating in the areas we are NOT good at), we bless the body of Christ, which is dependent on everyone having and using different spiritual gifts.

Everyone is a “10”—somewhere. Don’t compare yourself to others! God has gifted you in a unique and powerful way and he has also given you some serious shortcomings so that you can depend on him and others.

Our church is built on a team-based approach. We want to see individuals using their spiritual gifts for the building up of the body. Our hope is that everyone who belongs to F Street Neighborhood Church will be part of a team.

Do you want to learn more about your spiritual gifts? Do you want to spend time learning how you are wired in terms of your personality, abilities, and passions? (Do you want a free lunch?) We have a 3M class on June 12, designed to help you discover how you are SHAPED for ministry. If you would like to register, please email Beth Heerspink at [beth@fstreetchurch.org](mailto:beth@fstreetchurch.org).





## 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](mailto:fstreetchurch@gmail.com)

## Prayer Requests

If you have prayer requests, please send them to our office email at [fsncoffice@gmail.com](mailto:fsncoffice@gmail.com)

## Community Groups

### Group: Men’s Bible Study (*on summer hiatus*)

Location: Green Room at Church Building

Contact: Tad Stryker

Day/Time: Mondays, 7 pm

### Group: VA Small Group Study

Location: Victory Apartments (445 Honor Drive)

Contact: Ardeshir Mazhari, Keith Morrissey

Day/Time: Wednesdays, 2 pm

### Group: Keith Morrissey’s House

Location: 1750 Prospect Street

Contact: Keith Morrissey

Day/Time: Thursdays, 7 pm

### Group: Women’s Study, “The Holy Spirit”

Location: Fireside Room at Church Building

Contact: Beth Heerspink

Day/Time: Fridays, 10 am

### Group: Study of *Spiritual Classics*

Location: 6730 So. 41st St.

Contact: Drew or Sarah Peters

Day/Time: Every other Thursday, 6:30 pm



## Monthly Bible Reading Schedule: Wisdom Literature

| Monday            | Tuesday           | Wednesday         | Thursday          | Friday            |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| May 30 – Psalm 64 | May 31 – Psalm 65 | Jun 1 – Psalm 66  | Jun 2 – Psalm 67  | Jun 3 – Psalm 68  |
| Jun 6 – Psalm 69  | Jun 7 – Psalm 70  | Jun 8 – Psalm 71  | Jun 9 – Psalm 72  | Jun 10 – Psalm 73 |
| Jun 13 – Psalm 74 | Jun 14 – Psalm 75 | Jun 15 – Psalm 76 | Jun 16 – Psalm 77 | Jun 17 – Psalm 78 |
| Jun 20 – Psalm 79 | Jun 21 – Psalm 80 | Jun 22 – Psalm 81 | Jun 23 – Psalm 82 | Jun 24 – Psalm 83 |