

The Word on the (F) Street

Deeper: You Are Now Free to Serve Around the Country Jeff Heerspink, Pastor

Southwest Airlines used to have the tag line, “You are now free to move around the country.” In Christ we are **FREE** to serve other no matter where we go or where they are. This month’s spiritual practice is “service.” It is a call to be like Christ in serving to meet the needs of others. As is stated in the book, *Celebration Disciplines*, by Richard Foster, “As the cross is the sign of submission, so the towel is the sign of service.”

Service is not a one-time big event we do. It is to have a willingness to die to self on a regular basis, leaving us to the mundane ways to meet the needs of others, while seeking no reward. Service is a call to live as Christ lived, and as he taught on many occasions including the story of the Good Samaritan. As I used to hear, “If you see a need meet it.”

To be free to serve is radically different than being forced to serve. Kenneth C. Haugk writes in his book, *Christian Caregiving*, “Christians sometimes have a difficulty distinguishing between Servanthood and Servitude.” Servitude is bondage and slavery while Servanthood is a willingness or voluntary.

We can become enslaved to service out of fear or concern that if we do not serve others, God will be angry at us. We can lose the attention on the people we are serving (handing out a meal with no personal contact). We can miss the joy (simply doing the task because of obligation, not privilege).

We have been set free in Christ and this includes the freedom to serve others in the name of Jesus out of a willingness to see them as Jesus, as his children, to enjoy kindness and generosity. As we serve, we might be surprised what God does in us as well as through us.

How are you using your freedom to serve others in the name of Jesus?

The Book of Exodus Bill Thornton, Teaching Pastor

On Sunday, August 7th, Pastor Jeff and I will be starting a new sermon series from the Old Testament book of Exodus. This fall we will be looking at how God delivered Israel from the bondage of their slavery in Egypt, calling them to live instead as his “treasured possession” and as a “kingdom of priests” for the sake of his glory. Be watching to see the parallels that exist between how God dealt with them then, and how he deals with us today. For one thing, our study will help us better understand what God has done to deliver us from sin, and how he wants us to live for him.

Caring Phone Calls Bill Thornton, Teaching Pastor

In the coming weeks you can be expecting a phone call from either Sherry Carter or Sherry Miller of our congregation. (I call them “Team Sherry”!) They will be reaching out to you for the purpose of checking in to see how you are doing, and to ask if there are any needs that we can help you with.



As our congregation grows in number it can be easy for people to “fall through the cracks,” without anyone noticing. Perhaps there has been an illness or death in your family. Maybe you have questions about something new that is taking place in the church. Possibly, there is something you would like to communicate to the Pastors, and there just hasn’t been an



A Place of Acceptance and Direction
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Love. Grow. Serve.

Calendar for August 2022

2nd: 6:30am Prayer
3rd: 6:30pm Celebrate Recovery
4th: 5:30pm FoodNet
7th: Sunday Service
8th: **Happy Birthday Kason Verkamp**
9th: 6:30am Prayer; **Happy Birthday Sarah Pavel**
10th: 6:30pm Celebrate Recovery
11th: 5:30pm FoodNet
13th: **Happy Birthday Tad Stryker**
14th: Sunday Service
16st: 6:30am Prayer
17th: 6:30pm Celebrate Recovery
18th: 5:30pm FoodNet
21st: Sunday Service; **Happy Birthday Amanda Chenell**
23rd: 6:30am Prayer
24th: 6:30pm Celebrate Recovery
25th: 5:30pm FoodNet
26th: **Happy Birthday Abigail Heerspink**
27th: **Happy Birthday Darylene Taylor**
28th: Sunday Service
30th: 6:30am Prayer
31st: 6:30pm Celebrate Recovery; **Happy Birthday Tanya Perez**

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.

opportunity to have a conversation with either one of them. We hope that when you receive a phone call that you will let us know how we can help or serve.

Of course, you do not have to wait until Sherry or Sherry call you! If you have a need that you believe the church can help you with, please let us know. You can call and leave a message on the church's voicemail that is checked every weekday, 402-435-3673; you can write a note on a Communication Card and leave it in the offering on Sunday morning; or you can email our church staff at their addresses listed on our website, www.fstreetchurch.org.

Block Party Thanks! Becky Sallinger

With the nicer weather and fliers being distributed the week before, the last several monthly block parties have been very well attended. It's been so great to see conversations and connections being made in our parking lot on the last Sunday of each month. "Many hands make light work" and I hope everyone knows how thankful I am for all the help with tables, tablecloths, chairs, tents, and the list goes on! Guests arrive feeling welcomed already, even before they are served a meal, because of all of those things. I'd like to give a special shout out to Allen for all the extra work he does in and around the building on block party days! Another special shout out to Terry and the men for running the grill several times. Thank you!



Calming the Chaos Jeff Heerspink, Pastor

The building we often refer to as F Street Neighborhood Church will celebrate 100 years in 2026. It has held up well and been a blessing to many in the years it was St Paul United Church of Christ, as well as for the past eight years that it has been our home.

Yet in those 100 years things have changed. Although we love this incredible space, the design might have been different if planned today. For example, who builds a church for over 300 with 2 toilets for the ladies and one for the men, plus a urinal? (I know there is one in the nursery but that was not part of the original building).

The foot-traffic flow is also not always ideal. Most people want to enter the church through the office doors, as it is closest to the parking lot. With people going to the nursery, the restrooms, and different directions, this can cause some chaos in a limited space.

Because of this we are asking that you consider entering the building, when possible, through the front doors of the church. There are wider steps, greater access to the basement, and more room for people to connect, not crash, in this area.

We hope to do more things to encourage you to enter in these doors: \$100 give away, free massages, lattes, etc. (Just kidding). However, we are talking about a mural or art wall and possible high-top tables in the back of church to create a welcoming space.

If you have kids and are bringing them to the nursery, or special needs, and such, please feel free to use the office entrance, but for those who can please use the front entrance when possible.



God's Provision Jeff Heerspink, Pastor

A few months ago I wrote about some building projects that were being worked on and processed. These would be for the sake of helping to create access for others to hear the gospel and be a part of a community of Acceptance and Direction. Most were simply dreams.

Praise God that we can continue to see God's provision for our church in ways that I cannot even explain, allowing us to begin and complete some of these projects.

Bathroom Remodel: As the women can testify, there is a much nicer women's restroom in the northwest corner of the church basement. We are grateful for the donations that helped make it a reality. We have paused before doing the men's restroom, as we wanted to get Immerse wrapped up for the year. This will allow us to complete the work in a short time frame, due to the fact that it will result in the men using a porta-potty in the interim. We hope to begin construction soon, completing this much needed process. Speak with Dave Widman if you have any interests in helping to make this a reality.

Outdoor worship/picnic space: There are the few, the humble, and the loyal, who work each week to create an outdoor worship space on Sunday mornings. This started before COVID, but proved to be of great value during that time as we had one-third of the church out there during the summer of 2020. Yet the space was created to provide for those who might not be comfortable, or ready to walk through the doors of a church building. Thanks to an anonymous donor we have all the funding needed to build a permanent structure that will be similar to a picnic shelter with open sides. This will allow it to be safe, as it is open. It will also provide shelter from the elements for those attending church, block parties or just needing to step out of the rain on a wet or stormy day. We hope to do some of the prep work in the weeks ahead, and do a Saturday workday involving lots of people to get the work completed.

Lights: We need to complete the lighting project at F Street Church by putting up new lights in the east parking lot, in order to make the church lot a safer place. The lights are already here, and we simply need to get installed in the weeks ahead.

Elevator: We have only begun to look into this project, but hope that replacing our current 1980's elevator with an updated larger version can happen in the future. We might just need to wrap up on a few of these other projects first, not to mention we have no funding for this at the time.

King's Table House Opening Soon

Ecclesiastes 4:12 says "A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple braided cord is not easily broken."

We have an enemy who is wickedly successful at breaking up families and creating mayhem. The loner is a much easier target.

If you read 2 Samuel 9, you find a story of the redemption of Mephibosheth, a self-described "dead dog," who was invited to dine at the King's Table as royal family. This young man, "crippled in both feet" and hiding from King David, thought he would be killed. Suddenly he becomes a family member to King David and has servants waiting on him.

King's Table House is a Christ Centered transitional living environment where up to four men can learn to do sober life together as a family. Addiction is contagious but so is sobriety. People living together in healthy family and community with Christ at the center, holding each other accountable, and thus are able to resume growing into their full potential.

For more information about King's Table House, call Vincent Grove at 402-890-2382 or email Vince at:

KingsTable2S9@gmail.com. Refer someone who is ready to grow in sobriety at the King's Table.



Depressed? Come to Women's Bible

Study! Beth Heerspink

Elijah was a prophet of God that we read about in the Old Testament. He was known for his fiery faith and his great miracles. Not only did he, by his earnest prayers, keep it from raining on the land for three and a half years (wow!), he also prayed and raised a widow's son from the dead (double wow!).

In 1 Kings 18, we find Elijah experiencing God's supernatural strength to do the impossible. However, turn the page in your Bible, and in 1 Kings 19, he is flat out depressed: "Elijah was afraid and ran for his life...He came to a broom bush, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. 'I have had enough, Lord,' he said. 'Take my life...'"

Have you been there? Seen God's mighty hand at work, and a day later you're exhausted and "done"?

How does the Lord handle this? First, he tends to Elijah's physical needs (Elijah takes a nap, then an angel wakes him up and feeds him some freshly baked bread and a jar of water). Great lesson for us when we're depressed—first, get some sleep, then pay attention to our **physical needs**. Life looks better when our bodies are nourished and rested.

Next, the Lord tends to his **spiritual needs**. He tells Elijah, "Go

out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by" (1 Kings 19:11). The Lord allows Elijah to experience his presence through a gentle whisper. Another great lesson when we're depressed—seek the presence of the Lord. Life looks better when we are armed with His truth.

Finally, the Lord tends to Elijah's **social needs**. He gives him a companion in ministry. He tells Elijah: "Anoint Elisha...to succeed you as prophet" (1 Kings 19:16). Scholars believe that Elisha served and worked alongside Elijah for about six years before Elijah was ushered into heaven. Another great lesson—find a godly friend or ministry companion to share your burden. This is often how God ministers to us in our fear, anxiety, and depression. He brings someone to come alongside us.

So what does this have to do with women's Bible Study? Our women's group on Friday mornings is a place where God can minister to your physical needs (did someone say blueberry muffins?), your spiritual needs (through study of God's Word), and your social needs (friendship with other women). It is a special place of connection and you are invited! We meet on Friday mornings at 10:00 in the Fireside Room in the basement of F Street Church.

August 19 we will begin with a social/brunch and hand out the Bible Study materials. August 26 we will begin the first lesson in our new study called *Exodus: Liberating God's People*. If you would like to attend the social gathering on August 19, you are welcome to bring a brunch item to share (and if not, no worries! I believe there will be plenty of food). If you are not able to attend on the 19th, but would like to get a copy of the study, just talk to Beth Heerspink. Hope to see you this fall!



Helping Hands Ministry Ronda Simpson

Many of you are aware and have been active in "Helping Hands." For those of you who have not heard of Helping Hands it is a ministry for every one inside and outside of our Church. Our goal is to share each other's burden and to serve others by helping, however we can, thus sharing Christ's love and care. This help may come in the form of meals, if there is someone who is ill or going through a life change. It may be someone offering their time to help mow a yard or fix a window. The need might be help for someone that has been completely overwhelmed by their house hold chores, and needs help to clean and organize their surroundings. There might be a need to help someone pack for an upcoming move, or to actually help them move their belongings. Maybe someone has the need for a refrigerator and one is donated. Often times rides are needed to doctor appointments, or to the grocery store.

As you can see, this is not something one person can do - or even a "team" - could do all by themselves. This is the body of Christ reaching out with their time, talents, and gifts to help and share the many blessings God has for all of us. All of the above

mentioned acts of service or gifts are actually just a few of the ways we have already seen this ministry serve people. Helping Hands is an encouraging way to see the Body of Christ functioning and serving one another and our community.

Look for the large “Helping Hands” bulletin board in the back of the sanctuary. It will allow us a way to communicate and share with those in our church family or our community. There are cards located by the bulletin board for you to fill out to communicate your needs, resources or service you can offer.

May we present ourselves to our Lord for his service (Romans 12).



Group: Women’s Study, Exodus: Liberating God’s People.

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

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 fnsncoffice@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



Monthly Bible Reading Schedule: Wisdom Literature

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Aug 1 – Psalm 109	Aug 2 -Psalm 110	Aug 3 – Psalm 111	Aug 4 – Psalm 112	Aug 5 – Psalm 113
Aug 8 – Psalm 114	Aug 9 – Psalm 115	Aug 10 – Psalm 116	Aug 11 – Psalm 117	Aug 12 – Psalm 118
Aug 15 – Psalm 119	Aug 16 – Psalm 120	Aug 17 – Psalm 121	Aug 18 – Psalm 122	Aug 19 – Psalm 123
Aug 22 – Psalm 124	Aug 23 – Psalm 125	Aug 24 – Psalm 126	Aug 25 – Psalm 127	Aug 26 – Psalm 128