

# The Word on the (F) Street

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*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](http://www.fstreetchurch.org)  
[fstreetchurch@gmail.com](mailto:fstreetchurch@gmail.com)  
Volume 8, Issue 11  
December 2022



## Calendar for December 2022

\* 1st: 5:30pm FoodNet  
4th: Sunday Service  
6th: 6:30am Prayer  
7th: 6:30pm Celebrate Recovery  
8th: 5:30pm FoodNet; **Happy Birthday Daniel Wenzel**  
11th: Sunday Service  
10th: **Happy Birthday Dave Hogan**  
11th: **Happy Birthday Sheri Verkamp**  
12th: **Happy Birthday Lennon Proctor**  
13th: 6:30am Prayer  
14th: 6:30pm Celebrate Recovery; **Happy Birthday Sonya Turco**  
15th: 5:30pm FoodNet  
16th: **Happy Birthday Silas Rickard, Jody Shaw**  
17th: **Happy Birthday Harvey Brown**  
18th: Sunday Service; **Happy Birthday Braxton Verkamp**  
20th: 6:30am Prayer  
21st: 6:30pm Celebrate Recovery  
22nd: 5:30pm FoodNet; **Happy Birthday Caleb Heerspink**  
25th: Sunday Service  
27th: 6:30am Prayer  
28th: 6:30pm Celebrate Recovery

*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.*

## Advent Season 2022 Bill Thornton, Teaching Pastor

As we look forward to Christmas (and the birth of Jesus whom we celebrate), our F Street Neighborhood Church family will observe the season of Advent with our friends at the Northern Lighthouse. We are praying that this will be a time of preparation and anticipation for Christ to have renewed access into our hearts and lives as believers. May we find ourselves longing for those beautiful qualities that the coming of Jesus brings to us: Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy. The following is a schedule of messages and preachers during the Advent season:

### November 27<sup>th</sup>, First Sunday of Advent

Candle: Hope

Preacher: Pastor Sam Keyzer

Gospel Reading: John 3:22-30

Preaching Theme: *The Voice Speaks Humbly*

### December 4<sup>th</sup>, Second Sunday of Advent

Candle: Peace

Preacher: Pastor Jeff Heerspink

Gospel Reading: John 1:19-34

Preaching Theme: *The Voice Speaks Clearly*

### December 11<sup>th</sup>, Third Sunday of Advent

Candle: Love

Preacher: Pastor Bill Thornton

Gospel Reading: Luke 3:1-20

Preaching Theme: *The Voice Speaks Boldly*

### December 18<sup>th</sup>, Fourth Sunday of Advent

Candle: Joy

Preacher: Pastor Jon Keyzer

Gospel Reading: Matthew 11:2-15

Preaching Theme: *The Voice Speaks Honestly*

### December 24<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Eve

Candle: Christ

Format: Combined service with the Northern Lighthouse starting at 5:00 p.m., followed by a shared meal for all at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Note: This food event will replace our regularly scheduled block party on the last Sunday of the month.

### December 25<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Day

Cinnamon rolls and coffee in the fellowship hall at 10:00 a.m. Followed by our regular worship service at 10:30 a.m.

## To Keith Morrissey Jeff Heerspink, Pastor

Keith Morrissey is one of the great men of God in our midst. Keith has been an Elder, beginning at Northern Lighthouse, since 2008. He transitioned here, as we began F Street Neighborhood Church, and has served until this month, when he opted to step down due to his health.

Keith has been faithful to the call of an Elder. He has served through some great joys - seeing God at work in our community, as well as through some of the difficulties faced by our Elders. Having been a trusted friend to me, I can say that he has displayed the heart of our church in his own life. Whether it was leading Bible studies in his home, which started prior to his time at either of our churches, or the care he has given, by continually opening his home to others for a place to live, Keith has displayed radical acceptance and biblical truth.

On December 11th we will have a special time in our worship service to honor Keith for his faithful service as an Elder.

## Improving the Experience Jeff Heerspink, Pastor

Rules. No one likes a lot of rules, especially when they do not make sense to us. Recently we have been working with some “new rules” at F Street Church, and I want to make sure that you understand the “why” behind them. Rules might be a strong word, but our security team is working to enforce them, including having doors closed until 10:00 a.m., using the front entrance, and closing the sanctuary doors.

This is all being done, not to frustrate anyone, but to improve everyone’s worship experience. We are keeping the doors closed until 10:00 a.m. so that those who need to be in the church are able to accomplish their tasks and get prepared to host, and care for those about to enter. This also is for the safety of all, by preventing people from wandering through the building. We are changing the footpath flow to the front doors, to limit congestion where parents need to be, dealing with their children in nursery and journey group. This will also limit congestion in the office stairwell, with folks navigating the stairs. The sanctuary doors will remain closed, and we request that people leave through the back of church, to use restrooms or go outside. This will limit the distractions for those in the worship service, and limit the flow of people near our children’s ministry.

Please understand that these “rules” are there to improve everyone’s experience. I know that for some it is simply a matter of learning new patterns. It can be hard to retrain ourselves, but I hope that you understand why and are able and willing to help us all by making the changes.

## Organization Jeff Heerspink, Pastor



As we prepare for the season of family and celebrations, I wanted to take a moment to let you know about our larger church family, giving us reasons to celebrate.

What many celebrate and love about the F Street Church family is that we are a Bible believing and teaching church that puts a priority on loving the people of our community. But all of that

has been a journey of God’s blessings, and much of that has been through the Christian Reformed Church of North America (CRC) and the Reformed Church of America (RCA).

When we started F Street Neighborhood Church, it was the intent to be a church within the CRC, as that is the organization that started and supported the Northern Lighthouse. It was a generous donor from the CRC who purchased our building, and it was a gift from the RCA that paid for Brett Byford in his first years of ministry. It has been small grants, given throughout the journey, along with gifts from individuals within these denominations, and with work trips that have allowed us to be in existence. For this we give thanks to God.

Why are we joining a denomination? I like to think of churches, like people, as individual brides of Christ. We all know that we are better together as we were created to be in community so should churches as we can do more together. For some this may be recent news, but for others of us, it was the plan all along.

Being connected to a denomination brings accountability. In recent years we have seen many independent churches rise with rapid growth and popularity only to crash, causing potentially more casualties for the kingdom of God than those it helped. They often have been built around a leader or set of leaders who resisted accountability. What we believe about God matters, and being in community both as individuals as well as a church matters.

So, in the months ahead we will be working towards following through on our commitment to be a part of the CRC and RCA as an organized church. I will provide more information, and we will have a family meeting in January to share more about this process and answer questions.



## News From the Lincoln School

### of Ministry Bill Thornton, Teaching Pastor

#### History of Early Christianity: Overview and Introduction to the New Testament

This twelve-week study, for those high school age and older, will begin Monday, January 30<sup>th</sup>. Students will have an opportunity to look at how the New Testament fits into the Bible’s overall story, and the course will also help students develop skills to study and interpret the Bible. The following is a schedule of class sessions this winter and spring.

- January 30<sup>th</sup> - Introductory Matters
- February 6<sup>th</sup> - The Synoptic Gospels, Part 1
- February 13<sup>th</sup> - The Synoptic Gospels, Part 2
- February 20<sup>th</sup> - The Gospel of John
- February 27<sup>st</sup> - The Book of Acts
- March 6<sup>th</sup> - The Epistles of Paul, Part 1
- March 13<sup>th</sup> - Spring Break, No Class

- March 20<sup>th</sup> - The Epistles of Paul, Part 2
- March 27<sup>th</sup> - The Pastoral Epistles
- April 3<sup>rd</sup> - The General Epistles
- April 10<sup>th</sup> - The Petrine Epistles
- April 17<sup>th</sup> - The Johannine Epistles
- April 24<sup>th</sup> - The Book of Revelation

If interested in enrolling, please contact Pastor Bill for more information.

## Youth Update Sage Peterson, Youth Director

Hello All, I hope everyone is doing well! We have had a great month at F Street Youth, and over the past month, we were able to celebrate Thanksgiving by sharing dinner together. A big thank you to all who brought food for our group to enjoy. This last month we have been talking about the story of Daniel, and it's been tons of fun getting to hear the thoughts of all the youth.

As we move into December I am excited to start getting into the Christmas spirit, and celebrating at our Christmas party. It's been lots of fun getting to know and connect with our growing group.

If you have any questions about the youth program here at F Street Neighborhood Church, please feel free to reach out to Sage at [sage@fstreetchurch.org](mailto:sage@fstreetchurch.org).



## My Role As Coach at F Street Church

**Beth Heerspink**

A few years ago, my dad handed me a book called the "Coach Model," and asked me if I would read it and begin coaching him. It felt strange because of the role reversal, but I gave it a shot. I still meet with my dad today and with several other individuals. I have gone on to receive additional training as a coach, and I love experiencing both the process and the results.

### What is the coaching process?

The goal of coaching is to help a person get "unstuck." It could be something big or little. A person might be stuck in their finances, marriage, conflict resolution skills, addiction, job, health, parenting, ability to study the Bible, or whatever. A coach helps a person develop awareness about the situation, and come up with action steps that will move them toward getting unstuck. Coaching provides accountability and support for the individual taking action steps (each week a client shares the progress they made toward their goals).

Coaching recognizes that nobody likes to be told what to do all of the time. It utilizes the skill of asking powerful questions and giving space for processing. Christian coaching recognizes the vital role of the Holy Spirit in the entire process and becomes a

tool that the Holy Spirit can use for transformation. Coaching is support, accountability, action, and goal setting.

### How often do you meet with a coaching client?

We meet every other week for one hour. Typically we commit to twelve sessions, but it may be more or less depending on the situation.

### Who do you meet with?

I meet with anyone from F Street Church and/or Celebrate Recovery who would like to see a specific change in their life that would bring honor and glory to God, and who would like to have support as they work toward that change. I also have one-time appointments available for anyone who would simply like to process or receive support in a specific situation.

### When are you available to meet?

I currently have two openings in my schedule for new clients. I have 9:15-10:15 a.m. on Tuesday morning or 10:30-11:30 a.m. on Thursday mornings. I can do a Zoom appointment or in person.

### How do I set up an appointment to meet?

Just email me at [beth@fstreetchurch.com](mailto:beth@fstreetchurch.com) and let me know you are interested. We'll get something set up!

Thanks for taking time to read a little bit more about my role at F Street. If I can serve you in any way, please feel free to reach out to me. Have a blessed Holiday Season!



## Double the Offering Jeff Heerspink, Pastor

A few years into our development as a church, we started something called "Double Your Offering" each December. It was impressive and incredible to see how God provided out of our church family for us to double our offering. It was also impressive to witness that it was given from many people, who all gave a little or a lot more in December to make doubling our offering a reality. It is because of this effort and your willingness that we continue to be a place of "Acceptance and Direction" in the F Street Neighborhood.

In the early days of starting "Double Your Offering," it was out of a desperate need to simply stay in existence. Today, we have a better financial picture at F Street Church, but we are still wanting to challenge you as members or attenders to prayerfully consider "Doubling Your Offering." Why? Because we still have a lot of work to do.

Each week I am thrilled and astonished by the number of people who are coming to F Street Church. Not just the numbers, but that many who are coming from the neighborhood because they have heard about us, or coming from treatment centers, or with friends. We have an incredible opportunity to share and proclaim the truth of who God is and what he has done for us through Jesus. There is more potential than ever to begin new works as God brings people with maturity, gifts, and passions to

help serve the endless amount of ministry opportunities that there are in our neighborhood. There are also the many things that we have been able to do to improve our building to make us more accessible to people. There is more to be done: finish the bathroom, Art Chapel, and new elevator. Finally, we have a great and growing staff of individuals committed to the ministry of F Street Church (note that each ministry staff raises 50% of their income from outside sources).

I hope you will prayerfully consider giving more this season as we prepare for another great year of ministry and kingdom advancement at F Street Neighborhood Church.

\*the 2023 budget has been passed by the Elders and will be presented at our Family Meeting in January but if you would like to see a copy you can reach out to me at [jeff@fstreetchurch.org](mailto:jeff@fstreetchurch.org).



## Art Chapel Update & Prayer Requests

Jean Stryker

Anyone who's ever been involved with a renovation project knows that it takes a great deal of thought and planning, gathering together many different parts and supplies, and coordinating people. We're fortunate in our Art Chapel renovation because we have a boatload of smart and passionate college students who are doing most of that work for us, at no charge! The student architects of the UNL College of Architecture have invested months of their time and skill to planning our renovation, down to the tiniest, beautiful detail. Now, after all of that preparation, they're starting to build things like windows, cabinets, work tables, storage cubes, a rolling ladder, and a huge and unique rolling wall. Progress at the Art Chapel will soon become visible!

We are working with a team from Crouse Construction, and they've been amazingly gracious and professional. Our foreman, Dave Crouse, has freely shared his time and expertise, working alongside the UNL students as they translate their plans from paper to wood, glass, and steel.

Your prayers for the Art Chapel are needed and greatly appreciated:

F Street Church Staff and the Art Ministry Team long to have the heart and mind of Christ and to be a blessing to our contractor, the students and professors at UNL, and to all the other contractors and city workers who will be involved in the renovation. Pray for God to begin gathering artists and makers to operate Art Chapel programs, and that those people and programs will enrich the lives of people who participate. Pray for funding to continue to come in; especially for favor for our application for a substantial grant, which will be decided in early December. Pray that everyone involved will make good decisions and handle resources with wisdom and integrity. Pray for the ongoing design work, that the students will have extraordinary skill and focus. Applications for permits are S-L-O-W-L-Y working their way through city government offices; please pray that we will be

given a green light soon.

If you want to have a part in the Art Chapel renovation project or have a skill to share, contact Jean Stryker at 402-784-1599.

## Community Groups

### Group: Studying Spiritual Disciplines

Location: 6730 S 41st St.

Contact: Drew or Sarah Peters

Day/Time: First three Tuesdays of the month, 6:30 pm

### Group: Keith Morrissey's House

Location: 1750 Prospect Street

Contact: Ardeshir Mazhari, Keith Morrissey

Day/Time: Thursdays, 7 pm

### Group: Wayne & Linoma Wingate's House

Location: 5815 Brittany Place

Topic: Sermon Discussion

Contact: Wayne or Linoma Wingate

Day/Time: First and Third Thursdays of the month, 7 pm

### Group: Young Adults (College/20s): Book of James

Location: Grace Room at the Church Building

Contact: Bill or Marcia Thornton

Day/Time: Thursdays, 7 pm

### Group: Women's Study, Exodus: Liberating God's People.

Location: Fireside Room at Church Building

Contact: Beth Heerspink

Day/Time: Fridays, 10 am

## 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)



Merry Christmas

TRANSFORMATIONS THRIFT STORE

# Can you help?

Would you be willing to sponsor one box of food?

\$63 provides one family one box of food.

To give, scan the QR Code or drop by the store no later than Dec. 21st.



You provide \$63, We make and give the boxes out. Our goal is to give 150 food boxes to our neighbors who need a little help this year. Families will receive one box on December 28th.



## Monthly Bible Reading Schedule: Wisdom Literature

This month we conclude the reading of the Wisdom Literature. As we finish with the book, Song of Solomon (SoS), we suggest that you turn to the book of John as your reading through the remainder of the month.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Nov 28 – SoS 1	Nov 29 – SoS 2	Nov 30 – SoS 3	Dec 1 – SoS 4	Dec 2 – SoS 5
Dec 5 – SoS 6	Dec 6 – SoS 7	Dec 7 – SoS 8	Dec 8 – John 1	Dec 9 – John 2
Dec 12 – John 3	Dec 13 – John 4	Dec 14 – John 5	Dec 15 – John 6	Dec 16 – John 7
Dec 19 – John 8	Dec 20 – John 9	Dec 21 – John 10	Dec 22 – John 11	Dec 23 – John 12
Dec 26 – John 13	Dec 27 – John 14	Dec 28 – John 15	Dec 29 – John 16	Dec 30 – John 17