

# 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  
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## Calendar for July 2023

2nd: Sunday Service  
4th: 6:30am Prayer  
5th: 6:30pm Celebrate Recovery  
6th: 5:30pm FoodNet  
7th: **Happy Birthday Carrie Martinez**  
8th: **Happy Birthday Melissa Velez**  
9th: Sunday Service; **Happy Birthday Beth Heerspink**  
11th: 6:30am Prayer  
12th: 6:30pm Celebrate Recovery  
13th: 5:30pm FoodNet; **Happy Birthday Jackie Knapp**  
14th: **Happy Birthday Monica Garcia, Alicia Rea**  
15th: **Happy Birthday Julie Pfeifer**  
16th: Sunday Service;  
18th: 6:30am Prayer; **Happy Birthday Fawn Cross**  
19th: 6:30pm Celebrate Recovery  
20th: 5:30pm FoodNet  
22nd: **Happy Birthday Debi Crisler**  
23rd: Sunday Service; **Happy Birthday Osa Umphreys**  
25th: 6:30am Prayer  
26th: 6:30pm Celebrate Recovery; **Happy Birthday Vic Johns**  
27th: 5:30pm FoodNet  
18th: **Happy Birthday Andy Butler**  
30th: Sunday Service

*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.*

## Expressions of Worship Adam Woockman, Worship Director

Is there anything in your house, or otherwise in your possession that holds special meaning to you? Perhaps something that, if it were damaged or misplaced, would cause you great sadness or heartache? Think about this item, and why does it hold so much value to you? Maybe it's the monetary value. Maybe it's the circumstance with which you obtained it. Did you win it? Did you work really hard for a long time to purchase it? In most cases I think the reason something holds so much value in our minds is that it was given to us by someone very special: a dear friend, a sibling, or a parent or grandparent.

Recently I had a situation that forced me to ponder this topic. As many of you may know, my dad passed away in October of 2021. As a result, his pickup truck was passed on to me. This isn't just some old pickup. It's a 1990 GMC Sierra so yes it is fairly old, but to me it holds great value. This pickup was passed to him by my great uncle but it was a beat up old rusty pickup for many years while he used it to haul anything and everything. He drove it to work every day. My dad always valued function over appearance so he was content with the way it was. Eventually it got to the point where it was rusted out in many places and he had to decide what to do about it. He thought about a new pickup but that would be very expensive and there was something he really liked about this old beat up truck. Dad decided to put, probably, more than its value in fixing it up. He fixed all the rust, took the old topper off, fixed a few other things, got it painted, and put a protective spackle on the bed and underneath. It became a really nice looking truck, and now it's in my possession. That brings me to a couple weeks ago. As I was leaving the driveway I noticed there was a six-inch light scratch in the side of it. I was upset and I directed that anger at my kids because they tend to get close to the vehicles when they ride their bikes down the driveway and I assumed one of their handles scraped it.

***“Let’s spur one another on to not neglect or damage the gifts God has given to us.”***

This whole incident made me contemplate the value I place on the things of this world. This pickup will stop running eventually, and I certainly won't need it when I'm dead. But I got upset at a small scratch. It made me think about the value I put on what God has given to me. He has given me life, a body, communion with his Spirit, a spouse and children. Do I get that upset when one of those gifts has been "scratched?" When I have neglected them or even damaged them? What would it look like to place that much value on what God has entrusted us with? With the gifts he has given freely to us? Do we hold these gifts to be higher in value than our earthly treasures we store up ...my pickup included. Let's spur one another on to not neglect or damage the gifts God has given to us. It is one of the most important acts of worship we can bring to him, who is worthy.

## BLESS Bill Thornton, Teaching Pastor

While Pastor Jeff preaches a short series of messages this summer (June 25 -July 23), I will be absent from F Street Church on three Sunday mornings, providing pulpit supply for some ministry friends while they are on vacation or sabbatical. Over the next few weeks, I will be visiting the Bethlehem Covenant Church near Waverly, Prairie Lane Christian Reformed Church in Omaha, and First Mennonite Church in Lincoln.

One of the churches asked me to be a part of a special sermon series entitled BLESS. It is a denomination-wide evangelism emphasis that seeks to help congregations, and members be more effective in influencing their neighborhoods and neighbors with the love and truth found in Jesus Christ.

In a recent staff meeting Pastor Jeff led us in a discussion of some great questions:

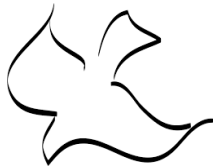
- How do we, as a church love our neighbors?
- What hinders us, or what road blocks do we need to overcome, to love our neighbors?
- What would help us to love our neighbors?

As I have been preparing my message that will be a part of the BLESS series at Bethlehem Church, I thought their strategy a good one for us to consider and employ in the neighborhoods where we live, as well as the neighborhood where we serve together in the heart of Lincoln.

- Begin with prayer (Acts 1:3-8)
- Listen with care (Acts 8:26-39)
- Eating together (Luke 19:1-10)
- Serving together (John 13:1-17)
- Share your story (Acts 17:16-34)

Personally, I think this is a great plan (and maybe a future sermon series) for us to consider. I greatly appreciate the practicality of it. These are things that each of us can do with our neighbors, regardless of our background or experience. I think it is especially important to notice how influencing others starts with seeking the Lord first, and then taking the time to get to know them. These foundational steps help us know better how to share the Gospel in word and deed in the hope of seeing transformed lives around us

Brothers and sisters let's make it our aim to BLESS others as we seek to be F Street Neighborhood Church!



## Freedom to Serve

**Andy Butler, Benevolence Team Leader**

When Paul is talking to the Galatians about freedom he says, *"For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love"* (Galatians 5:13, NLT). To me, that definition of freedom sounds distinctly different from the one I often use which would go something like: *"Freedom is my ability to do whatever I want, whenever I want."* Mine is an attractive definition because it appeals directly to the shallow desires of my flesh, but according to Paul, this isn't how we should define freedom at all.

Paul tells the Galatians that while they have been made free through Christ, they should use that freedom for a specific purpose. That specific purpose could probably best be described as love, but not in a romantic, selfish, all-consuming sense. Ac-

ording to the Bible, love as God defines it, might even compel us to give up some of our freedoms for the good of others. In John Mark Comer's book *"Live No Lies"* he defines love as *"the desire not to take, but to give."* So if you're loving someone as Jesus loves them, you are concerned with their flourishing or what's good for them over and above your flourishing or what's good for you. It's simple enough to understand in concept, but to apply that concept to our lives takes a great deal of discipline and consistency - a death to self on a daily, hourly and even minute by minute basis. The good news is, Jesus, through *his* death and resurrection, made a way for us to overcome ourselves and gave us the fruits of the Spirit which, by grace, stand in direct opposition to the desires of our flesh.

As the Benevolence Team Leader here at F Street Church, I have found the only way to truly love those whom I interact with here at the church, is to attempt to actually value their good over my own. Even though I'm imperfect and don't always do that, it is a comfort to me to know God is actively working with me and those I come into contact with. He spoke all of us into existence, and then chose us as partners for his work; not only in the life to come, but right now. In light of this incredible truth, and the absolute miracle of my salvation, I have to remember that while I am free to do as I please, I was created with purpose in mind. Purpose that can only be discovered in pursuing relationship to the Father, through Jesus, by the Holy Spirit.



## Art Chapel Update **Jean Stryker, Director**

### Breaking Ground

On Sunday, June 11, the F Street Church family gathered outside the Art Chapel after morning service for a time of prayer as we celebrated breaking ground on the Art Chapel renovation. Folks were encouraged to



write prayers, and blessings on the walls of the Chapel. Those words will be hidden by insulation and drywall, but the prayers they represent will continue to do their work for eternity. Thank you to all who participated!

Since that day, much has been accomplished. Windows have been installed, and the new ADA compliant bathroom is framed in. Components for the rolling wall have been delivered and are in storage, waiting for the big day when the rolling wall is installed. Immerse volunteers removed a bunch of large, rusty nails from oak flooring, which will be reinstalled later in the renovation. Thanks, Immerse!

The Art Ministry Team is beginning to plan activities for the Art Chapel. If there's an art or craft that you think would make a good class or event, let us know! The Art Ministry Team is Jean Stryker, Mike & Susan Hoffman, Cathy Grove, Wilma Palmer,

Willow Applegate, and Ronda Simpson.

To follow Art Chapel events, join the \*Art Chapel Community \*on Facebook.



## Block Party Help Needed Becky Sallinger

The last Sunday of each month we invite the neighborhood to join our congregation for a meal, and time of fellowship following the worship service. Our neighbors have come to look forward to these "parties" for the food and fun we provide. We need your help! Set up, clean up, and tear down are our biggest needs. We are also hoping to add more FUN to these events! Suggestions and help are both eagerly appreciated. If you have any ideas for games, activities, or other ways to engage our guests (adults and children!) please reach out. Please mark your calendars for the last Sunday of each month to attend, eat, encourage, fellowship, and help if you are able.

## A 2023 Financial Update: Why is Giving Important Tad Stryker, Elder

As we near the halfway point of 2023, I want to give you an update on our monthly giving goal, and some biblical advice about the benefits of giving financially to God's work.

You may recall that our board of elders decided to raise our local giving goal to \$12,500 per month in 2023. We have not yet hit that goal in any month, although we came very close (within \$3) in May.

In the first five months of 2023, we have taken in \$54,046 in local offerings - an average of \$10,809 per month. That's a little over 86 percent of our goal. We look forward to a strong second half of generous giving.

What does the Bible have to say about financial giving? It makes it clear that giving is good for us, especially if we do it with the right attitude. Here are some important themes to remember:

- Giving reminds us that everything belongs to God (Haggai 2:8), and it helps us learn to be content (1 Timothy 6:6-10).
- It reminds us that money is not a reliable source of satisfaction (Ecclesiastes 5:10).
- Attitude is important. God says we should be generous (2 Corinthians 8:1-6) while being cheerful about it (2 Corinthians 9:7).
- Giving should be done thoughtfully (1 Corinthians 16:2), with thanksgiving (Psalm 50:14).

I finish with this prayer: Thank you, Lord, for giving us the opportunity to invest in Your work in our neighborhood through F Street Church.



## Woman's Bible Study Brunch Beth Heerspink

Hey ladies of F Street Church - It's time to gather and connect! You are invited, even if you do not attend the Friday morning Bible study. We will meet at 10:00 a.m. Friday, July 7 in the Fire-side Room. You are invited to bring a breakfast item to share (but don't let that stop you from coming if you can't bring something. There will probably be plenty of food). We would love to hear about your favorite Bible verse or favorite hymn if you have one! Looking forward to hopefully seeing some familiar and some new faces.

## Worship Team Update,

**Adam Woockman, Worship Director**

Hello everyone! My hope and prayer is always that our worship is heartfelt, humble, and uplifting. I always take suggestions on songs that really speak to you or have been instrumental in getting you through a tough time in your life (pun intended). If you have some, you can always send me an email or try to catch me after the service. On another "note" we are always looking for people who can play instruments especially. But also people who are able and willing to lead. We have been blessed to have Tim and Amanda from Grace Chapel help us in that role on occasion. So if you know someone, invite them to church 😊 If you are that person, contact me and fill out a worship team application.



## Celebrate Recovery Open Share Groups,

**Beth Heerspink**

My identity is my sense of self. Who I perceive myself to be, radically impacts my sense of purpose, belonging, and worth. How do I base my identity on who God says I am? How do I discover the truth of who I am in Christ? How do I avoid pitfalls of comparison? How do I walk in confidence rather than pride or shame? Who am I in Christ? These are questions that we will explore in one of our Celebrate Recovery Open Share groups (taught by Ronda Simpson and myself), directly following the large group gathering on Wednesday nights.

Other "open share" groups, in addition to the Identity/Self-Image group mentioned above, include Chemical Dependency, Codependence and Emotional struggles, and Sex Addiction.

Celebrate Recovery is a place where anyone can come. We all have hurts, habits, and hang ups that are helpful to be honest about, and deal with in the context of community and accountability. The first hour includes worship, celebration, teaching and testimony. The second hour includes open share groups and Solid Rock Cafe (cookies and conversation).

Consider coming to F Street Church on Wednesday nights from 6:30 to 8:30!

## 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, "The Case for Christ"

Location: 1750 Prospect Street

Contact: Ardeshir Mazhari, Keith Morrissey

Day/Time: Thursdays, 7 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](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)



ANNIVERSARY

#### WHEN:

AUGUST 3, 2023

#### TIME:

DOORS OPEN: 5:30 PM  
STARTS: 6:00 PM

#### WHERE:

#### THE GALA

2602 PARK BLVD,  
LINCOLN, NE 68502

DINNER & CELEBRATION  
OF 5 YEARS

RAISING FUNDS TO  
START YEAR 6



## Monthly Bible Reading Schedule:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Jun 26 – Col 4	Jun 27 – Phile 1	Jun 28 – Luke 1	Jun 29 – Luke 2	Jun 30 – Luke 3
Jul 3 – Luke 4	Jul 4 – Luke 5	Jul 5 – Luke 6	Jul 6 – Luke 7	Jul 7 – Luke 8
Jul 10 – Luke 9	Jul 11 – Luke 10	Jul 12 – Luke 11	Jul 13 – Luke 12	Jul 14 – Luke 13
Jul 17 – Luke 14	Jul 18 – Luke 15	Jul 19 – Luke 16	Jul 20 – Luke 17	Jul 21 – Luke 18
Jul 24 – Luke 19	Jul 24 – Luke 20	Jul 26 – Luke 21	Jul 27 – Luke 22	Jul 28 – Luke 23