



VOL. 10 ISSUE 1 · JAN 2024

# THE NEXT DOOR NEIGHBOR

## New Year's Challenge

SAGE PETERSON, YOUTH DIRECTOR

Well, it's finally here and the new year is upon us which means you're most likely hearing a lot about New Year's resolutions but this year I want to switch it up a little bit and create a little challenge! This year I challenge your family to find an opportunity to serve together! That could be right here at F Street with the many teams that we have or with another organization within the



community. I know it can be a little overwhelming, especially with little kids to try and serve all together but entrusting your kids in ministry is a vital way to keep them involved within the church as they grow older. I pray that this new year is a time for connecting and growing as a family!

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## The Seven Deadly Sins: Part 4 - Against the Thoughts of Avarice (Love of Money)

ANDY BUTLER, TECH & BENEVOLENCE LEADER

What is the love of money? Is it placing a certain amount of value on money? Is loving money trying to make money? Does wanting money mean you must also love it? Probably not. At least not necessarily, but you can all answer that question better for yourselves. Also, many of us would say we want money, and many of us would say we need money. I think what God would like us to see concerning the money we have and the money we make is, ultimately, it is not ours. God has entrusted the money and possessions we have to us and He trusts us to be good stewards of them. I think one could even argue, money is not something to love at all. More accurately, it is something to value by the standard which gives all existing things value in the first place - God and his word, Christ, the Holy Spirit, God's creation and God's Kingdom. Further, what and whom does Jesus tell us to love in the Bible? I could certainly list them, but to get straight to the point, money would not be on the list.

As obvious in scripture as this is to me, I often fail to recognize this sin in real time, as it occurs in my life. I confess, at times I get kind of starry-eyed thinking about all of the cool things I could do or buy if I only had x amount of dollars. I have also fallen victim to setting my internal clock, not to God's provision, but my own. In other words, I will wake up thinking about what I need to do to make more money, instead of thinking about how God would like to use me today. And I would submit, this is exactly why scripture contains so many warnings about the love of money. Here is one as delivered by Evagrius of Pontus:

1. Against the inner thoughts that want to acquire riches and to consume the intellect with anxiety about them:

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal (Matt 6:19).

There are roughly 2,350 verses about money in the Bible, which is almost twice as many verses as there are about faith and prayer combined. Additionally, around 15% of everything Jesus spoke about related to money and possessions. While I'm skeptical of those who would use the number of times something is mentioned in scripture as a perfect measure of that thing's spiritual significance, I do think we're safe to conclude Jesus knew the love of money would be a problem for those who desire to follow Him. So, what can we do to combat the love of money as it presents itself in our lives?

1 Timothy 6:10-11 says: "For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows. But you, Timothy, are a man of God; so run from all these evil things."

Notice that Paul (in every accurate translation of this passage) says "the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil." He doesn't say "money is the root of all evil," which I have heard, and I'm sure some of you have too. So it isn't Timothy's money Paul seems to be after as much as it is his heart. Paul is warning Timothy, a young pastor at the time, against loving or valuing money over the work he is doing in the name of Jesus; or over the people and communities who make up the churches Timothy is pastoring and planting. Next Paul tells Timothy to "run from all these evil things." What evil things? The evil things that happen as a result of the love of money. American culture, our institutions, and many churches have shown us plenty of robust examples of an unhealthy love of money, even recently. So, I don't think I really need to go into greater detail about the types of evil Paul might be referring to here.

It's also important to remember, Paul was a tentmaker, which he profited off of. Paul used his tent-making business both as a ministry in and of itself, but also to support his other ministry efforts we read about at length in the New Testament. Again, Paul wasn't really viewing money as something to love, but rather something that has value insofar as it can be used to advance the Kingdom of God and help spread the good news of Jesus Christ to all people. Let us not make the mistake of loving money, which leads to all kinds of evil. Instead, let us turn our money over to our Heavenly Father, in all ways. Then we can continue to do our part in advancing His Kingdom here on earth with humility, care and concern toward those who might also benefit from the money and possessions God has entrusted to us.

## Opportunities for the New Year

BILL THORNTON, TEACHING PASTOR

As the New Year 2024 begins I want you to be aware of the following opportunities for growth and learning within our congregation.

On January 7th our church family will begin a 13-week series from the Book of Luke, On the Road with Jesus, during our Sunday morning worship services. While the Gospel accounts have been provided in our Bibles to help us understand the life and ministry of Jesus, they were also written in order to help us navigate our own spiritual journeys that begin with faith in Jesus and grow toward increasing Christlikeness. The following is a listing of the messages we are planning in the series.

January 7	“Jordan River: Baptism of Jesus”	Lk 3:1-22
January 14	“Wilderness: Temptation of Jesus”	Lk 4:1-13
January 21	“Nazareth: Hometown Rejection”	Lk 4:14-30
January 28	“Lake of Gennesaret: Calling Disciples”	Lk 5:1-12
February 4	“A Level Place: Teaching a Multitude”	Lk 6:17-49
February 11	“Capernaum: Healing a Servant”	Lk 7:1-10
February 18	“Nain: Raising a Widow’s Son”	Lk 7:11-17
February 25	“A Pharisee’s House: Forgiving a Sinful Woman”	Lk 7:36-50
March 3	“In a Boat: Calming a Storm”	Lk 8:22-25
March 10	“Along the Road: The Cost of Discipleship”	Lk 9:57-62
March 17	“Jericho: Seeking the Lost”	Lk 19:1-10
March 24	“The Mount of Olives: The Triumphal Entry”	Lk 19:28-48
March 31	“The Empty Tomb: The Resurrection of Jesus”	Lk 24:1-53

## **Transportation Team needs another Driver!**

TAD STRYKER, ELDER

The Transportation Team is a vital part of our church. Would you like to join? Friendliness, dependability, steadiness and good vision are some of the requirements to be a Transportation Team member.

We need to add another driver to our team. Are you willing to drive the church van one to three times a month to allow other people to come to F Street Church? It could be for a Sunday service, a Wednesday night CR meeting, or (likely) both.

Qualifications for being a Transportation Team member:

- Must have a current Nebraska driver’s license
- Reliability, friendliness, the ability to work positively with others
- Report for duty unimpaired by drugs or alcohol
- Available to drive people to church (and home again afterward). Time slots would be Sunday (approximately 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. availability the day you drive, although days with church dinners or block parties will go later) and Wednesday (approximately 5-9 p.m.)

If interested, please call or text Tad Stryker at 402-802-0597.

## Wisdom (This year's Bible reading plan)

JEFF HEERSPINK

Maybe you are making a New Year's resolution, maybe you want to grow in your knowledge of the Bible, maybe you want to be wiser. Well, if you want to be a wise person, making a commitment to read the Bible is a great place to start, James also tells us to ask God for wisdom (James 1:5-8 read below) the problem often is that he does offer it to us, but we do not always follow that wisdom, James also warns us about that.

This year our Bible reading plan will be through the books of the Bible that are known as the Wisdom Literature (Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, and James). We offer this Bible reading plan simply as a way to encourage you and help you in your Bible reading as followers of Jesus, we should be passionate lovers of the Word of God.

Paul tells Timothy that: 16 All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. 17 God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

How awesome is that the Bible teaches us truth, points out wrong, corrects us and as the Psalmist writes illuminates our path, as well as equips us for good works. Wow that is impressively complete for life and that is what the Bible offers to us. Of course, you are welcome to read wherever you wish but if you are looking to start how about starting with wisdom.

Below is the reading plan for the first month, note we do give you the weekends off, but you can skip ahead or use it to catch up, or read another book of the Bible. We just want to encourage you to grow in the wisdom of Christ.

5 If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. 6 But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind. 7 Such people should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. 8 Their loyalty is divided between God and the world, and they are unstable in everything they do. James 1:5-8



## Book of Revelation

BILL THORNTON, TEACHING PASTOR

One of the most puzzling yet powerful books in the Bible is the book of Revelation. It is filled with visions and images that point to Jesus' return as the ultimate King, where He will restore His people and usher in the new creation. Beginning January 29th, I plan to offer a class where we will seek to understand both the first-century world of the book's original recipients, as well as learn what the book's message means for us today. Along the way, we also plan to see how Revelation has been understood during different periods of church history. In the process, my prayer is that we will have opportunity to behold both the timelessness and trustworthiness of God's Word!

We will meet on Monday nights from 7:00 to 8:30 pm in the Fireside Room. For more information, and to let me know of your interest to enroll in this class, please talk to me before or after church on Sundays, or email me at [bill@fstreetchurch.org](mailto:bill@fstreetchurch.org)!

In Christ, Pastor Bill Thornton

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## Community Group Opportunities

BILL THORNTON, TEACHING PASTOR

### In the New Year

Book of Genesis: Sunday mornings @ 9 am led by Vince and Cathy Grove

Spiritual Disciplines: Last 3 Sundays @ 6 pm led by Drew & Sarah Peters

Young Adults: Thursdays @ 7:11 pm led by Bill & Marcia Thornton

What to Expect When Walking with Christ: Fridays @ 7 pm led by Ardeshir Mazhari

Women of the Word: Fridays @ 10 am led by Beth Heerspink & Others

## Margin for Mission

JEFF HEERSPINK, LEAD PASTOR

Some of the most difficult topics for the church to talk about are sex and money, likely because we all get a bit or a lot of our identity from them both as we have been influenced by the world. So, when the church speaks into these topics, they can cause people to be on edge, become defensive and want to fight back. Yet when the church is quite on these topics, it sadly leaves all of us being disciplined by the world, rather than by Jesus and his direction from the Bible.

Let me also be honest when it comes to money, the church has often ignored it, that is until we need it. Begging, pleading and requesting as if those in the church are not there to be disciplined with their finances but to be used for their finances. For that I am sorry for any time I, F Street or any church has sought only to use people.

Now as we enter into the year 2024 it is our goal to talk about money more, at F Street with intention. Not out of scarcity or desperation but out of a desire to help everyone grow in their finances, to be disciplined, to be able to live with Margin in their life and support Mission in the church.

That means as a church I want all of us to process our own heart and what we really treasure. Jesus highlights that all of us need to look at where our Treasure is for that is where our heart will be (Matthew 6:19-21)

19 "Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. 21 Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be. Matthew 6:19-21

For others it may be learning to value money more, in that we stop wasting it on things that are not bringing us the joy we thought, or learning to budget so that we can get out of the financial hole we have dug and again learn to have Margin so that we can live on Mission.

That is my hope that all of us will begin to take steps to live with Margin so that we together can be on Mission learning to be generous with our money both to the church and specifically to those we know in need or those serving overseas on Mission.

This effort for the year will include classes being offered on finances, monthly giving talks, articles like this one in the newsletter, and more to help you as participants of F Street to live with Margin, so you can live on Mission.

I hope that you will be open to taking small steps to see what God's word might be saying as we seek to live together with Margin for Mission.



## COACHING CORNER

BETH HEERSPINK, COACH

We all benefit from accountability, encouragement, and processing. We all have areas of life we are struggling in, and areas of life that are going well. We all need support and a listening ear. We would all benefit from writing down some goals and re-evaluating our priorities (and this is the one time of year we are most likely to do it). We should all be figuring out how to grow in our relationship with God, with ourselves, and with others. These are the things that coaching provides. Coaching is for everyone (even if Nebraska isn't): the high-level leader AND the person who says, "I just don't know how to adult." Coaching is intended to help people get unstuck.

My hope is that the coaching ministry at F Street will grow in 2024. I am excited to announce that we have an emerging "coaching team" and have received a donation that will allow us to train up additional certified coaches. My hope is that we would see this ministry expand and grow and that we would be able to offer coaching to anyone who is seeking additional support as they make significant changes in their life.

I am looking to expand and grow a coaching team! If you love to walk alongside people as a mentor, and are looking for an additional place of ministry, please reach out to me (402-217-2352 or [bheerspink@yahoo.com](mailto:bheerspink@yahoo.com)). I am offering an Introductory Workshop on Zoom in February (Thursday evenings in February from 6:00-9:00pm). This is a great place to start to see if you enjoy this style of ministry. You will be given all the tools, and you will practice actually "coaching" other participants.

My prayer is that all of us will seek to become more like Christ in 2024!

"Now to Him who is able to protect you from harm and to place you before His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord is glory, majesty, might, and authority from every age and now and into all ages. Amen." (Jude 24-25)

## Missionary Corner

### Email Updates

To be added to regular email updates about the church, email [fstreetchurch@gmail.com](mailto:fstreetchurch@gmail.com)

### Prayer Requests

If you have any prayer requests, please fill out the back of the communication card or come up to the front after church service

### Up to Date

To keep information up to date, please fill out a communication card or email Hollie at [hollie@fstreetchurch.org](mailto:hollie@fstreetchurch.org)

## What is a Disciple?

JEFF HEERSPINK, LEAD PASTOR

This is an interesting question and can get you a number of responses specifically within the church. For sure it is faith in Jesus, yet the early disciples were followers of him, literally followers, they did not simply say I believe and go about their lives, in fact they often changed their lives radically laying down the things (nets, money, people, identity) that were once important to them to follow Jesus.

So, if it is more than a belief in Jesus, then how do we follow Jesus today? Well, there are a lot of different interpretations, most of which are rooted in the scriptures for sure but still different from one another.

Here at F Street Neighborhood Church, we have adopted a simple structure for what it means to be a disciple, known as the 5C's: Christ, Community, Character, Calling, and Competency. To help us better understand these we have added a verb before them so they are communicated as Committed to Christ, Engaged in Community, Transformed in Character, Fulfilling your Calling, and Developing your Competencies (If you ever forget you can note the wonderful banners, Jean made, hanging from the balcony).

Over the next several months I hope to write about these 5C's to keep them fresh in our hearts and minds. Although I have already used the word simple several times, they are not always simple to live out, following Jesus is always a challenge as it requires us to lay down our lives and to pick up our cross. It is more than being able to know them and recite them it is learning to live them out.



### The Walhofs

Last week was a big anniversary for us - four years living and working in Kapsowar, Kenya! It's the longest stretch our family has lived in one place, and Kapsowar is home to us in the same way Vancouver, Grand Rapids, and Salt Lake City were home for the periods of time that we lived in those places. This time, though, is different - when we moved around North America, we had a definite end-point in mind for each move. Vancouver was graduate school for Kristopher; Grand Rapids was medical school for Kim; Salt Lake City was OB/Gyn Residency before launching out into (finally, in our mid-30s) our real careers. Now, people ask us how long we plan to stay in Kapsowar. When will we go "home" next. What the long-term plan is. Our answers tend to be less than satisfying. "We'll see." "We learned from Covid not to plan too far in advance." "It depends." "We're just getting through it one day at a time."

We love Kapsowar. We love our community here. We're committed to our work, and we find real fulfillment and purpose in it. We know that God has called us to love our neighbor, to feed the hungry, to care for the sick, imprisoned, and marginalized, to proclaim good news to the poor. We believe that we can do that here in Kapsowar, and that slowly and with a lot of mistakes, we're learning to do it better. We're trying to learn to support others who want to do the same. For this time, as we enter our fifth year in Kapsowar, that feels like enough of a plan.

In October, we were able to spend time with some of Kim's family (parents, brother, sister-in-law, and new nephew) at the Kenyan coast and then in Kapsowar. We appreciated some time to rest and relax, and also had a lot of fun showing our family some beautiful parts of Kenya!

With love from Kapsowar,  
Kristopher, Kim, and Dominic Walhof

### The Howells

Dear friends,

Yesterday LCC graduated around 30 students. Most of these were part of the freshman class from our first year here. We are proud of their perseverance through a pandemic, various wars, high inflation and multiple class formats. Now we pray that as they depart LCC, that they would be strong leaders that bring the hope of the gospel to wherever life takes them.

Two of the graduates are young women that Michelle mentored or is still mentoring. Please pray for Michelle's continued meetings with Tracy\* (name changed for privacy), as she is asking many questions, wrestling with some tough topics, and ultimately seeking truth and confidence in her understandings.

We are confident that God will use these two graduates in many capacities and pray for continued growth for each of them. We do not know to what extent we planted, watered, or tended the seed of Truth. But we lean on the promise of Philippians 1:6.

#### Please pray:

- Classes are finished, but we still have exam week this coming week. Pray for students and faculty alike as we finish the semester.
- Pray for a smooth transition into Christmas break, particularly for the residence halls and AJ's staff involved with that. Pray for all who will be traveling, and those staying here.
- Meanwhile at home, we eagerly prepare for Christmas, with much music, reflections, and time with family and friends.

Thank you for standing with us and sending us here.

~ the Howells





# JANUARY 2024

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
1	2 6:30am - Prayer	3 6:30pm - Celebrate Recovery	4 5:30pm - FoodNet	5	6	7 10:30am - Sunday Service
8	9 6:30am - Prayer	10 6:30pm - Celebrate Recovery	11 5:30pm - FoodNet	12	13	14 10:30am - Sunday Service
15	16 6:30am - Prayer	17 6:30pm - Celebrate Recovery	18 5:30pm - FoodNet	19	20	21 10:30am - Sunday Service
22	23 6:30am - Prayer	24 6:30pm - Celebrate Recovery	25 5:30pm - FoodNet	26	27	28 10:30am - Sunday Service
29	30 6:30am - Prayer	31 6:30pm - Celebrate Recovery				

## Birthdays

**1st** - Kenneth Curtis  
Sydney Glanz  
Susie Kinsey  
**4th** - Lisa Thompson  
**9th** - Julia Landry

**11th** - Jess Dyne  
**15th** - Kimberly Hall  
**20th** - Duane Dallmann  
**22nd** - Jeanna Reiber  
**24th** - Donald Detty  
**29th** - Carol Burnley

## Anniversaries

**1st** - Brent & Susie Kinsey  
**17th** - Wayne & Linoma Wingate