



VOL. 12 ISSUE 2 • FEBRUARY 2026

# THE NEXT DOOR NEIGHBOR

## New Classes at LSOM

BILL THORNTON, TEACHING PASTOR

### **ANCIENT WISDOM FOR 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY CHURCH LEADERS**

#### **An Interdisciplinary Study Exploring Paul's Letters to Timothy & Titus**

- Are you interested in receiving college-level Bible training?
- This is a great time to begin (or continue) preparing for ministry!
- Join us on Monday nights from 7-9 pm.
- Part 1 (I Timothy) starts January 26<sup>th</sup> and goes through March 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Part 2 (Titus & II Timothy) starts March 16<sup>th</sup> and goes through April 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Gain practical ministry skills; learn principles of spiritual leadership; and develop qualities of Godly character.

Please contact Pastor Bill for more information or to sign up at: [bill@fstreetchurch.org](mailto:bill@fstreetchurch.org).

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## More Than Just a Party, Being a Church “Of” the Neighborhood

TERRY MARTINEZ, BLOCK PARTY LEADER

The very first block party I remember attending was my actual first time at F Street Neighborhood Church. What I witnessed that day has kept me here ever since. During the party, I saw an individual walk from the church across the street to El Chaparro, and then over across 13th Street. Near the station, he bent down, spoke with a man, stood up, and carried the man's bag all the way back to the bench in front of the church. He then went and got a plate of hot food and brought it to him. Watching that, I said to myself: *“This is what Jesus would do.”*

Now, after five years at F Street, I feel incredibly privileged to step into the Team Leaders position of overseeing our block parties. I am so excited to jump in and continue building alongside this amazing team.

**F Street has always been a place of acceptance and direction for me—and hopefully for you, too.** Because of the blessing I’ve found here, I am eager to see how we can invite the rest of the neighborhood to feel that same blessing. My vision is to see our community come together to help us expand these gatherings across our entire parking lot.

Our most recent block party was a phenomenal opportunity to be served by **Nancy from Clinic with a Heart** and **Chef Nazim from Bryan Health**. While a few had an awesome time painting coasters, many more were able to sit, eat, and visit with one another. It’s those moments of connection that make these days so special. We also want to give a big shout-out and a grand “thank you” to **Barton’s Painting** for sponsoring our January Block Party and making it possible.

We at F Street are a diverse body, and we want our block parties to reflect the beautiful diversity of F Street. If you have an idea for how we can better serve our community or want to help us expand, we want to hear from you!

**Our goal is—and always will be—to be a church “of” the neighborhood, not just “in” the neighborhood.** – Terry Martinez 402-519-8091  
Tmartinez199412@gmail.com

## Benevolence Ministry Update

HANNAH WEHMEYER, BENEVOLENCE LEADER

Thanks to the financial generosity of the church, the benevolence ministry continues to bless people in the community each month. We can help get a late bill paid, provide bus passes and gas vouchers, and link folks with other programs and resources that might be needed. This program is open to anyone within the F Street Neighborhood Church family, as well as people in the community who aren't tied to the church. If you or someone you know needs a little help, reach out to Hannah, the benevolence director. You will find contact information at the end of this article.

As a refresher, I thought I would include services that the benevolence ministry does NOT help with. Sometimes there is a lack of clarity as to what it is that we do. While some circumstances call for special exceptions, for the most part, we do not:

- Pay for hotel/motel stays
- offer grocery vouchers (we encourage utilizing FoodNet distributions and looking up local free pantries, as well as the places that provide daily meals)
- pay toward bills that are not late
- assist any one individual/family more than every 6 months

If you have questions about any of these things or need more information, I am glad to talk with you. Either send an email to [benevolence@fstreetchurch.org](mailto:benevolence@fstreetchurch.org) or call and leave a message at the church 402-435-3673.

Benevolence hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5 pm-7 pm, and Fridays from 2 pm-4 pm.

## Investing in People Through Residency.

JEFF HEERSPINK, LEAD PASTOR

Throughout our history, including time at the Northern Lighthouse, we have hosted more than 13 residents. Several of those residents now serve on staff at F Street, including Hollie, Willow, Sage, and RJ, and Andy Butler is currently serving as a resident. This is a ministry we hope to continue and expand as we seek to equip people for ministry, especially as we look toward planting more churches in Lincoln and beyond.

Residencies are typically one-year opportunities for individuals to serve at F Street in a variety of roles that align with their gifts and areas of interest. These positions generally require 10–15 hours per week and are funded through grants and private donors.

On February 1, John Golden will begin serving as a resident with a focus on Celebrate Recovery, assisting with benevolence, outreach, and community care. He will also have a unique opportunity to serve as a bridge between F Street and the People's City Mission, having just completed a yearlong residency with the Mission's Connections Church.

John and I share a long relationship, and it has been a privilege to watch his growth in Christ and now see him serve at F Street Neighborhood Church in this role.

## New Community Group at F Street!

ANDY BUTLER, COMMUNITY GROUP TEAM LEADER

### **F Street Book Club:**

Book? "Death to Deconstruction: Reclaiming Faithfulness as an Act of Rebellion" by Joshua S. Porter

When? Sunday, February 1st at 8:30 am

Where? The Grace Room at F Street Neighborhood Church

How Long? Seven weeks w/study guide

(If we've already started, feel free to join late. It won't be too difficult to catch up on the reading!)

Also, please let me know if you've had any interest in starting a Community Group here at F Street! I would love to help you get it started! Scripture describes the church as a body that grows in unity together with Christ as the head. Community Groups are one of the best ways to foster that growth together. So again, if you have any interest in our existing Community Groups or have felt led to start one yourself, please contact me! My Email: [andy@fstreetchurch.org](mailto:andy@fstreetchurch.org)/Phone: 308-991-2511



## Transportation Driver Needed

TAD STYKER, 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, and 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 8:45 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.**

## 1926 - 2026

### JEFF HEERSPINK, LEAD PASTOR

Today, as I watch a large apartment building rise across the street from my house at the corner of 13th and D, I can't help but stand in amazement. Seeing the crews at work takes my mind back to something I recently read in our church's new-building dedication booklet from June of 1926:

"In August, the contractors, Ernest Rokahr and Sons, were employed, and ground was broken for the new church. The cornerstone was laid on November 8, 1925. Building operations progressed nicely during the winter so that we were able to hold our 1926 Easter Service in the basement of the new building."

On June 27, 1926, they held the first worship service. Think about that, this incredible building was completed in just ten months. Brick and mortar. Steel beams spanning the rafters. An enormous amount of solid oak throughout. Stained-glass windows were carefully installed, and all of it was done with hand tools.

It's hard not to be in awe of what was built. Today, we are privileged to enjoy this space as we seek to serve this neighborhood, welcoming people in this space on the corner of 13<sup>th</sup> and F (including the 120+ individuals and families who will soon call the new apartments home) and directing them toward God.

We look forward to celebrating 100 years together on June 28th at our Block Party.



## **Thank You for Investing in Future Pastors**

JEFF HEERSPINK, LEAD PASTOR

I want to say thank you to the many people who helped make Eric, Joey, and Josh's time in Lincoln such a great experience.

They truly did not have a free night during their stay. Every evening, they were either in the home of a church member or participating in a ministry event. Because of the generosity of our church community, they were also able to enjoy some memorable experiences, including attending a UNL sporting event and visiting the Omaha Zoo.

To be honest, they made it easy. They were engaged, curious, and genuinely enjoyable to be around. From their very first Sunday with us, when one even sat outside for worship, to attending the men's breakfast on their final day, they jumped right in and embraced life at F Street.

My hope is that we will have more opportunities like this in the future to host seminary students, encouraging and challenging these future pastors along the way. Thank you for opening up your homes and your lives, and for continuing to make F Street a place of acceptance and direction for all.

## Missionary Corner

### 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)

### Email Updates

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

1/11/26 – The Howells

Dear friends,

Welcome to 2026, and greetings from Lithuania!

A new semester begins at LCC tomorrow. Please pray as classes and various programs begin (or continue) again after the Christmas holiday. This past week has been one of preparation, renewing the visioning, and welcoming new students. Thank you for praying for our work and investments among the diverse students, eager to learn and grow.

In some of our previous updates, we asked for prayer. Thank you for praying; God has heard and answered.

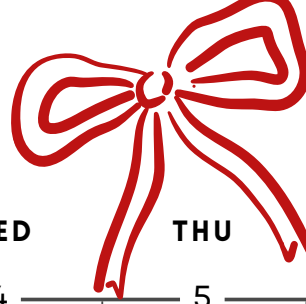
- “Pray for energy and joy in a long dark winter season.” The days are still dark, but we have been blessed with beautiful, energizing snow and some sunshine! We have been able to enjoy the winter so far in a variety of ways.
- “Pray this Christmas break would be one of rest and renewal for many.” We are thankful for a very refreshing break, during which we had very few commitments or obligations. We did not travel and did not have any guests. It was a gift to have slower days to prioritize our family.
- “Pray for the Saltshaker youth conference that will run over New Year’s at LCC International University.” Michelle presented a seminar lecture on the false conflict between religion and science. It was really well received and followed by much dialogue among the young people in attendance.

Thank you for standing with us,  
The Howells



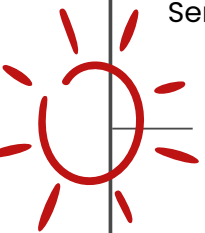
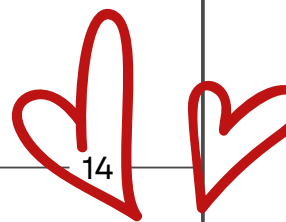


# February



# 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 10:30am - Sunday Service	2 <b><u>Acts 10</u></b>  3-8pm - Open Studio	3 <b><u>Acts 11</u></b>  6:30am - Prayer  7-8:30pm - Youth Group	4 <b><u>Acts 12</u></b>  6:30pm - Celebrate Recovery	5 <b><u>Acts 13</u></b>  5:30pm - FoodNet  7:11pm - Young Adults	6 <b><u>Acts 14</u></b>	7
8 10:30am - Sunday Service	9 <b><u>Acts 15</u></b>  3-8pm - Open Studio	10 <b><u>Acts 16</u></b>  6:30am - Prayer  7-8:30pm - Youth Group	11 <b><u>Acts 17</u></b>  6:30pm - Celebrate Recovery	12 <b><u>Acts 18</u></b>  5:30pm - FoodNet  7:11pm - Young Adults	13 <b><u>Acts 19</u></b>  10am - Women of the Word	14 <b><u>Valentine's Day</u></b>
15 10:30am - Sunday Service	16 <b><u>Acts 20</u></b>  3-8pm - Open Studio	17 <b><u>Acts 21</u></b>  6:30am - Prayer  7-8:30pm - Youth Group	18 <b><u>Acts 22</u></b>  6:30pm - Celebrate Recovery	19 <b><u>Acts 23</u></b>  5:30pm - FoodNet  7:11pm - Young Adults	20 <b><u>Acts 24</u></b>  10am - Women of the Word	21
22 <b><u>Block Party</u></b>  10:30am - Sunday Service	23 <b><u>Acts 25</u></b>  3-8pm - Open Studio	24 <b><u>Acts 26</u></b>  6:30am - Prayer  7-8:30pm - Youth Group	25 <b><u>Acts 27</u></b>  6:30pm - Celebrate Recovery	26 <b><u>Acts 28</u></b>  5:30pm - FoodNet  7:11pm - Young Adults	27 <b><u>Heb 1</u></b>  10am - Women of the Word	28
1 10:30am - Sunday Service	2 <b><u>Heb 2</u></b>  3-8pm - Open Studio	3 <b><u>Heb 3</u></b>  6:30am - Prayer  7-8:30pm - Youth Group	4 <b><u>Heb 4</u></b>  6:30pm - Celebrate Recovery	5 <b><u>Heb 5</u></b>  5:30pm - FoodNet  7:11pm - Young Adults	6 <b><u>Heb 6</u></b>  10am - Women of the Word	7



## **Birthdays**

1st - Pamela Mock  
2nd - Adryana Alvarez  
3rd - Candace Burr  
11th - Ronda Simpson  
Callie Aune

13th - Marcia Thornton  
Wendy Breeze  
16th - Henry Connett  
19th - Bill Thornton

## **Anniversaries**

10th - Michael & Denolta Gray  
13th - Dean & Ashley Hassel  
15th - Sam & Dawn Thompson  
26th - Chad & Bonnie Chapman