

VOL. 12 ISSUE 6 • JUNE 2026

THE NEXT DOOR NEIGHBOR

Pancakes in the Parking Lot

JEFF HEERSPINK, LEAD PASTOR

Starting June 20, Pancakes in the Parking Lot will begin again this summer. This has become a wonderful way for us to connect with our neighbors, as well as the Immerse students when they are in town. We invite all of you to come help, attend, and enjoy time together as a community.

We will be serving pancakes on six Saturdays from June 20 through August 1 (we will not serve on July 4). Set-up begins at 7:00 am, and breakfast will be served from 8:00–9:00 am.

If you would like to volunteer on any of the Saturdays, please contact Pastor Jeff at 402-805-2667. If you would simply like to come eat pancakes and spend time with others, just show up between 8:00 and 9:00 am. We would love to see you there!

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HEART & HOME

JUNE '26

PURPOSE We want to help parents and kids create Jesus-sustained **Hearts** so that when families leave church, it can be the same at **Home**.

VOLUNTEER BLURB



Hi, I'm Katherine. I'm married to Simon, and together we have two teenage boys and a nine-year-old daughter. I've been taking care of kids for as long as I can remember. From babysitting in middle school to working in an LPS preschool classroom today. When my kids were younger, I always relished the opportunity to sit still and focus on the sermon, so I am happy to be able to provide that opportunity to other families at F Street.

BOOK BORROW LIBRARY

Heart & Home Family Ministry has a section at the back of the church where you can borrow the book we recommend in our newsletters. Take one to read and bring back when you're done!

MEMORY VERSE DEVO

In John 3, we read what is the most popular verse in the entire Bible. For most people, they can recite this without even thinking. But let's take a look at John 3, which starts with a question. Nicodemus approaches Jesus at night to ask him questions about how we can have new life. In Jesus' response, we get John 3:16. This isn't just a verse to quote to prove that we're Christian, but instead it shows who our Savior is! Our Savior is someone who sacrifices for us, who answers our questions, who loves, and who wants us to have eternal life through Him. When you read this verse, don't just rush through it, but instead remember who He is!

RECOMMENDATIONS

Podcast: **"Building a Strong Foundation in Christ: Practice makes Parent"** with Dr. Danny Huerta and Rebecca St. James

MOVING CLASSROOMS

As school has come to a close and your child is no longer in their former grade, starting June 7th, kids age 5 will move to Journey Group 1, kids now in 3rd grade will move to Journey Group 2 (located in the upper office), and now 6th graders will be staying in church as they are classified as middle schoolers. We look forward to having your kids!



MEMORY VERSE

"He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life." – John 3:16

THIS MONTH LESSONS

JOURNEY GROUP:

- Jun 7: Jesus Answers Nicodemus' tough questions
- Jun 14: God tells Joseph to go to Egypt
- Jun 21: Jesus sends out twelve disciples
- Jun 28: Jesus answers a rich man's questions

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. What did you learn about?
2. Was there something you didn't understand?
3. How can you share this with others?

SUMMER SPLASH

It's like VBS except parents join in on the fun with their kids!
Geared towards Pre-K to Middle School
July 7th - 10th from 6 PM - 7:30 PM
Sign up using the QR code!

Join Atlas: Lincoln on our FIRST EVER...

OUTREACH BLITZ JUNE 14-20



Join Atlas as we "blitz" our neighborhood and city! Through this week of outreach, we hope to build new relationships and support old ones by providing various kinds of help and connection.

Volunteer opportunities for individuals or groups!

- Opportunities to serve all week
- Serve meals, provide hygiene kits, and connect with neighbors



Scan the [QR code](#) to find how you can partner and sign up today

Questions? Reach out to brody@atlaslincoln.org

Outreach Blitz

BRODY VAN ROEKEL,
ATLAS: LINCOLN

Join Atlas as we "blitz" our neighborhood and city! Through this week of outreach, we hope to build new relationships and support old ones by providing various kinds of help and connections. Does your community group, bible study, church, or other group want to support this weeklong initiative? Fill out your contact information and select which opportunities you'd like to support. Groups of all sizes welcome!

When: June 14-20, multiple activities every day

What: A week-long initiative, going out into our neighborhood every day, multiple times a day, to connect with people, offer various meals/snacks/support, and see how we can better walk alongside hurting folks.

Who: Groups or individuals welcome

Use the QR code to explore the many opportunities to partner during the week.

Children's Ministry

HANNAH WEHMEYER, CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEAM LEADER

The nursery and Journey Groups need YOUR heart and help!

As the Thorntons (Pastor Bill and his wife, Marcia, and some of their family members) have recently announced, they will be stepping down from ministry at F Street Neighborhood Church at the end of the summer. You may or may not know just how much of an impact they all have had in making sure the little lambs of F Street are safe and spiritually fed while they're here. We are forever grateful for their service. Now, we have some BIG shoes to fill!

The nursery is available to provide care for infants through age 4. Journey Group 1 consists of students aged 5 through 2nd grade, and it is these two ministries that will miss the Thornton gals the most! If you and your children have ever been ministered to by these groups, I urge you to consider signing up to help serve (pending a clean background check). We need lead teachers, supporting teachers, and nursery attendants. Curriculum is provided, and you will be very much supported in your role!

The children of F Street are our most treasured earthside gifts (personal opinion). Bottom line, if we don't have enough workers, then we don't have the children's ministry. Consider this a loving nudge if you've been considering taking part in this work but haven't made your move yet. I (Hannah) would love to meet and talk with you about any questions or ideas you might have. Thank you!

MOVING CLASSROOMS

As school has come to a close and your child is no longer in their former grade, starting June 7th :

- kids age 5 will move to Journey Group 1 (located in the same area as Nursery)
- kids now in 3rd grade will move to Journey Group 2 (located in the upper office)
- Kids now in 6th grade will be staying in "big" church as they are classified as middle schoolers.

How to Keep Flying

JEFF HEERSPINK, LEAD PASTOR

On a recent Sunday evening, I stumbled across a documentary on the Air Force's elite acrobatic flight team, the Thunderbirds. These are some of the best pilots in the world. They perform over 60 air shows each summer, flying at incredible speeds, often just inches apart. Every pilot serves only two years—one year learning, one year training others.

As I watched, I couldn't help but think: this is a picture of the church.

We often treat community as optional, as if it is a side item to the main course of following Jesus. But biblical community is not a byproduct of discipleship. It is essential to it.

The Thunderbirds know the stakes are high. Death is a reality. Their history includes tragic crashes and loss of life. But what fascinated me was what happened after some of those tragedies. For safety, they began flying higher and farther apart, and surprisingly, they had more accidents.

The greater the distance, the greater the danger.

Isn't that true for us as well? We often think distance protects us. If I keep people far enough away, I won't get hurt. If I stay independent, I'll be safer. But isolation often creates the very danger we are trying to avoid.

We need one another close enough for accountability. Close enough for encouragement.

Close enough to help one another when we begin to drift. The Thunderbird pilots called it "blind trust."

Each pilot had to trust that the others would be exactly where they said they would be. That sounds like the way the Christian community is supposed to work.

And consider this: in the Diamond formation, when flying low, the lead plane—#1—is pointed toward the ground. The only reason #1 does not crash is that plane #2 flies so close that the lift from #2 keeps #1 in the air.

Often, what can keep us from crashing is the lift of another believer. A timely word. A prayer. A hard conversation. An encouraging text. A brother or sister who comes alongside you when you are going down

The author of the book of Hebrews says:

"Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect meeting together... but encourage one another..." (Hebrews 10:24-25)

We need the lift of encouragement that comes from living in tight quarters with others.

God Squad

JOHN GOLDEN, RESIDENT

The "GOD SQUAD" is an "IN REACH MINISTRY" that God put on my heart in 2017. You may wonder, "What is an inreach ministry?" For our purpose, it's a ministry that will solely focus on our CHURCH FAMILY.

When I started at F Street in 2016, we had a small congregation. It was easy to see if someone was missing. The Holy Spirit put on my heart to create a ministry that reached out to people who just kind of FELL OFF. In the recovery world, FELL OFF usually means BAD BUSINESS!

Basically, we would go to them to see if they were OK, see if there was anything we could do to help. This was the beginning idea of GOD SQUAD...

Today, in 2026, F St is over twice the size it was. Our congregation has grown and diversified. We have all walks of life. Praise God for this. With this comes new IN REACH responsibilities. God Squad will be a ministry that will take on these responsibilities, we will have a focus on, but not limited to:

- Care Calling
- Helping Hands
- Various Visits
- Prayer Follow-up
- Contact Card Follow-up
- Baptism Follow-up
- Food Prep
- No Show Follow-up

As I mentioned, it's not limited to just these. We will be open to all IN REACH MINISTRY that will support our CHURCH FAMILY.

My hope is that this ministry will be available 24/7, 365, so no one ever falls through our cracks. GOD SQUAD will fill the cracks with LOVE, GRACE, and MERCY.

In the coming weeks, we hope to be rolling out a plan to put this team together. Today, I see a need for at least 8 people, plus myself. I say at least eight because the more team members we have, the less burden it will be on the rest of the team.

We will be announcing the GOD SQUAD and requesting/recruiting volunteers. If this is something the Holy Spirit is moving in you, then reach out to Pastor Jeff or me at:

John Golden
531-280-4070
john@fstreetchurch.org

Jeff Heerspink
402-805-2667
jeff@fstreetchurch.org



Youth Leaders Needed!

SAGE PETERSON, YOUTH
DIRECTOR

Looking to be involved with a team here at F Street? The F Street Youth team is currently looking for more leaders for the coming school year! Youth group leaders are a vital part of the ministry and have the awesome opportunity to impact the lives of the students here at F Street. During the school year, F Street Youth meets weekly, where leaders help encourage and connect with students through leading small groups, Bible studies, games, and discussions. If you are interested in being a leader, please contact Sage at sage@fstreetchurch.org.

All leaders must be able to pass a background check and be living according to the 5 C's (Christ, Character, Community, Calling, and Competencies).

Summer Splash: Into the Wilderness

HOLLIE SELL, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

After putting on Summer Splash last year and having an absolute blast, we are hosting it again this year with the theme of "Into the Wilderness." If you've never heard of Summer Splash, it's like a VBS except parents join in on the fun with their kids! We will read scripture, families will spend time in discussion, and we will have fun crafts and splashing good games. Summer Splash: Into the Wilderness is geared toward younger families with Pre-K to Middle School kids. It is a FREE Family event, so we hope you can join us! While we'd love to have you there every day, we understand schedules can be busy. Feel free to attend as many days as you can, even if it's just once! Sign-ups are open at www.artchapellnk.org or scan the QR Code. This is so we can expect you and plan accordingly!

When: July 7th - 10th

Time: 6 PM - 7:30 PM each day.



5000+ Sundays and Counting

JEFF HEERSPINK, LEAD PASTOR

Our church has hosted more than 5,000 worship services within these doors.

As we prepare to replace the church's front doors and office doors, it struck me that for 100 years these doors have been opened to welcome people into worship. Even estimating generously, accounting for the occasional snowstorm cancellation, these doors have likely opened more than 5,000 times for Sunday services alone. Beyond worship, they have also opened for weddings, funerals, prayer gatherings, celebrations, and more.

Whether it was the original wooden doors or the current aluminum ones, these entrances have quietly served generations of people coming to seek God.

I want to express my gratitude to the many of you who have contributed toward replacing the front doors. This was originally planned last year because the current doors are not energy efficient, as there is a large gap between them. We also needed doors that could accommodate modern breakaway bars so the building can lock securely when someone exits without needing a key.

Then, as many of you know, someone threw a brick through the doors. Thanks to Dave Widman, the entrance was quickly boarded up, and thanks to Jean Stryker, those boards became a creative expression of F Street's tagline: "It's Still All Good in the Hood."

Later this month, both the front doors and the worn-out office door will finally be replaced. The timing feels especially meaningful as I have been reading through the history of our 100-year-old church building. On June 29, 1926, the congregation gathered outside these very doors before they were opened for the first worship service held in the building we still lovingly call home.

On June 28, we hope you will join us as we walk through these new doors together and celebrate the 100th anniversary of the F Street church building.

Sunshine, Milestones, and the Power of the Table

TERRY MARTINEZ, BLOCK PARTY TEAM LEADER


With the beautiful weather finally breaking through, the energy is shifting outside—our outdoor Block Parties are officially back! There is nothing quite like gathering under the open sky, soaking in the bright sun, and breathing in that fresh seasonal air. And let's be honest: heading outdoors means the true concept of "sweating together" gets to have a whole new meaning! 😊

But the sunshine isn't the only thing making this season bright. We are stepping into a massive, historic season of celebration for our community. On May 31st, we mark 12 incredible years of F Street as a living, breathing Church body. And right on the heels of that milestone, an absolutely monumental event is coming up on June 28th: we are celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the very building we call home. One hundred years of history, shelter, and grace in this neighborhood! Through every season and every passing year, our Block Parties continue with one simple vision: Nurturing a table of unconditional acceptance and shared direction, rooted in love—a place where everyone knows they belong.

Have you ever walked into a space where the hospitality was so immense, so overwhelming, that it caught you off guard? Sometimes, being met with that level of pure welcome can feel unfamiliar at first. But quickly, that initial uncertainty softens into a deep sense of comfort, melting away into peace, joy, and true happiness. Maybe you are that person who naturally strives to create this kind of environment. You're the one who opens the door, sets the table, and greets others with genuine warmth—whether that's a traditional "holy kiss," a firm handshake, or a welcoming smile. Here at F Street, we strive to open our doors wide. We open them to the neighbors we've known for years, to the strangers we've just met, and to everyone we are called to love.


Our Block Parties are one of the greatest opportunities we have to extend this grace to new faces. As people settle in, get comfortable, and let their guards down, the entire atmosphere shifts. If you take a moment to look around, you can literally see the Lord at work right in front of us. He is moving through the active delight of our community—woven into deep conversations, the infectious laughter shared over games, moments of focused prayer, the creative freedom of arts and crafts, and the simple pleasure of enjoying a good meal together. As we share the warmth of the event, and as new friends pull up a chair, something truly holy happens. Together, we aren't just sharing food—we are rejoicing in the Lord, building up one another, and growing tighter as a community, one connection at a time.

This past month, we watched that beautiful culture of hospitality come to life, and it was entirely due to the people who anchored our space. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Atlas and its members for serving the meal, and to every single person who brought their unique gifts to the table. We often talk about creating a safe harbor for our neighbors, but that harbor doesn't just appear. It is built by those who arrive early to set the stage, those who stay late to pack it away, and those who spend their entire afternoon making sure no one sits alone. You weren't stepping into a position or just filling a role. This wasn't about a title; it was the natural outpouring of your belonging to this family and your desire to do His will. Your living presence became the actual framework that held the afternoon together, breaking the ice for new faces and clearing the way for true connection to happen. That selfless, behind-the-scenes care made something incredibly powerful undeniable: we are a community that doesn't just talk about love, we actively build it together...



Tuesday
6 PM
to
8 PM
Atlas office

Mentor Training



Atlas: Lincoln

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN WALKING WITH THE HURTING IN OUR CITY?

ATLAS EXISTS TO SERVE THE PEOPLE OF LINCOLN THROUGH LOCAL, INTENTIONAL, AND RELATIONAL CHRIST-BASED PEER-SUPPORT.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 says, "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor. if either of them falls down, one can help the other up. but pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up."

Join us for a hands-on workshop to learn a simple framework for loving our neighbors when they fall down.

Interested in helping someone? Interested in making a new friend? Feel a burning passion to be a good neighbor?

Think about becoming a mentor with Atlas: Lincoln! Brody, Executive Director, is hosting a Mentoring Training on June 23rd, 2026, from 6 PM - 8 PM at the Atlas office!

Immerse

SAGE PETERSON, IMMERSE DIRECTOR

The summer is finally here, and we are excited to welcome four Immerse groups to F Street! While the groups are here at F Street, they will be serving in the neighborhood while also being equipped to go and do ministry in their own neighborhoods!

To help make Immerse the best that it can be, we love it when you, the church, can be involved. The first thing that you can do is to simply be welcoming to the groups and engage with them whenever you see them out and about. We also have opportunities to help by cooking meals, hosting meals, sharing testimony, and many more opportunities! If you're interested in helping with Immerse, please contact Sage at sage@fstreetchurch.org.

Sanborn CRC - June 16th-21st
 Hope Church Spencer - June 23rd-28th
 Calvary Reformed - July 14th-19th
 Hope Church Lincoln - July 30-August 2nd

The More Things Change...

JEFF HEERSPINK, LEAD PASTOR

Many changes are happening at F Street. By now, most of you have likely heard that Bill and Marcia are retiring from pastoral ministry as Bill transitions into a part-time teaching position. We are grateful for their years of faithful service and pray God's blessing over this next season of life.

What may be less known is that in the weeks ahead, the Hispanic church congregation that has worshiped in our building for more than 10 years will also be moving out. We have been blessed by their presence and partnership in ministry, and we are excited for them as they move into their own building in the Belmont area. This is a wonderful step forward for their congregation, and we celebrate with them.

Interestingly, all of this is happening while plans are already underway to begin a new service at F Street. Resident Pastor Andy and Pastor RJ have been working hard to develop this vision, and we are excited to see a growing team of people coming together to help make it happen.

At the same time, the ministry continues to grow in many ways. We have launched F Street Farms, preparations are underway for a new mural on the back of the church, and summer ministries are beginning again – including Immerse, Summer Splash, Saturday Pancakes, and more.

With so many transitions and opportunities ahead, the Elders want to hear from you. Beginning in July, we are planning to hold two special meetings following worship services on July 12 and September 20. During these meetings, we will walk through a process together to discuss the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and challenges facing our church. Our desire is to prayerfully seek direction together and hear your input as we look toward the future of F Street.

More information about these meetings will be included in the July edition of the newsletter.

Missionary Corner

5/9/26 - The Howells

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

Email

Updates

To be added to regular email updates about the church, email fstreetchurch@gmail.com

Dear friends,

Last weekend marked the **end of another academic year** . . . sending another cohort of graduates into the world.

- *May our graduates step into places of impact and transformation.*

Along with Graduation festivities, last weekend was full of **other commemorative events**, during which we celebrated the impact of our retiring president and the legacy of LCC International University.

- *May she enter retirement with grace, peace, and joy.*
- *May God bring our new president with vision and creativity to increase this school's impact in "making disciples of all nations" in the region and beyond.*
- *Pray for the new president who will begin in July. Pray for his transition.*

This year has had many **challenging situations, decisions, and realities**. There has been much to navigate . . . institutionally and personally. We still haven't been able to "clean up" from this year.

- *What a gift in God's timing: Barnabas International sent a **missionary care team** to spend 3 days at LCC to speak encouragement and give tools and space to process these and other challenges, struggles, and joy.*
- *The time was brief, but it became clear during this time that our family needs to identify and plan for a **guided debrief time** in the near future.*
- *May the "things" they gave us take root in ourselves and **bring new life** to LCC.*

Through all of this, **we are buying a house**. Huge step, and sudden/unanticipated. Maybe in another Howell Happening, we will celebrate the ways we have clearly seen God's hand through this decision and the slow/rushed/pinball/foreign processes.

- *But we are stepping forward with the confidence of a clear instruction to buy this place.*
- *We celebrate with anticipation the possibilities of this new home.*
- *We rejoice that our steps toward buying a house have already brought great encouragement to our Lithuanian colleagues and friends. Despite telling them for the past 7 years that we plan to be here long-term, the past couple of weeks we have had about 10 people/families say, "Oh, you actually mean it when you say you plan to stay here."*

Some of you have asked how to **pray or contribute financially** to this specific need.

- *Purchasing the house is creating additional financial expenses. We are already so humbled by the financial support that we receive from many of you. **Thank you!***
- *If you would like to **support financially** during this transition, special one-time gifts or increased regular gifts are both helpful and can be made through Global Scholars at [the link](#).*
- *If you would like to **pray with us** specifically regarding this house, we invite you to join us:*
 - ***In-home ministry** is a huge part of our work here, and this new place promises to fill that need with even more possibilities. Pray for all that might be possible in this home.*
 - *Pray also **for our children** (and us) during our upcoming move and all "the feels" that will be felt.*
 - *Pray for **smooth closing processes** so that we can move in as soon as possible.*

Thank you for standing with us and praying,
the Howells

JUNE

2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31 Block Party 10:30am - Sunday Service	1 Rom 15 3-8pm - Open Studio	2 Rom 16 6:30am - Prayer	3 Eph 1 6:30pm - Celebrate Recovery	4 Eph 2 5:30pm - FoodNet	5 Eph 3	6
7 10:30am - Sunday Service	8 Eph 4 3-8pm - Open Studio	9 Eph 5 6:30am - Prayer	10 Eph 6 6:30pm - Celebrate Recovery	11 Phil 1 5:30pm - FoodNet	12 Phil 2	13 8am - Men's Breakfast
14 10:30am - Sunday Service	15 Phil 3 3-8pm - Open Studio	16 Phil 4 6:30am - Prayer	17 Col 1 6:30pm - Celebrate Recovery	18 Col 2 5:30pm - FoodNet	19 Col 3	20
21 10:30am - Sunday Service	22 Col 4 3-8pm - Open Studio	23 Phile 1 6:30am - Prayer	24 Lk 1 6:30pm - Celebrate Recovery	25 Lk 2 5:30pm - FoodNet	26 Lk 3	27
28 Block Party 10:30am - Sunday Service	29 Lk 4 3-8pm - Open Studio	30 Lk 5 6:30am - Prayer	1 Lk 6 6:30pm - Celebrate Recovery	2 Lk 7 5:30pm - FoodNet	3 Lk 8	4

Birthdays
 2nd - Dawn Thompson
 4th - Melvin Schroeder
 Willow Bernadt
 7th - Ashley Hassel
 10th - Hannah Wehmeyer
 13th - Robert Bender
 Jay Bernadt
 14th - Marilyn Bonsall

15th - Tracy Roth
 Andrea Parks
 17th - Trinity Macaluso
 Steven Mudica
 21st - Jean Stryker
 22nd - Thomas Pederson
 25th - Katherine Connett
 27th - Jesse Dill

30th - Johnny Sisneros

Anniversaries

5th - Simon & Katherine Connett
 9th - Todd & Brenda Barton
 28th - Jay & Willow Bernadt