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For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.
Philippians 4:13

Dear Lord, You are my strength when life gets tough. I put all my hope in you today. I know all will be well because

you are with me.



JUNE 2023



Lead Pastor Richard Crooks | Youth Pastor Interim Luke Chavanne | Fremont, NE

Pastor's Notes



Not to be lazy, but this month I was really struck by two pieces I read that I think are very relevant for our church and our future. Both of them emphasize things we have been talking together about for a long time, but in a fresh wording. I have long talked about the importance of making our focus sowing seeds and of creating opportunities in which God can move and work. I love how these two individuals approach these topics from a different perspective, so am sharing them with you as our food for thought this month:

“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord...to give you a future and a hope.—(Jeremiah 29:11 NRSV)

In North America, the majority of churches don't have as many members as they did ten, twenty, or fifty years ago. Some experts say there's no hope for the church.

My friend Bill is not one of them. Pastor of one of those small-and-getting-smaller churches in the Midwest, he never seems discouraged about that reality. So one day I asked him, 'How do you stay so positive when your membership keeps shrinking? Aren't you afraid you'll close?'

Bill smiled. 'I don't know what you're talking about. We're not shrinking. We're growing—up ten percent from last year.'

'Can't be,' I said. 'I've seen your membership numbers. Down every year for the last ten.'

'You count members,' Bill said, 'but we count touches. Anytime anyone in our church does something for someone else in the name of Jesus, that's a touch: a card sent, a phone call made, a meal delivered, a donation to the food pantry. And our goal is to increase touches. In the five years that we've counted this way, we've grown every year.'

Bill's wisdom has changed the way I live my life. My initial goal was one touch per day; too small. Now it's five. And here's what I've discovered: when my touches grow in number, I grow in faith.” (by Jeff Japinga in the 2015 Guideposts

And he said, Thus saith the LORD, Make this valley full of ditches. For thus saith the LORD, Ye shall not see wind, neither shall ye see rain; yet that valley shall be filled with water,” --2 Kings 3:16-17

“The armies of the three kings were famishing for want of water;

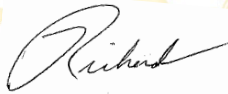
God was about to send it, and in these words the prophet announced the coming blessing. Here was a **case of human helplessness**; all those valiant men could not procure a drop of water from the skies or from the wells of earth. Thus often the people of the Lord are at their wits' end; ...Still the people were to make a **believing preparation for the divine blessing**; they were to dig the trenches in which the precious liquid would be held. The church must by her varied agencies, efforts, and prayers, make herself ready to be blessed; she must make the pools, and the Lord will fill them. This must be done in faith, in the full assurance that the blessing is about to descend. ... It is ours thankfully to receive from Him, and not to dictate to Him. We must also notice **the remarkable abundance of the supply**—there was enough for the need of all. And so it is in the gospel blessing; all the wants of the congregation and of the entire church will be met by the divine power in answer to prayer; and above all this, victory will be speedily given to the armies of the Lord.

What am I doing for Jesus? What trenches am I digging?" (Charles Spurgeon, Morning and Evening)

I am 100% on board with what they folks are saying to us. They talked about touching lives and digging trenches. We talk about seeds and outreach efforts as the things we focus on that God can use and bless. But the questions Spurgeon asks are as relevant for us today here are First Baptist as they were for his congregation years ago. So ask yourself what ARE your goals in terms of how many touches, how

many seeds, what kind of trenches YOU are making available for God to use?

Keep digging!




Bible Puzzle- June

"This business person was the first Christian convert in Europe we know by name. We know the person and their family was baptized by Paul, and was actually from one of the 7 cities whose churches were given special messages in the opening chapters of Revelation. Who is the person and what was the business?"

People's Puzzle- June

This church member suggested that what people don't realize is that they love riding a trike.

(Answers provided next month)

May Pastor's Puzzle:

After Judas Iscariot's death, Mattathias and Justus (also called Barsabbas and Joseph) were two men who had traveled with Jesus and the disciples and was presented as a possible replacement. Mattathias was selected by casting of lots after the disciples first prayed. Acts 1:21-26

May People Puzzle:

Hank Schollmeyer was the Javelin conference champ during his sophomore year in college.



★ **MEMORIAL DAY** ★
REMEMBER AND HONOR

Charlie Wild	July 15, 2022
Paul Cash	July 17, 2022
Geneva Peterson	July 20, 2022
Nathan Reeker	Nov. 29, 2022
Paul Denny	April 11, 2023
LaVerne Perkins	May 7, 2023



One of our ministries is to make mats for the homeless, we have partnered with a church in Kansas City to help distribute these where there is a need. Join us twice a month... no experience necessary, just an openness to serve and a willingness to learn.

zoom
BIBLE STUDY

June 1st & 15th @ 2:30 p.m.

Contact Office for the Link

Our Friends Away from Home

NYE SQUARE APTS		
650 W 21st St. Fremont 402-721-9224		
Dalton Benson	402-721-7717	#126
Wes Howe	402-721-4163	#133
Joan Sorensen	402-830-6519	#178
SHALIMAR GARDENS		
749 E. 29th St. Fremont, 402-721-1616		
Harlan Waugh	(402-753-8046)	#219
Edgewood Vista		
2910 Clarkson St. Fremont 402-753-8800		
Mary Ann Paulger		#7
NYE SQUARE		
655 W 23rd St. Fremont 402-721-9224		
Esther and Leonard Bechtel		#601

JUNE STRONG WOMEN OF THE BIBLE
Women's Bible Study
SATURDAY JUNE 24, 2023 9:30 a.m.

ANNA
A PROPHETESS

"and coming up at that VERY HOUR SHE BEGAN to give thanks to GOD AND TO SPEAK of him to all who WERE WAITING FOR the redemption of jerusalem."

FBC FREMONT
5TH & C STREET

ANGER

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY
THURSDAY'S @ 8:30AM
Contact Rowena Gonzales
402-719-7689

Happy Birthday & Anniversary

Robyn Schulz Dietz

3 Larry & Marcia Hill 402-727-5171

9 Jerry & Kelly Adams 402-720-4269

9 John & Mary Dennert 402-753-0759

10 Leland & Jean Foreman 402-721-1384

11 Mark & Vicki Anderson 402-727-0740

Effie Scott

13

Dylan Crytzer

15

Brandon Tharp

17

Norma Mackey 402-727-4367

20 Tom and Melody Scott 402-720-8979

Steve Cardwell 402-478-4593 23

Devin Tharp 402-721-8369 23

Lee Holzerland 402-720-9006 24

Esther Bechtel 402-721-7260 26

Linda Rogers 402-317-9215 26

Leonard Bechtel 402-721-7260 27



Celebrate!

American Baptist Women's MINISTRIES

Hostess: Esther Circle

From the rising of the sun to its going down the Lord's name is praised -Psalm 113:3

ABWM
Thursday | June 1
@ 1:30

Bible Book of
the Month:
1 King



Monthly Meetings

June 5 - @ 11:30
Esther Circle

No Meeting
Hannah Circle

June 22 - @ 12:30
Naomi Circle



Summer Camp brings youth of all ages to Camp Moses Merrill. The great outdoors is the backdrop for worship, Bible study, growing their faith and building a relationship with God. Campers also make memories splashing in the pool, sailing through the trees on the zip line, and of course sitting around the campfire! It is an experience that they will never forget.

Camp Session	Dates	Grades	Before/After May 1st
Mission Camp	June 11-16	7-12	\$335/\$360
JAM Camp	June 11-13	1-6	\$155/\$155
Mid High Camp	June 18-23	7-9	\$320/\$345
Music & Drama Day Camp	June 25-30	4-12	\$335/\$360
Junior Camp	June 26-29	1-6	\$125/\$125
Senior High	July 9-14	4-6	\$320/\$345
Family Camp	July 16-21	9-12	\$335/\$360
	July 28-30	All Ages	

Cabin
Adult (13+) \$135
4-12 year old \$80
0-3 \$25

Lodge
Adult (13+) \$165
4-12 year old \$100
0-3 \$25

Grades going into in the fall

REGISTER
CAMPMERRILL.COM

Vision Team Meeting: May 17, 2023

Called to serve

The meeting was attended by Pastor Richard, Joel Foreman, Mike Raasch, Betty Laughlin, Mary Weldon, John Mitchell, Eileen Cash, Randy Cash and Dorothy Charleston. Pastor Richard opened the meeting with prayer. He then read from II Kings about drought and building trenches to receive help from the Lord who will supply all our needs.

Randy reported a \$7,659.13 balance at the end of April in the bank. The Laten payments will be fixed to the full amount by June. The Endowment movement is in process. Paperwork has begun. Memorial Gifts total is \$14,189.18

ABW- Eileen reported ABW is no longer collecting White Cross or Love Gift.

ABMen -Joel reported all supplies for JCFremont have been covered.

Mark and Vicki Anderson donated the hot dogs and ABW the buns. There will be a bake sale provided by the ladies. The Youth will help set up and may also sell popcorn.

The Women's Conference at Camp will begin Friday June 2nd. The project of filling 30 bags for Domestic Abuse. The speaker on Saturday will be Irene Sorrels. The speaker on the 4th will be Nem Sonna from the Bethel Neighborhood. (Mang Sonna will be guest in our worship here that Sunday.)

John reported for the Property Committee; Both buildings are in need of roof repair. On the Family Center, wind is moving the sheeting and pins that hold it down are tearing the material, so it needs to be repaired as soon as possible. In addition, a number of the north windows of the main building need attention, with the possibility of changing the ones on the 3rd floor to be like those on the south side. A discussion of these needs was held. The need to update and/or replace the church's sound systems was also discussed. Costs are being determined, and Pastor shared that the possibility of a special one time Fund Drive was suggested as a way to help cover the expense. Congregation is to be advised of the concerns. More detailed information will be provided as it becomes available. **At this point we are aware that insurance will likely help with some of the roofing costs.**



June



SCRIPTURE WRITING PLAN

Joy

Day 1: Psalm 5:11	Day 16: Luke 2:9-11
Day 2: Psalm 16:11	Day 17: Luke 6:22-23
Day 3: Psalm 30:5	Day 18: Luke 15:6-7
Day 4: Psalm 32:11	Day 19: John 3:28-30
Day 5: Psalm 84:2	Day 20: John 15:10-11
Day 6: Psalm 95:2	Day 21: John 16:20-21
Day 7: Proverbs 10:28	Day 22: Acts 8:7-8
Day 8: Proverbs 12:20	Day 23: Acts 15:3
Day 9: Proverbs 15:23	Day 24: Romans 15:13
Day 10: Proverbs 17:22	Day 25: II Corinthians 8:1-3
Day 11: Isaiah 49:13	Day 26: Philemon 1:7
Day 12: Jeremiah 15:16	Day 27: Hebrews 10:33-35
Day 13: Matthew 2:9-10	Day 28: James 1:2-3
Day 14: Matthew 13:44	Day 29: I Peter 1:7-9
Day 15: Luke 1:43-45	Day 30: III John 1:4

*Commit to spending 10 minutes every day to meditate and reflect on God's Word.
Write down what you have gleaned from each day's scripture.*





Kids Club and FBY News!



-No Report -

SATURDAY | JUNE 17th

PRAYER TOUR

VAN LEAVES FBC @ 11:30am

We are heading out to the community for a Prayer Tour, where we will go to areas of Fremont and say a word of prayer for that specific part of town...join us as we pray for our Community, our Friends, our Family, and Strangers alike. Spread the LOVE of Jesus Christ.



Due to a lot of additional tasks lately, we are designating two times we will be closing the church office for the purpose of Sunday Prep and other tasks. They are **Wednesday mornings from 9:30-11:30 & Thursday afternoons from 2:00 - 4:00.** Please schedule your drop-ins to avoid these times whenever possible. The office is always open, of course, for emergency needs. Thank you, Pastor Richard



MINISTRY TEAMS

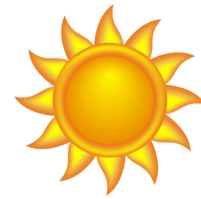
Inviting the whole church to actively participate in ministry.

PASTORS

LEADERS

YOU

LET'S GO!



Pastor Richard reported emphasis on the prayer life of our church. The prayer tours are enjoyed by the participants. On Saturday of Memorial weekend there will be a special time of sharing and support for those who have lost spouses or other loved ones in recent years.

There being no further business, Mike closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Dorothy Charleston, clerk

(*since that meeting we have been made aware that insurance will likely help with some of the roofing costs)

PRAYER REQUEST

It has come to the attention of the Property and Vision teams that there are some building concerns that need attention, particularly some roof repair needed that if done now will prevent some serious damage and expense later,

and completion of the ongoing process of repair/replacement of north window frames in the main building that have suffered significant weather damage. These things, in combination with the long discussed and researched replacement/update of sound and speaker equipment to alleviate the various problems we have had, form a significant challenge. We are looking into options and costs (which will not be small) and ways to fund it all. At this time, we just wanted the congregation to be aware there is a need, and we anticipate that before long we will be coming to you with complete information and costs. Please be in prayer as we do our due diligence, and also ask God how he might want you to partner with us financially to put in place this last piece of major updates/repairs that we have long been working to complete.

His mercies are new every morning
Lamentation 3:23



Thank you to our church family for all your prayers, cards, calls, thoughts and meals. We are so humbled and blessed your prayers have been felt. The meals were so good! God Bless you all. - Jim and Deb Peterson

June 2023

It's always a good idea to verify times and places, Thanks!

Cookies
 4 - Esther
 11 - Hannah
 18 - Naomi
 25 - ABM



If you are participating in the Life Choices "Fill the Bottle" Fundraiser, please return filled bottles to the church by June 18th. Thank you!

Reminder that we are still collecting donations of butter/margarine and \$\$\$ for commercial size foil for the LifeHouse.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 10px; border: 1px solid white;"> Our soul waits for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. -Psalm 33:20 </div>						
4 COMMUNION 9:30 - Traditional Service 11am - Casual Service	5 9am - Men's Coffee 7pm - Woodcarvers	6 7pm - AA Meeting	7 9:30a- Women's Coffee 7pm - Bible Study	8 8:30am - Women's Bible Study on Anger 5:30pm - Mat Making	9 9am - Men's Coffee	10 8:50am - Personnel Team 9:30am - Vision Team 5:30pm - FBYouth 6-8th 7pm - FBYouth 9-12th
11 9:30 - Traditional Service 11am - Casual Service 6:00pm - Brown Bag Fellowship 6:30pm - MOVIE NIGHT	12 9am - Men's Coffee 11am - Esther Circle	13 No Hannah Circle 7pm - AA Meeting	14 9:30a- Women's Coffee 4:30PM - Prayer Room with Pastor Richard 7pm - Bible Study	15 8:30am - Women's Bible Study on Anger 2:30pm - Zoom Bible Study	16 9am - Men's Coffee VBS - K-6th	17 11:30am - Prayer Tour 7pm - FBYouth 9-12th
18 Father's Day 9:30 - Traditional Service 11am - Casual Service	19 9am - Men's Coffee 7pm - Woodcarvers	20 7pm - AA Meeting	21 9:30a- Women's Coffee 7pm - Bible Study	22 8:30am - Women's Bible Study on Anger 12:30 - Naomi Circle 5:30pm - Mat Making	23 9am - Men's Coffee	24 9:30am - ABW Bible Study on Anna
25 9:30 - Traditional Service 11am - Casual Service	26 9am - Men's Coffee	27 7pm - AA Meeting	28 9:30a- Women's Coffee 7pm - Bible Study	29 8:30am - Women's Bible Study on Anger	30 9am - Men's Coffee	