

First Baptist Church

Of Fremont

Build, Love, Grow Serve

505 N C Street, Fremont, NE 68025

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Find us on



Office Hours: Monday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Closed for lunch) Friday: 9 am- 1
402-721-1265

Dear Lord, we thank you for bringing us to the start of a new month. We pray that when this month is over, we will be closer to you than we are at this moment. Please bless our family and friends and keep them safely in your care. We ask for your healing hand to be upon those who are ill and we ask for your hand of provision to meet each need. We thank you in advance for all you will do. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen



Build, Love, Grow, Serve

March 2024

Lead Pastor Richard Crooks | Music Director Sasha White



March 2024

PASTOR'S NOTES



“The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.” --Isaiah 35:1-2 (esv)

Some of my favorite childhood memories of spring are about flying kites. While I was never successful at making a kite of my own and getting it to fly, we used to attach to the store-bought ones tails made out of torn strips of cloth, and then we would take a ball of string and run it out with the kite, and then tie on another ball and keep going. One year, they came out with what they called “bat-kites” that you could pull and pump to make them do circles or climb higher. I remember one time we had one so far up in the sky, and the string broke. We watched it go down, and finally found it about 3 blocks away. At camp and other times when I was working with children, some of us taught the kids how to fly a kite, because so many had never done it; they lived their lives playing video games instead. When they could get it flying high, they became so excited.

What made me think of that? Well, there have been several days of late in which the sky is blue and the sun shining. There are crocus and jonquils putting forth sprouts in the yard. I am so excited about spring this year! It has been such a gray sky kind of winter. And all the ongoing illnesses around us, as well as the ones I had, has left me weary of being cooped up inside. But we are on the verge of SPRING!!!

Spring is such a great reminder of God's work, and the perfect timing to celebrate the Resurrection of Christ. C.S. Lewis got it right in *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, when he describes Narnia trapped in winter, longing for the day that Aslan (the symbol of Christ) would return and land would blossom once again. As we focus this Lent on the words of Jesus during Holy Week, have you noticed that there are literally chapters of sayings in which Jesus described the winter of this world and the promise of his return for an eternal springtime? What we see around us is a reflection of what God is doing in us and through us and for us, and what is yet to come. Just think of the biblical terms that relate: new life, new birth, new creation, new song, new commandment, new man...then a new heaven and a new earth. I love how the passage above reflects those images: deserts blossoming abundantly, joy and singing, seeing the glory of the Lord.

Jesus gave his life and was buried in the tomb, but rose again to usher in an eternal springtime, causing the wilderness of our lives to blossom in unimaginable ways. Just as the little mustard seeds we handed out need to shed their shells in the ground to become something more, so we each need to lay down the wintry storms that can leave our



hearts frozen and plant a springtime of eternal life, of joy, of beauty, bringing beautiful blossoms to the desert lives of people around us who still wander in sin.



My crocus haven't blossomed yet...but it won't be long. Even if another snow comes, they are far enough along I know their blossoms will burst forth, adding rich color to a cover of snow if they have to do so. What are the seeds and bulbs of God's springtime kingdom have you planted? Is there a crocus, a forsythia, a rose sprouting forth and blooming in your life? Has the light of God's glory brought forth in the garden of your life the beauty of soul-spring, or do you remain in grey sky days with barren branches and brown grass on the lawn that is your life? The beauty we see in springtime nature is just the faintest glimpse of the beauty we will see when Christ returns. I encourage you to let God's spring manifest wonderfully and in new ways, as we move into the spring of 2024. It's not too late to plant some fresh seeds...kind words, generosity, scripture verses in your heart or in your letters... What can you do to make your section of the desert blossom?

Hurray for springtime!



March Bible Puzzle

How many queens can you name (not anonymous) from the Bible? You may include them even if they are only mentions as a king's wife with no reference to queen of their rule)

March People Puzzle

This months person was hard to keep corralled as a child...always escaping from the crib and once, at three years of age, managed to climb out onto the roof of a two story building and fell off...landing on his/her head resulting in an overnight stay at the hospital. But no change in escape habits! Much later, out helping corral cattle for my ornery brother-in-law, he told me I had to separate the bulls and the cows...until an unappreciative bull full on head butted me!

February Bible Puzzle Answer

Noah's famous relatives were his great-grandfather, Enoch, who never died, but walked with God until he simply was gone because God took him, and his grandfather Methuselah, who had the longest life-span in the Bible—969 years. See Gen 5:21-29

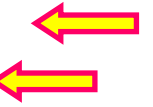
February People Puzzle Answer

Lacey Pilkington is our Oakland born reader who enjoys the simple pleasure of folding towels fresh from the dryer.



We will be delivering food supplies to Linden School prior to Easter. Bring your donations of non-perishables anytime during the first weeks of March. Also, be on the lookout for winter clothing on clearance for distribution next year.

You may purchase and donate, or donate dollars toward the purchases we are making on your behalf. Thanks for your support! ---Mark & Vicki Anderson

*Is God calling you to serve?
We have a spot for you!*



FBKids and FBYouth are offering **Easter Egg** planting again this year. They are stuffing eggs with treats and will hide them in yards early Easter morning for kids to find. Or, alternatively, on Palm Sunday they will have some bags of eggs available you can purchase for a donation that you may take home to share yourself with neighborhood children or grandchildren. Contact the church office for more details or to reserve yours.



If you know of someone in our church family whose name should be on this birthday and/or anniversary list and it is not, please call the office at 402-721-1265 to let us know.

Birthdays	Phone	Date	Anniversary	Phone
Andy Pavel	402-719-7554	1		
Linda Crytzer	402-753-0256	2		
		4	Steve & Cindi Dodd	402-720-2172
Betty Adams	402-721-2048	5		
Rowena Gonzales	402-719-7809	5		
Randy Cash	402-721-3572	9		
Cynthia Christensen	402-721-5239	9		
Mary Ann Paulger	402-721-5620	9		
Delores Rasmussen	402-624-5775	9		
Clarence Reiss	402-721-8374	9		
Shelly Holzerland	402-721-7605	10		
Joyce Shellgren		14		
Deb Barden	402-720-2349	17		
Rod Musilek	402-721-1336	18		
Brian Weldon	402-727-5302	27		
Beryl Hornberger		28		
Mert Olson	402-719-9765	31		



American Baptist Women's MINISTRIES

March 7, 2024
ABWM @ 1:30
Hostess: Hannah

Be a Servant of God, Not of Man - Galatians 1:10

Esther - March 11 - 11:00am
Hannah - March 12 - 11:30am
Naomi - March 28 - 12:30pm

Bible Book of
the Month:
Galatians

Senior Residential/ Homebound

NYE SQUARE APTS

650 W 21st St. Fremont 402-721-9224

Dalton Benson 402-721-7717 #126

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



FBC Fremont
ABGIRLS need your egg cartons!



Please save your cardboard egg cartons for our April ABGIRLS crafting event. You can bring them to Sunday worship or drop them off at the office on any weekday.

Egg carton donations accepted through April 10

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." ~ 1 John 1:9

FBC Fremont
Saturday Women's Bible Study



Lydia

March 23, 2024
9:30 a.m. - Parlor

*Trust
in
Him
at all times;
God
is our
Refuge*

Vision Team Meeting: February 10, 2024

Attendance: Betty Laughlin, Joel Foreman, Mary Weldon, Mike Raasch, Mark & Vickie Anderson, Larry Hill, Randy Cash, Marcia Hill, Marilyn Pueppke, Eileen Cash, Shelly Bowen, Pastor Crooks.


Mike opened the meeting with devotion and prayer.

Treasure Report: Randy reported the RVR Bank account opened month at \$14,740.09 and the Building Account at \$14,199.37. The current balance in the RVR Bank account is \$3,700.00 as of February 10th, 2024. Randy added \$12,000 (Building Funds) and \$9,000.00 (Laten income) is still available which could be applied towards expenses. Of the \$18,000.00 approved to be pulled from the endowment funds, \$3,000.00 is still available to be pulled from the account. It was decided to hold off pulling the remaining amount at this time. Pastor Crooks indicated the Property team had discussed changing the amount to purchase the available stain glass windows from \$50 to \$100 when offering them outside the church. Funds from the sale of the windows will be transferred to the repair fund.

After discussion of several suggestions, a motion was made by Eileen Cash to change the name of the Communion Fund to the Good Neighbor Fund. Mark Anderson second the motion. Motion passed.

Personnel Team: Discussed options for the replacement of Luke Chavanne, youth pastor/leader. Considerations are being made to update the job description to use at Midland University for possible candidates.

Property Team: Larry Hill reported the sound system has been installed but tweaking is in process, and the Property Team has decided to keep the green van for now. Two extra keys have been made for each van. Continuing to discuss other areas of the church that needs repair/updating.

Local Outreach: Mark & Vickie Anderson shared some donations of nonperishable items have been received and will later be delivered to the schools (in March). Pastor Richard added will continue to emphasize collecting of winter clothing and that the outreach money could possibly be used for individual bags of rice and beans for distribution. 

ABW: Eileen reported will not meet until March.

ABM: Joel reported preparing for Easter breakfast. Proceeds from the breakfast are planning to be donated to the Weaver Hall project at Camp Moses Merrill. Application to reserve spot for JCF days is almost complete.

Caring Ministry: Betty continues to send out birthday/anniversary cards.

Events: Mary had no report.

Children/Youth Ministries: Marcia shared Bingo night for Kids Club will be March 2th, 2024.



KNOW | LOVE | GROW | SERVE

March

A Heart of Courage

Day 1: Joshua 1:9

Day 2: Psalm 56:3-4

Day 3: 1 Corinthians 16:13

Day 4: Isaiah 12:2

Day 5: 2 Timothy 1:7

Day 6: Romans 8:31

Day 7: Proverbs 28:1

Day 8: Matthew 14:27

Day 9: Ephesians 6:10

Day 10: Deuteronomy 31:6

Day 11: Isaiah 35:4

Day 12: Ezra 10:4

Day 13: Psalm 27:1

Day 14: Acts 27:25

Day 15: 1 Chronicles 22:13

Day 16: Proverbs 3:5-6

Day 17: Matthew 10:26

Day 18: Joshua 1:6

Day 19: 1 Corinthians 15:58

Day 20: Psalms 31:24

Day 21: Romans 8:38-39

Day 22: Isaiah 41:6

Day 23: Psalms 138:3

Day 24: 1 John 4:18

Day 25: Romans 8:15

Day 26: Isaiah 41:13

Day 27: 1Chronicles 28:20

Day 28: Joshua 10:25

Day 29: Psalms 27:14

Day 30: Hebrews 13:5-6

Day 31: John 16:33

For with
God nothing
shall be
impossible.

-Luke 1:37



FBKIDS & FBYOUTH

Our high school and middle school youth meetings are on Wednesday nights, from 6:45 to 8:00, with usually at least a dozen or more in attendance. We are always on the lookout for adults willing to come assist, even for those just to be present so that we have enough adults to cover the meeting according to our safety and protection guidelines...if you would be interested, let us know.

In the meantime, since many of you aren't around on Wednesday evenings to know them, we are going to introduce our youth to you by means of Chimes, featuring different kids each month.

One of the most familiar to our church might be **Samantha Witthuhn**, as she has participated in our church's activities since she was very young. Samantha is a 7th grader at Fremont Middle School, whose mom, Heather Newcomer and aunt Suzie Newcomer also attend FBC. Samantha also spends time with her dad and step-mom. Sammie's favorite foods include Takis chips, Hot Cheetos and Mike n' Ikes clearly loves snacks, right? Just enjoys games like Hide and Seek, has a trampoline she bounces on, likes going to the zoo, and like most teens....sleeping! She had her friends like to hang out together, so sleepovers, and she enjoys shopping. The L.A. Lakers are her favorite sports team, she likes the Harry Potter books, and her favorite movie is Home Alone (which she is not!). She is still thinking about what she might like to do when she grows up, so you can pray God will guide her in that.

Another long time attender on Wednesday night is **Brian Aguilar**, whose family we have enjoyed meeting during the various family activities. Brian is now in 8th grade out at Fremont Middle School, has a bother a three sisters (one of which is cute as a button and we have her watched grow up from a toddler!). Brian is the third child in his family, and his mom and dad are hard-working enjoyable folks who came to the U.S.A. a number of years ago to escape a rough environment in their home country. Favorite foods? Not surprisingly, taco and Aves birria. Brian also enjoys the zoo, listens to music in his free time, and likes to play soccer with his best friend. He hopes to grow up to do construction work. His favorite movie is "Boys n the Hood" and his team is Al Nassar Raiders football (read: soccer) team who play championship level ball.

These are two of our kids, and we love them both. Keep them in prayers while they are at the middle school and working hard to handle all the challenges school and teen years demands.



Worship: Marilyn had no report.

Pastor Richard: Pastor Richard continues to work with the Youth group on Wednesday night while Mike Raasch is leading the Wednesday night Bible study until we find our new Youth Minister. Joel Foreman leads Bible study on Sunday after first service and Jim & Deb Peterson leads a Friday afternoon Bible study. In June, Nebraska ABC and neighboring ABC regions are creating their own youth conference at Estes Park, Colorado. Wednesday, February 28th, 2024 we will host a Japan Night for the FBC Youth Group featuring Gordon and LeeAnn Hwang (International Missionaries), who will also be available at some other FBC events, yet to be determined. Pastor leads in-person/Zoom Bible Studies every other Thursday at 2:30pm. The devotional for Lent that people from the Vision Team have contributed to is complete, the title is: "The Words From the Week That mattered Most". There will be no movie night on February 11th, 2024, but instead will be a Super Bowl watch party. Raymond and Pastor Richard have discussed using the chimes youth section to introduce the youth to the congregation.

As there was no other form of business, the meeting was adjourned.

Closing prayer: Mary Weldon.

Respectfully submitted, Shelly Bowen, assistant clerk



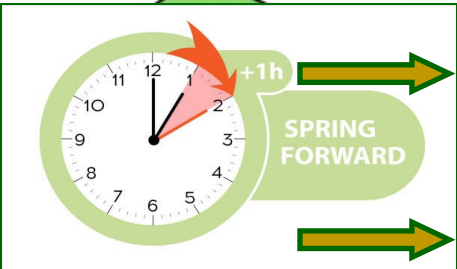
³⁹ And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will." ⁴⁰ And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, "So, could you not watch with me one hour? ⁴¹ Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." ⁴² Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." --Matthew 26:39-42

My take on Jesus praying at Gethsemane is that his human side came out in a very real way. His realization of his upcoming crucifixion and death caused a very human response. On a personal level, I can begin to understand his fear as most of my life is behind me and I sometimes think about how I am going to accept death when it comes. I have fear because this life is all I have known. Jesus even asked the Father if possible, could he be spared, although he accepted his fate as his duty. I only hope for the faith and assurance when my time comes even though it's inevitable. I will pray for that peace and acceptance Jesus had because of where I'm going and trusting God will be merciful and forgiving through Jesus. –Larry Hill.


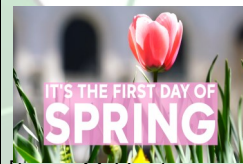
March 2024

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

Cookies & Coffee
3 - ABM
10 - Hannah
17 - Esther
24 - Naomi
31 - ABM




 Join **ABM** on Easter Sunday for their annual **Pancake Breakfast**.
8:30am & 10am

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Join IM Missionaries Gordan & LeeAnn Hwang for Lunch on Friday March 1st in the Family Center. Please RSVP by calling the office.</p>						
<p>3 Communion 9:30am - Traditional Service 11am - Casual Service</p>	<p>4 9am - Men's Coffee</p>	<p>5 7pm - AA Meeting</p>	<p>6 9:30am - Women's Coffee 6:15pm - Meal 6:45pm - FBKids FBYouth 7pm - Bible Study</p>	<p>7 1:30pm - ABWM 2:30pm - Pastor Led Bible Study in Parlor and via ZOOM 5:30pm - Kay Circle Mat Weaving</p>	<p>8 9am - Men's Coffee 12pm - Bible Study in Parlor</p>	<p>9 8:50am - Personnel Team 9:30am - Vision Team 11am - Prayer Tour</p>
<p>10 Day Light Savings 9:30am - Traditional Service 11am - Casual Service 11am - Bible Study in Parlor 6pm - Brown Bag Fellowship 6:30pm - Movie</p>	<p>11 9am - Men's Coffee 11am - Esther Circle 7pm - Woodcarvers</p>	<p>12 11:30am - Hannah circle 7pm - AA Meeting</p>	<p>13 9:30am - Women's Coffee 6:15pm - Meal 6:45pm - FBKids FBYouth 7pm - Bible Study</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 9am - Men's Coffee 12pm - Bible Study in Parlor</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17 St. Patrick's Day 9:30am - Traditional Service 11am - Casual Service 11am - Bible Study in Parlor</p> <p></p>	<p>18 9am - Men's Coffee</p>	<p>19  7pm - AA Meeting</p>	<p>20 9:30am - Women's Coffee 6:15pm - Meal 7pm - Bingo Night! 7pm - Bible Study</p>	<p>21 2:30pm - Pastor Led Bible Study in Parlor and via ZOOM 5:30pm - Kay Circle Mat Weaving</p>	<p>22 9am - Men's Coffee 12pm - Bible Study in Parlor</p>	<p>23 9:30am - ABW Bible Study on Lydia</p>
<p>24 Palm Sunday 9:30am - Traditional Service 11am - Casual Service</p>	<p>25 9am - Men's Coffee</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 9:30am - Women's Coffee</p> <p>NO Wednesday Night Activities during Holy Week</p>	<p>28 Maundy Thursday 7pm - Communion Service</p>	<p>29 Good Friday - Service To Be Announced</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>31 Easter Sunday 6:45am - Sunrise Service 9:30am - Traditional Service 11am - Casual Service</p>	<p>7pm - Woodcarvers</p>	<p>7pm - AA Meeting</p>			<p>9am - Men's Coffee 12pm - Bible Study in Parlor</p>	