



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

505 N C STREET | FREMONT | NE | 68025

402-721-1265 | OFFICE@FREMONTFBC.ORG

WWW.FREMONTFBC.ORG



Sometimes we can find clues of what the tone might have been like by reviewing the context of the passage. Other times, the clues we find are in the character of the person in the story as found in their behavior in other stories. More often than not, though, we fill those blanks in our imaginations based upon our own life experiences or things we have learned from others about the passage. And yet, that has some inherent difficulties, if for no other reason than that the culture and customs of the land in which the Bible stories occur resulted in life experiences different from our own in many ways. Listening to the Bible, or watching films like "Jesus of Nazareth" or "The Chosen," provides an opportunity for us to step outside of ourselves long enough to hear how another person (or persons) are impacted by the text. Hence, I disagreed with some of the ways the passages I listened to were intoned, and as I experienced my own disagreement, it opened me up to other possibilities than my own imaginations, as well as caused me to consider why I would have used a different tone.

God can speak to us through the scripture in so many ways...even passages that are very familiar. I would encourage you once again, to consider how to approach the scripture in a fresh way in 2026 (maybe by listening to it and not just reading it). You might be surprised at all the things you discover.



February 2026

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Fremont, Nebraska



Lead Pastor - Richard Crooks | Music Director - Sasha White | Youth Leader - Jesse Kracht

Pastor's Notes

"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm....In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints" -Ephesians 6:12-18

In January, we began some of this year's sermon themes, including the topic of living as a Christian in the midst of such turbulent and confusing times--what actions would reflect Christ, how to influence our society for God, what stances we need to take--in other words, how do we as Christians, respond to all the things we are seeing. We will see where this venture takes us, but there are some foundational truths that apply no matter what is happening around us, and the first is to recognize what is said so succinctly in the Ephesians passage above: the battle we really are in the midst of is not among humans, but spiritual warfare. It is so easy to get angry at individuals who act inappropriately, or to think of those troubling individuals as evil people we need to oppose, or to see how badly society needs to change for the better. When we focus on this level, then we miss something key found in our next verses:



"For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ." --2 Corinthians 10:3-5

This passage highlights the very thing that Ephesians is seeking to address: we need to realize that the weapons and resources we have available are spiritual, much more powerful than any tools for change in this world's methods. If we simply adopt the methods of change that non-Christians are using, we end up fighting the wrong battle...or at least we fight on the wrong battlefield. We need to remember the biblical example recorded in Daniel 10, as he learned that his prayers summoned an angelic response that involved invisible warfare by the

angels against the spiritual forces of Babylon resisting God’s work. These kind of lessons address the issues BENEATH the issues the news media, protestors and politicians are focusing on these days. Moses fought the Egyptian kingdom with the power of God, and prevailed. The weapons he brought to bear on Pharaoh were not what Pharaoh anticipated from his enemies, and ones he had no power to withstand. We need this kind of prayer from American Christians today. It doesn’t mean we don’t also take up the earthly tools such as protest or legislation when God calls us to that, just as Moses traveled to Pharaoh’s court and cast down his shepherd’s staff in his presence. It means that those are not the things we do FIRST. We FIRST seek God’s spiritual power, and then bring it to bear on our knees and then wherever else he leads.

Perhaps one of the clearest instructions for us in this time can be found in the words of Jesus, and a similar passage in Philippians.

“He told them another parable. “The kingdom of heaven is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened.”

-Matthew. 13:33

“Do all things without grumbling or disputing, 15 that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.” -Philippians 2:14-15

The most powerful method of impacting society as Christians is to be present, involved, active in it, but living a different kind of life, with a different set of priorities, and speaking a different kind of message. Just as leaven is a unseen force that transforms a lump of dough, growing invisibly within it, so our presence here in the U.S., if we live our lives in the light of God day by day, walking a different path from those around us, our influence can transform the darkness that surrounds us. In this way, we walk as Jesus walked, who did not take up the sword and throne to fight against the Roman Empire, but lived his life as an example of loving, self-sacrificing humility and righteousness. That is the secret power we have access to in these troubled times. Never neglect, nor minimize God’s methods and power through YOU! Just make sure you are fighting the right battle, and that you show up on the right battlefield without being distracted by lesser things.

Suit up! Kneel down!!




What does this simple statement mean to you?



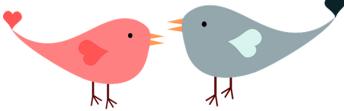
I suggested one Sunday in January that if you have never listened to the Bible, it could be a useful fresh way for God to speak to you through them. I have done so a few times over the years, most recently, as I mentioned that Sunday, listening to Jeremiah and some of the Minor Prophets on my

drive down to Phoenix and back. Audio recordings come in various forms: some recorders merely read the passages, some recorders read the passages and change their voices a bit for each character involved, and some have different readers for the various parts either reading or dramatizing the text. The version I was listening to had several individuals recording the various parts. There were some passages that really brought impact for me, and some others in which I thought the person reading really got the mood wrong because their tone didn’t match what I imagined the tone should have been.

I have often said that God has us on a “need to know” basis, acknowledging that there are a lot of things mentioned, but not explained, in the biblical texts. Or tidbits of information that it would be nice to know more details about, but when the scriptures were written, it was not deemed necessary to explain further. I can think of a number of passages like that, can’t you? For example, sometimes the text tells us the person was angry or moved with compassion when speaking, such as when Jesus challenges the rich, young ruler to sell his possessions, prefaced by the comment that Jesus “loved him.” That simple phrase makes the world of difference in understanding that conversation. More often than not, though, we aren’t given a hint of tone of voice, which can be so important. For example, I once heard an individual try to claim that when Jesus told us to turn the other cheek, that his intent was that we “offer the other cheek” as a dare! Not at all a submissive or humble action, but rather an aggressive and defiant response. Now let me state clearly that such an idea is ridiculous, simply because it runs counter to everything Jesus ever taught. But imagine how hearing his tone of voice would help us distinguish between those two very different understandings.

Other things that would be helpful, but are often not included, might be things like facial expression and other body language, or even the timing of a comment. For example, I have often tried to imagine what the expression on Jesus’s face might have looked like when he looked at Peter as the rooster crowed the third time, and how that look impacted Peter as he broke down and cried at his own failure. Was it an “I told you so, look,” or a look of compassionate understanding? Was it a look that communicated a gaze into Peter’s heart in that moment, or one that encouraged Peter to realize Jesus really had heard from God? And what would we have seen in Peter’s reaction? Did he hang his head in shame at that moment, or did he first have the reaction of shock? Was it one of those “light bulb” awakening moments, or was his face curled up in confusion about it all? Even think about how different words impact us if they are said to us with someone looking us in the eye as compared with them turning their back on us and folding the arms.



Birthdays	Phone	Date	Anniversary	Phone
Ron Hornberger	701-852-5244	3		701-852-5244
Eileen Cash	402-721-6418	4		
Lexi Jones	FBYouth	5		
Allie Jones	FBYouth	5		
Jill Pochop	402-727-1295	6		
Wayne Lamberty	563-299-1804	9	Ron & Beryl Hornberger	701-852-5244
Shelly Bowen	402-720-4559	10	Jim & Nancy Stoltenberg	402-721-7814
		12		
June Cardwell	402-478-4593	15		
Arienne Summers	FBYouth	18		
Trudy Reiss	308-258-1533	24		

THANK YOU!

Good gravy, I love y'all! Thank you for your Christmas Bonus-Love gift, and for always making me feel valued in my position here. I love this church and every single person in it. I appreciate you all more than you know. - Amity

I am so grateful to work in an environment that appreciates me! Thank you for your gift of appreciation! God Bless You. - Mary W.

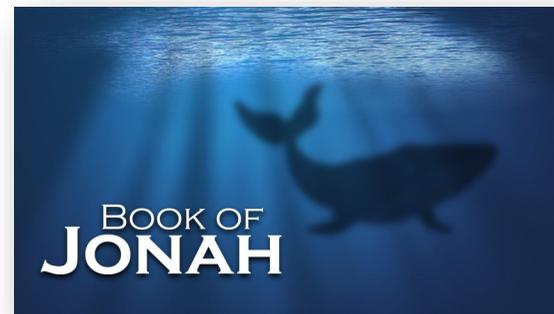


Nola and I want to say thank you to the entire congregation for the Christmas gift of your staff love gift donations. We had so many personal expressions of love and support, which always mean a lot. After all these years together, we still find this a great place to serve!
Pastor Richard and Nola

For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control - 2 Timothy 1:7esv



Need to meet with Pastor Richard? He is usually in the office on Thursday and Friday mornings (unless he is called away), which are good times to stop by. During his days off (Monday and Tuesday), he may not always have his cell phone nearby, but you are welcome to leave a voicemail or send a text, and he will return your message. If your concern is urgent, please contact the church office—Amity often knows where he is and may be able to reach him. Pastor Richard is also always happy to connect by appointment.



Family BINGO Night

Come and play BINGO for fun and prizes!

Wednesday - March 4, 2026
Dinner 6:15 Bingo begins at 6:45!

First Baptist Fremont
505 N. C St. Fremont
402-721-1265



As your cleaning your homes, and down-sizing your stuff please consider donating any gently used decorative or household items for our BINGO prizes.

- Please Consider Donating -

- Candy Bars
- Winter Gloves/Hats
- Crafting Supplies
- School Supplies
- Gift Cards
- Journals
- Tech Stuff



Esther - February 9 @ 11a
Hannah - No Meeting
Naomi - February 26 @ 12:30p

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.
- Isaiah 41:10

2026 FBC Fremont
A BWM Women's Bible Study

January 17
February 21
March 21
April 18
May 16
June 20
July 18
August 22
September 19
October 17

COMMON GROUND
Loving Others Despite Our Differences
A STUDY OF SIBLING RIVALRIES IN THE BIBLE
AMBERLY NEESE

coffee provided!

Join us each 3rd Saturday on the 3rd floor at 9:30 am for a discussion oriented Bible Study.
No pre-registration required - study materials available at FBC Fremont

January History Puzzle Answer

While many folks think of Christians in terms of Catholic/Orthodox and Protestant, Baptists are not Protestant in the true sense of the word. The Protestants originated in the split from the Catholic Church in the Reformation, with leaders such as Luther (Lutheran churches), then Calvin (Reformed Churches) and others such as John Knox (Presbyterian Churches). The Baptists, however, did not start in that vein. Instead, the early Baptists were a group who rejected the authority of the Church of England (called the Episcopalian Church in the U.S.), which was not spawned from the Reformation at all. Instead, the Church of England was founded during the Reformation era by King Henry VIII in response to the Pope's refusal to grant him a divorce. There were groups who turned against that church, called Separatists and non-Conformists, while influenced by the teachings of the Reformers, were part of a separate movement, leading to the Pilgrims who arrived here (such as Congregationalists) and the Baptists who suffered persecution from the Church of England and even Presbyterian leaders in Scotland. Other non-Protestant churches could include the Coptic Church in Egypt, the Ethiopian Church and the Syrian Church, none of which were ever part of the Roman Catholic church, and existed long before Martin Luther. Clear as mud? Just realize, we Baptists were definitely influenced by Reformed theology (especially Calvin and some of the Anabaptists), but originated from an entirely different source.

February Bible Puzzle

Once the Emperor Constantine adopted Christianity as the official religion of the Roman Empire, an age began in which the vast majority of Christians were to be found in "Western Civilization"—Europe and North America mainly. That is no longer the case. In what part of the world do the majority of Christians live today, and when did they become the majority?



As you know we distributed the larger, orange socks to the Dance Team. We have to bring items in our limited luggage (there is no mail system in Congo), the smaller, yellow socks were left behind. Those we were able to bring back after Christmas in the US with our kids. Today we handed them out to members of the Junior Dance Team. They were thrilled!
Thanks. - Ann Clemmer



February

No Greater Love

- | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------|------------|--------------------------|--------|------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Day 1 | Acts 13-14 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Day 16 | Luke 9 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Day 2 | Acts 15 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Day 17 | Luke 10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Day 3 | Acts 16-17 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Day 18 | Luke 11 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Day 4 | Acts 18-19 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Day 19 | Luke 12-13 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Day 5 | Acts 20 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Day 20 | Luke 14-15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Day 6 | Acts 21-22 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Day 21 | Luke 16-17 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Day 7 | Acts 23-24 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Day 22 | Luke 18 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Day 8 | Acts 25-26 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Day 23 | Luke 19-20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Day 9 | Acts 27-28 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Day 24 | Luke 21 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Day 10 | Luke 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Day 25 | Luke 22-23 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Day 11 | Luke 2-3 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Day 26 | Luke 24 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Day 12 | Luke 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Day 27 | Rom 1-2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Day 13 | Luke 5-6 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Day 28 | Rom 3-4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Day 14 | Luke 7 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Day 29 | Rom 5-7 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Day 15 | Luke 8 | | | |

But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil.

Luke 6:35 KJV



First Baptist Church



FBYOUTH

Grades **7-12TH**

Sundays!
6:00p - Snack
6:30p - Groups

505 N C STREET
Fremont Nebraska, 68025

For More Information Visit
www.fremontfbc.org

Children's
-MINISTRY-



First Baptist Church

FBKids

A Fun & Faith-Filled Experience for Children

WEDNESDAYS
6:15P - MEAL
6:45P - GROUPS

WHAT TO EXPECT

- Interactive Bible Stories
- Exciting Games & Activities
- Creative Crafts
- Music & Singing
- Friendship & Fun

CONTACT US
402-721-1265
office@fremontfbc.org
www.fremontfbc.org



Kids K-6th

Bible Studies & Groups

WEDNESDAYS
6:45P - FBKIDS (K-6)
7P - ADULT
7P - SALT & LIGHT (COLLEGE)

THURSDAYS
10A - PASTOR-LED / ZOOM
(Bi-Weekly)

FRIDAYS
12P - ADULT
6:30P - FBYOUTH (7-12TH)

SUNDAYS
11AM - ADULT
(to exclude Communion Sundays)



Looking for a Bible study? There are plenty happening throughout the church—find one that fits you!

Salt & Light

WEDNESDAYS @ 7PM

A COLLEGE BIBLE STUDY WHERE STUDENTS GROW DEEPER IN SCRIPTURE, ASK REAL QUESTIONS, AND BUILD AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY.

Together, we live boldly for Christ and shine on campus.

Annual Meeting Minutes - January 18, 2026



- 1) Pastor Crooks led the meeting due to Mike Raasch's absence.
- 2) Deb Peterson made a motion to install new officers and John Mitchell seconded. The new officers for 2026 were voted unanimously by the congregation.
- 3) Paul and Rhonda Cash would like to transfer membership and Alli Jones would like to become a member. Deb Peterson made a motion to vote on new members and Mary Weldon seconded. The new members were voted unanimously by the congregation.
- 4) Pastor Crooks asked members to check the directory in the back of the annual report to verify correct addresses and phone numbers. Pastor Crooks discussed the State Convention in the Fall. Pastor reminded the congregation it will be at our church and we will need volunteers.
- 5) Pastor Crooks asked the question, "What did God do in your life in 2025?" Several members mentioned how God met their needs in 2025 and these statements were encouraging to the church body.
- 6) We closed the meeting with a song in memory of Cecil Weldon who passed away 30 years ago. We listened to the song, "Go Rest High on the Mountain."
- 7) Deb Peterson made a motion to close the meeting and David Schultz seconded. The meeting closure was voted unanimously by the congregation. Pastor Crooks then gave a closing prayer and members were dismissed.

-Submitted by Paul Foreman (3rd Church Clerk)



FOR EVEN THE SON OF MAN CAME NOT TO BE SERVED BUT TO SERVE, AND TO GIVE HIS LIFE AS A RANSOM FOR MANY.
- MARK 10:45 NIV

January Bible Puzzle Answer

Apart from Jesus's baptism and transfiguration, what other New Testament stories mention a voice being heard from heaven (not angelic appearances), and what were the context of those incidents? In John 12:28 a voice is heard as Jesus predicts his death and calls for God's glory. Acts 9:4 tells of Jesus's voice from heaven at Paul's conversion, which is also mentioned in Acts 22:7 & 26:14. Acts 10:9-16 (and 11:5-10 describe Peter hearing a voice during his vision about Gentiles. In 2 Cor. 12:1-4, Paul describes a man hearing unutterable things in the "third heaven"...presumably he himself was the man. Finally, throughout the book of Revelation (starting in chapter one) John hears voices from heaven many times, sometimes of an angel, sometimes not.



February Bible Puzzle

Many New Testament books are letters written by Paul. He mentions other letters that he wrote. Who were those letters to and where are the references to them?

February 2026

Sometimes, plans change...It's always a good idea to verify times and places.

Cookies & Coffee
1 - Hannah
8 - Esther
15 - Naomi
22 - ABM

FBYouth Snack
1 - Deb Peterson
8 - Bea Peterson
15 - Sherri Tharp
22 - Mary Lamberty



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 COMMUNION 9:30a - Traditional Service 11a - Casual Service in FC 11a - Bible Study in Parlor 6p - FBYouth Snack 6:30p - FBYouth Groups 7-12	2 Groundhog Day 9a - Men's Coffee 	3 7p - AA Meeting	4 9:30a - Women's Coffee 6:15p - Meal 6:45p - FBKids K-6th 7p - Bible Study in Parlor 7p - Salt & Light	5 5:30p - Kay Circle Mat Weaving	6 9a - Men's Coffee 10a - Nye Sq. Bible Study 12p - Bible Study in Parlor	7 7a - ABM Bible Study 8a - ABM Breakfast 9a - Property Team 6p - Fun & Fellowship
8 9:30a - Traditional Service 11a - Casual Service in FC 11a - Bible Study in Parlor 6p - FBYouth Snack 6p - Brown Bag/ MOVIE NIGHT 6:30p - FBYouth Groups 7-12	9 9a - Men's Coffee 11a - Esther Circle 6p - Woodcarvers	10 No Hannah Circle 7p - AA Meeting	11 9:30a - Women's Coffee 11:30a - FAMA 6:15p - Meal 6:45p - FBKids K-6th 7p - Bible Study in Parlor 7p - Salt & Light	12 10a - Pastor-Led Bible Study to include Zoom	13 9a - Men's Coffee 12p - Bible Study in Parlor	14 Valentine's Day 8:45a - Personnel Team 9:30a - Vision Team 
15 9:30a - Traditional Service 11a - Casual Service in FC 11a - Bible Study in Parlor 6p - FBYouth Snack 6:30p - FBYouth Groups 7-12	16 9a - Men's Coffee	17 7p - AA Meeting	18 9:30a - Women's Coffee 6:15p - Meal 6:45p - FBKids K-6th 7p - Bible Study in Parlor 7p - Salt & Light	19 5:30p - Kay Circle Mat Weaving	20 9a - Men's Coffee 12p - Bible Study in Parlor	21 9:30a - ABW Bible Study
22 Guest Speaker Avi Snyder 9:30a - Traditional Service 11a - Casual Service in FC 11a - Bible Study in Parlor 6p - FBYouth Snack 6:30p - FBYouth Groups 7-12	23 9a - Men's Coffee 6p - Woodcarvers	24 7p - AA Meeting	25 9:30a - Women's Coffee 6:15p - Meal 6:45p - FBKids K-6th 7p - Bible Study in Parlor 7p - Salt & Light	26 10a - Pastor-Led Bible Study to include Zoom 12:30p - Naomi Circle	27 9a - Men's Coffee 10a - Nye Sq. Bible Study 12p - Bible Study in Parlor	28

We are continuing to collect nonperishable food items for our school families. We plan to give what is collected to the schools around the 1st of March. We really appreciate your continued support. Bring your items to the church or you can donate money benchmarked to the church for school outreach and we will shop for you. Thank you! -Mark & Vicki Anderson and Jim & Deb Peterson