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FBC Fremont NE



word used meant to the writers, which may be more or different than your own understanding. It can be very helpful with unfamiliar customs such as the kosher laws or how biblical altars were used and constructed, or the meaning of biblical names.



Study Bible. This is a very common tool man people have, but also one of the hardest to be able to effectively evaluate. Simply put, a study Bible is a Bible that contains not only the books of the Bible, but other articles, notes and tools to aid the reader. They generally include maps, short concordances, comments, charts that tie verses together or provide a path for studying a particular topic, archaeological notes and more. Many of them are named for the person who assembled the materials, or whose opinions are in the notes (Ryrie or Thompson for example). Others are named for the translation used or the audience intended (NIV Study Bible or Women's Study Bible). While very useful, these can also be easily misused, because many times individuals using them don't realize that the person assembling the materials has their own theological perspective that determines what is and is not included, and as a result the reader might think that a note in the margin is the only possible viewpoint, when in fact it may be only the viewpoint of that particular writer. The best of these study Bibles are those which simply guide you to find your own answers and provide general information (such as the archaeological notes) that one would not be aware of by simply reading the Bible. Always use a study Bible with care, never let it become the final word on matters of faith.....We will continue this topic next month.



June 2025

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

Pastor's Notes:

And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; --Ephesians 4:11-12



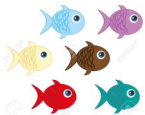
Years ago, I was visiting with my pastor in Cincinnati while I was working on the PhD program. He told of some surprises in his ministry at our church were because of the work of the previous pastor. He said that the people were very shocked and pleased when he called upon them in the hospital, because the former pastor never did that. Apparently the former pastor had told the people he was really an evangelist, and so he would preach for them, but would be away a lot for evangelistic meetings. As a result, he never called on parishioners in the hospital. My pastor and I both thought he had not been much of a pastor, that he probably should have stayed just an evangelist. On another occasion, a semi-retired pastor who worked with me in the first church I pastored, returned one day from an afternoon out making pastoral calls and informed me that he had not had a very successful day, because almost everywhere he had gone, nobody was home. When I asked if he had called ahead, he indicated that he hadn't, that he had always just dropped by on folks as time permitted. I remember discussing with him how the world had changed, that no longer could you assume even retired or widowed folks would be sitting at home and that calling ahead to be sure was almost required. At one church, someone told me they appreciated that I was the pastor for the whole congregation and not just a favored few...when I had always assumed the pastor should care about everyone in his church! Apparently some previous pastor only spent time with a select few. Other comments include such things as whether a pastor joins in working the activities with the people, or merely observes or supervises at a distance. I have also know of pastors who had their fingers "in every pot," so to speak, to the point that people didn't feel free to do anything with out the pastor's approval...to the point that one even wrote out specific wording for any layman who would make an announcement on Sunday! (At one church I pastored, a previous pastor was that way, and it took a while to get people to realize they didn't need my approval for every ministry idea and procedure they adopted.) In another time I heard someone disappointed with their pastor's preaching, not recognizing that his gifts were in pastoral care and helping the church build a new vision. And now, in many churches, a current trend seems to be that the pastor's only responsibility is to prepare a good sermon for Sunday...so many people in modern churches do not have pastors they would see at the hospital or their homes in a time of crisis.



Nola once told me that I should never pastor a church that just wanted to stay the same, to maintain nothing more than status quo, because my style is not as a caretaker but a person who helps churches see opportunities and ideas for what could be, rather than simply what already is their ministry. These are some of the ways I realized pastors are as different as are their churches (which is helpful for me, because it reminds me that it is okay I am not as good at some things as

other pastors, and better at some things than others.) I think it is sad, then, when a congregation is unable to appreciate the leadership of a current pastor because his or her style is so different from that of a beloved previous pastor, because I believe that God is intentional in his variations so as to accomplish different tasks at different times with a pastor and with a congregation to bring about the design he has planned for them both. (Which is not to say that sometimes there isn't a mismatch, or that pastors aren't sometimes neglectful, or congregations carry unrealistic expectations.) So what is going on with all this, do you think?

I believe that the key is in the verses above, and they are significant for how I see my work as a pastor, particularly verse 12. According to this passage, my calling as a pastor is not to do everything, or have all the answers, or anything like that; it is to equip, to enable, to assist, support and guide *you*, the congregation so that you are effectively doing the work of ministry. Sometimes I get to do that by working side by side with you, while other times I serve only as a resource or encourager for the activities you do. Sometimes I may lay out an opportunity for us that I can see, sometimes I learn of the opportunities you see and encourage you as you pursue them. Sometimes I end up doing things similar to things I did in a previous church, often, though, I am involved in new avenues of ministry unique to our current situation. In all of these things, God works through each of us, using the various gifts he has given to each of us, to make a difference in our own lives, in the life of our church, and in our world to draw us all closer to Christ. And in my view, I seek to do so while recognizing others before me have led us to where we are now, and that others after me will lead to the next stage whenever that time might come. But for this time, we all have the privilege of being part of God's ministry that is known as: First Baptist Church of Fremont, NE. Keep up the good work!



Richard

Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you. -Exodus 20:12

-Thank You for Your Continued Mission Support-



For Ezra had set his heart to study the Law of the LORD, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel. –Ezra 7:10

This month, perhaps it would be useful to describe some of the tools one uses in Bible study, and how to assess them. Many of these are available online, but the reality is that being online requires even more careful evaluation of the tool being used, rather than less. This article will simply describe some of them, their use, and a bit about how to evaluate them. (These kind of tools are available for your use in our church library next to the prayer room outside the sanctuary.)

Concordance. A concordance is a simple tool, and one that is very useful. Online or in Bible ebook form, it is simply a search engine with which you can find the location of specific words in the biblical text, which is very helpful when you can't find a verse or story you are trying to locate. Many Bibles have partial concordances in the back of them, and concordances such as Strong's and Cruden's provide the occurrences of every word in the Bible. When using a concordance, it is important to note that a concordance will be tied to a specific translation, so if you learned the verse in the King James, you have to remember the wording might be a little different in another translation. Some concordances, such as Strong's, contain a number key that will also allow you to know which Greek, Hebrew or Aramaic word was translated, so that you can compare it to other verses using the same word.

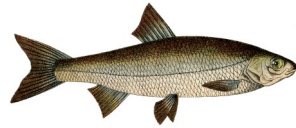


Commentary. A commentary is a book or collection of books that provide help in understanding the Bible texts. They are arranged in the same way as the Bible...book, chapter, verse....and contain at each point some insights by the person(s) who wrote the commentary. There are a wide variety of commentaries, very old and very new, more "liberal" and more "conservative," some intentionally from a different perspective (such as the African Bible Commentary on my shelf), and some very careful and scholarly in their study while others are less careful. Some commentaries also contain helps in understanding the structure and implications of the original language behind the text, others are designed to help the reader prepare sermons, even containing sermon outlines. It is always important to remember that something written in a commentary is NOT the same as something written in the Bible, and so may or may not be correct or the only way to understand the text. Learning which publishers are sponsored by which groups or what theological perspective can be helpful in assessing the value of a commentary (Abingdon is Presbyterian and a little more free but scholarly in their publications, whereas Tyndale would be very conservative and more simplified in its approach). Old commentaries (such as Matthew Henry's) can have useful insights, but there will be a lot of information lacking because language studies have progressed far since his time.

Bible Dictionary. There are many different Bible dictionaries in publication, some are single volume and some multi-volume. Some are dictionaries of the English Bible (most of which also try to help the reader understand the original language terms behind the English). Some also contain pictures of various locations or items described in the Bible. These dictionaries help make sure you understand what the

Happy Birthday & Anniversary

Robyn Schulz Dietz		3	Larry & Marcia Hill	402-727-5171
		9	Jerry & Kelly Adams	402-720-4269
		10	Leland & Jean Foreman	402-721-1384
Mary Lamberty	563-299-3984	11		
Effie Scott		11	Mark & Vicki Anderson	402-727-0740
Brandon Tharp		15		
		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		
Linda Rogers	402-317-9215	26		



One Great HOUR
OF SHARING
(OGHS) special mission offering of the United Church of Christ involves you in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery.

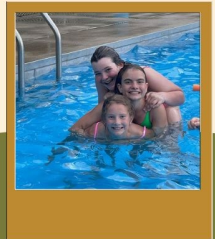
Summer Camp ...It is an experience they will never forget.

CAMP MOSES MERRILL SUMMER 2025



JAM Camp (1-6 grade)	June 1-3
Junior Camp (4-6 grade)	June 8-13
Mid High Camp (7-9 grade)	June 15-20
Senior High Camp (9-12 grade)	June 22- 27
Family Camp (all ages)	June 27-29

FAITH FUN FRIENDS



CAMPMERRILL.COM



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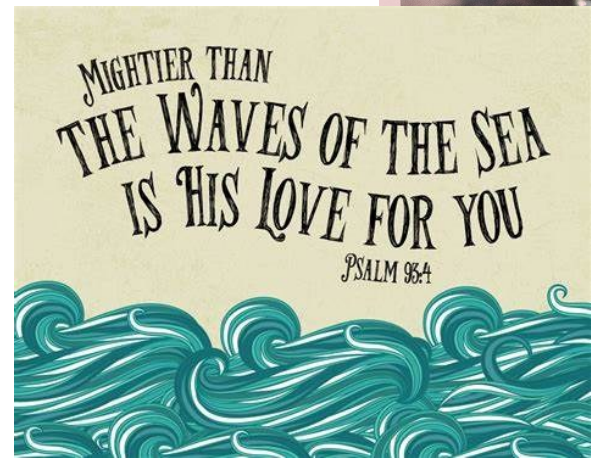
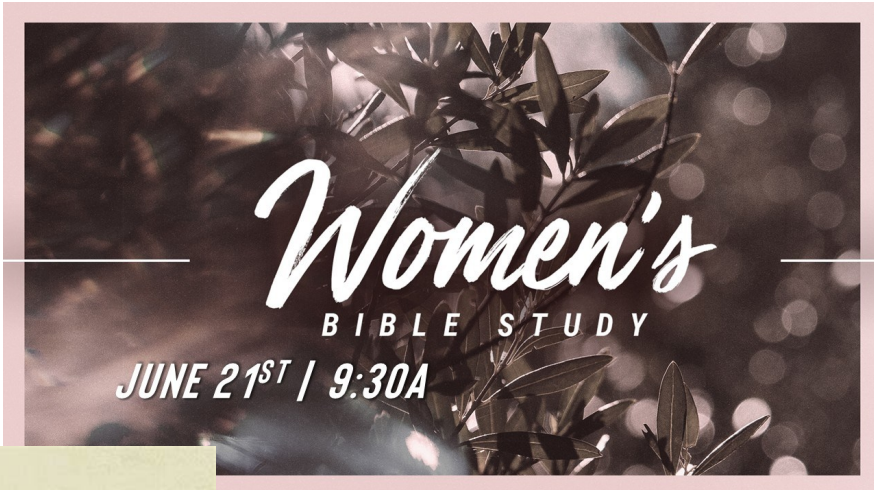
American Baptist Women's MINISTRIES

ABWM Meeting
July 5th
@ 1:30

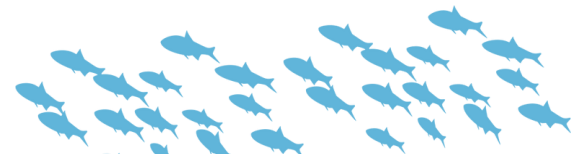
Monthly Meetings

Esther Circle - June 9 @ 11am
Hannah Circle - No Meeting
Naomi Circle - June 26 @ 12:30pm

Bible Book of the Month:
Genesis

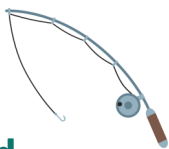


If you have any updates for the new ABWM booklet please let Amity know before June 20th! Thank you.



Vision Team Meeting: May 10, 2025

No Minutes Were Submitted.



AND GOD BLESSED THEM, AND SAID UNTO THEM, HAVE DOMINION OVER THE FISH OF THE SEA. - GENESIS 1:28

May 25, 2025 - Special Meeting Called.

Vision Team Members Present: Joel Foreman, Mike Raasch, Marcia Hill, Eileen Cash, Randy Cash, Marilyn Pueppke, Betty Laughlin and Pastor Richard

The Endowment Committee (by unanimous vote) has requested approval of a withdrawal from the American Baptist Foundation of \$15,000 to help support the General Budget. A meeting of the Vision Team was held after church today to act on this request. A motion was made by Eileen Cash to approve this request and seconded by Marcia Hill. A unanimous "Yes" vote was delivered. The withdrawal will be done prior to May 31st. Submitted - Mike Raasch

As children of God, we are called to grow in faith, embody Christlike qualities, and live out our purpose in the world. Here are several ways to deepen that relationship and live more fully as God intended:

- Cultivate a Life of Prayer and Worship: Prayer is our direct line to God. Jesus taught us to pray simply and sincerely (Luke 11:2-4). Make prayer a daily habit—praise, confess, thank, and ask. Worship isn't just Sunday; it's a lifestyle of honoring God in all we do.
- Immerse Yourself in Scripture: God speaks to us through His Word. Reading and reflecting on the Bible helps us understand His will and grow spiritually. Start with the Gospels or a devotional plan. Memorize verses to keep them in your heart.
- Live Out Love and Kindness: Jesus said the greatest commandment is to love God and love others (Matthew 22:37-39). Show kindness, forgive freely, and serve those in need. Acts of service reflect God's love and help us grow in humility and compassion.
- Seek Community and Accountability: Christian growth thrives in community. Attend church regularly, join a small group, or find a mentor. Being around others who share your faith encourages you and keeps you grounded.
- Reflect: Spiritual growth involves self-examination. Seek God's forgiveness (1 John 1:9).
- Embrace Service and Generosity: Jesus came to serve, not to be served (Mark 10:45). Look for ways to help others—whether through volunteering, sharing, or simply being present. Generosity reflects God's heart and builds a life of purpose.
- Encourage Honest Conversations About Faith: Don't shy away from hard questions or doubts. Talk openly about your faith journey, struggles, and discoveries. This builds trust and deepens your walk with God.
- Share the Good News: Jesus calls us to be witnesses (Acts 1:8). Share your story, invite others to church, or serve in ways that show God's love. Being a light in the world is part of our calling.

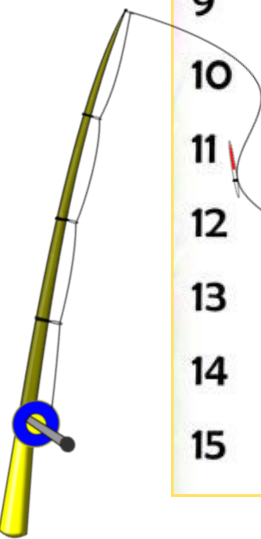
Remember, growth takes time. God is patient and loving, always ready to help you take the next step. As you seek Him, He will reveal more of Himself to you.



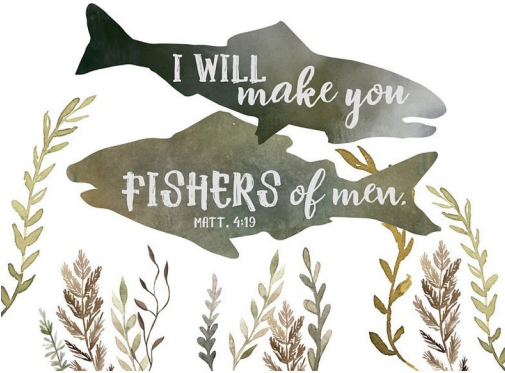
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1	Philippians 4:4	16	Ecclesiastes 3:12-13
2	Psalms 118:24	17	Malachi 4:2
3	Romans 12:12	18	Proverbs 12:20
4	Habakkuk 3:17-18	19	John 15:11
5	Isaiah 61:10	20	Psalms 32:7
6	Galatians 5:22	21	Nehemiah 8:10b
7	Psalms 119:111	22	Psalms 30:5
8	James 1:2-3	23	I Chronicles 16:27
9	Psalms 47:1	24	Psalms 149:4
10	I Thessalonians 5:16-18	25	Zephaniah 3:17
11	I Timothy 6:6	26	John 16:22
12	Psalms 119:14	27	Psalms 4:7
13	Proverbs 17:22a	28	Psalms 5:11
14	Romans 5:3-4	29	Romans 14:17
15	Psalms 9:2	30	Psalms 16:11



FBYOUTH | FBKIDS

SAVE THE DATE!!!!

ENJOY YOUR SUMMER!
WE WILL SEE YOU BACK ON:

WEDNESDAY | AUGUST 27, 2025

6:15P – DINNER

6:45P-8:00P – GROUPS

FALL KICK-OFF



The Fisherman's Net



There once was a quiet village by the sea where everyone fished to survive. Among them lived two men—Elias and Jonah. Both were skilled fishermen, but they had very different approaches. Elias went out every morning with a small, well-worn net. He cast it carefully, trusting the tide, and always returned with just enough fish for himself and a few others. “The sea provides,” he would say with a smile, eyes to the sky. Jonah, on the other hand, built a massive boat and gathered a crew. He studied the currents, tracked the schools, and cast enormous nets. “It’s all about effort,” he’d say. “The sea owes us nothing—we must earn it.” One day, a great storm came. Boats shattered, nets tore, and the fish disappeared. Both men were left with empty hands. Some in the village began to despair. “The sea has abandoned us,” they cried. But Elias knelt by the water’s edge, dipped his fingers into the surf, and whispered, “The sea is still here—we must learn to listen again.” Jonah, frustrated, rebuilt his boat, larger and stronger. “We must control it,” he insisted. “Force it to yield.” Weeks passed. Elias sat patiently by the shore each day, sometimes catching only one fish, sometimes none. Yet he remained peaceful, even grateful. Jonah grew angry and restless, cursing the sea for its silence. In time, the fish returned—not all at once, but slowly. Elias’s small net filled again. Those who had watched him began to fish as he did—with trust, patience, and reverence. Jonah caught fish too, but he never stopped demanding more. The sea gave, but it did not answer. And so, the villagers came to understand: faith is like fishing. Some cast wide nets, hoping to take everything. Others wait quietly, listening to something deeper beneath the surface. The sea—like the God—does not always speak in abundance, but it is always present, for those who choose to listen. -anonymous.

Hello all! Where has this semester gone??!

It seems like yesterday that we started FBYouth back up for the year. With the school year wrapping up, we also are wrapping up *our* youth semester. We will be taking a break from our normal rhythm and transition into a once a month meeting for the months of June and July. During these two months our focus is on a more interpersonal discipleship, meaning that the leaders and I will be meeting up with the kids in a more of a small group setting to learn more about the God we believe in together. From the bottom of our hearts, we just want to say thank you for all of the support this year, and we look forward to seeing what this upcoming year has to bring. As always, may the Lord bless you and keep you and may his face shine upon you in everything you do! -Jesse Kracht

Who are your faith role models, and what qualities do you admire in them?

Moses Merrill Camp & Conference Center
PSALM 118:24

WEDNESDAY
June 4, 2025
9:30a-5:15p

KIDS ENTERING
K-6th

Bible Lesson
Games
Music
Swimming

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
@ Camp

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Contact the Church office for more information
402-721-1265

Cost and Transportation Covered By FBC

May Answer:

Individuals who served as a sort of secretary for the writer of the Biblical books include Tertius who served as secretary for the book of Romans (Rom 16:22); Paul alludes to others in Galatians 6:11; and Baruch recorded for Jeremiah (Jer. 36:4). Perhaps you can think of others?



June Bible Puzzle

A number of significant events occurred on mountaintops. How many can you name?

Christian History Puzzle

With this issue, let's try a new "puzzle" for fun. Let us know what you think. It will be a puzzle about various features and individuals of Christian history. Here is our first question: Who were the Anabaptists, and what, if anything, do they have to do with modern day Baptists?

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

June 2025



Cookies

1 - Hannah
8 - Esther
15 - Naomi
22 - ABM
29 - Hannah

Reminder that we are always collecting donations of butter & margarine and \$\$\$ for commercial size foil for the Care Corps.



If you are participating in the Life Choices "Fill the Bottle" Fundraiser, please return filled bottles to the church by June 15th. Thank you!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Communion Sunday 9:30am - Traditional Service 11a - Casual Service	2 9a - Men's Coffee 7p - Woodcarvers	3 7p - AA Meeting	4 9:30a - VBS @ Camp Moses Merrill 9:30a - Women's Coffee 7p - Bible Study	5 11a - Pastor Led Bible Study to include Zoom	6 9a - Men's Coffee 10a - Nye Square Bible Study	7 7a - ABM Bible Study 8a - ABM Breakfast 9a - Property Team 6p - Fun and Fellowship
8 9:30a - Traditional Service 11a - Casual Service 11a - Bible Study 6p - Brown Bag Fellowship 6:30p - Movie Night 	9 9a - Men's Coffee 11a - Esther Circle	10 NO Hannah Circle 7p - AA Meeting	11 9:30a - Women's Coffee 7p - Bible Study	12 5:30p - Kay Circle	13 9a - Men's Coffee	14 8:45a - Personnel Team 9:30a - Vision Team
15 FATHER'S DAY 9:30a - Traditional Service 11a - Casual Service 11a - Bible Study 	16 9a - Men's Coffee 7p - Woodcarvers	17 7p - AA Meeting	18 9:30a - Women's Coffee 7p - Bible Study	19 11a - Pastor Led Bible Study to include Zoom	20 9a - Men's Coffee	21 9:30a - ABW Bible Study
22 9:30a - Traditional Service 11a - Casual Service 11a - Bible Study	23 9a - Men's Coffee	24 7p - AA Meeting	25 9:30a - Women's Coffee 7p - Bible Study	26 12:30p - Naomi Circle 5:30p - Kay Circle	27 9a - Men's Coffee 10a - Nye Square Bible Study	28
29 9:30a - Traditional Service 11a - Casual Service 11a - Bible Study	30 9a - Men's Coffee 7p - Woodcarvers	Jam Camp Grades 1th-6th		Mid-High Camp Grades 7th-9th		
		ABWM Women's Conference		Senior Camp Grades 9th-12th		
		Junior Camp Grades 4th-6th		Family Camp - All Ages		