



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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

MARCH 2026

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Fremont, Nebraska



PASTOR'S NOTES:

Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person. –Colossians 4:6 (ESV)

I read the funniest little story by Ginger Rue the other day in the 2024 Guideposts for January 22, and I think you will enjoy it, too. She based it on James 4:11 (NLT)-- "Don't speak evil against each other, dear brothers and sisters." Here is what she wrote:

"Our family Bible study one evening focused on the fourth chapter of James. My husband called attention to the eleventh verse, then challenged us to make more of an effort to build people up. 'When we find fault with someone,' Dwight said, 'how can we instead say something positive?' Our son, two daughters, and I sat silently, unable to think of an answer. Finally, our son piped up. 'I guess when you want to say something like, 'He's an idiot,' you could add, 'but that's what makes him special in his own way!' We all laughed, but it gave me an idea. 'I'm going to try that this week,' I announced. 'Whenever I catch myself saying something unkind, I'm going to add that phrase to the end to call my attention to my negativity.' I had no idea what a humbling challenge I'd taken on. I'd never before realized how casually critical I could be. While driving past our local college campus, I commented, 'These girls' shorts are way too short.' Then I added, 'But that's what makes them special in their own way.' The kids were in the car with me, and they laughed. Later on, we saw a personalized license plate. 'What a dumb thing to put on your car,' I said, quickly adding, 'but that's what makes him special in his own way.' Before the week was out, my son's joke had become tiresome. "Mom,' one of my daughters groaned, 'it's not funny anymore.' How ashamed I felt that I'd made the words lose their punch through overuse. I'm going to work on showing more grace—a truly wonderful and special way to be!"

If you stop and think that the words that come from our mouths have the potential of being used by God to impart grace, to be something so flavorful that it causes them to want to know Christ, it is pretty amazing. But way too often, we don't pay attention to them. Or we get into the wrong patterns and bring discouragement or judgment rather than the grace people need. As individuals who are recipients of grace and mercy ourselves we, of all people, ought to be most aware of how important giving grace to others really is. Maybe you might come up with a better idea than "that's what makes them special in their own way," or you might just want to use that. Whatever it takes to become more effective people in imparting grace each time we open our mouths to speak, would be well worth pursuing. It

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

CAMP MOSES MERRILL
YOUTH RETREAT

MARCH 13-15, 2026
MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WELCOME
\$115 PER PERSON
REGISTER CAMPMERRILL.COM

SPEAKER
REV. BLAKE WILKES

One of our most successful outreach events is scheduled in just a few weeks. Please consider donating "gently used" gift items - OR - gift cards in the amount of \$5 or \$10 - (No more than \$10 on a gift card, please!) to any fast food restaurant, grocery store or drug store located in Fremont.

certainly would be the opposite of what we are experiencing in so much of the world right now, wouldn't it? Maybe we can help start a new trend in that direction during 2026.

And THAT may make you special in your own way, too!



March History Puzzle

Some of the early church's greatest Christian leaders and thinkers were from Africa. How many can you name?

February Bible History Answer

In what part of the world do the majority of Christians live today, and when did they become the majority?

That is NOT an easy question to answer...numbers in oppressive countries are hard to know, different researchers use different guidelines, even the geographic divisions vary among pollsters. However, there are some very interesting things going on, so below are a few tidbits that might interest you.

Pew Research states: *In the early 20th century, the majority of Christians...were concentrated in Europe and the Americas....while sub-Saharan Africa and Asia had relatively few Christians. ...Over the century...Christianity experienced rapid growth in underdeveloped regions, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa.*

From Christianity Today: *...churches in the Third World are growing at an unprecedented rate....the next generation of church leaders will come largely from developing nations.*

Dr. Tom Johnson of Gordon-Conwell Seminary has written: *The number of Evangelicals in the world has increased from 112 million in 1970 to 386 million in 2020. ...a predominantly non-White movement...with 77% of all Evangelicals living in the Global South in 2020. ...This reality runs against the popular perception in the West that the United States is the 'home' of contemporary Evangelicalism...Nine of the ten countries with the most Evangelicals in 2020 are in the Global South....Africa's share of global Evangelicalism has increased from 2% in 1900 to 42% in 2020. If trends continue, more than half of all Evangelicals in 2050 will be Africans. (The "Global South" countries referenced include much of southern Africa and especially Brazil in South America.)*

Wikipedia assembles some of the Pew Research Group's research in this way: *In the United States, there have been some conversions to Christianity...but...not been in numbers that make up for those who were raised as Christians but became religiously unaffiliated later...According to a Pew study in 2020, among adults aged 18 to 54 in 117 countries, 83% of those who were raised Christian remain Christian. The remaining 17% now identify as non-Christian, and the vast majority of former Christians no longer identify with any religion...In 2024, about 73% of Americans raised Christian still identify as Christian, while 27% are no longer Christian. Most former Christians describe themselves religiously as atheists, agnostics or nothing in particular.*

And let me add one additional statistical challenge (which I pray the Holy Spirit undermines!). More Pew research from Christianity Today: *Islam is the fastest growing religion in the world, and will be the largest in the world by 2070, new research suggests....Key findings in the US and around the world', suggests that Islam will grow by 73 per cent by 2050, compared with only 35 per cent growth for Christianity....In 2010 Christians numbered 2.17 billion, and Muslims 1.6 billion. By 2070 those numbers will reach 2.92 billion and 2.76 billion respectively.*

We Christians have our work cut out for us, both as we reach out to those outside the church and how we disciple and retain those within. Still, God is definitely moving in our world...and, bless God, **YOU** and **I** are among those God seeks to use!



The English language as spoken here in the United States derives from a variety of sources. Some of the words that are unique to the United States derive from the various languages of Native Americans.

We especially see that in the names of places, such as Ocomonowoc, Kaskasia, or Dakota. However the vast majority of English words come to us by way of the Greek and Latin languages. Spanish, French and Italian are similarly derived, particularly from the Latin. Thus there are words in these languages that are very similar. For example, we use the word "amorous" in a loving situation, while the Italians say "amore", the French "amour", and Spanish uses "amor"...all derived from the Latin "amor." This phenomena is referred to by various terms, but when the languages are closely aligned as, say Spanish and Italian, they are called "cognate" languages.

The Bible was written in three languages: Hebrew for most of the Old Testament (hence I refer to it as the Hebrew Bible), Greek for the New Testament (according to almost all scholars), and Aramaic (Daniel 2:4b-7:28, Ezra 4:6-18 & 7:12-26, and Jeremiah 10:11. A few biblical scholars believe some of the New Testament, especially the Gospel narratives, were written in Aramaic, but only a few.) There are also a few scattered Aramaic words here and there, such as when Jesus raises Jairus's daughter saying the Aramaic words, "Talitha qumi" or when Paul calls for the return of Jesus with the word "Maranatha," as well as some here and there in the Hebrew texts.

Greek is from a different language family than Hebrew and Aramaic, but those two (like Spanish and Italian) are "cognate languages". So, for example, both the Hebrew and the Aramaic word for arise contain the letters Qoph, Vav and Mem ("qum" in English transliteration). Jesus spoke a version of Aramaic, the churches in Syria have used a form of Aramaic called Syriac throughout history, and even Arabic is a cognate language for Hebrew and Aramaic. Why does this matter?

For a couple of reasons. The Hebrew used when writing the Bible has very few written texts (mere paragraphs) preserved outside of the Bible. Whereas the cognate language, Aramaic, was the international language for centuries prior to Alexander the Great's conquests. Hence, when Hezekiah was enduring the taunts of the Assyrian officer in 2 Kings 18:26, the request was made for the Assyrian to speak in commerce language of Aramaic, rather than the Jewish language of local Hebrew, because he didn't want the common population to understand the threats being made at the moment. Since Aramaic was so widely used, there are extant today a great number of documents in that language. This provides a significant resource for Bible translators when they encounter difficult wording in the Hebrew, for they can turn to the many documents in the cognate Aramaic language to try to better understand the Hebrew text. (This is usually noted in your Bible's footnotes referencing the Aramaic meaning of a word as the source of the translation.) Additionally, knowing that Aramaic was the primary language used by the Jewish people in Judea and Galilee in Jesus's day, there are times when seeking to understand how Jesus's Aramaic wording of something he said might have appeared can sometimes provide insight to the Greek texts. An example could be the John 21 questioning of Peter about his love that is so frequently referenced in terms of the varying Greek wording (phileo and agapao), while the Aramaic was likely a single word. Or when trying to understand some of the word plays Jesus uses, such as the camel and the eye of the needle, which can reflect an Aramaic origin.

The whole point of this is simply that most people who study the Bible have awareness of the Hebrew and Greek originals, but the impact and importance of the Aramaic language in the biblical texts and in trying to correctly translate and interpret those texts, is less known. This little nutshell might give you a bit more insight into the matter, and an appreciation for the work of those who translate our Bibles for us.



BIRTHDAYS	PHONE	DATE
Andy Pavel	402-719-7554	1
Linda Crytzer	402-753-0256	2
Betty Adams	402-721-2048	5
Rowena Gonzales	402-719-7809	5
Randy Cash	402-721-3572	9
Cynthia Christensen	402-721-5239	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
Roxanne Woodman	402-496-3827	17
Rod Musilek	402-721-1336	18
Brian Weldon	402-727-5302	27
Beryl Hornberger		28



Kay Circle Mat Weavers were able to deliver completed sleeping mats they hand-wove from recycled plastic bags. Each mat reflects hours of careful work and a shared commitment to serving others with creativity and compassion.

MARCH BIBLE PUZZLE

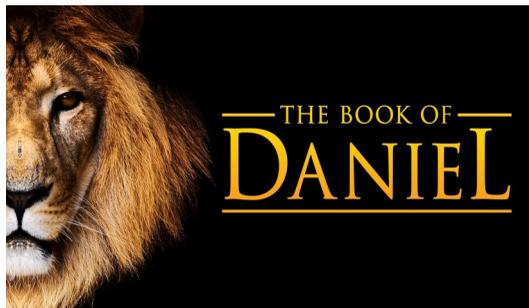
There are many ways of ending wars and conflicts. In the Bible, there are three occasions (at least) in which the unusual actions of women helped prevent or end a military conflict. Can you name the women and what they did?

FEBRUARY BIBLE PUZZLE ANSWER

A letter to Laodicea is mentioned in Colossians 4:16. First Corinthians 5:9, Second Corinthians 7:8 and 10:9-10 make reference to Paul's letters to the Corinthians, and it isn't entirely clear which is being referred to in them (notice in 5:9 that he uses the past tense). It seems likely that there is at least one we do not have, and some have speculated that the Corinthian letters as we have them might be composite of multiple letters. It is clear from a number of personal allusions that Paul was in regular correspondence with his fellow believers and the churches he helped establish.



American Baptist Women's MINISTRIES



MISSIONARY PROJECT FOR MAPLE CREST

ABW is collecting items for our Maple Crest missionary project! We are looking for prayer scarves, lap robes, bingo prizes, and used greeting cards (for repurposing). If you would like to contribute, please bring your donations to the church. Your support will help bring comfort and joy to the residents of Maple Crest.



- MONTHLY MEETINGS -

Esther - March 9 - 11:00a
 Hannah - March 10 - 11:30a Gambino's
 Naomi - March 26 - 12:30p



Dear 1st Baptist Family, Thank you for helping make my birthday so special. Also thank you for all your prayers, cards, calls and food. My arm is slowly healing. Initially the doctor said I only had a small chance of it healing without surgery. Prayers have carried me these last 20 weeks. Thank you for each time you stopped by to pray a little prayer for healing. I'm 75% healed now, without surgery! -Eileen Cash



Our Galentine's and Palentine's All-Church Brunch was truly a joy! We are so grateful for everyone who attended, helped prepare food, decorated, served, and cleaned up. Your participation and servant hearts made the morning special and deeply appreciated. Thank you for helping make it such a sweet time together!

VISION TEAM MINUTES: FEBRUARY 14, 2026

The meeting was opened in prayer.

Officers present introduced themselves and identified their respective ministry responsibilities, including facilitation, outreach, denominational missions, financial oversight, personnel, property, maintenance, caring ministries, children and youth ministries, events coordination, discipleship, and worship support.

Pastor Crooks presented three areas of strategic focus for consideration by the board: (1) evaluation of the church's future direction and ministry potential, (2) continued diligent stewardship of financial resources, and (3) maximizing present ministry opportunities.

Pastor Crooks requested that an officer assume responsibility for facilitating future monthly meetings. Mary Weldon volunteered to facilitate the March meeting.

Treasurer, Randy Cash, presented the financial report. He reported a decline in contributions and advised that, should this pattern continue, a withdrawal of \$20,000 from the Endowment Fund may be required in mid-March to meet budgeted expenses. The January financial statement reflected total assets of \$498,329.46, distributed among checking and building accounts, memorial funds, the American Baptist Endowment Fund, and designated gift accounts. He clarified that revenue sources include general offerings, Endowment Fund distributions, the Laten Fund, and rental income. He further noted that both interest and principal may be expended from the Endowment Fund, while only the principal may be utilized from the Laten Fund.

Pastor Crooks reported on the sanctuary stained glass window project. The estimated cost of repair is approximately \$80,000. The Red and Esther Bechtel Memorial Funds have committed \$30,000 toward the project. A grant application is currently in process, and additional fundraising efforts may be necessary to secure the remaining balance.

Alan Holzerland presented the Property Team report. The elevator emergency phone will be repaired. Bids are being obtained to replace hazardous elevator tiles with carpet squares. One boiler has been shut off, and thermostat issues in the Parlor are being addressed. Efforts continue to resolve heating and air-conditioning concerns in the church office. Repairs are underway to the security camera system. Work on the sanctuary sound system is in progress to restore online service audio, and updates to the second service system are nearing completion. The Property Team is coordinating repairs to foyer roof leaks and consulting with specialists regarding buckling observed in the third-floor and sanctuary stained glass windows.

Mark and Vicki Anderson reported on local outreach activities. Refreshments were provided to staff and students at Washington School. The church coat closet inventory is low, and donations are requested for children ages five and older. Food donations for families at Grant, Linden, and Washington Schools continue to be encouraged. Officers also prepared written notes of encouragement for Grant School staff.

Eileen Cash presented the ABW report. ABW is coordinating a missionary project for Maple Crest in Omaha and is collecting prayer scarves, lap robes, bingo prizes, and used greeting cards for repurposing.



MARCH

SCRIPTURE WRITING PLAN



Each of the scriptures below takes ten minutes or less to copy out. Commit to spending ten minutes each day listening to God's voice as you simply copy these texts out of your Bible.

Day 1- Joel 2:12-14
Day 2- Joshua 1:5-9
Day 3- James 1:2-8
Day 4- James 1:9-12
Day 5- James 1:13-18
Day 6- Ephesians 2:4-10
Day 7- Ephesians 4:22-28

Day 8- Ephesians 4:29-32
Day 9- Romans 15:1-6
Day 10- Psalm 91:1-4
Day 11- Psalm 91:5-8
Day 12- Psalm 91:9-13
Day 13- Psalm 91:14-16
Day 14- Galatians 5:13-15

Day 15- Galatians 6:1-6
Day 16- Galatians 6:7-10
Day 17- Psalm 62:1-5
Day 18- Psalm 62:6-10
Day 19- Psalm 20:1-5
Day 20- Psalm 61:1-5
Day 21- Isaiah 43:1-7

Day 22- Hebrews 6:13-16
Day 23- Hebrews 6:17-20
Day 24- Matthew 5:13-16
Day 25- 1 Thessalonians 5:12-15
Day 26- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-22
Day 27- 1 Thessalonians 5:23-28
Day 28- Matthew 21:21-22

Day 29- James 3:13-15
Day 30- James 3:16-18
Day 31- Choose Your Own Verse





FBKIDS & FBYOUTH



FBKids K-6th | Wednesday Nights | 6:15p Meal | 6:45p Groups

Salt & Light College Group | Wednesday Nights | 6:15p Meal | 7pm Bible Study

FBYouth 7-12th | Sunday Nights | 6p Snack | 6:30p Groups

Hello everyone! This month, the youth has been exploring and working through the book of Ephesians. Where we have learned about “the mystery of Christ” and his grace that he has freely given to all that believe in him. During the 7th and 8th of this month, the youth had the opportunity to go to Camp Moses Merrill to attend “LIT” or Leadership in Training, a training camp to build strong leaders of the faith. During the Sunday section, I had the opportunity to preach to the youth during the chapel time over “Leading Well” where we looked at the verses in the book Matthew 5:38-48, specifically on how to lead well when you disagree with over, we lead well with sacrificial and unconditional love. We ended the month with the final chapters in the book of Ephesians, where we learned how to live as Christians knowing the mystery of Christ. Looking ahead to next month, we will be taking youth off on the 15th of March due to the youth retreat. As always, “May the Lord bless you and keep you, may the Lord’s face shine upon you in everything you do”

-Jesse Kracht | Youth Leader

Attached is a photo from the activity we did last week titled “May Christ be the center of everything we do.”



Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 1 Peter 5:8 ESV



A Valentine Brunch is scheduled for February 15 between services.

Joel Foreman presented the ABM report. Preparations are underway for the annual Easter Breakfast scheduled for April 5. Plans are also in place for the Fremont Days Booth at Midland University on July 11.

Announcements were shared that Avi Snyder with Jews for Jesus will lead services on February 22, the church will host the ABC state convention this fall and volunteers are requested, and Carmella Jones, ABC missionary and regional consultant, will be present in March.

There being no further business, the meeting was concluded.

Respectfully submitted, Paul Foreman
Assistant Church Clerk



**The wicked flee though no one pursues,
but the righteous are as bold as a lion.
- Proverbs 28:1 NIV**



Prepping the **Handmade Cinnamon Rolls** for our upcoming Bingo outreach! You didn't think they just magically rolled themselves, did you?




JOIN US!
Easter Sunday

APRIL 5TH
PANCKAKE BREAKFAST

HOSTED BY: ABM

8:30AM & 10:00 AM
IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Fremont, Nebraska

DIRECTORY UPDATE!

Susan (Susie) Schumm
2206 N Aaron Way
Fremont NE, 68025
(843) 200 -1299
susan.schumm@gmail.com



March 2026

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

Cookies & Coffee

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



THIS WEEK WE WILL DELIVER DONATED FOOD TO LOCAL SCHOOLS!!



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 - Communion -</p> <p>9:30a - Traditional Service</p> <p>11a - Casual Service</p> <p>6p - FBYouth (7-12th)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9a - Men's Coffee</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10a - Women's Coffee</p> <p>6:15p - Meal</p> <p>6:45p - BINGO</p>	<p>5</p> <p>5:30p - Kay Circle Mat Weaving</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9a - Men's Coffee</p> <p>10a - Nye Square Bible Study</p> <p>12p - Bible Study in Parlor</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7a - ABM Bible Study</p> <p>8a - ABM Breakfast</p> <p>9a - Property Team</p> <p>6p - Fun and Fellowship</p>
<p>8 - Daylight Savings -</p> <p>9:30a - Traditional Service</p> <p>11a - Casual Service</p> <p>11a - Bible Study</p> <p>6p - FBYouth (7-12th)</p> <p>6p - Brown Bag/Movie Night</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9a - Men's Coffee</p> <p>11a - Esther Circle</p>	<p>10</p> <p>11:30a - Hannah Circle @ Gambino's</p> <p>7p - AA Meeting</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10a - Women's Coffee</p> <p>6:15p - Meal</p> <p>6:45p - FBKids (K-6)</p> <p>7p - Bible Study</p> <p>7p - Salt & Light (College)</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:30a - Pastor Led Bible Study/ZOOM</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9a - Men's Coffee</p> <p>12p - Bible Study in Parlor</p>	<p>14</p> <p>8:45a - Personnel Team</p> <p>9:30a - Vision Team</p> <p>5:30p - Farewell Fiesta for Carmella Jones</p>
Camp Moses Merrill - Youth Retreat						
<p>15 GUEST SPEAKERS:</p> <p>REV. DR. PAM DURSO AND CARMELLA JONES</p> <p>9:30a - Traditional Service</p> <p>11a - Casual Service</p> <p>11a - Bible Study</p> <p>6p - FBYouth (7-12th)</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9a - Men's Coffee</p> <p>6p - Woodcarvers</p>	<p>17 St. Patty's Day</p> <p>2:30p - Paul Weers of AB Foundation Available for questions </p> <p>7p - AA Meeting</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10a - Women's Coffee</p> <p>6:15p - Meal</p> <p>6:45p - FBKids (K-6)</p> <p>7p - Bible Study</p> <p>7p - Salt & Light (College)</p>	<p>19</p> <p>5:30p - Kay Circle Mat Weaving</p>	<p>20 First Day of Spring</p> <p>9a - Men's Coffee</p> <p>12p - Bible Study in Parlor</p> 	<p>21</p> <p>9:30a - ABW Bible Study</p>
Youth Retreat	FBYouth - Winter Jam					
<p>22</p> <p>9:30a - Traditional Service</p> <p>11a - Casual Service</p> <p>11a - Bible Study</p> <p>6p - FBYouth (7-12th)</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9a - Men's Coffee</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7p - AA Meeting</p>	<p>25</p> <p>10a - Women's Coffee</p> <p>6:15p - Meal</p> <p>6:45p - FBKids (K-6)</p> <p>7p - Bible Study</p> <p>7p - Salt & Light (College)</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9:30a - Pastor Led Bible Study/ZOOM</p> <p>12:30p - Naomi Circle</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9a - Men's Coffee</p> <p>10a - Nye Square Bible Study</p> <p>12p - Bible Study in Parlor</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 PALM SUNDAY</p> <p>9:30a - Traditional Service</p> <p>11a - Casual Service</p> <p>11a - Bible Study</p> <p>6p - FBYouth (7-12th)</p>	<p>30</p> <p>9a - Men's Coffee</p> <p>6p - Woodcarvers</p>	<p>31</p> <p>7p - AA Meeting</p>				



Scan the QR Code to go to our Website:
www.fremontfbc.org
 Worship Service | Pictures
 Outreach | Giving
 Chimes and much more!

Join Betty Adams,
in celebration, as she turns 90!
March 6th | 1-4pm
at Nye Square
(Multipurpose Room on the North End)
