



505 N C Street, Fremont, NE 68025
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Find us on

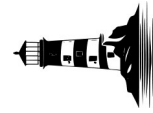


for you in that work. Is it a passage that can show you how to live your life? Does the book enhance your understanding of who God is and what God is like? Is the passage one that can help you know the mind of God as you try to understand what he expects from your life, or is it one that provides examples for you to consider in the decisions that you face? God always has purpose in his scripture. The Bible is literature with great purpose, perhaps best articulated in this passage from Isaiah 55:

*"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the Sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish **that which I purpose**, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.*



THERE'S A SPOT FOR YOU!
VAN DRIVERS/ KITCHEN HELPERS
CHILDREN/YOUTH MENTORS
CREATIVE THINKERS/CLASS LEADERS
TEACHERS ASSISTANT/SECURITY
AND MORE!

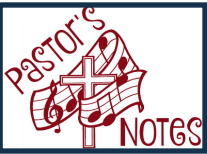


September 2025



Lead Pastor-Richard Crooks | Music Director-Sasha White | Youth Leader - Jess Kracht | Fremont, NE

Pastor's Notes



"Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, being diligent to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you also were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all." –Ephesians 4:1-5 NASB

In some of the recent Bible studies we have had, we reviewed some scriptures that remind us that Jesus prays for us; that not only do we pray for one another, but Jesus himself is praying for you and for me even as you read this. We then reviewed together Jesus's high priestly prayer in John 17 to discover what some of the things are that he prays for us. Do you know what is one of the highest priorities in that prayer for us? Instead of just telling you, here are his words from John 17: *"that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me."* -- (17:21)

Jesus wept over Jerusalem because the Jewish people had so often rejected God's prophets and messages for them. I wonder if he has been weeping over the church all these years since his ascension. Even the churches in the New Testament time got caught up in fighting with one another, over things such as who had the best spiritual gift or who was baptized by the best Christian, even over whether Christians should get jobs or just wait for Jesus to come back! Over the years, the battles among Christians have been over an incredible number of things: the proper way to baptize, whether or not organ music should be allowed in a church (or guitars or drums or...), whether to only sing Psalms, or also gospel hymns like Fanny Crosby's, or contemporary praise music such as Chris Tomlin's. Other disagreements have been about such important topics as carpet color, how long a worship service should be, whether Christians of another race should be allowed to worship with us, even what translation of the Bible is okay to read in worship and Bible study. I doubt that God is pleased with any of those arguments; I suspect he continues to weep.

In his prayer Jesus says that our unity is what makes a difference as to whether or not the world will believe he is God's son. Kind of a "proof is in the pudding" sort of thing...if Jesus really is the Son of God, or if Christianity is real, then how come his followers can't get along any better than anyone else in the world?

In Paul's letter to the Ephesians quoted at the top of the article, he admonishes the Christians at Ephesus to be diligent to preserve unity. He has the same kind of comments, only more strongly worded, in his writings to the Christians at Corinth, who were allowing divisions in their church for all sorts of reasons. Paul makes plain that when we argue and allow seeds of division to spring up amongst us, we have already failed as Christians, because we are so far from "being one" as Jesus and the Father are one. Paul even tells the Corinthians that it is better to be wronged than to allow ourselves to become tools of division and argument.

What do you dig your heels in about? Do you get stubborn about getting your way



about something? Or does your stubbornness appear in the way you refuse to become divisive when someone holds a different priority than you do? How good are you at making sure Jesus’s prayer for his people to be one is answered “yes” in your life? How can we exhibit diligence to maintain unity with our fellow Christians so that those who don’t know the Lord can look at our lives and our church and as a result be convinced that Jesus really does change people’s lives? Do we have the same priority for “being one in Christ” as God does, or do we allow lesser things to become more important?

Lord, make us one, as you and Christ are one,

Richard



LOOKY HERE!

HOW TO SHARE YOUR FAITH IN A WORLD THAT DOESN'T APPEAR TO BE LISTENING
On THURSDAY, SEPT 11, at 11:00 a.m. join Pastor Richard in the parlor for this special opportunity to learn together how to more effectively represent Christ in the modern world. Open to any who would like to attend.



 **Raphael Anzenberger**
Speaker

 **Part One - Sep. 11th**
Part Two - Oct. 2nd
at 12 pm (EST)



SCAN CODE TO REGISTER TO RECEIVE THE ZOOM LINK. OR, USE LINK...

<https://tinyurl.com/ybpz9yuw>

AL CHURCH FALL COOKOUT BBQ

First Baptist, Fremont

Enjoy an evening of fun and activities for all ages! Prizes and games for youth and adults!

First Baptist Team Trivia Championship

Burgers, Hot Dogs - Tea and Lemonade provided! Bring a side dish to share.

Compete with Richard Crooks for the best homemade ice cream! Try your hand at hand churning the ice cream

On the lawn at FBC Fremont - Shade Tent and fans provided. Bring your own chairs!

Sunday - September 14, 2025 - 5th & C Streets - 5:30

Questions? 402-721-1265 www.fremontfbc.org facebook @fremontfbc

It isn't too early to start collecting nonperishable food items for our schools. We did a tremendous job last year and hope you will continue to bring items to help feed our school families or if you wish to donate money to the church, we can shop for you! Please also keep in mind that we do collect gently used items for Grant School to use for the kids to shop for Santas Workshop so if you have any donations, you can take them to the church and we will get them to Grant School. Thank you - Jim & Deb Peterson and Mark & Vicki Anderson

ALL YEAR LONG!

FOOD DRIVE

First Baptist, Fremont | 505 N C Street | 402-721-1265 | www.fremontfbc.org

HELP DONATE TO LOCAL SCHOOL FAMILIES IN NEED!

Accepting Non-Perishable Food Items or Unexpired Goods	Snacks, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Soup, Pop Tarts, Canned Goods, Rice, Beans, Noodles, etc.	Monetary Donations Accepted
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When my first devotional book for people struggling through divorce was being published, a woman at the publishing house asked what my purpose was in writing the book, who I wanted to reach with it. Have is it ever occurred to you to ask what the purpose was in the writing of the Bible (both in terms of God’s purpose as well as the human writers)? It is important to recognize that there are some things the Bible is, and some things it is not. Let’s consider some of the purposes, and some things that are left out, by looking at two specific examples.

The book of Genesis begins with the story of creation and the story of humanity. But along the way, humanity is dropped in favor of segments of humanity. We first learn Adam and Eve’s children Abel, Cain and Seth. After Abel’s murder, Cain goes into exile and chapter five completely disappears from the narrative, with only one or two descendants mentioned. Starting with chapter five, the focus is on Seth and his descendants. This same kind of selection occurs later with Noah, where Ham and Japeth’s descendants are listed in the “Table of Nations” (Chapter 10), but afterwards it is only Shem’s descendants (the Semites) whose history is carried forward. In Abraham’s day, it was Isaac, not Ismael. In Isaac’s day it was Jacob (Israel), not Esau whose lineage matters. A similar process continues throughout the Old Testament. Why? Because the purpose of the scripture is to trace what is called “redemptive history,” not general history. It is the story of how God worked from the very beginning to choose his people, then to choose the tribe, then the family, through which God would accomplish redemption through the Messiah who came to earth through those choices. Accompanying that process, there are multiple stories of God reaching out with messages of his hope and love to people desperately in need of that redemption. The writings of the prophets were written as admonishments explaining what God expects of his people in various situations and historical times.



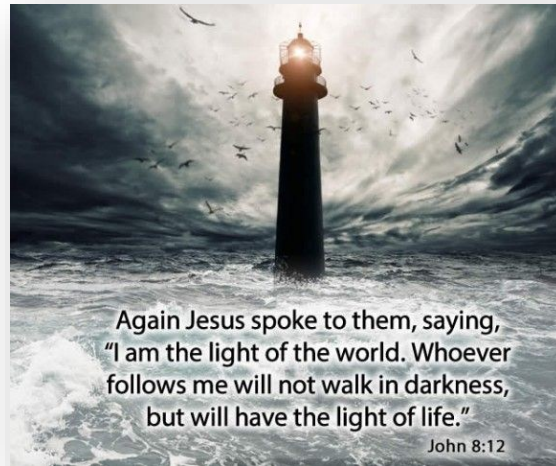
In the New Testament, let’s consider John 20:30-31
Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. John is clear about his purpose. None of the Gospels are biographies. There is little about Jesus’s childhood, nothing about his teen or young adult years, and precious little about the few years he was ministering in his 30’s. But there is more than enough information for the purpose in mind: to provide evidence that Jesus is God’s Messiah who grants eternal life to his followers. That is why the Gospels were written. Paul wrote to encourage congregations he knew needed guidance. The book of Hebrews was written to help clarify the connection between the Old Testament and the New. Romans, in particular, was written to provide a clear and relatively comprehensive statement of Paul’s Christian teaching for church people he had not yet met. God’s purpose in the New Testament remains the same as in the Old...the declare the redemptive history and plans of God.

And then, there is one more level to consider, and that is the personal one. When you select a passage to read or a biblical book to study, consider what God’s purpose could be

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Mike Conway	402-317-9466	1
Melody Scott	402-720-8979	1
Sasha White	402-250-8156	6
Lynda Raasch	402-727-6854	11
Bryan Regier	308-458-7907	20
Wayne Muff	402-727-9562	21
Doug Depue	402-727-5802	26

The mind of man plans his way, But the Lord directs his steps.
-Proverbs 16:9



Again Jesus spoke to them, saying,
"I am the light of the world. Whoever
follows me will not walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life."
John 8:12

September Christian History Puzzle:

Wycliffe used the term "God's elect," which was also popular with John Calvin. What Christian theologian strongly influenced both of them in their interpretation of scripture?

August Christian History Answer:

John Wycliffe (Wyclif) in the 1300's, studied at Oxford and most of his career was there as a student then a teacher and also served as a rector in Lutterworth. It was during the last 8 or 9 years of his life that his most famous work was done. He lived during a time England was in disputes with the Pope, and he dared to teach that Popes do err and were not necessary to the Church, even that a Pope who lived a worldly life was a heretic and should be dismissed. He maintained that the true church is made up only of God's elect, and that no earthly church has control over who is included in that number, and repudiated the church's teachings about the "saints," relics and pilgrimages. Wycliffe was an early advocate for what Baptists later refer to as the "priesthood of all believers," questioning the various ecclesiastical offices established by the Roman Church and denied its teaching that the bread and wine of communion "transubstantiate" into the body and blood of Jesus. He even taught that a lay person could administer communion in some circumstances and that true sincerity in worship was more important than the ceremonies being used.

As was later picked up by Luther and the reformers, as well as the Baptists, he insisted that the Bible is the supreme authority and that all people should have access to it for study, and through his own efforts and influence, the entire Bible was translated from Latin into English for the first time in the 1300's. (Hence, Wycliffe Bible Translators named in his honor.) He called for and supported individuals to serve as itinerant preachers to teach from the scriptures, which was not being done in the Catholic Churches. Those who responded to their teachings were known as "Lollards." Clearly his views were not popular with the Catholic Church. Wycliffe died in 1384, but the Lollards experienced ongoing persecution from the Catholic Church and English government, condemning Wycliffe's teachings, his unauthorized translation of the Bible, and the unlicensed preachers he approved. "In 1415 the Council of Constance condemned Wyclif on 260 different counts, ordered his writings to be burned, and directed that his bones be exhumed and cast out of the consecrated ground. In 1428, at Papal command, the remains of Wyclif were dug up and burned and the ashes were thrown into a nearby stream." (history source and quotations are from A History of Christianity by Kenneth C. Latourette)

AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN

Ladies Day Out



Depart promptly at 10:15a for a fun-filled day!

We'll head to Mahoney Park for lunch at Carl's Restaurant, followed by a visit to Baker's Candies—enjoy free samples, a Kool-Aid bar, and shop a wide variety of sweet treats and Nebraska specialty gifts. We'll wrap up the afternoon with a relaxing drive through the Henry Doorly Zoo Safari Park.

*The only cost is your lunch and any shopping you choose to do.

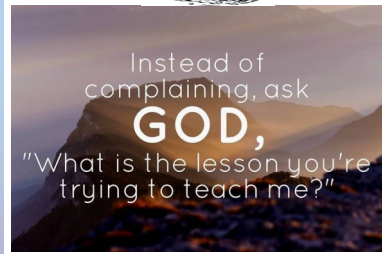
*Please RSVP to the church office if you plan to attend!

- Monthly Meetings -

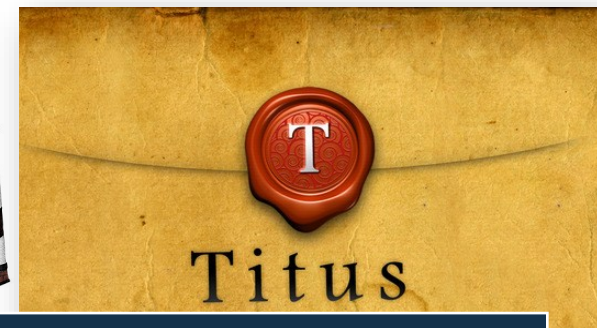
Sept 8- Esther Circle
- 11:00a

Sept 9 - Hannah Circle
- 11:30a @ BK East

Sept 25 - Naomi Circle
- 12:30p



I WANT TO BE SO FULL
OF CHRIST THAT IF A
MOSQUITO BITES ME,
HE FLIES AWAY SINGING,
"THERE'S POWER IN THE
BLOOD." -UNKNOWN



Follow along with ABW with the Bible Books of the Month

Vision Team Minutes: August 9, 2025

In attendance: Mike Raasch, Mark and Vicki Anderson, Marcia Hill, Eileen Cash, Randy Cash, Joel Foreman, Betty Laughlin, Mary Weldon and Pastor Richard.
Mike opened the meeting with prayer.

Mark and Vicki reported Grant School staff lunch will be Wed., Aug. 13 with chicken from Baker's. Baker's also plans to donate collected food to include with ours when we deliver to schools. The next school food delivery is scheduled for Sept 30th....donations need to be in by Sept. 29. Also, testing snacks for Grant, Linden and Washington (K-4th Grade) will be delivered next week, and they noted that Washington enrollment is up with 450 students this year.



Marcia indicated that Sunday evening Youth group starts up on Aug 10. Instead of meals they will just have simple snacks. Marcia is seeking volunteers to take a turn provide various snacks for the group of approximately 20, things such as popcorn, chips and dip, cookies. Hopefully volunteers will only be responsible for one Sunday a semester.

Nola Crooks came so that she and Marcia could explain the first Wed. Kid's meeting will be Aug 27th and an all-church Bar-b-Que/homemade ice cream supper is being planned for Sun. evening, Sept 14 for Sunday congregations, Youth, Kids and Wednesday parents together. There be a shade tent, a Trivia game, a bounce house and more. Mark your calendars...let them know if you would help provide ice-cream.

Pastor and Nola share tentative 2026 plans that may impact Pastor's vacation schedule, and will provide details when developed. Pastor is also taking a week vacation at the end of September, and our Executive Minister, Greg Mamula, will be filling the pulpit. Pastor provided details about Sasha's latest grant efforts, including an application to the Palmer Foundation for a general technology update to current standards, instead of bits and pieces as we have done that is awaiting response. Other grant applications were sent for \$2000 in March and \$1000 in May, as well as exploration of the feasibility and possible funding to put together a ESL class for Spanish speaking adults.

Randy provided the treasurer's report. Our new insurance is now \$10,000 a year higher, from \$5,400 to \$7900 quarterly. Hank is working with the agent to have it all transferred to Lutheran Brotherhood, and our Workman's Comp is moving from Church Mutual to the new agent as part of the process. The OGHs goal of \$2000 was met with a \$2100 offering. Pastor asked for clarification on expenses for Pieter Kaufman's visit, and Mission Conference line was selected. The same line will be used for fall Mission Meeting at Thanksgiving Dinner; the new director of Rainbow Acres will be our featured missionary.

Pastor reported he and David Schulz had attended some of the Men's Retreat at MMCCC. We are still needing tech assistance for the existing security camera overlooking the parking lot, and contacts to get the large stained glass window covering complete have been frustrating, but are ongoing. He also showed the preliminary sketch for the new church logo to be used on signage and stationary, still in process of revision. When complete it will come to the Vision Team for final approval.

ABMen—Joel reported Fremont Days raised just under \$200 for each ABMen & ABWomen.

Overcoming

We can live in victory...over our fears, enemies, worries, temptations, and troubles. Through Jesus we are overcomers! Learn how in these verses.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 5:4-5 | <input type="checkbox"/> James 1:2-6 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Joshua 1:5-9 | <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 40:28-31 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Psalms 91:1-7 | <input type="checkbox"/> Psalms 62:1-2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 8:18-25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Titus 2:11-14 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Peter 5:7-11 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Corinthians 4:15-18 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Psalms 37:3-7 | <input type="checkbox"/> Ecclesiastes 3:1-11 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Peter 4:7-11 | <input type="checkbox"/> Galatians 2:20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 43:1-7 | <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 26:3-4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 8:28, 38-39 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 3:5-8 | <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 41:10-13 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hebrews 12:1-3 | <input type="checkbox"/> Psalms 27:1-5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> John 14:26-29 | <input type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah 29:11-13 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 31:25-31 | <input type="checkbox"/> Psalms 34:17-19 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Corinthians 1:3-5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Philippians 4:12-13 | <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 5:1-6 |



“
Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.
Romans 8:37
”



QUESTIONS TO PONDER -
What does this verse teach about what it takes to be an overcomer? What does this verse teach about God? What action do I need to take?

Wednesday Nights | 6:15p - Meal | 6:45p - FBKids

Sunday Nights | 6p - Meal | 6:30p - FBYouth



Hello all!

As of August 10th, the youth group has officially started back up. With the start of the new school year and the official launch of youth, we are diving head first into our "What if" series! This 4 week series focuses on every aspect of God and how we can give everything we have to God. Most recently, our youth went to an event called "O,NE" an event focused on cultivating a sense of revival among the youth in our area - we had the opportunity to join over 100 churches and over 5,000 students to worship and praise God together at the Liberty First Arena in Ralston, Nebraska. Stay tuned for how the Lord is working through these youth students in the month of September! - Jesse Kracht



Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.
-Proverbs 3:5 NIV

The Youth were extremely helpful in setting up and taking down; youth made about \$100 in water sales. All thought the new space under the breezeway worked well, and everyone appreciated the enthusiasm and the number of youth that Jesse brought.

Betty is going to arrange for cards to be available in the pews individuals can use to send to people God brings to their minds.

Eileen clarified from last month that for 2026 the theme "Building God's Community" and the Bikes for Kodiak project are both the whole Nebraska ABWM, not just our church's. Donations for the bikes may be given to treasurer Joan Sorenson (or designated in the Sunday offering). Vision Team having an ABWM Sunday this fall to help highlight those and our local projects. Marcia indicated a display for the ABWM booth at the Region Gathering in Scottsbluff that could be available for our ABWM Sunday, too. Plans are being developed for Ladies' Day Out on September 4th to visit Baker's Chocolates in Greenwood, the Safari excursion and lunch in Ashland.

Mike shared RVR Bank asked if we wanted to renew our Line of Credit at RVR Bank, and if so updated information would need to be provided. It was agreed that we should keep the option available, even though we have not needed it for several years now.

Pastor shared Property Team update. The external office A/C was vandalized for the copper and reported to police. Property Team was already in process of having ductwork to front entryway and outside nursery added, and had received an estimate of replacing that unit if it had not been big enough for the additional space. With the vandalism, they will pursue that installation; cost will be about \$11,000 and some ductwork costs. The west side of the Family Center has been painted, and soon the painter will also do the Family Center south side next to the buses and the trim work around the parsonage doors, as well as the north window on the main building was not included previously. Vision Team thought we should ask Endowment Team to consider sourcing the Endowment to cover these building repair costs.

Meeting Adjourned.
Mary Weldon acting recorder



September Bible Puzzle:

Continuing from last month, in what biblical passages do actual birds play a significant role in God's work?

August Bible Puzzle Answer:

Biblical passages where animals play a significant role in God's work (not including sacrifices) could almost be endless. Let's leave birds for next month; this month let's focus exclusively on actual "animals" (not symbolic or in a parables), besides the animals coming to Noah's ark (Gen. 7), consider these: Balaam's donkey (Num. 22), Moses and snakes (Exod. 4 & Num. 21), Moses with frogs, gnats, flies and locusts (Exod. 8-10...if insects and amphibians count as animals?), lions with Samson, an unnamed prophet and Daniel (Judg. 14, 1 Kings 13 and Dan. 6), Jezebel and dogs (2 Kings 9), then finally (if you count fish as animals!) Jonah and Peter with fish (Jonah 1, Matt. 17, Luke 5, & John 21---not counting the fish multiplied in feeding the multitudes) and finally, the snake the bit Paul (Acts 28). There are others whose roles are minor (such as the ram with Abraham, sheep with Rachel and Zipporah and at Christmas). If you think of some that should be included in this month's list, let pastor know.

September 2025

Plans change, and things come up...It's always a good idea to verify times and places.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Coffee & Cookies 7 - Naomi 14 - ABM 21 - Hannah 28 - Esther	1 9a - Men's Coffee 	2 7p - AA Meeting	3 9:30a - Women's Coffee 6:15p - Meal 6:45p - FBKids K-6th 7p - Bible Study	4 10:15a - Ladies Day Out 5:30p - Kay Circle Mat Weaving	5 9a - Men's Coffee 10a - Nye Square Bible Study 12p - Bible Study	6 7a - ABM Bible Study 8a - ABM Breakfast 9a - Property Team 6p - Fun & Fellowship
	7 COMMUNION 9:30a - Traditional Service 11a - Casual Service 6p - FBYouth Meal 6:30p - FBYouth Groups 7-12	8 9a - Men's Coffee 11a - Esther Circle 6p - Woodcarvers	9 11:30a - Hannah Circle @ BK East 7p - AA Meeting	10 9:30a - Women's Coffee 6:15p - Meal 6:45p - FBKids K-6th 7p - Bible Study	11 Patriot Day 11a - The Great Commission Fellowship Webinar - Part 1 - in the Parlor with Pastor Richard	12 9a - Men's Coffee 12p - Bible Study
FBYouth Meal 7 - Hank Schollmeyer 21 - Mark & Vicki Anderson 28 - Eileen Cash & Randy Cash	14 9:30a - Traditional Service 11a - Casual Service 11a - Bible Study 5:30p - ALL CHURCH BBQ!!!	15 9a - Men's Coffee 7p - AA Meeting	16 7p - AA Meeting	17 9:30a - Women's Coffee 6:15p - Meal 6:45p - FBKids K-6th 7p - Bible Study	18 5:30p - Kay Circle Mat Weaving	19 9a - Men's Coffee 12p - Bible Study
	21 9:30a - Traditional Service 11a - Casual Service 11a - Bible Study 6p - FBYouth Meal 6:30p - FBYouth Groups 7-12	22 9a - Men's Coffee 6p - Woodcarvers 	23 7p - AA Meeting	24 9:30a - Women's Coffee 6:15p - Meal 6:45p - FBKids K-6th 7p - Bible Study	25 11a - Pastor Led Bible Study to include Zoom 12:30p - Naomi Circle	26 9a - Men's Coffee 10a - Nye Square Bible Study 12p - Bible Study
QUIT SAYING YOU DON'T HAVE TIME TO READ THE Bible	28 Rev. Greg Mamula Filling Pulpit 9:30a - Traditional Service 11a - Casual Service 11a - Bible Study 6p - FBYouth Meal 6:30p - FBYouth Groups 7-12	29 9a - Men's Coffee	30 7p - AA Meeting	You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Matthew 5:14-16 esv		