

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

505 N C STREET | FREMONT | NE | 68025

402-721-1265 | OFFICE@FREMONTFBC.ORG

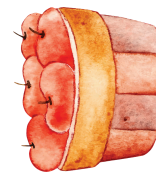
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These passages are not merely someone expressing anger at being slighted, but over slights received from those who rejected God's ways; not merely words of a self-interested person with hurt feelings spouting off, but of a person who could see God's ways neglected and God's people mistreated. One could compare these to the "woes" Jesus pronounced on religious leaders who misrepresented God. Additionally, these are not prayers asking God to 'help me take revenge on my enemies,' but prayers that God in his righteousness will notice the evils occurring and carry out the retribution the evils deserve.

Ignoring verses such as these can be a denial of the reality of those difficult emotions we may experience during hard times and miss that those God used to write the scriptures were people just like us. In fact, one of the reasons the Psalms are so beloved is the very real and honest human emotions revealed in them as the individuals share their relationship with God through them. It seems instructive to me that, as far as I have observed, the Psalmist doesn't remain in his angry state; these Psalms include not only these prayers, but also words of praise, of trust in God and hope. One might even suspect that writing the Psalm was a way the individual "worked through" his frustrations and anger, turning to God in prayer for the answers...and that is not a bad example for us! Lastly, we must remember that the revelation of the depth of God's love came through the arrival and sacrifice of Jesus, knowledge that was not yet fully available to or understood by David or Jeremiah. Loving our enemies, as Jesus instructed, does not mean we don't feel the anger and hurt that comes through those difficult relationships. It does mean that we choose not to respond on a merely emotional basis, but on the command and example of Jesus to love. Paul describes it in 1 Corinthians 12:31, as the "still more excellent way" of love.

Those are some of my thoughts; what do YOU learn from these passages?



AUGUST 2026

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



"But God....." various references

You may recall my referring a time or two to the preacher's claim that his favorite passage in the Bible is "and it came to pass," with the explanation that it gave him hope to know that the tough things in the Bible, and in his life, did not "come to stay," but "came to pass." In a similar vein, I have also mentioned now and again of those who have pointed out the power of the little phrase, "but God." That is what I want to discuss in this article. The words appear in a number of contexts in the Bible, and sometimes with very powerful implications. For instance, when Joesph had been in Egypt by way of a slave trade, a prison cell and a palace, his brothers appeared before him and were fearful that he might take revenge on them for the wrong they had done him. Then comes this little pair of words from the mouth of Joseph to his brothers:

*As for you, you meant evil against me, **but God** meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.*

--Genesis 50:20

This "**but God**" is a reminder that God's plan and purpose override even the most evil plans of people.

In another instance, as the Israelites were fleeing Egyptian slavery after the plagues and Passover, the people could have traveled the short route, along the coastlands —

***But God** led the people around by the way of the wilderness toward the Red Sea. And the people of Israel went up out of the land of Egypt equipped for battle. ---Exodus 13:18*

In this case, "**but God**" meant that God did not take them the shortest, and what seemed to be the easiest, route to the Promised Land. Instead, he took them the long way through the wilderness, where their obedience and faithfulness were tested, and they were given God's commands, and they had time to develop their skills before facing the battles ahead which they would have quickly faced along the fortified seacoast. The "**but God**" reminds us that God's ways are often not our own, nor the easiest.

Another occurrence is found in the life of young David, as he wanders from place to place because King Saul was seeking to kill him. This time we turn to 1 Samuel 23:14--

And David remained in the strongholds in the wilderness, in the hill country of the wilderness of Ziph. And Saul sought him every day, but God did not give him into his hand.

This "but God" reminds us that our lives are in God's hands, even when people seek to destroy us, it is God who sets the limits of their power over us, just as he restricted Satan in his attacks on Job. God is the one who watches over us and protects us. Always.

David recorded many of his personal thoughts, feelings and prayers in the Book of Psalms, and so many resonate with us as we journey through this life of faith. In Psalm 73:26, he writes—





BIBLE STUDENT'S CORNER

Have you ever noticed that sometimes a devotional assigns a passage to read, but will have you skip a few verses in the middle? At times it is because of all the difficult names. Often, though, the verses they skip include “angry” prayers for God to take vengeance on someone evil. I find it interesting that individuals who believe in the inspiration of the entire Bible, choose to avoid difficult or uncomfortable passages? Do such verses bother you? Here are a few of the verses I refer to:

Give to them according to their work and according to the evil of their deeds; give to them according to the work of their hands; render them their due reward. —Ps 28:4

They stir up strife, they lurk; they watch my steps, as they have waited for my life. For their crime will they escape? In wrath cast down the peoples, O God! —Ps 56:6-7

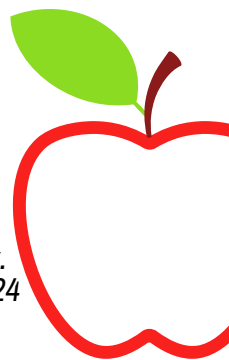
They gave me poison for food, and for my thirst they gave me sour wine to drink. Let their own table before them become a snare; and when they are at peace, let it become a trap. Let their eyes be darkened, so that they cannot see, and make their loins tremble continually. Pour out your indignation upon them, and let your burning anger overtake them. —Ps 69:21-24

But you, Lord Almighty, who judge righteously and test the heart and mind, let me see your vengeance on them, for to you I have committed my cause. —Jeremiah 11:20

That is just a sampling of passages, primarily in the Psalms, that include petitions for God to pour out wrath upon those who have wronged the one praying or mocked God. “Destroy them God! Show no mercy! Pay them back and spare none of them!” That may not sit well with our modern “Christian” sensibilities and the call to “love our enemies,” “do good to those who hate us” and “bless those who persecute us.” It reminds me of the time James and John wanted to call down fire from heaven on folks, and Jesus replied that they didn’t realize what spirit they were listening to. As Christians, our examples are Jesus forgiving his executioners from the cross and Stephen asking God to not hold their killing of him against them. Like it or not, these angry passages are included in the scripture, even in the middle of specific Psalms we treasure. What do we do with these? Are we following their example? Do we just skip those verses? Frankly, it always bothers me when the devotional or study assignments makes a point to skip over them, because it is as if the writer is editing out portions of the Bible they don’t like...and that is always a dangerous thing to do, in my opinion! Even so, why would prayers for God to pour out wrath and destroy other people make it into our God inspired Bibles? Let me share a few thoughts with you.

These passages are sometimes called “Imprecatory Psalms” (from the Latin word for curse), and they do, indeed, include a curse upon one’s enemies. Perhaps the existence of these passages is part of what made Jesus’s teaching so difficult when he said, “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,” —Matthew 5:43-44 Yet sometimes our focus on God and his command to love causes us to neglect recognizing his holiness and judgment upon sin and evil; God is more than just love.

These curses upon those who are against God and his people fits in with the historical faith handed down from Moses, who recited a list of blessings and curses that would come upon people depending on their response to God’s commands.



My flesh and my heart may fail, **but God** is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. This time, “but God” reminds us that we have a resource beyond ourselves from which we can draw strength and hope when we feel like we are at the end of our rope; that we are not limited by our own limited skills and abilities.

Another way the phrase is used can be found in Jonah 4:9, in the episode where Jonah has seen the people of Nineveh repent when Jonah’s preference was that they would have been judged instead.

But God said to Jonah, “Do you do well to be angry for the plant?” And he said, “Yes, I do well to be angry, angry enough to die.”

Because God’s thoughts and ways are above our human thoughts and ways, this “**but God**” reminds us that sometimes our attitudes and behaviors need to be challenged by God, because we are not accurately reflecting His glory.

Jesus uses the phrase himself sometimes, as in the parable of the rich man who hoarded his wealth and decided to build bigger barns to hold it all. Then comes our little phrase in Luke 12:20--

But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’



This time, “but God” reminds us that it is not our plans that prevail, it is God’s plans, and therefore we need to live our lives and plan our futures with our focus on God and with the realization that our days are numbered, that God might call us home at anytime, so we should live our lives in such a way that we are always prepared to “meet our Maker.”

There are many more of these little turns of phrase, so I simply will not cover them all, Before I close, however, I want to offer one more, the one that is probably my favorite. In Ephesians 2, Paul first describes our lost condition and wandering in darkness prior to our become Christian, then writes:

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ... Ephesians 5:4-5a

This verse is so rich, reminding us how dependent we all are upon God’s mercy and forgiveness, how we deserved God’s judgment, wrath and certainly not a welcome into his holy presence. “**But God**” chooses to offer instead, his abundant mercy and love.

I have left out so many meaningful instances of this phrase. Perhaps you might want to run a search in your Bible app, or get out a concordance, to discover others that will enrich your faith. At the very least, the next time you happen upon the words “**but God**,” maybe you will remember this article and stop long enough to notice the difference “**but God**” makes in that passage, and in your life!

Richard



“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such things there is no law.”
-Galatians 5:22-23

FBKIDS & FBYOUTH - WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU!

Hi Children's Ministry Volunteers!
Our Child Safety Training Class is scheduled for **August 23rd @ 1pm in the Family Center**. This training is required for everyone serving in our children's ministries and helps us provide a safe, welcoming environment for every child God brings through our doors. If you haven't already, please make plans to attend the class and be sure to see me to complete your background check. Both are required for everyone serving with children and youth. Thank you for your heart to serve and for helping us create a safe, fun, and welcoming place where kids can grow in their faith. We truly appreciate each of you and all you do! If you have any questions, swing by the office.
-Amity



First Baptist Church

K-6th Grades

FBKids

7-12th Grades &

FBYouth

KICK-OFF!

TELL a FRIEND

WEDNESDAY | AUGUST 26TH

REGISTRATION STARTS AT 6:15PM

PETTING ZOO

CRAFTS

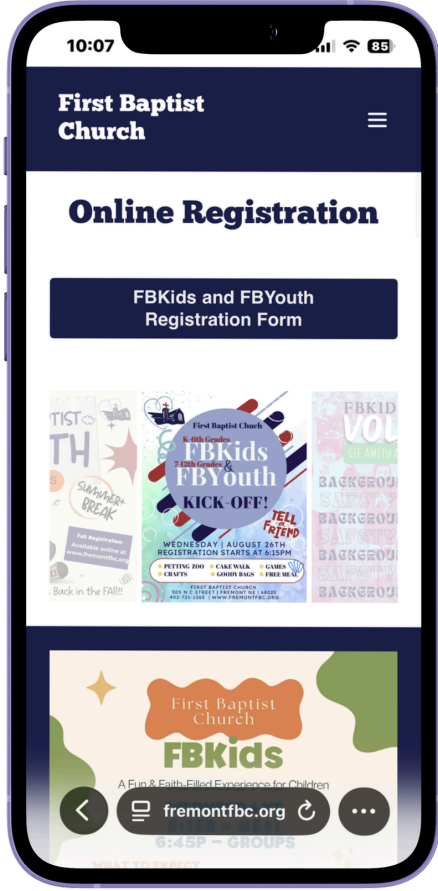
CAKE WALK

GOODY BAGS

GAMES

FREE MEAL

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
505 N C STREET | FREMONT NE | 68025
402-721-1265 | WWW.FREMONTFBC.ORG



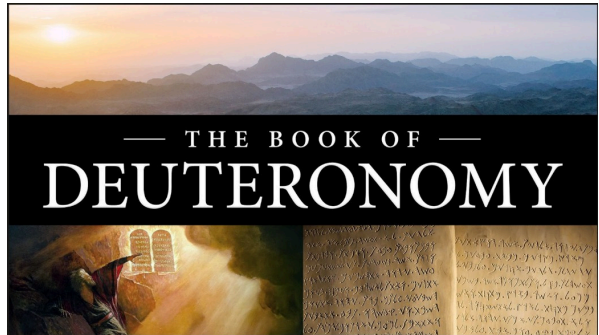
First Baptist Church

Online Registration

FBKids and FBYouth Registration Form

FBKids FBYouth KICK-OFF!

READY TO JOIN? REGISTER ONLINE UNDER THE YOUTH TAB TODAY!



THE BOOK OF DEUTERONOMY



Women's Bible Study

August 22 | 9:30am

PICK A PECK OF APPLES

A peck of apples weighs 10.5 pounds. A bushel of apples weighs about 42 pounds.

APPLE VARIETIES

More than 2,500 varieties of apples are grown in the United States, but only the crabapple is native to North America.

APPLE PRODUCTION

An apple trees take four to five years to produce its first fruit.

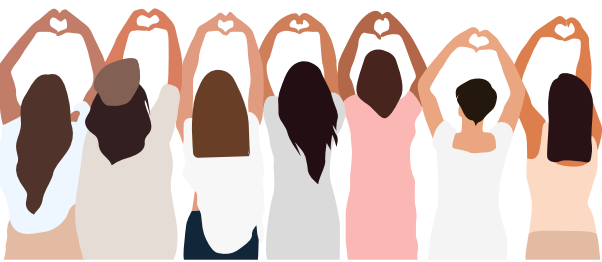
AN APPLE A DAY

Apples contain no fat, sodium or cholesterol and are a good source of fiber.

IN-CIDER INFORMATION

It takes about 36 apples to create one gallon of apple cider.

American Baptist Women's MINISTRIES



Ladies Day Out is coming in September Watch for Details!!!

Monthly Meetings

Esther Circle - August 10 - 11:00a
Hannah Circle - August 11 - 11:30a
Naomi Circle - August 27 - 12:30p

pine cones, pumpkins and prayer!

NEBRASKA American Baptist Women's MINISTRIES

2026 Fall ABWM Retreat

JOIN THE WOMEN OF NEBRASKA FOR A WEEKEND OF REFLECTION AND PRAYER AND CREATE YOUR OWN PRAYER JOURNAL TO TAKE HOME WITH YOU.

October 23-24, 2026
Moses Merrill Camp & Conference Center
Noon-4 p.m. Preconference -
6 p.m. Friday/5 p.m. Saturday Conference

Vision Team Minutes: July 14, 2026

In attendance were Eileen Cash, Randy Cash, Joel Foreman, Marcia Hill, Mary Weldon, Betty Laughlin, Diane Bohrer and Pastor Richard

-Mary opened with a devotional reading and prayer.

-Pastor shared some upcoming special folks we have coming in next few months for the calendar: Singer/composer Julie Marie is coming on August 2, will sing a couple of songs in the services, but then will also provide a concert of her music in the Family Center at 1pm. August 23rd new region staff member Lauren Parliament will be with us for the morning services. The Gideons will be coming on Labor Day Sunday, and on Friday, September 11 we will have Melanie Baggio, missionary to Lebanon in Beirut coming. For the Region conference in October, missionaries Walt and Jeanine White are coming and possibly Mercy Barnes, and it is possible Jill Lowery who coordinated church/mission relations will come for the Thanksgiving luncheon weekend. Marcia added that the Hwangs (retiring from mission work in Japan) were planning to be in the area in October and were interested in stopping in if possible, and Pastor reported that John and Amanda Good missionaries now in Italy will be coming sometime probably next year.

-Diana reported that Ann Clemmer has received the shipment we sent of t-shirts, school supplies and socks. Laura Reavis had picked up the other half of the socks and t-shirts to take to Belize and Jamaica with the Crossing All Borders group. Laura had also suggested that another item her group can use are cloth shopping bags that they use for hygiene kits.

-Randy reported that the stained glass bill has been paid, except for a last \$5,000 payment to be made at end of August when exterior work is completed. He said that offerings received is back up, but that expenses have also been up for a variety of reasons. Randy and Pastor explained some of the current project costs: a \$20,000 draw from Endowment just came in to be applied to roof and gutter repairs on the entryway, wall repair and painting in sanctuary, some electrical work in process, repair of security cameras and cement work for front door. Property may request a little more depending on how those final bills come in. Randy also pointed out that this year's youth/children camping/conference fees were covered by \$7,000 from the Paulger Memorial and \$1,500 from Vicki Anderson Memorial.

-Joel reported that Fremont Days had gone well for ABMen, they had sold or given away about 328 hot dogs and made \$311.50. There are 3 cases of hotdogs remaining for use at Halloween Hysteria's giveaway. He also raised the possibility of obtaining new portable signs that could be used in both events.

-Eileen said that on the first Thursday of September there will be a Ladies Day Out, destination yet to be determine.

-Marcia said that the youth had taken in \$345 at Fremont Days, and after expenses netted \$215.00 Jesse has been holding a weekly Bible study for some of the youth. The children's leaders will be meeting to get things set for the Fall startup, and Gabby Burt is taking over teaching Nola's class as Nola is going to be tied up as Nebraska Women's President.

-Pastor shared Property Team information on behalf of Alan. The sanctuary wall repairs are complete and windows back in, with some exterior work to be completed late in August. There was painting done on the repaired portions of sanctuary and also some touch-up in the parlor. Now congregation may consider how they would like to proceed with the remaining portions of the sanctuary paint. They have also replaced the roof over the entryway with a double layer of felt and also a double ice-protection shield. In process are cement work in front of main doors with a center rail to be installed.

-Pastor reported that Amity started a week's vacation and Sasha will be taking the coming Sunday off. He is working with individuals to get a young adult's group developed, and said that work on our part of Region Fall conference will start moving forward now, which now will include an overnight lock-in for youth attending, put together by Region leaders. Pastor expressed appreciation for all various projects the Property Team have been working on. He also indicated that he expects to take some vacation time around Labor Day weekend.

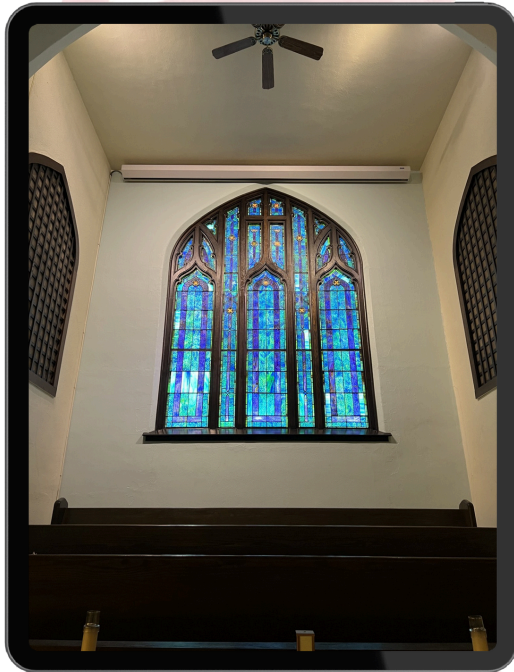
Meeting Adjourned

Mary Weldon, recorder.



JOHN C. FREMONT DAYS

Thank you for all your prayers and support during Fremont Days!
We will see you next year under the Breezeway!



THURSDAY
AUGUST 6TH & 20TH
@ 5:30PM

MAT WEAVING
with Kay Circle

JOIN US AS WE WEAVE PLASTIC BAGS INTO SLEEPING MATS FOR THE UNHOUSED.
NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY



PTL (Praise the Lord)!!! Our beautiful stained-glass window has been fully restored and is now back in its rightful place! We are so grateful to everyone whose generous donations made this project possible. Thank you for helping preserve this meaningful part of our church's history for generations to come. If you haven't had a chance to read about the restoration, be sure to check out the recent article in the Fremont Tribune (Front page- July 18, 2026). Better yet, stop by the church and see the restored window for yourself—we'd love for you to experience its beauty in person! -Amity

Happy Anniversary

Happiest of Birthdays



Julie Marie is a singer-songwriter and community musician based in the greater Chicago area. Through dreamy indie-folk music, she creates songs that celebrate beauty, explore truth, and encourage faithful living.



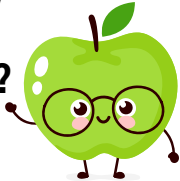
SUNDAY
AUGUST 2 @ 1:00PM

JOIN US
for this all
ages event!

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
IN OUR FAMILY CENTER
301 E 6TH STREET

www.fremontfbc.org

FBC CONNECT
How Can We Pray For You?



One Great HOUR
OF SHARING

AUGUST BIBLE PUZZLE

Since last month we quoted from a passage about the year of Jubilee, how often was it to be observed and where in scripture are the records of when it was celebrated? For fun, what modern usage of the term still exists?

JULY BIBLE PUZZLE ANSWER

Semiquincentennial (or Bisesquicentennial or Sestercentennial...but not Sesquicentennial as I printed last month!) puzzle answer was a portion of Leviticus 25:10—"proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants," on the Liberty Bell. The context of the verse was instructions for the year of Jubilee, when debts were to be forgiven and slaves set free.

AUGUST HISTORY PUZZLE

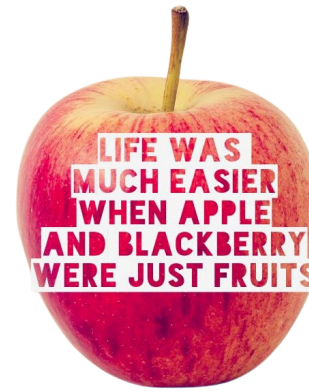
What was the significance of the Nicene Council?

JULY BIBLE HISTORY ANSWER

A "Chapel Car" was a train car modified to serve as a traveling chapel, starting in 1890 through World War II. There were 7 we Baptists used, 3 Catholic and 3 Episcopalian, traveling clear to the Pacific coast sharing the gospel in recently settled areas. The decline of ours came about, in part, due to territorial squabbles between the American Baptist Publication Society. The Publication Society with Pastor Wayland Hoyt started the ministry with the help of Hoyt's brother, Colgate Hoyt who was Vice President of Northern Pacific Railroad and also Northern (now American) Baptist. Financial support came from individuals such as John D. Rockefeller, William Colgate and more, with our first car entering service in 1891. You can read more about this work at the website listed below, and see one of the chapel cars at our National Conference Center in Green Lake, Wisconsin.

www.thefreelibrary.com/The+American+Baptist+Publication+Society+chapel+cars+on+the+western...-a0111014967

But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. - James 3:17 esv



Day 1 – Matthew 21:21-22
Day 2 – Hebrews 11:1-3
Day 3 – Hebrews 11:4-7
Day 4 – Hebrews 11:8-12
Day 5 – Hebrews 11:23-31
Day 6 – Hebrews 11:32-12:2
Day 7 – James 2:14-17
Day 8 – James 2:18-26
Day 9 – Proverbs 3:5-6
Day 10 – 1 Corinthians 2:1-5
Day 11 – 2 Corinthians 5:6-7
Day 12 – James 1:5-8
Day 13 – Galatians 2:15-16
Day 14 – 2 Timothy 4:7-8
Day 15 – Romans 4:13-14
Day 16 – Romans 4:15-17
Day 17 – Romans 4:18-25
Day 18 – Romans 5:1-5
Day 19 – Romans 10:9-11

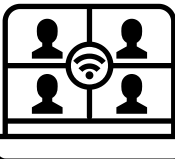
August

Faith

Day 20 – Matthew 17:14-21
Day 21 – Psalm 37:5-6
Day 22 – 1 Timothy 4:10-12
Day 23 – Galatians 3:23-29
Day 24 – John 3:14-17
Day 25 – Romans 1:16-17
Day 26 – John 11:23-27
Day 27 – 1 Corinthians 15:16-22
Day 28 – Ephesians 3:16-19
Day 29 – Mark 10:46-52
Day 30 – 1 Peter 1:6-9
Day 31 – Galatians 2:20

JOIN US

ZOOM Bible Study



PASTOR LED BIBLE STUDY

THURSDAY
AUGUST 13TH & 27TH
AT 10 AM



Save this! ↓

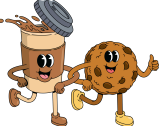
Meeting ID: 980 3351 3532
Passcode: FBCFremont



Things Happen and Plans Change - It's Always A Good Idea to Verify Dates/Times/Places 😊
*Event in Family Center



August 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Cookies & Coffee  2 - Naomi 9 - ABM 16 - Hannah 23 - Esther 30 - Naomi						1 7a - ABM Bible Study 8a - ABM Breakfast 9a - Property Team 6p - Fun & Fellowship*
2 COMMUNION 9:30a - Traditional Service 11a - Casual Service* 1p - Concert w/ Julie Marie*	3 9a - Men's Coffee	4 7p - AA Meeting	5 10a - Women's Coffee 7p - Bible Study	6 5:30p - Kay Circle Mat Weaving	7 9a - Men's Coffee 10a - Nye Sq. Bible Study ABM Conference @ Camp Moses	8 8:45a - Personnel Team 9:30a - Vision Team
9 9:30a - Traditional Service 11a - Casual Service* 11a - Bible Study 6p - Brown Bag/Movie Night*	10 9a - Men's Coffee 11a - Esther Circle 6p - Woodcarvers	11 11:30a - Hannah Circle @ Runza on 23 rd Street 7p - AA Meeting	12 10a - Women's Coffee 7p - Bible Study	13 10a - Pastor-Led Bible Study/Zoom	14 9a - Men's Coffee	15
16 9:30a - Traditional Service 11a - Casual Service* 11a - Bible Study	17 9a - Men's Coffee	18 7p - AA Meeting	19 10a - Women's Coffee 7p - Bible Study	20 5:30p - Kay Circle Mat Weaving	21 9a - Men's Coffee	22 9:30a - ABW Bible Study
23 9:30a - Traditional Service 11a - Casual Service* 11a - Bible Study 1p - Safety Class*	24 9a - Men's Coffee 6p - Woodcarvers	25 7p - AA Meeting	26 10a - Women's Coffee 6:15p - FBK & FBY Kick-Off! 7p - Bible Study	27 10a - Pastor-Led Bible Study/Zoom 12:30p - Naomi Circle	28 9a - Men's Coffee 10a - Nye Sq. Bible Study	29
30 9:30a - Traditional Service 11a - Casual Service* 11a - Bible Study	31 9a - Men's Coffee	 SCHOOL IS STARTING BACK, AND SO IS OUR FOOD DRIVE! AS PARENTS AND KIDS GET READY FOR A NEW SCHOOL YEAR, WE'RE COLLECTING NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS TO HELP SUPPORT THEM. IF YOU'RE ABLE, PICK UP A FEW EXTRA ITEMS ON YOUR NEXT GROCERY TRIP AND BRING THEM TO CHURCH. EVERY DONATION MAKES A DIFFERENCE. THANK YOU FOR HELPING US CARE FOR OUR COMMUNITY!				