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Reflect on Scripture—imagine cattle chewing on their cud, or a dog gnawing on a bone...and use that image to help you “chew on” the words of scripture, gnawing at it for every morsel the passage contains, turning over and over to examine it from every angle, even memorizing it as you do so.

There are other things you can do, such as singing it or acting it out, but the point is to do more than just a quick reading or simply hearing it read. It is to actively spend time encountering God through his word. Every great Bible teacher has spent time in these kind of practices, they are the very things that God uses to transform the humdrum of a Bible passage into a gateway into the very presence of God!



WHAT ARE YOU GRATEFUL AND THANKFUL FOR?



November 2025



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

Pastor's Notes

“We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you” --Colossians 1:3 esv

October was Pastor Appreciation Month, and in November we celebrate Thanksgiving. I decided that this newsletter were be a perfect time to put the two together into a sequence: last month you expressed thanks to Nola and me; in turn for this article I want to express our appreciation for you.

Coming off that month, I would like to first say thanks for the way you have used October year after year in so many kind ways, and especially this year you have been so kind to my wife. I cannot begin to tell you how much your thoughtfulness has meant to us. Your encouragement especially means a lot to me, as I have plenty of times when I get worn out, overwhelmed, and even discouraged. But then you pour out your love and support as you did this past month, and it reminds me that our efforts really do make a difference. That is something I know, but these reminders always help.

I have said many times how much I appreciate the kind of church you are, so let me share some of the things for which I give thanks as your pastor, the specific things I appreciate.

- I am thankful for the ways you care for one another. I see it at funeral dinners, during times of prayer requests, in the various fellowship groups, in the support of one another in times of sickness and crisis, even in the ways you help others here with their walkers or holding the elevator.

- I am thankful for the kind of involvement I see among you in the various activities. I notice all the different ways you pitch in, some in ways that are highly visible, others in little behind the scenes words, deeds and gifts; some in one ministry and some in another according to your various interests and abilities.

- I am thankful that everyone is welcome at our events: those well off and those in poverty, those living in nice houses and those without a house, people with lots of education and people with limited education, and people of different races, married, single, divorced, in a happy family or living with loneliness, struggling in life---you welcome all and all find a welcome place to be involved in the things that interest them.

- I am thankful for your willingness to experiment, to try new things for God, to be flexible when we need to be, to give God an opportunity to work in sometimes unusual ways that stretch us all. I include in this you're your support of the next generation through camping and conference, through Wednesday meals and activities, and your support of our youth programming.



• I am thankful for the care you express for our facilities. So many 100 year old church buildings LOOK 100 years old! You invest in the property God has given us as good stewards of the gifts God has given.

• I am thankful for the concern I see among your for those outside our church who are in need of things like basic shelter, food stability and the opportunity to hear and respond to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. These are demonstrated by both your participation in these activities and the donations you make to both local and international outreach, because you take seriously our connections with the larger church body we call the American Baptist Churches, U.S.A .

• I am thankful that you provide a staff who help our church in so many ways, and who lighten the load that could fall to me and curtail my other work. We are able to do so much more because of the team you have brought together.

• I could go on, but Amity tells me there is only so much room in Chimes. However; I cannot end without expressing how much I appreciate the fact that this church is committed to the centrality of the Bible as God's Word. With the scripture as our guide, we can be assured that God will be able to speak to our needs each day to keep us in his perfect will.

Happy Thanksgiving,



It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. - 2 Timothy 2:6 ESV



You all have outdone yourselves! Thank you so much for the amazing appreciation meal and all the thoughtful gifts. Every bite, every surprise, and every kind word made us feel so loved and appreciated. It means the world to us to be part of such a caring (and fun!) church. You bless us not just with food and gifts, but with your laughter, encouragement, and friendship. We're so grateful for each of you!! We promise to put all that love (and maybe those gift cards) to good use! With lots of love, full hearts, and full stomachs - Nola Crooks & Pastor Richard.



Blessed is the man who....his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. -Psalm 1:1-2 "Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day."--Psalm 119:97

In this day and age, when we hear the word "meditation" we tend to think of slow breathing and some of the Eastern religions with their closed eyes chanting repetitive phrases in strange postures. But in doing so, we neglect the rich Biblical tradition of meditation as referred to in the Psalms. There are important distinctions, though. The Eastern religious chants are designed to help individuals "empty their minds" as they repeat, sometimes, the names of Hindu gods. The Biblical notion is just the opposite: instead of emptying your mind to build that spiritual connection, you are to fill your mind with the things of God. The verses above mentions particularly meditation on God's Word. In Philippians 4:8. Paul lists things that are excellent, just, pure, lovely and more as worthy of our meditation. Any good student of the Bible spends time doing more than just reading the scripture, but investing ourselves in our Bibles in other ways. Dawson Trotman, founder of the Navigators, famously challenged Christians to regularly not only read our Bibles, but to hear it proclaimed, to study it, and to memorize it while diligently meditating on it in each context. But when this topic is raised, very often we aren't quite sure how meditation on scripture works.



During one of our recent Thursday studies, a reference was made to "Scripture Engagement"...a term being used for some suggestions as to how to experience the Bible on a deeper level through various techniques, all of which can be forms of Biblical meditation. Online, one source website is www.biblegateway.com which includes a section of that name in cooperation with Taylor University. Below I want to share with you some of their ideas (as well as others I add in) that could be useful, and encourage you to try some of them yourself:

Pray the scripture—particularly using the Psalms or various promises of God to bring before him, either individually or with others.

Picture Scripture—by imagining the setting, drawing a sketch, imagining yourself in the story. It can also be useful to find artworks that illustrate the passage, such as those of Michaelangelo, Botticelli, Degas or many of the great Masters and more.

Journal the Scripture—take time to write down the things that strike you in the wording, questions you have, ideas that inspire or challenge you...whatever the passage brings to your mind.

Share the Passage—rewrite it into your own words, retell it to a friend, fill in the details and explore the possibilities.

...CONTINUED ON BACK

Here's a Reason to Celebrate!!

Birthday	Phone	Date	Anniversary	Phone
Don Charleston	402-657-0171	2		
Cliff Hammond	402-721-7453	5		
Leland Foreman	402-719-4099	7		
Joan Sorensen	402-830-6519	8		
		9	Jim & Deb Peterson	402-727-4034
Jean Foreman	402-719-1298	11		
Mark Anderson	402-727-0740	12		
Dale Tharp	402-720-4912	25		



We had an amazing time out in the community during "Halloween Hysteria" handing out FREE hot dogs, seeing all the awesome costumes, and sharing lots of smiles!



You will eat the fruit of your labor; blessings and prosperity will be yours - Psalm 128:2 NKJV

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior, we invite members of the congregation to assist in decorating the church for the Christmas season. This is a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and service as we adorn our worship space with beauty and reverence for this joyful time of year.

Friday November 28th @ 6pm

All are welcome to participate. Your help and willing spirit will be greatly appreciated as we prepare our church home to reflect the hope, peace, joy, and love of Christ's coming.



American Baptist Women's MINISTRIES



November Monthly Meetings

November 10 | Esther Circle - 11 a.m.

November 11 | Hannah Circle - 11:30 a.m. @ BK East

November 20 | Naomi Circle - 12:30 p.m.



Rainbow Acres

We are pleased to announce that **Paul Higgins from Rainbow Acres** will be joining us as a special guest for our Mission Emphasis at our upcoming **Harvest Dinner**. We look forward to hearing from him and learning more about the wonderful ministry of Rainbow Acres. Details and the full schedule for the evening will be shared soon. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for this special time of fellowship and thanksgiving!

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. - Matthew 11:28 ESV

FIRST BAPTIST, FREMONT

Following our Combined 10am Service

Harvest Dinner

Grateful and Thankful

JOIN US! NOVEMBER 23 SUNDAY 11:30 AM FELLOWSHIP HALL

On the Menu: Broasted Chicken, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy, Stuffing, and Green Bean Casserole (provided by Mel's Diner)

- Cranberry Salad, Rolls and Pumpkin Pie -

- Free Will Donation -

- Sit Down or Order Ahead & Take It To-Go -

BRING A FRIEND!

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Vision Team Minutes, October 4, 2025

In attendance were Joel Foreman, Mark Anderson, Vicki Anderson, Marcia Hill, Betty Laughlin, Mike Raasch, Alan Holzerland and Pastor Richard.

Vision Team was called to an early meeting by Pastor Richard to consider whether to approve the request to host the 2026 Nebraska Region Annual Meeting, and since several members would not be available on our normal meeting Saturday, we chose to conduct what business we could.

Pastor shared with the Team that the 2025 hosting guide provided by Greg Mamula to aid our discussion, showing what things would be our responsibility and what ABC/NE handles. After significant consideration, the Team voted to approve hosting, but to do so with another church or two assisting as Scottsbluff would be doing this year, and that before final approval wanted to present the request to the congregation informally at tomorrow's services to include their responses, especially any concerns that might arise. (This was done the next day, and Pastor Richard made contact with the Pastor at Valley, who indicate he thought his church would be glad to help host. Announcement to this effect was made at the Region Meeting in Scottsbluff the next weekend.)



Joel updated the group with details about the upcoming Oct. 16 Halloween activity downtown where we will hand out hotdogs again. The plan will be to purchase 1,000 hotdogs for distribution this year, and though the sponsoring group asked if we would be willing to change location, that request was declined for this year on such short notice. It was noted that Hy-Vee had hotdogs on sale right now. We will grill at the church again, starting a little earlier, and then transport the hotdogs to our space downtown, where we will also have candy and the little "Ready References" available for people.

September had several successful activities. The Fall All-Church/FBKids BBQ held in September had over 70 people in attendance, with a number of people from each service, the Wednesday night families, and some new visitors. It went well in spite of the fact that the weather was threatening and we had to move in and out of the Family Center when it started raining.

The Friday evening concert on Oct 4 with "Ernie Couch and Revival" was really enjoyed by the 20+ able to attend. It was held in the Family Center, and even though it was a busy night locally with a lot of community activities, we thought it was well worth doing and have invited them to return again. Pastor reviewed with the Team what the offering had been that night, and what the group usually requests, and the Vision Team approved supplementing the offering with a check from the church for \$175.00. Marcia made the motion, and Joel 2nd. Motion passed.

Marcia shared that there is a Christmas celebration being planned with the FBKids for December 10th, with the possibility of making Christmas stockings for The Bridge. Details to come.

Marcia also shared that the Nebraska Women's Fall Conference at MMCCC is scheduled for October



A Heart of Gratitude and Thanksgiving

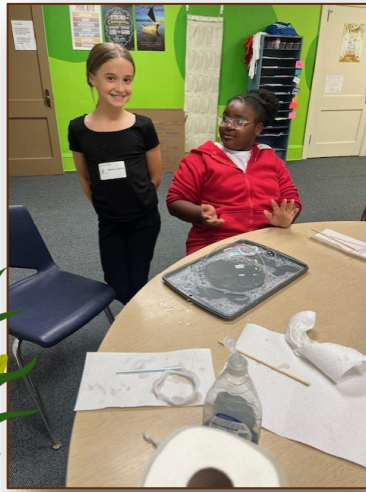
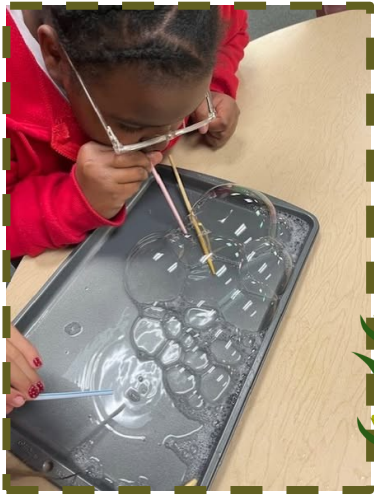
- Day 1: 1 Thess 5:16-18
- Day 2: Colossians 3:15
- Day 3: Colossians 3:16-17
- Day 4: 1 Chron 29:10-11
- Day 5: 1 Chron 29:12-13
- Day 6: 1 Chron 29:14-15
- Day 7: Psalm 9:1-2
- Day 8: Psalm 69:30
- Day 9: Psalm 79:13
- Day 10: Psalm 106:1-2
- Day 11: Philippians 4:6-7
- Day 12: Ephesians 5:19-20
- Day 13: Colossians 1:12-14
- Day 14: Colossians 2:6-7
- Day 15: Colossians 4:2
- Day 16: Jonah 2:9
- Day 17: 1 Chron 16:8-9
- Day 18: 1 Chron 16:34
- Day 19: Psalm 118:1-2
- Day 20: Psalm 118:3-4
- Day 21: Psalm 118:5-6
- Day 22: Psalm 118:28-29
- Day 23: Psalm 136:1-2
- Day 24: Psalm 136:23-24
- Day 25: Psalm 136:25-26
- Day 26: Psalm 100:1-3
- Day 27: Psalm 100:4-5
- Day 28: Hebrews 13:15
- Day 29: Revelations 5:11-12
- Day 30: Revelations 5:13-14



What is your favorite Thanksgiving Memory?

What is your favorite Thanksgiving Tradition?

FBKIDS | FBYOUTH



FBKids + Science= Wednesday Night FUN!! Our 3rd graders and up were diving into STEAM + Scriptures this fall. Learning about Science, technology, engineering, Art, and Math right alongside their Bible stories! One lesson taught was about viscosity - they blew bubbles, discovered what makes some bigger than others, and connected it to the story of Joseph and his brothers. Turns out, BOASTING about the biggest bubble has a lot in common with Joseph's story!

Hello all, it has been such a blessed month for FBYouth! During the first half of the month, we wrapped up a video series titled, "The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry", a series where we learned in a practical way how to eliminate the distractions in our lives that are drawing us away from God. During the second half of the month, we have been more "spirit led" to say the least! We also have some exciting news, we have added two new leaders to our group. These two students hold a dear place in my heart, as they were former youth students that I've led for over 5 years at our previous church. The Lord has provided so much this month and I can't wait to see where He takes us in this next month! As always, may the Lord bless you and keep you, and may His face shine upon you in everything you do! -Jesse Kracht

Would you like to contribute to Santa's Workshop for the children at Grant School?



We're collecting new or gently used items for our annual Santa's Workshop! This special event gives students the joy of "shopping" for gifts for their parents, grandparents, and siblings in celebration of Christmas. Donations can be placed in the collection box located next to the school food donation area. Thank you for helping make the holiday season brighter for our students and their families!

24-25th, with Eileen Cash leading the planning for the event and Nola and Sasha White helping lead it. We have several women planning to attend.

Personnel reminded the group that October is Pastor Appreciation month, and the plan is to especially focus on Nola's contributions this year, with a celebration dinner scheduled for October 26th after the second service.

Alan reported that painting on the Family Center, the windows above the elevator, the trim and the parsonage and the east room on the top floor is now complete. There has also been repair done to the hinge on the north exterior door of the Family Center. We have a combination lock placed on the gate where the main HVAC units are located after the vandalism. The unit that serves the offices has been replaced, and will be ducted to include the front entryway and the areas around the nursery a little later this fall. The big unit's motor broke and will be replaced by BLT, the parts under warranty but labor is not.

Mark shared that after we received 3 shopping carts filled with food from Baker's Grocery for our school project, and in the coming month Hy-Vee has made available coupons whereby individuals can donate \$5.00 at checkout to go to the school fund, which will also include some matching dollars from Hy-Vee with which we can purchase food to take at a discounted

But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop. Luke 8:15 NIV



November Christian History Puzzle:

What was it that prompted the start of our own denomination, the American Baptist Churches, U.S.A.?

October Christian History Answer:

Whose influence led Augustine to Christ? - Augustine's mother, Monica (a North African Berber), was born into a Christian family and was a woman of strong faith whose influence impacted Augustine at an early age, even though she was wed to his father who was not a believer. As a young man Augustine rebelled in many ways, but it was when he heard Ambrose (Bishop at Milan, Italy) preach that he was moved to give his life to Christ and be baptized by him.

November Bible Puzzle:

Who are the Old Testament Jewish kings whose anointing to be king is specifically described?

October Bible Puzzle Answer:

Jewish feasts mentioned in the Bible that are not included in the books of Moses are found in Esther 9, in the institution of Purim, and John 10:22-24 describes Jesus attending the Festival of Dedication, commonly referred to as Hanukkah.

November 2025

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



Coffee & Cookies

2 - ABM
9 - Hannah
16 - Esther
23 - Naomi
30 - ABM

FBYouth Snack

2 - Linda & Shirley
9 - Diana Borer
16 - Terry & Linda Woodman
30 - Amity Bruce

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 7a - ABM Bible Study 8a - ABM Breakfast 9a - Property Team 11:15a - Speed Chess 6p - Fun & Fellowship
2 COMMUNION 9:30a - Traditional Service 11a - Casual Service 6p - FBYouth Snack 6:30p - FBYouth Groups 7-12  Day Light Savings Ends. Set Clock Back 1 hour @ 2am	3 9a - Men's Coffee 6p - Woodcarvers	4 7p - AA Meeting	5 9:30a - Women's Coffee 6:15p - Meal 6:45p - FBKids K-6th 7p - Bible Study	6 11a - Pastor-Led Bible Study to include Zoom	7 9a - Men's Coffee 10a - Nye Sq. Bible Study 12p - Bible Study	8 8:45a - Personnel Team 9:30a - Vision Team
9 9:30a - Traditional Service 11a - Casual Service 11a - Bible Study 6p - Brown Bag Fellowship followed by MOVIE NIGHT 6p - FBYouth Snack 6:30p - FBYouth Groups 7-12	10 9a - Men's Coffee 11a - Eshter Circle	11 Veteran's Day 11:30a - Hannah Circle @ BK East 7p - AA Meeting	12 9:30a - Women's Coffee 6:15p - Meal 6:45p - FBKids K-6th 7p - Bible Study	13 5:30p - Kay Circle Mat Weaving	14 9a - Men's Coffee 12p - Bible Study	15 No ABW Bible Study
16 9:30a - Traditional Service 11a - Casual Service 11a - Bible Study 6p - FBYouth Snack 6:30p - FBYouth Groups 7-12	17 9a - Men's Coffee 6p - Woodcarvers	18 7p - AA Meeting	19 9:30a - Women's Coffee 6:15p - Meal 6:45p - FBKids K-6th 7p - Bible Study	20 11a - Pastor-Led Bible Study to include Zoom 12:30p - Naomi Circle	21 9a - Men's Coffee 12p - Bible Study	22
23 10a - Combined Service 11:30a - Harvest Dinner No FBYouth	24 9a - Men's Coffee	25 7p - AA Meeting	26 9:30a - Women's Coffee No Wed. Night Activities	27 Office Closed 	28 Office Closed 9a - Men's Coffee 12p - Bible Study 6p - Decorate for Christmas	29
30 1st Sunday of Advent 9:30a - Traditional Service 11a - Casual Service 11a - Bible Study 6p - FBYouth Snack 6:30p - FBYouth Groups 7-12						

"Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains." – James 5:7