



the trap of applying meanings that are irrelevant: I have set my dishes and silverware on a paper with numbers on it expecting people to eat there!

Maps: These are available in the back of most Bibles, and they can help you visualize the setting. For example, when the woman at the well in John 4 tells Jesus that her people worship on “THIS” mountain, a map would show you that the place they were at was well within eyesight of Mt. Gerizim, hence she could simply point at it. A map can also help you see which areas were desert areas and which were more agriculturally prosperous, or help you realize how small Israel is (the modern state is 85 miles wide E-W and 290 miles N-S... about the size of New Jersey, (or about 1/5 the width of Nebraska).

Audio Aids: Finally, let me just mention that listening to various Bible teachers and even to the Bible itself is just one more way to glean insights from the Bible. As with any Bible teacher, always check what they say against the entire scripture (not just pet passages) and compare it to how others interpret as well so as to not get led astray. Recordings of the Bible are available in the church library, as well as online.

The more you study, the more amazed you will be at the treasures to be discovered there.



Don't let your ice cream melt while you are counting someone else's sprinkles.



Pastor's Notes

When you think of what the most important thing is for we Christians to focus upon as God's expectation of us while here on earth, what do you think of? What are the key scriptures that rank in the top tier of God's priorities for his church to adopt? Probably over the centuries, these would almost always be among the top selections (and rightly so):

The Great Commandment

Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets." --Matthew 22:36-40

The Golden Rule

So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets. --Matthew 7:12

The New Commandment

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. --John 13:34

The Great Commission

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." --Matthew 28:19-20

And personally, I think there would be another one, which I think is best epitomized by Micah 6:8-- He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

As Jesus points out with the Great Commandment, all the others listed are contained within that command. If you love God fully, you will want to live life in a way that is pleasing him, want to be conformed to his image, love those he loves in the same way he loves, and want others to know him the way you do. And yet, somehow, church folks (individuals, churches and even denominations) have often gotten tangled up about it over the years. In some cases, Christians focus so much on their own relationship with God that they are oblivious to the needs of others. Other times, Christians focus so much on getting someone saved, that they don't invest in the physical needs of those suffering, or don't bother to help teach them and lead them into mature discipleship. Still other times there has been focus on the earthly needs such as Micah's justice and kindness...or James's



concern to feed and clothe the poor...that they forget to also share the message of the way to eternal life. Still others become so involved in teaching disciples in their own church, and ignore the call to “all nations.” God didn’t offer these as options to select from, but as various aspects of the one call to “Love the Lord your God...”

I write this article on the verge of the upcoming American Baptist Churches bi-annual gathering in Omaha the weekend of July 4-6. Apart from that event, on July 4, from 7-9 a.m., there is a continental breakfast being hosted at First Baptist of Omaha to gather people together to consider the future of evangelism and discipleship in today's context and how to more effectively accomplish those tasks. The newly forming group calls themselves, “Make. Disciples. Period.” And use the tagline, “Making the main thing the main thing.”

(I am hoping to attend and would welcome others who would like to go with me...but we must RSVP by July 1.)

I have seen our denomination regularly need a fresh impetus such as this one, to help us with our efforts in sharing the Gospel, because like everyone else, we can get so busy doing church things or lulled into complacency that we neglect to share the Good News with those who do not know Christ yet. At the same time, I wonder whether in that context, there is consideration that the main thing is not merely helping someone come to Christ (as crucial as that is), but helping some one come to Christ is one part of how we obey the great commandment of loving God...which is the ultimate main thing. First John is very clear that we don't really love God if our love for God doesn't impact the way we engage with others and the way we share the light of the gospel. And yet, what I find is that it remains too easy for us to do one part of loving God and neglect the others. We may come to worship God, but not teach anyone to obey his commands. We may teach and attend Bible classes, but not care that people are being treated unjustly. We may love others, but because we don't associate with non-believers, we may rarely share our faith with them.

I thought it worth raising these things to share what I believe about the work of our church as a whole, and my hopes for each of you as individuals within it. We try to engage a number of ways to help people in our community....food and clothing at schools, encouragements for those who have suffered domestic violence, hot dogs at affordable prices for families at Fremont Days or free for hurried families around Halloween, meals and other special contacts for school staff to encourage them and more, all as ways to demonstrate in tangible form God's love...but ALSO...a way for us to have opportunity to engage personally with people outside our church who may not know Christ. Sometimes we actually may get to share the gospel message (maybe not often enough), but other times we are building relationship first that gains us the opportunity to be heard, instead of uncaring strangers merely handing out papers as some cults are prone to do. We are demonstrating that the real Gospel message is more than that. And, in addition, we provide for our young folks (and adults) to be able to attend camps and conferences at MMCCC where they can learn about Christ, we provide Bible study opportunities to help people dig deeper, and we have connections with missionaries around the globe as our way to send the gospel “to all nations.”

It is important both as a church and as individual Christians to maintain a good balance in all the things that reflect God's heart, as highlighted in the passages above. I just offered some ways that, as a church, we are seeking to do that. Let me close by asking how you, as an individual, are addressing the various aspects of God's priorities? Have you let yourself get out of balance in some way?



Last month we began discussing tools to assist with your study of the Bible. I would like to offer a few more materials you can access.

Study Guide/Curriculum: There are a lot of different Bible study guides available for almost any topic or any passage these days. You can access them online, or buy hard copies. Some are designed for ,a Sunday School approach or a particular denomination...the options are endless. These can be very helpful, but also very misleading if you are not careful. A Bible study guide is always put together by a person (or group of people), and that person has their own experience, perceptions and theological understanding of the Bible. A Roman Catholic will interpret the passage in Mark 6:3 that mentions Jesus's brothers and sisters far differently than we non-Catholics, because we understand it to refer to siblings born after Jesus, while they believe in the perpetual virginity of Mary, so they believe she never Dichad other children (or you might run across someone who considers them step-siblings from a previous marriage of Joseph’s). When you pick up a study guide, it is a good thing to check into who put it together and what perspective is reflected. Some people think a guide can’t hurt if it just has you looking at scriptures, but scripture can be mishandled, and the verses the writer ties together as relevant (or ignores) may reflect a theology without their even realizing it. On the upside, these writers often will bring in some research and references that might not be easily available to you otherwise, and those insights can be very enriching. So, how can you discern if a study guide is good or not? It can be tricky, but a good way to start is by looking at who published the material, because different Christian publishers present different kinds of materials and decline others. (You can look them up online, or ask a pastor or well studied Bible teacher about the various publishers. Sometimes, though, the publisher will use names that you have to really look into to find out who is behind it.) Another way to evaluate material is whether the study guide tells you how to interpret a passage, or presents several alternative interpretations that are possibilities, or simply asks the questions for you to consider yourself. When only one view is presented (at least in areas such as the second coming), then you will need to supplement it with other readings.

Word Study Dictionaries with Greek or Hebrew Meanings: These materials, such as Vine’s Expository Dictionary, seek to help you know the richness of the word behind the translation, or to help you understand why different translations use different wordings in a passage. Sometimes a word may be translated more than one way for a passage and a choice is made. Colossians 3:1 is an example, where many translations begin “IF you have been raised with Christ...” and others have “SINCE you have been raised with Christ...” They seem very different in English, but the Greek word ei is used with both meanings in various places, and so the translators have to decide which one is meant in that context. It happens that this particular verse could go either way. That is not always the case though, even in English. Just as we have multiple meanings for the same word, so do those languages, and often it is very clear which meaning is meant. An English example might be the word table, which in one case will mean something you serve meals on, and in another would mean a chart with numbers in it...and we would never confuse the two because the context makes it clear. Greek and Hebrew do the same thing, and so word studies that give you insight into the languages can be helpful (although don’t get caught in



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Joel Foreman	402-719-4316	4
Shay Scott		4
Linda Schuette	402-679-6936	9
Matthew Schulz	402-721-4901	9
Amy Schollmeyer	402-628-2288	13
Lacey Pilkenton		18
Charlotte McKenzie	402-721-6733	14
Matt Hammond Sr		19
Dalton Benson	402-721-7717	23

SAVE THE DATE!

American Baptist Churches USA
BIENNIAL MISSION SUMMIT
July 3-6, 2025 | Omaha, NE
COME SEEK LIVING WATER

COME SEEK:

- ◆ New Life in Christ through dynamic worship services and learning opportunities.
- ◆ New Connections With other American Baptists. Build your network!
- ◆ What God has to share with you!

Come Seek Living Water

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. – 2 Corinthians 9:7 ESV



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

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord

Worship
In the
PARK

JULY 13, 2025

Psalm 150:6 ESV

JOIN US FOR A TIME OF
WORSHIP & PRAISE!

JOHN C. FREMONT PARK
101 EAST 9TH ST.

HOSTED BY:
FIRST BAPTIST. FREMONT
505 N. C ST. | 402-721-1265
WWW.FREMONTFBC.ORG

MARK
YOUR CALENDAR!

Book of the Month

Song of Solomon

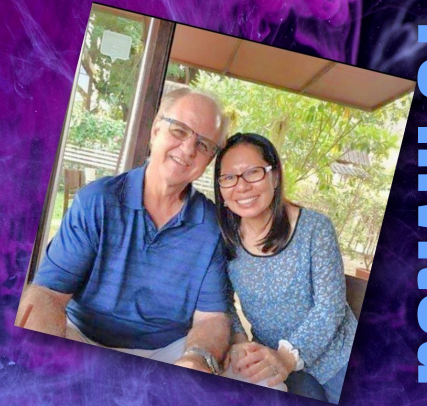
American Baptist
Women's
MINISTRIES



ABWM Quarterly Meeting
WITH Special Guests!

THURSDAY
JULY 10 | 1:30 PM

international
ministries



MIKE AND BECKY MANN

You're Invited

Meetings

Hannah - July 8 - 11:30a

Esther - July 14 - 11a

Naomi - July 24 - 12:30p

Women's
BIBLE STUDY

JULY 19TH | 9:30A

VISION TEAM MEETING:

Attendance: Vicki Anderson, Marcia Hill, Betty Laughlin, Joel Foreman, Randy Cash, Eileen Cash, Pastor Crooks.

Devotion/Opening Prayer: Pastor Crooks

Local Outreach: No new report

Missions: No new report

Children/Youth Ministries: Marcia reported they had a surprise graduation party for the two foreign exchange students, Sarra and Nuray. Girls' devotional books were purchased as a gift. Bibles were made available to Sarra and Nuray in the event they wanted to take one home. Both girls took one. Jesse is continuing to work through the summer with the youth group. Meeting once a month, conducting bible studies and is thinking about doing a couple of mission events.

Treasurer: Randy stated the RVR Bank account is at \$12,263.99. The Building Account has \$2,853.10. It was brought up on how to handle incoming expenses. Airline tickets were purchased for Nola, Gabby Burt and Ali Jones for the upcoming Urbana National Conference from December 28th - 31st along with paid conference registration fees for Pastor Crooks and Nola. Pastor Crooks stated to pay and will figure it out later. May get reimbursement from Ryan with the International Ministries.

Events: Marica reported for Mary that gift cards and meals are being given out to several families.

Discipleship: No new report

Worship Ministry: No new report

Caring Ministry: No new report

ABM: Joel reported nothing new except they are ready for John C Fremont Days.

ABW: Eileen reported they moved their meeting to July 10th, 2025. Missionaries will be present to speak. Hannah Circle is in charge of serving. Eileen commented about opening it up to the congregation. Ready for John C Fremont Days.

Property Team: Pastor Crooks reported for Alan Holzerland that bids have been received to paint the other side of the Family Center. Painting to start in July. It was discussed if we wanted to change up the color and/or paint a mural.

Personnel team: Pastor Crooks reported they are continuing to pay Mary for cleaning the Family Center as Brian has been helping out to keep up.

Pastor Crooks: Sasha is working on getting a grant for \$15,000 - \$20,000 that help churches with getting/updating technology. OGHS is currently going on. Thanksgiving dinner is set for Sunday, November 23rd, 2025. Will be looking into possibly having someone from Rainbow Acre come again to speak. Due to JCF Days being held the second weekend in July, the next vision meeting is being moved to Wednesday July 9th, at 7:00 pm while the bible study class will be moved up to 6:00 pm. VBS was reported as going well. Five kids were able to go. 1-3 kids went to JAM camp, 3 going to Junior Camp, 3 going to Mid High and several going to Sr High camp. A \$50,000 check was received from the Waugh endowment that could be used to send people to camp and conferences. \$1,500 is in camp scholarship. It was discussed about creating an event in the Fall to invite people to church. Pastor Richard announced they are looking for volunteers to help out at in registration, ushering, etc. during the Bicentennial conference. It is being looked into



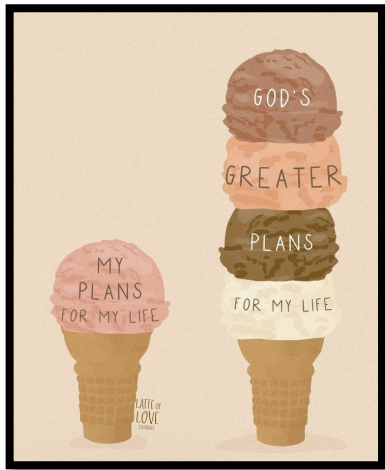
God speaks to us through His Word, so take some time each day this month to write down the following Scripture. If you have time, you might want to also write a prayer that the Scripture leads you to pray, or your reflections as you write.

<input type="checkbox"/> July 1	Isaiah 61:1	<input type="checkbox"/> July 17	2 Peter 3:7
<input type="checkbox"/> July 2	Psalms 119:45	<input type="checkbox"/> July 18	3 John 1:11
<input type="checkbox"/> July 3	Ephesians 3:12	<input type="checkbox"/> July 19	Psalms 1:6
<input type="checkbox"/> July 4	2 Corinthians 3:17	<input type="checkbox"/> July 20	Philippians 4:6-7
<input type="checkbox"/> July 5	Galatians 5:13	<input type="checkbox"/> July 21	Hebrews 13:5-6
<input type="checkbox"/> July 6	Romans 12:9	<input type="checkbox"/> July 22	Psalms 27:1
<input type="checkbox"/> July 7	Acts 18:9-10	<input type="checkbox"/> July 23	Daniel 6:26-27
<input type="checkbox"/> July 8	Isaiah 6:8	<input type="checkbox"/> July 24	Isaiah 25:7-8
<input type="checkbox"/> July 9	Acts 4:19-20	<input type="checkbox"/> July 25	Romans 8:38-39
<input type="checkbox"/> July 10	Amos 5:24	<input type="checkbox"/> July 26	Revelation 5:12
<input type="checkbox"/> July 11	Hebrews 12:2	<input type="checkbox"/> July 27	Psalms 30:2
<input type="checkbox"/> July 12	Mark 12:30	<input type="checkbox"/> July 28	Jeremiah 17:14
<input type="checkbox"/> July 13	Matthew 7:13-14	<input type="checkbox"/> July 29	James 5:14
<input type="checkbox"/> July 14	Deuteronomy 30:19	<input type="checkbox"/> July 30	Isaiah 53:4-5
<input type="checkbox"/> July 15	James 1:12	<input type="checkbox"/> July 31	Matthew 9:22
<input type="checkbox"/> July 16	John 8:34		

It what ways are you a Good Neighbor?



FBKids | FBYouth



The Lord has been so good to us this past month, over the course of the last few weeks we have been studying the book of John and who Jesus truly is (I am ...). As I am typing this, we are at our final day of camp at Camp Mosses Merrill. Over the course of the last week, we have had 2 kids give their lives to the Lord and 3 kids re-dedicate their lives to God! Truly the Lord has been pouring down his blessings on the youth at FBC. As we were praying for last month, the Lord answers! Truly a revival is taking place in our youth and in our city! God is Good. —Jesse Kracht.

SAVE THE DATE!!!!

**ENJOY YOUR SUMMER!
WE WILL SEE YOU BACK ON:**

WEDNESDAY | AUGUST 27, 2025

6:15P – DINNER

6:45P-8:00P – GROUPS



"This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it." – Psalm 118:24

maybe doing a video session at the church for people to come.

Closing: Marcia Hill

As there was no other form of business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Shelly Bowen, clerk



July's Bible Puzzle:

Remember Sarah and her maid, Hagar, the mothers of Abraham's sons Isaac and Ishmael? Do you remember what they symbolize?

June Bible Puzzle Answer

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

The puzzle was to list significant biblical mountains. Here are at least some of them (in no particular order---see if you can remember what happened on them): Mt Gilboa, Mt Ararat, Mt Sinai/Horeb, Mt Carmel, Mt of Transfiguration, Mt of Olives, Mt of Temptation, Mt(s) where Jesus prayed, Mt. Tabor, Mt of the Sermon on the Mount, Mt Nebo, Mt Peor, Mt Hermon, Mt Gerizim, Mt Ebal, Mt of Megiddo (Har=Mt in Armageddon), Mt Moriah (often also identified with the Temple Mount, referred to as Mount Zion or the Mountain of the Lord) and most important of all: Mt Calvary (referred to as the place of the Skull...it was not actually referred to as a mountain!)

July Christian History Puzzle

Who were the Anabaptists, and what, if anything, do they have to do with modern day Baptists? The Anabaptists is a term used to describe a number of different groups during the decades following Luther's Reformation. Two of their key characteristics were that they didn't believe the Reformation went far enough in throwing off the Catholic traditions, and they were also people who believed that baptism was for believers and so those who joined and had been baptized as infants were baptized a second time...which is what the title Anabaptists refers means. Groups descended from these folks would include the modern Mennonites, Amish and Moravians. The connection to us is that when our those we consider the founders of our modern Baptists were starting their work in England, they went to the Mennonites to learn how to do baptism. (Interestingly enough, the Mennonites showed them baptism by pouring, and then later these founders learned the word baptize means "submerge," so they got baptized again via immersion....which is where our tradition begins.)

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

July 2025

Cookies & Coffee

6-Esther

13 - Naomi

20 - ABM

27 - Hannah

**Volunteers are
always
welcome and
appreciated for
Fremont Days!**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7p - AA Meeting	2 9:30a - Women's Coffee 7p - Bible Study	3 11a - Pastor Led Bible Study to include Zoom	4 OFFICE CLOSED 9a - Men's Coffee 10a - Nye Square Bible Study 	5 6p - Fun and Fellowship
6 Communion Sunday 9:30am - Traditional Service 11a - Casual Service  Mission Summit		7 9a - Men's Coffee	8 11:30a - Hannah Circle @ BK East 7p - AA Meeting	9 9:30a - Women's Coffee 6p - Bible Study 7p - Vision Team	10 1:30p - ABWM w/Mike & Becky Mann 5:30p - Kay Circle 	
13 9:15a - Traditional Service 10a - Worship in the Park	14 9a - Men's Coffee 11a - Esther Circle 7p - Wood Carvers	15 8a-5p - Life Line Screening in Family Center 7p - AA Meeting	16 9:30a - Women's Coffee 7p - Bible Study	17 11a - Pastor Led Bible Study to include Zoom	18 9a - Men's Coffee	19 9:30a - ABW Bible Study
20 9:30a - Traditional Service 11a - Casual Service 11a - Bible Study 	21 9a - Men's Coffee	22 7p - AA Meeting	23 9:30a - Women's Coffee 7p - Bible Study	24 12:30p - Naomi Circle 5:30p - Kay Circle	25 9a - Men's Coffee 10a - Nye Square Bible Study	26
27 9:30a - Traditional Service 11a - Casual Service 11a - Bible Study	28 9a - Men's Coffee 7p - Wood Carvers	29 7p - AA Meeting	30 9:30a - Women's Coffee 7p - Bible Study	31 11a - Pastor Led Bible Study to include Zoom		