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OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY 9AM - 4:PM | FRIDAY: 9AM - 1PM

SCAN THE QR CODE TO
GO TO OUR WEBSITE



WORSHIP SERVICE
CHIMES | PICTURES
GIVING | OUTREACH

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

"LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL OF YOUR
HEART, MIND, AND STRENGTH," DEUT. 6:5

"DO NOT FEAR, FOR I AM WITH YOU; DO NOT
BE DISMAYED, FOR I AM YOUR GOD," ISA.
41:10

"LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF" MATT.
22:39

"YOU ARE NOT YOUR OWN; YOU WERE BOUGHT
WITH A PRICE, THEREFORE GLORIFY GOD WITH
YOUR BODIES" 1 COR. 6:20

"SET YOUR MINDS ON THINGS ABOVE, NOT ON
EARTHLY THINGS," COL. 3:2

"TAKE DELIGHT IN THE LORD, AND HE WILL GIVE
YOU THE DESIRES OF YOUR HEART," PSA. 37:4

"SEEK FIRST HIS KINGDOM AND HIS
RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND ALL THESE THINGS WILL
BE GIVEN TO YOU AS WELL," MATT. 6:33



TRADITIONAL SERVICE
9:30A - MAIN SANCTUARY

ONLINE SERVICE
9:30A
YOUTUBE - FBC FREMONT NE

CASUAL SERVICE
11A - FAMILY CENTER



JANUARY 2025



Lead Pastor Richard Crooks | Music Director Sasha White | Fremont, NE

PASTOR'S NOTES

Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. —Philippians 3:12-15



In my personal annual report note, I made mention of the fact that in 2024, I was struck by how often I would learn something fresh and new as I was working with Bible passages that I have been familiar with for many years, and how amazing it is that they just keep opening up wider and wider and deeper and deeper as the years go by. The other day I was doing some reading and research in which I ran across a quote or two that struck me, and I thought about my plans for the coming New Year. What occurred to me was that there are a number of great Christian books and writers that I have had on my "to read someday" list, but have not yet read. Two in particular are a couple that are considered very important Christian works by Augustine: Confessions and The City of God. In consideration of Paul's comments to the Philippians that he presses on and the importance for even the most mature Christians to think that way, I have decided to make this year the year I read those two works as my personal challenge to "press on to what lies ahead." I also am going to make it a point to read a few more sermons from my collection of Luther, Fosdick, Spurgeon and more.

I am so deeply impressed by the fact that the Apostle Paul, perhaps the greatest missionary of all time, and certainly and incredible Christian whom God used to write a major portion of our New Testament, still had the sense that he was not yet perfect, that he had more growing to do, more learning to pursue, more understanding and experience of Christ to know. If that was true of Paul, certainly it is also true of you and me, wouldn't you agree? I want to encourage you to make a special New Year's spiritual challenge as well. Some possibilities might be to pull out some of the great classics in our church library (or elsewhere) and maybe even read one a month. Authors such as Thomas a Kempis, Francis Schaefer, C.S. Lewis, G.K. Chesterton, E.M. Bounds, John Bunyan, or even more contemporaries such as Max Lucado, Chuck Swindoll, or Tony Campolo could be some names you include in your challenge.

Maybe your challenge needs to be directly in the Bible itself. Perhaps you would find a challenge in reading the Bible cover to cover for the first time, or selecting one of the more unfamiliar books and doing an in-depth study of it. Perhaps memorizing some favorite Psalms would be good for you, or setting a certain length of time each day to Bible reading.

You could focus on growing your prayer life by setting aside additional time at home or in the church’s prayer room, or by developing a more organized prayer list. Maybe you would want to commit to come to the church early and go into the parlor or prayer room to pray for the morning’s service, or to pray for the service you don’t attend while that service is going on.

Maybe your challenge is in the realm of giving—such as tithing 1/10 of your income if you aren’t already doing so, or increasing your giving by a certain percentage, or adopting one of our missionaries or the camp for regular monthly support.

Perhaps your challenge in pressing on needs to be in the area of sharing your faith. I knew of a man who committed to God that he would never go to bed at night without sharing the Gospel with at least one person that day. Maybe you wouldn’t go that far, but how about once a week? Or once a month? Or with those individuals you have long been concerned about but have yet to speak to about Jesus?

You may have other areas you need to commit to, such as helping with a certain ministry, or changing the habits of the words you speak, or dealing with some temptation in your life. Whatever it is, I want to strongly encourage you to take time this January to set a specific (and realistic) goal of growth for your personal 2025 Faith Challenge, because, as Paul says, none of us are perfect yet, right?

Not there yet,



December Bible Puzzle Answer:

Who do we know was bald in the Bible? Elisha because of a story in 2 Kings 22, where in verse 23, some young boys taunt him calling him “baldhead.” (They come to regret it!)

January Bible Puzzle:

Throughout the Bible, and particularly in the Old Testament, we find a lot of names that contain the syllable “el” or the syllable “ja(h)”—sometimes without the “h”. Why are those so common?



As this issue of Chimes is being assembled, pastor is on his after-Christmas vacation, and so will not be writing an article for that column. However, there are a couple of questions he wanted us to ask in relation to it.

1) Have you found that article to be something interesting or useful that you would like to have continued in our Chimes? Can you describe what you find interesting in it?

2) Are there some specific questions or areas of interest you would like to see addressed in the column in 2025?

If you have any answers to those questions, either jot them down in a text, email or note, or share it with Amity in the office or with Pastor when you see him. After all, Chimes is for YOU, and the goal is to help YOU in your Christian walk and your service to God through our church.



Glory to God in the Highest

WHAT “RESOLUTIONS” IN REGARDS TO YOUR FAITH AND SPIRITUALITY, ARE YOU WILLING TO COMMIT TO IN 2025?

If you know of someone in our church family whose name should be on this birthday and/or anniversary list and it is not, please call the office at 402-721-1265 to let us know.

BIRTHDAY	PHONE	DAY	ANNIVERSARY	PHONE
Mary Ann Ritthaler	402-721-1623	4		
Marilyn Hillrichs	402-721-0949	14		
Deb Peterson	402-727-4034	21	Jim and Dottie Strenger	402-721-9648
Joyce Jokumsen	402-719-4857	27		
John Dennert	660-240-8699	29		

We want to thank you for remembering us through all your cards, prayers, presents, and love gift. We are so thankful to be part of such a loving church. Blessings to all this upcoming year. Pastor Richard and Nola

Thank you for the love gift! We appreciate your kind gestures all year long. -Dale and Sherri Tharp

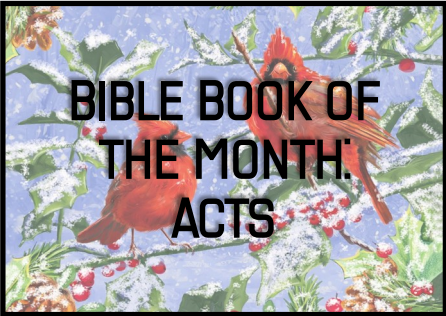
I LOVE BEING SURROUNDED BY PEOPLE WHO HAVE THE HEART TO MAKE THIS PLACE A LITTLE BIT BETTER. WHETHER WE ARE COLLECTING ITEMS FOR SCHOOLS, FOOD BANKS, MISSIONARIES, OR JUST HELPING OUT WHERE WE CAN IN OUR COMMUNITY YOU CAN FEEL THAT GOD IS TRULY AMONGST US. THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS GIFT AND BEING PART OF MY CHURCH FAMILY. GOD BLESS YOU ALL! MUCH LOVE, AMITY

Thank you from the bottom, the top, and the middle of my heart! -Mary Weldon

J.D. and Rhonda Reed are currently in their hometown of Parkersburg, W.V., where Rhonda is working remotely and J.D. is under doctor's care. They have 3 young adult children. Grace, married to Sam, currently live in England. Abie and her husband Josh have a 1 year old named Reed and live nearby in West Virginia. Nathan is in college at West Virginia University, in Morgantown, a couple of hours away. As the ALS is progressing, J.D. and Rhonda are trying to spend as much time as possible to make meaningful times with their family.



MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE REED FAMILY



Happy New Year 2025

MEETINGS
ESTHER CIRCLE – JANUARY 13 – 11A
HANNAH CIRCLE – NO MEETING
NAOMI CIRCLE – NO MEETING



JOIN US FOR OUR MONTHLY Bible Study
January 18TH @ 9:30am



VISION TEAM:

Due to ice storm, the Vision Team was unable to meet for their regular meeting, and so held a special called meeting at 8:50 AM on 12/15/2024 in the parlor. Members present: Mike Raasch, Joel Foreman, Randy Cash, Eileen Cash, Marcia Hill, Mary Weldon, and Pastor Richard.

Planned Agenda:

- Approve 2025 Budget
- Approve 2025 List of Officials
- Recommend moving forward with Youth Leader candidate Jesse Kracht

BUDGET

The budget team presented the proposed 2025 budget for approval, Joel explained several of the changes and opened the floor for discussion. Call for a motion to approve recommendation of the 2025 Budget. Motion by Mary Weldon, 2nd by Marcia Hill. Passed by unanimous voice vote

List of OFFICIAL

Marcia presented the proposed list of officers for 2025, indicating that there are several positions for which we are seeking a few additional people, although all required positions are filled, save a replacement for the third person on Endowment as Wayne Muff has moved away. We are awaiting decision from several individuals for those various roles, which can come as a supplemental list in January.

Call for a motion to approve recommendation of the proposed List of Officials for 2025. Motion by Marcia Hill, 2nd by Mary Weldon. Passed by unanimous voice vote.

YOUTH LEADER

Call for a motion to move forward in filling the youth leader vacancy.

Motion by Eileen Cash, 2nd by Joel Foreman.

Passed by unanimous voice vote.

ENDOWMENT

In discussing the 2025 budget, there was awareness that we had not yet drawn from the Endowment for 2024 the money to cover the various Kid’s Club and Youth programming outlined in the 2024 budget. Randy moved we approve withdrawal of



Renew. Refresh. Revive.
SCRIPTURE WRITING PLAN JANUARY

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Rom. 12.1-2 | 17. Proverbs 3.6-8 |
| 2. Psalm 51.7-8 | 18. Hosea 6.1-3 |
| 3. Psalm 51.9-10 | 19. Proverbs 13.12 |
| 4. Isaiah 40.30-31 | 20. Proverbs 15.30-31 |
| 5. 2 Cor. 4.16-18 | 21. Psalm 92.12-14 |
| 6. Lam. 3.21-23 | 22. Isaiah 52.7-9 |
| 7. Titus 3.4-7 | 23. Isaiah 54.11-14 |
| 8. Psalm 23.1-3 | 24. Isaiah 43.1-2 |
| 9. Heb. 12.11-13 | 25. Job 33.26-30 |
| 10. Psalm 40.1-3 | 26. Gal. 6.14-16 |
| 11. Psalm 119.25-27 | 27. 2 Cor. 5.17 |
| 12. Psalm 119.36-38 | 28. Col. 3.9-11 |
| 13. Psalm 119.39-40 | 29. Romans 6.3-4 |
| 14. Psalm 119.87-88 | 30. Eph. 4.20-24 |
| 15. Psalm 119.105-107 | 31. Gal. 2.20 |
| 16. Psalm 119.147-149 | |



THANK YOU!

ON BEHALF OF OUR ENTIRE SCHOOL COMMUNITY FOR YOUR INCREDIBLE GENEROSITY! THE NUMEROUS DONATIONS AND HEARTFELT LETTERS TO OUR STAFF HAVE TRULY MADE A DIFFERENCE! YOUR KINDNESS AND SUPPORT REMINDS US ALL OF THE POWER OF COMMUNITY, AND WE APPRECIATE ALL YOU’VE DONE TO MAKE THIS SEASON EXTRA SPECIAL! THANK YOU! -THE GRANT SCHOOL STAFF.

Linden is SO grateful for all the ways you support our school and students! It really makes a difference when students hear of others’ generosity. May Blessings find you back! Love, Linden Elementary



FBKIDS | FBYOUTH

What a wonderful night for our Wednesday Night Youth Christmas Party!!! Great Fellowship, fun and holiday cheer was filling Fellowship Hall to the brim! We love being able to make memories with our community and what better way to do that then sharing the love of Christ. Thank you to all that joined in to make the night a special one. Here are some pictures from the event.



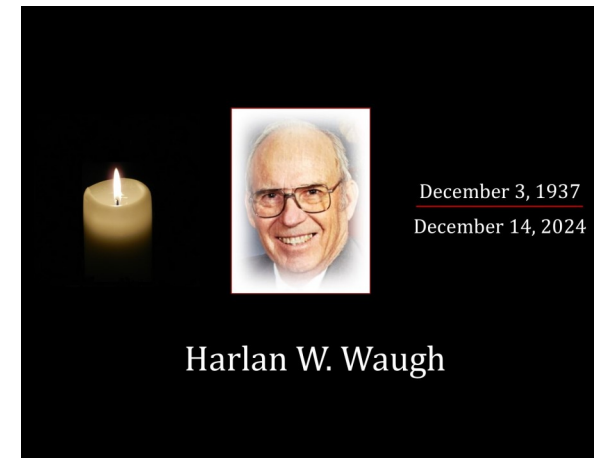
\$3,000.00 from Endowment for that purpose, indicating that would be sufficient for what was spent. 2nd by Eileen Cash.

Passed by unanimous voice vote.

Mike Raasch, acting clerk

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

-2 Corinthians 5:17



"Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted." -Matthew 5:4



Regardless of where you are on your path of faith there are plenty of ways YOU can serve God right here at First Fremont. From *actively* going out of your way to serve Him, to simply having love in your heart. Serving God can be done in almost every aspect of your life. We want to encourage you to be involved and be more than a spectator there's a spot for you!


January 2025

Things Change, its always a good idea to check times and dates of events.

Attention

Please turn in your handwritten **Annual Report** by **January 3rd** and Digital Copies by **January 10th**. Thank you in advance!! Amity :)



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 OFFICE CLOSED Happy New Year! 9:30a - Women's Coffee	2 9:30a - Pastor Led Bible Study	3 Handwritten Annual Report Deadline 9a - Men's Coffee 12p - Bible Study in Parlor	4 7a - ABM Bible Study 8a - ABM Breakfast 9a - Property Team 6p - Fun and Fellowship
5 Communion 9:30a - Traditional Service 11a - Casual Service	6 9a - Men's Coffee 11a - Esther Circle	7 No Hannah Circle 7p - AA Meeting	8 9:30a - Women's Coffee 6:15p - Meal 6:45p - FBKids FBYouth 7p - Bible Study	9 5:30p - Kay Circle Mat Weaving	10 ANNUAL REPORT DEADLINE 9a - Men's Coffee 12p - Bible Study in Parlor	11 8:45a - Personnel Team 9:30a - Vision Team
12 9:30a - Traditional Service 11a - Casual Service 11a - Bible Study 6p - Brown Bag 6:30p - Movie Starts 	13 9a - Men's Coffee 11a - Esther Circle 7p - Woodcarvers	14 7p - AA Meeting	15 9:30a - Women's Coffee 6:15p - Meal 6:45p - FBKids FBYouth 7p - Bible Study	16 9:30a - Pastor Led Bible Study	17 9a - Men's Coffee 12p - Bible Study in Parlor	18 9:30a - ABW Bible Study
19 9:30a - Traditional Service ANNUAL MEETING 11a - Casual Service 11a - Bible Study in Parlor	20 OFFICE CLOSED 9a - Men's Coffee 	21 7p - AA Meeting	22 9:30a - Women's Coffee 6:15p - Meal 6:45p - FBKids FBYouth 7p - Bible Study	23 No Naomi Circle 5:30p - Kay Circle Mat Weaving	24 9a - Men's Coffee 12p - Bible Study in Parlor	25
26 9:30a - Traditional Service 11a - Casual Service 11a - Bible Study in Parlor	27 9a - Men's Coffee 7p - Woodcarvers	28 7p - AA Meeting	29 9:30a - Women's Coffee 6:15p - Meal 6:45p - FBKids FBYouth 7p - Bible Study	30	31 9a - Men's Coffee 12p - Bible Study in Parlor	

Cookies & Coffee

5 - ABM
12 - Hannah
19 - Esther
26 - Naomi