



OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. FRIDAY: 9 a.m. - 1:00

paraphrase that chooses to use this idea will focus on the idea of the difficulty and/or humility required for such an entry. Other interpreters focus on the understanding that Jesus is using hyperbole to help people understand that wealth (which many Jewish folks of his day considered the sign of God's favor) was not an assurance of entry to heaven, which then led to a shocked response by the disciples. Still others would suggest more than a hint of impossibility in Jesus's words. By leaving the original ambiguity, it is up to you to study the options to see which, if not all, would speak to you, but a paraphrase makes the decision for you. There are times (such as the discussion about sin in relation to the man born blind in John 9), when I would even disagree with how some of the paraphrases decide to interpret Jesus's words, but if you were only reading that paraphrase to decide what Jesus meant, you would have no way of knowing that the interpretation given is even questionable; you would simply think it was what Jesus said.

Well, I've gotten wordy again. The upshot of using a paraphrase is this: read them for fun; read them to see how different people understand things, especially things that you find difficult or confusing; but always read them with "a grain of salt" and do not use them as your primary text for Bible study without also comparing what you find with more reliable versions and translations.



AUGUST 2024 - PASTOR'S NOTES



"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." --Hebrews 13:2 (esv)

Have you ever had a moment when, not realizing that someone was observing you, you had unwittingly set an example of what a Christian is? There is an old story of a London pastor who regularly rode a bus. One time when he paid, the bus driver gave him too much change. As he was getting off the bus, he returned the extra change to the driver, telling him he had mistakenly given him too much. The driver replied that it wasn't a mistake, that he knew the pastor and heard him preach before, and that he had intentionally given him the extra to see if he was really genuine about what he preached. Needless to say, the pastor was glad he had returned the extra! What a terrible witness it would have been had he not done so. How many times are people watching us as examples of the Christian faith, and we are unaware.

Recently, Bev Holmen shared that she had a conversation with one of the staff at the facility where she lives, who told Bev she was going to buy a Bible, which led to a discussion of the types available. When Bev asked why the woman was so interested in getting a Bible just now, the woman replied that she had observed Bev reading her Bible every day and so thought it would probably be a good thing for her to be doing as well! Bev was surprised, as she had no idea the woman had even observed her reading.

I recently was presented with a little challenge to pass on to you. Let me first ask, though, that if you visited a worship service and whenever the people sang, the only person singing was the song leader, and when the pastor preached, the only people there listening were the musicians and the song leader, would that appear to be a church you'd like to join? Probably not, right? (Although, if you did and were the only member, the likelihood of a church split would be pretty negligible, right?) Has it ever occurred to you that this is what OUR church is like for visitors? Let me explain, because it probably isn't what you think.

After the initial contact from the search committee that brought me here, one of the very first things Nola and I did was to go online to the church's website. To learn about more about the church, we read several issues of Chimes and several annual reports, and also watched several Sunday services (back when the church used a very simple camera in both services and a praise team led second service songs. Do you realize we aren't the only ones doing that? Did you know that studies for the last couple decades show that whenever someone new attends a church's worship service for the first time, most of them will have already visited the church an average of 5 times online in advance.

Personally, I really like how our website is developing (Amity has been working hard keeping it up to date), and the church's Facebook page always has lots of interesting posts (I know this because Nola and Amity show them to me now and then!). But when you watch one of our worship services online, it appears there is nobody present. Not just a few....Nobody! Because everyone sits so far back, they aren't visible to the camera that shows the front half of the sanctuary nor can you hear anybody but Sasha singing.



Let me ask you a simple question: is that what you want people to think our church is like? Or look at it another way, if they visit online five times, what conclusions would they draw? Bev's simple presence reading her Bible had unexpected impact. Because of the comments I have received, I would like to suggest that you, too, are having an impact on Sunday mornings. That means you have an opportunity you may never realized existed, not just in person, but also online for those attending the first service. Do you realize that if you moved near the front on Sunday mornings where your participation in worship could be seen and heard, you may well influence an online visitor in their relationship with our church and the Lord. Because they ARE watching. Alternatively, thinking in terms of the London pastor, you can choose NOT to return the change by staying invisible and leave a false impression of our church.

I have always said that I had no plans to ask people who sit toward the back to move forward, because I understood that for some it was easier to hear in the back, or the temperature works better for them there, and also because I have heard of the special memories people have about the space their families once occupied. And I get that. But now I have discovered that by not making the request for people to move forward, I am actually doing a disservice to the church by helping create a false impression to those who visit online, an impression of a church where nobody attends, or if they do attend, they don't participate in worship. But that is NOT who we really are, team has been working hard to get the sound system to be more effective throughout the sanctuary, and are still working to make the best regulation of the temperature throughout the room. That being the case, I think that it is perhaps time for us as a church to rethink our Sunday morning participation in terms of seating and to take into consideration the image we are creating out there in the community and world. I encourage you to begin thinking and praying about this, and invite you to make a few simple changes in your habits on Sunday that can make big changes in the witness you have beyond our walls. I don't intend to pile guilt on anyone; you may have very good reasons for being where you are on Sunday morning. But I want you to consider that you might benefit the church in a big way by making a few simple changes, particularly by choosing to sit in the front six or seven pews and by singing from the heart with all the energy you can muster in appreciation for all God has done. Our example matters, whether we realize it or not. What example do you want to provide?

Maybe I will SEE YOU Sundays, and maybe somebody online will, too! is it?



“In my father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you.” -- John 14:2 niv



You're Invited to a special event! Beverly and Larry Clausen are celebrating turning 90 years old *and* 70 years of marriage. Join them in the Family Center September 1st from 2-4pm.
If you are unable to attend cards can be mailed to 1423 Iowa St. | Fremont | NE | 68025



Welcome to the continuation of our discussion about types of Bibles. Last month we ran out of space before we got to Paraphrase Bibles, and so we will begin with that concept now. The simplest way to think of these kind of Bibles is that they are Bibles in which the individual (usually) who produces the text has taken the Bible (hopefully consulting the original languages in the process),

then used their understanding of it to put the ideas into their own words. They do not seek to be bound to the exact wording style of the original, but instead focus on what they perceive as the meaning of the text, and so try to use wording that would give the sense of the meaning to their readers. Examples of these kinds of Bibles would include one by J.B. Phillips, the Living Bible and the New Living Bible, the Message Bible, probably the Good New Bible (Today's English Version) and, a fun one called, The Cotton Patch Gospels done by Clarence Jordan (who was also affiliated with we American Baptists).

One advantage is that the language tends to be very simple with commonly used wordings. Because paraphrasers do not attempt to keep close alignment with the original texts, they often exercise extensive freedom to provide the reader easier understanding of the scriptures, sometimes with very picturesque language that can give vivid images and memorable phrases, even fresh understandings. It can be a fun experience to read familiar passages in these Bibles. For example, in reference to Jordan's Cotton Patch Gospels, the goal was to translate the Bible in a way that would be easily understood in the modern southern USA. There are lots of southern "turns of phrase" similar to those you find in John Grisham's novels. One rendering that I think is very striking is that the Book of Romans is called "The Letter to the Church in Washington, D.C." Clearly Paul never wrote to Washington (though it would sure be a good thing if more folks in Washington read his letters more!), but by using that title, Jordan has emphasized what everyone in Paul's day would have always recognized: the church addressed was at the heart of the national government, located in the capitol city. Do you immediately think that of the title "Romans"? In this paraphrase you would, because Jordan is capturing the meaning and impact of the title that Paul's readers knew, and then putting it into modern language.

A key disadvantage of a paraphrase is the reader is at the mercy of one individual's (or a small group's) understanding of the various stories, which can be troublesome. In some cases, the original wording can have different nuances of meaning that would require different English words. As a simple example, a single preposition in Greek (and in Hebrew as well) is translated with the words: "in" or "with" or "by means of" (and more). You may find this variation in your Bible's footnotes, where it may point out that there is another possible meaning to the verse. This type of variation also exists in terms of various double meanings or possible interpretations of passages, and since the paraphraser chooses which variation to present, the reader (you) is not given the opportunity to know that you were offered only one of several possible meanings, as you might be if the translation sought to preserve the original ambiguity. An example is when Jesus said it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter heaven. Some paraphrases choose to use the fact that Jerusalem had a small gateway into the walled city that was (supposedly—I have never personally verified it) known as "the eye of a needle" which required a camel to have to get down and literally crawl to make it through the gate. A



Birthday's & Anniversary's

	2	Jerry & Roxanne Woodman
Doug Ritthaler	4	
	6	Leonard & Esther Bechtel
	10	Clarence & Trudy Reiss
Jim Peterson	11	
	11	Randy & Sue Rector
Alan Holzerland	13	
Bryan Ritthaler	13	
Jessica Peterson	15	
Avalyn Ward	16	
Nancy Stoltenberg	18	David & Cynthia Christensen
	20	Hank & Amy Schollmeyer
	21	Dale & Sherri Tharp
	25	Alan & Shelly Holzerland
Rick Crytzer	28	
John Mitchell	28	
Sherri Tharp	29	
	31	Wayne & Mary Lamberty

FBC FREMONT 505 N. G ST. FREMONT NEBRASKA

Children and Families Welcome!

Free for Everyone

FBC FREMONT KIDS AND YOUTH

TAILGATE PARTY

Walking Taco Dinner

- Children's games and activities
- Parent/Child Relay races 7:30 p.m.
- High School Groups - Scavenger Hunt and skill games

AUGUST 28, 2024 WEDNESDAY

6:30-7:00 P.M. DINNER

7:00-8:00 PM GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

FALL FESTIVAL AND PROGRAMMING KICKOFF


REGISTRATION AVAILABLE

Senior Residential | Homebound

NYE SQUARE APTS
650 W 21st St. Fremont 402-721-9224
Dalton Benson 402-721-7717 #126
Joan Sorensen 402-830-6519 #178

SHALIMAR GARDENS
749 E. 29th St. Fremont. 402-721-1616
Harlan Waugh (402-753-8046) #4

NYE SQUARE
655 W 23rd St. Fremont 402-721-9224
Esther and Leonard Bechtel #601



-Saved by Grace-

FBC Family. Thank you to everyone who expressed their love and kindness concerning mom's passing. Your prayers, cards and kind words have helped considerably. Mom loved her church family. Thank you to all those who helped with the luncheon. Everything was so very good. Pastor Richard, you did a wonderful job conveying who mom was and where she is now. Love in Christ Jim and Deb Peterson.



WHEN
LIFE
GIVES
YOU
LEMONS
SPIT OUT
THE SEEDS

ABWM

LADIES DAY OUT!!!!

August
Bible Book of
the Month:
2 Chronicles

MEETINGS

ESTHER
AUGUST 12 - 11 A.M.

HANNAH
AUGUST 13 - 11:30 A.M.

NAOMI
AUGUST 22 - 12:30 P.M.

American Baptist

Women's

MINISTRIES



the Bridge

VIOLENCE ENDS. EMPOWERMENT BEGINS.

FBC Fremont

Saturday Women's Bible Study



Dorcas

August 24, 2024

9:30 a.m. - Third Floor, Green Room

"I am the VINE you
are the BRANCHES"

-John 15:5



VISION TEAM MINUTES - NONE PROVIDED



The family of Red and Esther Bechtel are having a card shower in honor of their 74th Anniversary on August 6th. Cards may be sent to Red and Esther Bechtel co/ Mike Bechtel, 251 So. Co. Rd. 28, Fremont, Ne.

"Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins" 1 Peter 4:8



Inviting everyone across Nebraska to weave mats for the unhoused!

WEAVING FOR GOOD

Saturday August 10, 2024
8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

A 10 hour Weaving Marathon sponsored by ABWM of FBC Fremont
8th & C Streets - Fremont, Nebraska

Silent Auction to benefit Weaver Hall Remodeling Project at Moses Merrill Camp and Conference Center

Snacks and Lunch provided
(free will offering)

Come for the day, or come for an hour - leave with the skills to develop your own weaving ministry

9:30 a.m. - Workshop Presentation
"Missions to the Unhoused and Friends of Isaiah"
Rev. Steve Neal - FBC Turner, Kansas
Founder of Friends of Isaiah



FBKIDS | FBYOUTH

Wednesday NIGHT YOUTH ACTIVITIES are FAST approaching. If you are interested in volunteering please contact AMITY in the office about your **BACKGROUND CHECK**. We would like to have all these **COMPLETED BEFORE AUGUST 23RD**. Per church policy all volunteers need to complete a new background check each year) ALSO there is a **MANDATORY CHILD SAFETY** CLASS SCHEDULED FOR **SUNDAY, AUGUST 25 @ 5PM**.



JOHN C FREMONT DAYS IS A SPECIAL TIME OF YEAR. WE LOVE BEING OUT IN THE COMMUNITY, GIVING BOOKS AND BIBLES, SHARING GOD'S LOVE, AND SELLING HOTDOGS! THANK YOU TO EVERYONE FOR YOUR DONATIONS, PRAYERS, AND SUPPORT. WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU.

Keep me safe, my God, for in you I take refuge. Psalm 16:1



Remembering Ron McKenzie...you'll remember he loved his flowers and had a lovely display of lilies at his home. What you may not know is he also handled passing along leftover funeral flowers for us. Since his passing we continue to take those flowers to shut-ins and various volunteers, usually by the church office. If you would like to be part of this ministry and help arrange and share flowers in this way, please let us know.



**PASTOR LED
BIBLE STUDY**

To include Zoom
**August 8th & 22th
@ 9:30am**

Join us here at the church or in the comfort of your own home, either way we have a spot for you!

August Bible Puzzle

How about playing a game with some numbers for this month's puzzle? You may recall that Jesus spent 40 days and nights in the wilderness being tempted by Satan (Matthew 4). What are some other significant events that relate to the number 40?

People Puzzle

This church member recalls that one time as a child when tent camping with the family in Wyoming, a sibling swam out to an island in the lake and came back with a cot that had been abandoned there so that mom could use it instead of sleeping on the ground.

(Answers provided next month)

Bible Puzzle July

Revelation 21 lists the 12 stones for the foundation of the heavenly Jerusalem. The other place where 12 stones are listed is in Exodus 28:15-20 where they are placed on the ephod (cloth breastplate) the high priest wore. The stones listed in Revelation are: jasper, sapphire, agate, emerald, onyx, carnelian, chrysolite, beryl, topaz, chrysoprase, jacinth and amethyst. The stones on the ephod were sardius, topaz, carbuncle, emerald, sapphire, diamond, jacinth, agate and amethyst. (Different translations may have different names.)

People Puzzle July

The individual who used to enjoy gambling a bit in Los Banos, California was Vicki Douglas.



To all the wonderful kitchen people of the church. :) Thank you for the great cookies and awesome luncheon provided for Mert's memorial, it was so so so appreciated. Blessings, Ardis Giles, Joan Sorensen, Virgil Olson

Thank You Church Family for all the texts, prayers and support and yeah the cookies. Wednesday was a morning of celebration. We celebrated her going home and being Present in the Presence of the King. Thank you again, Larry and Marcia Hill



Thank you for the wonderful meal that you all prepared for mom's luncheon. You all did so much work to make her day special. She loved her church family. Please thank all those who helped. Jim, Deb, Scott, Nancy and Families.

Thank you for supporting camp! It's a special place for me. I love coming to camp every summer. My favorite activity is capture the flag. I found Jesus here, I feel closer to God here.
- Anonymous Camper from Camp Moses Merrill



August

Finding Peace Through Pain

Day 1: Psalm 42:5

Day 2: Jeremiah 31:3

Day 3: Psalm 34:8

Day 4: Isaiah 54:10

Day 5: Zephaniah 3:17

Day 6: Romans 8:37

Day 7: Psalm 42:11

Day 8: John 16:33

Day 9: Psalm 147:3

Day 10: 2 Thessalonians 3:5

Day 11: Job 22:29

Day 12: Psalm 40:1-3

Day 13: Psalm 3:3

Day 14: Matthew 11:28-29

Day 15: Psalm 23:4

Day 16: 1 Peter 5:7

Day 17: Psalm 30:11

Day 18: 2 Timothy 1:7

Day 19: Proverbs 12:25

Day 20: Deuteronomy 33:27a

Day 21: 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Day 22: Isaiah 41:10

Day 23: Romans 8:38-39

Day 24: Psalm 9:9

Day 25: Proverbs 15:13

Day 26: Isaiah 42:3

Day 27: Ecclesiastes 9:7

Day 28: 2 Corinthians 4:7-10

Day 29: James 5:13

Day 30: 1 Peter 4:14

Day 31: Deuteronomy 31:8



www.TheScribesPortion.com

Things Change....It's always a good idea to verify times and place.

AUGUST 2024

COOKIES

4 - ESTHER
11 - NAOMI
18 - ABM
25 - HANNAH



THE PEOPLE PUZZLE PERSON OF THE MONTH IS A FUN WAY FOR OUR FOLKS TO KNOW MORE ABOUT YOU. IF YOU HAVE NEVER BEEN IN IT AND WOULD BE WILLING TO PARTICIPATE, PLEASE LET PASTOR RICHARD OR AMITY KNOW. WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR NEW "PUZZLE" PEOPLE!

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2 9am - Men's Coffee	3 7am - ABM Bible Study 8am - ABM Breakfast 9am - Property Team 9:30am - Personnel Team 9:45am - Vision Team 6pm - Fun & Fellowship
4 COMMUNION 9:30 - Traditional Service 11am - Casual Service	5 9am - Men's Coffee	6 7pm - AA Meeting	7 9:30am - Women's Coffee 7pm - Bible Study	8 9:30am - Pastor Led Bible Study to include Zoom 5:30pm - Kay Circle Mat Weaving	9 9am - Men's Coffee	10 8am - "Weaving for Good" Mat Weaving Marathon
11 9:30 - Traditional Service 11am - Casual Service 6pm - Brown Bag Fellowship 6:30pm - Movie Starts	12 9am - Men's Coffee 11am - Esther Circle 7pm - Woodcarvers	13 11:30am - Hannah Circle 7pm - AA Meeting	14 9:30am - Women's Coffee 7pm - Bible Study	15	16 9am - Men's Coffee	17
18 9:30 - Traditional Service 11am - Casual Service	19 9am - Men's Coffee	20 7pm - AA Meeting	21 9:30am - Women's Coffee 7pm - Bible Study	22 9:30am - Pastor Led Bible Study to include Zoom 12:30pm - Naomi Circle 5:30pm - Kay Circle	23 9am - Men's Coffee DEADLINE for completion of Background Checks for Youth Volunteers	24 9:30am - ABW Bible Study on "Dorcas"
25 9:30 - Traditional Service 11am - Casual Service 5pm - Child Safety Class	26 9am - Men's Coffee 7pm - Woodcarvers	27 7pm - AA Meeting	28 9:30am - Women's Coffee 6:30pm - Wed. Night Kick Off - Tailgate Party 7pm - Bible Study	29	30 9am - Men's Coffee	31