



Build, Love, Grow Serve

505 N C Street, Fremont, NE 68025

www.fremontfbc.org

Phone 402-721-1265 Fax 402-721-7812

Email: office@fremontfbc.org



**Office Hours:** Monday 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. (Closed for lunch) Friday: 9 am– 1  
402-721-1265



December 2021



Lead Pastor Richard Crooks | Youth/Children's Ministry Intern Luke Chavanne | Fremont, NE

### Pastor's Notes

One of the beloved scripture passages of Christmas is Matthew 1:23b

*"...they shall call his name Immanuel" [which means, God with us]."* [ESV]



In many ways, that concept, more than any other, summarizes what transpired when Jesus was born and walked the earth. God was literally and physically here on earth with us in a way unique to all history. Not only that, but among the last words Jesus uttered before ascending to heaven after the resurrection is a similar promise:

*"And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."* Matthew 28:20b [ESV]

What does it mean to you that Christ is with you? That is a concept I want to use as our focus for this Advent season leading up to Christmas. In fact, I want to focus on it in a distinct way. Nobody says "behold" anymore. If we were trying to express what that says, we would more likely begin our sentence with something like, "Look here," or "See," or "Pay attention." Well, that is what I am inviting us to do in with the notion that God is with us as we enter the Christmas season.

If God is with us, I want to suggest this Advent that we journey toward Christmas and really focus on the Immanuel concept, that we seek to identify his presence in our daily world, to look and see what he is doing, saying, and seek to hone our ability to recognize the move of his Spirit around us. This year, Nola and I want to give you our Christmas present early as part of this special focus. We purchased little crosses carved from olive wood near Bethlehem in Israel. I want you to carry that cross wherever you go. Keep it in your pocket or in your purse, and whenever you stop to sit somewhere, pull it out and set it out visibly beside you, on the kitchen counter, the end table, the dinner table, the nightstand. Let it remind you in each of the places you go, in every activity you undertake, and in every experience, you have, God is with you, and then take the time to look around and try to identify how God is present in that environment.

Then whenever you have one of those moments that you are especially aware of God's presence, jot a note of reminder [I have little notebooks for those who would want to use one]. Record these God

sightings in your life. Christmas Eve, I am going to invite you to bring those notes with you, for they will be core to our Christmas Eve service. Watch and see, what God is doing in your life this Advent. Let me close by providing a few other scriptures that speak of God's presence:

*"That they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us,, for In him we live and move and have our being' Acts 17:27-28 [ESV]*

*"Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?"*



## December BIBLE READING PLAN

Discovering the true meaning of Christmas through Scripture.

- |                     |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Jeremiah 33:14   | 17. Luke 2:8-9         |
| 2. Micah 5:2        | 18. Luke 2:10-12       |
| 3. Isaiah 11:1-2    | 19. Luke 2:13-14       |
| 4. Malachi 3:1      | 20. Luke 2:15-16       |
| 5. Mark 1:1-3       | 21. Luke 2:17-20       |
| 6. John 1:1-5       | 22. Matthew 2:1-2      |
| 7. Isaiah 7:14      | 23. Matthew 2:3-8      |
| 8. Luke 1:26-28     | 24. Matthew 2:9-12     |
| 9. Luke 1:29-33     | 25. Isaiah 9:6         |
| 10. Luke 1:34-38    | 26. Galatians 4:4-5    |
| 11. Luke 1:46-55    | 27. James 1:17         |
| 12. Matthew 1:18-19 | 28. 2 Corinthians 9:15 |
| 13. Matthew 1:20-21 | 29. Luke 2:30-32       |
| 14. Matthew 1:22-25 | 30. Romans 15:4        |
| 15. Luke 2:1-3      | 31. 1 Peter 1:13       |
| 16. Luke 2:4-7      |                        |



### December Bible Puzzle:

The Bible tells us that Baruch was sort of a secretary for Jeremiah (Jer. 36:4). Paul also used secretaries, and we know the name of one of them. What is his name, and where do we know his name from? Extra credit: what is the scholarly term describing these individuals who wrote for Paul? (scribes may also be a reference to these folks.)

### December Peoples Puzzle:

This church member was child number 9 in a family of 10 children, and during this COVID pandemic had the opportunity to visit Hawaii, even though it was often closed down. A couple favorite activities are doing crafts that involve painting, and searching through junk and antique stores/sales.

(Answers provided next month)

7



### November Answers Bible Puzzle



In the stories of the crucifixion, there is a single mention of an individual besides Simon and John who followed Jesus toward his trial, but when challenged that individual ran away naked. Where is the reference and who was the individual? Mark 14:50-52, and the individual is unnamed, but because Mark was known to be younger at the time, and because he was known to have associated with Peter, and since this is the only Gospel that records the event. Even though Matthew and Luke clearly had copies of Mark's Gospel when they wrote theirs, it is believed that he is referring to himself, anonymously, in a story only he knew.

### Peoples Puzzle

Paul Foreman was the individual who joined 30 other young adults in the adventure of climbing Pike's Peak together!



## MINI MISSION CONFERENCE



**"...you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8**



After our mission conference, some people were inquiring about the process we have to support our missionaries financially. We thought it would be helpful to provide guidance in that area. Giving to the World Mission Offering helps the overall work of our International Ministries, and offerings to America for Christ helps the overall work of missionaries and camps within the United States. However, the International Missionaries have to raise committed financial support to back their own ministry, with IM providing the other supports required for the work to succeed. So to help any of the missionaries we have come, it is good to provide support for them individually.

This is done multiple ways:

1. There have been times in recent years that our leadership divided the World Mission Offering receipts between the general fund and the individual missionaries that have come to our church or are our special interest missionaries.
2. At any time you are free to give in the regular offering envelope a gift you want to specify for a specific missionary and it will go through the church accounts and to that missionary's support.
3. You can give directly to International Ministries either as a one-time gift or a recurring monthly gift that is charged to your credit card or debited from your bank account.

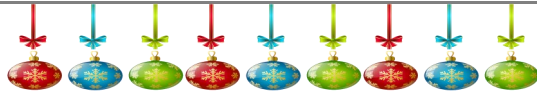
To set either of those up, call International Ministries at 610-768-2323 or go to their website at <https://portal.internationalministries.org/give>

international ministries 

*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6*



| Birthdays               | Phone        | Date | Anniversary                                                                                                                                                             | Phone        |
|-------------------------|--------------|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Kathy Mackey            | 402-727-4367 | 1    |                                                                                                                                                                         |              |
| Tom Peterson            | 402-719-5408 | 2    |  <b>Charlotte McKenzie</b><br><b>2827 Hidden Brooke Dr</b><br><b>Fremont NE, 68025</b> |              |
| Ashley Johnson (Rector) |              | 2    |                                                                                                                                                                         |              |
| Harlan Waugh            | 402-753-8046 | 3    |                                                                                                                                                                         |              |
| Paul Denny              | 402-721-0276 | 4    |                                                                                                                                                                         |              |
| Larry Hill              | 402-727-5171 | 4    |                                                                                                                                                                         |              |
| Emily Schollmeyer       | 402-677-2933 | 9    |                                                                                                                                                                         |              |
|                         |              | 10   | Mike & Lynda Raasch                                                                                                                                                     | 402-727-6854 |
| Shirley Angermund       | 402-727-1937 | 12   |                                                                                                                                                                         |              |
| Nick Raasch             |              | 12   |                                                                                                                                                                         |              |
| Jerry Adams             | 402-720-4269 | 13   |                                                                                                                                                                         |              |
| Charlie Wild            | 402-721-2158 | 15   |                                                                                                                                                                         |              |
|                         |              | 20   | Bryan & Kelly Regier                                                                                                                                                    | 308-458-7907 |
| Vicki Anderson          | 402-727-0740 | 22   |                                                                                                                                                                         |              |
| Marcia Hill             | 402-727-5171 | 23   |                                                                                                                                                                         |              |
| Kelly Adams             | 402-720-4269 | 24   |                                                                                                                                                                         |              |
| Ethan Peterson          |              | 25   |                                                                                                                                                                         |              |
|                         |              | 29   | Don & Dorothy Charleston                                                                                                                                                | 402-657-0171 |



### Senior Residential/ Homebound

#### NYE SQUARE APTS

650 W 21st St. Fremont 402-721-9224

Dalton Benson 402-721-7717 # 126  
Wes Howe 402-721-4163 # 133  
Charlie Wild 402-721-2158 #130  
Joan Sorensen 402-830-6519 #178

#### NYE COURT

652 W 21st St. Fremont 402-721-9224

Genny Peterson # 213

#### SHALIMAR GARDENS

749 E. 29th St. Fremont, 402-721-1616

Harlan Waugh (402-753-8046) #207

#### Edgewood Vista

2910 N Clarkson St. Fremont 402-753-8800

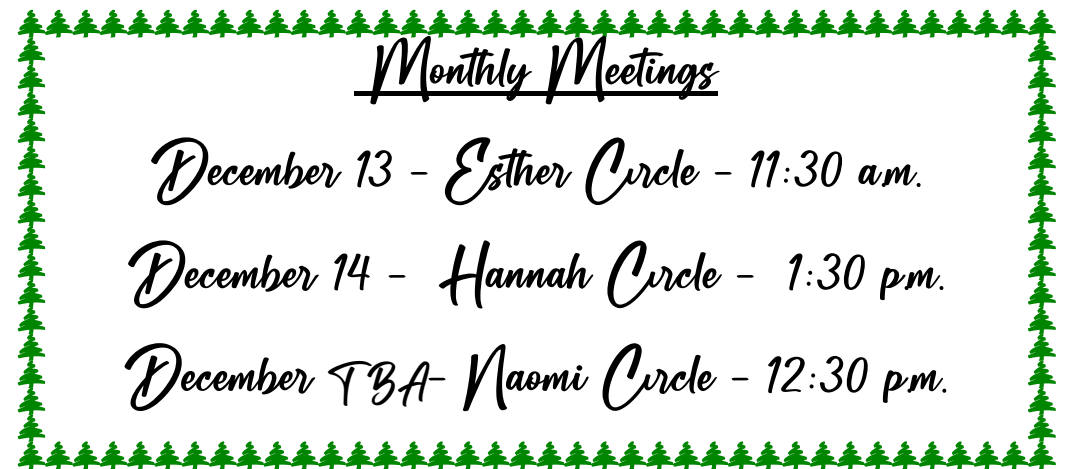
Mary Ann Paulger #7

On November 13th and 14th we were blessed to hold a mini mission conference in conjunction with the annual harvest dinner. Larry & Becky Stanton (Hungary), Steve Neal (Kansas City), Eric & Yuree Lembke (Thailand), and Luke Chavanne (FBC Fremont) shared their updates on the mission programs. We had the opportunity to meet with our missionaries using various methods. Our youth had the opportunity to meet with the Lembkes on Saturday evening. They were all very informative and gave us some personal insight to the struggles and achievements they all encounter. Please pray for the continued success of our missionary work.

Our Thanks to all that participated.  
Mary Lamberty - Missionary Program



**December 2, 2021**  
**ABWM @ 1:30**  
**Hostess: Hannah Circle**

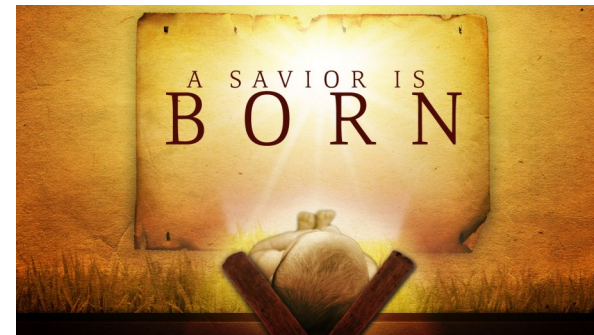


### Monthly Meetings

December 13 - Esther Circle - 11:30 am.

December 14 - Hannah Circle - 1:30 pm.

December TBA - Naomi Circle - 12:30 pm.





**Vision Team Meeting:** November 13, 2021

Members present: Mike Raasch, Marcia Hill, Pastor Richard, Randy Cash, Mary Weldon, June Cardwell, Joel Foreman, Mary Lamberty, Eileen Cash, Don and Dorothy Charleston.



Mike called the meeting to order with prayer.

Pastor read a devotion regarding thermostats which encouraged us to be like one with a vision looking forward to 2022 and what will be...

June reported the youth and children's activities began on October 13. The Fun Night with BBQ and animals was October 27. On November 3, the youth had sixteen and Kids Club had twelve. The van picked up those who needed rides. Food is being brought in for the youth to eat. A Family Christmas Festival is being planned for December 8. Following a soup and sandwich dinner, there will be stations with games and activities for the whole families. This will be the last youth/children's activity for this year.

Mary Lamberty reported a Mini Mission weekend with Eric and Yuree Lembke and Larry and Becky Stanton, Global Missionaries. Homeless Ministry with Steve Neal of Kansas City and Luke Chavanne with our local mission.

A Harvest Dinner is planned for this Sunday morning.

Randy reported a negative balance of \$1,739.44 in the checking account for October. There were three payrolls this month. After discussion, June made a motion to withdraw \$15,000 from the General Endowment to meet general operating expenses for the remainder of the year. It was seconded by Eileen. Motion approved by vote.

Don reported the mulch price of \$6150 has been approved for purchase. Some of the funds have been donated and it was approved to take the remaining balance out of the Youth Endowment.

Projects in the works are roof leaks on the parsonage and the church, sanctuary lighting, removal of the old piano behind the sanctuary and the switch from Spectrum to Allo to a faster service at the same cost. The final security camera has yet to be installed. Contracts for next year with "Pave the Way" to complete the paving on the north side of the building and with General Restoration to replace the basement windows have been signed. Art Sorenson has contacted Don about using his mother's (Evelyn Sorenson Houston) memorial Fund to repair the organ.



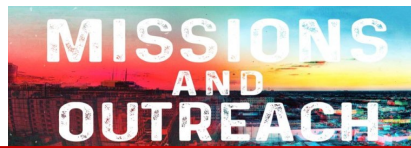
We were so blessed and thankful to be able to gather and have our annual Harvest Dinner. Thank you to all that who helped, prayed and donated to make this happen. Here are a few photos of the event.



# Kids Club & FBYouth "NewsUpdate"

I am very pleased to report that we have made incredible progress with our youth program! For the first time since I have been attending Fremont First Baptist Church, we were able to successfully have youth group students attend the Sunday morning service! This was an excellent step for them as they continue to grow in their faith and are continuing to prioritize God and be available for Him! We were also able to successfully hold a youth night for the students on Saturday where they were able to meet the missionaries Eric & Yuree Lembke from Burma and ask questions and have a peek into what the rest of the world looks like. I am also pleased to announce that Allie and Lexi Jones are being baptized this week at Alliance First Baptist Church on Sunday! God is moving and revealing Himself to these youth students and I pray that they continue to grow and that we continue to see the fruits of the seed that was and is being planted!

Thank you for all your love and faithful support in this!  
 Luke



**BUDGET TEAM NOTE:** This past couple of years, some of our generous givers have gone to be with the Lord, and we have been told that it amounts to some 20% of our annual budget. We know each of us must do our part and encourage you to continue to make your giving an ongoing matter of stewardship and prayer. We received a pleasant surprise as we started our task. We learned that some of those who are now with Jesus, before they left, arranged a financial gift to the church to assist with funding our budget, which will easily cover that lost 20% next year. We anticipate also being able to fund a few of our specific ministries and outreach ideas. If you have an idea, you would like us to consider for next year's budget, please contact us with it as soon as possible. We are thankful for your generosity and vision, as well as the generosity and vision of those who have gone before us. Joel Foreman, Mike Raasch, Alan Holzerland, Pastor Richard

Eileen reported ABWM is doing well.



Pastor reported the upcoming calendar items: December's Vision meeting, on the 11th, will be a presentation of the budget and then a vote will be made. Nominations will also be presented then. Mike Raasch and Joel Foreman will be on the budget committee. The Nominating committee members will be Shelly Bowen and Marcia Hill. They will each secure another member from the congregation. The budget will be presented to the congregation on the 19th and voted upon at that time.

Christmas Eve service will be held the 24<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 p.m.

There being no further business.  
 Pastor Richard closed with prayer.  
 Respectfully Submitted, Dorothy Charleston clerk



Thank you!! What a wonderful harvest dinner. A big thank you to Dave and Stacy Manzer and Family, for cooking the delicious dinner, also to Marcia Hill for all her help (she goes above and beyond) also thanks to those who helped with table set up, serving and especially the cleanup. Mary Weldon.



Thank you so much for bringing us the Harvest Dinner. It was delicious and we enjoyed it very much. Also thank you for having the FBC Connect. It is so good to know the need for special prayers.  
 With Christian Love,  
 Larry and Beverly Clausen

## ADVENT FOCUS

This Advent, Pastor Richard is asking everyone to pay special attention to moments when you have an experience that calls your attention to God's presence with you, what he is calling "God Sightings". Make notes about them, and plan to bring them with you to the Christmas Eve Service. Each of us will have an opportunity to use them as we participate in the service (you may keep them private). Keep your eyes and heart open, and a pen and paper handy!



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

# December 2021



**Van Driver**

**Mary Weldon  
402-727-5302**

**Cookies and Coffee**

5 - Hannah Circle  
12 - Esther Circle  
19 - Naomi Circle  
26 - Sign Up Sunday!

| Sun                                                                                                                                                                                        | Mon                                 | Tue                                             | Wed                                                     | Thu            | Fri                                                                                                                                                       | Sat                                                                                                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                     |                                                 | 1<br>6:15 Kids Club / FBY<br>7:00 Bible Study           | 2<br>1:30 ABWM | 3                                                                                                                                                         | 4 7a ABM Bible Study<br>8am- ABM Breakfast<br>9:15a Property Team<br>6:30 Family Christmas Festival |
| 5<br>9:30 Traditional Service<br>11:00 Casual Service<br>6:00- Brown Bag<br>Fellowship Followed by<br>    | 6<br>7pm Woodcarvers                | 7<br>7 pm AA Meeting                            | 8<br>6:30 Family Christmas Festival<br>7:00 Bible Study | 9              | 10<br><br>10am Nye Square Bible Study                                                                                                                     | 11<br>9:00 Personnel Team<br>9:30 Vision Team                                                       |
| 12                                                                                                                                                                                         | 13<br><br>11: 30 Esther Circle @ VI | 14<br>7 pm AA Meeting<br><br>1:30 Hannah Circle | 15<br>7:00 Bible Study                                  | 16             | 17                                                                                                                                                        | 18                                                                                                  |
| 19<br>9:30 Traditional Service<br>11:00 Casual Service<br>6:00- Brown Bag<br>Fellowship Followed by<br> | 20<br>7pm Woodcarvers               | 21<br>7 pm AA Meeting                           | 22<br>7:00 Bible Study                                  | 23             | 24<br>10am Nye Square Bible Study<br>6pm - Christmas Eve Service<br> | 25<br>         |
| 26                                                                                                                                                                                         | 27 <i>Office Closed</i>             | 28<br>7 pm AA Meeting                           | 29<br>7:00 Bible Study                                  | 30             | 31<br>                                                               |                                                                                                     |