

First Baptist Church

Of Fremont

Build, Love, Grow Serve

505 N C Street, Fremont, NE 68025

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Phone 402-721-1265

Email: office@fremontfbc.org



Find us on



Instagram



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

Father, I thank you that behind history, and especially behind the part of history where I live, your hand is always working for my redemption and your glory. Give me faith to ride out the difficult times, knowing that you will use those difficulties to be the incubator of your next great work in me. In the name of Jesus, I pray. Amen



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GIVING | OUTREACH**



JANUARY 2024



Lead Pastor Richard Crooks | Fremont, NE

JANUARY 2024



“Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! --Isaiah 5:20 esv

In his book, *How Should We Then Live? The Rise and Decline of Western Thought and Culture*, Francis Schaeffer wrote the following way back in 1976:

“Edward Gibbon (1737-1794) in his *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* said that the following five attributes marked Rome at its end: first, a mounting love of show and luxury (that is, affluence); second, a widening gap between the very rich and the very poor (this could be among countries in the family of nations as well as in a single nation); third, an obsession with sex; fourth, freakishness in the arts, masquerading as originality, and enthusiasms pretending to be creativity; fifth, an increased desire to live off the state. It all sounds so familiar. We have come a long road since our first chapter, and we are back in Rome.”

That sounds like something he could have written that yesterday, doesn't it? Here we are on the cusp of a new year, and yet so many things seem so confused, so troubling. In fact, Isaiah's verse is more relevant now than ever, wouldn't you say, as we are seeing morals, ethics and justice spinning topsy turvy in so many ways in our culture and around the globe, ways that are very confusing and leave so many people uncertain about what is true, who is right and what to believe if anything. In recent months our streets have seen many protests and confrontations over a number of issues. At the same time we hear that pastors in the U.S. have left ministry in record numbers and churches are closing every week all across the country. (Though we should never forget that many parts of the world are experiencing greater revivals of people coming to Christ that have ever been.) The pope recently commented, referring particularly to American Catholic churches: “Christianity in America is just a money making scheme,” along with some other observations. There is definitely some truth in what he said, even though he himself dwells in the midst of one of the largest treasure chests in the world with wealth reaped around the globe throughout the ages! What is happening? Our church, of course, is not immune from the struggles of our times as we



seek not merely to survive, but to effectively share and represent Christ in these troubled times. Around the globe there are wars and international tensions galore, with news reports so varied that it is hard to know what the reality actually is and who, if anyone, are the people and views deserving of our support.

Do these things bring you hope, despair, or inspiration? Some believers I know see this as a moment of great hope, referencing scriptures such as Jesus' words that "there will be wars and rumors of wars" in the belief that all these things suggest we are in the very last days. Other believers express deep concern and discouragement, feeling that all their efforts and prayers seem to have no impact as culture spirals into evil after evil. And then there are believers who see all these issues as an urgent call to greater effort in "redeeming the time" by sharing the Gospel with people they meet while there is still time to do so before Christ returns. Do you relate to any of those options?

The other day I was reading in my copy of Morning and Evening by Charles Spurgeon, and ran across this paragraph, challenging us to remember the Lord's words from Isaiah 45:7-- "I form light and create darkness; I make well-being and create calamity; I am the Lord, who does all these things."

Spurgeon then writes:

"Gloomy seasons of religious indifference and social sin are not exempted from the divine purpose. When the altars of truth are defiled and the ways of God forsaken, the Lord's servants weep with bitter sorrow, but they may not despair, for the darkest eras are governed by the Lord and shall come to their end at His bidding. What may seem defeat to us may be victory to Him."



Are you looking to 2024 as a year to experience God's victory in your life, to see his victory in the world, and with the hope of his ultimate victory we shall witness when he descends from the heavens? Let us face this coming year with our heads held high, setting our minds on things that are above, while engaging in the great task of being his witnesses here below in a world where the darkness creeps in so incessantly. I have yet to see someone flip a switch that can cause darkness to dispel the light of even a single candle! Light ALWAYS wins!

Shine your light in 2024!



"Let us start anew, and focus on a year full of friendships, love, and family."

Pastor Led Bible Study

JOIN PASTOR RICHARD IN THE PARLOR OR
via ZOOM January 4TH & 18TH @ 2:30

(IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND IN PERSON
CONTACT THE OFFICE AND GET THE ZOOM LINK)



Nola and I want to express our deep appreciation for all the Christmas kindness that have come from the congregation, including the end of the year gift. Serving here with you has been such a blessing to us.
Pastor Richard and Nola Crooks

THANK YOU FBC, FOR ALL YOUR KINDNESS, GENEROSITY, AND FELLOWSHIP THAT YOU SHOW ME, NOT ONLY DURING CHRISTMAS, BUT ALL YEAR LONG. MANY BLESSINGS AND LOVE TO ALL OF YOU
AMITY BRUCE



Thank you so much for your love gift, I'm Heading to Cancun!!
Mary Weldon




WHAT "RESOLUTIONS" IN REGARDS TO YOUR FAITH AND SPIRITUALITY, ARE YOU WILLING TO COMMIT TO IN 2024?

Glory to God in the Highest




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		27		
John Dennert	660-240-8699	29		

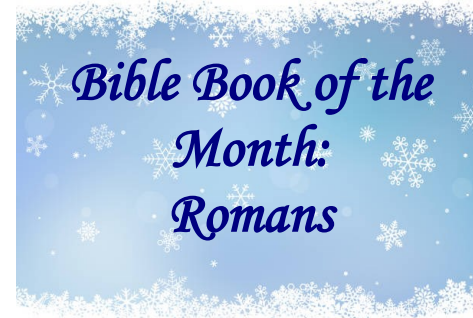
Homebound and Shut-Ins

NYE SQUARE APTS 650 W 21st St. Fremont 402-721-9224		Edgewood Vista 2910 Clarkson St. Fremont 402-753-8800
Dalton Benson 402-721-7717	#126	Mary Ann Paulger #7
Joan Sorensen 402-830-6519	#178	NYE SQUARE 655 W 23rd St. Fremont 402-721-9224
SHALIMAR GARDENS 749 E. 29th St, Fremont, 402-721-1616		Esther and Leonard Bechtel #601
Harlan Waugh (402-753-8046)	#207	Joyce Jokumsen 1731 Oxford Circle, Derby, KS 67307



Welcome our newest member, Royalty Magby! She was baptized on Christmas Eve during our candlelight service. We look forward to watching her grow in her love of Jesus!
God Bless You!!! 

"BUT GROW IN THE GRACE AND KNOWLEDGE OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST. TO HIM BE THE GLORY BOTH NOW AND TO THE DAY OF ETERNITY. AMEN. - 2 PETER 3:18 (ESV)"



Meetings
Esther Circle - January 8 @ 11:00
Hannah Circle - No Meeting
Naomi Circle - No Meeting


No ABWM this Month


The **Prayer room** is open during office hours and by appointment.

Happy New Year 2024

Are you looking to join one of FBC Circles? There is plenty of room for you, call the church office or reach out to a circle directly.



VISION TEAM: December 10, 2023

The meeting was attended by Marcia Hill, Mary Weldon, Mike Raasch, Betty Laughlin, Randy Cash, Joel Foreman, Larry Hill, John Mitchell and Dorothy Charleston.



Mike opened with a devotion entitled "Little Flower" followed by prayer.

Randy reported \$52,000 in the capital campaign. The checking account balance is \$62,159.43. A discussion of the office expense was held after Randy reported \$2,800 for the copier and \$2,800 for expenses.

Memorial Fund is \$15,784.18

Pastor entered via phone: the Wycliffe donation to be sent to Barb Waugh and be designated "Love Gift". The \$100 should be salary to Kodiak Baptist Mission. They are not receiving support from National Ministries. \$370 to be designated a "Love Gift" to them. All checks approved to be sent.

A discussion of the budget followed. Four percent raises, except for Amity. She requested 2% and 5 personal days off instead. All were approved. Betty made a motion to accept the budget. Second by John. Motion carried

Mary moved that checks be sent to Kodiak and directly to Barb Waugh. Marcia seconded. Vote was unanimous in favor.

The congregation will vote on the budget Christmas Eve morning.

John reported the new windows on the third floor are being replaced today. The third floor furnace will be replaced in the next two weeks. Larry reported activities on the bus and van. He will be taking John's position.

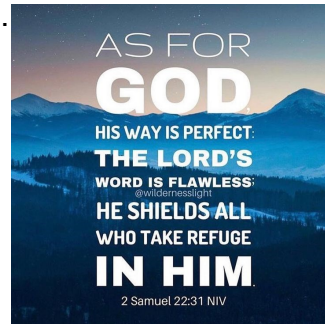
Betty continues sending cards for birthdays and anniversaries.

ABW delivered 17 stockings to "The Bridge" on Monday.

Joyce Shellgren will be taking the Church Clerk position in 2024.

Respectfully submitted, Dorothy Charleston, clerk

Thank you for your gift of the Christmas Stockings given this month! Your donations allows us to continue empowering survivors and preventing domestic violence and sexual assault. Suzanne Smith, Executive Director



January

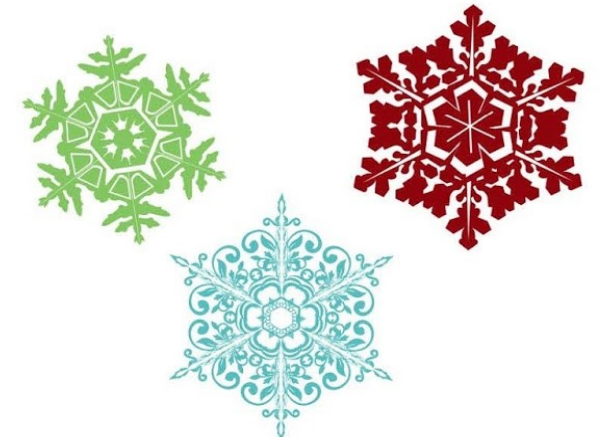
31 Day Scripture Writing Plan

Each of the scriptures below takes ten minutes or less to write out. Commit to spending ten minutes each day listening to God's voice as you simply copy these texts out of your Bible.

Day 1- Isaiah 43:16-19
Day 2- Lamentations 3:22-26
Day 3- Ecclesiastes 3:11-15
Day 4- Psalm 98:1-9
Day 5- Psalm 90: 12-17
Day 6- Jeremiah 29:11-14
Day 7- Philippians 3:7-14
Day 8- 2 Corinthians 5:17-21
Day 9- 1 Peter 1:3-9
Day 10- Mark 12:28-33

Day 11- Ezekiel 36:24-28
Day 12- 1 Chronicles 16:8-14
Day 13- Colossians 3:12-17
Day 14- Hebrews 12:7-13
Day 15- Isaiah 40:28-31
Day 16- Philippians 4:4-9
Day 17- Luke 14:28-35
Day 18- Romans 12:1-8
Day 19- Romans 12:9-16
Day 20- Romans 12:17-21

Day 21- Psalm 37:1-6
Day 22- Psalm 37:7-11
Day 23- Psalm 37:18-19, 23-24, 27-28
Day 24- 2 Peter 1:1-4
Day 25- 2 Peter 1:5-11
Day 26- Romans 8:18-25
Day 27- 2 Corinthians 12:9-10
Day 28- Psalm 27:1-4
Day 29- Psalm 27:5-8
Day 30- Psalm 27:9-14
Day 31- Choose your own verse

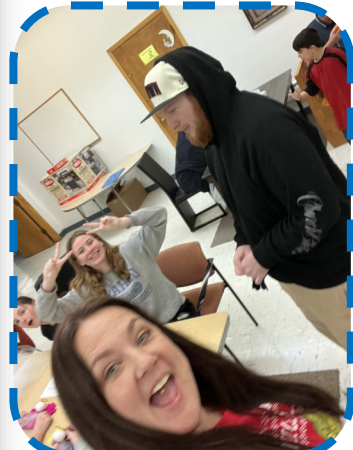


Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law. Psalm 119:18



FBKIDS | FBYOUTH

We wrapped up the year with the family event "Follow the Star". Where Families had an opportunity to be transported back in time to the birth of Jesus and learn of that special night. There was Chili, Cinnamon Rolls, Crafts, Games and Caroling. Thank you to all the prayers and support of our Wednesday Night Program and Thank You to all the Volunteers who help throughout the year, we couldn't do it without you!



THIS IS YOUR CHURCH

Regardless of where you are on your path of faith, there are plenty of ways YOU can serve God. 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. Here at FBC we want to encourage you to be involved and be more than a spectator there's a spot for you!



SMALL GROUPS ARE MEETING. FIND YOURS TODAY!

December answers:

The angel Gabriel appeared by name to only 3 people in the Bible: John the Baptist's father Zechariah, Jesus's mother Mary and the prophet Daniel. The only other angel clearly mentioned by name in the Bible is Michael in the books of Daniel and Jude. There is a possible mention of a name "Lucifer" in relation to the origin of Satan in EZEKIEL? and in the apocrypha (the books describing the period between the testaments), the book of Tobit mentions an angel named Raphael. But the only angels clearly mentioned by name in our Bibles are Gabriel and Michael.



People puzzle answer:

The fisherman who has ridden a bicycle along the Cowboy Trail is Brian Weldon.



January Bible Puzzle

Now that we have thoroughly reviewed all the Christmas stories, let us see how well we paid attention! At the original nativity where Jesus was "laid in a manger," what animals are specifically mentioned in the Bible as being present there before him? What other animals are specifically mentioned in the other portions of the nativity story, including the stories about the birth of John the Baptist?

January People Puzzle

This month, our featured participant is one who had served in the military in a highly specialized field, Air Defense Artillery: working and maintaining the Patriot Missile Launch System and driving a HEMTT. Be nice to him/her....just in case!

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

January 2024

Please have all reports that are to be entered into the **Annual Report** submitted to the office by **January 10th** Thank you!!



Cookies & Coffee

7 - ABM
14 - Hannah
21 - Esther
28 - Naomi

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Office Closed 9am - Men's Coffee  7pm - Woodcarvers	2 7pm - AA Meeting	3 9:30am - Women's Coffee 7pm - Bible Study	4 No ABWM 2:30pm - Pastor Led Bible Study	5 9am - Men's Coffee	6 7am - ABM Bible Study 8am - ABM Breakfast 9am - Property Team 10:30am - Prayer Room 6pm - Food & Fellowship
7 Communion Sunday 9:30 - Traditional Service 11am - Casual Service	8 9am - Men's Coffee 11am - Esther Circle	9 No Hannah Circle 7pm - AA Meeting	10 9:30am - Women's Coffee 6:15pm - Meal 6:45pm - FBKids FBYouth 7pm - Bible Study	11	12 9am - Men's Coffee	13 8:50am - Personnel Team 9:30am - Vision Team 11am - Prayer Tour
14 9:30 - Traditional Service 11am - Casual Service 11am - Bible Study in Parlor 6pm - Brown Bag Fellowship 6:30pm - Movie Starts 	15 Office Closed 9am - Men's Coffee 	16 7pm - AA Meeting	17 9:30am - Women's Coffee 6:15pm - Meal 6:45pm - FBKids FBYouth 7pm - Bible Study	18 2:30pm - Pastor Led Bible Study	19 9am - Men's Coffee 12pm - Bible Study in Parlor	20
21 9:30 - Traditional Service Annual Meeting Between Services 11am - Bible Study in Parlor 11am - Casual Service	22 9am - Men's Coffee	23 7pm - AA Meeting	24 9:30am - Women's Coffee 6:15pm - Meal 6:45pm - FBKids FBYouth 7pm - Bible Study	25 No Naomi Circle	26 9am - Men's Coffee 12pm - Bible Study in Parlor	27 No ABW Bible Study
28 9:30 - Traditional Service 11am - Casual Service 11am - Bible Study in Parlor	29 9am - Men's Coffee	30 7pm - AA Meeting	31 9:30am - Women's Coffee 6:15pm - Meal 6:45pm - FBKids FBYouth 7pm - Bible Study			