



July 2022 PASTOR'S NOTES

Interim

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Pastor Richard

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July 2022

"First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high



for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior" --1 Timothy 2:1-3 (ESV)

""But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ" --Philippians 3:20 (ESV)

As I write this, I am hearing booms and crackles in my neighborhood, because we have some neighbors who *love* fireworks! Every year, they celebrate as soon as it is legal. And, as I write this, I read and hear so many troubling news stories, editorials and comments about the state of the nation whose beginnings we celebrate every July. Some people pine for the good old days, others are thankful that we aren't in those days because of progress that has been made in terms of voting and other civil rights. Some fight in an attempt to return our country to what they believe were the original Christian values, while others believe they have only experienced prejudice and lack of consideration from those who want to align the government with the Christian church. And through it all, we are living in very strange times, are we not?

At one end of the country, cities are finding out that building neighborhoods for homeless people is more complicated than they thought it would be, while on the other end of the country a federal judge had to rule that it is only legal for U.S. *citizens* to vote in elections and Californians start eyeing the distant Mississippi River water as a source for their ocean-side state. The nation's streets have been filled with anarchists in Portland and Seattle, with Black Lives Matter protestors in Minnesota and Missouri, with PRIDE parades and people protesting for or against abortion, while our political leaders bicker and carry on as if they were mere kindergarteners and the "speech police" take to social media every time somebody says something they don't like. Strange times indeed!

Some celebrate Independence Day because they appreciate that we are free TO protest and express opinions. Others celebrate it as the beginning of an imperfect nation that has far to go, but with great hope that our imperfections can be conquered over time through legislation and education. With all this upheaval, especially as we see the Christian faith mocked and rejected in the public arena, what are we Christians to do as we celebrate?

First of all, we should always remember, we don't live in a

"Christian nation," because in reality, there is no such thing. Individual people, not countries are Christian. A nation may be predominately populated by Christians, its laws may reflect Christian values, and its government may officially endorse the Christian faith, but it is only individuals, one by one, who actually become Christian. Throughout history, the supposed "Christianization" of a nation led to one distortion after another, from Constantine making Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire to Calvin's Geneva, the concept did not accomplish what they thought it would. And yet...

Christianity has thrived in the midst of all kinds of nations and governments: under dictatorships and communism, under the Roman persecutions in the Colosseum and the frontier freedoms of the United States, under military oppressions as in Burma, and underground in nations that endorse only Islam...still Christianity thrives because of the individuals who find in it the meaning, peace and salvation they seek.

While I love our country and believe in our noble goals, and will have flags flying this Independence Day, as I ponder our troubled times, I find myself being reminded of the verses above. If Paul can tell Timothy to pray for the political leaders of the Roman Empire with all its cruelty, licentiousness and persecution, how much more should we be expected to do the same in these troubled times. And may we never forget that our greatest citizenship is not in any earthly nation or organization...for they all are temporary: the Roman Empire and the "thousand year Reich" and so many others have faded into the pages of history. But our citizenship is in heaven...and though we may have dual citizenship in heaven and the U.S., the one that truly matters is how we live as citizens of the eternal Kingdom of God, because as citizens of that Kingdom, we are part of a people that circles the globe and spans the pages of history, no matter what kind of nation its citizens reside in here! Our Savior is the hope of the world, and the King over all kings, and the nations are mere drops in the bucket before him.

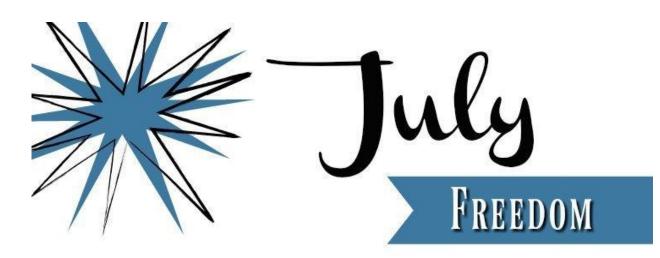
With prayers for God's revival and guidance across our blessed nation,



Lohn 8:36

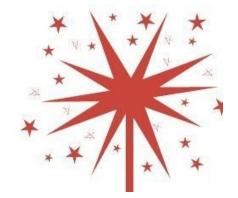


Because of conflict with Fremont Days, the Personnel and Vision Teams will meet July 16.



Dav 1 – Isaiah 61:1 Day 2 – Isaiah 42:6-7 Day 3 – Colossians 1:13-14 Day 4 – John 8:32-36 Day 5 - Romans 8:1-4 Day 6 – Revelation 1:4-6 Day 7 – Romans 6:1-7 Day 8 – Ephesians 2:1-5 Day 9 – Hebrews 2:14-15 Day 10 – Romans 5:12-17 Day 11 – Romans 7:21-25 Day 12 – Romans 6:11-14 Day 13 – Romans 6:22-23 Day 14 – 2 Peter 1:2-4 Day 15 – Galatians 5:1 Day 16 – 1 Peter 2:13–17 Day 17 – 2 Corinthians 3:17-18 Day 18 – Romans 6:16-19 Day 19 – Romans 8:19-25

Day 20 – Galatians 3:21–22 Day 21 – 1 Corinthians 9:19–23 Day 22 – Galatians 5:13–15 Day 23 – 1 Corinthians 10:13 Day 24 – Psalm 119:44–46 Day 25 – Galatians 3:23–29 Day 26 – Galatians 4:4–6 Day 27 – Ephesians 1:6–8 Day 28 – 1 Timothy 2:5–7 Day 29 – Psalm 68:5–6 Day 30 – John 3:16–17 Day 31 – Psalm 116:15–17



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Mary Dennert	660-240-8699	3
Joel Foreman	402-753-3562	4
Shay Scott		4
Linda Schuette	402-679-6936	9
Matthew Schulz	402-721-4901	9
Charlotte McKenzie	402-721-6733	13
Amy Schollmeyer	402-628-2288	13
Matt Hammond Sr		19
Dalton Benson	402-721-7717	23

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.

Card Minister



There are so many SIMPLE ways that you can share God's love. One easy way is to join our Card Ministry. When its your turn, we

ask that for one month you spread the joy of Christ by sending cards to different people in the Church and all over the US (We provide the list and all the materials) It's a way to remind people that we love them and are praying for them. Who doesn't enjoy getting a card?! Let Pastor Richard or myself know and we will get you all the details. Blessings, **Amity Bruce**

Our Friends Away from Home

NYE SQUARE APTS650 W 21st St. Fremont 402-721-9224Dalton Benson 402-721-7717#126Wes Howe402-721-4163#133Charlie Wild402-721-2158#130Joan Sorensen402-830-6519#178
<u>SHALIMAR GARDENS</u> 749 E. 29th St, Fremont, 402-721-1616 Harlan Waugh (402-753-8046) #207
<u>Edgewood Vista</u> 2910 N Clarkson St. Fremont 402-753-8800 Mary Ann Paulger #7
<u>Geneva Peterson c/o June Cardwell</u> 12187 County Rd P1 Fontanelle NE, 68044



"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14





Vision Team Meeting: June II, 2022

Members present were Pastor Richard, Mike Raasch, Shellie Bowen, John Mitchell, Marcia Hill, Joel Foreman, June Cardwell, Mary Weldon, Randy Cash, and Dorothy Charleston.



Mike opened the meeting with a devotion from a Ken Davis book. Matt. 6:25-27 -Do not worry about life.

Randy gave the Financial report. The "May Day" message brought \$18,000. \$5,000 is needed each week for expenses. The balance in the checking account is \$22,631, The Buildings account has \$5,277. A property tax statement for the north half of the Family Center revealed a decrease in value from \$133,000 to \$96,000. We are to keep a watchful eye on expenses.

Mary Weldon made a motion to pay the Pave the Way bill for the completion of the North side of the building for \$3600 to be taken from Memorials. Second was by Marcia and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Money from the Holmen memorial will be designated for the Children and Youth activities. Lynda Raasch is serving as Financial Secretary as well as Memorial Funds secretary.

June reported Luke had 12 youth on the 10th.

John reported electrical work is underway. Concrete is finished except for some grinding. He is planning on a project for the grass area of the playground to enhance it's appearance.

Pastor and members of the Endowment committee met in a Zoom meeting with a representative of the American Baptist Foundation. (ABF) The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the possibility of the ABF becoming the new trustee of our Endowment funds. Our current trustee is First National Bank of Omaha (FNBO). An advantage of ABF would be they would help us to grow our Endowment. Currently we have over \$300,000 in our Endowments. We need to identify our goals. Quarterly payments could be made to supplement our budget. We envision several more meetings with more details to be worked out.

July's Bible Puzzle:

Which prophet was instructed by God to marry a prostitute?

July's People Puzzle

Past puzzles have told of various tumbles, spills and accidents. Rather than tennis elbow, this church person had SLED ELBOW....having broken an elbow while sledding!

June Bible Puzzle Answer

The daughter of Leah referred to last month is Dinah, whose story is found in Genesis 34. After having been raped by Shechem, who then wanted to marry Dinah, the condition required for a marriage that was never going to happen, was that the entire male population of the town had to follow the tradition of Abraham and be circumcised. They all end up being killed in revenge for the rape by Dinah's brothers, according to Genesis 34.

June People Puzzle Answer

The member who "re-met" their future spouse, and enjoyed dates with the man's parents, was Shari Tharp. At least they didn't miss the opportunity when they found one another with fresh eyes!

BRIGHT IDEAS: A GRATEFUL JOURNAL

"Kathy's been coming in for kidney dialysis for thirteen years, always with a smile and a warm "How do you do?" One evening I asked her how she maintained her buoyant attitude.

'I keep a grateful journal!'

'What's that?'

'Every day I write down five things I'm grateful for.'

'What kind of things?'

'Oh, like the sun coming out...You'd be surprised how finding just five things a day changes your whole outlook.'...

I decided to try it...

I still write in my grateful journal, but not for myself anymore. I write because the kindness of other people keeps me supplied with ideas on how to spice up someone else's otherwise un-notable day."







This month we kicked off our summer ministry with success and plenty of learning and growing! We have had kids at Camp Moses Merrill from our youth group as well as some success with our summer events! It was truly a blessing to have the Jones family and Adams family at camp and to see their knowledge and fire for God in a new and exciting way was such an incredible blessing so thank you all for continuing to support us at Moses Merrill and our summer events! Luke







This past month we were blessed with a special visit from International Ministries Missionary, Becky Mann. She was able to share her story and answer questions about her ministry. If you would like to learn more about her mission work please go to

https://www.internationalministries.org/author/bm-mann/





A discussion was held about newly baptized children. Do we consider them members automatically?

Our part-time summer janitor-Brandon, a Midland student, will be working 8 hours a week. Everyone please help.

Pastor Richard presented a life cycle of church growth, showing how growth and change affect a congregation. Building relationships, need for fresh faces, vitality, spirituality, making an impact beyond the walls were mentioned.

Looking ahead on our calendar, October 9 Rev. Sharon Koh, executive director of International Ministries will be coming for a Mission Conference. October 14 and 15 "Friends and Family" will be held at MMCCC.

There being no further business, Mike closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Dorothy Charleston, clerk



Meet our Summer Custodian

Brandon hails from Pittsburg/Frontenac, KS, where his parents and sister still live. He graduated Frontenac high school in 2019, an athlete active in football, cross country, track, baseball and basketball. Brandon is a graduate student at Midland, working on a Master's in Athletic training, having graduated Midland with a BA in science this past May. He faithfully attends the 11:00 service in the Family Center.

**We have hired Brandon very part time for the summer to take care of the basic cleaning of our facilities. As a result, we are asking that each of us take time to clean up after ourselves and the various activities, and if you happen to see something that needs attention, don't hesitate to take care of it. **



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

July 2022

Prayer Emphasis	Thanks! JUIY ZUZZ						
Praise God that we can worship Him freely, without fear of being persecuted.	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Pray for our brothers and sisters around the world who are not as fortunate. Pray for God to strengthen and sustain them.						1	2 7am–ABM Bible Study 8am – ABM Breakfast 9am – Property Team
Cookies & Coffee	3 Communion 9:30 – Traditional Service 11:00 – Casual Service	4 Office Closed	5	6 9:30am – Ladies Coffee	7 1:30 ABWM Meeting	8 9am - Men's Coffee	9
3rd - ABM 10th - Hannah		Happy 4th of July	7pm – AA Meeting	7pm – Bible Study		John C Fre	emont Days
17th - Esther 24th - Naomi 31st - Sign Up	10 9:30 - Traditional Service 11:00 - Casual Service 5:30 pm - Brown Bag Fellowship	11 9am – Men's Coffee 11:30 – Esther Circle	12 1:30 – Hannah Circle	13 9:30am – Ladies Coffee	14	15 9am – Men's Coffee	16 8:50 - Personnel Team 9:30 - vision Team Washington School and
John C Fremont Days	6:00pm Movie Night		7pm – AA Meeting	7pm – Bible Study		7pm – FBY Movie Night	FBC Chess Event 9:30-1 @ Washington Elementarr
Volunteers Needed	17 9:30 – Traditional Service 11:00 – Casual Service	18 9am - Men's Coffee	19	20 9:30am – Ladies Coffee	21	22 9am - Men's Coffee	23 10am - Girls' Day out
July 8th 5:00 pm Set up Tents @ Midland			7pm – AA Meeting	7pm – Bible Study		ABMen Confere	ence @ MMCCC
July 9th 8:00 am	24 9:30 – Traditional Service 11:00 – Casual Service	25 9am - Men's Coffee	26	27 9:30am – Ladies Coffee	28 12:30 – Naomi Circle	29 9am - Men's Coffee	30 9am - ABWM Bible Study 10am - Kids Club
meet @FBC to bring	31	7pm –Woodcarvers	7pm – AA Meeting	7pm – Bible Study		7pm – FBY Movie Night	
Tables & Supplies to Midland	9:30 – Traditional Service 11:00 – Casual Service						