

# First Baptist Church

Of Fremont

Build, Love, Grow, Serve

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Find us on



FBC Fremont NE



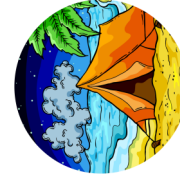
This is one of the kinds of things I hope we will discover together in this column, things that will help you become a more knowledgeable student of the Bible. I won't take time this column to discuss various translations (perhaps another time, or if you have questions about a specific one), suffice it to say that if you use the Passion Translation, do it for enjoyment and enrichment and take the translators love of the Aramaic with a grain of salt. Use a different translation for any serious study, and check its wording against other more trustworthy translations. A second lesson for you is, when you see footnotes in your Bibles, pay attention.

And please, do NOT go buy a Passion translation...borrow mine if you want to see it. Put your money in the offering plate instead...that is a much better investment. --Pastor Richard

<<Please feel free to address the pastor or church office with questions about the Bible that you might have. Those questions might end up being the basis for a future column, a sermon or a Bible study session.>>



# JUNE 2024



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

## Pastor's Notes

When you think back over the various worship services or events that you have been part of, which ones really stick out in your mind as significant? I have such a variety, myself. There were several revivals we had when I was young that I recall, but especially one where a young couple sang a song I had never heard: "His Eye is On the Sparrow" and whenever I sing it I think of them. I remember a time of worship with two other young adults on a rock in a mountain stream when there wasn't a church nearby. I remember some inspiring cantatas at Easter and Christmas, especially those written by John Peterson. I remember the impact of singing songs of praise with an entire stadium of college students at the Urbana Conference. I remember hearing first hand some very powerful speakers, such as Nicky Cruz, Ray & Ann Ort-lund, Ann Kiemel, Billy Graham, Tony Campolo, Luis Palau, Lorne Sanny, Rebecca Pippert, and friends of mine Ken Porter, Wayne Haun and Steve Hollingsworth. I remember a service in which an individual was so excited that when he was sharing a bit of his story, it became so inspired that without thinking he used up much of the service and his story replaced the planned sermon for the day. I remember outdoor Vespers worship at sunset during camp. I better stop...but know there are more.

I suspect all of us can identify some of our own special worship experiences. I also suspect we each can identify various things that make worship special (or *not* special sometimes!). In fact, it is very easy for us to apply those measures when we attend a worship service, sometimes positively (wow, what a great sermon!) and sometimes negatively (I wish that baby would have stopped crying...). Interestingly enough, there is a wide variety of opinions on any worship service...I can't tell you the number of times I have had individuals walk out feeling very uninspired when other individuals walk out of the same service with the sense that God really was moving that day! (Sometimes I wonder how much of it relates to other things, such as how well we slept the night before, or the many tasks awaiting us at home.) Something that I think we don't always realize is that we all too often have turned the whole thing upside down, taking on roles that were never ours to take, and forgetting whose role it is. Let me explain, beginning with a passage of scripture:

*"I hate, I despise your feasts, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the peace offerings of your fattened animals, I will not look upon them. Take away from me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your harps I will not listen." - Amos 5:21-23*

This is just one of many times in the Bible when God declares the worship of his people



unacceptable...including times Jesus said the same kind of thing. Here in Amos, it related to the fact that the people were claiming to love God while treating other people unfairly. But the point is this: Who is the one whose role it is to decide whether worship was meaningful and valid? God! And whose participation is being judged as to whether it is acceptable or not? God! And who is it that worship is about? God! In other words, it isn't my opinion or yours about the quality of a worship service that matters most, it is *God's opinion*...and what God judges in our worship is each one of us...whether WE worshipped well, whether our worship was honoring him or something less, whether we made our worship about him, or about ourselves, and whether we were applying the teachings of scripture to our lives outside of worship or just going through the motions. Jesus quotes Isaiah when he makes this point:

*"And he said to them, 'Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, "This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me;" --Mark 7:6"*

The book Worship is a Verb by Robert Webber is almost a classic in this regard, reminding us that worship is about God, and it is what God thinks of our worship services, and of the way we participate, that is what matters. It has been pointed out that we often get confused because the way we are seated and arranged compares to so many other events where we come as the audience for the performance. But on Sundays, we are not! GOD is the audience. We are the "performers" and that is the reason we call the people up front "worship leaders" not performers.

I remember a time when my church lost its best musicians all at once...they simply walked away. They were all very talented, but sadly, they were also very critical of others. Their shoes were filled by a couple of fledgling pianists who were limited in their repertoire and often made mistakes when they played. But these replacements were doing what they did because they wanted to help the worship service and they wanted to serve. They were all very humble people, too, in my opinion. I have often thought that the worship music led by those individuals was probably of a much greater value to God than the talented, but prideful, worship music of the others. As I have said before, the key question when one departs a worship service is not whether or not we liked it, or whether or not we got anything out of it. The key question is, "How did I do? Was God pleased with my participation and the way I apply the teachings I learn each week?"

Remember, God is well worthy of our worship!

*Richard*



*-Thank You for Your Continued Mission Support-*



We kick off a new feature in this issue of Chimes. Let me explain why. Recently in our Wednesday night Bible study, a discussion arose about "extra books" in the Catholic Bible that are either not in ours, or are gathered into a separate section between the Testaments called "The Apocrypha." Nobody in the class knew where they came from or why they were in some Bibles and not others, and we discussed how some of those books have important Jewish history included.

In addition, I often am asked which translation is best or which Bible someone should purchase, since there are so many out there. Personally, I enjoy reading a variety of translations, and pick up copies especially when they are at bargain prices. These two experiences have led me to start this column where we will address some things that many parishioners have never heard for the purpose of helping us be better students of the Bible and deepen our appreciation for it and the work done by those who translate. Let me give you my first little lesson.

Lately I have done some reading in a recent publication called "The Passion Translation." As I have done so, I have been fairly troubled at some of the wording choices, as well as the lack of clarity as to who all is responsible for the translating. The extensive footnotes also reveal a lot about that translation. For example, many of the NT footnotes say that the translators chose to follow the Aramaic text instead of the Greek (some even refer to "the Hebrew Matthew"). Wondering if perhaps there was some new research or discoveries of which I was not aware, I contacted a New Testament professor friend to discuss my concerns, and she was as shocked as I am. This is a New Testament readily available at Christian bookstores, but reading those notes it occurred to me how easily someone buying it could end up very confused, because most people don't know much about Bible translation principles and scholarship. Using this Bible and its notes, one could easily conclude that the Aramaic text is authoritative because, after all, Jesus and Jews in his time spoke Aramaic (a close sister to Hebrew). And certainly the idea of the Gospel of Matthew in Hebrew (like most of the Old Testament) seems to make sense. All of which is wrong.

Anyone who does serious Bible translation and study would advise that an Aramaic text of the Bible is to be considered an inferior source...because those few we have were compiled centuries after the Bible was written, and were translated from Greek...since the New Testament was written in Greek, with the possible exception of a book or two, but only possibly. So the Aramaic would NOT be the original and better text, but a secondary one that sometimes might be helpful, but always should be used cautiously. Additionally, neither my friend nor I know what the translator could even be referring to by the phrase, "Hebrew Matthew." While the phrasing in the translation may seem easy to understand and lively, the accuracy of it is very questionable. (Continued on back ->)





# Happy Birthday

Robyn Schulz Dietz

Effie Scott

Dylan Crytzer

Brandon Tharp

Norma Mackey 402-727-4367

Steve Cardwell 402-478-4593

Devin Tharp 402-721-8369

Lee Holzerland 402-720-9006

Esther Bechtel 402-721-7260

Linda Rogers 402-317-9215

Leonard Bechtel 402-721-7260

# & Anniversary

3 Larry & Marcia Hill 402-727-5171

9 Jerry & Kelly Adams 402-720-4269

10 Leland & Jean Foreman 402-721-1384

11 Mark & Vicki Anderson 402-727-0740

13

15

17

20 Tom and Melody Scott 402-720-8979



# One Great HOUR OF SHARING

(OGHS) special mission offering of the United Church of Christ involves you in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery.

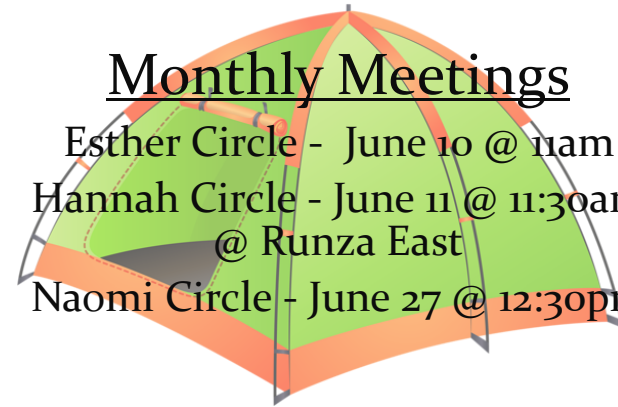
# American Baptist Women's MINISTRIES

## Monthly Meetings

Esther Circle - June 10 @ 11am

Hannah Circle - June 11 @ 11:30am @ Runza East

Naomi Circle - June 27 @ 12:30pm



ABWM  
June 6th  
@ 1:30

*Bible Book of the Month:  
1 Chronicles*

# CAMP MOSES MERRILL SUMMER CAMP 2024



## NEW SCHEDULE

**June 6-8 JAM Camp**  
1-6 grade

**June 9-14 Junior Camp**  
4-6 grade

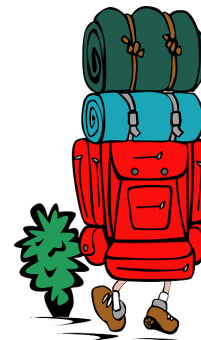
**June 16-21 Mid High Camp**  
7-9 grade

**June 23-28 Senior High Camp**  
9-12 grade

**June 28-30 Family Camp**  
All Ages

More information [cammerrill.com](http://cammerrill.com)

Summer Camp brings youth of all ages to Camp Moses Merrill. The great outdoors is the backdrop for worship, Bible study, growing their faith and building a relationship with God. Campers also make memories splashing in the pool, sailing through the trees on the zip line, and of course sitting around the campfire! It is an experience that they will never forget.



## FBC Fremont Saturday Women's Bible Study

From the rising of the sun to its going down the Lord's name is praised -Psalm 113:3



*Samaritan Woman*

June 29, 2024

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



## Vision Team Meeting: May 11, 2024



Attendance: Pastor Crooks, Joel Foreman, Mary Weldon, Mike Raasch, Mark & Vickie Anderson, Larry Hill, Marcia Hill.

Mike opened the meeting with devotion and prayer.

**Treasure Report:** No report. Balance sheet- April 2024: RVR Bank - \$17,438.86 and the Building Account at \$5,911.80. Pastor Richard mentioned we need a clear understanding of the Endowment Fund for a healthy trust.

**Personnel Team:** No report.

**Property Team:** Larry Hill reported a bid for concrete was received for areas needing to be replaced and to help water drain. The bid was \$14,976.00 which is covered through donations. One office still available for rent. Looking into getting lettering put on new van.

**Local Outreach:** Marcia reported meal being served for the staff at Linden School on Tuesday, May 14, 2024. Meal: chicken, mash potatoes, salads.

**ABW:** No report

**ABM:** Joel reported preparation for JCF Days are ongoing. Hot dogs have been donated. ABW(?) donating buns. Pop almost all donated.

**Caring Ministry:** No report.

**Events:** No report.

**Children/Youth Ministries:** Last night of Kids Club was May 8th, 2024. Serves hot dogs and had two bounce houses which were donated. Marcia reported Vacation Bible School scheduled for Tuesday June 4, 2024 at Camp Moses Merrill. Cost \$32.00 per kid. Leave at 9:00am and arrive back at 5:00pm. Includes snack shack, lunch/snack, games, lesson, etc. We have one High School graduate (Tristan Godina) and one college graduate (Brandon Moser). Pastor Crooks to pick up a Bible for Tristan and a devotional book for Brandon. Colorado Youth group trip scheduled for June 6th – June 10th, 2024. Five kids (2 boys/3 girls) going.

**Worship:** No report.

**Pastor Richard:** First Baptist Church will conduct church services at JCF Days. First service will still be at 9:15am at the church while the second service will be at 10:00am at the park. Family Day set for August 17th or September 8th, 2024 at Camp Moses Merrill. Rent is \$200.00. Cost: \$12.00 adult/ \$6.00 kids. Joyce Shellgren is no longer able to serve as acting clerk. Shelly Bowen took over position. Committee voted – approved. Sasha is currently working on a grant



# REFUGE IN JESUS



## SCRIPTURE WRITING PLAN

Day 1: 2 Samuel 22:2-3	Day 17: Psalm 27:4-5
Day 2: 2 Samuel 22:31	Day 18: Psalm 91:1-2
Day 3: 2 Samuel 22:32-34	Day 19: Psalm 3:3
Day 4: Psalm 5:11	Day 20: Psalm 119:114
Day 5: Psalm 18:2	Day 21: Psalm 16:9
Day 6: Psalm 31:1-5	Day 22: Psalm 32:7
Day 7: Psalm 31:19	Day 23: Psalm 84:1-4
Day 8: Psalm 34:8	Day 24: Psalm 90:1-2
Day 9: Psalm 46:1-3	Day 25: Psalm 91:9-11
Day 10: Psalm 57:1	Day 26: Psalm 91:14-16
Day 11: Psalm 62:6-8	Day 27: Revelation 21:3-4
Day 12: Psalm 118:8-9	Day 28: Deuteronomy 31:6
Day 13: Proverbs 30:5	Day 29: Psalm 71:1-3
Day 14: Nahum 1:7	Day 30: Psalm 94:22
Day 15: Hebrews 6:18	Day 31: Matthew 7:24
Day 16: Psalm 4:8	

Thank you so much for the delicious meal you provided the Linden Teachers! It was so nice to be able to take a quick break from our end of year packing to enjoy a meal together. What a blessing!! We so appreciate your thoughtfulness! Have a wonderful summer :) Thanks Again, Amy Hartman - Linden Elementary Teacher



## Be strong & courageous

*Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged,*

**FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD WILL** Joshua  
**BE WITH YOU WHEREVER YOU GO** 1:9





# FBYOUTH | FBKIDS



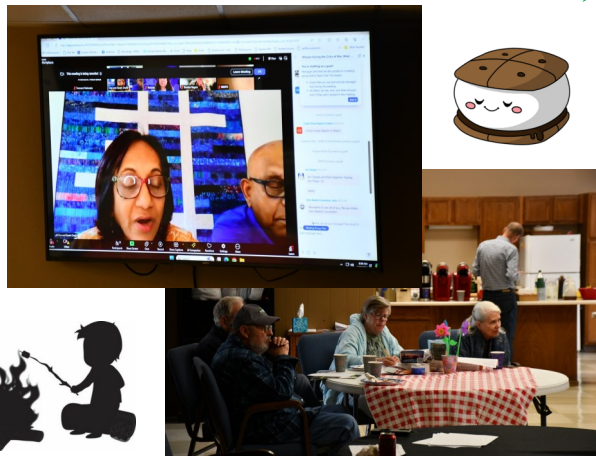
This month, instead of providing a bio on some of our youth, we want to simply ask you to be in prayer. We have five high schoolers: Allie Jones, Gabby Burt, Aubrey Burt, Asa Summers and Ryan Thompson headed to Colorado on June 5 (along with adult sponsors) for a shared youth conference between ABC regions in our area---Kansas, Dakotas, Colorado, etc. Some years ago, the national youth conference after which this is patterned was discontinued, and this is the first attempt of our regions here to restart the program. We will be at the YMCA of the Rockies at Estes Park, with activities every day from Thursday through Monday. We have experienced a number of hiccups in the process of getting all the details in place, which leads us to believe that God must have something really special in mind for our young people, otherwise we would not be facing such opposition to making it work. (We even are having some brake work done on the van we will be taking, as we found some maintenance was required before such a journey.)

We are asking for your prayers:

- 1) Safe Travels to and from Colorado
- 2) Wisdom for the Sponsors as they handle whatever situations arise
- 3) Blessing upon the youth (and sponsors) to sense God's voice speaking to them, and deepening their faith
- 4) For God to create some special memories and friendships while we are there together.
- 5) Continued prayers for a Youth Minister

We will let you know how it all went when we return!

We are so thankful God is lining up connections with people all across the world! Who would have thought going through a pandemic and isolation would open doors of communication?! We were able to connect with missionaries during the Global Encounters Mission Conference, hear their stories and the need of prayer for their mission work. God is truly amongst us!!!



for testing/outreach for schools.

As there was no other form of business, the meeting was adjourned.

Closing prayer: Pastor Crooks.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Bowen, clerk



**Weaving for Good to be held August 10th, 2024.** A silent auction will be held to benefit Weaver Hall remodeling at MMCCC and we are looking for donations of items to be put in baskets/packages to be auctioned off. Possible themes could be Tailgate Gift basket, Car detailing, Game night, Bookworm Gift basket, etc. If you feel led to donate a themed basket and/or any other items that maybe used for the auction, please contact Shelly Bowen at 402-720-4559.

*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  
5th & 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



# JUNE 2024



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

**Cookies**  
 2 - Hannah  
 9 - Esther  
 16 - Naomi  
 23 - ABM  
 30 - Hannah

Reminder that we are always collecting donations of butter & margarine and \$\$\$ for commercial size foil for the Care Corps.



If you are participating in the Life Choices "Fill the Bottle" Fundraiser, please return filled bottles to the church by June 16th. Thank you!

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
FBYouth (and Sponsors) Misson Conference   Estes Park Co.			Mid-High Camp   Grades 7th-9th   MMCCC			1 7am - ABM Bible Study 8am - ABM Breakfast 9am - Property Team 10:30am - Prayer Room w/ Pastor 6pm - Food & Fellowship
Jam Camp   Grades 1th-6th   MMCCC			Senior Camp   Grades 9th-12th   MMCCC			
Junior Camp   Grades 4th-6th   MMCCC			Family Camp - All Ages   MMCCC			
2 <b>COMMUNION</b> 9:30am - Traditional Service 11am - Casual Service	3 9am - Men's Coffee  7pm - Woodcarvers	4 9am - VBS @ Moses Merrill  7pm - AA Meeting	5 9:30am - Women's Coffee  7pm - Bible Study	6 1:30 ABWM	7 9am - Men's Coffee	8 8:50am - Personnel Team 9:30am - Vision Team 11am - Prayer Tour
9 9:30am - Traditional Service 11am - Casual Service  6pm - Brown Bag Fellowship 6:30pm - Movie Starts 	10 9am - Men's Coffee 11am - Esther Circle	11 11:30am - Hannah Circle @ Runza East  7pm - AA Meeting	12 9:30am - Women's Coffee  7pm - Bible Study	13 9:30am - Pastor Led Bible Study @ FBC and via ZOOM  5:30pm - Kay Circle Mat Weaving	14 9am - Men's Coffee	15
16 <b>FATHER'S DAY</b> 9:30am - Traditional Service 11am - Casual Service	17 9am - Men's Coffee  7pm - Woodcarvers	18 7pm - AA Meeting	19 9:30am - Women's Coffee  7pm - Bible Study	20 	21 9am - Men's Coffee	22 9:30am - ABGirls Craft Day
23 9:30am - Traditional Service 11am - Casual Service	24 9am - Men's Coffee	25	26 9:30am - Women's Coffee  7pm - Bible Study	27 9:30am - Pastor Led Bible Study @ FBC and via ZOOM  12:30pm - Naomi Circle  5:30pm - Kay Circle Mat Weaving	28 9am - Men's Coffee	29 9:30am - ABW Bible Study - The Samaritan Woman