



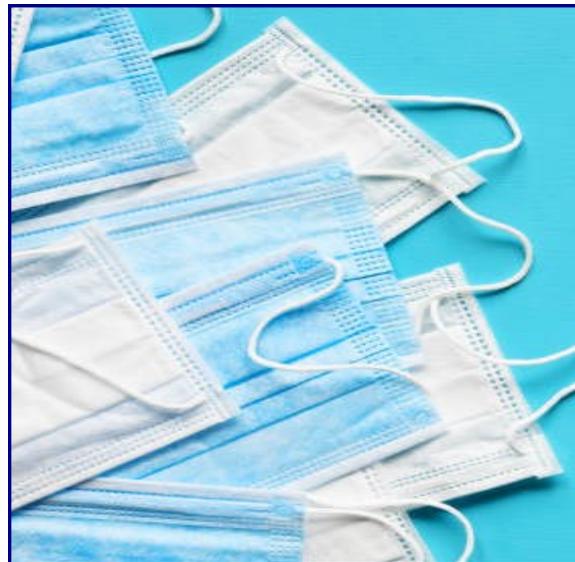
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Find us on



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



As the COVID numbers are increasing, and the vaccine effectiveness seems to be waning in the face of the Delta variant, be aware that we continue to monitor the statistics and consider how they may impact the life of our church. At this time, I am going to encourage people to consider wearing masks again to worship...at least until you are seated...and to be mindful of distancing once again. Other adjustments will be brought as needed. Let's be diligent to care for one another in this time of pandemic. Pastor Richard


September 2021


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

Pastor's Notes

"But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep." --1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 (ESV)



This passage is one I often use at the graveside portion of funeral services I lead. It is a passage that is filled with words of hope in a time of grief. Something I have seen of late, and I am sure you have as well, has been the emphasis on the concept of celebrating a person's life at the funeral, and often choosing to use that terminology rather than memorial or funeral service. I recently had some friends pass away, and in the information one family member sent out, they stressed that the service was going to be a time of joy, not a time of tears, because they knew that their loved one had entered the presence of Jesus. There is some good in that, but frankly, I wonder if there is also something missing.

In the very early days of the church, the description of funerals at that time was presented to the Romans as a stark contrast. In the Roman religions, there was great sorrow and despair, but early Christian writers stated that in the Christian setting, the funeral procession was not filled with despair, but more resembled individuals moving from their old home to a new home, which was what they were doing when in death, a believer took up residence in their heavenly home. We are, indeed, not a people without hope. Christ rose from the dead, conquered the grave, and demonstrated that death is not the end, but merely ushers God's people into God's presence for eternity. And yet...

Do you recall the shortest verse in the Bible? "Jesus wept." -- John 11:35. Why did he weep? He wept at the death of his friend Lazarus, even though he knew he would raise him from the dead. Exactly why he was weeping, whether because of the pain he saw in Martha and Mary, or the encounter with the devastation of our fallen state, or grief as we experience it, or something else, is not clearly stated. But he wept. In our passage above, Paul does not tell us that we don't grieve. He says we don't grieve in the same way as other people who do not have the hope of Christ in their lives.

The whole celebration of life idea is a good one, in that we recognize not merely that we have lost a loved one but focus on the blessing it was to have had him/her in our lives. It helps us to be able to remember the good times, the special moments, the various contributions the individual has made. But if we do that to the exclusion of acknowledging the pain of loss, the sorrow over suffering and death...that is, to deny the grief of the moment, then we have done a great disservice to ourselves and

others. I once knew a woman who had been told by her pastor that because her husband was with Jesus, she was not to grieve. She told me for years she carried that burden, because though she knew he was with the Lord, still she was in sorrow for the loss and was hurting. Again, it does not say we do not grieve, we just don't grieve in the despair of those with no hope.

In the secular world, I have known individuals who also chose to focus on a celebration of life service, but I think it is a different thing in that context. I think for those who don't know the Lord, it becomes a way to avoid the reality of our mortality, a way to avoid the question of what happens after death. If they believe that this life is all there is, then that is all they have to comfort them, and it becomes a great avoidance of the realities of death and grief. It fits well with our American society where so many are one step removed from the reality of death because their loved ones are in a care facility they rarely visit or a hospital where the "experts" take over. We Americans like to avoid the topic of suffering, even though it is the daily experience of vast numbers of people around the globe. We tend to be people who would rather turn a blind eye and walk on by.

Why did I want to write this article to you? Well, we have experienced the death of a significant number of our congregation in recent years. For many of us, the tears and pain of grief are very present, even though it is balanced by our belief in eternal life and salvation through Christ. I believe that God gave us tear ducts for a reason. I want to acknowledge that, along with Jesus, there are times the reality of grief leads us to tears, and other times when the treasure of memories leads us to rejoice. God deals with us as whole persons. There is a balance to be struck. If you are a person who has been touched with grief in these past months, I simply want you to know, God understands all the mix of emotions you are experiencing. And the awfulness of the experience of death is real...Paul calls death "the last enemy." Revelation tells us that part of heaven is that death will be no more. In the meantime, it is okay to grieve, and it is blessed to remember in celebration...and it is wonderful to know this is not the end of the story!

Richard



September Bible Puzzle:

What Psalm is written twice in the Hebrew Bible? (Cite Both References)

September

Peoples Puzzle:

This church member has traveled to some 5 European countries, including Germany, where a couple coming out of their Lutheran Church service bore a striking resemblance to the grandparents of the member...resulting in a serious double take moment.

(Answers provided next month)

August Answers

Bible Puzzle:

The biblical man with a large family and daughters was Job....we only know the names of the three he fathered after his wealth was restored. The name that matches a famous aunt? Jemimah! See Job 42:14

Peoples Puzzle

The member who, after the parents' passing away, discovered unknown sisters and a brother was Gwen Wuestewald

Never Alone

BIBLE READING CHALLENGE



- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Genesis 28:13-19 | 16. Psalm 139:13-24 |
| 2. Matthew 28:16-20 | 17. Jeremiah 1:1-8 |
| 3. Isaiah 41:1-10 | 18. Jeremiah 1:9-19 |
| 4. Joshua 1:1-9 | 19. Deuteronomy 20:1-4 |
| 5. Psalm 23:1-6 | 20. Psalm 36:1-12 |
| 6. Jeremiah 23:23-30 | 21. Isaiah 43:1-7 |
| 7. Matthew 18:15-20 | 22. 2 Kings 6:8-18 |
| 8. Deuteronomy 31:1-8 | 23. Psalm 46:1-11 |
| 9. Matthew 1:20-25 | 24. 2 Chronicles 32:1-8 |
| 10. Exodus 33:11-23 | 25. Deuteronomy 4:29-40 |
| 11. 1 Chronicles 17:1-8 | 26. 1 Kings 8:54-61 |
| 12. Psalm 73:21-28 | 27. Psalm 16:1-11 |
| 13. Deuteronomy 2:1-7 | 28. Zephaniah 3:14-20 |
| 14. Judges 6:6-16 | 29. 1 John 3:18-24 |
| 15. Psalm 139:1-12 | 30. Psalm 72:12-20 |
| | 31. Psalm 27:1-10 |

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Mike Conway	402-317-9466	1
Melody Scott	402-720-8979	1
Beverley Clausen	402-721-0287	2
		4
LaVerne Perkins	402-721-6124	10
Lynda Raasch	402-727-6854	11
Bryan Regier	308-458-7907	20
		21
Genny Peterson		23
Pam Gador	402-620-4338	24
Corwin Steele	402-720-3197	25
Doug Depue	402-727-5802	26
Evelyn Houston	402-721-6195	30

Happy Anniversary!

Larry & Beverley Clausen	402-721-0287
Dick & Bev Holmen	402-721-9123
Dale & Sherri Tharp	402-720-4912

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 Sorenson	402-830-6519	#178

NYE COURT

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

Genny Peterson	# 213
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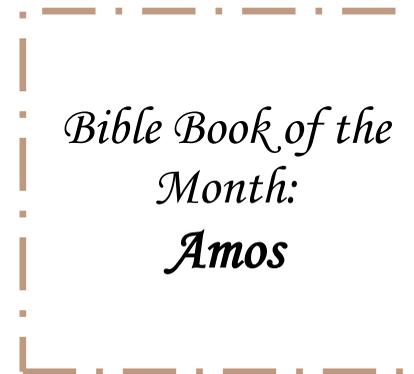
PROVIDENCE PLACE 749 E 32nd

Dona Laten	#11
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SHALIMAR GARDENS

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

Harlan Waugh (402-753-8046)	#207
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ABWM
Thursday
September 2nd @ 1:30



School is back in session, which makes us all reminisce of our own school days. Whether your memory is of a favorite teacher, a class you liked or didn't, or friends you made...Whatever it is, please bring your memory with you to the Sept. 2nd meeting.
(Pictures ARE Encouraged)



Monthly Meetings



Sept 13- Esther Circle - 11:30

Sept 14 - Hannah Circle - 1:30

Sept 23 - Naomi Circle - 12:30

VISION TEAM MONTHLY REPORT: AUGUST 14, 2020

Members present: Pastor Richard, Mike Raasch, Joel Foreman, June Cardwell, Mary Weldon, Randy Cash, Hank Schollmeyer, and Dorothy Charleston.

The meeting was called order by Mike. He opened with a reference from Max Lucado. He emphasized God is in control, followed by prayer.

Hank reported for the Property Committee. The concrete work is complete. The crew caulked the sidewalk also. No driving is permitted on it until the cement cures. The asphalt will be done soon. Pledges paid so far are \$23,600 to cover the cost.

Cord Helget has been contacted to begin work on the signs.

June made a motion to take the cost out of Memorial Funds. Second was by Mary Weldon. Unanimously approved by vote.

Fremont Glass will be contacted to check all church doors and for weather stripping as needed.

As of August 1, 2021, Randy reported balance of \$993.04 in the checking account. At the end of July it was -\$1500. Today, there is \$15,400. The complex loan will be paid off by the end of the year.

Both Missions (America for Christ and One Great Hour of Sharing) exceeded the amounts budgeted.

June reported the Fall kick-off for Kids Club and Youth Group will be September 15. Wild Life Encounters will be the feature. Hot Dogs will be grilled by the ABMen at 6:15. Permission slips will be required for transportation at the registration. Doors open at 6:00, meal served at 6:15. Kids classes end at 8:00 and for youth at 8:30.

Mike Raasch reported Personnel hired Luke Chavanne as our Youth Leader Intern to lead our Wednesday night Youth Group programming.

Pastor reported the first Community Out Reach was held to Washington School Staff providing Welcome Back lunch for their workshop Day.

Prayer Chain construction is underway. It will include everyone.

Communion envelopes have arrived and are available.

Nola reported progress on the technology she is working on. Dave Bolan, from Beyond Communications, spent several hours with her to work out details with wiring and connecting the camera and computers to obtain the communication needed to stream the services. He will return in 3-4 weeks to hardwire the 3rd floor. Nola will schedule a day off from work to do this. The August 22 service will be a test to begin streaming.

Thank you , Nola, for all of the time you spend working on this project. We appreciate you!

Nominations for new Vision Team will begin soon.

Movie Night will be August 29 at 6:00 for a BBQ by ABMen. Menu: hot dogs,



Our gallery...
see what we've
been up to!

Setting up a luncheon for the staff at Washington Elementary



The work has begun!! FBC has been in need of parking lot repairs for sometime now. Thanks to generous donors we are well on our way to completion.



ABWM meeting was filled with familiar faces and a few new ones. Thank you Allison Foreman for sharing your story, of the missionary work being done in Czechoslovakia





Plans are going forward to start up FBC Youth/Kids Club on September 15, 2021. We are getting the teachers and helpers together and preparing our curriculum, doing background checks, and safety checks.



KICK OFF will be having "Wildlife Encounters" come to the church for all the kids and adults to enjoy. The refreshments will be hot dogs and chips with a drink. ABM will be grilling. We are happy to have Luke Chavanne with us this year!!! The Covid Variance is going to be a factor this year on how things are run. We will be watching schools closely on what they are dealing with and how they are responding to it. Please Pray for the kids, the teachers and the helpers. Anyone who would like to be involved with helping the Youth. Kids Club on Wednesday nights please contact the office or June Cardwell.

Respectfully submitted: June Cardwell, Children's Youth Ministries Coordinator



hamburgers, watermelon, and chips.

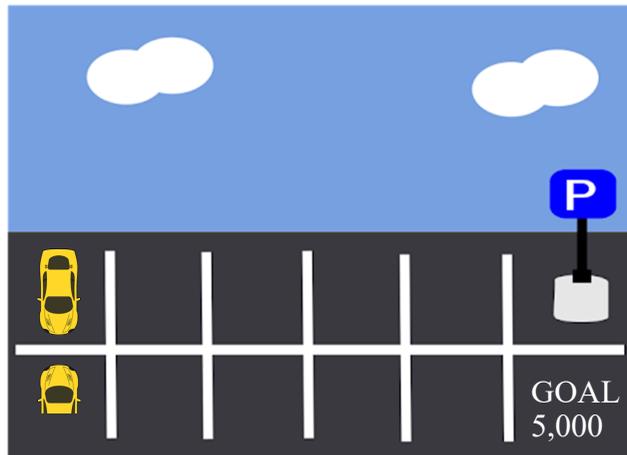
There being no further business, Mike closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Dorothy Charleston, clerk



Our treasurer, Randy Cash, and I have had several discussions of late about our church's giving and expenses. We have done some amazing things of late, including the cabin renovation at Moses Merrill and the current work on our parking lot. At the same time, we know that we also have to meet ongoing expenses. The fact that we have lost a number of congregants of late due to moving or death means that the burden of keeping up with expenses falls on those of us who are left and those we bring in. Our finances are doing okay, but we are often right on the edge between being "in the black" and "in the red," in spite of the pandemic. In response to these ongoing conversations, *I just want to remind everyone of the importance of our faithfulness in giving*, and challenge each of us to consider whether we might be willing to adjust our giving upward, and to be diligent about inviting friends to come be part of the life of our church. God has provided in the past, and he will provide in the future. It is our job to simply be faithful vessels he can use. Pastor Richard

Parking lot repairs are underway. Please pray that we meet our goal.



For a short time turn your \$5 donation into \$10, \$20 into \$40...etc An anonymous donor will be matching your gift!!!



May 10, 1936
August 4, 2021

Sharlene Wilkinson

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."

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

September 2021

**Prayer Emphasis
For September:**

**Our Teachers and
Administrators who
work with our youth**

**Van Driver
Mary Weldon
402-727-9502**

**Cookie &
Coffee Hosts**

**5 Naomi
12 ABM
19 Hannah
26 Sign Up!!!!**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.</i> -Isaiah 40:8</p>			<p>1 5:30 Zoom Fellowship 7:00 Bible Study</p>	<p>2 1:30 ABWM Meeting</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 7a- ABM Bible study 8a- ABM Breakfast 9:15 Property Team</p>
<p>5 9:30 Traditional Service 11:00 Casual Service</p>	<p>6 Office Closed Labor Day</p>	<p>7 1:30- Hannah Circle 8P Young People AA</p>	<p>8 7:00 Bible Study 8P Sober & Crazy AA</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 10:00 Nye Bible Study</p>	<p>11 9:10 Personnel Team 9:30 Vision Team</p>
<p>12 9:30 Traditional Service 11:00 Casual Service 1:30-3:30 Memory lane Café inside Lighthouse 84 w 6th st</p>	<p>13 11:30 Esther Circle 7p Wood Carvers</p>	<p>14 1:30 Hannah Circle 8P Young People AA</p>	<p>15 KIDS CLUB KICK OFF @ 6:15 5:30 Zoom Fellowship 7:00 Bible Study 8P Sober & Crazy AA</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19 9:30 Traditional Service 11:00 Casual Service</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 8P Young People AA</p>	<p>22 7:00 Bible Study 8P Sober & Crazy AA</p>	<p>23 12:30 Naomi Circle</p>	<p>24 10:00 Nye Bible Study</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 9:30 Traditional Service 11:00 Casual Service MOVIE NIGHT</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 8P Young People AA</p>	<p>29 7:00 Bible Study 8P Sober & Crazy AA</p>	<p>30</p>		