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Find us on  



Support and community

## 8 Reasons to join a Small Group

### 1. It's Biblical

NO OTHER MODEL OF DISCIPLESHIP MORE CLOSELY FOLLOWS THE PATTERN GIVEN IN SCRIPTURE THAN THAT OF HOME BIBLE STUDIES.

### 2. It's Reliable

FOR OVER TWO THOUSAND YEARS OF CHURCH HISTORY, IT HAS PROVEN TO BE AN EFFECTIVE WAY FOR CHRISTIANS TO GROW TOGETHER.

### 3. It's Practical

ANYBODY CAN COME TO A HOME GROUP. THERE ARE NO AGE GROUPS OR SOCIAL BARRIERS TO RESTRICT CHRISTIAN FAMILIES FROM MEETING TOGETHER.

### 4. It's Affordable

IT COSTS THE CHURCH NOTHING, AND ALL PARTICIPANTS NEED IS A BIBLE.

### 5. It's Missional

THERE IS NO EASIER WAY TO EVANGELIZE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD THAN TO INVITE YOUR NEIGHBORS TO YOUR HOUSE.

### 6. It's Communal

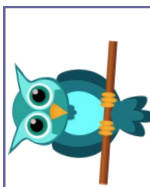
ACCOUNTABILITY AND COMMUNITY ARE ACHIEVED THROUGH HOME GROUPS MORE THAN ANY OTHER MINISTRY THE CHURCH COULD PRODUCE.

### 7. It's Expandable

AS THE CHURCH GROWS, MORE HOMES AND NEIGHBORHOODS ARE USED. THERE IS NO LIMIT TO HOW MANY SMALL GROUPS COULD BE STARTED.

### 8. It's Flexible

ANY DAY, TIME AND PLACE IS SUITABLE FOR PEOPLE TO PRAY AND STUDY TOGETHER IN A HOME GROUP.



September 2023



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

## Pastor's Notes

*"Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? Isaiah 43:18-19 esv*



It is interesting that there are times we are told in the Bible to remember past things, and then times we are told NOT to remember past things. For example, Israel was commanded to celebrate Passover and remember that God delivered them from Egypt, or at the Last Supper Jesus instituted our communion ceremony as a way to remember Him. God makes clear that there are bedrock values and life lessons that need to be remembered our entire lives. But then Paul makes a point to say that he forgets the things of his past and presses on toward the upward call of Christ. Today's passage from Isaiah is one of the very famous passages about forgetting and remembering, past and future, new and old, highlighting God's desire for us not to be bound to the past. I ran across a good illustration of this the other day reading a 2015 Guideposts devotion by Melody Bonnette Swang. Permit me to share some of it with you:

*"My friend Anne and I were having lunch....Anne confided that she struggled over letting go of past failures and actions...*

*'I know how you feel,' I admitted, 'Sometimes I think about things I've said and done and wonder...if the remorse will every go away.'*

*'Last week my pastor shared a story that I think might help us both,' Anne said. "The Culver Military Academy in Indiana has a marvelous tradition," he said.*

*"During their graduation ceremony the cadets shake hands with the headmaster and then walk through an arch with a gate." ... As the graduates walk through the gate a marshal tells them, "Don't forget to close the gate!" Seems that throughout their schooling, there were encouraged to close the gate on mistakes and start fresh."*

I think that is a great illustration, don't you? There are times when we let things from the past plague us and keep us from embracing the future or hold us back from taking risks to become more than we are. For some people, nicknames and identities foisted on them in childhood become defining realities that trouble them their whole lives, always thinking of themselves as the "short kid" or the "class dunce" or the one everybody made fun of. Other times, we make a poor choice or two and so regret it that we are unable or unwilling to let it go, carrying it as a burden we have to bear instead of something God can forgive and use to help us grow.

On the other hand, we can hang on to our great experiences and long to relive them over and again, rather than appreciate and find joy in the current experiences in our

lives. This can be anything from the high school football hero who retells the story of the big game every time he can, to individuals who fondly remember all the romantic dates in the early days with their spouse and wonder why things can't just always be that way. Whether good memories or hard memories, holding on to the past in such a way that it prevents us from fully living in and appreciating the present or building for a future can become a very detrimental habit. That is what God is telling the Israelites through Isaiah: "Don't cling to how things used to be....instead, look forward to what I am doing today, and tomorrow!"

This is true for us as individual believers, as well as for our gathered communities called churches. I have been part of churches that were so focused on the "good old days" that they had a hard time making the shift to some marvelous things God was doing in their midst right then. It can be a challenging task to let go of our past to look for God's hand working differently in the present, but as Isaiah makes plain, it can be a very exciting and rewarding one.


It is helpful for me to think of these things in terms of books and chapters. What happened in one chapter of life will have moved our story forward and laid the groundwork for the coming chapters, but you have to go to the next chapter to see it. One chapter ends and another begins. How would you identify the various chapters of your life? For the life of our church? Perhaps for the life of our country? How well do you let go of the last chapter to begin the adventure of the coming chapter? Sometimes that is not so easy to do, is it? What is important in one chapter of life may not be what becomes important in the next. How God operates at one moment of history may not be how God chooses to move during this time. God is writing some amazing stories in our lives and in the life of our church, and he writes it in chapters!

I wonder today, are there things you need to "close the gate" on in your life (or in the life of our church)? What are you carrying from the past that needs to be left in the past? It doesn't mean that you live as if those things never happened. But it does mean that you recognize they happened THEN, but you are living NOW, and God's mercies are NEW EVERY MORNING. The Lord's Prayer is for our DAILY bread... not to carry around yesterday's loaves. O, that we all would be able to so embrace God's work that we can fully appreciate it in the present, fondly remembering our past with Him, and thus longing for and anticipating the things he will do in the coming days. Personally, I find it to be somewhat of an adventure to go through life watching for and wondering what God is up to, what God is going to do next!

Close the gate behind you, okay?



international  
ministries



And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. - Philippians 4:7



# September

## Courage

Day 1 – Joshua 1:9

Day 2 – Deuteronomy 31:6

Day 3 – 2 Timothy 1:7

Day 4 – Proverbs 28:1

Day 5 – Psalm 27:14

Day 6 – Psalm 31:24

Day 7 – Ephesians 6:10-11

Day 8 – Psalm 112:6-8

Day 9 – Isaiah 41:10

Day 10 – Psalm 16:8

Day 11 – Isaiah 12:2

Day 12 – Psalm 56:3-4

Day 13 – Psalm 27:1-3

Day 14 – 1 Corinthians 15:58

Day 15 – John 14:27

Day 16 – Ephesians 3:8-12

Day 17 – Acts 4:29-31

Day 18 – Hebrews 4:14-16

Day 19 – Hebrews 10:19-23

Day 20 – 1 John 5:14-15

Day 21 – Romans 8:15

Day 22 – Acts 1:8

Day 23 – Luke 10:19

Day 24 – 2 Corinthians 12:9

Day 25 – 1 Corinthians 4:20

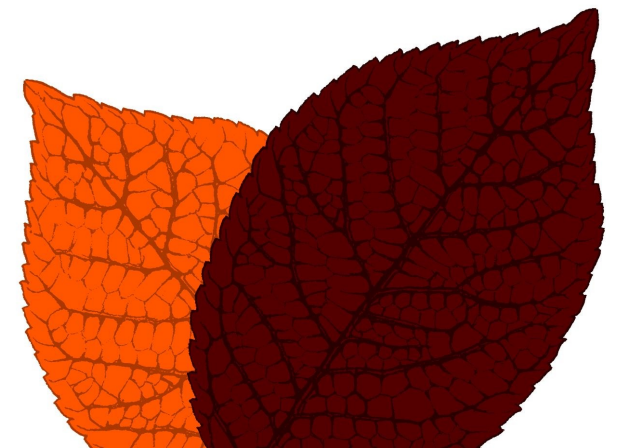
Day 26 – Colossians 1:9-14

Day 27 – Ephesians 3:14-19

Day 28 – Isaiah 40:29-31

Day 29 – 2 Corinthians 3:9-12

Day 30 – Ephesians 3:20-21



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Mike Conway	402-317-9466	1
Melody Scott	402-720-8979	1
Beverley Clausen	402-721-0287	2
		4
Lynda Raasch	402-727-6854	11
Bryan Regier	308-458-7907	20
Wayne Muff	402-727-9562	21
Pam Gador	402-620-4338	24
Corwin Steele	402-720-3197	25
Doug Depue	402-727-5802	26

## Happy Anniversary!

Larry & Beverley Clausen 402-721-0287



*Bible Book of the Month:  
Obadiah*

American Baptist  
**Women's**  
MINISTRIES

ABWM  
Thursday  
September 7 @ 1:30



## Senior Residential/Homebound

### NYE SQUARE APTS

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

Dalton Benson 402-721-7717 #126  
Joan Sorensen 402-830-6519 #178

### SHALIMAR GARDENS

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

Harlan Waugh (402-753-8046) #207

### Edgewood Vista

2910 Clarkson St. Fremont 402-753-8800

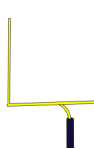
Mary Ann Paulger #7

### NYE SQUARE

655 W 23rd St. Fremont 402-721-9224

Esther and Leonard Bechtel #601

# N FOOTBALL



Husker FOOTBALL is almost here!  
If you're interested in having the  
Husker Games back in the Family  
Center, let the office know and we  
will make arrangements.



There are so many ways here at **FBC** that you can be **involved**  
and spread the **Love** and **Joy** of **Christ**.  
Let any of the staff know that you are able to serve!

Build | Love | Grow | Serve

WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO  
GROW THE KINGDOM OF GOD?

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### Monthly Meetings

Sept 11- Esther Circle - 11:30  
Sept 12 - Hannah Circle - 1:30  
Taco Johns  
Sept 28 - Naomi Circle - 12:30

## VISION TEAM MONTHLY REPORT:

The meeting was attended by Mike Raasch, John Mitchell, Betty Laughlin, Randy Cash, Marcia Hill, Eileen Cash, Shelly Bowen, Sasha White and Dorothy Charleston.

Mike opened with prayer and a reading from Psalm 99.

Randy reported July ended with \$14,764.47 in the First State Bank checking account. The quarterly American Baptist Fund had a balance of \$367,766.25. Designated Gifts has \$207,403.23. \$28,000 has been pledged thus far for roof repair work. \$5,500 was paid for kids going to camp.

Eileen reported things are going smoothly after J.C. Fremont Days. Allyson Foreman spoke at the ABW meeting.

Betty reported she continues to send cards and meals to families.

Shelly asked for volunteers and help for the Fall Festival on August 30. September 6 will be the first Wednesday night back with kids. Saturday August 19 the AB Girls will have an activity. About 8 girls attended. John will have soap carving for the boys. He's thinking about charging \$5 each so they would have some ownership.

John reported roof repair will start soon. David has a bid of \$16,000 for the windows. That includes trim. They are planning to sell the green van. They have a buyer. Then they would trade the big bus. The bid for the equipment for the sound system is \$16,698 not including installation. The cost to replace the air conditioner is \$54,358, and the water cooler is \$2400.

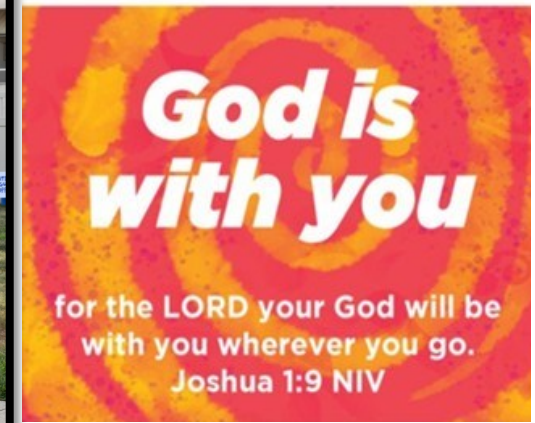
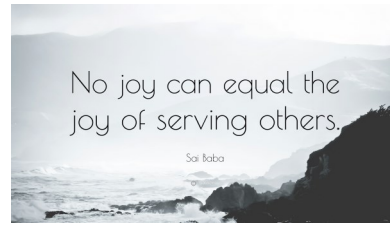
Sasha distributed copies of grants available for needs of community outreach. They include transportation and educational opportunities. We need to find the top 3. Wednesday night meals and outreach transportation are two.

There being no further business, Mike closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothy Charleston, clerk

But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. - James 3:17



**Wednesday Nights | 6:15 - Meal | 7pm - Groups**  
**!! GREAT FUN WAS HAD - FBKIDS | FBYOUTH**

# FBKIDS | FBYOUTH - KICK-OFF CARNIVAL !!



Train up a child in the way he should go: even when he is old he will not depart from it.  
-Proverbs 22:6

We are looking for **volunteers** to help!!

- Van Drivers
- Kitchen Helpers
- Children/Youth Mentors
- Creative Thinkers
- Class Leaders
- Teachers Assistant



## September Bible Puzzle:

Last month the question was about the youngest Jewish king prior to Jesus. How about we follow up and ask how old the next to youngest king was, and who he was? This one is Josiah..see below....

## September Peoples Puzzle:

This month's individual once benefited by the family-friendly attitude of their boss in a fun way. The company was Saladmaster, and a contest was launched for who would sell the most of the company's pots/pans/skillets. Our friend was the one who won, and the prize was a very memorable weekend getaway for the family up in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin.

## *August Answers*

### Bible Puzzle:

Prior to Jesus's birth, the youngest Jewish ruler was 7-year-old King Joash (also spelled Jehoash) who became king in Jerusalem/Judah after being hidden for 6 years by Priest Jehoida because, like Jesus and Moses, he was rescued as an infant from being murdered, in this case by his grandmother, Athaliah, who sought to be queen. Political intrigue has a very long history! (As long as his mentor, Jehoida, was living Joash did a fairly good job ruling.)

### Peoples Puzzle

The "brown eyes and blonde hair" child of the poetess mother who wrote a poem for each child is Jill Pochop.



Thank you for supporting The Camp Moses Merrill Experience! - Asa Summers, FBYouth

Thank you for your gift bags for the women given to the Bridge. Your donations are impacting the lives of so many people, giving them hope and letting survivors know they are not alone. Thank you again!  
Suzanne Smith, Executive Director



Plans Change, and Things come up...It's always a good idea to verify times and places.

# September 2023

**Coffee & Cookies**  
 6 - Esther Circle  
 10 - Naomi Circle  
 17 - ABM  
 24 - Hannah Circle

**SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDIES**

† Marcia and Larry Hill & Jim and Deb Peterson  
 Fridays 12pm - Parlor



† Mary Weldon  
 Tuesday's 10am @ Her house

† Joel Foreman  
 After Sunday Worship in the Parlor  
 (to exclude Communion Sundays)

† ZOOM  
 7th & 21st @ 2:30

† Rowena Gonzales  
 Anger Bible Study  
 Thursday's 8am @ her house

ABW  
 9am - Last Saturday of the month in the Parlor

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 9am - Men's Coffee	2 No ABM Bible Study 8am - ABM Breakfast 9am - Property Team  10:30 - Prayer Room with Pastor Richard 6pm - Food & Fellowship
3 <b>COMMUNION</b> 9:30 - Traditional Service 11am - Casual Service	4 9am - Men's Coffee 	5 1:30 Hannah Circle  7pm - AA Meeting	6 9:30a- Women's Coffee  FBKids   FBYouth 6:15 Meal 7pm - Groups	7 1:30pm ABWM Meeting  2:30 - Zoom Bible Study	8 9am - Men's Coffee	9 8:50am - Personnel Team 9:30am - Vision Team 11am - Prayer Tour
10 9:30 - Traditional Service 11am - Casual Service 6pm - Brown Bag 6:30 - Movie Night 	11 9am - Men's Coffee 11am - Esther Circle  7pm - Woodcarvers	12  7pm - AA Meeting	13 9:30a- Women's Coffee  FBKids   FBYouth 6:15 Meal 7pm - Groups	14	15 9am - Men's Coffee	16
17 9:30 - Traditional Service 11am - Casual Service	18 9am - Men's Coffee	19  7pm - AA Meeting	20 9:30a- Women's Coffee  FBKids   FBYouth 6:15 Meal 7pm - Groups	21 2:30 - Zoom Bible Study	22 9am - Men's Coffee	23
24 9:30 - Traditional Service 11am - Casual Service	25 9am - Men's Coffee  7pm - Woodcarvers	26  7pm - AA Meeting	27 9:30a- Women's Coffee  FBKids   FBYouth 6:15 Meal 7pm - Groups	28 12:30 - Naomi Circle	29 9am - Men's Coffee	30 9am - ABW Bible Study