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someone is very creative and intentionally trying to bring the device over as well as the meaning, but usually the device disappears and the meaning is emphasized. (The same is true of word plays in Hebrew and Greek, which if noted at all, tend to show up in our footnotes.)

Lastly, I would highlight (repetition and/or antiphonal style poetry where the wording is not changed. The antiphonal repetition style is embedded in the whole structure of Song of Songs (where a chorus of sorts gives the “antiphonal” response to the sayings to the main speaker). Probably the clearest example of this style of poetry is to be found in Psalm 136, where the statement “his steadfast love endures forever” is repeated after every sentence.

I will close this with a personal observation, which is that Hebrew poetry is very hard to translate, and even difficult to clearly grasp, because the wording is often not complete sentences, but terse phrases in which the reader has to fill in the gaps. Because of that, I prefer reading the prose sections, myself!

WHAT 3 WORDS WOULD YOU USE TO BEST DESCRIBE “FIRST BAPTIST” TO A STRANGER?

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February 2025



Lead Pastor - Richard Crooks | Music Director - Sasha White | Youth Leader - Jesse Kracht

## Pastor's Notes



*“for we walk by faith, not by sight.” –2 Corinthians 5:7*

I'd like to begin this article by sharing with you a devotion I recently read from the Guideposts 2007 devotions, this one written by Natalie Perkins (used with permission)--

“There is a mother with four kids getting on the escalator---none of the children older than eight or younger than five. I happen to fall in line just behind them. As the family steps onto the escalator, the littlest one hesitates while they begin the descent. He sticks out one foot and both arms, wavering. His mother looks back and says to him, ‘Just step. It’s okay. Go ahead.’ This all happens in a matter of seconds as the line continues to move behind me.

I find myself right next to the boy, who promptly grabs my coat and takes his leap of faith. I hold him just under his arm and step with him. Okay, I guess we’re doing this together, Little One. After he is safely on, he lets go of my coat and reaches for the rail instead, attempting to close the gap between his family and him.

‘No, no, just wait there,’ his mother says after he has descended one unsure step. She smiles at me, says thank you, and turns back toward the bottom of the escalator.

I am left to marvel at the complete trust of this little one. Not once did he look up. Not once was he curious about who grabbed him under his arm. He trusted that whatever he needed would be right there....this boy reminded me very clearly about what faith is supposed to be.”

What a great illustration of holding God’s hand by faith as we walk through life. The boy was scared, but he acted on his trust of his mother’s instructions and the strength of somebody bigger than himself. How often do we base our actions on feelings of fear, of hurt, of insecurity or any others instead of setting them aside to walk in



faith and simply do what God asks of us? How many times do we try to solve the problem ourselves, to depend on our own strength, as the boy did by trying to step on down, instead of doing what God tells us to do and holding his hand instead? I know God expects us to use the brains he gave us, but when he has told us his expectations, our logic has to take back seat. Jehoshaphat went into battle by putting the choir in front of the army. David attacked an experienced, armed and shielded warrior giant named Goliath with a few stones and a slingshot. Gideon was going to defeat an army in camp by holding up torches and blowing horns, both of which would have made them easy targets for an enemy. Joshua defeated a city by marching around it for seven days and blowing horns. Jesus fed thousands of people with a handful of fish and bread loaves. Peter stepped out of a boat's safety during stormy weather to walk on water toward Jesus.



I found this Guideposts story a perfect reminder of how God really wants us to live, especially when we face things that make us uncomfortable, that make life hard, that are overwhelming and confusing, or that are hurtful and dangerous. Whatever you face this month, reach out and just hold on to God's hand, by faith doing what he instructs you to do in his Word, rather than your ideas of what to do, or what you feel like doing, or what you have the strength to do. Hang on to that hand, just as that child held on for his escalator adventure.

"Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it."—Jesus, in Luke 18:17

Trying to hold on tight....



ANGEL STUDIOS PRESENTS  
**SOUND OF HOPE**  
THE STORY OF POSSUM TROT

February 9<sup>th</sup>

CHURCH  
**MOVIE NIGHT**

6p Brown Bag  
6:30p Movie Starts

WHAT IS YOUR HOPE FOR THE  
FUTURE CONGREGATION OF FBC?

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WHAT STEPS ARE YOU TAKING TO  
MAKE SURE IT COMES TO LIGHT?

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Most of you have seen the various poetry pieces I have shared with you and others now and then. What do you know about biblical poetry? It is interesting to me that, in English, song lyrics are a form of poetry, but not all poetry would be appropriate to try to use as lyrics...song lyrics are a sub-category. I never really studied all the types of

poetry, iambic pentameter and such, but I know that most of the time, I'm not a big fan of the "free-form" poetry, and think the emphasis I have seen over the years in schools of the Japanese "haiku" form is overdone, especially since kids learn it but aren't generally taught the other classical poetry styles of Western civilization. I have a Bible that a Kansas City man put together where he attempts to put the whole Bible story into verse. It's pretty interesting.

In our Bibles, there are all sorts of poems. Some in the New Testament (such as Philippians 2:5-11) are believed to be hymns sung by the early church. In the Hebrew Bible, we know that Psalms were put to melody and used in both pilgrimages and worship. There are a number of other passages that are poetical, and even the non-poetical passages in the Hebrew Bible have musical notations because they are sung in synagogues by the skilled cantors. I am more versed in Hebrew poetry than Greek, so want to focus on it. English poetry is known primarily by rhyme, rhythm and symbolic type language. The Greeks like euphony, so much of their writing is based on words and endings that sound pleasant together. Do you know what the hallmarks of Hebrew poetry are?

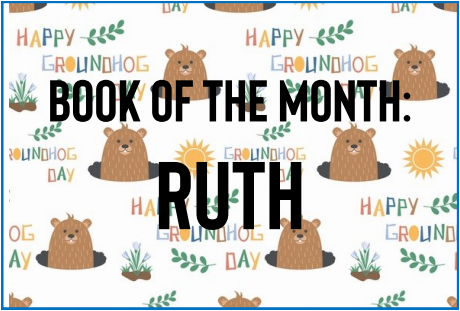
I hope that at least some of you jumped to the notion of an "Acrostic" poem. The Psalms and also Lamentations (which is also a dirge) use this form. An acrostic is where the first letters have significance, often in English, we use them to spell out words: JOY—Jesus, Others, Yourself. The Greek word for fish also did that: ICTHUS---Jesus Christ God's Son Savior. The Hebrew acrostics in the Bible are all (as far as I know) alphabetical. That is why in Psalm 119, it is divided into 8 verse sections, each of which is given the title of a Hebrew letter. The first 8 verses of Psalm 119 all begin with words whose first letter is Aleph (kind of the Hebrew equivalent of our "A"), the next 8 are Beth (B), and so on. There are several Psalm poems written using the alphabetical acrostic.

Another style of Hebrew poetry is parallelism. Here, it is probably easiest to think of how some of the verses in Proverbs are written, in which a statement is made, and then it is repeated with different wording. Reading the first few verses of Proverbs 1, you will see this happen multiple times. A variation of this repetition is called "chiastic structure," which does the repetition, but in a way that might be imaged as an upside down triangle. A statement is made (in analysis, it is marked A), then another, then perhaps another, until a kind of climax or main point is stated, and then, as if going back down the ladder, the statements are reworded or expanded and given in reverse order. The analysis would look like this: A, B, C, D, C', B', A'. Proverbs 6:16-19 is an example of this kind of poetry.

Another Hebrew poetry device, which also occurs in English, is called alliteration, where certain letters or sounds are repeated over and over. In the Hebrew poetry I have observed, this especially occurs with the sound "m." Unfortunately, that is virtually untranslatable, unless



Birthdays	Phone	Date	Anniversary	Phone
Marilyn Pueppke	402-721-0714	2		
Ron Hornberger	701-852-5244	3		
Eileen Cash	402-721-6418	4		
Lexi Jones	FBYouth	5		
Allie Jones	FBYouth	5		
Jill Pochop	402-727-1295	6	Ron & Beryl Hornberger	701-852-5244
Wayne Lamberty	563-299-1804	9		
Shelly Bowen	402-720-4559	10		
		12	Jim & Nancy Stoltenberg	402-721-7814
June Cardwell	402-478-4593	15		
Arienne Summers	FBYouth	18		
Trudy Reiss	308-258-1533	24		



**No ABWM Meeting this Month**

Esther - February 10 | 11am | Village Inn  
Hannah - No Meeting  
Naomi - No Meeting

### Love In Action

☐ Day 1: John 3:16

☐ Day 2: 1 Cor 13:1-3

☐ Day 3: Romans 5:8

☐ Day 4: 1 John 4:7-8

☐ Day 5: Ephesians 2:4-5

☐ Day 6: 1 John 4:18-19

☐ Day 7: Matthew 22:37-39

☐ Day 8: Romans 13:8

☐ Day 9: 1 Cor 13:4-7

☐ Day 10: John 15:13

☐ Day 11: Proverbs 10:12

☐ Day 12: 1 Peter 4:8

☐ Day 13: 1 Cor 16:14

☐ Day 14: Colossians 3:14

☐ Day 15: 1 John 4:9-11

☐ Day 16: Ephesians 5:1-2

☐ Day 17: Galatians 5:22-23

☐ Day 18: Song of Solomon 8:6-7

☐ Day 19: 1 John 3:1

☐ Day 20: Romans 8:35-39

☐ Day 21: Matthew 5:43-48

☐ Day 22: John 13:34-35

☐ Day 23: Proverbs 17:17

☐ Day 24: 1 Peter 1:22

☐ Day 25: Romans 12:9-10

☐ Day 26: 1 John 4:12

☐ Day 27: 2 Thess 3:5

☐ Day 28: 1 John 3:16-18

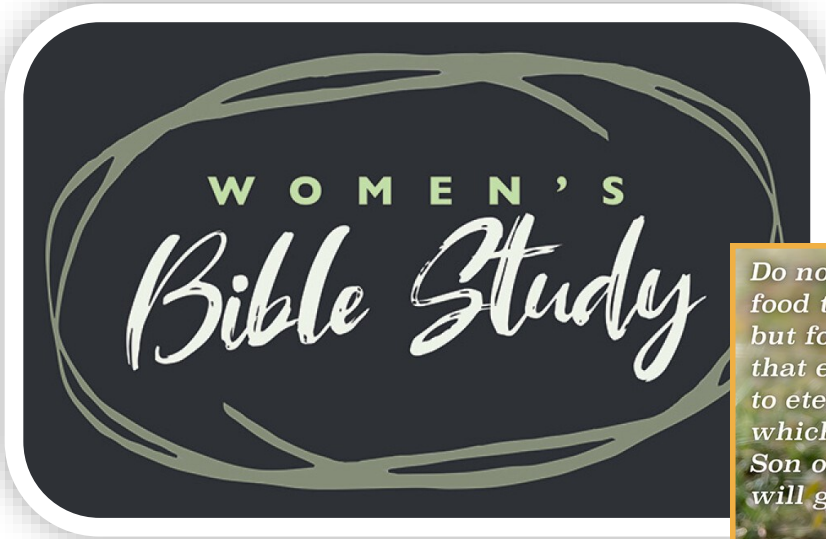
☐ Day 29: Jude 1:21



Rainbow Acres



BACONE COLLEGE



**SATURDAY**  
**FEBRUARY 15th | 9:30a**

*Study Guides Available!*



## Vision Meeting Minutes – January 11, 2025



**Attendance:** Larry Hill, Marcia Hill, Marilyn Pueppke, Betty Laughlin, Joel Foreman, Mike Raasch, Randy Cash, Mark & Vickie Anderson, Eileen Cash, Pastor Crooks.

**Local Outreach:** Mark & Vickie shared the coats received were taken to Washington school and were appreciated.

Parent/teacher conferences are being held in February, and they would like to take treats to the teachers. Spring break is in March – collecting food to take to the school for the kids. The date to have collected food by is March 10th, 2025. Last week of May, they are planning on having a luncheon for the teachers at Linden.

**Missions:** No new report

**Children/Youth Ministries:** Marcia reported the Middle/High school kids will start meeting Sunday nights starting January 12th, 2025, which will be led by new youth leader Jesse. The elementary school kids will continue to meet on Wednesday nights.

**Treasurer:** Randy stated not much to report. The First State Bank account is \$12,803.03 at the end of December 2024. The Building Account has \$5,837.57 while the FSB Memorial Funds are \$40,349.18. The amount being received from the Latens' endowment is currently unknown. The cost to repair the vans were more than what was received from insurance. May need to file a supplemental claim.

**Events:** No new report

**Discipleship:** No new report

**Worship Ministry:** Marilyn had no report

**Caring Ministry:** Betty reported she continues to send cards to spread the sunshine. Marica sent cards and cookies to the sheriff's department.

**ABM:** Joel shared they are preparing for the Easter breakfast on 04-20-25. JCF Days are tentatively scheduled, pending information received from the JCF committee.

**ABW:** Eileen confirmed the next meeting is April 3rd, 2025 at 10:00 am with Noon luncheon.

**Property Team:** Larry reported getting bids to repair the leak on the 3rd floor. The drain in the parlor and the dishwasher has been repaired along with the hail damage being done on the van. No updated information to report on the rental office available in the Family Center. The team is looking into the different heating units in the church to see how they may be used as not all areas of the church are heated.

**Personnel team:** No new report

**Pastor Crooks:** It was reported there is \$40,000 in the memorial funds that could be used. Would like to possibly apply funds to be used for women retreats and sending kids to go to camp.

New year, same God! As the youth move into this new semester of schooling, our main focus will be to equip the students to live out the Gospel in their everyday lives. We will be doing that by diving into scriptures and the truth about learning how Jesus handled daily day situations, which we then can apply to our daily lives. My prayer for this month is that the Lord will continue to rain down his blessings over our church and our youth as we continue on with this year.

Youth Leader, Jesse Kracht

Upcoming events to look out for

- Feb 16th, FBYouth will be hosting a Valentine's Lunch (fundraiser)
- Feb 22-23rd, FBYouth will be heading to Camp Moses Merrill for "LIT" (Leaders In Training).
- March 7th - 9th, Youth Retreat at Camp Moses Merrill



## EAT, PRAY, LOVE

### FEBRUARY 16TH

### YOUTH FUNDRAISER

### 6PM | \$15 A PERSON

FBYouth is having a Fundraiser Dinner! Money collected will go towards youth programs, and we would love for you to be part of it! (Singles and Couples are both welcome!)

Your support will make a difference in the lives of our young people, and we hope to see you there! Together, we can help create a brighter future for our community. Thank you for your generosity!

## One of our most successful outreach events is scheduled!

### BINGO PRIZE DONATIONS REQUESTED

PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING

## Gently Used Gift Items

- OR -

## Gift Cards (\$5 - \$10)

## to be used in Fremont







# FBKIDS | FBYOUTH

Children's  
-MINISTRY-

## HENRY STEVENSON



Henry is Rowena Gonzales's grandson, by Shasta Godina, and was just a few months ago officially adopted by Rowena into her household as her son. Henry has one brother and one sister, and is in 7<sup>th</sup> Grade at Fremont Middle School, and as is the case with most middle school boys, he likes to hang around with his friends or curling up for a few extra zzz's! Someday, he hopes to help develop video games...but for now, is content playing them. Pets? Hold on to your hats....he has a pet named Sweetie, who is orange and red....and is a Leopard Gecko (like on the Geico commercials). We didn't hear whether he has taught Sweetie to fetch a paper, roll-over, or sell insurance yet or not! Henry has a great curiosity and interest in learning more about the faith, and is hoping to especially learn some new things about the story of David and Goliath.

## - MEET THE YOUTH OF FIRST BAPTIST -

Ryan is one of our older youth, a junior up at Logan View High School. When asked what he would like to do someday, he expressed interest in being a meteorologist (so keep your eye open for him on television one of these days). He loves the idea of storm chasing, and always enjoys it when his family takes trips in the summertime. He enjoys playing video games and watching football, which might be tricky with 2 cats (Lucky—who stays outside, and Meso—a kitten who is indoors) and 2 dogs (Bessa a Shih-Tzu who is older and Phoenix who is half-heeler and half Border Collie---which means Phoenix is FULL of energy!). Ryan was one of the students who was able to go with us to Colorado for the youth gathering last summer, and had a great time. He expresses that he is really eager to learn as much as he can about God and the Bible these days, and always has great contributions to make in the discussion. Ryan brings his 2 younger brothers on Wednesdays to Kid's Club activities, and at school has gotten the stage and music bug. You can see him and his "buddy" Asa in the upcoming spring production of Elf. Ryan plays Mr. Greenway, the boss of Walter, and Walter is Buddy the Elf's dad (if you have seen that movie). Break a leg, Ryan!

## RYAN THOMPSON



*"Look to the Lord and his strength; seek His face always."*

1 Chronicles 16:11

The Bi-annual conference is July 4th – 6th, 2025. Nola printed information for those who would like it.

Endowment Trust Funds Indenture – It was discussed that due to the restrictions, funds are not made available as we would like. Randy suggested we simplify it down to open more funds to be used as needed. Recommendation was made to send it back to the Endowment team to be modified.

Amity requested a calendar with a list of the major events scheduled for the year to prevent things getting missed or getting last-minute details. Pastor Richard made a list of some of the events and will forward them to Amity. Looking into getting an online calendar.

Pastor Richard presented the 2025 Elected Officers with 3 additions of officers since the last vote. Marcia made a motion to accept the modified list of officers and Eileen second. Motions passed.

Pastor Richard & Nola on vacation in February. Will be gone 02/17/25.

Study groups are still discussing the parables.

Larry Hill mentioned it has been a while since we had a church audit and recommended, we look into having one done. Pastor and Vision team agreed. Will look into getting an estimate from Erickson & Brooks as they currently do the tax filing

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

Respectfully submitted, Shelly Bowen, clerk

*Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. Ephesians 4:32*



## January Bible Puzzle Answer

Why are OT names with "el" or "ja(h)" so common? These names are "theophoric" names, and "theophoric" simply means that the name bears in it the name of God...they are in effect, confessions of faith. The word "El" is how we pronounce the Hebrew word for God or a god (although there is also a longer version), and "Ja" with or without an "h" is a shortened form of the personal name of our God, YHWH or Yahweh ("y" often becomes a "j" by the time it gets into English). In the Old Testament think of Elijah...which contains both, as an example. (The "i" in this context means "my," hence his name means, "my God is YHWH." Watch for others when you are reading. Also, can you think of people today whose names reflect God?

## February Bible Puzzle

Bible puzzle The Book of Psalms is attributed to David, but according to the book itself, some of the Psalms are by other people. Who are they?

# February 2025

Sometimes, plans can change...It's always a good idea to verify times and places.

*"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you" John 15:12*



We are planning our next Food Distribution for the schools and plan to deliver on March 10th!! Please bring your non-perishable food items to "Fill Our Shelves"! Don't have time to shop? No problem! Donate to the cause and we will shop for you. Thank you for helping our school families in need and Thank you for your support. (We will also continue to collect Coats/Hats/Gloves etc...until the need is filled.)  
-Mark and Vicki Anderson & Jim and Deb Peterson

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b> 7a - ABM Bible Study 8a - ABM Breakfast 9a - Property Team  6p - Fun and Fellowship
<b>2 Communion</b> <b>Bring a Can of FOOD</b> <b>Groundhog Day</b> 9:30a - Traditional Service 11a - Casual Service  5p - FBYouth 7-8th 6p - Meal 6:30p - FBYouth 9-12th	<b>3</b> 9a - Men's Coffee	<b>4</b>  7p - AA Meeting	<b>5</b> 9:30a - Women's Coffee  6:15p - Meal 6:45p - FBKids 7p - Bible Study	<b>6</b> 5:30p - Kay Circle Mat Weaving	<b>7</b> 9a - Men's Coffee  12p - Bible Study in Parlor	<b>8</b> 8:45a - Personnel Team 9:30a - Vision Team
<b>9 Bring a Can of FOOD</b> 9:30a - Traditional Service 11a - Casual Service 11a - Bible Study  6p - Brown Bag 6:30p - Movie Starts	<b>10</b> 9a - Men's Coffee 11a - Esther Circle  7p - Woodcarvers	<b>11</b> No Hannah Circle  7p - AA Meeting	<b>12</b> 9:30a - Women's Coffee  6:15p - Meal 6:45p - FBKids 7p - Bible Study	<b>13</b> 9:30a - Pastor Led Bible Study	<b>14 Valentine's Day</b> 9a - Men's Coffee  12p - Bible Study in Parlor	<b>15</b> 9:30a - ABW Bible Study
<b>16 Bring a Can of FOOD</b> 9:30a - Traditional Service 11a - Casual Service 11a - Bible Study 6p - FBYouth "EAT, PRAY, LOVE" Fundraiser	<b>17</b> 9a - Men's Coffee	<b>18</b>  7p - AA Meeting	<b>19</b> 9:30a - Women's Coffee  6:15p - Meal 6:45p - FBKids 7p - Bible Study	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 9a - Men's Coffee  12p - Bible Study in Parlor	<b>22</b> 8:45a - Van Leaves for "LIT" @ Camp Moses Merrill
<b>23 Bring a Can of FOOD</b> 9:30a - Traditional Service 11a - Casual Service 11a - Bible Study 12p (FBYouth Returns from LIT) 5p - FBYouth 7-8th 6p - Meal 6:30p - FBYouth 9-12th	<b>24</b> 9a - Men's Coffee  7p - Woodcarvers	<b>25</b>  7p - AA Meeting	<b>26</b> 9:30a - Women's Coffee  6:15p - Meal 6:45p - FBKids 7p - Bible Study	<b>27</b> No Naomi Circle	<b>28</b> 9a - Men's Coffee  12p - Bible Study in Parlor	<b>Cookies &amp; Coffee</b>  2 - ABM 9 - Hannah 16 - Esther 23 - Naomi