

# First Forum



## Teaching

Will a person follow God for nothing? It's a question that comes out of Job. It's Satan's first response to God. It is still a valid question to ask about our own lives.

A Study done on American youth found that although many claim to be Christian, what they really believe in is what the authors called MTD, Moralistic, Therapeutic, Deism. God exists to make me a better person and give me a better life. Otherwise, God is not involved in a person's life. While the study was on youth, the fact is that the youth will have largely seen this in their parents and that it is currently the primary religious view in the culture. It's a view that makes us consumers more than pursuers of God. And it slips in subtly, often using spiritual-sounding words.

At some point, we need to take stock and evaluate if we are becoming people who are consumers of Christ or if we are pursuers of Christ.

A consumer of Christ is a consumer of the Christian religion. They act Christian, do religious-looking things, and possibly even believe much of the faith because they think that in doing so, they will get something from God or others. A "good life," freedom from pain or want, social acceptance, a "good family," and financial security. Some even become so tied to this that they imagine that any good thing that comes to them must be evidence that God is blessing them for their goodness. However, it's likely that Satan is not opposed to using material "blessings" if it will cause spiritual destruction. Many organizations worldwide are experiencing significant material increases while being destructive to humanity and a person's walk with God. And there is the problem. We assume pleasant things are good simply because they are pleasant. It is an illogical leap. We do not evaluate whether these pleasant things are causing us to drift from God. Enjoyable is not the same as good just like pain is not the same as evil. Where we confuse these truths, we do ourselves and others deep harm, even if it does not immediately feel like it. Consumers are ultimately about themselves. Pursuing is different.

When you are in pursuit, you get rid of anything that is in the way, anything that hinders you. Pursuing something requires focus, and the thing being pursued is valuable. I'm not saying that one has to get rid of everything pleasant. But if what you pursue is of value, then whatever holds you back may be a liability. Following hard after something with your arms full of unnecessary baggage is challenging. Paul says it this way. "Let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us." (Hebrews 12:1b NLT).

Will a person follow God for nothing? Is Christ the one we pursue and follow, the one we treasure? Am I a consumer or a pursuer? These are questions that we likely must ask ourselves regularly. But Christ is worth both the question and the pursuit.

~ *Pastor Mark*



## RENTALS & RESERVATIONS

If you would like to reserve or rent a ROOM in the church (for Bible studies, events, weddings, etc.) or rent the gym, please contact the church office at (308)234-2311 or [LReed@kearneyfb.org](mailto:LReed@kearneyfb.org). New rental forms will be required for ALL reservations (including in house) in 2025. These forms are available at <https://kearneyfb.org/room-reservations/> or through the church office. Please **NOTE** the facility use reservations are visible on the calendar via the church website. *Please double check your reservations on that calendar.*

## NOTES FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

As we are well into February, January 2025 is now behind us. Attached is the giving thermometer, which we use to track contributions throughout the year. FBC received \$93,798 in January, which is approximately 7.9% of our 2025 giving goal.

When preparing the 2025 budget, we projected January contributions of approximately \$125,000. However, it's important to remember that this was only an estimate based on historical giving, and monthly fluctuations in giving are standard.

FBC's overall income for January was \$95,000, while monthly expenses totaled \$116,000, resulting in a \$21,000 deficit for the month. While covering all expenses each month would be ideal, it is not always possible, and we rely on savings to make up the difference. As a congregation, your generous giving in the past has enabled us to cover monthly shortfalls.

We need to remember that the Lord is in control of everything. In 1 Chronicles 29:11-12, it says: "Everything in the heavens and on earth is yours, O Lord, and this is your kingdom. We adore you as the one who is over all things. Wealth and honor come from you alone, for you rule over everything. Power and might are in your hand, and at your discretion people are made great and given strength." (NLT)

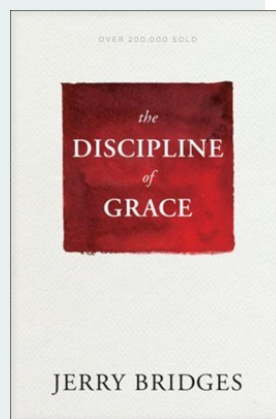
Scripture clearly tells us that God is in control of everything, including FBC's finances. As we give, we should do so freely and sacrificially, trusting that He has the final say in how and when we receive provision. While we all desire to have control over every aspect of life, we must ultimately place our faith in God, who governs all things.

Thank you for your continued generosity and faithfulness. Your support enables FBC to carry out its mission, and we are grateful for each and every one of you. Let us continue to trust in God's provision as we move forward together.

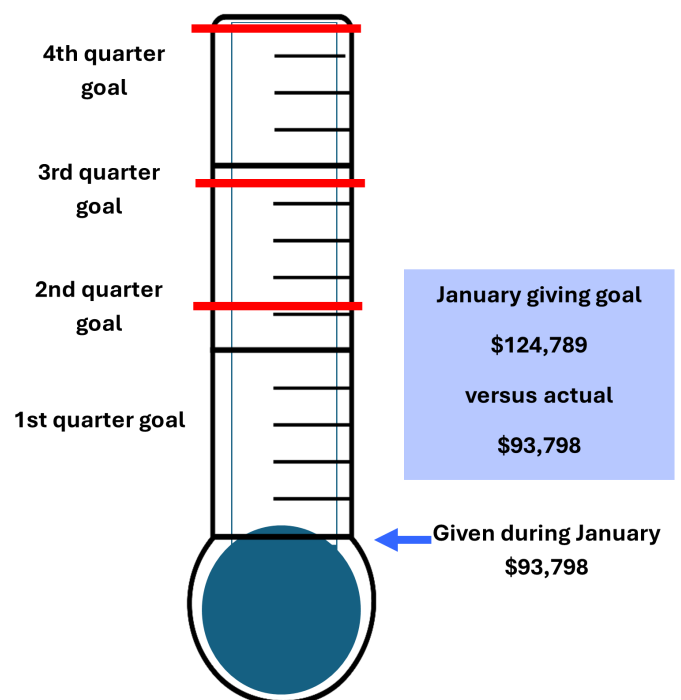
### Pastor Mark's

### Book Recommendation

I've never read a Jerry Bridges' book that wasn't great. The Discipline of Grace is a book I had never read before but am using with several other men in our meetings. Grace is a word that is often used, but the idea of learning to live with an awareness of grace is something that we can usually ignore. It's easy to acknowledge grace as a concept. It's necessary and life-giving to realize grace as a reality. Bridges does a great job of addressing common questions and driving home the point that I need to continue realizing my dependency and reliance on grace as a Christian if I am to thrive. I recommend this book as one that will push the truths of grace into both the mind and heart.



### 2025 GIVING GOAL

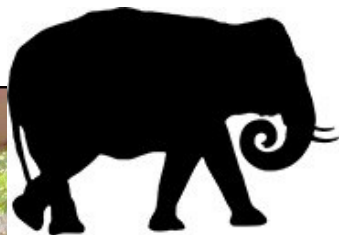


## Mike and Becky Mann Missionaries in Thailand

Mike and Becky Mann are ABC Missionaries in Northern Thailand. They began service in Thailand in 1991 building clean water systems to the Lahu tribe in Northern Thailand. By 1996 they realized that all tribal groups were in need of clean water and other economic developments. That is how the Integrated Tribal Development Foundation began. Six teams were formed to build the project areas that they seek to address: clean water, education and social development, Thai Arabica coffee production, Lanna Coffee and Cafe, agriculture extension and marketing, and Hands to Heart Women's coop. Through these six areas thousands of hill tribe villagers have been reached.

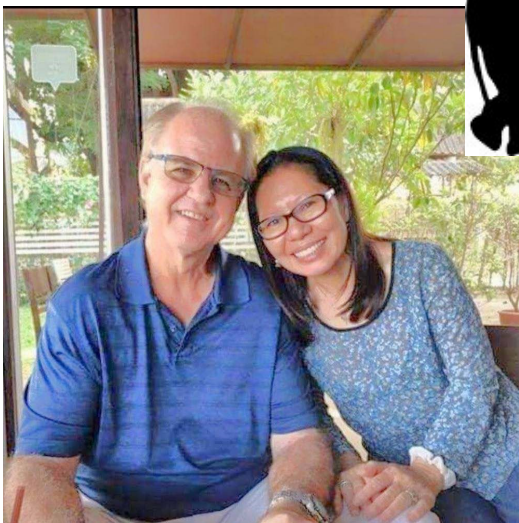
You may wonder how you can help. Lanna Coffee is available in the United States. You can go to [lannacoffeeco.com](http://lannacoffeeco.com) to order fresh roasted coffee. Some of the names have changed recently but they are the same delicious coffees served here at our coffee bar. You can also contact Angie Gillming at 308-233-2291 as she usually has coffee on hand.

Hands to Heart Women's Cooperative was formed as a way to help women hone their craft skills and have a substantial income even though they are in remote areas. Debbie Tingley is in Thailand as a volunteer and she travels with the team to the villages to help with sewing classes, how to use natural dyes to make beautiful hand woven crafts, and how to market their crafts. Hands to Heart can be found on Facebook at Hands to Heart Thailand or at [www.handstoheartthailand.org](http://www.handstoheartthailand.org) The table runners, scarves, handbags and throws are beautiful. They have ornaments, dolls and stuffed animals as well all made from hand woven materials.



# LANNA

COFFEE CO.







Missions

MARCH 15TH  
AND 16TH, 2024

stint DISCIPLESHIP  
WEEKEND

WHY?  
ANSWERS  
THAT MATTER

For details visit  
[www.toddbecker.org/stint](http://www.toddbecker.org/stint)

MULTIPLYING  
SUSTAINABLE  
CHURCHES  
AMONG THE  
UNREACHED



During Sunday  
School hour &  
Worship Sevice!

Join us Sunday,  
March 2nd as  
Activate Global  
shares about  
their ministry!





**JOIN US FOR GIRLS' CRAFT NIGHT!**

Our next monthly Girls' Craft Nights, for girls Kindergarten through 6th grade, will be Friday, March 14th, from 6pm—8pm.

In addition to a fun craft, the girls will have pizza and cookies.

Please register at [kearneyfb.org/kids](http://kearneyfb.org/kids) no later than Wednesday, March 12th so the leaders can purchase supplies.

If you have any questions you may contact Karen Decker (308-440-2418), Kyla Martin (304-440-7964) or Dee Dee McNish (308-440-6004) (our Girls' Craft Night leaders).

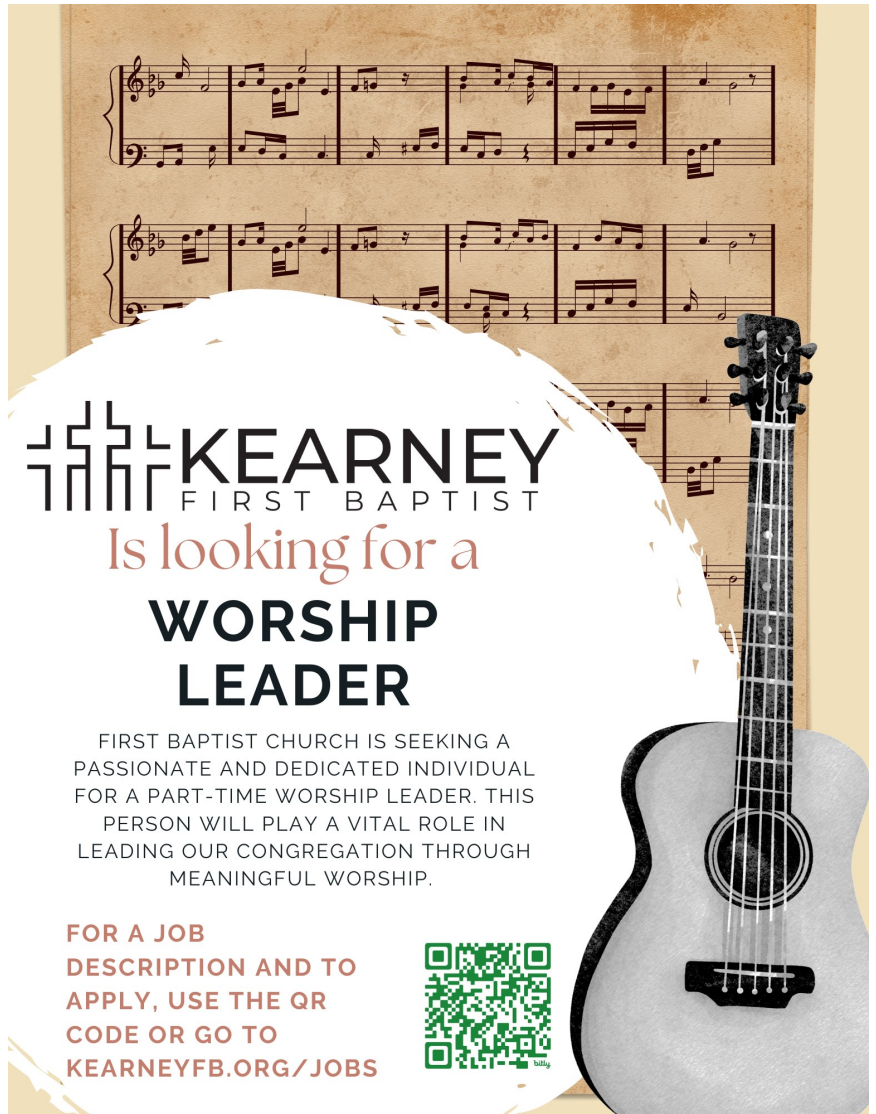
# Girls Craft Night

Second Friday  
6-8 pm

K - 6th Grade

Register at  
[kearneyfb.org/kids](http://kearneyfb.org/kids)

LAST CRAFT  
NIGHT UNTIL  
FALL!




**KEARNEY**  
FIRST BAPTIST

Is looking for a  
**WORSHIP LEADER**

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING A PASSIONATE AND DEDICATED INDIVIDUAL FOR A PART-TIME WORSHIP LEADER. THIS PERSON WILL PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN LEADING OUR CONGREGATION THROUGH MEANINGFUL WORSHIP.

FOR A JOB DESCRIPTION AND TO APPLY, USE THE QR CODE OR GO TO [KEARNEYFB.ORG/JOBS](http://KEARNEYFB.ORG/JOBS)



# March 2025

## Celebrations



DATE	BIRTHDAY	ANNIVERSARY
3-1	Barb Estes, Julie Bolen, Karson Backus, Thomas Martin	
3-2		
3-3	Karon Bisbee, Corrie Dougherty, Amy Pape, Dennis LaFollette	
3-4	Monroe Meier, Kellen Schneringer, Baker Evans	Kim & Judy Smith
3-5	Riley Moncrief	
3-6	Pat Skiles, Wade Goodwin, Mark de Kluyver	
3-7		
3-8	Luke Spivey, Marrin Morrisette	
3-9	William Bolen, Janine Griss	Clark & Nancy Gangwish
3-10	Alex Gangwish, Kelli Urbanek, Ryleigh Burns Briley Schmidt, Shirley Rosenthal, Joe Cipov	Larry & Linda Peterson
3-11	Gary Larsen, Treaa Watts	
3-12	Sharlyn Pycha, Quinn Feikert	Chuck & Maxine Lien
3-13	Jan Fruhling, Billie Jo Gregg	
3-14	Jacob Olson	
3-15	Jan Giffin, Rutheah Murdoch	
3-16	Scott Peace	
3-17	Pat Anderson	Donn & Martha Newquist
3-18	Larry Peterson	Dan & Dustyna Maynard Denton & Jessica Bradley
3-19	Colton Samuelson, Lela Fidler	
3-20	Traeh Cervantes, Easton Gillming, Isabelle Flores	Mark & Krystal Arehart
3-21		
3-22	Mark Liljehorn, Kian Culler	
3-23	Barrett Bradley	
3-24	Stacey Wood, Dwain Stefka, Brantley Gwin, Margo Andersen, Ashlee Bauer	Don & Jalene Davis Luke & Cassie Spivey
3-25	Angela Williams	
3-26	Beckie Chamberlin, Roger Francis	John & Amy Bettles
3-27	Dee Dee McNish, Laurie McCormick	
3-28	Alissa Dunn, Tiffany Murdoch, Martha Newquist, Letitia Reichart-Long	Gary & Enid Hansen
3-29	Bill Wood	
3-30	Nale McElhinny, Matthew Long	
3-31	Hunter Morrisette	



## Card List

### At Northridge

5410 17<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Kearney, NE 68845  
Loree Elliott #15  
Carl Gangwish #146  
Lula Cepel #341  
Alex Gangwish, #226  
Jo Wright, #245

### At Autumn Village

1712 E 39<sup>th</sup> St  
Kearney, NE 68847  
Marvin Ebinger #4  
Rose Hullinger #14  
Beryl Topps #6

### At Wel-Life

5616 4<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Kearney, NE 68845  
Jeanne Chamberlin #110

### At Mother Hull

125 E 23<sup>rd</sup> St  
Kearney NE 68847  
Shirley Rosenthal #20

### At Cambridge Court

4107 Central Ave  
Kearney NE 68847  
Linda Salter, #116

### At Mount Carmel

412 W 18<sup>th</sup> St  
Kearney, NE 68845  
Gary Hansen #114

### At St. John's

3410 Central Ave  
Kearney, NE 68847  
George Bundy N 7  
Gary Wuehler S 8

### At Brookstone Gardens

2615 W 11<sup>th</sup> St  
Kearney, NE 68845  
Marvin Gillming Apt. 414  
Norman Hicken Apt 404

### At Country House

Country House  
Attn: Eulah Gangwish  
5605 K Ave. (Room number  
not needed)  
Kearney, NE 68847

### At Kearney Manor

2715 Ave I  
Kearney, NE 68847  
Carol Abramson, #12  
Carol Baetz, #81  
Charlcy Hoff, #28

Mrs. Faith Kamm  
2309 W 42<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Kearney, NE 68845

Jeanette Evan  
1415 E 34<sup>th</sup> St  
Kearney, NE 68847

Elaine Siminoe  
c/o Cindy Lauby  
42780 Rd 756  
Lexington, NE 68850  
(At Elwood Care Home for  
visits)

Richard & Arlys Kleckner  
44770 Highway 40  
Sumner, NE 68878

Charlie Mefferd  
Central NE Veteran's Home  
Bravo 3 Room B304  
4510 E 56<sup>th</sup> St  
Kearney, NE 68847



### Men's Breakfast

See you on March 15th at  
7:30am in the  
Multipurpose Room!

Contact William Bolen  
308-627-5915 with any  
questions or for more  
info!

Lloyd Mead & Doris Van Vleet  
4429 P Ave  
Kearney, NE 68847

Keith & Mary Lou McFarland  
44086 Rd 768  
Sumner, NE 68878

Jerry & Julie Stall  
2665 E 95<sup>th</sup> St  
Kearney, NE 68847

Pat Hird  
2005 7<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Kearney, NE 68845

Quidon Brown  
1909 W 38<sup>th</sup> St, #4  
Kearney, NE 68845

Roger & Pat Anderson  
515 W 1<sup>st</sup> St  
Minden, NE 68959

Melanie Morrison  
Heritage at Sagewood  
Room 236  
1920 Sagewood Ave  
Grand Island, NE 68803

Ron Mason  
Seneca Sunrise  
710 Grand Ave #116  
Ravenna, NE 68869

Caring



**“Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will  
fulfill the law of Christ.”**



# March 2025

March 2025							April 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1			1	2	3	4	5
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30			
30	31												

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Feb 23	24	25	26	27	28	Mar 1
2 Communion Sunday 8:30am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 5:00pm Game Night	3 9:30am PRAYER GROUP 9:30am Prayer Circle (https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87692882232?)	4 12:00pm SonRise Bible Study 7:00pm Praise Team	5 6:00pm Youth Group 6:30pm Choir 6:30pm Kearney Kids 6:30pm Women's Bible	6 9:30am Women's Bible Study (Zoom) 12:00pm Canceled: 2025 1:30pm SonRise Bible	7 12:00pm Godly Men in the Workplace (Valentino's)	8
9 8:30am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 5:00pm Game Night 5:00pm Radio Broadcast	10 9:30am PRAYER GROUP 9:30am Prayer Circle (https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87692882232?)	11 12:00pm SonRise Bible Study 2:00pm Rebekah Anna 7:00pm Praise Team	12 6:00pm Youth Group 6:30pm Choir 6:30pm Kearney Kids 6:30pm Women's Bible	13 9:30am Women's Bible Study (Zoom) 1:30pm SonRise Bible Study	14 6:00pm Girls Craft Night	15 7:30am Men's Breakfast
16 8:30am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 5:00pm Game Night 5:00pm Game Night	17 9:30am PRAYER GROUP	18 12:00pm SonRise Bible Study 7:00pm Praise Team	19 6:00pm Youth Group 6:30pm Choir 6:30pm Kearney Kids 6:30pm Women's Bible	20 9:30am Women's Bible Study (Zoom) 1:30pm SonRise Bible Study	21-22 Todd Becker Foundation STINT Weekend	
23 8:30am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 5:00pm Game Night 5:00pm Radio Broadcast	24 9:30am PRAYER GROUP	25 12:00pm SonRise Bible Study 7:00pm Praise Team	26 9:30am Ruth Circle 1:00pm Dorcas/Tabitha 6:00pm Youth Group 6:30pm Choir	27 9:30am Women's Bible Study (Zoom) 1:30pm SonRise Bible Study	28	29
30 8:30am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 5:00pm Game Night 5:00pm Radio Broadcast	31 9:30am PRAYER GROUP	Apr 1	2	3	4	5




Did you know...  
The calendar is also available to view on the church website? <https://kearneyfb.org/calendar/>

**Kearney First Baptist**  
3610 6th Avenue  
Kearney, NE 68845

Phone: 308-234-2311

E-mail:  
[contact@kearneyfb.org](mailto:contact@kearneyfb.org)

SCAN FOR GUEST INFO

## KFBC Staff

Sean Dougherty, Senior Pastor  
[sdougherty@kearneyfb.org](mailto:sdougherty@kearneyfb.org)

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[mdekluver@kearneyfb.org](mailto:mdekluver@kearneyfb.org)

Jason Purdy, Youth Pastor  
[jpurdy@kearneyfb.org](mailto:jpurdy@kearneyfb.org)

Mark Liljehorn, Worship Director  
[mliljehorn@kearneyfb.org](mailto:mliljehorn@kearneyfb.org)

Lori Reed, Office Manager  
[Lreed@kearneyfb.org](mailto:Lreed@kearneyfb.org)

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[dsamuelson@kearneyfb.org](mailto:dsamuelson@kearneyfb.org)

Jennifer Liljehorn, Business Manager  
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[ckreis@kearneyfb.org](mailto:ckreis@kearneyfb.org)

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Children's Ministry Director  
[speace@kearneyfb.org](mailto:speace@kearneyfb.org)

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