

## Grief within the Gratitude

The Christmas season is perhaps the most joyous season of the year for Christians. We are reminded of God's great gift to us in the gift of His Son and the hope we have as believers through the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. We sing "Joy to the world, the Lord has come" and many other hymns and songs. Yet, some are not only filled with joy and gratitude but are reminded of loved ones who are no longer among us. Thankfully, as believers, we can navigate grief with gratitude. The Scriptures give us hope!

Christians understand grief is a component of the blessings promised in Scripture. Here is one example. Before giving His life for us, Jesus told those who believed in Him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy" (John 16:20). Their joy arrived on Resurrection morning!

Even so, in this season of glad tidings and joy it can still be difficult for those processing deep loss to find a way to express those emotions. What can be done to make the season as joyful as possible, while acknowledging the reality of pain people carry in their hearts? Commit yourself to listening well is a great start. We can also pray with those who grieve. When we do, we will often hear things not said in public. This will deepen our understanding of one another.

No one should suffer in silence. Let us, "Bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2). The highest virtue to be held among us is love (John 13:34; 1 Corinthians 13:13). "Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law" (Romans 13:10). Rather than fear the expression of another's grief, let's show the love of Christ through attentive listening and responsive prayer. These are gifts to the one who needs to be heard.

Serving with you,  
Glynn Breuer  
Elder Board

## This Week At FBC

### Sunday's Sermon

**When Human Wisdom Hits a Wall**  
**An Overview of the Book of Job**  
**Pastor Brandon Smith**

December 7 -13

<b>Sunday</b>		Communion (All Services)
<b>Thursday</b>		No White Cross for December
<b>Friday</b>	7:00p	Celebrate Recovery

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## WEEKLY ENCOURAGEMENT

**"Buy the truth, and do not sell it, also wisdom and instruction and understanding" (Proverbs 23:23). Life on earth is life in the making. It involves constant choice and constant conflict—conflict between the different facets of our nature that struggle for dominance; conflict between the causes that vie for our allegiance; conflict between a false suggestion from our exterior world and a true intuition of the inner self; conflict between self-dominance and self-surrender. Through the continuous making of resolute decisions, we pattern our lives, and we mold our character. (Maxie D. Dunham, *The Preacher's Commentary*, Vol 31)**





How do we reconcile the goodness of God when our circumstances seem anything but good?

Through the Book of Job, we discover the nature of true Christian faith and God's unchanging character, a hope that leads us to lasting peace and joy even in the face of trials.

**Pastor Brandon Smith**

### Missionary of the Week: Alan and Judy Steier-Barnabas International

Thank you for your prayers as Alan traveled to Indonesia this spring to help facilitate the second Shepherd's Apprentice workshop with Indonesian missionary-care providers. It was a delight to hear about their "integration projects"—how they'll use what they've learned and experienced to encourage others in deeper connection of the Father's heart of love, grace, and rest.

### NCA Ministry of the Week

Crystal Springs Camp, Medina, ND

### Prayer

With the conclusion of our Capital Campaign, the Building Committee is working diligently to begin the process of interviewing and selecting a General Contractor. Please be in prayer for the Building Committee as they continue stewarding this next phase with wisdom and discernment.

### Giving Thanks

Thanks to everyone who participated in a great Youth Sunday! FBC Youth—you represent this church's future. Be encouraged and be confident. You will be supported with prayer, friendship, and godly mentoring as you continue to be shaped into lifelong, devoted followers of Jesus Christ. With joy, Pastor Kent

**From the Ground Up Coffee Ministry:** Specialty coffee is served on Sunday mornings in the Upstairs Lounge. 100% of the donations is gifted to our Missionaries at Christmas.

## THIS MORNING AT FBC

### Nursery

Staffed for kids through 36mon  
9:50a and 11:05a

### Pre-school/Kindergarten

Sunday School - 9:45a

### Children's Ministry

Sunday School - 9:45a

### Adult Ministry

Sunday School - 9:45a

### Children's Church - Ages 3 - 5

Room 101/102 - 11:00a

### Middle/High School Ministry

Downstairs Lounge - 9:45a

### Young Adult Ministry S.A.L.T.

Room 106 - 9:45a

## WHAT'S COMING UP AT FBC

### Christmas for Kids Dates

**Costume Fitting** for the 2<sup>nd</sup> graders in the Nativity will be Sunday, Dec. 7, right after SS at 11:00a. Pizza will be served after the fitting, followed by a short practice at 12:10p when the sanctuary clears. Pick up your child at 1:30ish.

### Children's Christmas Program Practice

for Sunday School children and preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> grade will be on Sat., Dec. 13. Preschoolers and Kindergarteners will be first at 10:00a, followed by Elementary grades 1-5 at 10:45a. Preschoolers and Kindergarteners may leave right after their practice is over. Contact Christie or Elaine with questions.

### Children's Sunday School Christmas Program:

On Sunday, Dec. 14, at 6:00p, Preschool and Kindergarten will perform the musical "Step-by-Step." Then, Elementary students in grades 1-5 will perform the nativity and sing some songs. We'll conclude the evening with a Pie Social in the Gym. This will be a great time as we share the joy of Christmas as a church family.

**White Cross, Sew What Care Group, and 1st Baptist Seniors** will not be meeting in December.

**Deacon Benevolent Fund:** As we celebrate God's love and sacrifice with **Communion**, we encourage you to share that love with others through a contribution to the Deacon Benevolent Fund, a resource that allows FBC to provide financial assistance to people in need. Donation Boxes are in the back of the Sanctuary.

**Hope Tree:** Bring your unwrapped gifts with their tags to the church no later than **Dec. 14**. Join us on **Dec 16** at 6:30p to wrap gifts. Let's come together and show the love of Christ to the clients of Dakota Hope.

**Lost and Found:** A number of coats, water bottles, mugs, books, jewelry, and other items have been left in the church. Please check the coat rack in the upstairs hallway and the cabinet next to Pastor Brandon's office for things that may belong to you. Any articles left will be donated to the Salvation Army at the end of January.

**Trustee Committee:** To make a suggestion or ask a question of the Trustee Committee, fill out the form on the "TRUSTEE COMMUNICATION CENTER" box located across from the Church Office.

## CONTACT US

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Find details for each ministry at the Information Booth in the Foyer, at fbcminot.org, or at the Church Office.

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