

# FRIEDENS REFORMED CHURCH

P O BOX J TRIPP, SD 57376

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Fall 2024



## A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ANDY

### How God Uses Adversity

He sent a man before them—Joseph—who was sold as a slave. They hurt his feet with fetters, he was laid in irons. Until the time that his word came to pass, the word of the Lord tested him. The king sent and released him, the ruler of the people let him go free. He made him lord of his house, and ruler of all his possessions, to bind his princes at his pleasure, and teach his elders wisdom.

Psalm 105:17-22

By “adversity” we mean disappointments, trials and all manner of unfortunate events that happen in opposition to our desires.

This narrative furnishes us with a striking illustration of the mysterious way in which Providence accomplishes its designs by an intertwined series of second causes, which includes (1) circumstances that seem fortuitous, and the (2) volitions of rational agents who mean nothing less than that issue which they contribute unconsciously to effect and secure.

Think about the chain of events in Joseph’s life that God overruled.

- Had Joseph not told his dreams to his brothers –
- Had his father not sent him to Dothan –
- Had the Ishmaelites not passed by when he was in the pit –
- Had he not been sold to Potiphar –
- Had Potiphar’s wife been a better woman, or Potiphar a worse man –
- Had he been thrown into any other than the king’s prison -
- Had the officers of Pharaoh not incurred his displeasure –

Joseph’s advancement would not have taken place. The brilliant deliverance of many people from the 7-year famine would never have happened. Israel would not have been provided a settlement for Israel in Egypt. The long train of grand results, including blessing of all nations in all generations (which all depended upon this) would have been derailed and unsuccessful.

When God determines to use someone in advancing His glory and promoting the good of His church and mankind, He usually prepares by causing them to pass through scenes of severe affliction.

Moses is another example. He lived at the court of Pharaoh. He was initiated into the wisdom of the Egyptians, and the practice of the arts of war and peace. These were all intended by God to be subservient to the execution of His higher plans. But neither these, nor his piety, nor the patriotism and generous indignation against tyranny which burned in his breast, could exempt him from passing through another education of a rougher kind. It was by these that he was freed from the impurities

which he had contracted, and thus became qualified for his different tasks. He needed to be an exile in Midian for as many years as he had been a courtier in Egypt and was to be Israel's leader.

But returning to our text, we think of Joseph. In addition to his amiable disposition, Joseph inherited the piety of his forefathers. But neither his high aspirations, nor his benevolent character, nor his early piety, nor the education which he had received under the eye of a father also trained in the school of adversity, could suffice to form Joseph's character.

What purposes do adversity serve in the lives of God's people?

- Adversity is a school for acquiring practical wisdom. Adversity has a tendency to sober the mind, disperse the illusions prosperity has created and induces thoughtfulness and meditation. Practical wisdom contains two things: knowledge of ourselves, and knowledge of others. Adversity gives us both.
- Adversity helps us in subduing and regulating our passions. The person who is not emancipated from the slavery of his passions cannot be truly great or truly good.
- Adversity serves to improve the nobler qualities in the mind. For a person to be fit for great deeds he must possess the hardy virtues of patience and dependability. He must also have a disinterested devotion to the public and an independence of mind that raises him above the mastery of external circumstances. It's not until one has passed through a series of sharp disappointments and humiliating setbacks that he can attain pure and disinterested benevolence.
- Sanctified adversity produces strong confidence in God. Joseph's filial fear of God steadily grew, under trial, into an unshakable confidence in the help of the Almighty.

This shows us some important truths:

- One way in which God authenticates the call of His chosen ministers. There is a course of preparation which persons must go through to fit them for the work for which they are destined. This course is practical as well as academic.
- One reason why there are few great men in our time – there have been few great trials. We have men of great talents, but few of great character.
- Has God exempted you from afflictions? Sympathize with those who suffer.

Pastor Andy



## WOMEN'S GUILD UPDATES

Our Friedens' Guild funeral committees served the funeral of Pauline Finck on July 24, 2024. We extend our sincere sympathy to Pauline's family and honor her fifty-year dedication and membership to our Guild.

On September 11, the Women's Guild marked our 25th anniversary hosting the Friedens' Potato Topper, serving approximately two hundred. We thank all who attended, and, as always, we thank all who generously provide food, monetary donations, and volunteer your time to this yearly fund-raiser event as well as to all our other various mission projects. Thank You!

Christian Education Sunday was recognized October 6, with the presentation by the Guild of a Bible to Friedens' third graders Audrey Arreola, Mason Johnson and Miyah Johnson.

## OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHIES

Pauline Finck passed to her heavenly home on July 20, 2024. Funeral services were held on July 24.

Friedens' Nursing Home/Assisted Living Residents (With Addresses and Birthdays)

1. Betty Wormsbecher – Avera Assisted Living; 400 West Fir St; Parkston, SD 57366 Birthday: Feb. 1
2. Curtis Huether – Avera Assisted Living; 400 West Fir St; Parkston, SD 57366 Birthday: Sept. 24
3. Mary Fischer – Borman Manor, 501 N. 4th St, Parkston, SD 57366 Birthday: July 20
4. Dennis Fisher, Sr - Borman Manor, 501 N. 4th St, Parkston, SD 57366 Birthday: Feb. 9
5. Elton Stuebner – Good Samaritan Center, 130 6th St, Scotland, SD 57059 Birthday: Mar. 30
6. Diane Stuebner – Washington Crossing, 4709 East 6th St, Apt #207, Sioux Falls, SD 57110 Birthday: Dec. 24
7. Doris Schneider – Salem Mennonite Home, 106 W 7th, Freeman, SD 57029 Birthday: May 7

### SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR:

- ♥ Gary Stuebner for continued strength.
- ♥ Kelley Hartman, daughter-in-law of Glenn and Marilyn Hartman, as she travels to undergo major surgery followed by extended care at PRMA Reconstructive Center in San Antonio, Texas.

The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.

DEUTERONOMY 31:8-9

## CONGRATULATIONS

Chase and Bobbi Stuebner welcomed their baby boy Colter Todd on July 19<sup>th</sup>.



## MISSION FEST – OCTOBER 15

Join us in welcoming our guest speaker, Rachel Jones, from ZoeCare, Yankton, South Dakota. ZoeCare is a resource for pregnancy services and education. Each patient is walking through a unique circumstance, and they are there to help navigate the many decisions. All ZoeCare services are available to anyone regardless of race, color, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability. A potluck will follow the service.



## TWO HEARTS BECOME ONE

McKenzie VanPelt and Ian Fisher became husband and wife on July 27, 2024.

Cody Fischer and Shelby Batson exchanged vows on October 5, 2024.

***Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.***

***Matthew 19:6***

## CHURCH SPONSORS TRUNK

On Sunday, October 27, the annual Trunk or Treat will be held on Tripp's Main Street. The consistory, with the help of the Youth Group, will be sponsoring a trunk.



## BAPTISM

Palmer Annella Horstman, daughter of Seth and Tiffany Horstman, received the sacrament of baptism on September 29<sup>th</sup>.



## NEW YOUTH GROUP LEADERS

Becca Mehlhaff has volunteered to be the youth group leader at Friedens. Jen Arreola will also help with the activities. Thank you Becca and Jen for working with the youth in our church



## SUNDAY SCHOOL RECOGNITION

On October 6, Sunday School Superintendent Gary Schnabel recognized the Christian Education Committee. Members are Gary and Jody Schnabel, Lennis Mehlhaff, Becca and Jeff Mehlhaff, Amy Brown, and Pastor Andy Underhile. Robin Stoebner, representative of the Women's Guild, presented Bibles to third grade members Audrey Arreola, Mason Johnson and Miyah Johnson. Following the church service, the students and Christian Ed members hosted coffee and cookies in the church basement.





## OFFERING SCHEDULE

October	6	General Fund
	13	Mission Fest Benevolent Fund
	20	General Fund
	27	General Fund
November	3	General Fund
	10	General Fund
	17	Building Fund
	24	General Fund
December	1	Benevolent Fund
	8	General Fund
	15	Building Fund
	22	General Fund
	24	Youth Group & Sunday School
	25	Benevolent Fund
	29	General Fund

## FOURTH QUARTER GREETERS

### November

- 3 – Gary and Robin Stoebner
- 10 – Tiffany Horstman
- 17 – Phyllis Dewald
- 24 – Keith and Lynn Stoebner

### December

- 1 – Marlin and Karen Nuss
- 8 – Dale and Amy Brown
- 15 – Chase and Bobbi Stoebner
- 22 – Jeff and Becca Mehlhaff
- 29 – Duane and Gail Vahl

### January

- 5 – Diane Kuper
- 12 – Jerry and Brenda Stoebner
- 19 – Jason and Melissa Schnabel



## SPECIAL SERVICES

### Thanksgiving Eve Service

- Wednesday, November 27, at 7:30

### Christmas Eve Service

- Tuesday, December 24, at 7:30

- Program Practice will begin in December. Watch the bulletin for dates and times.

### Christmas Day Service

- Wednesday, December 25, at 10:00

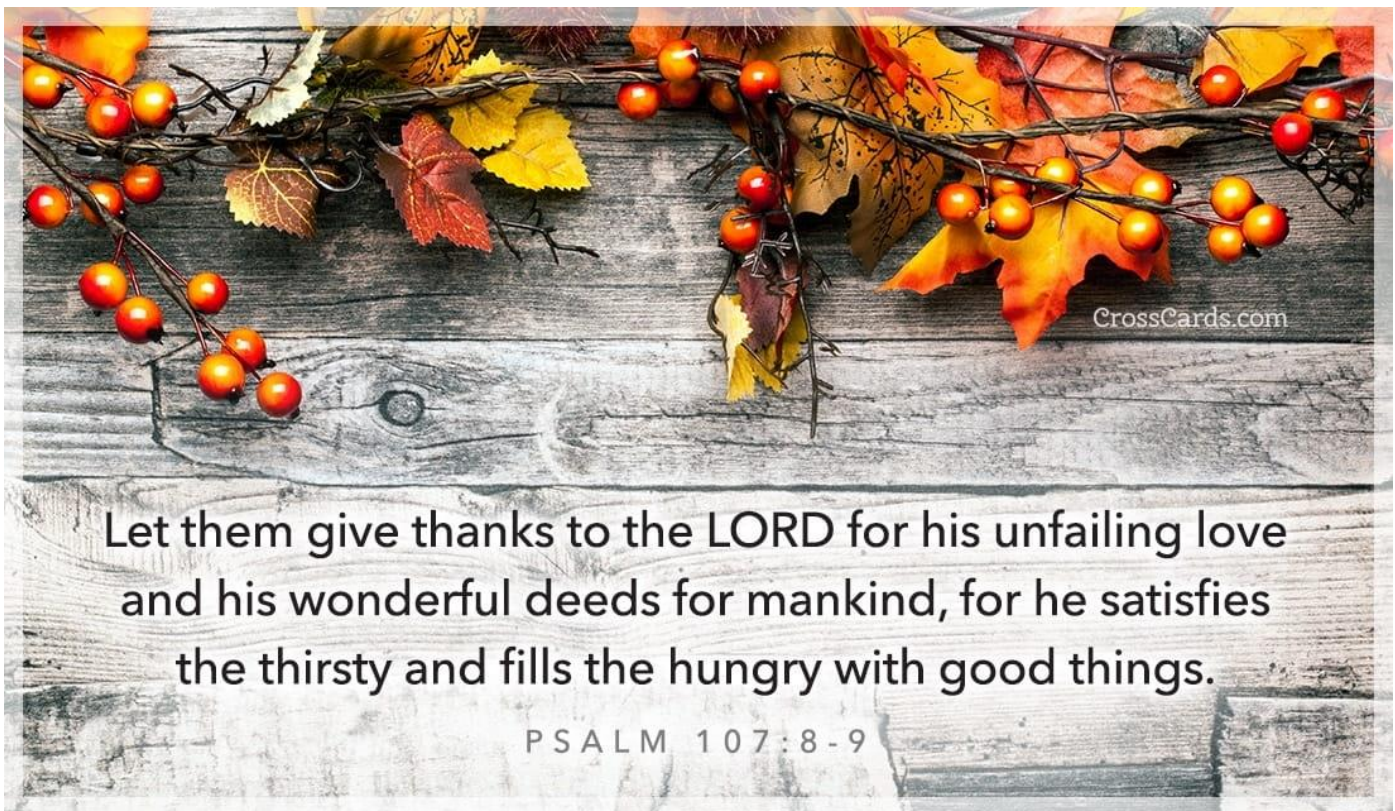
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Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love  
and his wonderful deeds for mankind, for he satisfies  
the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.

PSALM 107:8-9