



Friendship Church
Loving God...Loving People

FRIENDSHIP GOOD NEWS

January 15, 2021



From Pastor Mike...

The joy of the Lord is our strength!

Remember in the Old Testament when Nehemiah finally rebuilt the wall? After hardships, persecution and adversity, the wall was now complete. Nehemiah knew that the people should now rejoice and thank God for His mighty protection and provision. But look what happens in **Nehemiah 8:9**: *“Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, ‘This day is sacred to the Lord your God. Do not mourn or weep.’ For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law.”* The people were mourning and weeping because they realized they had lived without the Law for so long while they were in exile.

Then, *“Nehemiah said, ‘Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is sacred to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.’”* (vs.10)

Are you feeling run down or weakened? Instead of discouragement, doubt or despair, how about putting on the shield of faith and allow the joy of the Lord to strengthen you? In His presence is the FULLNESS OF JOY! And it is there that you will find strength and rest for your weary souls!

I am reminded of Reinhold Niebuhr’s classic

Serenity Prayer:

God, grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change,
the courage to change the things I can,
and the wisdom to know the difference.
Living one day at a time,
enjoying one moment at a time;
accepting hardship as a pathway to peace;
taking, as Jesus did,
this sinful world as it is,
not as I would have it;
trusting that You will make all things right
if I surrender to Your will;
so that I may be reasonably happy in this life
and supremely happy with You forever in the next.
Amen.

May God’s peace rest upon you as you receive His joy as your strength today!

I love you all,
Pastor Mike

F a c e b o o k L i v e C h u r c h S e r v i c e O n l y

Z o o m S m a l l G r o u p s

Sunday January 17, 2021

9:30 AM Small Groups — 10:30 Church Service



SERVICES LIVE ON FACEBOOK

Every Sunday morning at 11am

ONLINE LIVE PRAYER MEETINGS

Every Friday, Saturday and Sunday evening at 7pm

SUNDAY SCHOOL GROUPS

Check with your Sunday School teachers for times

Get updated prayer requests and announcements.

To sign up, text your name to 479.422.1079

This Sunday's Gospel Project Lesson (small groups)

The Mission Begins

Sunday's lesson "Trusting in Christ in Life and Death" - [CLICK HERE](#) to download your Sunday School lesson!

In the beginning, the all-powerful, personal God created the universe. This God created human beings in His image to live joyfully in His presence, in humble submission to His gracious authority. But all of us have rebelled against God and, in consequence, must suffer the punishment of our rebellion: physical death and the wrath of God.

Thankfully, God initiated a rescue plan, which began with His choosing the nation of Israel to display His glory in a fallen world. The Bible describes how God acted mightily on Israel's behalf, rescuing His people from slavery and then giving them His holy law. But God's people—like all of us—failed to rightly reflect the glory of God.

Then, in the fullness of time, in the person of Jesus Christ, God Himself came to renew the world and to restore His people. Jesus perfectly obeyed the law given to Israel. Though innocent, He suffered the consequences of human rebellion by His death on a cross. But three days later, God raised Him from the dead.

Now the church of Jesus Christ has been commissioned by God to take the news of Christ's work to the world. Empowered by God's Spirit, the church calls all people everywhere to repent of sin and to trust in Christ alone for our forgiveness. By God's grace in Christ, repentance and faith restores our relationship with God and results in a life of ongoing transformation.

The Bible promises that Jesus Christ will return to this earth as the conquering King. Only those who live in repentant faith in Christ will escape God's judgment and live joyfully in God's presence for all eternity. God's message is the same to all of us: repent and believe, before it is too late. Confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe with your heart that God raised Him from the dead, and you will be saved.

Classes are currently meeting online using Zoom. Check with your Sunday School teacher for dates and times.

Friendship Birthdays

January 18 – Loren Kelchner

January 23 – Jenny Shrum

Tithes & Offering

Sunday, Jan. 10—\$1,147.58

*"The devil is not terribly frightened
of our human efforts and credentials.
But he knows his kingdom will be
damaged when we begin to lift up
our hearts to God."*

-Jim Cymbala



**Online giving is
easier than ever!**

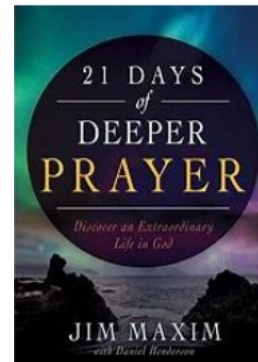
[CLICK HERE](#) to try out our
new online giving service.

Need encouragement and strength?

Join us Friday, Saturday,
and Sunday evenings
at 7 PM on Zoom



Join our journey through:



21 Days of Deeper Prayer
*Discover an Extraordinary Life in
God*

-By Jim Maxim and Daniel Henderson

As we journey through this amazing resource,
we also lift up our nation, our brothers & sisters
in Christ, our loved ones in need of spiritual
and physical healing and much more!

Come be Encouraged!

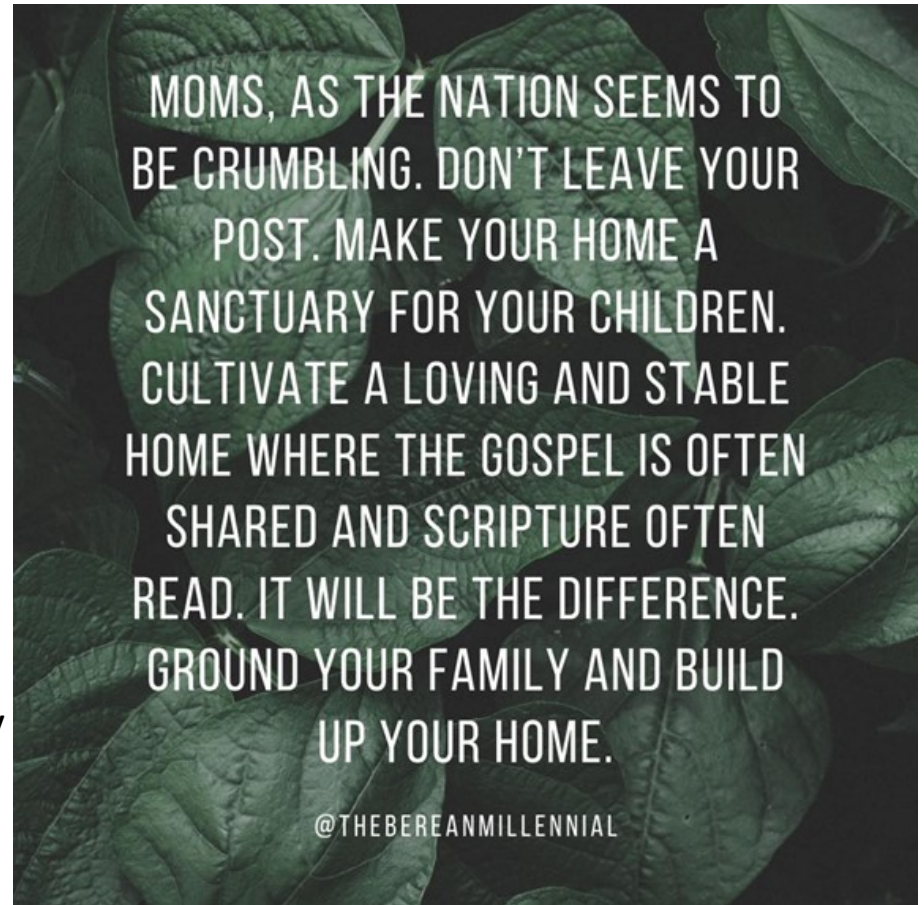


"If the anger of the ruler rises against you, do not leave your place, for calmness will lay great offenses to rest." Ecclesiastes 10:4

"If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small." Proverbs 24:10

"The wisest of women builds her house, but folly with her own hands tears it down." Proverbs 14:1

Do not be afraid. Stand on the solid rock. Pray and continue to nurture your home in the love and admonition of the Lord!





Gospel Project for Kids News

This week's Gospel Project lesson is about Stephen's sermon found in Acts chapter 7.



For his part, Stephen understood that because of the gospel—because of what Christ had done for him—he was compelled to share Jesus with others. No matter what. Stephen would lay his life down because of his preaching that day becoming the first martyr of the church. Stephen knew this risk, and he not only accepted that risk, but he embraced it. That's not to say that Stephen wanted to die—that he had a death wish—but instead that he knew that Christ had every right to call on Stephen to lay down his life if He so chose.

My prayer is that we can be bold in our sharing the gospel to those God puts in our path, starting with our own family.

Blessings, Mary Ann

