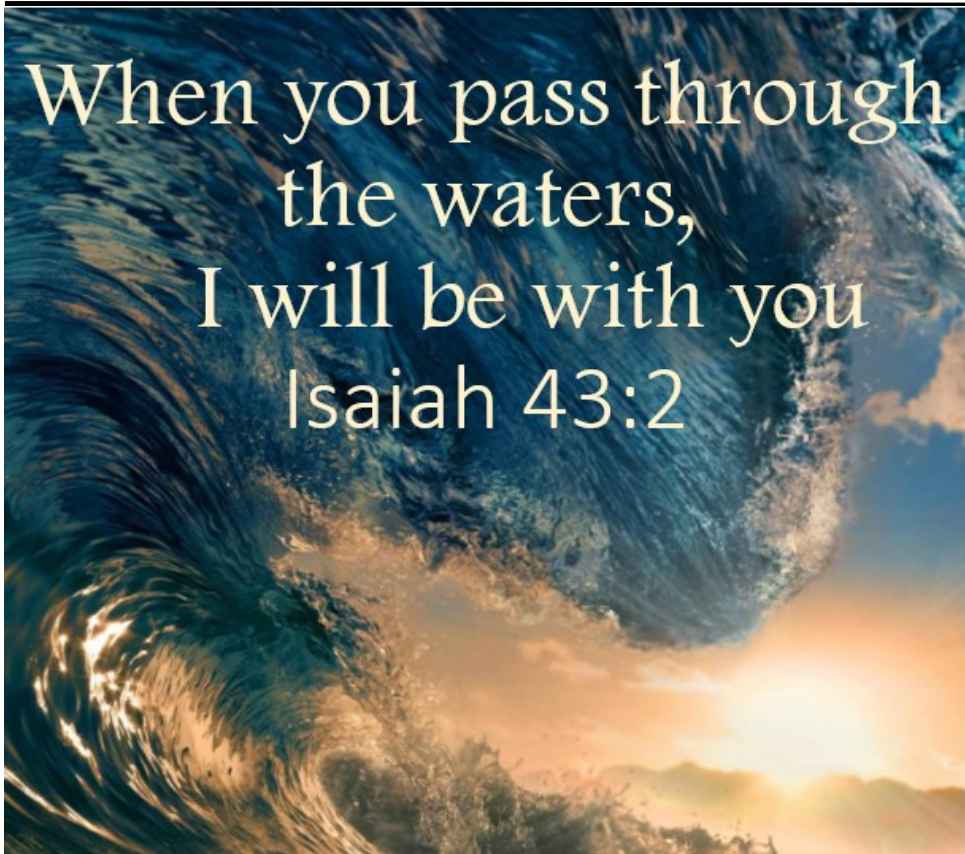




Friendship Church
Loving God...Loving People

FRIENDSHIP GOOD NEWS

February 19, 2021



When you pass through
the waters,
I will be with you
Isaiah 43:2

**In person and Facebook
Live Church Service
Small Groups**

**Sunday February 21, 2021
9:30 AM Small Groups — 10:30 Church Service**

From Pastor Mike...



I have been thinking about the sovereignty of the Lord. He created everything and He owns it all. **Isaiah 45:18** says, *"For this is what the Lord says - He who created the heavens, He is God; He who fashioned and made the earth, He founded it; He did not create it to be empty, but formed it to be inhabited - He says: 'I am the Lord, and there is no other.'"*

Our lives are in His hands. He brings the wind, the rain, the snow and the heat. He is the ultimate weatherman! We, as His creation, don't always understand the timing of His plans, but we know He is good. I have to believe there is a reason for everything...even severe weather. We often want to know "why" things happen as they do.

But God isn't obligated to explain why He does what He does. He doesn't owe us an explanation. He's God. There are some things we couldn't understand. But He does say, "I have a purpose for your life." There is a purpose behind the pain. God never wastes a hurt.

Let's face it, some of our questions must wait until we get to Heaven. Explanations don't comfort us. What comforts us is the Presence of God, not the explanation of God. God provides to us (if we seek Him and ask Him for it) is HIS PRESENCE. He said in **Isaiah 43:2**, *"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze."*

Today, let's seek Him and His Presence. Let's rest in the fact that He has a purpose for everything we are going through. Let His glorious Presence fill you with hope and peace and give you rest for your weary souls.

I love you all,

Pastor Mike



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 "Confronted by the Gospel of Jesus"

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.

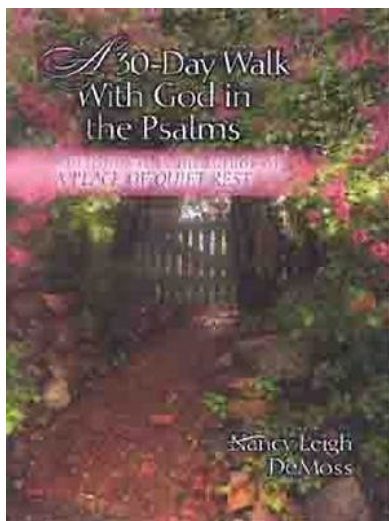
Thankfully, God initiated a rescue plan, which began with His choosing the nation of Israel to display His glory in a fallen world. The Bible describes how God acted mightily on Israel's behalf, rescuing His people from slavery and then giving them His holy law. But God's people—like all of us—failed 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 in person at 9:25 am. If you would like to join online using Zoom, check with your Sunday School teacher as most classes also have zoom availability.



NEW LADIES STUDY

A 30 Day Walk With God Through The Psalms

by Nancy Leigh DeMoss

If you haven't signed up, it's not too late! Contact Pam Sypult for details.

There will be two group times, Tuesdays or Thursdays at 6:30 pm on zoom, which ever works best for you.

Friendship Birthdays

February 22 – Angela Tippet

February 26 – Ramona Swanson



**Online giving is
easier than
ever!**

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

**Wednesday night services
in-person at 6:30**

**LIVE
THIS**

Need encouragement and strength?

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



*"So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also
pray with my understanding; I will sing with my spirit, but I
will also sing with my understanding."*

1 Corinthians 14:15

Friendship K.I.D.s Korner News



FEELING AND KNOWING GOD'S LOVE

In this article from Wearekidmin.com, we see how children can “taste and see” God’s marvelous love.

Many children know that God loves them, they KNOW that God is love, and that He has done a lot of amazing things to prove His love for them, but they don’t FEEL loved by God.

To such children, God’s love is a fact—one that they’ve heard, memorized, and repeated a million times, but it’s not a felt experience.

To them, God’s love is like a multiplication table. They memorized it. They know it. They refer to it. But it never touches their soul. It never floods their innermost being with love, peace, hope, and comfort.

Chances are, children will never tell us that they have no living experience of God’s love.

Even if they did find the words and the courage to admit that they struggle with FEELING God’s love, what would most of us do?

We would quote a Bible verse, or two.

We would remind them that our relationship with God is based on faith and not feelings.

We would explain that our emotions cannot be trusted and that they often deceive us.

We would give them a hug and tell them we will be praying for them.

And in doing all this, we would miss an incredible opportunity to invite children into experiencing God’s love.

Yes, it’s true that God’s love isn’t limited to a feeling. It goes beyond feelings.

But it is also true that God’s love touches our emotions. It stirs us, moves us, compels us, overwhelms us, heals us, warms us, energizes us, excites us, invades us, awakens us, empowers us, changes us.

What a tragedy it would be to go through life knowing that Jesus died and rose again, that He loves me, yet never having an experience of this love.



Friendship K.I.D.s Korner News

TASTE AND SEE THAT THE LORD IS GOOD. PSALM 34:8

Isn't this a wonderful invitation?

God doesn't just invite us to read about His love, study it, analyze it, memorize it, and simply believe in it.

He invites us to taste it! To experience it for ourselves!

Here's how it works.

We **KNOW** that God loves us through the **cross**: "God demonstrated His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

We **ACCEPT** God's love through the **Holy Spirit**: "God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us" (Romans 5:5).

We **UNDERSTAND** God's love through the **Word**: "This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins" (1 John 4:10).

We **EXPERIENCE** God's love through the **community**: "Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and His love is brought to full expression in us" (1 John 4:11-12).

Did you catch it?

God's love becomes complete, or it gets brought to its full maturity through the **human experience** in the family of faith. In other word, God created church (and family!) to be a primary place where His love becomes tangible and feels real. When we love one another well, this causes us all to see God and His love for us and know that its real!

Look for some practical ways you can help children "taste and see" God's marvelous love.

Blessings, Mary Ann

