



Friendship Church  
*Loving God...Loving People*

## FRIENDSHIP GOOD NEWS

February 26, 2021

From Pastor Mike...



Principles of Spiritual Warfare from the Bible. **Ephesians 6:12** tells us, *“Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”* The struggle is real – there is an epic war going on in the heavenly realms. For the Christian, this is not peacetime – this is wartime.

Satan loves to get mankind fighting with mankind about a myriad of issues. But the truth is – our real enemies are spiritual rulers, spiritual authorities, spiritual powers of this (very) dark world and spiritual forces of evil. The Amplified Version of the Bible states it this way: *“Our struggle is not against flesh and blood [contending only with physical opponents], but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this [present] darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly (supernatural) places.”*

Oh, if we could only see the battle – the battle for the minds and souls of people – people created in the image of God and loved dearly by God. If we could only see this struggle with our physical eyes, we would be in total shock! So much is at stake. So, what can you and I do? Pray. Sounds too simple, doesn't it? Yet in Scripture, we see prayers part the seas, close the mouths of lions, deliver people through the fire, set people free from prison (both literally and figuratively). The late J. Sidlow Baxter once said, “Men may spurn our appeals, reject our message, oppose our arguments, despise our persons, but they are helpless against our prayers.” Samuel Chadwick once said, “The one concern of the devil is to keep Christians from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless work, and prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, mocks at our wisdom, but *trembles* when we pray.”

Soldiers of the cross, don't be discouraged – pray! We know who ultimately wins the war, but there will be a few more battles to fight until then. Be a prayer warrior! Don't ever forget what Moses told the people in **Exodus 14:13-14**, *“Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today... The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.”* I love you all,

Pastor Mike

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**I n p e r s o n   a n d   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**  
**S m a l l   G r o u p s**

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**Sunday February 28, 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 *"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.**

## Friendship Attendance, Feb 21

Small group Bible study - 59

Celebration worship - 84

## Tithes & Offering

Sunday, Feb. 21—\$4,738.15

## Friendship Birthdays

February 28 – Rachel Guenther

March 5 – Ashlyn McFerron

March 6 – Bobbie Thomas

March 6 – Lucas Paxton



**Online giving is easier than ever!**

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

## LADIES STUDY

*A 30 Day Walk With God Through The Psalms*

by Nancy Leigh DeMoss

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

## Wedding Shower

Paige Williams & Nathan Sypult

Sunday, March 21 @ 3:30 PM  
in the fellowship hall

Everyone is invited  
They are registered at Target and  
Bed Bath & Beyond  
Can also find it on their website  
for the wedding at:  
[theknot.com/williamsandsypult](http://theknot.com/williamsandsypult)

## Friendship K.I.D.s Korner News



There is one verse that has come to mind over and over again in the past months—one that I don't recall encouraging my children to memorize, but now seems to be a *must-know* verse...

**Romans 1:21—For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.**

Why would I consider this a must-know verse for children? Because in one sentence, it summarizes and explains so much of the world in which we live. It answers a myriad of difficult and confusing questions regarding why people act as they do apart from Christ. *Why would a boy think he's really*

*a girl? Why do people riot? Why does my teacher think we evolved? How come some people think it's okay to kill unborn babies? Why does my classmate say it's okay to cheat as long as you don't get caught?...It goes on and on.*

How could you explain the meaning of Romans 1:21 to children? Here is a concrete illustration:

Give your child a hand mirror, or take your child to a wall mirror. Place a beautiful object in front of the mirror. What does your child see? Point out that our minds and hearts are to be like mirrors that reflect the greatness and worth of God (the beautiful object) in our lives—honoring, trusting, thanking, and treasuring Him most of all. Next, use something to obscure the reflection on the mirror. Draw on the mirror using dark-colored erasable markers, washable paint, or tape a dark piece of fabric on it, etc. Hold the beautiful object in front of the mirror again. What has happened? What changed?

The mirror is now “futile” in doing what it was made to do. It would be “foolish” to think that it's okay the way it is. It has become “darkened.” That is a bit like what darkened, sinful, minds and hearts are like. Yet people will go on and act as if they are all right and even wise apart from God (Romans 1:22). We should not be surprised by this. Everyone is born this way. Apart from Jesus saving us and giving us new hearts, we will be like that darkened mirror.

After talking about this illustration, consider ending by praying that God, in His sovereign grace would act.

**For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. (2 Corinthians 4:6)**

**And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. (Ezekiel 36:26)**

By Jill Anderson

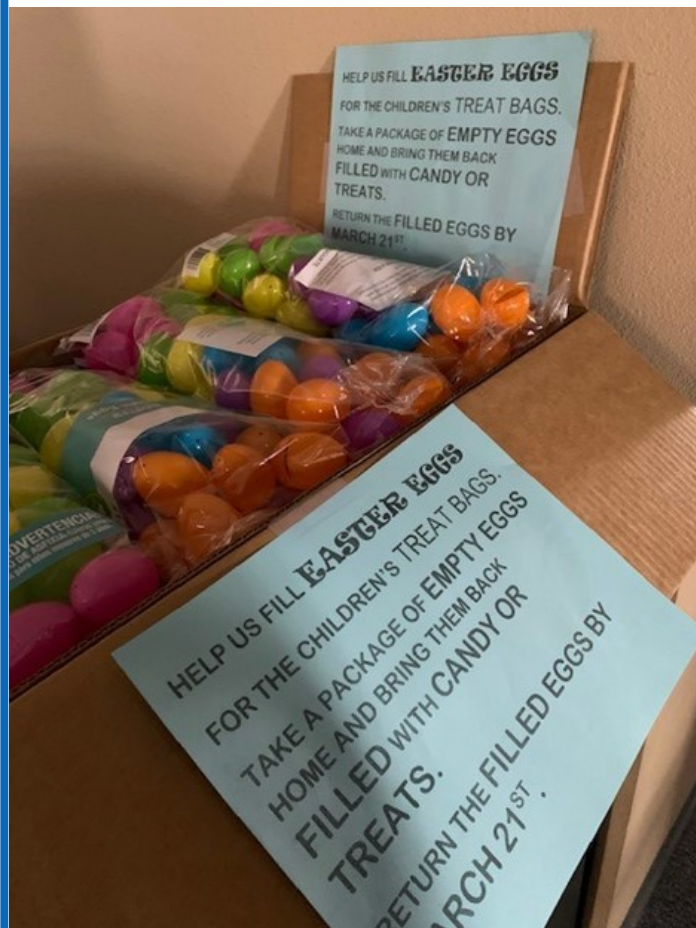




## Friendship K.I.D.s Korner News

Equipping our children with the knowledge and truth of God's Word is going to be more important in the days to come. This week's Gospel lesson will be another way to help prepare our children.

There will always be some who try to stop the good news from spreading. But our job as believers is to follow and obey Jesus no matter what. Like Paul, we guard the truth because God, the Father of the Lord Jesus, deserves to be praised.



We need your help filling Easter Eggs with candy for children's Easter treat bags. Take a bag of empty eggs home, fill them with candy or stickers or other treats. Return the filled eggs to the church on or before March 21<sup>st</sup>.

Blessings, Mary Ann

