



Friendship Church  
*Loving God...Loving People*

## FRIENDSHIP GOOD NEWS

March 19, 2021



In person and Facebook Live  
Church Service  
Small Groups

Sunday March 21, 2021

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



## From Pastor Mike...

We live “*in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water,*” the Psalmist David declares in **Psalm 63:1**. Spiritually speaking, there is a famine in the land. This is not what we would normally think of a physical famine – a drought or food shortage. This is a barrenness of a different kind.

The Old Testament prophet Amos puts it this way, “*The days are coming,*” declares the Sovereign Lord, “*when I will send a famine through the land – not a famine of food or thirst for water, but a famine of hearing the words of the Lord.*” He goes on to say that people will stagger, faint and fall as a result of this famine. (**Amos 8:11-14**)

This spiritual famine in our land, I believe, is because there is so much noise. There are so many voices we are hearing (news, social media, music, etc.). There are so many distractions (phones, sports, cares of the world, etc.) that we simply don’t take time to be quiet before the Lord and listen. We cannot hear because we are not listening.

In **1 Kings 19:11-12**, the Lord told the prophet Elijah, “*Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by. Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper.*”

So, what can you and I do? It is hard, yet somewhat simple. Turn down the noise. Take the time and effort to be quiet before the Lord and simply listen. No agenda, no list, no requests – just listen to His gentle whisper. Lean in to Him. This is why He whispers to you.

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 Church United

Sunday's lesson *"The Church Is Sent to Encourage New Believers"*

(Acts 11)

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.**



# OPPORTUNITIES

To serve



## EPHESIANS 2:10

For we are God's handiwork,  
created in Christ Jesus to do good  
works, which God prepared in  
advance for us to do.



## Friendship Attendance, Mar 14

Small group Bible study - 67

Celebration worship - 87

## Tithes & Offering

Sunday, Mar. 14—\$5,995.40

## Friendship Birthdays

March 21 – Carolyn Drain

March 22 – Kenneth Lane

March 23 – Jeff Bogan

March 24 – Bonnie Cameron

## Friendship Anniversaries

March 22 – Eric & Jennifer Hoplight

March 24 – Eric & Raymond & Becky Crosier

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## 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)

One small request that won't be hard,  
Please bring a recipe instead of a card.  
Whether it's lasagna or a dessert for two,  
Please sign the recipe with a note from you.  
Our new bride will become quite the cook,  
With the delicious ideas in her recipe book.



## Your Home As a School for Christian Character

In the past several months the essential and God-given role of parents in discipling their children has come to the forefront, either as a shining light of parental faithfulness or as a glaring omission of consistent parental involvement – or something in between.

Here is a good reminder from Dr. Timothy Paul Jones,

*In some cases, parents seem to think that the church bears sole responsibility for their children's spiritual formation—and, to be fair, that's precisely the impression that church leaders have sometimes given to parents. Whether or not we intended to do so, we've focused so heavily on age-organized programs that it seems as if parents can simply plug their child into church programs from birth to high school graduation and the child will become a fully mature Christian adult. But that's not what Scripture tells us. God's Word makes it clear that*

*parents have a necessary role in the discipleship of their children (Deuteronomy 6:4; Ephesians 5:32-33; 6:1-4). In addition to this role, the church as the family of God has the responsibility to disciple spiritual orphans—children in the church whose parents are not believers. In a world that organizes itself into groupings that are based on age and interest, it is radically counter-cultural to expect parents to disciple their children and church members to build relationships that transcend generational divisions. And yet, when we remain separated from one another, we can easily develop cultures where the lives of those who are younger and those who are older never intersect. But that's not God's design. God longs to turn the generations toward one another instead of away from one another (Malachi 4:6).*

*Discipleship at home is particularly crucial in this regard because **what you do for God beyond your home will typically never be greater than what you practice with God within your home.** The home, Martin Luther said, is a "school for character." If we want the hearts of the generations to be turned toward one another at church, those habits must begin in the home. If we want people to make disciples of all nations, we must begin by training parents to disciple the children in their homes. If we want the people in our church to be evangelists, we must begin by training fathers and mothers to lead their own children to profess faith in Jesus Christ. If we want church members to handle conflict well within the church, we must teach them to deal with conflict effectively in their homes. If we want people to reach out to broken and hurting people outside the church, we must equip them to use their homes as contexts to care for spiritual orphans.*

This excerpt is from the chapter "Parents, the Primary Disciplers of Their Children" in the book *Indestructible Joy for the Next Generations*.



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



### GOSPEL PROJECT FOR KIDS

This week we will learn that **Jesus is better than anything or anyone**. Jesus is better than angels. He is the Son of God. He is better than Moses and the Mosaic covenant. Jesus completely fulfilled the covenant of the Old Testament; that made Jesus' new covenant far better. Jesus is better than the tabernacle and the priests.

Because of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, the people no longer needed priests to speak to God for them or to offer sacrifices to take away their sins. These Old Testament figures, laws, and traditions pointed forward to someone better: Jesus.

**Jesus is better than anyone and anything. He is the better Prophet, the better Priest, and the better King. Everyone who trusts in Jesus has salvation from sin through His perfect life, death, and resurrection.** As the church, Jesus calls us to share the gospel with the world. Jesus is the superior solution to the problem of sin. He is all that is needed for salvation.

We need your help! If you have any empty egg cartons (one dozen, not 18) we need them for the Easter egg scavenger hunt. Please bring them on, or by March 24. If you took eggs home to fill with candy, we need those by March 21<sup>st</sup>.



Blessings, Mary Ann

