



## FRIENDSHIP GOOD NEWS

May 21, 2021

From Pastor Mike...



Looking for God in the midst of trials.

We live in a broken world full of broken lives, broken families, broken marriages, broken churches. The fact is, we are a long way from the Garden of Eden. Things are certainly not as we would have them be. We all at times need the prayer of serenity:

*"God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference.*

*Living one day at a time; enjoying one moment at a time; accepting hardships as the pathway to peace; taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it;*

*Trusting that He will make things right if I surrender to His will, so that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with Him forever and ever in the next."*

I believe God wants us to fully be present in the present – not worrying about the future or regretting mistakes of the past. We cannot change the past and worrying about what might or might not happen in the future is not constructive. I believe God wants us to look for Him even when we are going through trials and tribulations. He wants us to find Him in the furnaces of life. The Apostle Paul, while in prison in Rome wrote **Philippians 1:12-13**: *"Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel. As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ."*

All of the unjust, unfair and unreasonable things that happened to Paul may have appeared to be disheartening and defeating. But appearances can be deceiving. Like Joseph in the Old Testament, the Apostle Paul watched God show up and actually use his "unfortunate" circumstances to advance the best news in the world – the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ!

What can we learn from all this? Seek God in all circumstances. He can turn your test into a testimony – your mess into a message – your trial into a triumph! Trust Him in all things and rest in His providence and His deliverance. He is worthy to be praised!

I love you all,

Pastor Mike

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

**Sunday May 23, 2021**

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

# GOSPEL PROJECT

## SMALL GROUPS

**Don't Forget (Acts Epistles)**

**Sunday's lesson:** *"The Church Is United in Love"*

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.

## 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.

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT

Join us at 6:30 at the church as we study God's

### Friendship Attendance, May 16

Small group Bible study - 55

Celebration worship - 91

### Tithes & Offering

Sunday, May. 16—\$4,885.88

### Friendship Birthdays

May 26 – Jennifer Hoplight

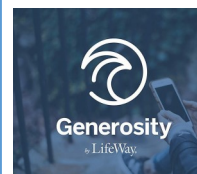
May 27 – John Lane

May 27 – Jaiden Blackston

### Friendship Anniversaries

May 24 – Mike and Pam Sypult

May 27 – Wes and Savannah Stevenson



**Online giving is easier than ever!**

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

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Date	Time	Event
Saturday, May 29		Friendship Church's 174th Birthday! (no events planned this year)
Sunday, May 30	5:00pm	Cookout Fellowship, Fifth Sunday Ministry Nite and Lord's Supper
Monday, May 31		MEMORIAL DAY – offices closed
Sunday, June 6	9:30am	4-week Discovering Friendship class begins (sanctuary) – SS Promo Sunday
Saturday, June 12	11:00am	Women's Fellowship at Friendship
Sunday, June 13	3:30pm	Wedding shower for Ethan and Kiana
Sunday, June 13	6:00pm	Quarterly SUMMER FAMILY FORUM (fellowship hall)
Sunday, June 20		FATHER'S DAY
Sunday, June 27		GIDEON SUNDAY
Sunday, July 4	7:00pm	INDEPENDENCE DAY - Ice Cream Fellowship, Games and Fireworks
Monday, July 5		Rock Camp (Church Camp - Cass, AR Monday through Friday)
Monday, July 19	6:00pm	"Rocky Railway" Vacation Bible School (Mon-Thur)
Monday, August 16		School starts
Sunday, September 5	9:30am	New Sunday School curriculum launch
Monday, September 6		LABOR DAY – offices closed

**Need encouragement and strength?**

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

**PRAYER MEETING**

## Wedding Shower

*Kiana and Ethan*

Sunday, June 13



Registered at  
Target  
Bed Bath and Beyond



Loving Choices provides free and confidential services to help with pregnancy and other reproductive health issues including pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, STD testing and abortion information.

They run an annual Baby Bottle Campaign to raise money. If you would like to participate, take a baby bottle from the foyer and fill it with change and return by June 20.

ARKANSAS BAPTIST  
CHILDREN'S HOMES &  
FAMILY MINISTRIES



### Desired Haven Family Care

PROVIDING STRUGGLING FAMILIES WITH STABILITY & ADVOCACY

Many families are struggling and in need of a support system. Family stability and advocacy is essential to their success. As Christ advocates on our behalf, we must advocate for at risk families. We want families to be a haven of love, belonging and connection. We want families to be a place where children can thrive. We want to hold up hurting families with the hope of the gospel and the love of Christ.

There are a variety of ways to support Desired Haven ministry for those interested.

- Organizing storage/linen closet
- Adopting a suite: Buy bedding for 4 twin beds, towels and wash cloths
- Donate cleaning supplies such as laundry detergent, paper towels, hand soap, dish soap, Swiffer dusters, etc.
- Freezer meals or provide a meal night
- Gas cards, oil change cards
- Volunteer for yard work
- Kitchen towels and oven mits

If you are interested in becoming a family advocate, please contact Starlyn Danley.

## Four Reasons Kids Need Biblical Role Models During Childhood

God can use you!



### 1. Childhood is a great time to impress kids with the gospel

Kids are easily impressed. They admire people who are beautiful, intelligent, and have accomplished great things. Leave children to understand life from various teachers, video games, friends, movies, social media, and they will veer off into a worldview that is at odds with the Bible's.

Kids are impressionable because God made them this way. Childhood is the time God has designed to capture their imaginations with the wonder of the gospel.



### 2. Childhood is the time to instill good spiritual habits

Kids can't live on candy bars! Childhood is the key time to build strong bodies and minds. Poor nutrition stunts kids' growth and leaves them open to disease. We feed them balanced meals, give them vitamins, and make sure they get enough sleep.

Childhood is also the time to build spiritually healthy kids. 1 Timothy 4:8 says, "Physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come."

### 3. Childhood is a great time to bend a child's heart toward God

Children's bodies are flexible and so are their minds. The world is waiting to squeeze a child into its mold. Smartphones give kids full access to the world – good, bad, and indifferent. Their opinion on everything from the latest styles to sexual identity is influenced by whatever website they're on.

God made your child's mind and heart pliable for a reason. Children are not yet skeptical, judgmental, or cynical. They are ready to listen and believe what you tell them about God. Even at a young age, children can grasp something of the beauty of God's character.

### 4. Childhood is a time to prepare a young heart to follow Jesus

Our spiritual enemy tempts us to think: "We don't know enough to teach and train our kids to follow Jesus" or "The church will take care of this." But God values children and he "gifts" them to us. Psalm 127:3 tells us, "Children are a gift from the LORD; they are a reward from him."

Children do not really belong to us – they belong to God. He places children in our family, church, and neighborhood. We introduce them to God and show them with our words and lives what it means to follow Jesus.

**With these in mind, would you prayerfully consider joining us this summer as we minister to kids and their families. We need volunteers to be Godly role models to the kids that God bring through our doors. We could use your help once a month on Sunday Mornings, a few Wednesday evenings throughout the summer, and for VBS July 19-22.**

Blessings, Mary Ann

