



Friendship Church
Loving God...Loving People

FRIENDSHIP GOOD NEWS

December 11, 2020

From Pastor Mike...



Joy to the world – the Lord has come! But how can you have joy when there is so much pain in the world? How can you have joy when there is so much suffering and brokenness? These are honest questions.

Psalm 102 is a prayer for those who are overwhelmed and for all the discouraged who come to pour out their hearts before the Lord. *“Lord, listen to my prayer! Listen to my cry for help! You can’t hide Your face from me in the day of my distress. Stoop down to hear my prayer and answer me quickly, Lord! For my days of happiness have gone up in smoke. My body is raging with fever, my heart is sick, and I’m consumed by this illness - withered like a dead leaf. I can’t even eat. I’m nothing but skin and bones. Nothing’s left of me but whispered groans. I’m depressed, lonely, forgotten, and abandoned. I’m sleepless, shivering in the cold, forlorn and friendless, like a lonely bird on the rooftop. My every enemy mocks and insults me incessantly. They even use my name as a curse to speak over others! Because of Your great and furious anger against me all I do is suffer with sorrow, with nothing to eat but a meal of mourning. My crying fills my cup with salty tears! In Your wrath you have rejected me, sweeping me away like dirt on the floor. My days are marked by the lengthening shadows of death. I’m withering away and there’s nothing left of me.”*

(verses 1-11, The Passion Translation).

Do you ever feel this way? The writer of this Psalm (possibly David) poured out his lament before the Lord. He vented vertically. Then, after this catharsis moment, he writes in verse 12:

“But then I remember that You, O Lord, still sit enthroned as King over all! The fame of Your name will be revealed to every generation.”

The rest of the Psalm is a litany of praise as we remember the Lord has come and the Lord is King and the Lord will come again to make all things new. We have a hope that goes far beyond this old broken, dying world. We need to remember that God is still on His Throne – His kingdom will come, His will will be done – here on earth as it is in heaven.

Brothers and sisters, let the word of Christ dwell richly in your hearts and keep on encouraging one another as our redemption draws near!

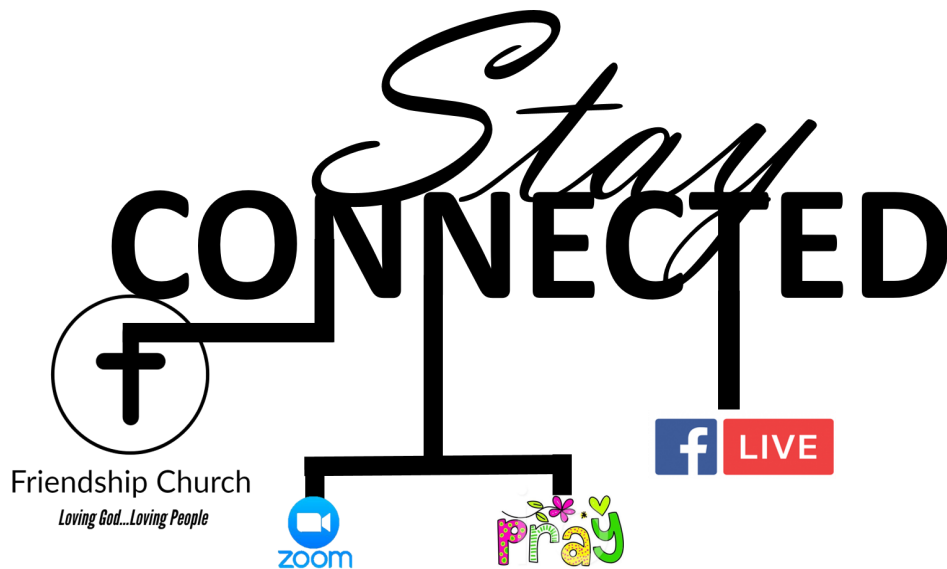
I love you all,

Pastor Mike

Indoor Church & Small Groups

Sunday December 13, 2020 — 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 "*Empowered by the Holy Spirit*" - [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.

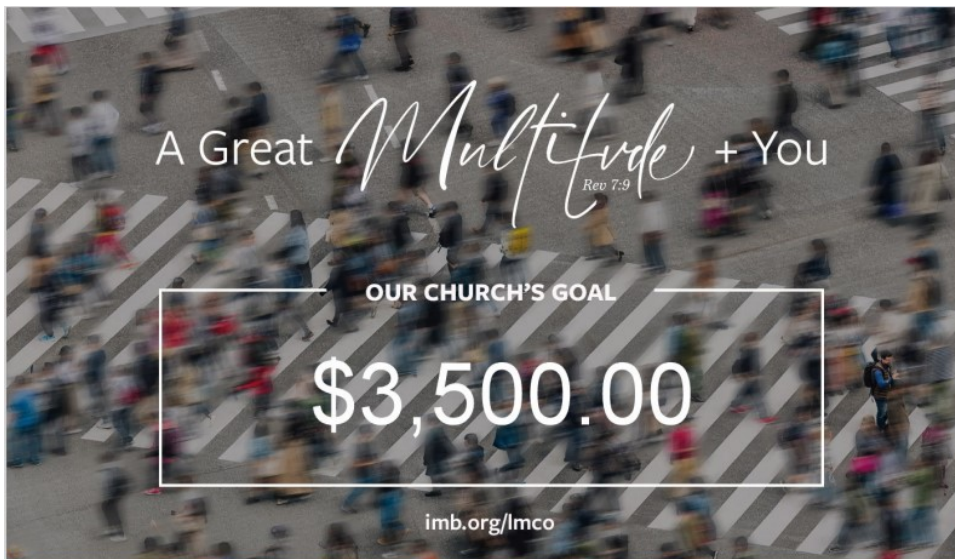
Most classes meeting online using Zoom. Check with your Sunday School teacher for dates and times.

What is the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering?

The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® is an annual offering collected by believers around the world to support international missions. The offering was officially named in 1918 by Woman's Missionary Union in honor of the missionary to China who urged churches to start it and give sacrificially.

This offering is unique from other mission offerings in that 100% of gifts provide for missionaries all over the world. It is a valuable part of Southern Baptists' 175-year history of reaching the nations with the gospel and vital to reaching the vision of a multitude from every language, people, tribe and nation knowing and worshipping our Lord Jesus Christ ([Revelation 7:9](#)).

The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® is a registered trademark of Woman's Missionary Union.



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LOTTIE MOON
CHRISTMAS
OFFERING®

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Thank You

For your contributions to the Encouragement Baskets!

*1 Thessalonians 5:11—
Therefore encourage one another
and build each other up, just as
in fact you are doing.*

Friendship Birthdays

December 14 – David Drymon

December 15 – Kimmie Bogan

Friendship Attendance, Dec 6

Small group Bible study - 48

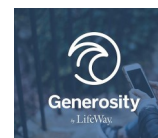
Celebration worship - 61

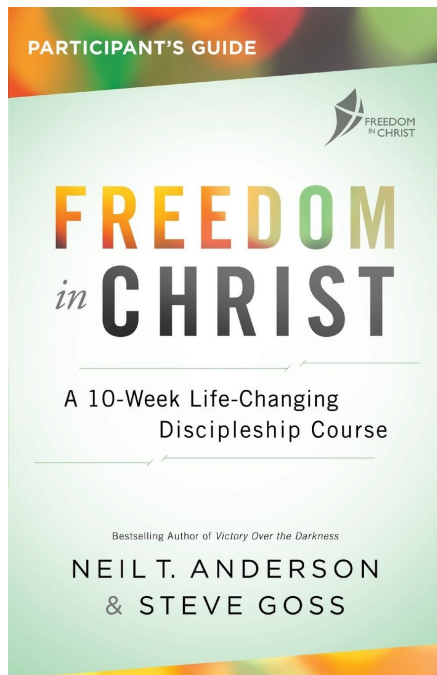
Tithes & Offering

Sunday, Dec. 6—\$3,822.00

Online giving is easier than ever!

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





MEN'S STUDY

It's not too late to join in with us!

Wednesday's at 6pm

"Freedom In Christ: A 10-Week Life-Changing Discipleship Course"

Some of the areas we will cover in the course include:

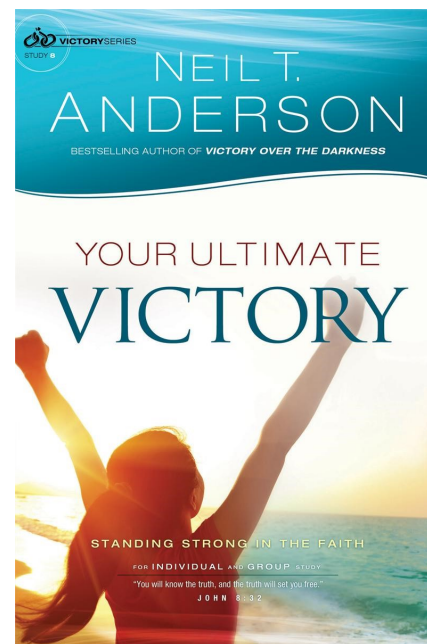
- how we became brand-new people from the inside out when

we became Christians

- why we can go boldly into God's presence any time we like without fear
- how nothing we do can make God love us any more or any less
- how to resolve the effects of even the deepest issues from the past
- how to deal with repeating patterns of sin
- understanding what God's purpose for your life is (it may not be what you think!)

We meet at the church on Wednesday evenings from 6:00-8:00pm. Study guide is \$6.00 for the 10 week discipleship course. Everyone is welcome!

John 8:32 *"You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."*



WOMEN'S STUDY

Victory Series Study 8—"Your Ultimate Victory"

Session Six: Degrees of Spiritual Vulnerability

Location: Zoom

Date: Thursday, Dec 24, 2020

Time: 6:30 PM

Become Equipped to Withstand the Enemy

In Your Ultimate Victory Dr. Neil

Anderson shows you how to win the battle for your mind and stand strong in the faith.

"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood" (Ephesians 6:12)--rather, it is against things unseen, things often kept secret out of fear and shame.

In Your Ultimate Victory, Dr. Neil Anderson shows you how to win the battle for your mind and stand strong in the faith. In this last of eight Victory Series studies, you will learn how Satan attempts to influence your mind and how he tries to lure people with false knowledge and power. You will explore the tactics he has used from the beginning and how you can overcome his temptations, accusations, and deceptions. You will discover how to identify false teachers and false prophets and how to resist demonic influence, possession, bondage, and control.

Friendship K.I.D.s Korner News



Most of us would agree that the Christmas season can be quite chaotic. It is easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle and lose sight of why we celebrate. That is why it is important for us to be intentional in

pointing our kids to Jesus during this Christmas season. Dedicate time to worship God as a family and explore the meaning of Christmas. Consider using this short devotion from Lifeway to lead your family in a time of worship.



Open your Bible to Luke 2. Read [Luke 2:1-20](#) aloud or designate a child to read aloud.

- Ask: “Why do we celebrate Christmas?” Explain that we celebrate Christmas to honor the birth of Jesus.
- Ask: “What makes Jesus’ birth different from any other baby’s birth?” Remind family members that the Son of God was in heaven with God but came to earth as a human baby. Pick up a wrapped Christmas gift. Challenge family members to think of what it would be like to try and put the entire world in a gift box. Explain that Jesus is the mighty, all-powerful God who created everything but He came to earth as the most tiny and helpless of all human forms.
- Ask the big picture question: “Why was Jesus born?” Say the answer together as a family, “Jesus was born to rescue us (from sin).” Explain that we need a Savior. As sinners, we deserve to spend forever apart from God because of our sin. Jesus kept all of God’s laws perfectly while He was on earth. Jesus did not deserve to die, but He took God’s punishment we deserved and died on the cross in our place.

Ask: “What makes Jesus’ birth good news?” Explain that because Jesus came to earth, we can be saved from sin. Jesus rose from the dead, and one day, He is coming back to make everything new and right.

Prayer: God, thank You that because of Jesus we can celebrate Christmas. As we do all the fun things that come with Christmas, help us remember Jesus most of all. Thank You for loving us so much that You sent Your very own Son to earth as a baby so that we could be saved from our sin and can spend forever with You. We love You! Amen.

Friendship K.I.D.s Korner News



EVERY CHURCH, EVERY NATION

Every Church, regardless of size or resources, has a role to play in reaching every nation. Your generosity through PRAYING and GIVING is the lifeblood of Southern Baptist missions.

Together we are able to do so much more than if we chase this vision alone.

Take time to pray about what you can give this year to the **Lottie Moon Christmas Offering**. Our Lottie Moon Tree is located in the back of the sanctuary. The ornaments describe a prayer need and an amount of money needed for that resource to be attained.

Blessings, Mary Ann

