

Friendship Church  
*Loving God...Loving People*

# FRIENDSHIP GOOD NEWS

December 17, 2021

From Pastor Mike...



**In person and Facebook  
Live Church Service**

**Small Groups**

**Sunday December 19, 2021**

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

How do you celebrate Christmas if you are not feeling the festiveness of the season? What are some simple, practical things you can do if you are feeling down in the dumps at this time of year? I write this because there are many who struggle this time of year. For some, it is certainly NOT the “most wonderful time of the year.”

First, remember who loved you first and loves you most. You have a friend in Jesus. He is a friend that will stick closer to you than a brother (or sister!) When He went to the cross to suffer for the sins of the world, you were on His mind! What a friend we have in Jesus! He doesn't just call us servants – He calls us His friends! You are not alone – you have a BFF in Jesus!

Second, count your many blessings. Focus on what you have, not on what you have lost. Focus on God's promises like **Romans 8:37-38**, “*neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*” Fill your heart and mind with illuminating truth from God's Word. God's Word is the light that dispels the darkness.

Thirdly, remember this phrase. “it came to pass.” Depression and sorrow don't come to stay – they come to pass. The writer of **Psalms 42:5** says: “*Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise Him, my Savior and my God.*” David wrote in **Psalms 30:5b**: “*Weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.*” King David certainly battled depression, but he worked hard not to stay there by getting his praise on and remembering, “this too shall pass.”

Finally, find a way to bless someone else. A great way to get your mind off your problems is to get your mind on someone else's need. Find a need and meet it. Pray for people. Send an encouraging message. Pray, “Lord, make me a channel of blessing today!” Serving God by serving and loving others is a great way to dispel the blues. I love you all,

Pastor Mike

# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Date	Time	Event
Friday, December 24	5:00pm	Annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Sunday, January 9	Noon	Churchwide Potluck Fellowship Meal
Sunday, January 9	1:00pm	Winter Family Forum
Sunday, January 23	10:30am	Sanctity of Human Life Sunday
Sunday, January 30	6:00pm	Fifth Sunday Ministry Nite and Lord's Supper
Saturday, February 12	5:00pm	Valentine Dinner & Silent Auction (Mission trip fund-raiser)
Sunday, February 13		Super Bowl Sunday Fellowships
Monday, February 14		VALENTINES DAY
Sunday, March 6	10:30am	Week of Prayer for North American Missions (Annie Armstrong Offering)
Sunday, March 13		DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS
Saturday, April 9		One Day Serve Local – Mission Springdale
Sunday, April 10	6:00pm	Spring Family Forum
Sunday, April 17	10:30am	RESURRECTION SUNDAY

## Winter 2021 Sunday School Study:

### Ezekiel; Daniel

God doesn't just want us to read His Word, He wants us to know it and live its truth. That's why Explore the Bible: Adults takes groups book by book through Scripture, framing every passage in its appropriate biblical and cultural context. This winter, we are studying the Books of Ezekiel and Daniel. From familiar stories that have been cherished for generations to intriguing visions of the end times, each book offers its own unique perspective on how God works among His people and how He steadfastly reigns as Lord of all. (13 sessions)

Session 3: Judges—Ezekiel 20:1-14

### Attendance—December 12

Sunday Worship: 93

Sunday School: 59

### Tithes & Offerings

General Offering: \$4,831.71

### Birthdays

Dec 20—Ann Caldwell

### Anniversaries

Dec 23—Herb & Violet Richardson

### SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDIES

Various ladies small group studies meet throughout the week at different locations and times. Please see Pam Sypult for information.

## Need encouragement and strength?

Join us Sunday evenings

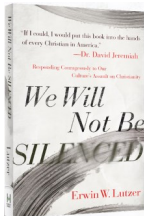
at 6 PM on Zoom

ZOOM link for PRAYER MEETING:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86223352309?pwd=NEpmdjBvby9nS1hsK3Z1S3hBMVVPZz09>

ID: 862 2335 2309

Passcode: 553985



## WEDNESDAY EVENING STUDY

At 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall

Together,  
WE REACH THE NATIONS

2021 GOAL  
\$185  
million

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### *Tidbits from Diane Moss-*

Col. 1:27 "To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the *hope* of glory".

Paul was a prisoner as he penned his letter to the believers at Colosse. He was never concerned for his own needs, but always thinking of the needs of others and encouraging them in their walk with Christ.

I really like Col 2:2 where Paul goes on to encourage with these words "That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love". Together we create a beautiful tapestry or a watercolor on canvas!

"Lord, am I reflecting your glory today"? Is my hope anchored in you today? If not, why not? Some day, my hope in Jesus may be all that I have to hold on to.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS

I want to share with you this article I recently came across.

Imagine for a minute that it is your birthday and your best friend has planned a birthday party for you. You are super excited as you arrive at your party. Everybody is having a great time, but for some reason no one talks to you. When it's time for gifts, your friends give gifts to one another, but nobody gives you a present.

It's hard to imagine a birthday party like this, and yet it happens every year on December 25th.

We say that Christmas is the day that we celebrate Jesus' birth and then we tend to ignore Him.

Children especially have a tendency to get caught up in the gift giving, but the reality is most of our kids are thinking, "What am I going to get for Christmas?"

I am not saying that we should not give gifts to one another on Christmas day, but I am saying it's secondary to what we are to give to Christ.

Have you ever asked yourself the question, "What does Jesus want for Christmas?"

What do you buy for God, who has everything?

The streets in Heaven are paved with gold, what could Jesus possibly want for Christmas?

There is really only one thing that Jesus wants for Christmas. Jesus wants you.

Of course, He wants other people too, but you cannot give other people to Jesus. You can only give yourself. You can exhort and challenge others to give themselves to Christ, but that begins by giving yourself fully to Christ.

I give my life to Christ by teaching others about Him.



**In a practical sense, how do I give myself to Christ?**

- I give myself to Christ by giving Him my time, my talent and my money.
- I give myself to Christ by serving others instead of serving myself.
- I give myself to Christ by living a holy life in an unholy world.
- I give myself to Christ by slowing down, turning off Facebook, and spending time in His presence, listening to Him.
- I give my life to Christ by teaching others about Him.



I love this quote by Billy Graham, *“The test of a preacher is that his congregation goes away saying, not, ‘What a lovely sermon!’; but ‘I will do something.’”*

This year let’s do more than tell kids the Christmas Story.

What if we ask kids to give Jesus a present? And not just on December 25th. Why not give Jesus a present every day in December?

Blessings, Mary Ann

