



Friendship Church
Loving God...Loving People

FRIENDSHIP GOOD NEWS

December 18, 2020



From Pastor Mike...

*The Word became
flesh and made his
dwelling among us.
We have seen his Glory,
the Glory of the one and
only Son, who came from the
Father, full of grace and truth.
John 1:14*

What is the meaning of Christmas? What is the true reason for the season? Many think of Jesus Christ as a baby in the manger. Others focus on the miraculous birth of the Son of God, born of a virgin. But the REAL story of Christmas is this – God became one of us!

There have been thousands of times in human history when a baby became a king. But there is only one time that a King became a baby. His name – Immanuel which means, “God with us.” **John 1:14** “The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.” God loves us so much He shared His one and only Son with us so that we could see what He is like.

I find it interesting that in Scripture, Jesus never asked His disciples to remember His birth. But He did instruct them to remember His death and resurrection. The greatest gift ever known to mankind is found in Jesus going to the cross to pay the penalty for our sins. Jesus told us in **John 15:13**: “Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.” God the Son calls us His friends! What greater honor can one have than to be the friend of God!

The real meaning of Christmas is this: “God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” **Romans 5:8**. The greatest gift we all need is forgiveness for our sins. So, as you gather with your family this Christmas, pause and take time to remember what great gift our good God has done in sending His beloved Son!

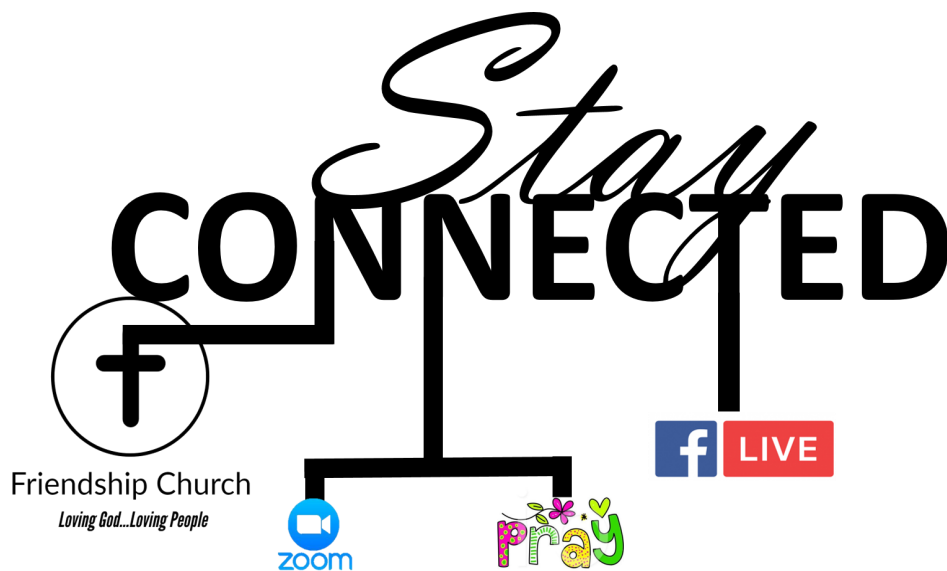
Peace on earth and goodwill toward men!

I love you all,

Indoor Church & Small Groups

Sunday December 20, 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 "*The Word Became Flesh*" - [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.

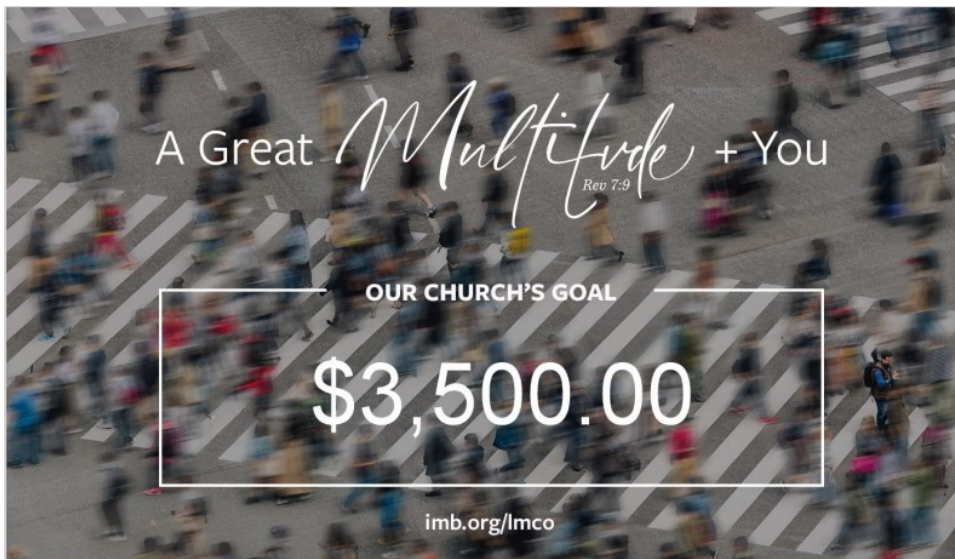
Most classes meeting online using Zoom. Check with your Sunday School teacher for dates and times.

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 20 – Ann Caldwell

December 26 – Ronnie Stillwagon

Friendship Anniversaries

December 23 – Herb & Violet Richardson

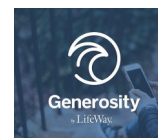
Friendship Attendance, Dec 13

Small group Bible study - 48

Celebration worship - 66

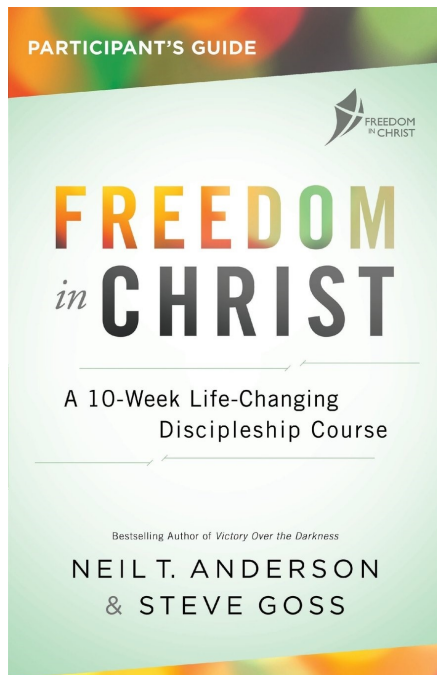
Tithes & Offering

Sunday, Dec. 13—\$3,797.69



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:

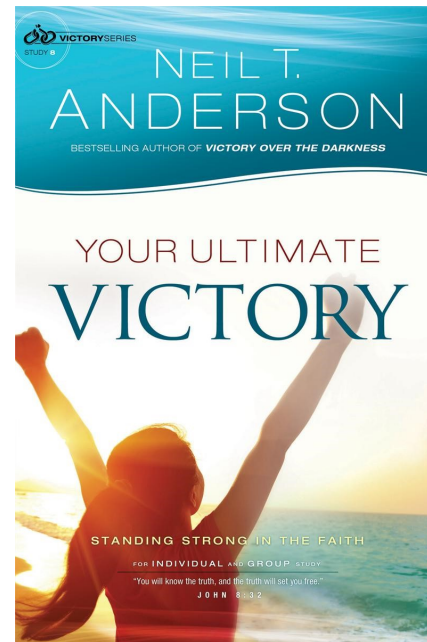
- how we became brand-new people from the inside out when

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: Monday, Dec 21, 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.



Spend sometime this season sharing the true meaning of Christmas through the symbols that surround us. You can gather all the items and put them in a gift box. As your child unwraps each item, talk about their meaning. Or, you can have the children go on a Christmas Scavenger Hunt to find each item, then talk about their meanings. However you do it, sharing the *True Meaning of Christmas* can be a family favorite this year, and years to come.

THE TRUE MEANING OF *Christmas*



GIFT BOW-TIED AS
WE SHOULD ALL BE
TIED TOGETHER IN
BONDS OF
GOODWILL
FOREVER.



CANDY CANE-
THE SHEPHERD'S CROOK,
USED TO BRING LAMBS BACK
INTO THE FOLD-A REMINDER
THAT WE ARE ALL OUR
BROTHER'S KEEPER.



THE BELL-RINGS OUT TO
GUIDE LOST SHEEP BACK TO
THE FOLD-SIGNIFYING ALL
ARE PRECIOUS IN THE EYES
OF THE LORD.



THE CANDLE-A MIRROR OF
STARLIGHT REFLECTING
OUR THANKS FOR THE
STAR OF BETHLEHEM.



RED-
THE FIRST COLOR OF
CHRISTMAS SYMBOLIZING
THE SAVIOR'S SACRIFICE
FOR ALL.



THE STAR-A
HEAVENLY SIGN OF
PROPHECY FULFILLED
LONG AGES AGO-THE
SHINING HOPE OF
MANKIND.



FIR TREE; EVERGREEN-
THE SECOND COLOR OF
CHRISTMAS SHOWS
EVERLASTING LIFE. THE
NEEDLES POINT
HEAVENWARD.



THE WREATH-A SYMBOL
OF THE NEVER ENDING
ETERNAL NATURE OF
LOVE, HAVING NO
BEGINNING AND NO END.

Friendship K.I.D.s Korner News

This week, kids will be learning where the angels first heralded the news of Jesus' birth to the shepherds, and how they made their way to see the Baby Jesus. As a family, recreate the Christmas Story using a nativity set. Let the kids act out parts of the story. Don't forget to emphasize Jesus' birth was good news of great joy.

We hope this week is filled with joy as you reflect on the good news of Christ's birth.

But the angel said to them, "Don't be afraid, for look, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people: Today in the city of David a *Savior* was born for you, who is the *Messiah, the Lord.*"

- Luke 2:10-11 (CSB)



*What great joy has come
into the world!*

Family Advent Guide - Week 3

LifeWay
Kids

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.

“We have seen a momentum rising with our people as they realize the Great Commission is not optional for believers.

It's breathtaking! Our partnership with the IMB has been a tremendous blessing for The Summit Church as together we have seen many disciples made, churches planted, and Christ exalted among many nations. It has only begun!”



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Blessings, Mary

