



Friendship Church  
*Loving God...Loving People*

FRIENDSHIP GOOD NEWS

December 24, 2020

From Pastor Mike...



FOR UNTO YOU  
*Is born this day*  
IN THE CITY OF DAVID,  
*A Saviour*  
WHO IS CHRIST THE LORD  
*Luke 2:11*

Indoor Church & Small Groups

Sunday December 27, 2020 — 9:30 AM

Small Groups — 10:30 Church Service

*“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”* **Luke 2:11-14 (KJV)**

Hear the heart of God in this brief passage: All glory goes to Him alone – our Creator, our Sustainer, our Provider, our Comforter, our Deliverer, our Savior. No one else nor nothing else deserves the praise, worship and adoration besides our Lord Jesus Christ. Here on earth: “peace and good will.” The Greek word for “good will” is *“eudokia”* which is rendered “kindly intent, benevolence.” I think of the English word *“altruism”* which is defined as “unselfish regard for or devotion to the welfare of others.” This is precisely what our good God has done for us by sending us the Savior of the World – our Lord Jesus Christ. He wasn’t looking out for His own good will, but for ours.

*“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”* **Hebrews 12:2**

*Continued on page 2...*



## Congratulations

Savannah Stevenson, Wes Stevenson, Nathan Sypult, Paige Williams, Rebekah Albertson, Ryan Albertson, Jared Melton, Laura Melton. Not pictured - Kiana Cooley-Haynes

For completing the Financial Peace Program!

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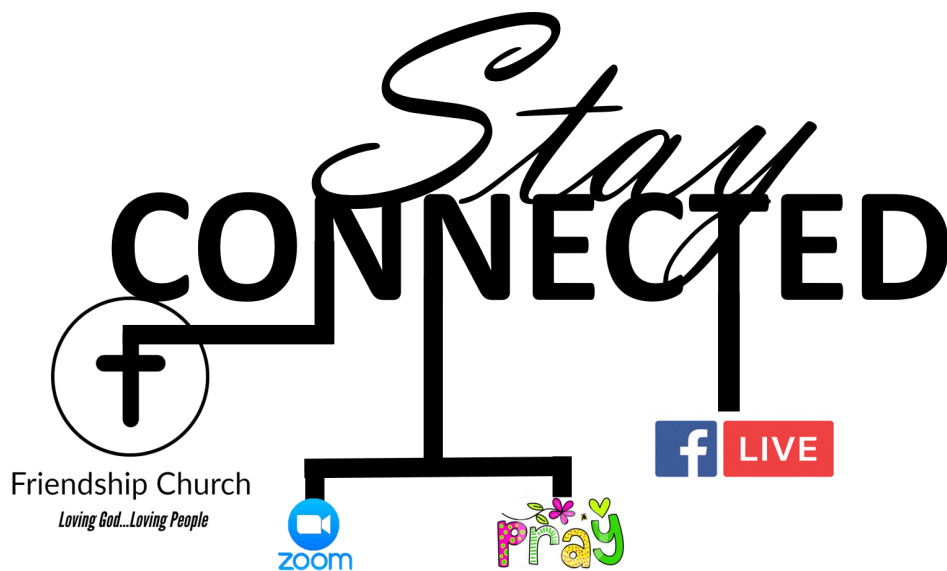
So, the question comes to mind...if God's intent is peace on earth and good will toward men, why is there so much division and hatred? Why is there so much discord and strife? Simply put, it is this: The truth divides! There is a cosmic battle going on – not between two equal powers but between two opposite powers. **John 1:12** says, *"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."* Jesus is the truth that sets people free to have peace and good will. Without Jesus, the world is lost and blind and dead in sin. **John 1:5** says, *"The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it."* The light of the world is Jesus.

Yes, someday soon, Christ will return and ultimately reverse the curse of this old, broken world. Someday soon there will indeed be "peace on earth and good will toward men." **Philippians 2:10-11** tells us, *"At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."* Jesus IS the WAY, the TRUTH and the LIFE!

Keep your eyes on the eastern skies!

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 Mission Begins

**Sunday's lesson** "*Showing Christ in Times of Trials*" - [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.**



## 6 Things to Believe in at Christmas (and always!)

### Believe in miracles:

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of

Peace." [Isaiah 9:6](#)

### 2. Believe in God's purposes:

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor...to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free." Jesus in [Luke 4:18](#)

### 3. Believe in Love, Grace, and Hope:

"God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." [John 3:16](#)

### 4. Believe in Comfort:

"He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds." [Psalm 147:3](#)

### 5. Believe in Joy:

"The joy of the LORD is your strength." [Nehemiah 8:10](#)

### 6. Believe and earnestly seek Him!

"Anyone who comes to [God] must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him." [Hebrews 11:6](#)

May you have a wonderful Christmas, celebrating God's Gift of Hope, Love, Joy and Peace that came wrapped up as His one and only son, Jesus.

Merry Christmas!





Your prayers and gifts  
this season are bringing  
*the hope of the gospel to  
a world in need.*



### 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