



Friendship Church
Loving God...Loving People

FRIENDSHIP GOOD NEWS

December 31, 2020

Forget the former things;
do not dwell on the past.
See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up;
do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in
the wilderness
& streams in the wasteland.

Isaiah 43:18-19

From Pastor Mike...



Well, 2020 is about over and a New Year is upon us. A New Year is a new beginning, a new set of opportunities and choices. This is what the Lord says: *"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland."* **Isaiah 43:18-19.**

What is God calling us to do in 2021? Perhaps that is *not* the right question... Could it be that God does not want us to focus on what we are going to DO, but rather, how are we going to BE for Him in 2021? Maybe the better question is, "God, what do you want us to BE in 2021?"

Our Friendship Church goal for 2021 is "to build a church where God's presence is pleased to dwell." In order to be a church where God is pleased to dwell, we must all daily meet with God through reading His Word, prayer and humble dependence upon Him. In other words, we all need to SLOW DOWN!

Psalms 46:10 says, *"Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."* My prayer as your pastor is that we all make time and effort to enter into His presence each day. Our Father in heaven wants an intimate relationship with us, but far too often, we are simply too busy. We are so conditioned to be active that we fail to be intimate with the One who loves us so.

David wrote in **Psalms 16:11**, *"You have made known to me the path of life; You will fill me with joy in Your presence, with eternal pleasures at Your right hand."* In God's presence is the fullness of joy. He wants us to enter in. What will you BE in 2021?

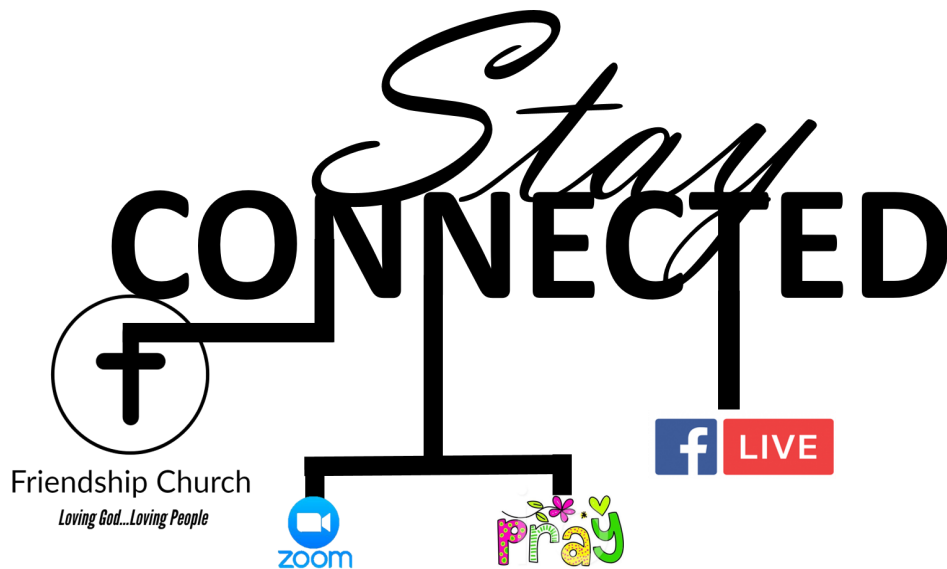
I love you all,

Pastor Mike

Indoor Church & Small Groups

Sunday January 3, 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 "Pursuing Godly Living" - [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.

Friendship K.I.D.s Korner News



As we look toward the start of the new year, why not consider a family devotional Bible that will help you and your kids have a consistent **“Read Through the Bible”** plan for 2021. I was blessed to grow up as part of a family who believed in reading the Bible in family devotion times. Some of us know firsthand how important those times can be. Others of us, struggle with *knowing* its important, to actually doing it.

So how do you help your kids stay in God’s Word? Check out the following things you can do to help teach kids to have a daily time with God:

1. *Pray and ask God to be with your time in His Word and invite God to speak to you through you study.*
2. *Model to kids how to have a quiet time with God. Have a quiet time together so that a child will understand.*
3. *Treat the Bible with respect as you handle and carry it, affirming its trustworthiness, authority, and reliability.*
4. *Read a passage out loud together.*
5. *Ask kids what they think the passage means.*
6. *Memorize important verses.*
7. *Talk about what actions God is telling you to take as a result of your Bible study. Take action where God tells you to take action!*
8. *Respond to God in prayer.*
9. *Journal about the things you are learning and God’s answers to your prayers.*
10. *Thank God for answering your prayer.*

Notice how this movement starts and ends with prayer and opening yourself to God speaking and your taking action. What great lessons for our kids! It is even better to take this journey together and read the same passages and talk about them together.

Foundations for Kids is one example of a great tool that helps parents teach their kids God’s Word. Not only does it provide a 260-day reading plan (5 days per week for one year). This plan helps parents and kids go through this study together: reading God’s Word, memorizing Scripture, understanding and applying Bible truths, and responding to God in prayer.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Check out **Foundations for Kids-**

Blessings, Mary Ann

