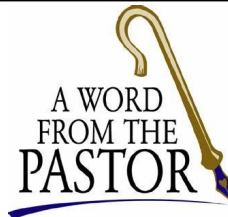




## Friendship Focus February 2023

*[Jesus said] "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it."*  
Mark 8: 34-35



### **Grace to you and peace from God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

What does it take to be great? It's a question many ask as they work to keep the New Year's resolutions they made at the beginning of the year. It's a question we hear as we approach actors and musicians' award season in Hollywood. A concept students wrestle with as their first semester comes to an end with exams and final grades. And a question we hear discussed this time of year as professional football and college basketball seasons are coming to a close and the best teams are rising to the top.

In his book *Good to Great*, Jim Collins presents data that supports his theory of how some good companies and corporations have made conscious changes to the way they do business in order to become great companies and organizations. He takes an in-depth look at eleven companies across various industries who have experienced a significant period of growth in their recent history, analyzing how and why these companies experienced the growth. In all the scenarios, the eleven companies had quit doing some things that they had always valued and viewed as important aspects of their business model and began new practices of doing business in a great way that boosted their growth. All eleven companies experienced growth in their business model in terms of number of customers, profitability and revenues. The takeaway from this research was the need and value of businesses to constantly look for ways to change their model so that great things can be achieved. Couldn't the same be said of the church today?

Growth is important. It seems more and more the church today is focused on growth, too; what do we need to do to grow? What ministries or programs do we need to add to attract new members? By the same token, many churches are searching for answers wondering why they aren't growing; why the budget is not being met and why more people are not committing to the life and the ministry of the church. In all of these desires, including those from the business sector, growth is based on quantity (i.e. the number of members/customers, revenues/profits, number of ministries or programs, amount of products offered etc.). But isn't it interesting how, in discipleship, Jesus calls us to subtract from our lives instead of seeking growth.

In the gospels, Jesus says that disciples are to lose their life for his sake and for the sake of the gospel. A life of discipleship, then, is more about relinquishing those things from our lives that keep us from God and taking on new things that help us grow in our discipleship and devotion to Jesus; discipleship is about quality rather than quantity; discipleship is about moving from good to great!

We are about to embark upon the forty-day journey of Lent when we are called as Jesus' disciples to review and reflect upon our life of faith and our relationship with God, preparing ourselves once again for the miracle of Easter. In a sense, the season of Lent invites us to discern how we might make that transition from good to great in our own spiritual lives and in the life of the church. Many during the season give up certain passions of this world that might keep them from growing in their relationship with God. Others might take on a particular discipline during the season that helps them to grow in their relationship with God. Whatever you might choose to do, I challenge you to make your spiritual life and focus of the church to be on the greatness of God rather than the good of the world; to be on the quality of a life in Christ rather than a quantity of the world's riches. Jesus is waiting for us to follow in his ways, so let us deny ourselves, take up our crosses and follow.

God Bless You,  
Pastor Josh



**IMPORTANT**

**Scam ALERT!** Please be aware there is a big increase in scammers taking advantage of church information shared on their websites, posing as the pastor/ church leader to reach out to church members & ask for assistance to help someone in need. Usually this comes as a text message or email requesting gift cards to be purchased & to scratch off the code of the gift card you purchased & give it to the scammer, or you're asked to make a payment to a scammer pretending to be the pastor or church worker via venmo or paypal. Know that Pastor Josh or any staff member at Friendship will NEVER ask for financial aid to help someone in need through email or making a payment through email, Paypal, venmo, etc. All requests to help those in need will be shared on all of our communication platforms (e-news, newsletter, weekly announcements in worship & This Week At Friendship). And most if not all requests to help those in need will be made via donations through the church (i.e. by giving of an offering in the offering plate or donation box, or by using our online giving platform on our church website. The most safe rule of thumb is if you are ever leery of a request for a donation, please call Pastor Josh or the church office and ask! Thank you for remaining diligent & keeping alert with this prevalent issue going around churches right now!

## February News

**Secret Sisters** - meet on **Sat, Feb 4th at 9 am.**

**WELCA** - meets **Sun, Feb 5th in the chapel at 5 pm.**

**Friendship Fellowship Suppers are back!** We're excited to re-introduce a longtime ministry here at Friendship, supper on the first Monday of each month at 6 pm in the FLC. This is another great way to fellowship with our church family as well as members of the community.

**Our first Monday supper will be Feb. 6th, 6 pm.** Suppers are pot luck & all are welcome to participate! Hope to see you there!

**Church Council** - meet on **Monday, Feb. 13th at 6pm.**

**5th Sunday Worship** - This year, on 5th Sundays, we will gather for one combined worship at 10 am. These 5th Sunday combined worship opportunities are great ways to fellowship with your Friendship church family & get to know others in the church who may attend worship at a different time than you! **Next 5th Sunday will be April 30th.**



**Newsletter Deadline-** Send items for the **March** issue of **Friendship's Focus** by **Thursday, Feb. 16th.** Call the church office @ 632-4482 or email your items to [friendshipsecretary4@gmail.com](mailto:friendshipsecretary4@gmail.com).

**Confirmation dates are:** Feb. 12th & 26th; March 12th & 26th; April 23rd; May 7th & 21st. Confirmation class meets during Sunday School in the middle school class-

### Lenten Schedule

Shrove Tuesday pancake supper – Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> - 6pm

Burning of palms – Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> - 7pm

Ash Wednesday services: Wed, Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>, - 12noon

Wed, Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>, - 7pm

Weekly Lent Schedule: March 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>

5-6pm – meal

6-7pm – study

7-7:15pm – Holden evening prayer

7:15pm – Praise Team/Choir practice

Please make plans to join us!

## **Thank You**

To the body of believers at Friendship Lutheran Church

We at Finding Hope Ministries are grateful for your generous support of our generators for Ukrainians mission. I look forward to reporting to you the blessings of gratitude from God's children there, whose lives will be impacted by your gift. We pray for God's blessings on you, your families and your kingdom work.

In His Grip, Mike Harrison

Dear Supporter,

I would like to say Thank you for your monthly contributions to the 957 mobile café in 2022. With your contributions, we were able to serve over 38,000 meals. As you know, food costs have skyrocketed! The upside is we have been able to sustain the demand to provide a hot meal & sense of hope for the less fortunate residents of Alexander County. We look forward to continuing our relationship with you in 2023.

God Bless,

Mike Richmond  
Ministry Director

Dear Friendship Lutheran,

Thank you for joining us in our 2022 Christmas Appeal, *Love Come Down* with a gift of \$1,000. I look forward to sharing with you the exciting things in store for this ministry in 2023.

Chandler R. Carriker, Deacon  
Agape Kure Beach Ministries, Executive Director

Dear Friendship Lutheran,

Once again, you have gone above and beyond, making you a huge part of our success! We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to you. It is people like you that make it possible for our organization to exist and make our community a great place to live.

May God continue to bless you!

Warmest regards,  
Hiddenite Community Helpers Board Members

## February Birthdays

Michelle Miller	2/02	Adalynn Icenhour	2/11
Tammy Cannon	2/04	Alyssa Jolly	2/12
Carlie Stafford	2/04	Mary Robitschek	2/15
Pam Setzer	2/05	Michael Windsor	2/15
Maynard Annas III	2/06	Ethan Hall	2/17
Levi Icenhour	2/07	Lulabell Harrington	2/18
Hilda Bowman	2/08	Tabitha Hefner	2/18
Mary Icenhour	2/08	Donna Icard	2/19
Monte Rogers	2/10	Theresa Setzer	2/22
Shannon Stafford	2/10	Lorraine Hefner	2/26
Jon Hayes	2/11		



Friendship Lutheran Church Council  
December 13, 2022, Regular Meeting in Person

Members present: John Bostian, Marty Buff, Wade Cline, Eric Frye, Tyler Hall, Mary Ann Icenhour, Sandra Icenhour, Pat Payne, Gary Richey, Steve Shealy, Monica Stafford, Jimmy Watts, Pastor Josh Tucker, John Adair, Payton Boyles, Guy Chapman, Robert Farrens, Mason Frye, Taylor Payne, and Dana Frye. Absent: None

President Mary Ann Icenhour called the meeting to order, and Pastor Josh shared a devotion.

Election of new officers: John Bostian, President, Payton Boyles, Vice-President. Motion by Steve Shealy; seconded by John Adair to continue with Guy Kerley, Financial Secretary, Jane Gant, Treasurer, and Dana Frye, Recording Secretary. Motion carries.

Motion by Steve Shealy; seconded by John Bostian to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on November 8, 2022. Motion carries.

The treasurer's report for the month was distributed.

**TEAM REPORTS:**

Administration – Sandra Icenhour – Overview of the team was given. Guy Chapman will be liaison.

Care – Wade Cline – Wade highlighted the teams year: 2,207 lbs of food has been donated to the Christian Crisis Center; 190+ meals and blessing bags were distributed at Thanksgiving; Apple City Street Rodders meal collected \$1,125 for Lutheran Disaster; the ACHS football team was fed, volunteers work the Mobile Café on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month, delivered 5 buckets of prescription bottles to the ministry in Hickory and supplies to the Caring Hearts Pregnancy Center. Taylor Payne will be liaison.

Learn – John Bostian – The Christmas program was successful. The team will be talking about VBS with St Luke, Reformation, and St Johns would like to join in 2023. Sunday school classes have been arranged to better accommodate class ages and teachers have been secured for several months. Pastor Josh would like to set VBS the same week each year and to plan it to be early in the summer. He also asked the team to investigate a program offered by Lutheridge called, Luther Rode Camp, where Friendship could host a weeklong camp for elementary kids for one week in the summer. The cost would be approximately \$2,500 for the week. More details to come on this. Payton Boyles will be liaison.

Worship -Monica Stafford – No report. Monica will stay as liaison.

Share – Jimmy Watts – Signs are being designed for entering and exiting the parking lot when we have special events where parking is an issue, or the use of the parking lot limits the spaces available for cars. Signs are not ready for preview yet. Robert Farrens will be liaison.

Finance – Steve Shealy – Steve explained how the financial report is presented each month. He will continue as liaison.

Rusha Austin Scholarship – Marty Buff – Marty explains the team’s responsibility. He will continue as liaison.

Preschool – Pat Payne – Pat reported that the Breakfast with Santa was a huge success. As of that day \$2,582 was raised. Annual review for Hope, all job descriptions and policies are complete. Classes are full this year and next and there is a waiting list. Pastor Josh has weekly chapel with the 4-year-olds. John Adair will be liaison.

Building & Grounds (BAG) – Eric Frye – Wade reported that the corner glass windows are complete; the stained-glass windows are missing two windows. The stained glass that Friendship had was not enough to complete all the windows. A new contract for glass to complete the last two will be sent for approval. Mason Frye will be liaison.

Technology – Tyler Hall – Tyler explained the long process for the sign. He has had numerous conversations with zoning, and inspections and finally has the ok to proceed with the sign. He is ready to move on and get it installed. He will remain the liaison for the team.

Cemetery – Gary Richey – Gary gave overview of the team and plans to pick back up with the cemetery maintenance in the spring. He will stay as liaison.

#### **PASTORS REPORT:**

Pastor Josh shared his monthly report. He shared what is expected from council people and what you as council people can expect. He would also like to be informed when your team is planning a meeting so he can be involved. Worship and Music and Pastor Josh will be preparing for the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday combined service in the Nave for January 29. We have not been having this due to COVID and he would like to try it again.



*\*Minutes continued on the next page.*

**Meeting  
Minutes**

Motion by Marty Buff; seconded by Guy Chapman to accept the following as new members at Friendship on Sunday, December 18: Kristi, Gracyn & Elliot Tucker, Harold & Diane Buff, Tomasz, Anna, Thomas & Samuel Bedzinski and David Swink, Terry, Janet, Lucas, Brittany, Connor and Chole Mitchell, Charlie Sipe, Bob, Kim and Betty Tyler, Wes Boyles, and Cathy Carroll. Motion carries.

Pastor Josh and his family will be on vacation December 29 through January 6.

Pastor Josh and the Learn Team would like the council to consider a one-year program "Right Now Media". This allows teachers, families, and groups to use this Bible study online app at the church or at their homes. Cost would be \$155 a month and possibly could be set to \$89 depending on registration of our congregation size. We would be under no obligation to renew after 1 year. Motion by Marty Buff; seconded by Tyler Hall to join for one year. Motion carries.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

The carpet quote that had been approved on October 18, 2022, is now void. John Bostian is waiting for an updated quote on cushions. There are also several workers in the congregation with upholstery experience who have talked about the option of making the cushions. More details to follow.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

John Bostian has shared that when work begins in the Nave a trench will be cut in the floor for wiring under the new carpet.

A gift bag will be prepared for new members and presented to them on December 18.

Motion by Robert Farrens; seconded by John Adair to send \$1,000.00 each to Hiddenite Food Pantry, Stony Point Food Pantry, Christian Crisis Center, Apage Kure Beach Ministries, Novus Way Ministry, and 957 Mobile Café. Motion carries.

John Bostian stresses the need for Teams to work together and make decisions as a team.

The council agreed to continue the meetings on the second Tuesday of each month, changing the time from 7 pm to 6 pm.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned with prayer.

Our next regular monthly meeting will be at 6 pm on Tuesday, January 10, 2023. Monica Stafford is scheduled to share a devotion.



## Prayers of the Church

*“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything,  
by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God.”*  
~ Philippians 4:6-7

**Please call the church office to add or  
take someone off this list.**

Kellie Rough	(L. Hayes-1/3)
Mearil Moose	(L. Keever-1/9)
Elizabeth & Eric Church	(L. James-1/9)
Joe & Susan Franjione	(L. James-1/9)
Katelyn McKinney	(W. Cline-1/9)
Torie Rhoney	(R. Buff-1/9)
Phyllis Ann Fox	(J. Gant-1/9)
Pam Setzer	(W. Cline-1/10)
Mike Harrison	(P. Josh-1/11)
Kevin Powell	(P. Josh-1/11)
Mark Odom	(M. Sipe-1/16)
Rose Bowman	(L. Hefner-1/160)
Gavin Killian	(W. Cline-1/16)
Corey Cline	(H. Bostian-1/16)
Darlene Handy	(S. Rogers-1/18)
Linda Bowman	(S. Rogers-1/18)
Alta Sells	(L. Hefner-1/18)
Emma Chapman	(D. Rhyne-1/23)
Angie Clark	(S. Smith-1/23)
Sharon Goble	(P. Josh-1/23)
Barbara	(W. Cline-1/23)
India & Zach Pearson	(M. Bowman-1/25)
Chris Connolly	(P. Shealy-1/25)

### **Family & friends of:**

Mary Ann Mclelland	(D. Ramsey-1/11)
Ralph Miller	(P. Josh-1/12)
Laura W. Walker	(T. Stafford-1/16)
Carroll Baker	(N. Windsor-1/18)
Lori Honeycutt	(T. Stafford-1/23)

# Our Sharing

## OFFERINGS

	<u>DECEMBER, 2022</u>	<u>YTD</u>
CURRENT	\$30,763.09	\$320,484.86
BENEVOLENCE	\$3,180.00	\$20,324.00
BLDG/IMPROVEMENT	\$8,425.00	\$83,644.00
PRESCHOOL	\$3,256.29	\$7,760.29
WORLD HUNGER	\$70.00	\$4,805.00
BACKPACK MINISTRY	\$600.00	\$5,356.00
CHRISTIAN CRISIS CTR	\$475.00	\$2,265.00
FOOD PANTRIES	\$0.00	\$225.00
LUTHERAN DISASTER RELIEF	\$175.00	\$5,980.00
RUSHA AUSTIN SCHLOR.	\$3,520.00	\$21,973.00
YOUTH	\$310.00	\$1,412.00
SECRET SISTER COOKBOOK	\$0.00	\$1,004.00
MOBILE CAFÉ	\$0.00	\$480.00
NOISY OFFERING	\$529.50	\$726.50

## SPENDING

	<u>DECEMBER, 2022</u>	<u>YTD</u>
CURRENT	\$26,712.45	\$304,256.68

## HOME BOUND/EXTENDED CARE:

- Fate & Ruth Hefner - Home
- Mitchell Price - Brandywine @ Alexandria
- Earl Bostian - Home
- Sam & Hilda Bowman - Home
- Benny & Emo Bebber - Home
- Joyce Deal - Home

**If you know of someone that should be added to or taken off this list, please call the church office.**



# Church Council and Staff

## Council (Term ending)

### Officers

John Bostian - President	(‘23)
Payton Boyles - VP	(‘24)
Jane Gant - Treasurer (non voting)	(‘24)
Dana Frye - Recording Sec (non voting)	(‘24)
Guy Kerley - Financial Sec (non voting)	(‘24)
Marty Buff - RA Scholarship	(‘23)
Tyler Hall - Tech	(‘23)
Gary Richey - Cemetery	(‘23)
Steve Shealy - Finance	(‘23)
Monica Stafford - Worship	(‘23)
Guy Chapman - Adm.	(‘24)
Mason Frye--Bldg. & Grounds	(‘24)
Robert Farrens-- Share	(‘24)
John Adair--Preschool	(‘24)
Taylor Payne--CARE	(‘24)

## Staff

Denny Teague	Sexton
Penny Stikeleather	Parish Secretary
Silva Moore	Organ/Piano
Hope Wike	Preschool Director
Josh Tucker	Pastor

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Penny is in the office Mon-Thurs,  
9:30-4:30 (Lunch-12:30-1:30)  
The office is closed on Friday.

**You may reach Pastor Josh**  
on the his cell phone: **828-461-4688**  
or his email: **pastorjoshtucker@gmail.com**

Please do not hesitate to be in touch if you have a pastoral concern, or if there is something the pastor needs to know.