



Friendship Focus

January 2023

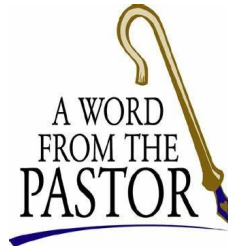
News for members and friends of Friendship Lutheran Church

Friendship Church Family,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

As we turn our calendars to a new year, I find comfort in God's Word from the revelation to John,

*And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end."
(Revelation 21:5-6a)*



In his revelation to the apostle, we see God busy and active, promising to be present in the beginnings and the endings. God is the first and the last, omnipresent – ever present, omnipotent – all powerful, omniscient – all knowing. God promises to be with us as close out 2022 and we begin a new year.

Many will make new year resolutions to attempt to better themselves; many will resolve to spend more time at home with family and less time at work; many will commit to greater acts of charity. Often all of our well-intentioned resolutions and goals for a new year will fail.

But God's love never fails. God's grace, mercy and forgiveness never fail. The promise of God's presence with us, Emmanuel: God is with us, never fails us.

I cannot wait to see all the wonderful works of God in and through us here at Friendship Lutheran Church in 2023. I look forward to a faithful year of mission and ministry alongside you, looking to God, who promises to make all things new again, to guide and direct us this year and beyond.

Please join me in praying this prayer and blessing for the new year:

Dear Father God,

We praise You for Your abundant grace and desire to give good gifts to Your Children! As we begin a new calendar year, we are reminded that Your will for us is to give us hope and a future. Incline our hearts and minds to be receptive to all the blessings you will grant to us in the new year and keep us focused on the promises you intend for us to know and live.

We recognize the difficulties of this past year, but more so, the wonderful gifts you have granted which are far greater. Even though we have not deserved Your mercy, You have been gracious in lending your love to us each and every day. Continue to do so as You keep us from all harm and danger of the mind, body, soul and spirit. Create in us new hearts and a spirit to sustain us in any and all challenges to come.

Empower us by Your Spirit to seek Your forgiveness and live according to Your will. Draw us with fervent hearts to Your Word and Sacraments that we may know true strength in order to live out the calling to which You have given us. Stir our passions to that which is good, right and holy; pleasing to You and a blessing to our neighbors. May we know compassion and empathy for those in need and a greater desire to share the Good News of life in the Name of Jesus.

Free us from the past of our sins and guilt that we may move freely into this New Year full of joy to be of service to You and Your Kingdom. Grant an extra measure of Your Spirit's anointing for a greater zeal in living out the commission and life to which we have been called. Be with all who are in need and tend to them with Your gracious hand.

Thank You for being the God Who is for us and not against us! Thank You for Your continued faithfulness and that amidst an ever-changing world You are always the same and Your promises are new for us each day. Receive our praise as we glorify Your Holy Name with gratitude for the grace that is ours through Your Son, Jesus Christ!

In His Name and for His sake we pray! Amen and Amen!
(adapted from David Nuottila, www.mylutheranroots.com)

God bless you and our ministry together!

PJ

January News

Happy New Year!

Welcome Pastor Mary Louise Sitton back Jan 1st! She will be leading us in worship. We are honored to have her back with us while Pastor Josh is on vacation.

Pastor Josh is on vacation - **now -Jan. 6th.** In case of pastoral care needs during this time, contact John Bostian @ (828) 312-6989.

Offering Envelopes - are **not** here yet. If you need an envelope, there are blank envelopes available at the offering plates to use or put your cash/check in the offering plate without one. We are sorry for any inconvenience. We hope to receive them soon after the first of the year.

Church Office - will be **closed Mon, January 2nd** for the New Year's holiday.

WELCA will **NOT** meet in January.

Secret Sisters will meet on **Sat, January 7th @ 9 am.**

Red Cross Blood Drive - **Sunday, January 8th, 12:30-5 pm.** Please visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter



**American
Red Cross**

Friendship Lutheran Taylorsville or contact Sue Bumgarner @ 381-7058 or Donna Icard @ 310-4890 to schedule an appointment. Call Jewell Elder for serving food/desk work @ 632-3544.

Church Council - will meet on **Tuesday, January 10th at 6 pm.**

CARE Team meets on **Thurs, January 12th @ 6 pm.**



Newsletter Deadline- Send items for the **February** issue of **Friendship's Focus** by **Thursday, Jan. 19th.** Call the church office @ 632-4482 or email your items to friendshipsecretary4@gmail.com.

CARE Team will be preparing & delivering meals to the **Emergency Services in Alexander County** on **Sat, Jan. 28th.** We will need some volunteers to help with the meals. More details to come!

New Members! We welcome our new members at **Friendship:** Kristi, Gracyn & Elliot Tucker; Harold & Patricia Buff; Tomasz, Anna, Thomas & Samuel Bedzinski; David Swink; Terry, Janet, Lucas, Brittany, Connor & Chloe Mitchell; Charlie Sipe; Bob, Kim & Betty Tyler; Wes Boyles; Cathy Carroll.

A Christmas Gift From Friendship! We have recently contracted with Right Now Media to offer a faith-based learning and bible study tools for our church members. Right Now Media is similar to Netflix, containing over 20,000 videos, children's cartoons, movies and studies for its users. This will be a great resource for bible study groups, families wanting faith-based content for their children to watch and adults with the goal of increasing their devotional opportunities. Right Now Media is an app based tool that can be downloaded to your phone, tablet or tv streaming device and can be viewed in the comfort of your own home! Please be on the lookout for an email from Right Now Media soon giving you directions to create your own personal account. For more information, please visit www.rightnowmedia.org

Thank You

Thank You– Thanks so much for the prayers, cards & visits during my recent surgery. The Lord has blessed me in so many ways with my family & my church family. May God bless you all. Love, Denny Teague

Thank You Friendship for the bonus gift during the holiday season. We appreciate all you do for us & hope you all had a blessed Christmas & will have a bright, safe Happy New Year! From your Friendship Staff.

January Birthdays

Terry Payne	1/02	Amy Farrens	1/18
Wendy Watts	1/03	Ben Icenhour	1/19
Ella Bostian	1/05	Stasya Smith	1/22
Sharon Goble	1/06	Asher Wike	1/22
Ruth Hefner	1/08	Ethan Windsor	1/22
Terri Cook	1/10	Mabel Sweat	1/23
Raylie Stafford	1/10	Ivy Hayes	1/24
Sam Birchfield	1/11	Melissa Jolly	1/24
Larry Ingle	1/11	Wendelynne Pearson	1/24
Meghan Miglorie	1/11	Brenda P. Bowman	1/25
Debbie Deal	1/12	Mary Ann Icenhour	1/26
Jane Nichols	1/15	Marcella Icenhour	1/27
Kyndal Benfield	1/16	Dawn Shealy	1/27
Donna Bowman	1/16	Jared Mooney	1/28
Paulette Hefner	1/17	Tamara Harrington	1/29
Angie Smith	1/18		

Happy
Birthday

Friendship Lutheran Church Council
November 8, 2022, Regular Meeting in Person

Members present: John Bostian, Wade Cline, Eric Frye, Tyler Hall, Mary Ann Icenhour, Sandra Icenhour, Pat Payne, Gary Richey, Steve Shealy, Monica Stafford, Jimmy Watts, Pastor Josh Tucker, and Dana Frye. Absent: Marty Buff

President Mary Ann Icenhour called the meeting to order, and Jimmy Watts shared a devotion.

Motion by Steve Shealy; seconded by John Bostian to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on October 18, 2022 and the electronic votes on October 20, 2022. Motion carries.

Treasurer's report for the month was distributed.

TEAM REPORTS:

Administration – Sandra Icenhour – No report.

Care – Wade Cline – Thanks to all who helped with the Trunk-R-Treat. Approximately 500 people came through. 101lbs of food was taken to the Christian Crisis Center. Apple City Street Rodders donated \$1,100.00 to Lutheran Disaster; Plans are to deliver 175 Thanksgiving meals; Veterans video and reception will be held between services on Sunday, November 13; Pastor Josh added that the meal for the ACHS football team was well received and offered thanks to John and Hannah Bostian and Becky Cline for their help. Christmas parade will be at 3 pm on December. Leah Hayes, Nikki Icard and Kristi Tucker would like to rent a float and allow the kids and youth to ride in the parade. Motion by Mary Ann Icenhour; seconded by Sandra Icenhour to allow \$475 for a rental fee for a float with funds coming from the Youth spending plan line item. Motion carries. Debbie Cline will apply for a Thrivent card to help offset costs for candy and float fee.

Learn – John Bostian – The team has split up Sunday school classes to make them more age appropriate. Teachers have been secured for a few months. Confirmation classes will resume on Sunday afternoons from 3 to 4:30 pm on the first and third Sundays of each month. The class will be for grades 6-8. Currently there will be 4 or 5 youth. Pastor Josh encourages parents to decide at what age their child is ready for first communion.

Worship -Monica Stafford – No report.

Share – Jimmy Watts – Signs are being designed for entering and exiting the parking lot when we have special events that parking is an issue or the use of the parking lot limits the spaces available for cars. Plans continue for the set up of the swing sets.

Finance – Steve Shealy – No report.

Rusha Austin Scholarship – Marty Buff – No report.

Preschool – Pat Payne – Plans continue for the “Breakfast with Santa” fundraiser on December 10 from 9 am til 11 am. Plans for a few renovations are underway as well.

Building & Grounds (BAG) – Eric Frye – No report.

Technology – Tyler Hall – Manufacture of the sign is on hold until the rezoning is complete. The team is looking for an install date of mid January. Tommy Setzer and Stephen Deal are working on the powder coating for the bell.

Cemetery – Gary Richey – Graves were leveled with dirt and now due to colder weather the next work days will be in the spring.

PASTORS REPORT:

Pastor Josh shared his monthly report. He will start the “Coffee with the Pastor” on Monday mornings in the Young Ventures Sunday school class room. Any and all are welcome to drop in and visit. This will help with getting to know each other. Upcoming ministries are Veterans Day celebration, Community Thanksgiving service and Thanksgiving day meal delivery; Christmas parade and all services for the rest of the year. He and his family will be on vacation December 29 through January 6.

OLD BUSINESS:

John Bostian gave an update on the carpet and pew pads. Samples are on the way. The pew pad quote did not include the backs so a revised quote will be coming and council will address the changes. Ash Wednesday will be February 22, 2023 and installation will need to work around this date.

Wade Cline shared that the corner glass in the sanctuary should be installed the first of December.



**Minutes continued on the next page.*

**Meeting
Minutes**

NEW BUSINESS:

Installation of council persons will be held on Sunday, December 4 at both services (date has changed to December 11 due to a run off election).

Motion by Sandra Icenour; seconded by Wade Cline to approve Council recommendation to adjourn the annual meeting at 10:20 am if the meeting is still in session to prepare for the 10:30 am service and reconvene on Sunday, November 27 at 9:15 am. Motion carries.

Motion by Jimmy Watts; seconded by Wade Cline to enter into a contract with Laws Stained Studios, Inc. to install the stained glass previously purchased by the church in the doors and windows in the sanctuary for a cost of \$500.00 each for 9 panels. This total would be \$4,500.00 and there has been a gift of \$2,000.00 offered if the council chooses to have this done and the remainder of the invoice from the Building and Improvements fund. This cost will be discussed in the newsletter and any other gifts may be given toward this project. Motion carries.

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

Our next regular monthly meeting will be at 7 pm on Tuesday, December 13, 2022. Pastor Josh is scheduled to share a devotion. This meeting will include new council persons and those council persons going off.



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.

Landri Lackey	(B. Cline-11/30)
Andy Hall	(P. Shealy-12/5)
Tammy & Keith Bowman	(S. Smith-12/5)
Bonnie Parks	(G. Parks-12/5)
Kennedy Quick	(W. Pearson-12/6)
Grant Windmiller	(C. Kerley-12/6)
Madison Windmiller	(C. Kerley-12/6)
Kristin Bentley	(C. Kerley-12/6)
Lisa Bullard	(H. Bostian-12/12)
Judy Hefner	(R. Bolick-12/12)
Darlene Handy	(S. Rogers-12/12)
Linda Bowman	(S. Rogers-12/12)
Phyllis Ann Fox	(J. Gant-12/12)
Katelyn McKinney	(W. Cline-12/12)
Torie Rhoney	(R. Buff-12/12)
Corey Cline	(H. Bostian-12/12)
Billy & Susie Elder	(C. Jolly-12/15)
Matt Robinson	(C. Jolly-12/15)
Rick Hall	(C. Jolly-12/15)
Mae Elliott	(A. Mooney-12/19)
Laney Wike	(M. Stafford-12/19)
Ralph Miller	(J. Watts-12/20)
Natalie Slee	(M. Sipe-12/20)
Lynn James	(S. Icenhour-12/20)

Family & friends of:

Allen Hefner	(W. Cline-12/1)
Linda Davis	(L. Hefner-12/7)
Amy Deal	(J. Gant-12/12)
Shirley Cline	(W. Cline-12/27)
Kevin Brookshire	(J. Mitchell-12/27)
Carrel (jr) Icenhour	(T. Hall-12/27)

Our Sharing

OFFERINGS

	<u>NOVEMBER, 2022</u>	<u>YTD</u>
CURRENT	\$29,239.69	\$289,721.77
BENEVOLENCE	\$1,474.00	\$17,144.00
BLDG/IMPROVEMENT	\$3,515.00	\$75,219.00
PRESCHOOL	\$430.00	\$4,504.00
WORLD HUNGER	\$100.00	\$4,735.00
BACKPACK MINISTRY	\$320.00	\$4,756.00
CHRISTIAN CRISIS CTR	\$470.00	\$1,790.00
FOOD PANTRIES	\$0.00	\$225.00
LUTHERAN DISASTER RELIEF	\$1,220.00	\$5,805.00
RUSHA AUSTIN SCHLOR.	\$2,330.00	\$18,453.00
YOUTH MINISTRIES	\$65.00	\$1,102.00
SECRET SISTER COOKBOOK	\$0.00	\$1,004.00
MOBILE CAFÉ	\$0.00	\$480.00
NOISY OFFERING	\$197.00	
		\$197.00

SPENDING

NOVEMBER, 2022 YTD

HOME BOUND/EXTENDED CARE:

- Fate & Ruth Hefner - Home
- Mitchell Price - Brandywine @ Alexandria
- Earl Bostian - 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.