



Friendship Focus

May 2022

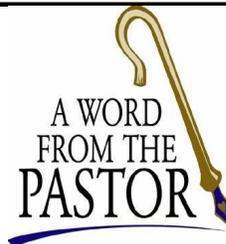
News for members and friends of Friendship Lutheran Church

“Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?” John 24:32

My favorite appearance story of Jesus is on the road to Emmaus. We’re all on a road. All on a journey. I have very much enjoyed walking with you this past 2 1/2 years. It is in our journey together that our eyes have been opened to the Lord’s presence among us.

It’s been a crazy journey. The COVID shut-down occurred 7 weeks after Pastor Mary and I began our ministry with you. Yet, somehow our eyes were opened to the Lord’s presence even when we had to meet virtually, and then at the cross, and then around a tent, and then in a slow, deliberate return to moving inside the building, to where we are right now, having had 250 people praising God for a cross of love and an empty tomb on last Easter morning. Our eyes have been open to God’s presence in our worship with preaching, prayer, music and the breaking of the bread, and in our serving with blood drives and benefits and outreach, and in our nurturing with Rooted and Crew and VBS and adult SS adult classes, and in the roofing of the building and the care of a cemetery. Our eyes have been opened to God’s presence in our journey together.

In my walk with you, living among you and worshiping with you, my eyes have seen God at work in new ways. Your witness to me of how you live your lives as children of God has been humbling to me and truly has opened my eyes to the presence of God. It is my hope that Pastor Mary and I have challenged you to see God in new ways as well.



This is my last month as your pastor. Our journey together is coming to an end. It's like we all left from town together on Hwy 16 to come to church, but I turned on Alspaugh Dam Road and you all went down to Friendship Church Road. We'll still be moving in the same direction. Our journeys will continue toward the same destination. God will continue to open your eyes to God's presence with you the breaking of the bread with a new pastor and we'll meet up again in God's kingdom. Peace, Pastor Tim

May News

WELCA— will meet **Sunday, May 1st, 5 pm**, in the **chapel**. All ladies are invited to attend.

Fit for Christ - meet **Saturday, May 7th, 8 am**. They meet every 1st Saturday of each month & meet weekly on **Tuesdays & Thursdays at 6 pm**. Contact Taylor Payne for details.

Mother's Day - **Sunday, May 8th**. Friendship will celebrate and honor all mothers with a **special reception, in between services, (9:15 - 10 am, during Sunday School hour) in the FLC**. All those who love and shepherd others in mothering ways - just as the God of love cares for us: **Isaiah 66:13** - **“As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you.”** Please bring your mother & join us!



Secret Sisters - meet **Friday, May 13th, 5pm**.

Cemetery Workday - is **Sat, May 14th, 8 - 11 am**. See Gary Richey for details.

2022 Graduates! Friendship would like to honor all graduates and recognize their achievement. If you know someone graduating from High School or College, please call the church office with full name, school, degree earned and future plans. Deadline to be included in the bulletin & June's newsletter is **May 19th**. Thanks for helping us recognize this important milestone.



CARE Team - is collecting items for the Caring Hearts Pregnancy Care Center. You can bring your items to the same location as the food pantry items. There will be a container provided & labeled. The items needed are: Diapers - size small (4,5,6), baby shampoo/wash, Adult shampoo/conditioner.

Food Pantry - needs crackers & cereal at this time.

All those interested in making Friendship Lutheran your church home or learning more about the life of the congregation are invited to a meeting on Sunday, May 22nd at 9:15AM in the Nave.

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

The **Church Office** will be **closed** on **Mon, May 30th** for the Memorial Day holiday.



VBS - will be **Sun, July 24th - Wed, July 27th**. More details coming soon! Mark your calendars!

God at work in the Call Process

²⁴ Then they prayed, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen.. *Acts 1:24*

In Acts 1:12-26, we hear the story of the disciples filling Judas' seat through a process by which the Holy Spirit pointed to Matthias to join "the twelve." God's Spirit continues to work through processes, like our call process, to fill leadership positions. We trust the Spirit is at work in our call committee of Molly, Hannah, Guy, Sam, Chris and Doug and in the staff of the NC Synod, which facilitated 6 gifted candidates to be interviewed.

While each of the six candidates brought gifts and abilities that were consistent with the needs identified in Friendship's Ministry Site Profile, the call committee has narrowed the list to three candidates. Currently, the call committee is in the midst of in-person interviews with each of those candidates. Confidentiality is at its most important as each of these candidates are currently serving congregations where they may choose to shepherd and stay. If you happen to encounter the committee, either at the church or in another setting somewhere, please understand that they will not introduce candidates to you to protect that confidentiality.

When the Call Committee focuses on a primary candidate, they will make a recommendation to church council, who will then plan a time to meet the candidate. If the discussion and prayer among Church Council confirms the Call Committee's work, there will be a notice for a congregational meeting and a time for the congregation to meet the candidate. At the meeting, there will be discussion and a vote. If affirmative, the congregation extends "a call" to the candidate, who then shares a response.

Most often, by this time the primary candidate's prayer has led them to this place. There have been occasions where that has not happened, but we trust that The Spirit is at work in the process. And just as certain as Matthias was God's choice to fill the vacant seat of "the 12," when our new pastor is proclaiming God's word in our midst, we too will believe that this person was God's choice all along!

Thank You



**American
Red Cross**

Red Cross Blood Drive-Thanks to all who participated in the **April** blood drive. The donors, workers, and the bakers made this a successful drive. **A total of 47 units** were collected. **Next blood drive is July 10th.**

<p>The North Carolina Synod thanks Friendship for the mission support of \$21,152 in 2021. The gifts made possible two new mission starts, supported over forty candidates preparing for ministry and helped begin a new program for lay leaders. "Thank you for all you do as Christ's church in the North Carolina Synod!"</p>	 North Carolina Synod ELCA
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May Birthdays

Kristen Hayes	05/01	Stan Feimster	05/16
Steve Shealy	05/04	Michelle Bowman	05/17
Kristen Jolly	05/08	Alyse Chapman	05/18
Patsy Shealy	05/08	Doris Keever	05/22
Gabriel Shepherd	05/08	Jenna Buff	05/26
Terry Hefner	05/10	Ray Fox	05/28
Kasi Palmer	05/10	Allison Watts	05/30
Jearlean Mitchell	05/11	Benny Bebbler	05/31
Guy Kerley	05/13		

Friendship Lutheran Church Council

March 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, Monica Stafford, Jimmy Watts, Pastor Tim Canniff-Kuhn, and Dana Frye. Absent: Marty Buff and Steve Shealy.

President Mary Ann Icenhour called the meeting to order, and Wade Cline shared a “Get in Step with God” devotion.

Motion by Sandra Icenhour; seconded by Wade Cline to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on February 8, 2022. Motion carries.

Treasurer’s report for the month was distributed.

TEAM REPORTS:

Administration – Sandra Icenhour – No report.

Care – Wade Cline – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper welcomed over 60 people. Easter Egg Hunt will be April 9 from 10-12 with hotdogs, face painting, a blow-up game, and crafts. Motion by Mary Ann Icenhour; seconded by John Bostian to allow the CREW group to present their Easter video along with a meal on April 16 and request \$200 to help with meal. Motion carries.

Learn – John Bostian – Plans are underway for the Easter egg hunt. VBS is looking at June 21-24 and join with St Luke and Reformation and will be held at Friendship. Back to School Bash in August combined with Rally Day and gear up for new year in Sunday School. Age groups need to be revisited and the CREW would like to move to the parish house basement.

Worship -Monica Stafford – No purchase was necessary for the online subscription of Sundays and Seasons as our account was still current. The 8 am service will remain the same through Easter. Some additions of songs and lessons will be added to the 10:30 service. Pastor Tim will work with Silsa, Steve and Ian on the music. Pastor Mary will be visiting on Palm Sunday. Easter Day will be sunrise at the cross; breakfast, and the 10:30 service.

Share – Jimmy Watts – The picture from the church directory will be used to advertise our church in the Taylorsville Times.

Finance – Steve Shealy – No additional financial report.

Rusha Austin Scholarship – Marty Buff – No report.

Preschool – Pat Payne – Carpet and installation of a tile/laminate type floor is the priority moving forward. Other wish list items are rubber mulch for the playground and hot water in the classroom. School calendar and increase of tuition are on the agenda for the next meeting.

Building & Grounds (BAG) – Eric Frye – Motion by Sandra Icenhour; seconded by Wade Cline to approve the new lights in the Nave for \$3,800 from Building & Improvement Fund with the understanding this price may be some higher when the lights are installed. Carpet will be next on the priority list. Motion carries.

Technology – Tyler Hall – The team has installed the new routers including the preschool rooms. Charter/Spectrum will be contacted to check on speed. New wireless mics for the 8 am service will be set up for practice on March 9.

Cemetery – Gary Richey – The team has set up April 2, 8-12 for a cemetery workday and will be setting out signup sheets. There is a lot of work that needs to be done in the old and new cemetery.

Special Projects – Jimmy Watts – No report.

PASTORS REPORT:

Pastor Tim was happy with the attendance on Ash Wednesday. He is busy getting services set up and hospital visits. His goal is to be present when he is needed. It is good to communicate that his time is only 1/3 and he is very busy getting done in that time frame what needs to be done. He is working with Penny on a church directory to be current when a new Pastor is called. People need to be aware of what the “Teams” are doing.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Call Committee has received 6 names and plan to talk to all 6 then proceed to the next step. Either party can withdraw their name after the first interview.

(Minutes continued on next page)



**Meeting
Minutes**

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion on when it is safe to open the building to the public for rental. Table until next meeting.

There being no other business the meeting adjourned with prayer.



Our next regular monthly meeting will be at 7 pm on Tuesday, April 12, 2022. John Bostian is scheduled to share a devotion.

ELECTRONIC VOTE March 23, 2022

Motion by Mary Ann Icenhour; seconded by Wade Cline to allow the Care Team to have a dine in and take out BBQ meal from 4:30 to 7 pm on Saturday, April 30 to benefit Katelyn Lambert McKinney. Katelyn is waiting on an intestinal transplant. This motion includes an online cake auction as well. This is a dine in meal-no entertainment.

Motion carries.

The Church is the Body of Christ, made up of parts equal in importance. Friendship Lutheran Church call those parts, “teams,” which carry out the work of Christ in this community. The following are those teams. Each council person is responsible to lead a team (see team leaders on back page). Feel free to be in touch with a leader if you’d like to share your gifts in that particular area or have an idea for council to consider.

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM - Reviews and suggests changes to church guidelines – such as: Vehicle Use, Renting the Family Life Center, Cemetery, Weddings, Funerals, etc. and acts as personnel committee for all paid staff other than rostered leaders (pastors) which may include creating and updating job descriptions, interviewing and hiring, ensuring annual reviews take place, acting as grievance panel and recommending compensation adjustments.

LEARN TEAM - Coordinates and identifies programs and teachers/ leaders for all educational opportunities within the congregation. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to VBS, adult bible study, small group studies, Sunday school classes, etc. Currently, the LEARN team also oversees all Youth Programs including ROOTED & CREW.

CEMETARY sub-committee ensures that cemetery guidelines are followed and recommends changes to those guidelines as needed.

CARE TEAM - Cares for the needs of the congregation and community, including community outreach (blood drives, benefits, food pantry, school supplies, etc.) Congregational Care (fellowship meals & events, care for homebound members, etc.) Fellowship and Service Groups (WELCA, Secret Sisters, etc.)

WORSHIP TEAM - Works with the pastor(s) and music staff to support and enhance the weekly and special worship opportunities at Friendship. Responsibilities include worship schedules, music selection, choirs, bands, worship assistants, altar guild, visual arts and planning for special worship services.

SHARE TEAM – identifies and encourages the use of spiritual and financial gifts in the congregation through annual time and talent drives, special offerings and helping other teams recruit volunteers as needed.

FINANCE COMMITTEE is responsible for the general oversight of church income and expenditures to ensure that the church is financially sound and meeting its financial obligations. This includes creating and recommending a yearly spending plan to council. (The Financial Secretary and at least two members of the congregation council shall be members of the Finance Committee.)

RUSHA AUSTIN SCHOLARSHIP Committee – oversees the distribution of scholarship funds annually as provided in the Rusha Austin Scholarship Guidelines and recommends changes to those guidelines as needed.

PRESCHOOL COMMITTEE – oversees Friendship Lutheran Preschool including staff supervision and employment decisions, curriculum development (in cooperation with the Preschool Director) and financial oversight of Preschool funds.

The Facilities Committee is divided into three sub-committees:

BUILDING & GROUNDS sub-committee is responsible for overseeing the general maintenance, upkeep, and oversight of all church buildings and the property grounds.

TECHNOLOGY sub-committee is responsible for the maintenance of existing electronic devices and the recommendation and purchase of new devices required for the smooth operation of the church. These devices will include but not be limited to computers, monitors, printers, data storage devices, phone and internet services, all wireless equipment, audio/video equipment, and any new technology.

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.**

Adam Kijesky	(L. Sweet-3/21)
Shirley Dagenhart	(D. Ramsey-3/21)
Lee Oxendine	(J. Watts-3/21)
Alan Andrews	(J. Gant-3/21)
Jaxon Rogers	(D. Jolly-3/22)
Pam Setzer	(W. Cline-3/23)
Gloria Saunders	(B. Greathouse-3/25)
Mickey Annas	(T. Annas-3/31)
Darlene Handy	(S. Rogers-4/5)
Torie Rhoney	(R. Buff-4/11)
Alan & Judy Hefner	(R. Bolick-4/11)
Keith Moretz	(D. Bowman-4/11)
Bonnie Parks	(D. Parks-4/11)
Phil Hefner	(L. Hefner-4/11)
Susan Sharon	(D. Ramsey-4/11)
Tammy Hayman	(D. Ramsey-4/11)
Wendy Bumgarner	(W. Bentley-4/12)
Nancy Pearson	(W. Pearson-4/19)
Whitney Dillard	(J. Watts-4/20)
Lyndsey Mecimore	(J. Watts-4/20)

Family & friends of:

Hazel Bowman	(S. Smith-4/5)
Connie Icenhour	(P. Tim-4/13)

HOME BOUND/EXTENDED CARE:

Kay Smith - Home
Fate & Ruth Hefner - Home
Audrey Arrington - Home
Emily & Carrel Icenhour - Catawba Valley Assisted
Living@ Rock Barn
Mitchell Price - Brandywine @ Alexandria

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

Our Sharing

OFFERINGS

	<u>MARCH, 2022</u>	<u>YTD</u>
CURRENT	\$24,705.68	\$72,827.99
BENEVOLENCE	\$1,175.00	\$4,050.00
BLDG/IMPROVEMENT	\$2,960.00	\$13,620.00
PRESCHOOL	\$295.00	\$835.00
WORLD HUNGER	\$535.00	\$1,440.00
BACKPACK MINISTRY	\$559.00	\$1,743.00
CHRISTIAN CRISIS CTR	\$0.00	\$175.00
FOOD PANTRIES	\$75.00	\$175.00
LUTHERAN DISASTER RELIEF	\$785.00	\$1,535.00
RUSHA AUSTIN SCHLOR.	\$700.00	\$2,010.00
GILDA FLETCHER FUNDRAISER	\$0.00	\$835.00
SECRET SISTER COOKBOOK	\$40.00	\$952.00
MOBILE CAFÉ	\$0.00	\$480.00

SPENDING

	<u>MARCH, 2022</u>	<u>YTD</u>
CURRENT	\$29,596.20	\$79,798.18

In the 1st quarter of 2022, overall giving was strong and giving to outreach ministries, like world hunger, Lutheran Disaster Response, local food banks, etc.. was up, but giving to “current” has slowed compared to last year. “Current” moneys include staffing, program costs for the church community and operations costs for the church building. In other words, it’s the direct ministry of our congregation. With less staffing costs than last year, our giving is \$8,000 less than our spending costs this year. Please stay strong in your giving to the current ministry of this congregation. God has blessed us rich enough to contribute to worthwhile ministries outside of the congregation and support the work of our own congregation.

★ Church Council and Staff

Council (Term ending)

Mary Ann Icenhour - President ('22)
Wade Cline - VP & CARE ('22)
Jane Gant - Treasurer ('22)
Dana Frye - Recording Sec ('22)
Guy Kerley - Financial Sec ('22)
John Bostian - LEARN ('23)
Marty Buff - RA Scholarship ('23)
Tyler Hall - Tech ('23)
Gary Richey - Cemetery ('23)
Steve Shealy - Finance ('23)
Monica Stafford - Worship ('23)
Eric Frye - Building ('22)
Sandra Icenhour - Admin ('22)
Pat Payne - Preschool ('22)
Jimmy Watts - SHARE ('22)

Staff

Denny Teague Sexton
Penny Stikeleather Parish Secretary
Silsa Moore Organ/Piano
Hope Wike Preschool Dir
Tim Canniff-Kuhn Interim 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 Tim on the
church cell phone: 828-551-4650.

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

FRIENDSHIP LUTHERAN CHURCH

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED