



Friendship Focus June 2026

[Jesus] replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven." Acts 1:7-11

Grace to you and peace in the name of our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Our faith is everything that happens after we say, "we believe." In the Nicene Creed we profess our faith in Jesus Christ in this way: *For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the death, and his kingdom will have no end.*

Just a few weeks ago, on May 14th, as the Easter season was coming to a close, the church celebrated the ascension of our Lord. The ascension is the final act of Jesus' human life in this world. It is in this act where we read about Jesus' earthly body being taken up into heaven to be seated at the right hand of the Father. In the creed, we profess our faith in Jesus' crucifixion, death, resurrection and ascension, but it seems as if the ascension is often overlooked. In our creed we profess that the ascension is an important part of Jesus' ministry, a time where we can see God's promises in motion.

We read in the first chapter of the book of Acts Jesus appears yet again to his disciples after his death and resurrection. When the disciples see Jesus, they are overly concerned with what Jesus will do next. They think that it is the right time for Jesus to establish his earthly kingdom. Jesus gives them the assurance that it is not the time for them to know

the will of God the Father but that the Holy Spirit will soon come upon them. What they do not know is that the will of God the Father is for Jesus to ascend into heaven and sit at his right hand. Jesus gives his disciples, and us today, the task of establishing his earthly kingdom as he empowers them in verse eight, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Jesus calls us to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth; we are called to build up his kingdom here by sharing his love with others and making disciples; and we are called to follow in the power of the Holy Spirit to make Jesus known through all that we say and do.

I wonder how well we've lived into that calling? I wonder how we would grade ourselves as witnesses of Jesus? What more can we do to be better witnesses and better disciples of Jesus? How might we better live into our faith and our creed so that as we profess that "we believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God.." others may come to believe, too?

As we have now moved on from the season of Easter, from the celebrations of the ascension and Pentecost and enter into ordinary time in the church, we are called to hold firm to our calling to be his witnesses in the world. In the ascension, we hear the promise that God sends for us an advocate, the Holy Spirit, who will guide and direct us, who will comfort us and empower us to be his hands and feet in the world. In the ascension, we hear the promises from God from his angels that Jesus will come again from heaven for us just as he ascended into heaven.

In the meantime, we will do well to live into our faith and our creed by answering Jesus' calling for us to be his witnesses in the world. In the meantime, we will do well to exercise our faith in the knowledge that the ascended Jesus lives within us, in the form of the Holy Spirit, guiding and directing our every step. Let us model our lives and our ministries to reflect the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ; to reflect the promise that God give us that the Holy Spirit will be our advocate and our guide; and to reflect that Jesus will come again for us.

In Christ,
Pastor Josh

June News

Fellowship Potluck Supper is Monday, June 1st @ 6pm. All are welcome to join us for great food & fellowship.

Secret Sisters meet Saturday, June 6th @ 9am.

Men in Mission Breakfast is Sat, June 20th @ 8am.



Father's Day is Sunday, June 21st. We will celebrate our Dad's & Fatherly figures with a reception during the Sunday School hour. Bring your dad to celebrate & worship with us!

Save the Date! VBS will be held at Friendship July 26-29 in partnership with the other Lutheran churches in our county. We will have dinner each evening and games, crafts, music and learning for children of all ages. Adult classes will be offered as well. This year's theme is Junk Yard Redemption. If you'd like to help with VBS please see a member of the learn team or Pastor Josh. Please make plans to attend this wonderful week of learning and fun!



Congratulations Class of 2026

Ella Bostian graduated Suma Cum Laude from ACHS on May 22nd. She will be going to Clemson where she is a direct admit into nursing.



Congratulations 2026 Rusha Austin Scholarship Recipients!

Ella Bostian - Clemson (Nursing)
Reese Buff - Appalachian State (Psychology)
Logan Deal - LRU (Pre Med/Law)
Addison Head - UNC-Chapel Hill (Nursing)
Faith Smith - CVCC/LRU (Nursing)
Grace Smith - CVCC (Dental Hygiene)



**FRIENDSHIP
LUTHERAN CHURCH
TAYLORSVILLE, NC**

**SUPPORT OUR YOUTH MISSION TRIP TO
CHARLESTON, SC**

**BBQ
FUNDRAISER**

ORDER BY JUNE 20th!

**Menu & Minimum
Donation**

- Boston Butt (whole) - \$40
- Coleslaw (pint) - \$5
- BBQ Sauce (pint) - \$5



Pre-Order Now!

Pickup Details

Friendship Lutheran Church
5300 Church Road Taylorsville, NC
28681
Saturday June 27th: 9am-11am

 **Order Online**
<https://tinyurl.com/FLCBBQ>

Call or text to Order
(828) 244-3620

 **YOUTH**
Mission Trip

June Birthdays

Faith Smith	6/02	Curt Dagenhart	6/19
John Adair	6/03	Lisa James	6/19
Cathy Carroll	6/03	Jeff Miller	6/19
Perrie Gant	6/04	Becky Cline	6/21
Gwen Walters	6/05	Harper Buff	6/22
Todd Hefner	6/06	Reese Buff	6/23
Richard Ingavo	6/08	Terry Mitchell	6/24
Nathan Mooney	6/09	Nina Windsor	6/24
Denny Teague	6/09	John Bostian	6/25
Emma Icard	6/10	Gail Parks	6/25
Annie Mae Russell	6/10	Kaplan Boyles	6/28
Deanna Deal	6/13	Bryan Hand	6/28
Ricky Rector	6/16	Lee Icenhour	6/29
Taylor Abernathy	6/19	Darlene Hayes	6/30



One of the greatest gifts we can offer our loved ones is the gift of clarity, peace, and guidance as we enter into eternal glory with our Lord. Making our funeral wishes and final plans known can ease the burden on family members and provide comfort when important decisions must be made.

As people of faith, we trust in God's promise of resurrection and everlasting life. Funeral planning and considering our last will and testament is not only a practical act of preparation, but also an opportunity to reflect on the story of our faith, the hymns and scriptures that have shaped us, the legacy we hope to leave behind, and the ways we hope to witness to Christ even at life's end.

To assist members of Friendship in this important and meaningful process, we have adopted a Funeral Planning Guide resource. This guide can help you record personal information, funeral preferences, scripture readings, hymns, and other final wishes so that your family and church community may faithfully honor your life and faith. It is important to understand that this guide was written to cover a wide range of details and plans, some of which you may not know the answer to or feel comfortable sharing at this time. Please only complete the portions of this guide that you're comfortable sharing and feel free to update your plans and information as often as you'd like.

We encourage all adults — regardless of age — to take time to review and complete this guide and to share it with loved ones, funeral directors and the pastor. Having these conversations now can bring peace of mind and serve as a final act of care for those we love.

Please contact Pastor Josh or the church office if you would like a copy of the Funeral Planning Guide or have questions about funeral planning within our congregation. Thank you for considering taking this important step so that your final plans and wishes can be made known and executed.

Friendship Lutheran Church Council
April 21, 2026, Regular Meeting in Person

Members present: Jenna Buff, Brian Chapman, Eric Frye, Tyler Hall, Mary Ann Icenhour, Michelle Miller, Kasi Sigmon, Todd Smith, Tamara Stafford, Barry Swift, Pastor Josh Tucker, and Dana Frye. Absent: Hannah Bostian, Monica Stafford.

President Mary Ann Icenhour called the meeting to order.

Motion by Tamara Stafford; seconded by Michelle Miller to approve the agenda. Motion carries.

Jenna Buff shared a devotion.

Motion by Michelle Miller; seconded by Jenna Buff to approve minutes from March 17, 2026, Regular Meeting. Motion carries.

Treasurers report was distributed. Motion by Brian Chapman; seconded by Barry Swift to approve. Motion carries.

TEAM ASSIGNMENTS/REPORTS:

Administration – Hannah Bostian – Council was asked to review the amended guidelines for the cemetery and columbarium. We will revisit this at the May meeting.

Care – Tamara Stafford – Final plans have been made for God’s Work, Our Hands on April 25/26 with 2 projects. A “Blessing Box” was discussed as an idea for a future project, among other jobs around the church that would need prior planning.

Learn – Jenna Buff – A meeting is being planned with all the team leaders for VBS; Mission trip 2026 has 12 youth (grades 6-12) signed up to attend. Raising funds for this trip needs to be a youth responsibility.

Worship – Todd Smith – Good response for Holy Week services but with our weekly attendance, attendance at special services like Holy Week should be more attended.

Share – Kasi Sigmon – Egg hunt was cancelled due to weather forecast and just not a good date to move it too. Items bought will be used next year. Weather made for unsafe conditions for the blow-ups and games. The Events team has Men in Mission working on the Mother’s Day reception.

Finance – Michelle Miller – No additional report.

Rusha Austin Scholarship – Brian Chapman – 6 Packets have been turned back in. Checks will be presented on Sunday, May 17, 2026.

Preschool – Monica Stafford – Michelle Miller reported in Monica’s absence that the Preschool Appreciation Sunday plans are finalized with hopefully better arrangements for seating and food. Preschool families will be seated at the front in a reserved section. Food will be available next to the kitchen; Children will use the stage so they can be seen better; Graduation will be May 15, 2026, at 6:30 pm in the sanctuary and is open to all the congregation. The preschool needs to be registered as a 501(3)(c).

Building & Grounds (BAG) – Eric Frye – Columbarium area is being prepared for installation with ground prep. A request was made for a ceiling fan to be installed in the Chapel. Eric and Tyler will investigate this.

Technology – Tyler Hall – No report.

Cemetery – Barry Swift – No report.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

Pastor Josh shared his report. He has received positive response regarding the community church Lenten services. New member Sunday will be May 3; Mother's Day Reception, May 10; Rusha Austin Scholarship's will be awarded on May 17; Pentecost will be celebrated May 24; One service on May 31 for 5th Sunday. Rev. Phil Tonneson will be the leading the services on May 31. A letter of appreciation was read for our benevolence for 2025, for \$20,289.42.

OLD BUSINESS:

► Columbarium – Work is beginning.

NEW BUSINESS:

► Motion by Eric Frye; seconded by Todd Smith to accept into membership the following: Danny Brown, Clay and Deborah Icard, Frankie and Renee Kever, Lisa Stamey, and Gwen Walters. Motion carries.

► Pastor Josh would like to make available to all Friendship people a funeral planning guide. This would be beneficial to everyone, especially those living alone, or who do not have family close by. A copy would be kept on file at Friendship.

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

Our next regular monthly meeting will be Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at 6 pm. Brian Chapman will share a devotion.

Friday, May 1, 2026: ELECTRONIC VOTE

The youth are requesting to host a BBQ boston butt (not chopped) and cake auction fundraiser on June 27, 2026. This would be a pre-order sale with a suggested donation per butt. The cake auction would also be on Facebook a few days prior but pick up both the cakes and the barbecue would be on June 27. All proceeds would go to support youth mission trip. Charlie Sipe, Marty Buff and Leah Hayes will be the counters for the fundraiser and preparers of the deposit.

Motion by Eric Frye; seconded by Jenna Buff to approve. Motion carries.



**Meeting
Minutes**

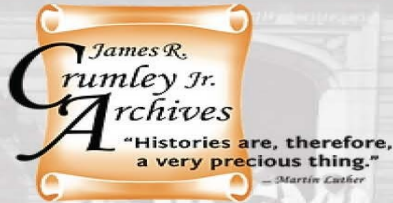


Have you considered how big and vast our God is? As the body of Christ, we are connected to so many different ministries, agencies and institutions that serve to shine the light of Christ in the world, share the good news of the gospel and help those in need. Together,

we are the church, serving God and neighbor through the works of these ministries for the sake of the gospel!

Each month, we will feature a partnering ministry in our synod and throughout the church. Let's take time to learn more about these ministries and support the work we're called to do in partnership together. This month we feature:

"Our future is your history"



The Crumley Archives documents and preserves the history of Lutheranism in the Southeast and Caribbean. This vital ministry safeguards historical records dating as far back as the 18th century, including the NC Synod's "Tryon Document", written in 1771. The Crumley Archives also offers educational and interpretive services for patrons and researchers alike.

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Our Sharing

OFFERINGS

	<u>APRIL, 2026</u>	<u>YTD</u>
CURRENT	\$31,611.16	\$141,947.08
BENEVOLENCE	\$895.00	\$5,988.85
BLDG/IMPROVEMENT	\$5,880.00	\$8,947.75
PRESCHOOL	\$135.00	\$700.00
WORLD HUNGER	\$0.00	\$50.00
BACKPACK MINISTRY	\$570.00	\$1,995.00
CHRISTIAN CRISIS CTR	\$50.00	\$ 3,197.80
LUTHERAN DISASTER RELIEF	\$100.00	\$450.00
RUSHA AUSTIN SCHLOR.	\$200.00	\$6,845.00
YOUTH	\$200.00	\$7,645.00
NOISY OFFERING	\$746.00	\$3,291.50
COLUMBARIUM	\$415.00	\$1,950.00
MEN IN MISSION	\$71.00	\$173.00
ADULT MISSIONS	\$0.00	\$95.00
LUTHEROAD	\$945.00	\$3,580.00
LUTHERIDGE CAMPAIGN	\$140.00	\$675.00
CONFIRMATION GIFTS	\$0.00	\$315.00
LENT 2026/BRIDGING TOGETHER	\$20.00	\$483.00
TOTAL	\$41,978.66	\$188,328.98

SPENDING

	<u>APRIL, 2026</u>	<u>YTD</u>
CURRENT	\$30,377.95	\$137,840.97



Dear Church Family,

My thank you seems so small compared to all you've done, but it comes from my heart. From sitting with me, visits and calls, to bringing food and rides to church, your love has known no bounds. For this, I am forever grateful. Above all, know that your prayers have been powerful and a great comfort to my family and me. We ask that you keep us in your prayers.

With love,
Betty Icenhour



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

As God’s people we commit to pray for one another, and for all in need.

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

Let us pray for...

Pat Robinette (J. Watts-5/4)	Sherrie Orren (D. Payne-5/11)
Betty Icenhour (P. Josh-5/4)	Carolyn Hymer (W. Cline-5/11)
Noah Manning (S. Icenhour-5/4)	Wade Price (S. Rogers-5/11)
Jimmy Hayes (M. Stafford-5/4)	David Pearson (W. Pearson-5/12)
Jay Dean Mitchell (D. Ramsey-5/4)	Cassandra Smith (T. Annas-5/12)
Ricky Rector (J. Smith-5/4)	Steve Sharpe (P. Stikeleather-5/18)
Tony Cothren (P. Josh-5/4)	Brian Garhart (T. Stafford-5/20)
Theresa Setzer (R. Bowman-5/4)	Alex & Doug Geouge (T. Stafford)
Katherine Quick (W. Pearson-5/6)	Rick Jones (J. Gant-5/26)
Darryl Adkins (C. Gant-5/11)	Herman Price (P. Payne-5/26)
Nicole Davis McNamara (J. Gant-5/11)	Amy Bowman (D. Payne-5/26)
Teressa Wallace (W. Pearson-5/11)	

Family & friends of:

Terry Kerley	(L. Hefner-5/4)
Jack Clayville	(S. Feimster-5/11)
Nick Law	(S. Feimster-5/11)
Casey McMillen	(N. Icard-5/18)
Mary Fusi	(T. Stafford-5/21)

Please be in daily prayer for our Home Bound/Extended Care members:

Steve Icenhour, Joyce Deal, Dallard Lail,
Reba Bolick, Bob Russell.

Church Council and Staff

<u>Council</u>	<u>(Term ending)</u>
<u>Officers</u>	
Mary Ann Icenhour - President	('27)
Todd Smith - VP	('27)
Jane Gant - Treasurer (non voting)	('26)
Dana Frye - Recording Sec (non voting)	('26)
Charlie Sipe - Financial Sec (non voting)	('26)
Brian Chapman - RA Scholarship	('27)
Tyler Hall - Tech	('27)
Barry Swift - Cemetery	('26)
Michelle Miller - Finance	('26)
Todd Smith - Worship	('27)
Hannah Bostian - Administration	('26)
Eric Frye - Bldg. & Grounds	('26)
Kasi Sigmon-- Share	('27)
Monica Stafford--Preschool	('26)
Tamara Stafford--CARE	('26)
Jenna Buff - Learn	('27)

Staff

Josh Tucker	Pastor
Craig Sigmon	Associate Pastor
Penny Stikeleather	Parish Secretary
Denny Teague	Sexton
Ian Elkins	Choir Director
Silsa Moore	Organ/Piano
Lori Overcash	Preschool Director

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Penny is in the office
Mon-Thurs, 9:30-4:30
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.