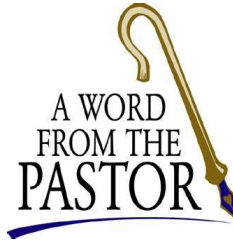




Friendship Focus March 2023

*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put
a new and right spirit within me.
Psalm 51: 10*



God's blessings to you as we journey to the cross of Christ in this season of Lent.

What if we had never heard the good news of the gospel message? What if the gospel was absent from our lives; if we did not know of the grace that God freely gives his children? If we had not heard the good news of the gospel and we didn't know of God's love, grace and forgiveness then we would be stuck in sin and shame; bonded forever to the vices of this world and our culture. If we didn't know of God's love for us and the grace he offers we couldn't possibly have hope in something more. We would be lost.

We find ourselves once again in the season of Lent; a time of preparation where we are called to remember our mortality and our human frailty. Lent reminds us that our humanness separates us from God. Because of sin, evil and the devil, our relationship with God isn't always as strong as it could be. Because of our sinful shortcomings we do not fully know and trust God and our relationship with God suffers.

Lent is a time for us to be intentional and disciplined as we take a hard and fast look at ourselves and where we have fallen short of God's calling for us in our lives. Lent is that time when we are called to seek forgiveness and repent from our sinful ways. Lent is that time when we are called to do these things so that we might prepare ourselves in body mind and soul to hear the gospel news of Easter as if for the first time.

That makes the common practice of Lent, when we challenge and discipline ourselves to give up something that keeps us from deeper relationship with God (or to take on something that aids growth in our relationship with God), so very important. Because in doing so, we see the value in the challenge and the intentionality of Lent. After going through the season and reaching the pinnacle of the church year, when we hear the good news that Christ is risen, it is as if we have heard the good news for the first time. After the long forty days of repentance, fasting, sacrifice and reflection, we come to appreciate the good news and perhaps are convicted to share that good news with others who may have not heard it before.

I pray that we may all be intentional in this season of Lent; intentional to reflect on who we are and how we are, as together we work toward deepening our faith and growing in our relationship with Christ. May you find this season a necessary and needed part of your journey of faith that allows you to experience fully the love God has for you.

In Christ,
Pastor Josh

March News

Lenten Schedule

Weekly Lent Schedule: March 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th

- 5-6pm – meal
- 6-7pm – Bible study
- 7-7:15pm – Holden evening prayer service
- 7:15pm – 1833/Choir practice

Please make plans to join us!

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

WELCA - meets Sunday, March 5th in the chapel at 5 pm. We will continue our study on the ten commandments. All ladies are invited!

Friendship Fellowship Suppers - Mon, March 6th, 6 pm. Suppers are pot luck & all are welcome to participate! Hope to see you there!



Daylight Savings Time is Sunday, March 12th. Remember to set your clocks up an hour.

Church Council - meet on Tues, March 14th at 6pm.

Newsletter Deadline- Send items for the April issue of Friendship's Focus by Tuesday, March 21st. Call the church office @ 632-4482 or email your items to friendhipsecretary4@gmail.com.



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

Secret Sisters is sponsoring our **1st CHILI COOK OFF, Sat, March 18th @ 5 pm.** We are so

happy to announce that we are going to try something **NEW!!** We want to ask our **MEN** to bring their own chili for us to enjoy & judge for a few “awards”. Of course the women will provide the desserts, we have to have those. We want to have lots of food,



FUN, and mostly fellowship!! More details to come, but if you have any questions please feel free to ask one of our Secret Sisters. We will be taking donations for our Youth Missions that evening. **Everyone is invited to join us!**



Crisis Center is in need of canned vegetables, soup & crackers at this time. Drop off your donated items in the garage area of the church office. There are labeled containers for your items. Thanks!

Rusha Austin Scholarship Fund - Please consider making donations to this fund through your weekly offering, so monetary assistance can continue to be provided to Friendship’s young adults attending college. Applications for the Rusha Austin Scholarship are available **now through March 15th** & need to be returned to the church office by **April 14th, 2023**. Scholarship applications can be picked up during normal hours at the church office. Thank you for your continued generosity and support of this fund. You may direct any questions to Marty Buff. The Rusha Austin Committee

Attention Thrivent Members-Choice dollars expire **March 31, 2023**. You can direct your choice dollars online at [Thrivent.com/choice dollars](http://Thrivent.com/choice%20dollars) or call 1-800-847-4836 and say “Thrivent Choice” at the prompt.

Holy Week Schedule:

April 2nd - Palm Sunday - **8am & 10:30 worship**
Easter egg hunt - **2pm**

April 6th - Maundy Thursday service - **7 pm - (Nave)**

April 7th - Good Friday service - **12noon - (FLC)**
-Good Friday service - **7 pm - (Nave)**

April 9th - **Easter Sunday:**

Sunrise service - **6:30am**

Breakfast - **7:30am**

Sunday School - **9:15am**

Worship - **10:30 (Nave)**



March Birthdays

Robert Farrens	03/01	Sam Bowman	03/10
Cecil Sigmon	03/02	Julia Rhyne	03/14
Gail Huffman	03/04	Stephen Isenhour	03/15
Audrey Arrington	03/05	Jason Icard	03/19
Don Robinette	03/06	Mia Snipes	03/20
Pam Bowman	03/08	Roy Bolick	03/21
Phil Mooney	03/09	Gary Richey	03/24
Daphne Payne	03/09	Cohen Bowers	03/28



Friendship Lutheran Church Council
January 10, 2023, Regular Meeting in Person

Members present: John Adair, John Bostian, Payton Boyles, Marty Buff, Guy Chapman, Robert Farrens, Mason Frye, Taylor Payne, Gary Richey, Steve Shealy, Monica Stafford, Pastor Josh Tucker, and Dana Frye. Absent: Tyler Hall.

President John Bostian called the meeting to order, and Monica Stafford shared a devotion.

Motion by Marty Buff; seconded by Monica Stafford to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on December 13, 2022. Motion carries.

The treasurer's report for the month was distributed. Motion (no second required) from the Finance team, for Steve Shealy to have Guy Kerley combine the "CD Deposit Funds" line item with the regular checking account balance on the monthly report. The CD was closed several years ago and is no longer deposited in a certificate. Motion carries.

TEAM REPORTS:

Administration – Guy Chapman – The Team is in the process of reviewing insurance policies to verify that the new sign will be fully covered. Also, they will investigate updating the fellowship hall guidelines.

Care – Taylor Payne – Taylor reported that the Team would like to commit to sending \$50 to \$100 twice a month to cover meals for the Habitat for Humanity workers. EMS meals will be prepared and delivered on January 28; Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be held on February 21; The homeless family that was staying at the Taylorsville Motel when Thanksgiving Meals were delivered has found a rental to move to. They need furniture. Pastor Josh has asked to find out what other needs they may have. Friendship continues to volunteer at the Mobile Café on the 4th Thursday of each month.

Learn – Payne Boyles – The Team is looking to schedule VBS the week of July 23-26 but that may conflict with Pastor Josh. Other weeks will be considered. Right Now Media is working for some and not for others. Will need to look at solutions. The Team is not sure if it is too late to sign up for the Lutherode program for 2023 but will check into it.

Worship -Monica Stafford – No report. Meeting a couple weeks.

Share – Robert Farrens – No report.

Finance – Steve Shealy – No additional report.

Rusha Austin Scholarship – Marty Buff – No report.

Preschool – John Adair – No report.

Building & Grounds (BAG) – Mason Frye – There is no heat in the garage utility room and therefore there was a major water leak. It has been fixed and cut off installed at this point. The Team is checking on options to avoid this happening in the future. The water issue at the back of the church building which to correct will require grading the bank and installing gutter drains and piping the water off will affect the preschool playground. So the updating of the preschool playground will need to be put on hold. The grading work will need to be done in the springtime when it is not so wet.

Technology – Tyler Hall – Tyler sent an update for this Team. The sign should be on schedule for early February. The Team is looking for a count of classrooms that need TVs and the possibility of mounting the TVs on the wall. Please let John Adair what classes need TVs by the next Technology meeting. The Team also has met and discussed options for power and AV in the choir area for a multi-use space.

Cemetery – Gary Richey – No report.

PASTORS REPORT:

Pastor Josh shared his monthly report. Making plans for Lent beginning with Ash Wednesday and Shrove Tuesday; activities with the Rooted and Crew, Coffee with the Pastor, Breakfast with Santa, New Members class and reception of new members in December has kept him busy along with regular worship, visitation and administrative duties.

OLD BUSINESS:

Replacement of the carpet in the Nave is moving along. Measurements and ordering the carpet will take about 3-4 weeks. The late service will need to meet in the fellowship hall for 1 Sunday if all goes as planned. The timeline has the project complete before Ash Wednesday services. A piece of carpet will be put in the stage area to replace the numerous rugs currently being used. It will sit behind the curtain and not interfere with the electrical boxes. Discussion is still ongoing as to pew reupholstery with options being done in-house or contracted out. Fabric prices are scheduled to increase at the end of January. Several issues with in-house vs contract will be time frame and accountability. Gary Richey will get back to John Bostian with time frame from his volunteers.

**Minutes continued on the next page.*

NEW BUSINESS:

Pastor Josh shared news from Gideon Craig Childers of a mission trip to Ukraine/Romania that includes locals Michael Harrison and Kevin Powell. Motion by Gary Richey; seconded by Steve Shealy to approve \$2,500.00 for the purchase of generators to take to Ukraine. This should purchase 5 generators. Motion carries.

Chris Jolly is asking for support for a mission trip to Honduras. The trips have been on hold since COVID and also rules have changed as to what can be sent on the trips. The council will help share the word for support for this ministry.

Monday Night Community suppers will start back on Monday, February 6 at 6 pm. Everyone is welcome to come and bring a dish to share and enjoy the fellowship.

Hiddenite Food Pantry and Agape Kure Beach sent thanks for the donation given to them in December.

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

Our next regular monthly meeting will be moved up a day to accommodate Valentine's Day to Monday, February 13, 2023 at 6 pm. Gary Richey is scheduled to share a devotion.

ELECTRONIC VOTE ON JANUARY 20, 2023

Motion by John Bostian; seconded by Mason Frye to allow Molly Gantt Sipe to organize an online cake auction in early February to benefit the Adult Mission Fund. Motion carries.

SPECIAL CALLED COUNCIL MEETING ON JANUARY 22, 2023

Present: John Bostian, Payton Boyles, Guy Chapman, Taylor Payne, Monica Stafford, Mason Frye, Tyler Hall, and Dana Frye.

Motion by John Bostian; seconded by Mason Frye to approve the contract from Renew Upholstery Services, LLC for \$24,828.71 to recover the pews in the nave. Motion carries.



**Meeting
Minutes**

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.

Jeff & Emma Chapman	(G. Chapman-1/31)
Gail Parks	(D. Parks-1/31)
Darren Price	(J. Mitchell-1/31)
Diane Hammer	(B. Bowman-1/31)
Danny B. Chapman	(G. Kerley-1/31)
Gloria Saunders	(M. Bowman-2/6)
Tim Tarleton	(L. Ingle-2/6)
Nina Windsor	(P. Josh-2/6)
Katelyn McKinney	(W. Cline-2/6)
Torie Rhoney	(R. Buff-2/6)
Phyllis Ann Fox	(J. Gant-2/6)
Cindy Wood	(W. Cline-2/6)
Paulette Pearson	(K. Wike-2/7)
Arlie Neil	(K. Wike-2/7)
Shirley Miller	(K. Wike-2/7)
Bishop Tim Smith	(D. Ramsey-2/7)
Evie Milstead	(L. Hefner-2/13)
Dana Hollar	(L. Hefner-2/13)
Dallard Lail	(L. Hefner-2/13)
Tracy Stith	(C. Kerley-2/13)
Sylvia Hefner	(L. Ingle-2/16)
Mary Ellen Herman	(D. Price-2/16)
Darlene Handy	(S. Rogers-2/20)
Linda Bowman	(S. Rogers-2/20)
Jeremy Marley	(J. Elder-2/20)
Shelia Rogers	(P. Josh-2/23)

Family & friends of:

Gracie Howell	(S. Rogers-2/1)
Wesley Starnes	(D. Ramsey-2/6)
Ann Deal	(B. Icenhour-2/16)
Elbert Goble	(A. Sells-2/20)
Connie Bryant	(A. Sells-2/20)
Randy Bryant	(A. Sells-2/20)
Phil Hartis	(L. Jolly-2/20)
Rachel Shook	(S. Goble-2/21)

Our Sharing

OFFERINGS

	<u>JANUARY, 2023</u>	<u>YTD</u>
CURRENT	\$33,171.02	\$33,171.02
BENEVOLENCE	\$1,435.00	\$1,435.00
BLDG/IMPROVEMENT	\$4,430.00	\$4,430.00
PRESCHOOL	\$305.00	\$305.00
WORLD HUNGER	\$825.00	\$825.00
BACKPACK MINISTRY	\$439.00	\$439.00
CHRISTIAN CRISIS CTR	\$75.00	\$75.00
LUTHERAN DISASTER RELIEF	\$125.00	\$125.00
RUSHA AUSTIN SCHLOR.	\$3,395.00	\$3,395.00
YOUTH	\$621.00	\$621.00
ADULT MISSIONS	\$380.00	\$380.00
NOISY OFFERING	\$660.00	\$660.00

SPENDING

	<u>JANUARY, 2023</u>	<u>YTD</u>
CURRENT	\$40,134.81	\$40,134.81

HOME BOUND/EXTENDED CARE:

- Fate & Ruth Hefner - Home
- Mitchell Price - Brandywine @ Alexandria
- Earl Bostian - Home
- Sam & Hilda Bowman - Home
- Benny & Emo Bebbber - 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
Silsa Moore	Organ/Piano
Ian Elkins	Choir Director
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.