



Friendship Focus May 2026

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 1 Peter 1:3-5

Grace and peace to you in the name of the risen Christ. Amen

Church family, we continue to celebrate the good news the Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed! And, as 1 Peter shares, through this good news God gives us a new birth, a living hope of an eternal inheritance. Because he lives, we have the promise of everlasting life!

As the Easter season is still unfolding among us, it is a gift for us to linger here a while. In a world that often rushes on too quickly, the church pauses for fifty days to keep proclaiming the good news: Christ is risen, and that changes everything. We hear it not just in worship, but in the rhythms of life around us this Springtime—the greening trees, blooming flowers, juicy berries, the steady work of planting and tending, and the signs of new life that surround us each day.

May is a full and meaningful time in the life of our church family and community. As the school year comes to a close, we give thanks for all that has been learned, shared, and experienced. We give thanks to God for that in our church as well - from our youngest children to our adult groups, this has been a season of growth in faith, friendship, and service. None of it happens by accident—it is the work of many caring hands and faithful and generous hearts, and I am deeply grateful.

This month we look forward to celebrating graduates in the congregation as well as those who received the Rusha Austin Scholarship. These milestones are important not only for what they mark, but for what they point toward. Our graduates carry with them the love, support, and prayers of this congregation as they step into what comes next. As a

church, we are called to continue walking alongside them, trusting that God will guide their paths and use their gifts in ways both seen and unseen.

New life is all around us as we will soon welcome new members into our congregation. Isn't it exciting to be a part of this season of growth at Friendship? Let us not take for granted the mighty and important work of ministry God continues to call us to during this season!

There is something especially fitting about receiving new members during the Easter season. Resurrection is about new life, and the Spirit is always drawing new people into the life of the church. Each person who joins us brings unique gifts and perspectives, strengthening the body of Christ in this place. I hope you will take time to greet them, learn their stories, and help them feel at home among us.

And just ahead lies Pentecost—a day of fire, wind, and Spirit. It is the moment when the risen Christ sends the Holy Spirit to empower the church for its mission in the world. Pentecost reminds us that we are not simply caretakers of what has been, but participants in what God is still doing. The same Spirit that stirred the early church is alive and active here at Friendship, calling us to faith, to service, and to love.

As we move through this busy and meaningful month, my prayer is that we remain rooted in the hope of Easter while staying open to the movement of the Spirit. God is not finished with us yet. There is still new life to be discovered, new people to welcome, and new opportunities to serve.

Thank you for being the church together in this place. It is a joy and privilege to walk this journey of faith with you.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

In Christ,

PJ

May News



Congratulations to Mason & Stasya Frye on the birth of their son, Slade Elliott on April 14, 2026.

Secret Sisters meet Saturday, May 2nd @ 9am.

Fellowship Potluck Supper is Monday, May 4th @ 6pm.
All are welcome to join us for great food & fellowship.



Mother's Day is Sunday, May 10th.
We will have a special reception in between services for all our special ladies. Bring your Mother & Motherly figures with you to worship & celebrate with us!

Friendship Preschool - You are invited to attend the end of year program and graduation on Friday, May 15th, 6:30pm in the Nave. Thanks for supporting our Preschool ministry.

Men in Mission Breakfast is Saturday, May 16th @ 8am.

Graduation/Rusha Austin Scholarship Recognition is Sunday, May 17th at both services. If you are a scholarship recipient, please plan to be present to receive your scholarship & be recognized. If you are a graduate that would like to be recognized, please call the church office.

Thank you to all volunteers who participated in Gods Work Our Hands! Three projects were completed in the community, and we were also able to complete a couple of projects on the church campus. We appreciate the time & effort given by all! Gods Work Our Hands continues to be a valuable & fulfilling day of service in ministry for our Lord.

The CARE Team & Youth would like to say a HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to the collection for Faith Assisted Living! Many needed items were collected & delivered. Members of both CARE & Youth teams hosted a cook-out/game day for residents, and it was a wonderful experience. Your generosity is appreciated, and we were thankful by the support of this project! **THANK YOU!!**

Columbarium update! We are excited to share that we are blessed to now have the needed funds to construct a columbarium at Friendship. The finished columbarium will feature two 48 niche structures, with each niche able to hold two separate sets of cremains. Construction near the cross at the top of the cemetery will begin soon! As such, the columbarium designated line will be closed. Thank you for your generosity to support this project.

FRIENDSHIP LUTHERAN CHURCH PRESCHOOL

OPEN ENROLLMENT

CLOSES: JUNE 26TH, 2026

FRIENDSHIP LUTHERAN CHURCH
828-632-4482
5300 Church Road
Taylorsville, NC 28681

ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

- ✓ Availability in the 3 and 4 year old classes.
- ✓ Please Contact Lori Overcash- Preschool Director at: friendshippreschoolministry@gmail.com
- ✓ Give your child a wonderful start to a lifelong love of Learning.



Registration Open!

A limited number of spaces remain for our Lutheroad Summer Day Camp at Friendship. Please submit registration forms along with the registration fee ASAP to secure your child’s spot! And, invite friends and neighbors to join in for an incredible week of fun! See Payton Boyles for registration information.

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. Please make plans to attend this wonderful week of learning and fun!

May Birthdays

Kristen Hayes	5/01	Nathan Cannon	5/14
Keith Tucker	5/01	Stan Feimster	5/16
Cheryl Ingavo	5/03	Michelle Bowman	5/17
Steve Shealy	5/04	Alyse Chapman	5/18
Patsy Shealy	5/08	Walker Gant	5/21
Terry Hefner	5/10	Grayson Hammer	5/22
Kasi Sigmon	5/10	Doris Kever	5/22
Jearlean Mitchell	5/11	Jenna Buff	5/26
Guy Kerley	5/13	Ray Fox	5/28



Friendship Lutheran Church Council
March 17, 2026, Regular Meeting in Person

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

President Mary Ann Icenhour called the meeting to order.

Motion by Jenna Buff; seconded by Tamara Stafford to approve the agenda. Motion carries.

Monica Stafford shared a devotion.

Motion by Todd Smith; seconded by Eric Frye to approve minutes from February 24, 2026, Regular Meeting and the electronic vote on February 28, 2026. Motion carries.

Treasurers report was distributed. Motion by Brian Chapman; seconded by Monica Stafford approve. Motion carries.

TEAM ASSIGNMENTS/REPORTS:

Administration – Hannah Bostian – No report.

Care – Tamara Stafford – God’s Work, Our Hands will be April 25/26 for service projects, including trash pick-up, Crisis Center, help some church members, and share game day cookout with the youth at Faith Assisted Living. Sign-up sheets will be available and announcements will be made. Craft supplies will be collected for those residents at Faith Assisted Living. The team is hoping to have a good turn out on GWOHs weekend.

Learn – Jenna Buff – The Team has met and plans are in the works for VBS, key leaders and volunteers have been identified from the Time and Talent sheets. The date is July 26-29, and the other Lutheran churches will be joining as well.

Worship – Todd Smith – Annual review has been completed for Ian Elkins. Easter plans are complete.

Share – Kasi Sigmon – Since the new logos have been approved, the Team has begun using them on the website. Staff and Council members will be featured in future postings and Kasi will set up time to get everyone’s picture.

Finance – Michelle Miller – No additional report.

Rusha Austin Scholarship – Brian Chapman – Packets are due back into the office April 15, 2026.

Preschool – Monica Stafford – Preschool Appreciation Sunday is set for April 26, with breakfast beginning at 9 am and service at 10 in the fellowship hall. There will only be one service and no Sunday School that day. The preschool is going great. Preschool welcomed a couple students from ACHS to help a couple days a week. This program is through ACHS and is no cost to the preschool. It is a benefit for the student and a help to our preschool staff.

Building & Grounds (BAG) – Eric Frye – AEDs are being serviced. It was discussed that when there is a meal prepared in the kitchen, that grease is being disposed of by pouring down the drains. This is strictly not allowed. Grease is not to be poured in the drains on the inside or outside of the kitchen. A metal bucket is available, and you are to carry it off for disposal. A sign will be put up.

Technology – Tyler Hall – Issues continue on our internet with interruptions of our feed. This is being checked out.

Cemetery – Barry Swift – No report.

PASTOR’S REPORT:

Pastor Josh shared his report. The disaster response training day will be rescheduled for a future date due to lack of registration. Plans were discussed for a Friday night event for relaxation and fellowship time. Bikes could be brought for kids, games and cooking out. More details later. Pastor Josh will be taking time off after Easter. Pastor Craig will fill in during this time.

OLD BUSINESS:

► Columbarium – Motion from the BAG Team (no second required) to start work on the columbarium. The estimate is for 2 granite units and they will be on a concrete pad and be placed around the cross area at the top of the cemetery. Estimated cost will be \$35,000. Funds are available in the designated offering for Columbarium. Motion carries. Work will start after Easter.

NEW BUSINESS:

► Motion by Mary Ann Icenhour; seconded by Hannah Bostian to provide a meal for the softball team at ACHS. Motion carries. Jenna Buff will take the lead and get this done.

► Friendship will advertise the Hefner Fundraiser at the pond on April 18, from 10-4.

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

Our next regular monthly meeting will be Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at 6pm. Jenna Buff will share a devotion.



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:



The Home Mission Foundation provides low interest loans for improvements and repairs, grants to Lutheran institutions, and scholarship gifts to seminary students. Contact Roger Lyman, 704-907-0507, rdlyman0689@gmail.com, www.homemissionfoundation.org

Our Sharing

OFFERINGS

	<u>MARCH, 2026</u>	<u>YTD</u>
CURRENT	\$44,461.86	\$110,335.92
BENEVOLENCE	\$1,911.00	\$5,093.85
BLDG/IMPROVEMENT	\$645.00	\$3,067.75
PRESCHOOL	\$145.00	\$565.00
WORLD HUNGER	\$0.00	\$50.00
BACKPACK MINISTRY	\$730.00	\$1,425.00
CHRISTIAN CRISIS CTR	\$1,389.95	\$3,147.80
LUTHERAN DISASTER RELIEF	\$125.00	\$350.00
RUSHA AUSTIN SCHLOR.	\$2,335.00	\$6,645.00
YOUTH	\$1,386.00	\$7,445.00
NOISY OFFERING	\$723.00	\$2,545.00
COLUMBARIUM	\$590.00	\$1,535.00
MEN IN MISSION	\$51.00	\$102.00
ADULT MISSIONS	\$45.00	\$95.00
LUTHEROAD	\$2,510.00	\$2,635.00
LUTHERIDGE CAMPAIGN	\$335.00	\$535.00
CONFIRMATION GIFTS	\$315.00	\$315.00
LENT 2026/BRIDGING TOGETHER	\$463.00	\$463.00
	\$58,160.81	

SPENDING

	<u>MARCH, 2026</u>	<u>YTD</u>
CURRENT	\$29,192.43	\$88,740.73

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...

Marlyn Routhton (J. Watts-3/30)	Nicole Davis McNamara (J. Gant-4/13)
Elsie Hefner (D. Hollar-3/30)	Margo Elder (P. Josh-4/14)
Jason Lundy (D. Ramsey-3/30)	Teressa Wallace (W. Pearson-4/16)
Scott Seagle (P. Setzer-3/31)	Steve Sharpe (P. Stikeleather-4/20)
Caleb Evans (K. Wike-3/31)	Rev. David Drysdale (K. Tucker-4/20)
Betty Icenhour (P. Josh-4/6)	Channon Brown (S. Bowers-4/20)
Lee Simmons (W. Cline-4/6)	Katelyn McKinney (W. Cline-4/20)
Kathy Reynolds (B. Stamey-4/6)	Ashlyn Cook (J. Buff-4/20)
Herman Price (P. Payne-4/6)	Maynard Annas (T. Annas-4/20)
Noah Manning (S. Icenhour-4/6)	Sam Bowman (P. Josh-4/22)
Jimmy Hayes (M. Stafford-4/6)	Lana Craig (W. Cline-4/27)
Jay Dean Mitchell (D. Ramsey-4/6)	Randy Milstead (K. Tucker-4/27)
Ricky Rector (J. Smith-4/6)	Joe Deal (P. Josh-4/27)
Tony Cothren (P. Josh-4/6)	Hal Deal (D. Payne-4/27)
Theresa Setzer (R. Bowman-4/6)	Ken Kelley family (M. Elder-4/29)
Darryl Adkins (C. Gant-4/13)	

Family & friends of:

Geraldine Adams	(M. Bowman-3/30)
Judy Nance	(L. Hefner-3/30)
Ginger Annas	(P. Josh-4/10)
Chris Hefner	(D. Payne-4/13)
Joseph C. Cannon	(T. Annas-4/16)
Gene Vaughan	(T. Annas-4/16)
Jean Wilson	(T. Annas-4/16)
Landon Barker	(D. Payne-4/27)
Rick Jones Jr.	(W. Cline-4/27)
Steve Killian	(H. Bostian-4/27)
Ken Kelley	(M. Elder-4/29)

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.