

You are reading this at the beginning of January, so I want to write an inspiring newsletter article about the new year, about fresh starts and having a renewed outlook on life. However, I am writing this not at the beginning of a new year, but on December 14 and all I can think about is how many different things I need to get ready for Christmas and about how my hometown has been ravaged by a tornado.

My mind is running in a hundred different directions and none of them are very fresh start and restful. I am looking at my to-do list and it has stuff on it that is from last week that doesn't even matter any more and I can't seem to figure out all of the stuff that I need to do this week.

I know that I should be doing things differently, know that I should be getting ready to start something new. I know that I should be gearing up for greatness, but I honestly feel like I am just barely trying to survive.

There is that classic Bible verse of inspirational poster fame that says we shall mount up on wings like eagles. As a kid when I would read that Isaiah 40:31 verse I would identify with that part. I was always thinking about how if I could trust in the Lord I would soar in life.

But as I have gotten older, as we have walked through what is now nearly two years of pandemic life, as we have lost people we loved, as we have seen devastation we can't control, and just generally as I have just gotten weighed down by stuff I have found the rest of that verse is so amazing.

*Isaiah 40:31 (CSB)
but those who trust in the LORD
will renew their strength;
they will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not become weary,
they will walk and not faint.*

Sometimes, yes, we soar. Sometimes we run and don't get tired, but sometimes what is needed is to just walk and not faint. Sometimes what is needed is to just walk these next few miles and not give up. Sometimes trusting in the Lord means you simply endure.

So this year, as you begin again to look at hope and the future. Understand that sometimes God gives us the strength to soar, and sometimes God gives us the strength to simply endure. But here is what I have learned, in good times and in bad, when it all comes together, and when it all falls apart, God is good. He is faithful. He will never leave us nor forsake us. He is trustworthy. He is enough, and He will give us the strength to endure.

Shane

Weekly Activities

SUNDAY
Sunday School - 9:30 am
Worship - 8:15 am & 10:45 am
Evening Worship - 6:00 pm
Children's Bible Study - 6:00 pm
Youth Bible Study - 6:00 pm

WEDNESDAY
Prayer Service - 6:30 pm
Youth Bible Study - 6:30 pm
Kids Choir - 6:30 pm



"Every good gift, every perfect gift, comes from above. These gifts come down from the Father, the creator of the heavenly lights, in whose character there is no change at all."

JAMES 1:17



Phone: 270.534.1900
www.friendshiponthenet.org
www.facebook.com/friendshiponthenet
Dr. Jason Browning, Pastor
Rev. Shane Yancey,
Minister to Students & Children
Rev. Chad Davidson,
Minister of Music & Worship

Budget Receipts

Required to Date: \$ 480,012
Received to Date: \$ 641,241

Nursery Volunteers

January 2
8:15 a.m. — Sheri Wright
10:45 a.m. — Andrew & Lacy Halligan
Matt & Miranda Scott
January 9
8:15 a.m. — Debbie Larson
10:45 a.m. — Kara & Karsyn Allard
Vicki & Ryley Fox
January 16
8:15 a.m. — Billie Stuber
10:45 a.m. — Christa Copeland/
Kaelin Mallory
Stephanie Matthews
January 23
8:15 a.m. — Bridget Browning
10:45 a.m. — Nathan & Kathryn Thomas
Craig & LeeAnn Brown
January 30
8:15 a.m. — Earl & Henrietta Mitchell
10:45 a.m. — Laura Hughes & Debbie Alvey
Jamie Hawkins & Tracey Duncan

The LINK

Friendship Baptist Church

146 S. Friendship Rd.
Paducah KY 42003

Volume 22

JANUARY 2022

Number 1





**"Jesus said, 'I tell you the truth,
when you did it to one of the least of these
My brothers and sisters, you were doing it to Me!'"
(Matthew 25:40)**

There are numerous stories in the Bible where God called men, women, and even children to step out in faith and follow Him. This often meant stepping away from jobs, homes, families, and even their personal comfort and security to follow God's plan for their lives and the world.

Over the past week, I have been incredibly moved by the outpouring of compassion that you and others have shown for the tornado victims in our area. You have willingly given of your time and your resources to serve our neighbors. On Tuesday, Friendship delivered a 22-foot U-haul truck and a box-trailer full of clothes, coats, and personal hygiene items to those in need. In so many ways, you have been, and you will continue to be, the hands and feet of Jesus. Being the hands and feet of Jesus simply means demonstrating the love of Christ to the people He created. We realize we cannot solve everyone's problems, but we can love them in Jesus' name. The hands and feet of Jesus belong to those who are willing to be moved by God.

Abraham was instructed to leave his country and relatives and go to a land God would later show him.

Jonah was told to go to Nineveh to preach a message of repentance to a hostile nation.

Ruth would leave her own family to serve her mother-in-law Naomi.

Jesus called 12 ordinary young men to become His closest disciples, asking them to walk away from jobs, families, and personal safety to do so.

In each instance, God was looking for those who were willing to set aside their personal comforts and interests to follow Him and share in His ministry. He wanted obedient, focused, and committed followers who would not only trust Him, but also would submit to His authority and way of doing things, even when it was not comfortable or easy. The choice, however, was theirs.

Being the hands and feet of Jesus implies that we will actually get up and go. This is certainly a priority for the church today. At Friendship, we are not just hearers of the Gospel, but we are participants in it. You truly are the hands and feet of a living Jesus who is still active in shaping and saving the world. You can be sure that the Friendship Family will continue to assist with the relief efforts in Western Kentucky.

God is good! All the time!

Jason



JOY Club will meet on Tuesday, January 4, 11:30 a.m. at Flamingo Row. All "seenagers" are invited to this fellowship!



Family Night Supper — Wednesday, January 5, 5:00 p.m. The menu is: Grilled Chicken, Corn on the Cob, Baked Potatoes, Salad, Rolls, & Dessert. Sign up in the worship center or call the church office by noon on Tuesday, January 4 if you plan to attend.

January

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1 | New Year's Day |
| 4 | 11:30 a.m. — JOY Club |
| 5 | 6:00 p.m. — Operation Andrew, Team 1 |
| 8 | 5:00 p.m. — Family Night Supper |
| 9 | 5:00 p.m. — Carson Brown/Matthew Hancock wedding |
| 11 | 7:00 p.m. — Deacon Mtg. |
| 18 | 6:00 p.m. — Operation Andrew, Team 2 |
| 19 | 10:30 a.m. — Women on Mission |
| 20 | 6:00 p.m. — Operation Andrew, Team 3 |
| 25 | 5:30 p.m. — Finance Team |
| 29 | 6:30 p.m. — Business Mtg. |
| | Ladies Fellowship @ Friendship |
| | 6:00 p.m. — Operation Andrew, Team 1 |
| | Kid's Escape Room |

Weekly Events:

Tuesdays @ 6:30 a.m. — Men's Prayer Group



Thank you for your gifts to the Harvest Offering to honor First Responders in our community. We received over \$7,000 for this offering. \$20 gift cards have been delivered to First Responders. Thank you for giving to this worthy cause.



2022 Family Night Supper Volunteers — Sign up in the worship center if you would be willing to prepare Family Night supper one month. It can be an individual, group, or Sunday School class. Family Night Supper is the first Wednesday of each month at 5:00 p.m. See Pam Hawkins for more information.



Outreach Project — The Evangelism Team needs your help to provide truth, hope, and encouragement to the men/women housed at the McCracken County Jail. Please consider sending a card/letter to one man and one woman currently being housed at the jail. Names will be available in the worship center on January 9 and 16 following both morning worship services. You may take additional names. There are currently over 450 men and women being housed at the jail. All cards/letters should be returned to Friendship by the end of the day on January 16. No postage is necessary. Please do not seal the envelope so the Evangelism Team can add a Gospel tract. If you can help with this outreach project, please review the following instructions: pray for the man or woman who will receive your card; include a Scripture that will provide encouragement to the recipient of the card; do not share any personal information or your mailing address on the envelope or card; and sign the card with your first name only. Please consider assisting the Evangelism Team with this outreach effort.



Bro. Jason and the Friendship family express Christian love and sympathy to:
...Sheri Wright & family in the death of James Wright.
...Lakin Smith & family in the death of her father, John Tanner.



As I continue to share the story behind the song, "What A Beautiful Name", this song was produced and presented by Hillsong Worship. As Brooke Ligertwood & Ben Fielding tell the story:

"What hides in the name of Jesus? The name of Jesus encompasses more than we can hope or imagine—more beauty, more wonder, more power.

Most of the song "What A Beautiful Name" was penned in a glorified cubicle in the suburbs of Sydney over a few days in December 2015. From there we spent months crafting the lyrics to riff on our core scriptures — Hebrews 1:1-4 and Colossians 1:15-20, 26-27 — yet be simple enough to make sense on a first reading. Hebrews 1:1-4 expresses with clarity and conciseness the supremacy of Jesus Christ — the radiance of God's glory, the exact expression of His being, the creative conduit of His power. Jesus is God's Word: powerful, authoritative and utterly supreme. He is the wonder of salvation, who reconciled us to God. "In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son" (Hebrews 1:1-2, NIV).

To know God and to worship Him ("to enjoy Him forever") is the most fundamental reason for our existence. As Jesus reveals the great mysteries of God, we come to know more of who God is, glimpsing new facets of His beauty, wonder and power.

"Beauty" evokes the tenderness of His love and the sweetness of His presence.

"Wonder" speaks to our gratitude for salvation, awe at the lengths of His sacrifice.

"Power" affirms His supremacy and Sovereignty—an exhortation to remember our access to the power of God in every situation, as we call upon and declare the Name of Jesus.

*What a beautiful Name it is; What a wonderful Name it is;
What a powerful Name it is; The Name of Jesus.*

Jesus has the Name above all others. Anything that we can name — from our greatest triumphs to our greatest challenges—comes under the authority of His Name. This song confesses that no greater beauty or source of wonder exists outside of Jesus, "the radiance of God's glory" (Hebrews 1:3). The song is also a statement that Jesus has no rival or equal. His power is unmatched and absolute.

Perhaps some of us understand God loves us through the death and resurrection of Jesus, but haven't grasped His power, ability and will to move strongly in our present circumstances. Or perhaps, we understand God as the supreme, omnipotent Deity He is, but have never known Him close and tender, as a friend acquainted with the depths of our humanity, knowing our flaws cannot perturb His love. Our prayer for this song is that we can all enter into a deeper, more lateral, revelation of the person of Jesus Christ—the epitome of beauty."

Taken from Hillsong Worship – October 13, 2016

Under the Master's Baton,
Chad



Come see Friendship's refreshed library. There are some free books available, mostly daily devotionals and children's activity books. Instructions on checking out books are on the desk in the library. Happy reading!