

In youth we are walking through the narrative of the Bible, taking a look at the history of God's people in chronological order. I love the Israelites and all that they can teach us about God and about us, so it is hard for me to leave anything out of the story.

One of the things I had to skip last week was this passage from Joshua 5 where Joshua meets the commander of the Lord's Armies. Joshua 5:13-14 (CSB)

When Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua approached him and asked, "Are you for us or for our enemies?"

"Neither," he replied. "I have now come as commander of the Lord's army."

Then Joshua bowed with his face to the ground in homage and asked him, "What does my lord want to say to his servant?"

What jumps out at me is this question, that I think is one that is natural to ask, "Are you for us or against us? Are you on our side or on their side?" I mean, isn't that what we want to know all the time? Is God on our side or is He on the other side? Is God for what I am for or is God for what they are for?

But the answer is one that I find truly amazing. The commander of the Lord's army looks at Joshua and says, "Neither."

Now that can sound a little weird, especially if you are about to lead a group of people into a hostile land and try to drive out their inhabitants all because this same Lord that the dude is talking about commanded you to do so. Like, isn't God of course on the Israelites side? Didn't God command them to come here? So why isn't he on their side? But the man standing before Joshua is not for him, and is not for his enemies. He is not the commander of Joshua's army or of Jericho's. He is on God's side. He is the commander of God's army. Joshua and the Israelites have been invited to join in God's plan and they are going to have a part to play in his mission moving forward, but ultimately it isn't about their side or their enemies' side, but rather God's.

I know that for me it is so easy to try to get God to be on my side. It is easy for me to pray for God to get my back. It is easy for me to look out at those who are opposed to me and think that God must be against them too.

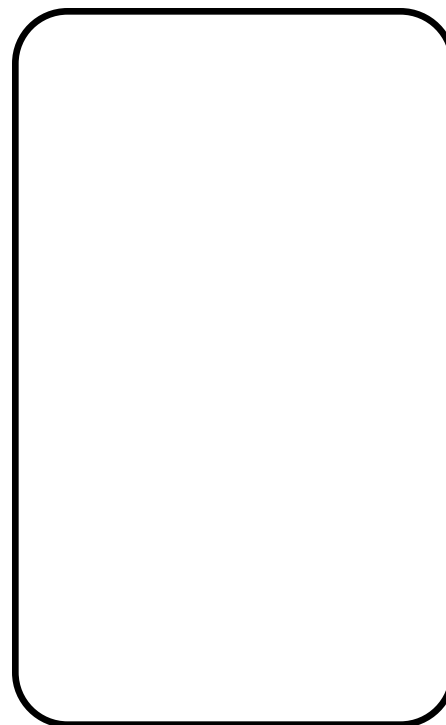
But it isn't about whether or not God is on my side. It is whether or not I am on His side that matters. God does not line his life up to mine. I am the one who must line my life up with him.

This is both a difficult and an amazing thought. It is difficult because it doesn't mean that I am fighting God's fight just because I am facing opposition. It is difficult because it requires me to examine my life and make sure that I am fighting for what God fights for and not just for what I want to fight for.

It is amazing, though, because it is freeing to know that God doesn't depend on me. God fights for His glory. God fights for His purposes. I don't have to worry about what is the right fight or worry about whether He will join me. God is on His side, and as such He will always overcome.

The amazing thing is, because He loves me I get to join in and be a part.

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



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Dr. Jason Browning, Pastor
Rev. Shane Yancey,
Minister to Students & Children
Rev. Chad Davidson,
Minister of Music & Worship

Budget Receipts

Required to Date: \$ 80,154
Received to Date: \$ 90,133

Nursery Volunteers

March 6

8:15 a.m. — Sheri Wright
10:45 a.m. — Andrew & Lacy Halligan
Matt & Miranda Scott

March 13

8:15 a.m. — Debbie Larson
10:45 a.m. — Kara & Karsyn Allard
Vicky & Ryley Fox

March 20

8:15 a.m. — Billie Stuber
10:45 a.m. — Christa Copeland, Kaelin Mallory, Stephanie Matthews

March 27

8:15 a.m. — Bridget Browning
10:45 a.m. — Nathan & Kathryn Thomas
Luke & Rachel Diefenbach

The LINK

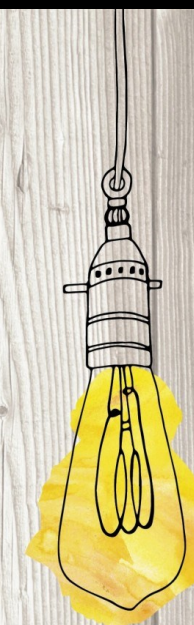
Friendship Baptist Church

146 S. Friendship Rd.
Paducah KY 42003

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Number 3



Let your
light
so
shine

BEFORE MEN, THAT THEY MAY SEE YOUR
good works AND glorify YOUR
Father WHICH IS IN Heaven

MATTHEW 5:16

“When Jesus had come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, ‘Who is this?’”
(Matthew 21:10)



From time to time, we read of people who are offended at not being treated with what they consider due respect and deference. “Do you know who I am?” they shout indignantly. And we are reminded of the statement, “If you have to tell people who you are, you probably really aren’t who you think you are.” The polar opposite of this arrogance and self-importance is clearly seen in the life of Jesus, even as His life on earth was nearing its end.

During the final week of His life, Jesus entered Jerusalem to shouts of praise from the people. When others throughout the city asked, “Who is this?” the crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee” (Matthew 21:11). Jesus didn’t come to this earth claiming special privileges, but in humility, He came to give His life in obedience to His Father’s will.


I am often embarrassed by my own desires for self-importance. Knowing Christ in a personal way, ought to change every self-centered motive in my heart into a longing to live as He did in this world. As His child, I ought to seek daily to live in obedience to my Father’s will.

The words Jesus said and the things He did, commanded respect. Unlike insecure rulers, Jesus never demanded that others respect Him. His greatest hours of suffering appeared to be His lowest point of weakness. Yet, the strength of His identity and His mission carried Jesus through the darkest hours as He died for our sins so that we might live in His love.


Jesus is completely worthy of our lives and our devotion today, but do we recognize who He is? As Christ continues to transform us, I pray that we will become even more aware of His humility, strength, and love!

God is good! All the time!


Jason



CHURCHWIDE BIRTHDAY FELLOWSHIP — Join us as we celebrate YOUR birthday! Sunday, March 27, 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Twelve tables will be decorated representing each birthday month. Sign up in the worship center if you would like to decorate a table and provide cake/treats. See Patty Bickerstaff if you can help, or for more information.



Operation Christmas Child Year Round — The item for March is Crayons & Coloring Books. A box is provided in the KidZone for your donations.



March 2, 5:00 p.m. The menu is: Breakfast—the Works! Sign up in the worship center or call the church office by noon on Tuesday, March 1 if you plan to attend.

March

- 1 11:00 a.m. — JOY Club
- 6:00 p.m. — Operation Andrew, Team 3
- 2 5:00 p.m. — Family Night Supper
- 3 5:30 p.m. — GriefShare
- 4-5 Youth DNow
- 8 6:00 p.m. — Operation Andrew, Team 1
- 13 Daylight Saving Time Begins
- 1:30 p.m. — Couples Shower for Anna & Oscar
- 15 10:30 a.m. — Women on Mission
- 6:00 p.m. — Operation Andrew, Team 2
- 16 5:30 p.m. — Finance Team
- 6:30 p.m. — Business Meeting
- 22 6:00 p.m. — Operation Andrew, Team 3
- 27 7:00 p.m. — Churchwide Birthday Fellowship
- 29 6:00 p.m. — Operation Andrew, Team 3
- 30 7:00 p.m. — Deacons

Weekly Events:

- Tuesdays @ 6:30 a.m. — Men’s Prayer Group
- Thursdays @ 9:30 a.m. — Ladies Bible Study
- Thursdays @ 5:30 p.m. — GriefShare



Evangelism Team Challenge for March — Ask your customer service representative, wait staff, server, cashier or Door Dash employee if they have anything you can pray for them about.



GriefShare — Begins March 3 at 5:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. GriefShare is for people grieving the death of a family member or friend. This can be a confusing time when you feel isolated and have many questions about things you’ve never faced


before. GriefShare groups meet weekly to help you face these challenges and move toward rebuilding your life. Cost is \$15.



DNOW (Ark Encounter Trip)

March 4-5
Cost \$30

This year for DNOW youth will be taking an overnight trip to the Ark Encounter, a life-sized replica of Noah’s ark. We will travel on a Friday night, have Bible study at the hotel, and then tour the Ark the next day. Lodging, a ticket to the Ark and breakfast and lunch on Saturday are included in the cost. Details for this trip are still being finalized. Students can sign-up in the youth building.



You are invited to join us for a Couples Shower honoring Anna Solomon & Oscar Galvan on Sunday, March 13, 1:30-3:00 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall. The couple is registered at Bed, Bath & Beyond and Amazon.



The story behind the song: “Lord I Need You” by Matt Maher, Kristian Stanfill, Christy Nockels, Jesse Reeves, and Daniel Carson as told by Matt Maher to New Release Today

This song was written with four other songwriters. It is a pretty great bunch of writers—Kristian Stanfill, Christy Nockels, and two of Chris Tomlin’s band mates, Jesse Reeves and Daniel Carson. We were getting together to write for the Passion 2011 conference. I was a newlywed, and my wife graciously agreed to accompany me. It was really a process of collaboration. Somebody wrote a line, and it was like passing the baton. Somebody else wrote a line, and so on. About halfway through of the process of writing this song, Jesse said the song reminded him of the hymn “I Need Thee Every Hour.” We pulled up the lyrics, and started mining from that song a little bit. I remember when the lyrics, “Where You are, I am free, holiness is Christ in me” were written, that was a big moment.

What is the takeaway message for listeners and the Church?

The process of writing this song and a lot of songs for worship leaders is that the writing of worship songs is an act of worship. That’s an opportunity where God ministers to us. Then, we go and lead worship and every time we lead people in worship, it’s a confirmation of when we wrote the song. That’s the case for me with this song.

In your joy, you need to still say, “Lord, I need You, oh I need You, every hour I need You,”—not just in your brokenness and darkest times. I think that’s a struggle for people. A lot of Christians tend to look around and think the world is in a dark place, we’re struggling economically and there’s so much division in our country, but there’s always a reason to have joy.

*Lord, I come, I confess; Bowing here I find my rest
Without You I fall apart; You’re the One that guides my heart
Lord, I need You, oh, I need You; Every hour I need You
My one defense, my righteousness; Oh God, how I need You
Where sin runs deep Your grace is more; Where grace is found is where You are
And where You are, Lord, I am free; Holiness is Christ in me
Teach my song to rise to You; When temptation comes my way
And when I cannot stand I’ll fall on You; Jesus, You’re my hope and stay
Lord, I need You, oh, I need You; Every hour I need You
My one defense, my righteousness; Oh God, how I need You
You’re my one defense, my righteousness; Oh God, how I need You
My one defense, my righteousness; Oh God, how I need You*

Joy isn’t just a happy emotion. It is also a deep peace and understanding of knowing that we are loved without a shadow of a doubt. We should not be ashamed to sing of our dependence on God and show Him reverence. This is an amazing new worship song for the Church and I love to sing to Him: “You’re my one defense, my righteousness, Oh God, how I need You.” Amen to that!

Under the Master’s Baton,
Bro. Chad



It is time to start the process of selecting deacons who will serve the needs of the church body at Friendship. You may nominate up to 4 men: 3 men to serve three year terms, and 1 man to serve a one year term. Nominations are due in the church office by March 31.



All “seenagers” are invited to join us at “The Farm” in LaCenter on Tuesday, March 1. Meet at the church at 11:00 a.m. to ride the bus.