

I was in college when I realized that God was calling me into ministry, and I remember looking at my classes and looking at the majors at Auburn and thinking "what could get me out of here with a degree with the least amount of unnecessary hardship." So, I settled on a creative writing degree with a minor in linguistics. All in all it was a pretty fun way to finish out my college career.

Anyway, about halfway through Writing Poetry II I was struggling a bit on coming up with what I wanted to write about. I met with my professor, and he suggested that I write poems that had more structure. So instead of writing just freeform stuff I started looking at classical poetry forms and using them as the skeleton for what I wanted to write. I wrote a couple of sonnets, and quite a few things in iambic pentameter. What I discovered was having the form helped me to focus my thoughts. Having the form meant I didn't have to reinvent the wheel in every line. I didn't have to come up with some amazing new way to structure a poem, I could simply write my ideas. For my scattered brain it was exactly what I needed to help me write. As the year progressed, I was able to move outside of that structure a bit, but it was the form that helped me find my voice.

I have been thinking about that conversation and those few weeks of structured poetry writing lately. You see we live in a world that is quickly removing all the forms from the lives that our kids are walking through. Things that were once taboo are now in the open. Things that weren't ever an option are now being taught and encouraged. In doing so it has changed the way that our kids are walking through their lives, and I believe it has made it harder for them to navigate their world.

We have removed the guardrails as a society and our kids are floundering about trying to find something solid to stand on. They are looking for a solid foundation. They are looking for truth. And instead the world around them shows them that they can make their own truth and that they can make their own way.

Then when they do make their own choices and their own way there are people in their lives who lecture or condemn or ostracize because of those choices and once again those kids are floundering trying to figure out what is right and what is real.

I lived for 15 years under very hands-on parents. Then when they died I lived for the next years of my life under the hands of a grandmother who had never been forced to say "no." I lived half of my high school life with more rules than most of my peers and half of my high school life with no rules at all. Even at the time if you would have pulled me aside and asked me which I preferred I would have said the former. Why? Because living under both, I saw how much harder it was to walk through days without guardrails.

The verse we learn as part of the pledge to the Bible feels like it was made for such a time as this:
Psalm 119:105 (CSB)

Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path.

This is my prayer for our students today. It is my prayer that they will always find me and my church as a place where they are welcomed and loved. It is also my prayer that we will always be a place where they are shown the guardrails that God has placed in this world and that we will teach them how to use His Word to be a light for their path.

Shane



Welcome to our New Members

Vickie Turley
Annabell Alliston
Mark Clark

so glad you are here.

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

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

Budget Receipts

Required to Date: \$ 200,385
Received to Date: \$ 216,751

Nursery Volunteers

June 5

8:15 a.m. — Amanda Triplett
10:45 a.m. — Spencer & Melissa Hawkins

June 12

8:15 a.m. — Tori Ramsdell
10:45 a.m. — Carol Fields & Lakyn
Gene & Deborah Reaney

June 19

8:15 a.m. — Nancy Bruce & Masami Smith
10:45 a.m. — Michael & Melissa Myers
Kathy Goodman & Kathy Baucum

June 26

8:15 a.m. — Craig & Lee Ann Brown
10:45 a.m. — Meredith Yancey



Children and Youth classes will promote on Sunday, June 5. Sunday School is a great opportunity for students to learn how to apply God's truth to their lives. For more information, see Shane Yancey.

The LINK

Friendship Baptist Church

146 S. Friendship Rd.
Paducah KY 42003

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Sunday, June 5

5:00 p.m.

Noble Park Shelter 16

Fried chicken, hot dogs, bread and drinks will be provided. Please bring side dishes, dessert, and lawn chairs. Feel free to bring a basketball, Frisbee, baseball glove or other outdoor games as we enjoy an evening of fun and fellowship together.



“The eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to Him.” (2 Chronicles 16:9)

Life seems straightforward in the laws of the Old Testament. Obey God and get blessed. Disobey Him and expect trouble. It's a satisfying theology. But is it really that simple?

King Asa's story seems to fit the pattern. In 2 Chronicles 15, he led his people away from false gods and his kingdom thrived. Then late in his reign, 2 Chronicles 16 explains how Asa depended on himself instead of God and the rest of his life was marked by war and illness. It's easy to look at that story and draw a simple conclusion. But when the prophet Hanani warned Asa, he said that God will “strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to Him.”

Why do our hearts need strengthening? Because doing the right thing may require courage and perseverance. Doing the right thing involves our being fully committed to God, rather than depending on ourselves.

Job got the starring role in a cosmic tragedy. His crime? He was blameless and upright. Joseph, falsely accused of attempted rape, languished in prison for years - to serve God's good purposes. And Jeremiah was beaten and put in stocks. What was the prophet's offense? Telling the truth to rebellious people.

Life is not simple, and God's ways are certainly not our ways. I am thankful for the examples of courage and obedience that we discover in God's Word. We can learn much from their mistakes and from their wise choices, as we make our own choice to serve the Lord wholeheartedly. For you and me, making the right decision may come at a cost. But in God's eternal plan, His blessings arrive in due time. God does indeed help those who depend on Him.

God is good! All the time!

Jason

JUNE

- 5 9:30 a.m. — Sunday School Promotion
5:00 p.m. — Church Picnic
- 6-11 Youth MFuge
- 7 9:00 a.m. — JOY Club
6:00 p.m. — Operation Andrew, Team 2
- 12 7:00 p.m. — Deacons
- 14 6:00 p.m. — Operation Andrew, Team 3
- 15 5:30 p.m. — Finance Team
6:30 p.m. — Business Mtg.
- 19 Happy Father's Day!
- 21 10:30 a.m. — Women on Mission
6:00 p.m. — Operation Andrew, Team 1
- 25 10:00 a.m. — Kid's Nerf Blaster Battle Royale
- 28 6:00 p.m. — Operation Andrew, Team 2

Weekly Events:

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



Evangelism Team Challenge for June - We are asking church members to take 5 scripture cards and leave them wherever they do business: checkout register at the store, on a gas pump, near the coffee center at a convenience store, on a public bathroom mirror, etc.... Cards are available in the worship center.



Operation Christmas Child Year Round — The item for June is Small Games & Puzzles. A box is provided in the KidZone for your donations. Since 1993, boys and girls all over the world have experienced God's love through the power of simple shoe box gifts from Operation Christmas Child.



Saturday, June 25, 10:00 - Noon at Noble Park. Friendship Baptist Church presents Nerf Blaster Battle Royale, an outdoor large group Nerf Battle for kids. We will play in a variety of Nerf Blaster games, including Capture the Flag and Last Man Standing. Kids Kindergarten - 8th grade are invited to meet at Noble Park pavilion 5 for check-in. Please

bring your own Nerf gun that shoots standard size darts. Darts will be provided. For more information and to register, go to www.friendshiponthenet.org/nerf. Space is limited so sign up now!



Bro. Jason & the Friendship Family express Christian love and sympathy to the family of Janet Collins.



No Family Night Supper for June & July. Suppers will resume August 3.



Written in 2002, “In Christ Alone” was a collaborative effort between Stewart Townend and fellow songwriter Keith Getty. “The song came about in an unusual way,” Townend explains. “Keith and I met in the autumn of 2000 at a worship event, and we resolved to try to work together on some songs. A few weeks later Keith sent some melody ideas, and the first one on the CD was a magnificent, haunting melody that I loved, and immediately started writing down some lyrical ideas on what I felt should be a timeless theme commensurate with the melody. So the theme of the life, death, resurrection of Christ, and the implications of that for us just began to tumble out, and when we got together later on to fine tune it, we felt we had encapsulated what we wanted to say.”

*In Christ alone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid ground, Firm through the fiercest drought and storm...*

Townend and Getty both admit they are motivated by the idea of capturing biblical truth in songs and hymns that will not only cause people to express their worship in church, but will build them up in their Christian lives. “I’ve been amazed by the response to this song,” says Townend. “We’ve had some incredible e-mails about how people have been helped by the song through incredibly difficult circumstances.” One e-mail described how a U.S soldier serving in Iraq would pray through each verse of the song every day, and how the promises of God's protection and grace helped to sustain him through the enormous pressures and dangers of life in a war zone.

*What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled and striving cease
My Comforter, my All-in-All, Here in the love of Christ I stand...*

“Knowing the truth about God and who we are in Him is central to our lives as believers. Songs remain in the mind in a way sermons do not, so songwriters have an important role and a huge responsibility.”

*No guilt in life, no fear in death, This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny...*

He continues, “The lyric of this song excites me because it places our hope, our assurance, our eternal destiny in the right place—on the solid foundation of Christ. I know in my own life I need reminding continually not to live by my feelings or my circumstances, but by the unchanging truth of the Gospel.”

Under the Master's Baton,
Bro. Chad



Cookie Brigade — Volunteers are needed to serve in this ministry and will be asked to make homemade cookies approximately once every four months to be used for Operation Andrew visits. Sign-up in the worship center, or contact Pam in the church office if you would like to serve.



All “seenagers” are invited to join us for breakfast at Little Castle in Lone Oak on June 7 at 9:00 a.m.



JULY 17 - 21, 2022

Sunday - Thursday 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.
(age 4 - entering 6th grade)

Registration forms are available in the KidZone. Return completed forms to the church office. You can also register online at: www.friendshiponthenet.org. For transportation call the church office @ 270.534.1900.