

Christmas

Is there any other season that brings up such complicated thoughts and feelings as this one. Remember when Christmas was easy? You know back when you were a kid and the hardest part about Christmas was waiting for it to happen. Remember when you could look forward to a long break from school with presents in the middle?

When did Christmas get so complicated. When did it get full of gift stress and visit stress and am I in the spirit enough stress? When did it switch from being a magical time of breaks and rest into a whirlwind of appointments and schedules and concerts and stuff on top of stuff. When did it go from relaxing at home to fighting traffic at the stores and worrying about credit card balances. When you are young and so desperate to grow up no one talks about how the holidays go from being focused on you to being focused on just trying to survive.

On top of that, as you get older and this time of the year gets full of remember-when's and I-wish-they-were-here-to-see's, you find yourself smiling through tears as much as remembering the reason for the season. We try to act like Christmas is a magical time. We turn on Hallmark movies and talk about how it's a wonderful life, but let's be honest, too many times it is hard, stressful, and doesn't live up to all that we are hoping for.

I'm the pastor here so I know that I am supposed to tell you to remember that at the end of the day all of that stuff isn't as important as a baby in a manger. I am supposed to tell you to slow down and ignore all of the surrounding stuff and just rejoice that Jesus is come. That God became flesh and dwelt among us.

But let's be honest, we know that. We know that to be true. We walk into the Christmas season vowing that this time it will be different and then we find ourselves on December 24th chasing the same things wondering what happened.

I wish I had a magic formula that I could share with you that would make it better. I wish I had a perfect verse, a perfect idea that would help you see things differently and would take away all of the extra stuff. But I don't.

What I do have is a promise from Jesus. Jesus said, "come to me all who are weary and I will give you rest." Jesus said, "take my yoke upon you and learn from me...and you will find rest for you souls." In a world that is demanding more and more from you remember that your savior offers you rest.

So give yourself a little grace when it seems like Christmas isn't working. You aren't struggling alone. You aren't the only one who is trying to make sense of everything this season. It is ok to not have it all together. And when you find yourself desperately trying to find that spirit of Christmas remember that Jesus offers you rest.

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

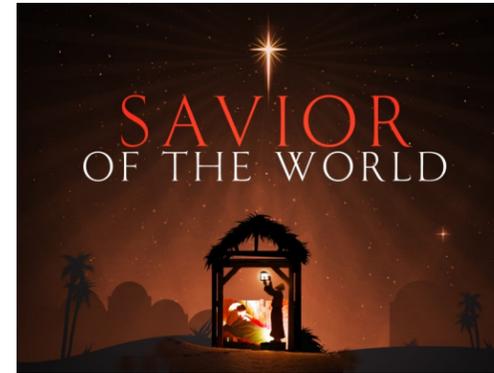
COOKIE BRIGADE

Dec. 11 - Melissa Myers
Dec. 25 - Debbie Scourick

Welcome
to our
New Members

Kin & Jessica Easter

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



Thank you Friendship,
for your participation in
Operation Christmas
Child year-round. Over
300 boxes were filled
with your gifts so that children
around the world will hear the
Good News of Jesus Christ!

Budget Receipts

Required to Date: \$ 470,904
Received to Date: \$ 476,326

Nursery Volunteers

December 4
8:15 a.m. — Laura Hughes & Debbie Alvey
10:45 a.m. — Matt & Miranda Scott

December 11
8:15 a.m. — Tori Ramsdell
10:45 a.m. — Vicky & Ryley Fox

December 18
8:15 a.m. — Cathy & Lauren Barks
10:45 a.m. — Gene & Deborah Reaney

December 25
10:00 a.m. — Luke & Rachel Diefenbach

The LINK

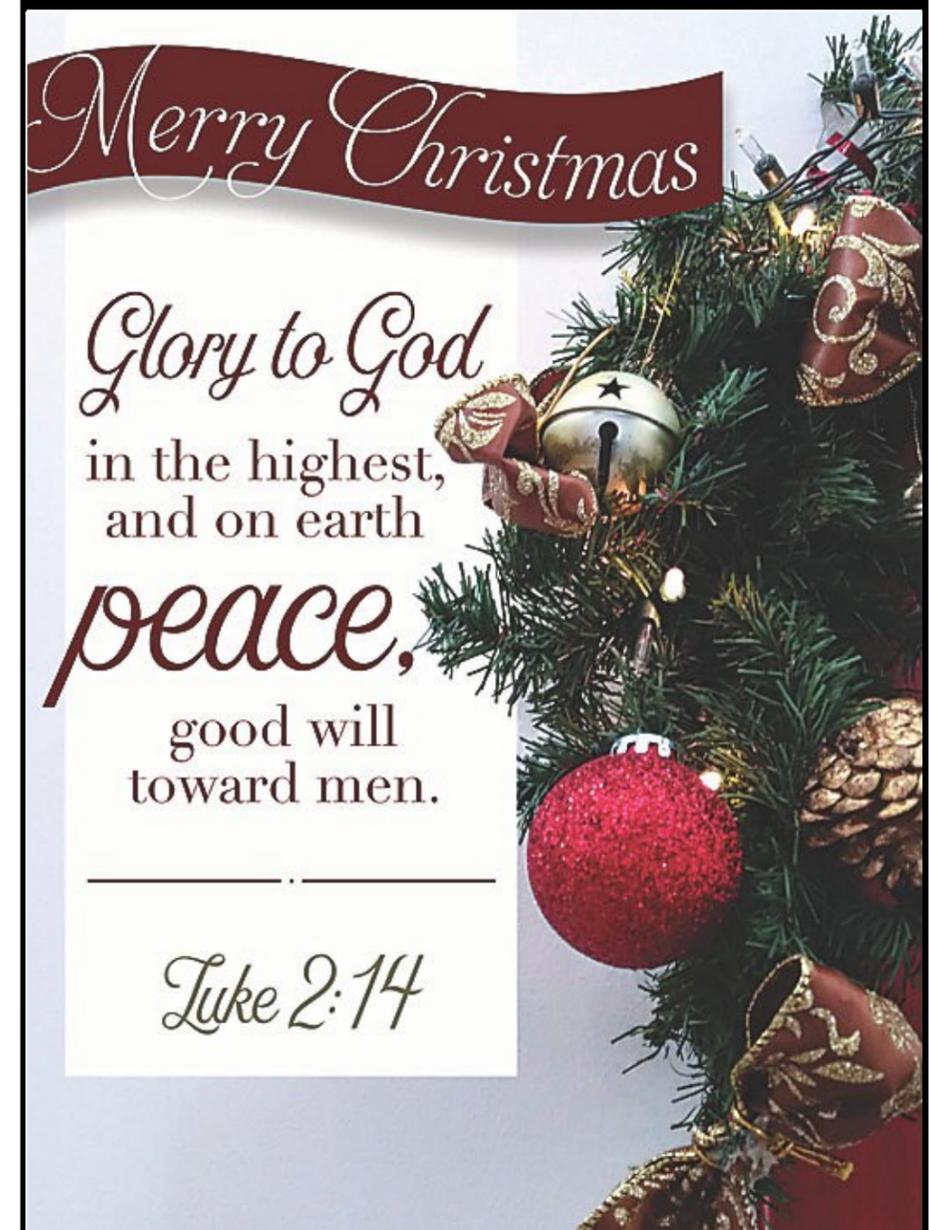
Friendship Baptist Church

146 S. Friendship Rd.
Paducah KY 42003

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Number 12





“At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth.” (Philippians 2:10)

If you knew for certain that you were going to lose your voice and that you would never be able to speak again, what would you want your final words to be?

I read about a man with throat cancer who faced an operation that would save his life but not his voice. Just before surgery, he spent time with his wife telling her of his love. He did the same with his daughter. Then he asked his doctor to let him know precisely when the anesthetic would make him unconscious. As the man was slipping off to sleep, he distinctly said, “Jesus! Jesus! Jesus!” The last word he chose to speak in this life was the precious name of “Jesus!”

Matthew 1:21 reports the conversation the angel had just prior to Jesus’ birth. Matthew writes, **“Before the Son of God was born into this world, the angel told Mary and Joseph to name Him Jesus because ‘He will save His people from their sins.’”** Jesus didn’t come as a celebrity, but as a servant, who humbled Himself and died on the cross so that anyone who receives Him can be forgiven and freed from the power of sin. God came to us through His one and only Son Jesus.

Jesus was given the name which is above every name. How meaningful is the name of Jesus to us? Other names, like the names of those we love, are inexpressibly precious. But for those of us who are redeemed by God’s grace, the name of Jesus is the most meaningful. In our times of greatest joy and our deepest need, the name we cling to is Jesus! He will never leave us, and His love will not fail.

As we celebrate our Savior’s birth, may we magnify the mighty name of Jesus!

God is good! All the time!

Jason

2023 Contribution Envelopes — Are available in the worship center. If you do not find yours or would like a box, please contact the church office.



Please join us as we observe the Week of Prayer for International Missions December 4-11, where Southern Baptists pray for IMB missionaries, their ministries and the unreached people and places they serve. Every year, Southern Baptist churches collect an offering, “Lottie Moon Christmas Offering”, to send and support missionaries to be steadfastly present among those who have never heard the Gospel. Prayer Guides and Envelopes will be available in the bulletin December 4.

DECEMBER

- 4 6:00 p.m. — Celebration Choir Christmas Musical
- 6 6:00 p.m. — Operation Andrew, Team 1
- 6-8 OCC Processing Ctr., Atlanta
- 7 JOY Club
- 11 9:00 a.m. — Coffee & Donuts
No Evening Worship (SS Class Fellowships)
- 13 10:30 a.m. — Women on Mission
6:00 p.m. — Operation Andrew, Team 2
6:00 p.m. — Ladies Christmas Fellowship
- 17 11:00 a.m. — Couples Shower
- 18 7:00 p.m. — Deacons
- 20 6:00 p.m. — Operation Andrew, Team 3
6:00 p.m. — Christmas Caroling
- 21 5:30 p.m. — Finance Team
6:30 p.m. — Business Mtg.
- 24 5:00 p.m. — Christmas Eve Worship
- 25 10:00 a.m. — Christmas Day Worship
- 26 Church Office Closed
- 27 6:00 p.m. — Operation Andrew, Team 1
- 28 Youth Wovernight

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



Please join us as we celebrate the upcoming marriage of J.T. Scourick & Jacki Owens at a Couples Shower, Saturday, December 17, 11:00 a.m. -- 12:30 p.m. at Friendship. The couple is registered at: theknot.com/jacquelineandjamesthomas.



Ladies Christmas Fellowship — Tuesday, December 13, 6:00 p.m. at the home of Kelly Dixon (3735 Niblick Ln). Supper will be provided. For our gift exchange, bring something you can associate with a Bible verse. Attach the verse to the gift (under \$15, please). Meet at the church at 5:30 p.m. to carpool. Ladies, you won’t want to miss this fellowship!



Here We Come A-Caroling!

Help us spread Christmas cheer to our shut-ins as we go caroling on Tuesday, December 20 at 6:00 p.m. Meet at the church.



On Sunday, December 4, 6:00 p.m. the Celebration Choir will present “Down From His Glory”, a collection of songs that celebrate the Messiah’s birth here on earth. Plan now to attend, and bring a guest to this wonderful night of music here at Friendship.

The traditional origin of “Silent Night” can be dated back to a chilly winter of 1818 at Oberndorf, a town in Austria. Joseph Mohr, a young and upcoming musician and the protagonist of this narrative, was the priest of the local church. On Christmas eve, the church organ was discovered as broken, with no avenues to fix it until the snow melts away in spring. Joseph, a determined individual, was not disheartened and took steps to ensure that the music prevailed during Christmas. He retrieved a poem from down the memory lane, which he had crafted two years ago. He collaborated with Franz Gruber, the church organist to look for an alternative instrument and relevant melody for the composition. The two men subsequently performed the carol at a Christmas mass beautifully. Gruber played the guitar. And the last two lines of each verse that the choir repeated had a prolonged impact.

The original six-stanza poem written by Joseph Mohr was titled “Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!” When Mohr asked Franz Gruber to create a guitar accompaniment of the piece, he was equally startled and surprised. He was amazed at the quality of the poem and duly came with a soothing lullaby to accompany the lyrics. Being an organist, he was used to creating music at short notice and did an outstanding job that will go on to leave a mark in the history of festive music.

In 1859, John Freeman Young, an American Episcopal priest translated “Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!” to “Silent Night” in English. This carol was a result of chaos and an affluent of a time. ... “Silent Night” spread its wings of compassion over a tiny Austrian town. Initially, the song was a one-night wonder but gradually started earning rave reviews when Karl Mauracher, the eminent organ repairman took the music to Tyrol. His hometown was known for its choirs, and “Silent Night” subsequently was translated and was unfurled across Europe. In 1839, the Rainer Family Singers brought it to the USA during their world tour. <https://galaxymusicnotes.com/pages/the-story-behind-the-christmas-carol-silent-night>

Under the Master’s Baton,
Bro. Chad

End of Year Contributions — in order for contributions to be credited to 2022 contribution statements, funds must be received by Sunday, December 25. Online gifts must be received by noon on Wednesday, December 28.



No Family Night Supper for December. Suppers will resume in January 2023.



We will be distributing Christmas Food Baskets to families in need in our area again this year. If you know of someone who could use a basket, please contact the church office with their name, address, phone number, and number in family. The deadline is Sunday, December 11. Baskets will be delivered by deacons on December 17 & 18.