

Billy Collins former *Poet Laureate of the United States* published this poem about teaching poetry in 1996. I found it a few years later, but it has stuck with me ever since.

Introduction to Poetry*

*I ask them to take a poem
and hold it up to the light
like a color slide
or press an ear against its hive.*

*I say drop a mouse into a poem
and watch him probe his way out,
or walk inside the poem's room
and feel the walls for a light switch.*

*I want them to waterski
across the surface of a poem
waving at the author's name on the shore.*

*But all they want to do
is tie the poem to a chair with rope
and torture a confession out of it.*

*They begin beating it with a hose
to find out what it really means.*

—Billy Collins

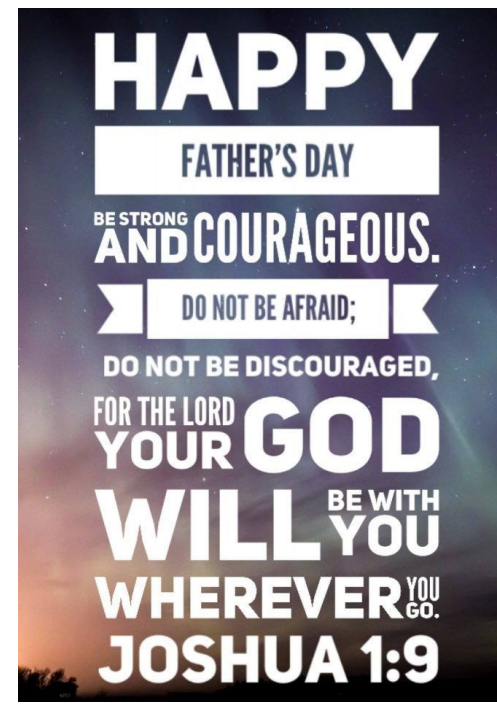
What stands out to me about this bit of poetry is that it also speaks to how we often approach the Bible. We come to the Bible looking for wisdom, for instruction, for a nugget of truth. We come to the Bible looking for what it means. All of those are good reasons to read the Bible, and they are all vital to growing as a Christian.

But if we are always approaching the Bible as an academic endeavor, looking for proof texts and trivia then we are seeing the minutia while missing the message. The Bible is God's story, it is a grand narrative that reveals God's heart and plan for our world. It shows God's love, God's power, God's mercy, God's Justice, God's goodness, and God's deep desire to be known by us.

The Bible shows us how to live and is the foundation for what is right and what is wrong, but it isn't just an instruction manual. It isn't just a textbook. It is God revealing himself to His creation. It is God speaking directly to us. That is why we read it. Because it shows us God. So as you read, don't simply think look for new instructions, spend time looking for the author who created the text for you. He is revealing himself and he will be found if we look for him.

*from *The Apple that Astonished Paris*, 1996 University of Arkansas Press, Fayetteville, Ark.

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

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: \$ 212,308
Received to Date: \$ 219,157

Nursery Volunteers

June 4

8:15 a.m. — Laura Hughes & Debbie Alvey
10:45 a.m. — Matt & Miranda Scott
Spencer & Melissa Hawkins

June 11

8:15 a.m. — Tori Ramsdell
10:45 a.m. — Vicki & Ryley Fox
Carol Fields & Lakyn Noland

June 18

8:15 a.m. — Amanda Triplett
10:45 a.m. — Gene & Deborah Reaney
Kathy Goodman & Kathy Baucum

June 25

8:15 a.m. — Masami Smith
10:45 a.m. — Luke & Rachel Diefenbach
Jessica Collins & Meredith Yancey

Welcome
to our
New Members

so glad you are here.

Mckayla Cook

Marinda Peeler

COOKIE BRIGADE

June 4 — Debbie Sisco
June 18 — Kelly Dixon

The LINK

Friendship Baptist Church

146 S. Friendship Rd.
Paducah KY 42003

Volume 23

JUNE 2023

Number 6



Sunday, June 4

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.



“See how great a love
the Father has bestowed on us,
that we would be called children of God;
and such we are. For this reason the world does not know
us, because it did not know Him.”
(1 John 3:1)

John struggles to find the words to adequately describe the great love that our Heavenly Father has lavished upon us as His children. The love God has demonstrated toward us is unconditional, unmerited, and gracious. His love is unparalleled and beyond explanation. John points out that we are not servants of God only, but we are also His children. We are deeply loved by Him and have been adopted into His family.

As followers of Christ, we are called to live in a way that reflects who we are in Christ. Our calling involves loving others unconditionally and sacrificially, just as God has loved us. We are to be kind and compassionate, and to share the good news of the Gospel with those in our sphere of influence. Because of God’s calling, we live in a way that is different from the world around us. Peter described Christ-followers as “strangers and aliens.” The world may not understand our identity as children of God, but that does not change the truth of who we are and how we live.

Our adoption into the family of God, changes the way we see ourselves and the way we see the world around us. We have confidence in the truth that we are loved deeply by our Heavenly Father and we are forever made secure in Him. We can live with hope because we are certain we have an eternal home with Him.

Let me encourage you to carve out some time this week to reflect on the great love that our Heavenly Father has demonstrated toward you. As you are reminded of the depth of His love, you will desire to live in a way that reflects your identity as His child and you will be intentional about sharing His love with others. May we never forget that we are uniquely loved by God and we have been graciously adopted into His family.

God is good! All the time!

Jason



Help us spread the Good News to children around the world by participating in Operation Christmas Child year-round. The item for June is: **Small Notebooks/Notepads, Coloring Books.**

JUNE

- 4 5:00 p.m. — Church Picnic
- 5-9 MissionFuge Camp
- 6 11:30 a.m. — JOY Club
- 6:00 p.m. — Operation Andrew, Team 3
- 11 7:00 p.m. — VBS Worker’s Mtg.
- 7:00 p.m. — Deacons
- 13 6:00 p.m. — Operation Andrew, Team 1
- 18 Father’s Day
- 20 10:30 a.m. — Women on Mission
- 6:00 p.m. — Operation Andrew, Team 2
- 21 5:30 p.m. — Finance Team
- 6:30 p.m. — Business Mtg.
- 26-30 CentriKid Camp
- 27 6:00 p.m. — Operation Andrew, Team 3

Tuesdays @ 6:30 a.m. — Men’s Prayer Group
Saturdays @ 8:00 a.m. — Men’s Prayer Group



Please join us for a shower honoring Hailey Armstrong & Zach Hudspeth on Saturday, July 1, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. at Friendship. The couple is registered at: zola.com/wedding/haileyandzachnovember19



Sympathy

Bro. Jason & the Friendship family express Christian love and sympathy to Monica Brown & family of the death of her father, David Miller.



No Family Night Supper for the month of June. Suppers will resume in July.



The JOY Club will meet at Flamingo Row on Tuesday, June 6 at 11:30 a.m. Plan to join us!



Frances Havergal (1836-1879) was an unusual woman. The daughter of a minister, she mastered Greek and Hebrew to read the scriptures in their original languages. Having grown up in England, she traveled in Europe and enjoyed skiing in the Swiss Alps — an unusual recreation in the nineteenth century. She was also an accomplished singer who sometimes sang with the Philharmonic.

Havergal was a Christian all her life, but at age 36 experienced what we might describe as a conversion experience. A little book entitled *All for Jesus* made her aware of the incompleteness of her own devotion, and she rededicated her life to Christ.

Soon thereafter, she spent five days with a small group of people, some of whom were not Christians, and others of whom were lukewarm. She spent those five days witnessing to them and praying for them, and was delighted to see her prayers answered. By the end of that week, all ten people had devoted themselves to Christ. That night, too excited to sleep, Havergal sat up writing this hymn, “Take My Life and Let It Be” based off of Leviticus 11:44.

*Take my life, and let it be; Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days, Let them flow in ceaseless praise.
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.*

*Take my hands, and let them move; At the impulse of Thy love;
Take my feet, and let them be; Swift and beautiful for Thee.
Swift and beautiful for Thee.*

*Take my voice, and let me sing; Always, only, for my King;
Take my lips, and let them be; Filled with messages from Thee.
Filled with messages from Thee.*

*Take my silver and my gold: Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect, and use; Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.
Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.*

*Take my will, and make it Thine, It shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart, it is Thine own, It shall be Thy royal throne.
It shall be Thy royal throne.*

*Take my love, my Lord, I pour; At Thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be, Ever, only, all for Thee.
Ever, only, all for Thee.*

Under the Master’s Baton,
Bro. Chad



Sunday, June 11 at 7:00 p.m. VBS Worker’s, join us for this short, informative meeting as we complete plans for VBS 2023. Make your move to Twist & Turns VBS! Kids will learn how “Following Jesus Changes The Game”, and have fun with games while learning that Jesus guides us through the Twists & Turns in life.

**“MAKE YOUR WAYS KNOWN TO ME, LORD;
TEACH ME YOUR PATHS.” PSALM 25:4 (CSB)**