

I saw a video on TikTok this week that I can't get out of my head. It was a woman who looked to be in her mid 20s. She was standing in front of a mirror talking to the camera about how she was about to go and drop her daughter off at VBS. I have gotten a few of these videos in my feed, they tend to all go the same way with moms happy to be getting rid of their kids for a few hours so they can head out and be free of them, happy that the church will watch them for free. Honestly those videos don't bother me because our mission is to minister to families and if what that mom needs is some time away from her kids I am happy to help.

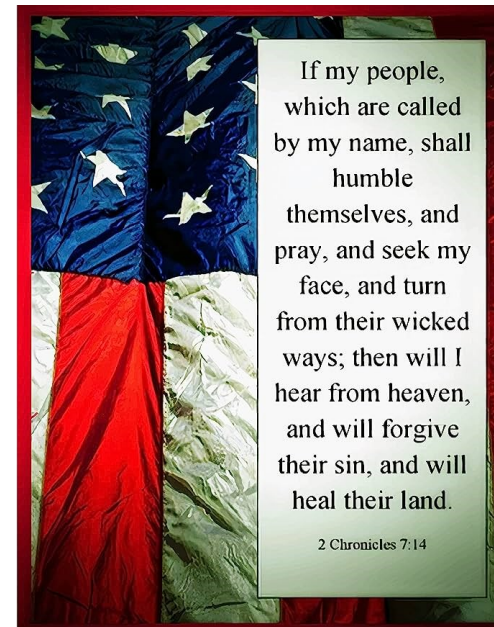
But why this video stuck with me was that it wasn't that same formula. This young mother was talking about how she was super nervous about taking her daughter, not because she was worried about what would happen, but because this mother had never been to church before. She said she believed in Jesus, but she had never been taught about Him before and had never been to a church before. So she was nervous about the whole thing, about taking her daughter and about feeling out of place, but she was going to do it because she felt that it was important for her daughter. So she faced her fears and took her daughter to VBS. I can't stop thinking about this mother.

She is the reason why we are doing all that we are doing. She is the reason we play carnival games and give away hot dogs at our Fall Festival. She is the reason we collect eggs and sing silly songs on Easter. She is the reason we wrestle with inflatable slides and suffer through the heat at our block party. She is the reason that we plan and prep our Vacation Bible School lessons. She is the reason we deal with 20 loud kids when we are tired and just want to go home.

We do these things, all of what we do at Friendship, because we believe with the core of our being that Jesus is the Light of the world. We do these things because we believe that Jesus is the answer that our world so desperately needs. We do these things because there is a lost world around us full of people, made in the image of God, who are hungry for things that are real and true; and we have what they are looking for. We have Jesus, the savior of the world, and we get to go and tell them about Him.

I am so glad that I found her video today. I needed that reminder of why we are doing all that we do. I needed to remember that for each of these kids who come through the door there is a family of people who need Jesus. I am so amazed that God lets us be a part of His mission to share His love with this world. I am amazed that He invites me into His mission of sharing His love. It is a blessing far greater than I could ever deserve.

Shane



If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

2 Chronicles 7:14

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: \$ 265,385
Received to Date: \$ 271,017

Nursery Volunteers

July 2

8:15 a.m. — Christa Copeland
10:45 a.m. — Andrew & Lacy Halligan
Cathy & Lauren Barks

July 9

8:15 a.m. — Debbie Larson
10:45 a.m. — Kara Allard & Susan Knight
Robbie Spees & Kelly Dixon

July 16

8:15 a.m. — Billie Stuber
10:45 a.m. — Sheri Wright & Patty Bickerstaff
Jeff & Erin Ashenfelter

July 23

8:15 a.m. — Bridget Browning
10:45 a.m. — Nathan & Kathryn Thomas
Phyllis Rambo & Andrea Brewer

July 30

8:15 a.m. — Jim & Debbie Scourick
10:45 a.m. — Earl & Henrietta Mitchell
Vickie Turley & Cheryl Tyler

Welcome to our
New Members
so glad you are here.
Dax & Christi Hughes

COOKIE BRIGADE

July 2 - Beth Simmons
July 16 - Kathryn Thomas
July 30 - Susan Knight

The LINK

Friendship Baptist Church

146 S. Friendship Rd.
Paducah KY 42003

Volume 23

JULY 2023

Number 7

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

TWISTS & TURNS

FOLLOWING JESUS CHANGES THE GAME

July 16th-20th * 6PM - 8:30 PM

4 years old - 12th grade

Register Soon!
www.friendshiponthenet.org

FOLLOWING JESUS CHANGES THE GAME



“We love, because He first loved us.”
(1 John 4:19)

From the very beginning of time, our relationship with God has been one of love, and it was not that we loved Him, but that He first loved us. Paul told the Romans in 5:10, **“For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.”** If God loved us when we were outside the family of God, disobeying Him, and living independently of Him, how much more does He love us now that we are His children?

John provides a powerful reminder of both the source of our love and the reason why we are able to love others. The apostle not only points out that God loved us first, but he also reminds us that our love for others is a response to God's love for us. When we understand this truth, it changes the way we view love. Love is no longer just an emotion or a feeling, but in response to God's love for us, love becomes an action that we carry out. We demonstrate love for others, because God first loved us, and we are compelled to share His love with others.


John also explains that God's love for us is not something that we have earned or deserve. God's love is a gift freely given to us. His gift of love enables us to love others the way He has loved us. As Christ-followers, we are called to love others unconditionally, without expecting anything in return. We are called to love others sacrificially, putting their needs before our own. This is the quality and depth of love that God has demonstrated to us.

So here's your challenge: will you demonstrate God's love through an act of kindness this week? You might pay for a meal for the person behind you in a drive-thru. You might visit a nursing home or offer to read to the elderly. You can do yard work for a neighbor. You can shop for someone who is homebound or ill. You can offer to babysit for a single mother. You might send a card encouraging someone from your Sunday School class. Pray about what God would have you do, and then do it. Small things, done with great love, will make a difference!

I pray that we at Friendship will love others with a love that is unconditional, sacrificial, and freely given.

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 July is: **Jump Ropes & YoYo's.**


July

- 1 1:00 p.m. — Hudspeth Shower
- 4 Independence Day (church office closed)
- 6 11:30 a.m. — JOY Club
- 9 7:00 p.m. — Deacons
- 11 10:30 a.m. — Women on Mission
- 6:00 p.m. — Operation Andrew, Team 2
- 12 5:00 p.m. — Family Night Supper
- 5:30 p.m. — Finance Team
- 6:30 p.m. — Business Mtg.
- 13 Youth Trip to Holiday World
- 15 10:00 a.m. — VBS Block Party
- 16 4:30 p.m. — VBS Prayer Walk
- 16-20 6:00 p.m. — Vacation Bible School
- 23 4:15 p.m. — Ordination Council
- 6:00 p.m. — Ordination Service
- 25 6:00 p.m. — Operation Andrew, Team 1


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




KIDS BLOCK PARTY VBS Kickoff — Saturday, July 15, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. We will have inflatables, games, food, and more! We will need volunteers to help make this event a success. Sign up in the Worship Center. This event will provide a great way for us to reach our community and see more kids involved in VBS.



VBS Prayer Walk Join us Sunday, July 16 at 4:30 p.m. in the Worship Center to pray for VBS. We will pray in rooms where children will participate in Bible Study, Worship Rally, Crafts, Missions, Recreation, & Snacks. Plan to attend and pray with us for this Gospel outreach.



Family Night Supper Wednesday, July 12 at 5:00 p.m. The menu is: Spaghetti, Salad, Garlic Bread, and Dessert. Sign up in the worship center or call the church office by noon on Tuesday, July 11.



JOY CLUB The JOY Club will meet at Olive Garden on Thursday, July 6 at 11:30 a.m. Plan to join us!



In November 1861, a woman named Julia Ward Howe and her husband visited Washington, D.C. While there, Howe, a published poet, heard Union troops belting out a well-known marching song called “John Brown’s Body,” after the famous abolitionist, John Brown. A preacher standing with Howe encouraged her to write new lyrics to the tune. “I replied that I had often wished to do so,” Howe later wrote.

I... awoke the next morning in the gray of the early dawn, and to my astonishment found that the wished-for lines were arranging themselves in my brain. I lay quite still until the last verse had completed itself in my thoughts, then hastily arose, saying to myself, I shall lose this if I don't write it down immediately. I... began to scrawl the lines almost without looking... Having completed this, I lay down again and fell asleep, but not before feeling that something of importance had happened to me.”

That “something of importance” proved to be the words to the “Battle Hymn of the Republic.” In February 1862, she sold her poem to the *Atlantic Monthly*, a well-known magazine, for five dollars.

Verse 1

*Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword:
His truth is marching on.*

(Chorus)

*Glory, glory, hallelujah! Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory hallelujah! His truth is marching on.*

Verse 4

*He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat;
He is sifting out the hearts of men before His judgment-seat;
Oh, be swift, my soul, to answer Him! Be jubilant, my feet!
Our God is marching on.*

Verse 5


*In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
With a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and me.
As He died to make men holy, let us die to make men free,
While God is marching on.*

Taken from: <https://www.kennedy-center.org/education/resources-for-educators/classroom-resources/media-and-interactives/media/music/story-behind-the-song/the-story-behind-the-song/the-battle-hymn-of-the-republic/>

Under the Master's Baton, Bro. Chad

Mark Your Calendar for These Upcoming Events:

- August 6 — Sunday School Promotion
- August 20 — Small Groups Begin
- August 27 — Ice Cream Fellowship
- September 6 — Ministry Team Night
- October 29 — Labor For Your Neighbor
- October 31 — Fall Festival
- November 12 — OCC Packing Party
- November 19 — Harvest Meal

Deacon ORDINATION Sunday, July 23 at 6:00 p.m. for Greg Spees. The Ordination Council will meet at 4:15 p.m. All ordained men of the church are encouraged to participate.