

“What do you need to take off to start being you and stop being who you are pretending to be?”\*

I'm sure you remember the story of David and Goliath, but in case you just remember the story of David and the giant pickle let me refresh your memory. David comes to where the armies of Israel are camped and he finds them in fear of Goliath and the Philistines. David ain't having none of that, so he agrees to fight the giant.

Saul protests, but David is insistent. He says:

1 Samuel 17:34-37 (CSB)

“David answered Saul, “Your servant has been tending his father’s sheep. Whenever a lion or a bear came and carried off a lamb from the flock, I went after it, struck it down, and rescued the lamb from its mouth. If it reared up against me, I would grab it by its fur, strike it down, and kill it. Your servant has killed lions and bears; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God.” Then David said, “The LORD who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine.”

Saul said to David, “Go, and may the LORD be with you.”

Then Saul takes David and puts his own kingly armor on him. It doesn't fit. So David takes it off and faces Goliath without it.

The older I get the more I believe that this may have been the most courageous thing that David did that day, or at least it should be up there with walking out onto the field with Goliath. David understood who he was and he didn't let other people's opinions or expectations get in the way of that. David understood how God saw him and that was enough.

So many Christians spend their lives pretending to be who they think other people want them to be other than who they really are. They pretend so much that the fake person gets in the way of the real one. Living in that fake persona they get burned out and disillusioned until eventually many of them fall away all together.

As a church we must fight against this. We must fight for authenticity. We must fight to be real.

Here's the thing a whole bunch of Christians are making choices because they are sure “that's what Christians are supposed to do” but they aren't looking in the Bible to discover what they are supposed to do. They are looking at other Christians. This creates a culture where the loudest voices dictate how everyone acts whether or not those voices are lining up with scripture.

So who are you pretending to be? What would you have to remove to be your authentic self?

Now don't hear me say that everything you are faking is bad. In fact maybe you are faking things because you know that is who you want to be. But I am saying that as long as we are pretending and not being authentic we will have a hard time actually ever moving toward being whole and being healed.

It's time to stop limping around pretending you aren't hurt and broken and instead be courageous like David and say that you will not keep faking it. You will go out with God's strength just the way that you are.

\*from *Being Real > Being Perfect* by Justin Davis

**Shane**



Friendship will serve as a Relay Center for OCC. Churches and individuals can bring their shoeboxes to Friendship November 13-20. Volunteers will be needed to receive boxes in the KidZone. Sign-up in the Worship Center or contact Mike or Kathy Baucum for more information.



### 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  
Children's Bible Study - 6:30 pm



### COOKIE BRIGADE

Nov. 5 - Pat Klempe  
Nov. 19 - Melissa Myers

Welcome  
to our  
**New Members**

Lauren & Solomon  
Anderson  
Paula Jones

*so glad you are here.*



Phone: 270.534.1900  
[www.friendshiponthenet.org](http://www.friendshiponthenet.org)  
[www.facebook.com/friendshiponthenet](https://www.facebook.com/friendshiponthenet)  
**Dr. Jason Browning, Pastor**  
**Rev. Shane Yancey,**  
*Minister to Students & Children*  
**Rev. Chad Davidson,**  
*Minister of Music & Worship*



The Operation Christmas Child year-round item for November is:

### SHIPPING COSTS

**\$10 per box**  
cash, or checks made payable to  
Samaritan's Purse.

### Budget Receipts

Required to Date: \$ 456,462  
Received to Date: \$ 476,751

### Nursery Volunteers

#### November 5

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

#### November 12

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

#### November 19

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

#### November 26

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

# The LINK

## Friendship Baptist Church

146 S. Friendship Rd.  
Paducah KY 42003

Volume 23

NOVEMBER 2023

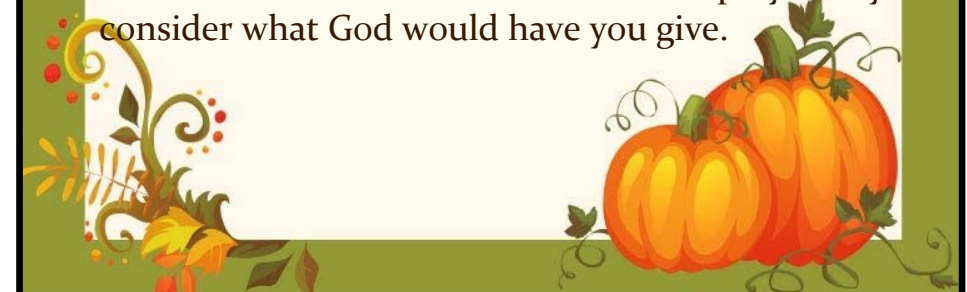
Number 11



HARVEST MEAL  
NOVEMBER 19  
5:00 PM

## COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

The church will provide Ham, Turkey, Dressing, Rolls, and Drinks. You are asked to bring side dishes and desserts. Each year during this fellowship we take a special offering designated a “Harvest Offering.” This is an opportunity to thank God for His goodness throughout the year. This special gift is above and beyond our normal giving and a great opportunity to see God work through the generosity of His people. The church has designated the 2023 Harvest Offering to be directed toward debt incurred with the construction of the KidZone. Please prayerfully consider what God would have you give.





**“You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end.”**  
(Matthew 24:6-7)

Although many of the details from the recent attack in Israel are disturbing and difficult to imagine, fighting in Israel is nothing new. For centuries, the Jewish people have been persecuted and attacked by those around them.

The Bible reveals the reason for all this fighting and how it will eventually end. The conflict can be traced back 4,000 years when Abraham had two sons, Ishmael and Isaac. God promised Abraham and his wife Sarah a son even though they were past the age of childbearing (Genesis 15:1-4). Ishmael was born first, but to Sarah's Egyptian handmaid, Hagar (Genesis 16:1-2). Just as God promised, Isaac was born several years later to Sarah (Genesis 21:1-7). God chose to work through Isaac and this created animosity between the two boys. Although Ishmael and his mother were sent away, God promised that Ishmael's descendants would become a great people. Ishmael's descendants are found among many of the Arab peoples today. The nation of Israel primarily consists of the descendants of Abraham and Sarah's son, Isaac. Today in the Middle East, the descendants of Ishmael surround the descendants of Isaac. Even though thousands of years have passed, the hatred that began with these half-brothers, has not healed. According to the Bible, this hatred will continue until the return of Jesus Christ.

Jesus indicated that a marked increase in wars, famines, and natural disasters would be a sign that His second coming is near. As unrest in the Middle East increases, the Bible reveals that it will become the center of the biggest battle in human history. The fighting we are witnessing today is not the final battle. The Bible prophesies the emergence of a European superpower called the “king of the North.” This coming union of 10 nations will be powerful and feared. Another power, called the “king of the South,” will challenge the North and this power will likely be composed of multiple Muslim nations. As the king of the North comes down to fight the king of the South, Jerusalem will be caught in the middle (Daniel 11:40-41).

What should we be doing in the light of these recent events? Two things. We need to be watching for the soon return of Jesus Christ and we need to pray. We pray for peace. We pray hostages will be released and that God will protect His people.

**God is good! All the time!**

**Jason**

**Operation Christmas Child Processing Center** — A team from Friendship will serve Tuesday - Thursday, December 5-7 in Atlanta. We will provide volunteer labor through the OCC processing center in the greater Atlanta area assisting with the shoebox ministry. Sign up in the worship center, and attend an interest meeting Wednesday, November 8 at 6:00 p.m., in Room 302 if you plan to serve.




Sunday, November 12, 4:00 p.m. Demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to needy children around the world through OCC. Please join us in the fellowship hall for food, fun, fellowship, prayer, and filling shoeboxes!



- 5 Daylight Saving Time Ends
- 6:00 p.m. — Adult Choir Presentation
- 7 11:30 a.m. — JOY Club
- 6:00 p.m. — Operation Andrew, Team 1
- 8 5:00 p.m. — Family Night Supper
- 6:00 p.m. — OCC Interest Mtg.
- 12 4:00 p.m. — OCC Packing Party
- 7:00 p.m. — Deacons
- 13-20 OCC Relay Center
- 14 10:30 a.m. — Women on Mission
- 6:00 p.m. — Operation Andrew, Team 2
- 15 5:30 p.m. — Finance Team
- 6:30 p.m. — Business Meeting
- 16-17 Church Directory Photos
- 19 5:00 p.m. — Harvest Meal
- 21 6:30 p.m. — Mid-Week Worship
- 23 Thanksgiving Day
- 28 6:00 p.m. — Operation Andrew, Team 1

**Weekly Events:**

- Tuesday @ 6:30 a.m. — Men's Prayer Group
- Saturday @ 8:00 a.m. — Men's Prayer Group




Bro. Jason & the Friendship family express Christian love & sympathy to...

- ...Gloria Graves & family in the death of her mother, Reiko Jones.
- ...Lance & Robin Tullis in the death of his mother, Shirley Tullis.
- ...Don Bruce & family in the death of Nancy.

**SIGN UP NOW!** Be a part of our new directory

**Our Church Directory** won't be complete without you! Photo dates are November 16-17 from 2:00 – 8:30 p.m. You can make reservations on our website, or call the church office for assistance.



The JOY Club will meet at Big Ed's Tuesday, November 7. Meet at the restaurant at 11:30 a.m. Plan to join us!

**Wednesday Night Supper**

Wednesday, November 8, 5:00 p.m. The menu is: **Turkey & Dressing, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Corn, Rolls, Cranberry Salad, & Dessert.** Sign up in the Worship Center or call the church office by noon on Monday, November 6, if you plan to attend. Cost: \$6 for adults; \$3 for children 10 and under. Please remember that the food is purchased according to the number who signed up, so you will need to pay for your meal if you sign up and do not attend.



"And I know it's not much, But I've nothing else fit for a king except for a heart singing hallelujah"

"Gratitude" is Brandon Lake's humble offering of thanksgiving to an infinite God. This gentle ballad explores the tension between Lake's overwhelming gratitude towards God and the corresponding awareness of the limitations of his own finite humanity. However, Lake does not allow misplaced feelings of inadequacy to stop him from bringing God all that he has to offer in praise. Rather than withholding what Lake regards as a small gesture of thanks, the chorus resounds with determined adoration in the form Lake's hands stretched towards heaven as he sings hallelujah.


"So come on, my soul, oh, don't you get shy on me. Lift up your song, 'cause you've got a lion inside of those lungs. Get up and praise the Lord."

As the bridge swells in sweeping orchestral elements, Lake implores his soul not to grow shy in his endeavor to give God the worship He deserves and reassures himself that there is the strength of a lion in his lungs waiting to praise the Lord. Immediately following, in a striking display of harmonious contrast, just as the score expands with Lake's determined feelings of confidence in His gift to God, the final chorus returns back to the intimate simplicity of a lone piano underscoring Lake's offering. This final moment highlights that notion it is not the loudness and strength of worship given to God that is the measure of gratitude, but that it is the tender authenticity of a hallelujah to God that is enough.

*"All my words fall short; I got nothing new;  
How could I express all my gratitude?  
I could sing these songs; As I often do;  
But every song must end and You never do  
So I throw up my hands; And praise You again and again;  
'Cause all that I have is a hallelujah; Hallelujah.  
And I know it's not much; But I've nothing else fit for a King;  
Except for a heart singing hallelujah; Hallelujah.  
I've got one response; I've got just one move;  
With my arm stretched wide I will worship You  
So come on, my soul; Oh, don't you get shy on me;  
Lift up your song 'cause you've got a lion inside of those lungs;  
Get up and praise the Lord  
So I throw up my hands; Praise You again and again;  
'Cause all that I have is a hallelujah; Hallelujah  
And I know it's not much; But I've nothing else fit for a King;  
Except for a heart singing hallelujah; Hallelujah."*

Taken from: <https://www.air1.com/music/blog/music-news/gratitude-by-brandon-lake-1316>

Under the Master's Baton,  
Bro. Chad



**Women on Mission** will sponsor a light supper on December 3, following the Adult Christmas presentation. Chili & Hot Dogs will be served on a donation basis with all proceeds going to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. There will also be a silent auction of craft items and baked goods.