

Jesus gave some pretty hard teachings when he was on earth. He called us to a life that loved others sacrificially. He gave us the example of holiness and commanded us to follow after Him. But what I think is one of the hardest things he said came from Mark 5 when he tells Jairus "Don't be afraid, just believe."

You probably remember this story, but just in case let me set the scene. Jesus is moving around telling people about the kingdom of heaven that is coming. While he is doing that he is healing people and helping people and just generally being a great guy. He is also overthrowing a whole bunch of the religious power structure and that is frustrating some people.

In Mark 5 we meet Jairus; he is described as a synagogue leader, which would make him a member of the group that is starting to be frustrated with Jesus. Jairus' daughter is sick, deathly sick and he is desperate. He goes looking for Jesus, hoping that maybe this man who has healed so many others can heal his daughter as well.

Remarkably Jesus agrees to come and Jairus is overjoyed. He begins leading Jesus through a crowd of people toward his house. The crowd pressed them on all sides. Jairus must have been scared that they were going too slowly. He must have felt stressed that they wouldn't make it in time. I can just see him trying to move the crowd out of the way and hurry Jesus along.

And then the unthinkable happens if you are Jairus. Jesus stops and starts looking around trying to figure out who touched him. It is a chaotic scene that reveals a woman who had been sick, but who is now healed. That is an amazing story if we are reading it as an outside observer, but for Jairus it must have been torture.

And then what he had feared the most happened.

Word came from his house that his daughter was dead.

Mark 5:35 (CSB)

While he was still speaking, people came from the synagogue leader's house and said, "Your daughter is dead. Why bother the teacher anymore?"

And that was it for Jairus. All that he had feared came crashing in on him. His friends, probably frustrated that he had gone to Jesus in the first place, now tried to pull him away. They told him it was over and there was nothing else he could do.

But here is where one of the most difficult commands of Jesus appears. Jesus hears them and challenges Jairus.

Mark 5:36 (CSB)

When Jesus overheard what was said, he told the synagogue leader, "Don't be afraid. Only believe."

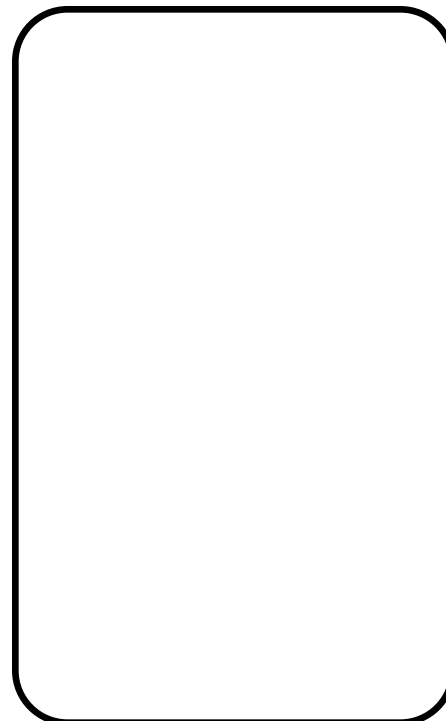
Jesus looked at him and said, "Don't be afraid. Only believe." What an amazing and incredibly difficult thing to say. I believe that Jesus is speaking that to our lives each day. I believe he is saying that with his scripture and shouting it with the cross. The cross of Jesus proclaims to everyone that we don't have to be afraid, that our belief is in something greater than whatever we fear.

But it isn't always easy.

Sometimes it is hard to let go of our fears. Sometimes it is hard to believe. Sometimes when life is staring you in the face it is much easier to give up, to go home, to give in.

But Jesus is standing at the mouth of the empty tomb speaking to us. He is reminding us that he can do all things, and he is telling us "Don't be afraid. Only believe."

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

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD Help us spread the Good News to children around the world by participating in Operation Christmas Child year-round. Item for February is: **STUFFIES**.



Box provided in KidZone for OCC items

COOKIE BRIGADE

February 11 — Kathryn Thomas
February 25 — Susan Knight



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: \$ 33,325
Received to Date: \$ 28,759

Nursery Volunteers

February 4

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

February 11

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

February 18

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

February 25

8:15 a.m. — Masami Smith
10:45 a.m. — Jessica Wyatt &
Meredith Yancey

The LINK

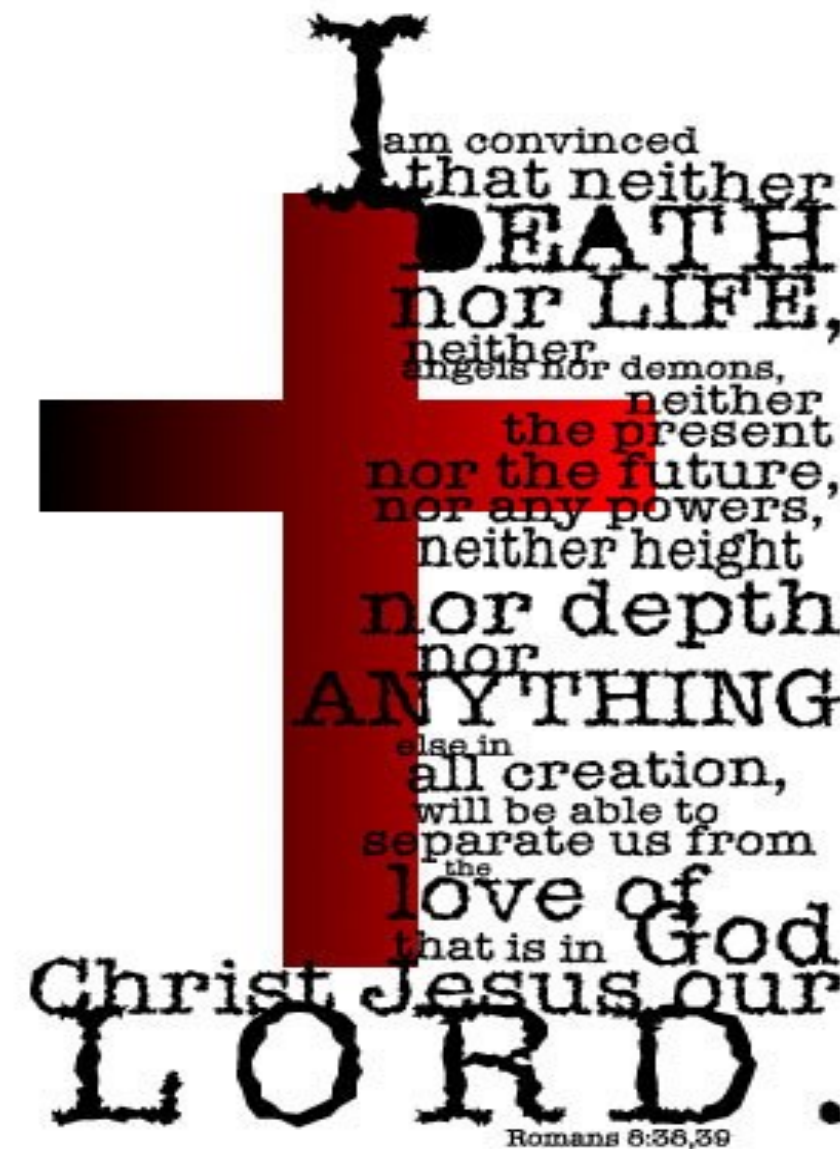
Friendship Baptist Church

146 S. Friendship Rd.
Paducah KY 42003

Volume 24

FEBRUARY 2024

Number 2





“Where there is no vision,
the people perish...”
(Proverbs 29:18)

We have much to celebrate this month at Friendship. On February 10, Friendship will celebrate 25-years of ministry in our community. The Friendship Family has faithfully served the Lord and we have witnessed our God do some extraordinary things. Please mark your calendar for Sunday, October 27, which is the day we will celebrate this special milestone. You won't want to miss this special time of worship and fellowship. To God be the glory for all He has done!

Later this month, the Friendship Family will celebrate the retirement of the loan for the KidZone. The KidZone has been a tremendous blessing to our church family and is a vital resource as we continue to reach our community for Christ. Ten years ago, Friendship borrowed \$900,000 to construct the KidZone. In December of 2023, the loan was paid in full. To God be the glory for all He has done!

I believe we all recognize that our mission at Friendship is not a church building, but it is church building. The most important thing are the lives that are touched and changed through a love only Jesus Christ can provide. May we never lose sight of the mission of transforming lives for the glory of God.

In the days ahead, we will call the Friendship Family to a season of prayer, as we seek God's direction in addressing other space needs. Friendship is a very special church. However, we realize we cannot build a fruitful church on what we want to do. A church should always be built on what God wants to do through us. Together, we will seek the Lord and we will commit to do His will!

God is good! All the time!

Jason

Bible Study on the Conflict Between Israel & Palestine — Sunday evening, February 4 & 11, at 6:00 p.m. If you have a question on this subject that you would like answered, please submit your question by email to jason@friendshiponthenet.org.



Family Night Supper — Wednesday, February 7, 5:00 p.m. The menu is: BREAKFAST: THE WORKS! Sign up in the

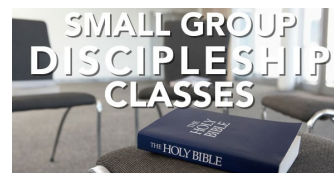
worship center or call the church office by noon on Tuesday, February 6 if you plan to attend. The cost is \$6 for adults; \$3 for children under 10. Please remember that the food is purchased according to the number who signed up, so you will need to pay for your meal if you sign up and do not attend.

February

- 4 7:00 p.m. — Deacons
Camp Deposits Due
- 5 6:00 p.m. — SS Teacher Training
- 6 11:30 a.m. — JOY Club
6:00 p.m. — Operation Andrew, Team 2
- 7 5:00 p.m. — Family Night Supper
- 12 6:00 p.m. — SS Teacher Training
- 13 6:00 p.m. — Operation Andrew, Team 3
- 18 10:45 a.m. — Parent-Child Dedication
6:00 p.m. — Small Groups Begin
7:00 p.m. — Churchwide Birthday Fellowship
- 20 10:30 a.m. — Women on Mission
6:00 p.m. — Operation Andrew, Team 1
- 21 5:30 p.m. — Finance Team
6:30 p.m. — Business Mtg.
- 25 2:00 p.m. — Kid's Crazy Craft Day
- 27 6:00 p.m. — Operation Andrew, Team 2

Weekly Events:

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



Small Group Discipleship Classes — Begin February 18 at 6:00 p.m. Classes offered or adults are:

- **Colossians:** The apostle Paul wrote the church in Colossae to teach the sufficiency of Jesus Christ. As spiritual infiltrators tried to deceive believers into thinking they needed to add other “things” to really know God, Paul

challenged his readers with the truth that Jesus is the fullness of God. We can know God fully through His Son. Meets in worship center. No cost.

- **Uncommon Leadership:** Our mission to make disciples is unmistakable. This study will focus on helping believers fulfill that mission. Uncommon Leadership is for anyone interested in serving as a leader in the church who wants to pursue grace-filled, authentic leadership. We will discover that leadership is not so much about who we lead, but it's about Who we follow. Meets in modular unit 1. No cost.



The JOY Club will go to Hokkaido Grill & Sushi in Lone Oak on Tuesday, February 6 at 11:30 a.m. Meet at the restaurant.



In case of service cancellations due to inclement weather, we will send a text message to those registered to receive text alerts. You may also check the Friendship Facebook page or WPSD Snowman 6 for service announcements.



“Often, we hear a phrase that might inspire us and that seems to be the origin behind ‘O How He Loves You and Me.’”

Kurt Kaiser provides the following account behind the writing of this song:

“Through the years I have been in the habit of keeping my ears tuned to things that people say, a phrase that may give me an idea for a song. I’ll write it down quickly. Occasionally, I will pull these things out and look at them. One day I came across this line, “Oh how he loves you and me,” and I wrote it down. I remember very well writing it across the top of a piece of manuscript paper, and that’s all I had.”

“In 1975, I sat down to think about that phrase and the whole song quickly came to me. I could not have spent more than 10 or 15 minutes writing the whole of it. That’s how rapidly it all came, the lyrics and the melody together.”

The popularity of “O How He Loves You and Me” spread throughout the churches and eventually found its way into the hymnal. In the late 1960s and 1970s, Kaiser was an instrumental part of the Christian youth movement and wrote several Christian rock musicals. He has continued to be a well-known presence in the Christian music industry through the years. He is the choir director at Day Spring Baptist Church, in Waco, Texas, which he helped found.

O How He Loves You and Me is a wonderful reminder of God’s love for us.

*“Oh, how He loves you and me, oh how He loves you and me.
He gave his life, what more could he give? Oh, how He loves you;
Oh, how he loves me; Oh, how he loves you and me.”*

*Jesus to Calvary did go, His love for sinners to show.
What He did there brought hope from despair. Oh, how He loves you;
Oh, how he loves me; Oh, how he loves you and me.”*

Taken from: <https://dianaleaghamatthews.com/o-how-he-loves-you-and-me/#.ZZsiVHbMK3A>

Under the Master’s Baton,
Chad



CHURCHWIDE BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Sunday, February 18
7:00 p.m.

Sunday, February 18 after evening worship. Join us as we celebrate YOUR birthday! Twelve tables will be decorated representing each birthday month. Sign up in the KidZone if you would like to help.

Women of Friendship! — We have an amazing opportunity to Feast on God’s Word with Kristi McClelland - September 13-14 in Birmingham, AL. Kristi is the author and teacher of our last fall and spring Bible studies! Registration for the event is \$89 (includes boxed lunch). One night hotel stay will be \$84.90 per person for a double occupancy. Transportation will be provided by the church. Deadline for registration and payment of \$89 at the church office is March 1. Please contact Pam Hawkins or Melissa Hawkins for more information.