

1 John 3:1: "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!"

Have you ever considered the weight and wonder of being adopted into the family of God? It's a realization that can be both awesome and, in its own way, a little overwhelming.

It is like you are Frodo realizing that your ring is the ONE ring;

Like you are Peter Parker suddenly transformed from geek to greatness;

Like you are Briar Rose realizing you are Princess Aurora;

Like you are Rapunzel realizing you are the lost princess.

On one hand, being a child of the King bestows upon us incredible privileges. We have access to the richness of God's grace and His boundless love. But on the other hand, this noble lineage also brings forth a set of remarkable responsibilities.

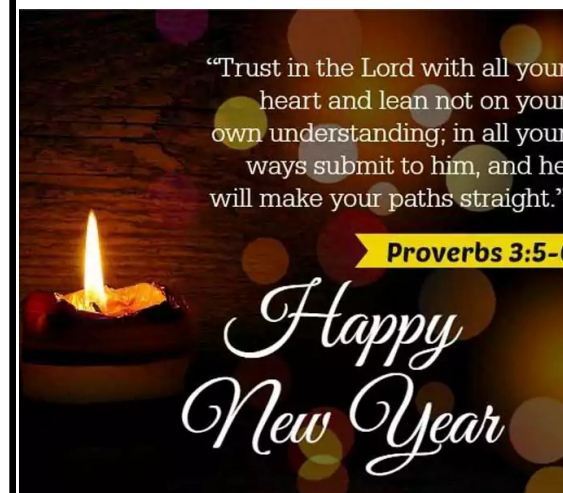
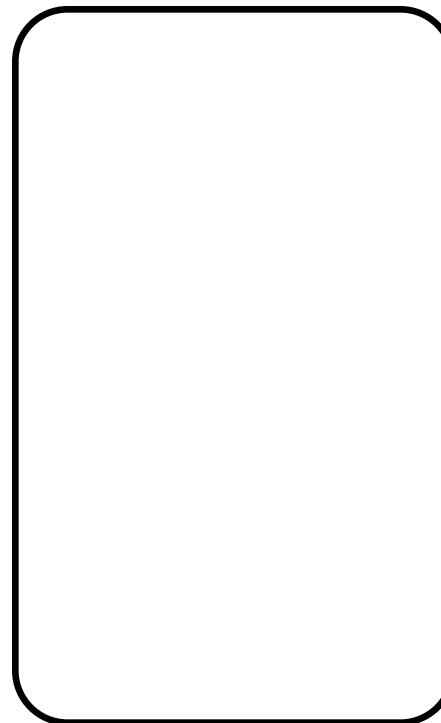
Just as Rapunzel couldn't simply stay hidden in her tower or Peter Parker couldn't ignore the call to be Spider-Man, we, too, as children of the King, have a purpose to fulfill. It's not a passive role; it's an active participation in the divine narrative. We can't simply sit back, passively observing the world or assuming someone else will tackle the challenges.

As children of the King, we are entrusted with a mission—an important role to play in God's story. Yet, this task isn't meant to be shouldered alone. It's a calling that necessitates our reliance on God's strength because, truthfully, it's impossible to fulfill without Him.

Embracing our title as children of the King doesn't mean shirking away from our duties. Rather, it's an invitation to seize all that our identity offers. When we fully embrace this identity, we discover that the gifts bestowed upon us exceed our wildest imagination. Moreover, fulfilling our divine mission, though undeniably challenging, becomes immensely rewarding.

So let's step into the fullness of our identity as children of the King. Let's receive the abundant gifts and, with humble hearts and reliance on God, embrace the fulfilling mission we've been entrusted with. Together, let's live out this incredible truth and witness the extraordinary work God does through His children.

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



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Dr. Jason Browning, Pastor
Rev. Shane Yancey,
Minister to Students & Children
Rev. Chad Davidson,
Minister of Music & Worship

Budget Receipts

Required to Date: \$ 542,385
Received to Date: \$ 592,573

Nursery Volunteers

January 7

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

January 14

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

January 21

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

January 28

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 24

JANUARY 2024

Number 1

Therefore if anyone is in
CHRIST
he is a
New Creation
The old things have **PASSED AWAY**
Behold **ALL THINGS**
have
Become New
2 CORINTHIANS 5:17



“Jesus saw their faith...”
(Mark 2:5)

One of my favorite stories in the Scriptures is of the five men who brought the paralytic to Jesus. Mark underscores the determined faith of these men and they stand as an example and an encouragement to us to exercise a similar faith.

These men dared to do the difficult. It was not easy to bring the paralytic man to the Lord. They had to carry him, perhaps a great distance, through the streets of the city. When they found the doorway blocked, they had to carry him up an outside stairway to the roof. We do not know how heavy the man was, but it is not easy to carry a full-grown man up a flight of stairs. Yet these men managed this difficult task. They dared to do the difficult in order to bring this man to Jesus.

These men dared to do the costly. Somebody had to pay to repair the roof. Imagine the face of the owner, when he hears scratching up on the roof. He looks up, and, to his amazement, the roof begins to move. Then daylight appears, and suddenly he has a large hole in his roof. Someone had to repair the roof, and surely it was one, if not all, of these men. These men laid it on the line at great cost to themselves. Bringing this lost man to Jesus was such a huge priority, that they willing to do the difficult and the costly.

As we begin a New Year, we at Friendship must be committed to do the difficult and the costly in order to bring people to faith in Christ. We must move forward in faith, trusting that God has a great work to do in us and through us.

The question before us is: “Will we exhibit great faith in a great God? Will we commit to do the difficult and the costly so God can bring the lost into His Kingdom?” As we walk by faith and trust in Him, God will certainly bless the Friendship Family and He will use His church in God-sized ways.

God is good! All the time!

Jason



Family Night Supper — Wednesday, January 10, 5:00 p.m. The menu is: Grilled Chicken, Green Beans, Baked Potatoes, Salad, Rolls, & Dessert. Sign up in the worship center or call the church office by noon on Tuesday, January 9 if you plan to attend.

January


- 9 11:30 a.m. — JOY Club
- 6:00 p.m. — Operation Andrew, Team 1
- 10 5:00 p.m. — Family Night Supper
- 14 7:00 p.m. — Deacons
- 16 10:30 a.m. — Women on Mission
- 6:00 p.m. — Operation Andrew, Team 2
- 17 5:30 p.m. — Finance Team
- 6:30 p.m. — Business Meeting
- 23 6:00 p.m. — Operation Andrew, Team 3
- 30 6:00 p.m. — Operation Andrew, Team 1

Weekly Events:

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



2024 Family Night Supper Volunteers — Sign up in the worship center if you would be willing to prepare Family Night supper one month. It can be an individual, group, or Sunday School class. Family Night Supper is the first Wednesday of each month at 5:00 p.m. See Pam Hawkins for more information.



Brother Jason & the Friendship Family express Christian love and sympathy to...

...the family of Margaret Finnell.
...the family of Frank Harris.

Remember these families when you pray.



The JOY Club will go to New Asia in Lone Oak on Tuesday, January 9 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.



As I continue to share the story behind the song, this month is one of our newer worship tunes: “Goodness of God” by Jenn Johnson.

“I wrote this song over two years ago. We had just gotten home from our adoption of our son, Ryder. He was a gift that we never saw coming. We have three kids already. We thought we were done having children.

Brian and I were always open to adoption. But, out of the blue, we just felt like the Lord say to us, 'I have this for you if you want this--like a gift. I have a present for you.' We knew adoption was the Lord's plan for us; to have a baby again when you've been out of baby season for eight years was such a blessing...

Within the next year, we were matched up. And, we brought our new son home to our family. During the adoption process, I found myself driving on a long country road. I was just singing to the Lord when I recorded a song on my phone about the "faithfulness" and "kindness of God." I wrote and sang most of "Goodness of God" as an overflow of my heart at that moment. That led to finishing and recording this song with Ed Cash, Jason Ingram, and Ben Fielding...

I'm so thankful for God being with me all my life through everything I've been through. His voice has been there comforting and leading and guiding me, no matter how dark the situation. The Word of God and the Holy Spirit is there to guide us in our lives...

"Goodness of God" is a sincere offering of praise back to the Lord: to express our desire to seek His face, feel His peace and hear His voice. Worship is about giving God our best, offering all of ourselves to Him. All we can do is submit to Him. And, give everything we have to Him. According to God's Word in Jeremiah 29:13, we need to search for God with all our heart, and we will find Him. In our fast-paced society, how often are we dedicating our whole heart to God?...

One of the key takeaways of this song is "With my life laid down/I'm surrendered now/I give You everything/'Cause Your goodness is running after/It's running after me." When you abide in His grace, you won't be the same. His grace takes away anxiety, guilt, and shame. Know that being His is enough."

Chorus: *And all my life, You have been faithful. And all my life, You have been so, so good. With every breath that I am able; Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.*

Taken from: https://www.newreleasetoday.com/article.php?article_id=2801

**Under the Master's Baton,
Chad**