

I am reading through Ezekiel and I am starting to think that he may have been a youth pastor. His prophecies are filled with object lessons. Check this out:

Ezekiel 4:1-3 (CSB)

"Now you, son of man, take a brick, set it in front of you, and draw the city of Jerusalem on it. ² Then lay siege against it: Construct a siege wall, build a ramp, pitch military camps, and place battering rams against it on all sides. ³ Take an iron plate and set it up as an iron wall between yourself and the city. Face it so that it is under siege, and besiege it. This will be a sign for the house of Israel.

He made a full on Lego city so that he could make a point. Then, not long after that, he just sort of lay around for almost two years. That seems pretty youth pastor esc too.

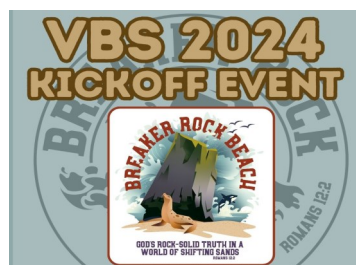
Ezekiel 4:5-6 (CSB)

⁵ For I have assigned you the years of their iniquity according to the number of days you lie down, 390 days; so you will bear the iniquity of the house of Israel. ⁶ When you have completed these days, lie down again, but on your right side, and bear the iniquity of the house of Judah. I have assigned you forty days, a day for each year. (Later in that chapter there is also some conversation about excrement so yeah, he might be a youth pastor. I don't really have any deep spiritual point beyond saying I can relate to the dude.

Summer is in full swing around here and that means there are opportunities for you to serve at Friendship. It is so easy for us to get wrapped up in our own stuff and forget that the Christian life is about looking outside of ourselves. It is about noticing the hurting, the outcast, and the lost, and being a blessing in their lives.

One of the ways that you can do that is by being involved in our VBS kickoff: Splash Day! It is Saturday, July 13 from 10:00-Noon. It is a great way for you to help us to reach our neighbors and be a blessing in their lives. If you would like to help, send me a message at 270.217.5687 with your name and let me know that you can join us.

Shane



**Saturday, July 13
10:00 am - Noon
Water Slide & Water Games**

We need your help at our VBS Splash Day Kickoff. If you can help with registration, games, or snacks please sign up in the worship center!

**Invite your friends to attend &
register for VBS**

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 JULY is: **PLAY-DOH & SILLY PUTTY.**

Box provided in KidZone for OCC items



COOKIE BRIGADE

July 7
Kim Sturgill
July 21
Rachel Martin

Now the **LORD**
is the **SPIRIT**,
and where the
SPIRIT of the
LORD is,
there is
FREEDOM.
2 Corinthians 3:17

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: \$ 277,700
Received to Date: \$ 264,599

Nursery Volunteers

July 7

8:15 am — Christa Copeland
10:45 am — Andrew/Lacy Halligan (BB)
Cathy/Lauren Barks (T)

July 14

8:15 am — Debbie Alvey
10:45 am — Robbie Spees/Kelly Dixon (BB)
Kara Allard/Susan Knight (T)

July 21

8:15 am — Billie Stuber
10:45 am — Jim/Debbie Scourick (BB)
Sheri Wright/Patty Bickerstaff (T)

July 28

8:15 am — Bridget Browning
10:45 am — Phyllis Rambo/Jamie Hawkins (BB)
Luke/Rachel Diefenbach (T)

The LINK

Friendship Baptist Church

146 S. Friendship Rd.
Paducah KY 42003

Volume 24

JULY 2024

Number 7

VBS 2024
July 14-18
6-8:30pm
4 years-12th grade



“If we confess our sins,
He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins,
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”
(Luke 7:37-38)

I was sharing with a person recently who expressed a personal struggle with feelings of unworthiness. Specifically, the individual questioned whether they could truly be forgiven. It was obvious the person was wrestling with receiving God’s forgiveness, but also with forgiving themselves.

The more I have thought about this conversation, the more confident I am that it is God’s forgiveness that matters. The word "forgive" means to wipe the slate clean, to pardon, or to cancel a debt. When we wrong someone, we seek their forgiveness in order for the relationship to be restored. Forgiveness is not granted because a person deserves to be forgiven. Forgiveness is an act of love, mercy, and grace. Forgiveness is a decision to not hold something against another person, despite what they have done to you.

The Bible tells us that we are all in need of forgiveness from God. Sin makes us dirty and guilty in the presence of the Lord. When we sin, when we violate the law of God, we become dirty and guilty in the Lord’s eyes. And that is a problem. We have all committed sin. As a result, we desperately need God’s forgiveness.

In 1 John 1:9, the Bible says, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” The only way we can experience God’s forgiveness is through a personal relationship with Jesus. Christ paid the penalty for our sin and He rose again, demonstrating His power over sin and the consequence of death. Our God forgives us, when we confess our faith in Him for salvation.

I believe the forgiveness that matters is the forgiveness that God gives. When God looks at you, a sinner who is trusting in Jesus, He no longer sees a sinner. What does He see? He sees His own Son Jesus Christ. God sees His Son who died in your place. God sees you as clean and righteous. According to the Scripture, that is how God sees you. And if that is how God sees you, that is who you are.

How do I forgive myself? Well, you don’t need to forgive yourself. The fight is not to find a way to forgive yourself. The fight is to believe that when Jesus says you are forgiven and clean, you really are forgiven and clean. The fight is to believe that you are who Jesus says you are. The fight is to resist the need you feel to punish yourself and to let God’s forgiveness wash over you.

No matter what sin you have committed, no matter how dirty and guilty you once were, in Christ, you are cleansed, you are forgiven, and you are righteous, and the fight is to ask Jesus for His grace to believe about yourself, what He believes about you.

God is good! All the time!

Jason



JOY Club — Will go to The Farm in LaCenter on July 2. Meet at the church at 11:00 a.m. to ride the bus.



There will be no Family Night Supper through the summer months. Suppers will resume in September.



- 2 11:00 a.m. — JOY Club
- 6:00 p.m. — Operation Andrew, Team 2
- 4 Independence Day (office closed)
- 7 7:00 p.m. — Deacons
- 9 6:00 p.m. — Operation Andrew, Team 3
- 10 5:30 p.m. — Finance Team
- 5:30 p.m — Nominating Team
- 6:30 p.m. — Business Mtg.
- 13 10:00 a.m. — VBS Kick-Off Event
- 14 4:30 p.m. — VBS Prayer Time
- 14-18 6:00 - 8:30 p.m. — Vacation Bible School
- 16 10:30 a.m. — Women on Mission
- 23 6:00 p.m. — Operation Andrew, Team 5
- 24 5:30 p.m. — Nominating Team
- 30 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



Personnel Policy — Copies of proposed changes to the Personnel Policy are available in the church office. The church will vote on these proposed changes in the July 10 business meeting.



Gene Reaney will be leading a new Adult Sunday School class beginning July 14 in Room 303.

Upcoming Events

- July 13 — VBS Kickoff Splash Day
- July 14-18 — Vacation Bible School
- August 4 — SS Promotion for Students
- October 19 — Fall Festival
- October 27 — 25 Year Celebration of Ministry
- November 10 — Hope for West KY Crusade
- November 17 — OCC Packing Party



Philippians 3:20 says: “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.”

It was a deadly September attack on America. Casualties on our own shores. The nation’s capital targeted. The White House in danger. Terror. Heroes. One hero was Francis, a Georgetown attorney heavily involved in national politics. An evangelical Christian, Francis taught Bible classes and witnessed boldly, once telling a friend in Congress, “Christ alone can save you from the sentence of condemnation.”

However, nothing prepared Francis for the hostage-recovery mission he undertook at the request of the President of the United States. He was seeking the release of a prominent physician, Dr. Beanes, who has been taken captive. During that assignment he was detained by enemy troops and forced to watch a brutal assault on the eastern seaboard. Toward the morning of September 14, 1814, when it became clear that American forces, they withstood the 25-hour bombardment, Francis Scott Key penned another hymn, scribbling it on the back of an envelope. The first stanza we all know, but have you ever sung the last stanza of “The Star-Spangled Banner?”

“Blest with victory and peace, may the heaven-recused land
Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation!
They conquer we must when our cause it is just.
And this be our motto: “In God is our trust.”
And the Star-Spangled Banner in triumph shall wave
O’re the land of the free and home of the brave!”

After sunrise, the British released Francis, and back in Baltimore he wrote out this hymn in its full form. A copy of the lyrics landed in the hands of an unknown musician who adapted it to the tune “To Anacreon in Heaven,” and so was born the patriotic hymn that was to become our national anthem. "The Star-Spangled Banner" was first recognized for official use by the United States Navy in 1889. On March 3, 1931, the U.S. Congress passed a joint resolution making the song the official national anthem of the United States, which President Herbert Hoover signed into law.

Under the Master’s Baton,
Bro. Chad

