

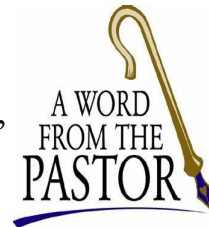


Friendship Focus

April 2021

News for members and friends of Friendship Lutheran Church

I AM who I AM, God says to Moses. And throughout the Lenten season we have been hearing Jesus say, I AM gate, vine, bread, light, shepherd... Each time we discover more about who God is, we also see more clearly who we are - and who we are not. Nothing is more important. Everything we say, do, think, feel is tied to our identity - the story we tell ourselves about ourselves.



It is hard to find our proper place within God's good creation. We either think too much of ourselves, or not enough. We tell our own story as if we are the hero - or the victim. Holy Week can help with that. It tells the central story of our faith.

As we hear the stories of Jesus' passion - Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter morning - it is clear that Jesus is the hero, giving his life willingly. He is not a victim - and neither are we. We have choices to make. As we claim this story as OUR central story, we begin to see ourselves in Peter, Judas, Mary, Thomas... in their weakness and in the power they find through faith in the risen Christ.

Holy Week shows us the true depth of God's great love for us. And that is where our story - our true identity - begins and ends. You are WHO GOD SAYS YOU ARE! Beloved. Forgiven. Empowered. Now and forever! +Pastor Mary



Holy Week Worship begins Palm Sunday, **March 28**, and continues through Easter Day, **April 4**. This week is one, long service leading God's people through the central story of our faith.

Palm Sunday Worship (March 28) will include blessing of palms and Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. We'll also hear Jesus say "I AM the Good Shepherd. Friendship children and youth will tell the story of Jesus' passion. If you are worshipping online, **pick up palms and communion from the Parish House porch anytime from March 25 - 28.**

Maundy Thursday Worship (April 1) – including foot-washing, communion, and stripping of the altar - will be posted online by noon. Have a bowl of water and a towel to wash hands or feet and pick up communion elements from the church or use bread/wine or juice that you have at home.

Good Friday Worship (April 2) – will be posted online by noon. We give thanks to Patrick and our choir members for leading us through this difficult, but important part of the passion story.

Easter Sunday Worship (April 4) – will celebrate the resurrection at all three services (see times and info on the next page). While we will miss the sunrise service and Easter breakfast, we give thanks that we are able to gather in person to rejoice in the good news of God's victory over sin and death.

In person worship on Sundays is at 8:00, 9:15 & 10:30am. Masks are required at 8:00 & 10:30, and recommended at 9:15. The 8:00 and 9:15 service is broadcast to the parking lot. The 8:00 am service is livestreamed to Facebook and posted to YouTube later in the day. The link to all services is on our church website – Friendshiptaylorville.org. If you know of someone who is not able to worship in person or online, please call the church office so that we can deliver DVDs.



The Sunday after Easter (April 11) - worship will be **ONLINE ONLY**. There will be no in-person worship. After Easter gatherings, we will take some time apart to ensure that we can be together safely. The NC Synod Staff will offer worship which will be posted to our Facebook page, YouTube and Website. In person worship will resume on **April 18**.

CREW Holy Week - As Easter approaches, CREW is going to deep dive into Holy Week and the major events back during Jesus' time. This Holy Week we are going to meet each night to discuss the significance of each event.

- **Wednesday March 31st-6:30 pm:** Overview of Holy Week
- **Thursday April 1st 6:00 pm:** Maundy Thursday - Last Supper
- **Friday April 2nd 6:00 pm:** Good Friday - Crucifixion
- **Saturday April 3rd 6:30 pm:** Holy Saturday - Reflection of Lent & Prepare for Easter
- **Sunday April 4th 6:30 am: Easter Sunday** - Sunrise Devotion

CREW will meet at the cross each night. On Saturday we will meet around sunset and on Sunday we will meet at sunrise. Each day will include a time of reflection and devotion. Everyone is welcome to join CREW for the sunrise devotion on Easter Sunday. All events will be OUTSIDE- rain or shine. Any questions contact Taylor Payne.

April News

Secret Sisters -Saturday, April 10th, 9 am- FLC.

Church Council - Tuesday, April 13th, 7 pm - FLC.

WELCA will **NOT** meet in **April**.

ROOTED Bible Study - for younger children - will meet each Wednesday night in the Family Life Center from 5:45-6:45 pm, **except April 7th**. Call Payton Boyles or Nikki Icard for more information.

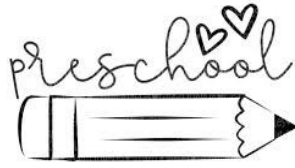
Red Cross Blood Drive Sunday, April 11th,



**American
Red Cross**

12:30-5 pm. If you have questions or want to give blood, call Sue Bumgarner at 828-381-7058, for homemade cakes/cookies, call Donna Icard at 828-310-4890, or to volunteer as a helper (serving food or work at the desk) call Jewell Elder @ 632-3544.

Getting Fit with Christ- Join us for our new fitness class and devotion that is starting the week after Easter. We will meet on Tuesday mornings at 6:00 am, Thursday evenings at 6:00 pm, and Saturday mornings at 8:00 am. All ages are welcome to join. We might be indoors or outside. If we are inside, masks will be required. Location of the class will depend on the weather and temperature. Be on the lookout for sign-up sheets at the church or contact Taylor Payne, (704) 437-9786 to get signed up! Let's join together and improve both our physical and spiritual health!



DIRECTOR NEEDED

Our beloved “Ms. Lori” is retiring. We give thanks for her many years of faithful service and will plan a fond farewell at the end of the school year.

So that means...

Friendship Lutheran (3&4 year old) Preschool is seeking a Director to begin Aug 1, 2021. This is a part-time, salaried position without benefits. The preschool follows the Alexander County School Calendar except for teacher workdays. Please encourage applicants who would carry on the fine tradition of Friendship Preschool to contact Penny in the church office for the job description and application.

Applications are due April 15th.

Rusha Austin Packets-Completed scholarship packets must be to the church office by **Thursday, April 15th.**

Newsletter Deadline-Send items for the **May** issue of **Friendship's Focus** by **Tuesday, April 20th.** Call the church office @ 632-4482 or email items to friendshipsecretary4@gmail.com.

The Helping Hands Fund was established to help those who came to the church in need of assistance of some sort including food, shelter, gas, power bills, etc...Because of the challenges of screening recipients, risk management concerns and the desire to partner with the Alexander County Christian Crisis Center, which has a system for distributing aid, The Helping Hands Fund has been discontinued. The \$850 that was in the Helping Hands Fund account and all future gifts will be redirected to the Crisis Center. Thanks for your continued generosity toward people who need help for basic supplies in life.



Transition Time-Line

The following time-line was developed by the Transition Team and reviewed by Church Council

February - May – Transition Team gathers information for Congregational Study, which will provide information about Friendship Lutheran to the N.C. Synod and shape the Call process

In February, focus on Existing Ministries

In March, focus on Future Mission

In April, focus on Pastoral Leader Gifts

In May, report the Congregational Study results to Council and Congregation

June – August – Assemble Call Committee

June – July – Nominating Committee recruits 6 candidates for the Call Committee

August – Nominations for Call Committee are received from the congregation

September 12 – Congregational Meeting to elect Call Committee (6 people)

September – Call Committee Trained by N.C. Synod Staff

October – Call Committee begins interviewing pastoral candidates

The process of interviewing potential pastoral candidates will continue until the Call Committee identifies a primary candidate. The primary candidate will then meet the Church Council and the congregation. Eventually, the congregation will vote to extend a call to a pastor. If the vote is affirmative, the pastoral candidate is given time to reflect and respond to the invitation. While who the Call committee is interviewing will need to be kept confidential, the congregation will be kept informed of where the church is in the call process.

April Birthdays

Roger Miller	04/01	Lindy Swift	04/17
Megan Nicholas	04/03	Liza Robinette	04/18
Danny Parks	04/04	Tabitha Fox Hall	04/19
Mason Frye	04/07	Garrett Jolly	04/19
Rachel Miller	04/07	Jeff James	04/24
Lou Ann Frye	04/08	Johnny Smith	04/24
Macyn King	04/08	Sue Bumgarner	04/25
Hannah Bostian	04/09	Wanda Bentley	04/26
Molly Gantt	04/09	Joe Deal	04/26
Reba Bolick	04/10	Lena Barr	04/28
Zane Greathouse	04/10	Chase Bostian	04/28
Alta Sells	04/11	Steven Deal	04/28
Samantha Bowers	04/13	Larry Palmer	04/29
Elizabeth Bowman	04/14	Bryanna Payne	04/29
Martha Fox	04/14	Casey Richey	04/29
Mitchell Price	04/15	Brian Chapman	04/30
Chris Bowman	04/16	Phil Hefner	04/30



Friendship Lutheran Church Council

February 9, 2021 Regular Meeting in Person

Members present Teresa Birchfield, Wade Cline, Robert Farrens, Eric Frye, Leah Hayes, Diane Hollar, Jason Icard, Mary Ann Icenhour, Sandra Icenhour, Pat Payne, Dennis Rhyne, Starr Lynn Smith, Pastor Mary Caniff-Kuhn, Pastor Tim Caniff-Kuhn, and Dana Frye.

President Mary Ann Icenhour called the meeting to order. Dennis Rhyne shared a devotion and led prayer.

Motion by Dennis Rhyne; seconded by Wade Cline to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on January 12, 2021. Motion carries. Treasurer's report for the month was distributed.

TEAM REPORTS:

Administration – Sandra Icenhour

Care – Amy Palmer - Wade Cline shared plans for a drive thru/delivery appreciation meal for Emergency Personnel on March 13. Next blood drive will be April 11.

Learn – Hannah Bostian – Plans are being made to take the kids ice skating in Newton. Protocols will be in place there. Bus guidelines will be considered if the bus is used for this trip or if parents will provide their own transportation. Sandra Icenhour and her team will work on the guidelines for bus use. The team was asked to set guidelines for an egg hunt and get them back to Pastor Mary for council review.

Worship -Teresa Birchfield – A team meeting is set for February 22 to discuss Easter plans and Patrick's evaluation.

Share – Diane Hollar

Finance – Dennis Rhyne

Rusha Austin Scholarship – Starr Lynn Smith – The team is getting organized with the guidelines. Packets are available for pick up in the church office.

Preschool – Pat Payne

Building & Grounds (BAG) – Jason Icard & Eric Frye – The BAG team makes a motion to enter into an agreement with Conover Roofing for the repair of the roof of the Church building, so we can get on their production calendar. No funds will be used until the congregation has authorized

the expenditure through a congregational vote. The motion comes from a standing team, so it requires no second. Motion carries. Plans will be made to conduct a congregational meeting and a congregational mailing to share details.

Technology – Steven Deal – Pastor Tim shared John Adair's report on the training for the media. Mel Jolly and Wade Cline are trained to handle the live streaming and recording. John has purchased the iPad and an external hard drive for church use.

Cemetery – Robert Farrens

Transition – Leah Hayes – The team met January 25 and have identified ways to engage the congregation on the first topic of what they feel is the most important current ministries. The church will be asked to complete a card and return at each church service for a couple Sundays, by responding in the comments for those watching on Facebook or calling the church office. A timeline for the team was shared with council.

PASTORS REPORT:

Pastor Mary shared that mid-week Lenten service have already begun to be taped for online watching. She will be meeting with the Preschool Team soon to help get things lined up for changes coming in August 2021. All Team liaisons are asked to get their team members to Dana as soon as possible. These need to be to her by the March meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Pastors asked for a more defined policy for ice/snow weather. Plans moving forward, if needed, would be to allow the Pastors and President Mary Ann Icenhour to decide by 7 pm on Saturday evening if inclement weather is in the forecast. If it is safe for some travel, a 10 am service would be held in the fellowship hall with mask required, bring your own chairs and live stream the service. Council feels this is currently the best option.

OLD BUSINESS:

The TV/stand for the kids has been purchased.

The exercise class with Taylor Payne is still in the planning stages.

There being no other business the meeting adjourned with prayer.

Our next regular monthly meeting will be at 7 pm on Tuesday, March 9, 2021. Jason Icard will share devotions.

Our Sharing

OFFERINGS

	<u>FEBRUARY, 2021</u>	<u>YTD</u>
CURRENT	\$26,996.54	\$54,108.27
BENEVOLENCE	\$1,570.00	\$2,870.00
BLDG/IMPROVEMENT	\$2,739.00	\$6,634.00
PRESCHOOL	\$250.00	\$425.00
WORLD HUNGER	\$80.00	\$195.00
BACKPACK MINISTRY	\$370.00	\$625.00
CHRISTIAN CRISIS CTR	\$455.00	\$1,000.00
FOOD PANTRIES	\$50.00	\$140.00
MOBILE CAFÉ	\$100.00	\$100.00

SPENDING

	<u>FEBRUARY, 2021</u>	<u>YTD</u>
CURRENT	\$24,632.44	\$58,457.04

HOME BOUND/EXTENDED CARE:

Vickie Church—Home

Lou Ann Frye—Shepherd's House-Trinity Village

Fate & Ruth Hefner—Home

**If you know of someone that should be added to or taken off
this list, please call the church office.**



Prayers of the Church



**Please call the church office to add or
take someone off this list.**

Ritchie Bowman	(B. Bowman-2/22)
Jerry Adams	(P. Stikeleather-2/24)
Alan Hefner	(R. Bolick-3/1)
Bruce Hall	(C. Jolly-3/1)
Jill Adair	(J. Adair-3/1)
Jay Moore	(G. Parks-3/1)
Hayden Bentley	(W. Bentley-3/4)
Wanda Young Phipps	(D. Ramsey-3/8)
Will Hamilton	(W. Pearson-3/10)
Pam Ready Cook	(P. Mary-3/15)
Alisha Echerd Goggans	(J. Gant-3/15)
Lisa Jones	(P. Setzer-3/17)

**Please keep the families & friends
of these saints in your prayers.**

Family & friends of:

Mary Alice Brown	(P. Shealy-2/23)
Ned Bowman	(G. Richey-2/25)
Weynne Duncan	(D. Ramsey-3/8)
Claudette Huffman	(D. Deal-3/8)
David Cranford	(W. Pearson-3/15)
Brooke Millsaps	(P. Stikeleather-3/15)
Jeff Fox	(L. Hefner-3/17)

☆ Church Council and Staff

Council & Officers

Mary Ann Icenhour, President
Wade Cline, Vice-President
Nikki Icard, Treasurer
Dana Frye, Recording Secretary
Guy Kerley, Financial Secretary
Steven Deal - Technology
Teresa Birchfield - Worship
Amy Palmer - Care
Robert Farrens - Cemetery
Hannah Bostian - Learn
Diane Hollar - Share
Jason Icard - Building
Dennis Rhyne - Finance
Starr Lynn Smith - Scholarship
Leah Hayes - Transition
Eric Frye - Building
Sandra Icenhour - Administration
Pat Payne - Preschool
Jimmy Watts - Special Projects

Staff

Denny Teague	Sexton
Penny Stikeleather	Parish Secretary
Silsa Moore	Organ and Piano
Patrick Watkins	Music Director
Lori Branch	Preschool Dir
Tim & Mary	Interim Pastors
Canniff-Kuhn	

Please be in touch by cell phone:
828-551-4650 or by email - pastortimck
@gmail.com / pastormaryck@gmail.com
if you have a pastoral concern, or if there
is something you think the pastors should
know. They are happy to arrange a way
to visit with you safely if there is a need.

The church office is staffed, but is closed
to all non-essential business. Help to
protect our staff by wearing a face mask if
you need to enter. Please do not go in any
private offices. THANKS!

FRIENDSHIP LUTHERAN CHURCH

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www.friendshiptaylorsville.org
friendshipsecretary4@gmail.com

NON-PROFIT
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Taylorsville, NC 28681

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED