
VOICE OF FRIENDSHIP

New Friendship Baptist Church

From the Pastor's ...

The calendar calls us to focus on various things. Each month has its own unique emphasis. When I think of February, I think of LVE! The word "LOVE" occurs in 322 verses of the Bible. That doesn't mean that we have 322 LOVING exhortations in the Scripture. **1 John2:15** says, "**Do not LOVE the world.**" Delilah told Samson in **Judges 14:16**, "**You do not LOVE me.**" David's son, Amnon, said in **2 Samuel 13:4**, "**I LOVE Tamar, my sister.**" So, every occurrence of the word "LOVE" in the text is not an admonition for us **unless we are also pinpointing behaviors to avoid.**

But the Bible does have much to say about LVE. **1 Corinthians 13:4-8** is the core of what we call the "**LOVE Chapter**" of the Bible. See those verses on your own for an exhaustive description of what LOVE is. A text I want us to focus on more is **Galatians 5:22-23**. Here Paul introduces the Fruit of the Spirit, identified in nine essential character traits and the first is LOVE! Arguably the greatest mark of the follower of Jesus is LOVE. Consider how we are exhorted to LOVE in God's Word: LVE...

... your neighbor - **Leviticus 19:18**

... the Lord your God - **Deuteronomy 6:5**

... your enemies - **Matthew 5:44**

... your wives - **Ephesians 5:25**

... one another - **John 13:34**

While we welcome the shortest month on the calendar and understand the history of Saint Valentine and this month's focus on LVE, the reality is that this character trait of unselfish care for others and unselfish service to God must describe us if we hope to impact the world for Christ while there is still time!

Let's LVE Because We Are LVED!

Pastor Chris

Church-Wide Mission Project For February

The February Church-Wide Mission Project will be our annual **Baby Bottle Change Collection** for Salem Pregnancy Center. Yes, there may have been a change shortage, but I'm sure you still have enough change to fill a baby bottle for a good cause. (They take checks and dollar bills too!) Bottles will be available throughout the church. (*Salem Pregnancy Center is a Christian, non-profit agency which provides free pregnancy tests and services to help women choose "life". Let's support them by giving so they can save the lives of the unborn and also share Christ's love.*)

Hello New Friendship Baptist Church!

We have so many wonderful volunteers at New Friendship from our nursery workers to our youth leaders to our college teachers. I am thankful every day for their service. There is still room for more though! If you would like to find a place to plug in, we could use your help this year at New Friendship Baptist Church. If you are looking for a way to serve our Lord, this may be your opportunity!

Looking to our schedule ahead, here is what we plan to do:

- We are meeting at 10AM each week for **Sunday School** in the POD. If any eligible youth are interested in attending, please join us! Sunday School tends to have a longer lesson that is fairly laid back.
- We have informal **Sunday night youth gatherings** from 6PM to 7PM every week!
- We are meeting **Wednesday at 7PM** in the POD. We have fun each week hanging out, playing games and learning more about Christ. Wednesday nights have games, videos and a shorter lesson. If any eligible youth are interested, please come by!
- **Ski Trip Postponed** - The ski trip has been postponed to early March. It will either be **March 4th-6th** or **March 11th-13th**. More details coming soon.
- **Parent's Date Night** - The Children's Church Ministry will be hosting a free **Child Care Night** on Saturday, **February 12th** at the Church. We hope you can bring your child out to have fun with us while you and your spouse get some extra time together. You may drop your child off as early as 5PM.

All parents who read this know the struggles that teenagers have with technology. Unfortunately, COVID has given us more "free time" (*due to sheltering in place and restrictions on public gatherings*). This "free time" has identified just how addicted our teens and we ourselves have become to our smart phones and video games. I say this because I want to encourage you to start fasting from technology as you can. I try to fast from technology, as much as possible, one Saturday a month. This allows my wife and I to spend more time together in prayer and glorifying our Savior. If you begin to fast from technology, you can then start to implement this discipline in the life of your child. This is an excellent thing to teach your teenager in the days of their youth!

"Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near of which you will say, 'I have no pleasure in them.'"

-Ecclesiastes 12:1

*With Grace,
Cheyenne and Austin Decker*

Senior Adult News

We hope our Senior Adults are well and staying warm! The concert event we had planned for February 5th was cancelled due to Covid concerns. We had something else in mind for February; however, we were also concerned about Covid numbers that have been rising. If future numbers look better, we plan to have a luncheon in early spring. Stay tuned for more information that will be communicated in the weekly church bulletin and the newsletter. Love in Christ, Gwen Bracknell

Wednesday Is Word Day In 2022

Join us as we expand our Bible and book study. Pastor Chris will offer the same study opportunity two times on Wednesdays at 11AM and 7PM. We will read and review David Jeremiah's latest book, "Where Do We Go From Here" with relevant scriptures. You can purchase your own copy of the book through the church for \$15.00 while supplies last. However, purchase is not required to participate.

WMU - City Lights Ministry

The WMU is sponsoring a **Food Drive** for **City Lights Ministry** from Monday, **January 24th** through Sunday, **February 6th**. Please donate some of the following to help feed kids and their families served through **City Lights Ministry** in Winston-Salem. A collection box will be available outside the church office.

Items To Donate:

- Canned vegetables & meats
- Ramen Noodles
- Boxed Mac & Cheese
- Pasta
- Meat sauce
- Pop Tarts
- Cereal
- Individual packages of chips & cookies
- Individually wrapped peanut butter & crackers
- Fruit cups

City Lights needs boys and girls clothing in sizes 7/8 through sizes 14/16. They also need volunteers! If you are interested in volunteering, contact them at 336-831-1003 or visit their website at www.citylightsministry.org for more information.

Women's Missionary Union

The WMU will meet Monday, **February 14th**, at 10:30AM. We will discuss collection for Lifeline Shoeboxes, a ministry started in 2008 to provide hygiene and personal necessities to low income (Medicaid) recipients in Assisted Living and Nursing Homes. We will collect items needed through **March 14th**.

Items needed for both men and women: socks, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, toothbrush holder, combs, brushes, soap, body wash, wash clothes, deodorant, vaseline, Kleenex, hair grease, body/hand lotion, Qtips. They can also use #10 envelope boxes (*ask your work place for these*).

Coats For The City 2022-NYC

If you are interested in going to NYC or just learning more about **Coats for the City 2022**, we will be holding a meeting on Sunday, **February 20th** at 5PM in the Fellowship Hall. You can see Ann Combs (dcaepczc@yahoo.com) or Kim Longbottom (kim@calawaylaw.com) with any questions.



“After Hours” WMU

"After Hours" WMU will meet Monday **February 21st** at 6PM. Wanda Reid, Founder of **Lifeline Shoeboxes**, will be the guest speaker. This month we are collecting full-size personal care items for Lifeline Shoeboxes. These are given to low income nursing facilities. Also, **City Lights Ministry** has an emergency need for food and clothing for children. If you can help with any of these items, we thank you. Be His hands and feet. **James 2:17**

We want to thank everyone who came to our first meeting. We especially want to thank Ann Combs for the enlightening presentation about **Coats for the City**. This is such a fantastic ministry. Along with the morning WMU, we completed over 40 purses for **On Wings Like A Dove Ministries**. We appreciate all the donations we received from our church family.

Sympathy

- ~ to the family of Susan Nichols who passed away on December 25th
- ~ to the family of Herb Schenck who passed away on January 16th
- ~ to the family of Delmar Stillwell who passed away on January 16th
- ~ to the family of Dannie Sizemore who passed away on January 20th

Nursery Workers Needed In 2022

Jean Kiger has graciously offered to keep our nursery schedule so that those attending and/or visiting with small children can enjoy Sunday School and/or worship without worrying about their child. As this is our goal, we are in need of help in the nursery. We would like to set up teams that will alternate. It is our hope to have enough volunteers that each team only works once a month. If you are able to help on Sunday mornings, please contact Jean Kiger or the church office. Thank you!

Wednesday Night Suppers

Wednesday Night Suppers will take place on the second (**February 9th**) and fourth (**February 23rd**) Wednesday nights of the month. There will be sign-up sheets on the bulletin board prior to the meal each week. You will need to sign up so that the Wednesday Night Team will know how many to prepare for.

Looking Ahead In 2022

- Food Drive for **City Lights Ministry** - through Sunday, **February 6th**
- Special Ladybug Valentine Dinner - Tuesday, **February 8th**
- Concert - Sunday, **February 27th**. A love offering will be received.
- Resurrection Sunday - **April 17th**
- Spring Revival with Pastor Mark Harris - Sunday, **April 24th** through Wednesday, **April 27th**
- Vacation Bible School - Sunday, **June 12th** through Thursday, **June 16th**
- CentriFuge (Youth)
- CentriKid
- Fall Revival with various speakers - Sunday, **September 11th** through Wednesday, **September 14th**
- 195th Homecoming - Sunday, **September 18th**
- Debt Remaining: \$171,408

Spotlight On NFBC Committees

The **Benevolence Committee** is a true outreach of New Friendship. Not only do they work to help the church family as needs arise, they also help people in the community who request assistance. Unfortunately, they are restricted by finances as to how much aid they can offer but work diligently to help those in need. If you are aware of physical needs in our church and community, please encourage them to reach out to this committee.

Kathy Holbrook is the Chairperson of this Committee. Committee Members are: Terry Saintsing (Deacon Committee Vice-Chair), Vikki Cook (Budget & Finance Chair), Butch Motsinger, Velt Penley and Dennis Annas.



If you need to reserve the building or the bus for any reason, please call the church office at 336-788-3112 or email us at newfriendship@icloud.com as soon as you know about your event so that we can keep the calendar organized. If you have information that needs to be put in the bulletin, please have that to the church office by **10AM on Thursday mornings**. If you have information that needs to be put in the monthly newsletter, please have this information to the church office by the **20th of each month**.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Friday (8AM to 12PM)