



# Friendship Focus

## January 2025

Friendship Church Family,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

As we turn our calendars to a new year, I find comfort in God's Word from the revelation to John:

*And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. (Revelation 21:5-6a)*

In his revelation to the apostle, we see God busy and active, promising to be present in the beginnings and the endings. God is the first and the last, omnipresent – ever present, omnipotent – all powerful, omniscient – all knowing. God promises to be with us as close out 2024 and we begin a new year.

Many will make new year resolutions to attempt to better themselves; many will resolve to spend more time at home with family and less time at work; many will commit to greater acts of charity. Often all of our well-intentioned resolutions and goals for a new year will fail.

But God's love never fails. God's grace mercy and forgiveness never fail. The promise of God's presence with us, Emmanuel: God is with us, never fails us.

I cannot wait to see all the wonderful works of God in and through us here at Friendship Lutheran Church in 2025. I look forward to a faithful year of mission and ministry alongside you, looking to God, who promises to make all things new again, to guide and direct us this year and beyond.

Please join me in praying this prayer and blessing for the new year:

Dear Father God,

We praise You for Your abundant grace and desire to give good gifts to Your Children! As we begin a new calendar year, we are reminded that Your will for us is to give us hope and a future. Incline our hearts and minds to be receptive to all the blessings you will grant to us in the new year and keep us focused on the promises you intend for us to know and live.

We recognize the difficulties of this past year, but more so, the wonderful gifts you have granted which are far greater. Even though we have not deserved Your mercy, You have been gracious in lending your love to us each and every day. Continue to do so as You keep us from all harm and danger of the mind, body, soul and spirit. Create in us new hearts and a spirit to sustain us in any and all challenges to come.

Empower us by Your Spirit to seek Your forgiveness and live according to Your will. Draw us with fervent hearts to Your Word and Sacraments that we may know true strength in order to live out the calling to which You have given us. Stir our passions to that which is good, right and holy; pleasing to You and a blessing to our neighbors. May we know compassion and empathy for those in need and a greater desire to share the Good News of life in the Name of Jesus.

Free us from the past of our sins and guilt that we may move freely into this New Year full of joy to be of service to You and Your Kingdom. Grant an extra measure of Your Spirit's anointing for a greater zeal in living out the commission and life to which we have been called. Be with all who are in need and tend to them with Your gracious hand.

Thank You for being the God Who is for us and not against us!  
Thank You for Your continued faithfulness and that amidst an ever-changing world You are always the same and Your promises are new for us each day. Receive our praise as we glorify Your Holy Name with gratitude for the grace that is ours through Your Son, Jesus Christ!

In His Name and for His sake we pray! Amen and Amen!  
(adapted from David Nuottila, [www.mylutheranroots.com](http://www.mylutheranroots.com))

God bless you and our ministry together!

PJ

## January News

### Happy New Year!

Secret Sisters meet **Saturday, January 4th @ 9 am.**

WELCA will **NOT** meet in **January.**

Red Cross Blood Drive - **Sunday, Jan. 5th, 12:30-5 pm.**



Please visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter Friendship Lutheran Taylorsville or contact Sue Bumgarner @ 828 381-7058 or Donna Icard @ 828 310-4890 to schedule an appointment. Call Jewell Elder for serving food or desk work @ 632-3544.

Fellowship Potluck Supper is **Monday, January 6th at 6 pm.** Everyone is invited to attend.

Rooted meets on the 2nd & 4th Sunday of each month @ **4:30 pm.**

Youth Ministry meets on the 2nd & 4th Sunday of each month @ **6 pm.**

Events Team meeting is **Sunday, Jan. 12th, @ 4 pm.**

CARE Team meets on **Monday, January 13th @ 6 pm.**

Church Council meets **Tuesday, January 14th @ 6 pm.**

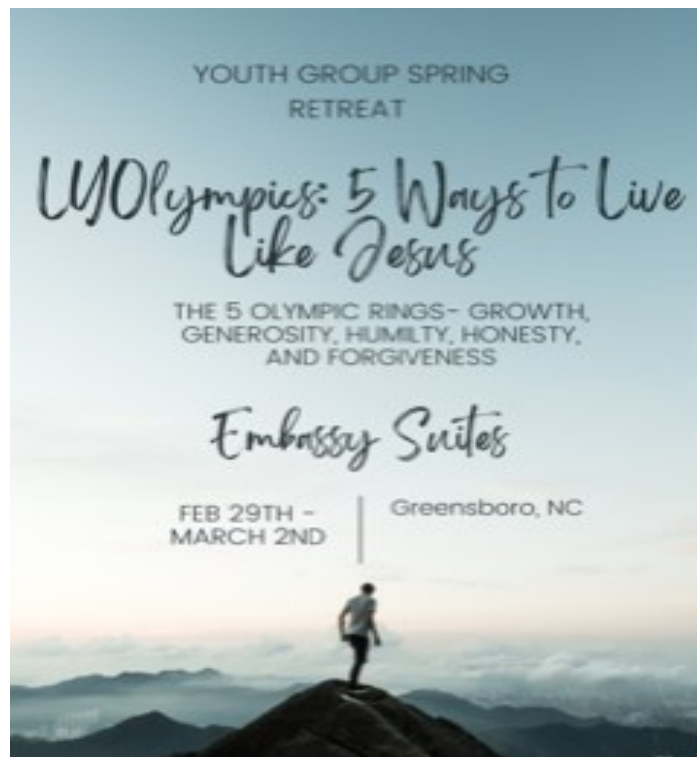


We welcome into the body of Christ, **Avery Ellon Bowman** through the sacrament of Holy Baptism on **Sunday, Dec. 22, 2024.** Avery is the daughter of Nathan & Charity Bowman and baby sister to Amelia & Alice.

**Men in Mission breakfast** is **Saturday, January 18th @ 8 am**. All men of the church are invited to a prayer breakfast on **Saturday, January 18th at 8am** in the Family Life Center. Breakfast will be provided. We will spend time in fellowship, conversation, devotion and prayer. Please RSVP to Chris Jolly so that we are sure to have enough food. And, invite a friend to join us!



**Newsletter Deadline-** Send items for the February issue of **Friendship's Focus** by **Thurs, Jan. 21st**. Call the church office @ 632-4482 or email your items to [friendshipsecretary4@gmail.com](mailto:friendshipsecretary4@gmail.com).



**Open to 6-12 grade youth.** RSVP to Pastor Josh by **January 19th**.

## **Thank You**

**Thank You Friendship** for the bonus gift during the holiday season. We appreciate all you do for us & hope you all had a blessed Christmas & will have a bright, safe Happy New Year!

From your Friendship Staff.

**Church Family** - Your kindness, support & generosity are helping my team & I achieve some of our biggest goals. We could not get to nationals without you. Your endless support now & while away at Disney is so very much valued.

Thank you again,  
Ella Bostian

**Thank You** - words will never be enough to show our thanks & appreciation for all your many acts of love & kindness during the sickness & loss of our Mother & Grandmother. To everyone who offered a prayer, said a kind word of encouragement, helped prepare the meal, sent a flower or card, we can never thank you enough for your part in helping us through this difficult time. A special thanks to the church staff, and especially Pastor Josh, for their care & work in such a meaningful celebration of life service. Our prayer is God will bless you all for the love you have shown us.

The Shirley Dagenhart family

Friendship Lutheran Church Council  
November 12, 2024, Regular Meeting in Person

Members present: John Adair, Chris Bowman, Payton Boyles, Wade Cline, Guy Chapman, Robert Farrens, Mason Frye, Nikki Icard, Chris Jolly, Angie Mooney, Taylor Payne, Doug Ramsey, Pastor Josh Tucker, and Dana Frye.

President Doug Ramsey called the meeting to order.

Motion by Wade Cline; seconded by Robert Farrens to approve the agenda. Motion carries.

Wade Cline shared a devotion.

Motion by Chris Bowman; seconded by Nikki Icard to approve October 8, 2024 regular meeting minutes and the electronic vote on October 29, 2024. Motion carries.

Treasurers report was distributed. Motion by Guy Chapman; seconded by Robert Farrens to approve. Motion carries.

**TEAM ASSIGNMENTS/REPORTS:**

Administration – Doug Ramsey – No report.

Care – Taylor Payne – Veterans Day celebration coming up; Thanksgiving meals plan for 200 plates; sign-up sheets for volunteers are available at both services and Pastor Josh will add a message to the phone tree.

Learn – Nikki Icard – Brittany Greathouse and Brittany Mitchell have volunteered to oversee the kids Christmas program. More clarification is needed when to have Sunday School or not when there is an event being held between services. Pastor Josh will start announcing it.

Worship – Chris Jolly – No report.

Share – Chris Bowman – The Team is preparing “Welcome bags” for visitors. Ideas are coming together for a more welcoming space as you enter the service areas. Maybe move the Tree of Life to a different wall space. Work continues on the website and the outdoor sign. Purchases for the team need to come from line item #5323 Fellowship for 2025 and make a budget request line item for 2026.

Finance – Payton Boyles – No additional report.

Rusha Austin Scholarship – Angie Mooney – No report.

Preschool – John Adair – John reported on the progress the Preschool has made in his 2 years on council. They have established an annual fundraiser with “Breakfast with Santa”, hired an additional assistant; gained 10 children; and increased their bank balance by 107%.

*\*Minutes continued on next page.*

Building & Grounds (BAG) – Mason Frye – The Team met and has agreed that the next major project will be to start gathering bids for the updating of fellowship hall, ramp and stage area. Things to consider are type of flooring, and sound barriers.

Technology – Wade Cline – Installation of cameras will begin on November 16.

Cemetery – Robert Farrens & Guy Chapman – No report.

### **PASTOR'S REPORT:**

Pastor Josh shared how the Synod Assembly will be different in May, 2025 with the retirement of the Bishop. He asked that the Bishop and those affected by his retirement would be kept in our prayers. He explained how his insurance will change with Kristi's new job. There are no plans to participate in the Christmas parade at this time. It is not in the best interest of our funds when the weather could be a factor like last year.

Pastor Josh has received numerous requests for sponsorship help from several organizations. Motion by Doug Ramsey; seconded by Chris Bowman to give \$500 to the ACHS Cheerleaders for their trip to the national competition. Motion carries. Friendship has 3 young ladies who participate in this event. Funds will come from line item #5327.

Lisa James has approximately 56 foster kids for the Angel Tree this year. He will talk to Carrie Head about the Rotary Backpack needs. Jason Icard was approached about Cabins for Christ for Western North Carolina. A thank you was received from Lutheridge for the gift of \$10,000. Ms. Glenn from Wittenburg Elementary School thanked the church for help with a Ministry Impact program to stop bullying and to be kind. Discipline is down by 70%.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

► Motion by John Adair; seconded by Payton Boyles to adjourn the congregational meeting on November 17, 2024 at 10:20 am, if still in session, to prepare for the 10:30 am service and reconvene on Sunday, November 24, 2024, at 9:15 am. Motion carries. Time and Talent sheets will be handed out at the meeting. Names on the ballot for council are in random order.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

► Motion by Guy Chapman; seconded by Mason Frye to approve the revisions to the Friendship Lutheran Preschool Board Policies and Responsibilities with the addition of the statement that the Board and the Director will meet at least annually. Motion carries.

*\*Minutes continued on next page.*

► Motion by Chris Bowman; seconded by Wade Cline to renew the copier contract with Sharp for a 60-month period. Motion carries.

► Motion by Nikki Icard; seconded by Payton Boyles to approve the Pre-school fundraiser request for “Breakfast with Santa”. Motion carries.

► Motion by John Adair; seconded by Angie Mooney to present the staff with a year-end bonus of 2% of their salaries and \$50 each to Spencer and Montevious. The 2% comes to about one week’s pay. Pastor Josh’s is based on his salary only. Motion carries.

Thank you to outgoing council persons for their work the last 2 years.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned with prayer.

Our next regular monthly meeting will be moved to Monday, December 9, 2024, at 6 pm. All outgoing council persons are asked to attend to convey Team information. Payton Boyles volunteered to share a devotion.

## January Birthdays

Terry Payne	1/02	Angie Smith	1/18
Wendy Watts	1/03	Ben Icenhour	1/19
Ella Bostian	1/05	Tamala Christopher	1/20
Sharon Goble	1/06	Stasya Frye	1/22
Thomas Bedzinski	1/10	Asher Wike	1/22
Terri Cook	1/10	Mabel Sweat	1/23
Raylie Stafford	1/10	Ivy Hayes	1/24
Sam Birchfield	1/11	Wendelynne Pearson	1/24
Larry Ingle	1/11	Brenda P. Bowman	1/25
Debbie Deal	1/12	Mary Ann Icenhour	1/26
Jane Nichols	1/15	Marcella Icenhour	1/27
Kyndal Benfield	1/16	Dawn Shealy	1/27
Donna Bowman	1/16	Jared Mooney	1/28
Paulette Hefner	1/17	Tamara Harrington	1/29
Amy Farrens	1/18	Rickie Gantt	1/30





# Our Sharing

## OFFERINGS

	<u>NOVEMBER, 2024</u>	<u>YTD</u>
CURRENT	\$30,324.69	\$371,897.21
BENEVOLENCE	\$1,589.97	\$18,529.79
BLDG/IMPROVEMENT	\$1,440.00	\$35,460.00
PRESCHOOL	\$240.00	\$3,780.00
WORLD HUNGER	\$50.00	\$1,150.00
BACKPACK MINISTRY	\$545.00	\$5,505.00
CHRISTIAN CRISIS CTR	\$1,383.00	\$5,287.97
LUTHERAN DISASTER RELIEF	\$1,050.00	\$2,795.00
RUSHA AUSTIN SCHLOR.	\$250.00	\$15,286.00
YOUTH	\$152.00	\$10,618.58
ADULT MISSIONS	\$0.00	\$115.00
NOISY OFFERING	\$802.50	\$7,773.00
LUTHEROAD	\$0.00	\$5,650.00
ALZHEIMERS BENEFIT	\$0.00	\$6,161.38
COLUMBARIUM	\$245.00	\$4,599.97
HANDBELLS	\$0.00	\$77.00
GIDEONS	\$0.00	\$1,226.00
SPECIAL DES. OFFERING	\$0.00	\$50,000.00
VBS	\$0.00	\$199.54
CRUISE –IN 2024	\$0.00	\$22,311.00
MEN IN MISSION	\$0.00	\$117.00

## SPENDING

	<u>NOVEMBER, 2024</u>	<u>YTD</u>
CURRENT	\$32,040.19	\$365,877.08

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# Prayers of the Church

*“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything,  
by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your  
request to God.”*

~ Philippians 4:6-7

**As God’s people we commit to pray for one another, and for all in need.**

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

## Let us pray for...

Gary Bebber (P. Shealy-12/1)	Clay Cline (R. Cline-12/12)
Matt Robinson (C. Jolly-12/1)	Ray & Iran Warren (C. Bowman-12/13)
Bill Wilson (C. Jolly-12/1)	Phyllis Ann Fox (J. Gant-12/16)
Darryl Adkins (C. Gant-12/1)	Jerry Bowman (P. Josh-12/16)
Martha Johnson (G. Kerley-12/1)	Bob Russell (P. Josh-12/16)
Stacey Hanes (J. McBride-12/4)	Tierra Butler (D. Ramsey-12/16)
Shirley Bumgarner (L. Hayes)	Lewis Jones (J. Watts-12/17)
Addie Icenhour (C. Icenhour-12/9)	Helen Mecimore (S. Bowman-12/17)
Helen Patterson (D. Ramsey-12/9)	Larry Nichols (J. Nichols-12/18)
Jerry & Teressa Wallace (W. Pearson)	Dorothy Crouch (J. Watts-12/23)
Stella Hanshew (P. Josh-12/9)	Larry Price (C. Bowman-12/23)
Elbert Hines (P. Josh-12/9)	Junior Tipton (T. Bowman-12/23)
Duane Barnes (C. Bowman-12/10)	Nicole McNamara (J. Gant-12/23)
David Richardson (B. Cline-12/12)	Kathy Bolick (C. Deal-12/23)

## Family & friends of:

Ethan DeJarnette	(D. Payne-12/1)
Martin Braswell Sr.	(D. Ramsey-12/9)
Paul Dean Childers	(T. Cothren-12/9)
Mildred Wike	(D. Hollar-12/10)
Sallie Hartis	(D. Hollar-12/10)
Jon Hendren	(J. Icard-12/16)
Kelly Blanton	(B. Greathouse-12/16)
Rick Baker	(T. Payne-12/17)
Roy Helton	(G. Richey-12/18)
Rosetta Bumgarner	(L. Hayes-12/18)
Shirley Dagenhart	(P. Josh-12/23)
Elizabeth Hefner	(G. Tucker-12/23)
Fred Bumgarner	(L. Hayes-12/23)
Jean Lynch	(D. Jolly-12/23)

## Please be in daily prayer for our Home Bound/Extended Care members:

Fate Hefner, Steve Icenhour, Emo Bebber,  
Joyce Deal, Roy & Reba Bolick.

# Church Council and Staff

<u>Council</u>	<u>(Term ending)</u>
Officers	
Doug Ramsey - President	('25)
Chris Jolly - VP	('25)
Jane Gant - Treasurer (non voting)	('25)
Dana Frye - Recording Sec (non voting)	('25)
Guy Kerley - Financial Sec (non voting)	('25)
Angie Mooney - RA Scholarship	('25)
Wade Cline - Tech	('25)
Barry Swift - Cemetery	('26)
Michelle Miller - Finance	('26)
Chris Jolly - Worship	('25)
Hannah Bostian - Administration	('26)
Eric Frye--Bldg. & Grounds	('26)
Chris Bowman-- Share	('25)
Monica Stafford--Preschool	('26)
Tamara Stafford--CARE	('26)
Nikki Icard - Learn	('25)

## Staff

Denny Teague	Sexton
Penny Stikeleather	Parish Secretary
Silsa Moore	Organ/Piano
Ian Elkins	Choir Director
Hope Wike	Preschool Director
Josh Tucker	Pastor
Craig Sigmon	Associate Pastor

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Penny is in the office Mon-Thurs,  
9:30-4:30 (Lunch-12:30-1:30)  
The office is closed on Friday.

**You may reach Pastor Josh**  
on the his cell phone: **828-461-4688**  
or his email: **pastorjoshtucker@gmail.com**

Please do not hesitate to be in touch if you have a pastoral concern, or if there is something the pastor needs to know.