



The Messenger

Friendship United Methodist Church, 5222 NC 150 East, Browns Summit, NC 27214 (336-656-7151)

July 2021

From the Pastor's Study . . .

***"All things are possible for God."* CEB (Mark 10:27)**

It seems like a long distance, one thousand five hundred and sixty miles, and it certainly is. That's the distance Google Maps calculates from my doorstep to an apartment complex in El Paso, Texas. It is a three-day trip by car or six hours by plane, and Google doesn't even give cycling estimates, not that it would even be a consideration. It is a long distance. We just got back from a visit to El Paso. The apartment complex I mentioned is the home of my oldest child, my son, Sean. He has been out there a little over two years studying at New Mexico State University, just a few miles down the road in Las Cruces, New Mexico. It had been almost two years since we have been together. Modern technology allowed us to "see him" with our phones, but we haven't been actually face-to-face.

The flight there and back was on schedule. Connections were on time. Although, on the return trip, I thought I had lost my driver's license at El Paso Airport Security only to find it in my shoe when we arrived in Dallas. That's a story for another time. Airports and airplanes were full, but no incidents of conflict. Our only concern was the weather. El Paso, like much of the west, was seeing temperatures

above one hundred degrees, consistently. It was one hundred and two when we arrived. A "dry heat" is still hot. I was afraid it was going to be miserable. Then something amazing happened. It rained in the desert. It is the end of June in El Paso, Texas, and rain moved in from the Gulf of Mexico, along with cooler temperatures. Highs in the upper seventies, lows in the low sixties with wonderful, refreshing rain. Yes, you read that right. We had to go purchase a hoodie for our daughter Sarah. We didn't mind the rain if it meant we didn't have a heat stroke. It was a wonderful visit and ended way too quickly.

The scripture text, Mark 10:27, is part of a conversation between Jesus and his disciples. They were discussing how humanity can be saved from this broken world. The text says Jesus "*looked at them carefully*" and responded, "*It's impossible with human beings, but not with God. All things are possible for God.*" I know Jesus is my Savior and I know God made that possible, but I also know God gives us times of "mini-miracles" where we can travel one thousand five hundred and sixty miles for just a hug and meals together, and where we can witness rain in the desert.

Blessings,
Pastor Kevin





**Friendship United Methodist Church
Sunday, July 18, 2021
11 a.m.**

Friendship United Methodist Church will celebrate Homecoming on **Sunday, July 18, at our 11 a.m.** worship service. We were unable to have Homecoming last year due to COVID. This year, we are indeed thankful for the many years Friendship has been a part of this community and how our church has shaped lives and faithfully shared Christ's love. Pastor Debra Swing will be our guest speaker on Homecoming Sunday.

Immediately following the service, we will serve individually-wrapped snacks and beverages under a tent between the church and fellowship hall. The Western North Carolina Conference discourages buffet lines at this time, therefore, we will not have a covered-dish luncheon this year. Masks are recommended. We hope each of you will join us and don't forget to invite your family and friends.



Monday, July 12
Administrative Board Meeting
7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, July 13
UMM Meeting
Libby Hill - Reidsville
6:30 p.m.

Sunday, July 18
Homecoming
11 a.m. worship service



We continue to be so grateful for your support and contributions to the Fairgrove Community Food Pantry. In June, the Food Pantry provided those in our community with lots of food as well as toiletries, eggs and a variety of meat. The items we need for July are as follows: rice (1 lb. bags), green peas, evaporated milk, Jiffy cornbread mix, saltine crackers, pouches of instant mashed potatoes, and canned potatoes. We will accept your food donations at anytime. If you wish to make a monetary donation, we will accept those as well or you can send a check to Betty Jones, 321 Van Hook Road, Reidsville, NC 27320. We are blessed and God is good. Thank you for supporting the food pantry!



Effective August 1, Pastor Kevin's Weekday Office Hours will be as follows:

**Monday & Tuesday
Brown Summit Church
9 a.m. - 12 noon**

**Wednesday & Thursday
Friendship Church
9 a.m. - 12 noon**

Office appointments can be made (336-552-7912)



Friendship Recognizes Graduates of Family and Friends

On Sunday, June 6, Friendship recognized our 2021 graduates. Both graduates received gifts of our appreciation for a job well done. Congratulations! We extend our prayers, support and best wishes as they embark on their next steps in life's journey.



Katelyn Nicole Brande

Bachelor of Science in Physical & Health Education
University of North Carolina - Greensboro
Katie plans is to teach elementary physical education
Parents: Randy & Christal Brande
Grandparents: LaVerne and the late Austin Brande

Carley Nicole Ferrero

Page High School
Carley will be attending the College of Charleston
Parent: Amy Gordon
Grandparents: Lee & Norma Gordon



Clergy Appointments for 2021-2022

Bishop Paul Leeland and the Western North Carolina Cabinet made the following local church appointments for the 2021-2022 year: Kevin Cochran - Friendship/Brown Summit; Amy Hutchison – Hill's Chapel in Stanley; and Rick LeBaube – Bethesda UMC in Lexington. Tim Drum has been reappointed to Immanuel United Methodist Church in Wellford, South Carolina, as well as the Chaplain and Director of Church Relations at Spartanburg Methodist College. Also, Debra Swing was reappointed as a Deacon Associate at First UMC in High Point (Christ UMC has merged with First UMC), and Jeremy Troxler was reappointed as the lead pastor at Guilford College UMC in Greensboro. In addition, other appointments include Alan Pruitt - Lowe's UMC in Reidsville; Lisa Johnston - Fairgrove UMC; and Samuel Moore at St. James-Jackson (The Hope Church). David Johnston, a former intern at Friendship in 2009-2010, will serve as the lay pastoral associate of Trinity Episcopal Church in Huntington, West Virginia. Pastor Bob Miller retired, and Pastor Nick Scandale continues to enjoy his retirement. Next year's Annual Conference will be held June 17-19, 2022 at Lake Junaluska.

On Saturday, June 19, Pastor Amy Hutchison was ordained as an Elder in Full Connection at Annual Conference. Amy said, "there are so many of you who have stood by me over the past 11(!) years who stood with me in spirit. Thank you to anyone who has read paperwork, listened to me cry, done mock interviews, listened to my bad sermons, and taught me in some way. It took a village, that's for sure." Amy was the pastor at Friendship and Brown Summit from 2014-2016. We are very proud of Amy's accomplishments and we celebrate this milestone in fulfilling God's calling in her life.



Jesus on the 4th of July

*We gather 'round to celebrate
On Independence Day
Pay homage to our country
As the children run and play.*

*With barbecues and picnics
And fireworks in the air
The flag we own is proudly flown
To show how much we care.*

*The stars and stripes spell freedom
She waves upon the breeze
While bursts of colors can be seen
Above the towering trees.*

*This is all quite wonderful
We revel in delight
But God above in divine love
Has brought this day to light.*

*With just a stroke of liberty
A touch of His great hand
He gave democracy to us
And helped this country stand.*

*The stripes upon our stately flag
Were touched by His sweet grace
Each star of white that shines so bright
Reflects His loving face.*

*So as you turn to face the flag
For battles that were fought
Be filled with pride for those who died
And freedoms that were bought.*

*But don't forget to thank the One
That gives the bright display
The reason why we paint the sky
On Independence Day*

By: Marilyn Ferguson



Church is hard

Church is hard for the person walking through the doors, afraid of judgement.
Church is hard for the pastor's family, under the microscope of an entire body.
Church is hard for the prodigal soul returning home, broken and battered by the world.
Church is hard for the girl who looks like she has it all together, but doesn't.
Church is hard for the couple who fought the entire ride to service.
Church is hard for the single mom, surrounded by couples holding hands, and seemingly perfect families.
Church is hard for the widow and widower with no invitation to lunch after service.
Church is hard for the deacon with an estranged child.
Church is hard for the person singing worship songs, overwhelmed by the weight of the lyrics.
Church is hard for the man insecure in his role as a leader.
Church is hard for the wife who longs to be led by a righteous man.
Church is hard for the nursery volunteer who desperately longs for a baby to love.
Church is hard for the single woman and single man, praying God brings them a mate.
Church is hard for the teenage girl, wearing a scarlet letter, ashamed of her mistakes.
Church is hard for the sinners.
Church is hard for me.

It's hard because on the outside it all looks shiny and perfect. Sunday best in behavior and dress. However, underneath those layers, you find a body of imperfect people, carnal souls, selfish motives.

But, here is the beauty of church—

Church isn't a building, mentality, or expectation.
Church is a body.
Church is a group of sinners, saved by grace, living in fellowship as saints.
Church is a body of believers bound as brothers and sisters by an eternal love.
Church is a holy ground where sinners stand as equals before the Throne of Grace.
Church is a refuge for broken hearts and a training ground for mighty warriors.
Church is a converging of confrontation and invitation. Where sin is confronted and hearts are invited to seek restoration.
Church is a lesson in faith and trust.
Church is a bearer of burdens and a giver of hope.
Church is a family. A family coming together, setting aside differences, forgetting past mistakes, rejoicing in the smallest of victories.
Church, the body, and the circle of sinners-turned-saints, is where He resides, and if we ask, He is faithful to come.

So even on the hard days at church—

The days when I am at odds with a friend, When I've fought with my husband because we're late once again. When I've walked in bearing burdens heavier than my heart can handle, yet masking the pain with a smile on my face. When I've worn a scarlet letter, under the microscope. When I've longed for a baby to hold, or fought tears as the lyrics were sung. When I've walked back in, afraid and broken, after walking away.

I'll remember, He has never failed to meet me there.

By: Jacob Waldron



Church Family - Larry Bailey, LaVerne Brande, Wendell Brande, Wayne Brann, Sarah Childress, Dwight Chrismon, Ruth Hopkins, Shirley Huffines, Nancy & Joe Jones, Henry & Sue Lambeth, Jewel Lewis, Mike & Karen Linnane, Bobbie Papoulias, Melvin & Margie Roberson, Pastor Nick & Libby Scandale

Other Friends & Family - Kim Akeefe, Malissa Rudd Altizer, Sandy Black, Judy Brydebell, Betty Busick, Henry Chapmon, Billie Coltrane, Irma Davis, Lou Jolly, Alfred Kernodle, Carol Knight, LCpl Wade Lynch, Brooke Martin, Janice Moore, Pastor Alan Pruitt, Lois Smith, Sandra Smith

In Sympathy - the families of Ruth Maness, Glenda Purvis, Marianne Reynolds, Jay Rudd, and two children from Haynes-Inman Education Center

In Our Military - SPC Grayson Boyd and LCpl Wade Lynch

Pastor Kevin's Office Hours (effective August 1, 2021)

Brown Summit

Monday and Tuesday — 9 a.m. — 12 noon

Friendship

Wednesday and Thursday — 9 a.m.—12 noon

Friday /Saturday – Days off

Other hours by appointment
(336-552-7912)

If you have a pastoral need, Pastor Kevin can be reached at his cell phone number:
(336) 552-7912).

Pastor Cochran requests that only emergency calls be made between 9 p.m. and 8 a.m.

His email address is:
kcochran@wnccumc.net

FUMC Contacts

Bulletin Items: Renee Troxler 336-656-9809
renee.troxler@yahoo.com

Prayer Chain Requests: LaVerne Brande 336-656-3212 (lbrande@triad.rr.com) or Frances Cable 336-656-3089
fcable@triad.rr.com

Fellowship Hall Reservations:
Daniese Smith 336-375-3845
sibbyswims@aol.com

Messenger: LaVerne Brande 336-656-3212
lbrande@triad.rr.com or
Frances Cable 336-656-3089
fcable@triad.rr.com



Our **homebound members** can't come to church due to health or other reasons. Please pray for them or take a moment to send a note or card to let them know that they are missed. It will brighten their day!

Alice Hilliard

Whitestone, Apt. 310
908 Scottish Rite Drive
Greensboro, NC 27407

Ruth Hopkins

7160 Brown Summit Road
Browns Summit, NC 27214

Melvin & Margie Roberson

8015 Benaja Road
Browns Summit, NC 27214



SPC Grayson Boyd
2001 N. Daniel St.
Apt. 204
Arlington, VA 22201

LCpl Wade Lynch
c/o Pam Lambeth Lough
8018 Old Reidsville Rd.
Browns Summit, NC 27214



2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Happy Birthday! Kenneth Chrismon	3
4 	5 Happy Birthday! Hunter Carr	6 Happy Birthday! Sophia Gordon	7 Happy Anniversary! Rick & Susan Cole	8	9	10 Happy Birthday! Alan Cable
11	12 Happy Birthday! Shirley Huffines	13 UMM Meeting	14	15 Happy Birthday! Ronnie Strader	16	17 Happy Birthday! Rick Cole
18 HOMECOMING	19	20 Happy Anniversary! Chris & Shannon Law Happy Birthday! Carol Mullis	21	22	23 Happy Anniversary! Steven & Deana Jones	24 Happy Birthday! Alexandra Cole Samantha Cole
25 Happy Birthday! Taft Cable Michael Troxler	26	27	28	29	30 Happy Birthday! Teagan Johnson	31