
VOICE OF FRIENDSHIP

New Friendship Baptist Church

From The Pastor's ...

I'm sure you are ready for 2021! 2020 seems to have lasted 48 months! It hasn't been all bad. I spoke with a friend recently who talked about the way families have been strengthened this year: more quality time, more meals together, more relational bonding. Maybe you've knocked out some long overdue projects. Jack Hutchins wrote a book. It has been a productive year in many ways, but I would imagine that we are ready for a new one!

The word **"new"** occurs 153 times in the NKJV translation of God's Word. Many times the text is talking about the monthly cycle of New Moon or of the production of new wine, but there are some significant uses of the adjective **"new"**.

The first occurrence is in Exodus when a new king rose to power in Egypt. Six times in the Psalms we are admonished to sing a new song. As you've heard me say before, singing is a response of rescued people. As survivors of 2020, we have a song to sing of redemption. Our God has proven Himself faithful again. Psalm 98:1 reads, **"Oh, sing to the LORD a new song! For He has done marvelous things; His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory."**

Lamentations 3:23 teaches us that the Lord's mercies are **"new every morning"**. Isn't that wonderful? The same faithful God of 2020 will greet us with new mercies on **January 1, 2021!**

Jesus said He was instituting a new covenant through the Lord's Supper (Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22, 1 Corinthians 11).

Isaiah 66:22 and Revelation 21:1-2 describe a New Jerusalem, new heavens and a new earth. Revelation 21:5 says God will make all things **"new"**. Won't that be awesome? A **"new"** that never wears off!

Before we can enjoy any of these new blessings, we have to be made new ourselves. Sin corrupted the human race. The Savior came to give us a new name, new life and a new destiny. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, **"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."**

A new year starts every 12 months. It's automatic. A new heart can come anytime, but it requires the grace of God. Start 2021 with Him and have your best year yet!

Happy New Year!
Pastor Chris

Contribution Statements

Contribution statements for 2020 will have to be distributed differently this year due to COVID restrictions. We ask that anyone who is interested in receiving a statement to email Susie Gardner at hsgardner@triad.rr.com. Please include the following: **husband and wife's name, mailing address and phone number**. Susie will then mail the statement as soon as they have been prepared. If you have questions, please contact the church office at 336-788-3112.

NFBC Christmas Post Office

Christmas cards are available for pick up now through Sunday, **January 3rd**. Shut-in cards will be delivered. All cards left will be discarded. Thank you for working with our new "normal" this Christmas season.

College And Career Sunday School Class Mission Project

The College and Career Sunday school's local mission project will be building beds with City Lights Ministry on Wednesday, **January 6th** at 10:30AM. Masks required. Contact Carla and Mark Arrowood for details.

Women's Missionary Union

The WMU will meet Monday, **January 11th** at 10:30AM to pack homeless bags. Wearing masks and social distancing still required. We look forward to the new year and it's opportunities.

Deacon Election

Coming up **January 24th**, we plan to hold our annual deacon election. Plans are still incomplete regarding the details, but you are asked to be prayerfully considering your ballot and the qualifications of **1 Timothy 3:8-13**. (Larry Anthony, Michael Bowen, Darren Combs and Bobby Whitehurst are rotating off, Mark Arrowood, Eddie Longbottom, Chris Reece and Randy Reid have terms that expire in August 2021. Jim Brooks, Bill Gerrard, Butch Motsinger and Terry Saintsing have terms that expire in August 2022.)

Thank You

Dear New Friendship ~ You have blessed me these past few weeks. Thanks for the beautiful birthday bouquet. It contained a lovely angel ornament! The bags for the Senior Adults (am I that old??)...I loved the "O Holy Night" ornament. These will be on my tree each and every Christmas and will remind me of a wonderful Church Family in North Carolina. Pastor Chris - those apples - WOW! Really, really good! May the hope and peace of the Christmas season bring you joy. Love and Gratitude, Merlene

Words cannot fully express our appreciation for the individuals who helped with the Senior Adult Christmas gift bags. Thanks to Faye Fincher, Brenda Hale, Peggy Hawkins, Ila Mabe, June Sluder, Lisa Weaver and Pat White for helping to put the bags together. Butch Motsinger got our fruit and nuts and helped with delivery. Jack Hutchins dressed up as Santa (with his trusty helper, Brenda) and helped give out bags at our drive-thru along with Pam Gates and June Sluder. Bruce Blevins dressed up as Santa (with his trusty helper, Gail) and delivered bags to shut-ins. Vivian prepared our Christmas cards and Pastor Chris helped with everything. Thanks again to everyone involved with this project. We are looking forward to 2021 and hope that we are able to get together again soon. We are trusting in God and His Will for us. Have a blessed, healthy and happy new year! Gwen Bracknell and Kathy Holbrook

Thank you to the NFBC children, their parents, and Hope and Carla Arrowood for the wonderful Christmas Nativity video.

Dear Pastor Chris & Staff, Thank you so much for the beautiful ornament. It looks so beautiful on our tree. We so appreciate being thought of. We pray that 2021 will be a better year for all of us. Merry Christmas! Thank you again! John & Deborah Fogleman

To the Senior Adult Committee and the WMU: Thank you for the "Delightful Treat Bag". You were so kind and thoughtful to remember me at this blessed time of year. We celebrate the birth of our wonderful Savior. May each of you and your family have a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year 2021. I miss my church family so much. You and Pastor Chris are in my thoughts and prayers each day. Love in Christ, Jeanette Teague

Dear Senior Adult Committee and WMU, Thank you so very much for the nice treat bag you presented to me this past Sunday. The nuts, fruits, candies, snacks and ornament were such a nice gesture! I have been attending New Friendship Baptist Church due to the closing of my church during the pandemic. I have been richly blessed by your services and the friendliness of your congregation. Thanks for your outpouring of Christian love during this blessed season! May you all be truly blessed this Christmas and in the coming 2021. Love, Cherry Kiser (friend of the Sneed family)

May your Christmas be filled with rejoicing. Thanks so much for the "O Holy Night" goodie bag. I know that I'll enjoy the peppermint candies, Hershey Kisses and Ferrero Rocher chocolates. I also appreciate the Chex Mix snack mix, orange, tangerine, apple and mixed nuts. The pencil and paper will certainly be used too. The Hostess cupcake was delicious! I have enjoyed worshipping with you on Sunday mornings! I wish all of you a blessed Christmas and a healthy 2021. Teresa White

Sincere Christian Sympathy

Our sincere Christian sympathy is extended...

~ to the family of Jim Adams who passed away on December 4th

~ to the family of Pauline Cook who passed away on December 23rd

Financially Speaking

For the month of December:

General Offering: \$37,305

Building Fund: \$11,255

If you need to reserve the building or the bus for any reason, please give Vivian a call at 336-788-3112 or email her at (vivianleigh@me.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 Vivian by **10AM on Thursday mornings**. If you have information that needs to be put in the monthly newsletter, please have this information to Vivian by the **20th of each month**.

