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# VOICE OF FRIENDSHIP

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New Friendship Baptist Church

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## From The Pastor's ...

What makes a uniquely great nation? As we prepare for another Olympic sports spectacle from Japan (Friday, **July 23rd** - Sunday, **August 8th**), we will see so many young athletes displaying their national pride. Every nation is distinct: geography, language, culture, etc. While many countries may be similar and some more diverse than others, most of the athletes will strive with some sense of patriotism.

A nation is identified by its boundaries, language and culture. When you cease to possess those three things, you cease to truly be a nation. The United States has a clear border to be protected, enforced and defended. As a melting pot, we welcome immigrants who legally enter the country. Our official language is English. Those who speak other languages are welcome here. Bilingual folks are even admired. You may offer opportunities in as many languages as you like to get your message of business or faith out but English is the only compulsory language. Culture in the United States may be the most unique on earth. Our indigenous peoples are a small population. For most of us, our relatives immigrated here from somewhere else. It is wonderful to celebrate the cultures of other continents as part of our own culture.

This society is composed of Latin American, Far Eastern, African, Western European, Southern European, Middle Eastern and North American elements. No one else can claim such diversity.

Rather than allowing Marxist haters of American independence to divide us, we must unite around the diversity that makes us great. We are great because we are free. Free to worship God. Free to tell His story of infinite love in the person of Jesus Christ.

***"Romans 3:10 Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law... 14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh to fulfill its lusts."***

Pressing On!  
Pastor Chris

### Fourth of July Sunday Morning Service

Join us Sunday, **July 4th** for one church wide service at 10AM in the courtyard. There will be no Sunday School or children's programming. We will have refreshments and enjoy a time of worship with a message from the Word by Pastor Austin.

### Financially Speaking In May By The Numbers:

We reached a significant milestone on May 31st, surpassing \$1.3 million in our Capital Campaign which began in 2013. Our building loan balance on June 30th will be \$278,220.

**Average Worship:** 137

**General Fund:** \$40,902

**Building Fund:** \$7,070

Offering envelopes are available in the Vestibule to encourage regular giving. If you are sending your offerings via US mail, call the church office and we will be happy to send you a package of giving envelopes (specify if you would prefer 12, 24 or 52).

***"So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver."***

**~ 2 Corinthians 9:7**

## Greetings Church Family!

Our Youth Mission Trip is right around the corner from Friday, **July 16th** to Friday, **July 23rd**. There is still some room to sign up. Don't let the teenager in your life miss out! This Summer is a busy time and I look forward to seeing NFBC come back to life and get into full swing.

1. **Children's Sunday School** - Sunday School will be offered for your child each Sunday at 10AM. We offer Sunday School for kids from kindergarten to 6th grade.
2. **Children's Church** - Every Sunday at 11AM, we offer Children's Church where your child will get a chance to play a game, eat a snack, sing fun songs of praise and learn a lesson from the Bible.
3. **Youth Mission Trip** - From Friday, **July 16th** through Friday, **July 23rd**, we will be going to SWARM in Bryson City, NC to serve and reach Native American Reservation families. The cost is \$150. We will mostly do this through VBS but we will also be serving at Nursing Homes, Flea Markets and construction projects. There will be one fun day of tubing as well. We will be having a Wednesday night dinner fundraiser on Wednesday, **July 28th** at 6PM.
4. **Youth Mission Trip Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser and Baked Goods Auction** - Wednesday, **July 28th**, the youth will be hosting a Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser for the Youth Mission Trip. Dinner starts at 6PM. All donations will go to offset the cost of the Youth Mission Trip in Bryson City. We are asking you to donate baked goods for a silent dessert auction to be held during the meal. The highest bidders will go home with something yummy!
5. **Youth to Billy Graham Library/Top Golf Trip** - On Saturday, **July 31st**, we will be taking a trip to Charlotte to see the Billy Graham Library and to play Top Golf. The cost is \$20 which will cover Top Golf, travel and food. The Museum has free admission!
6. **Weekly Laser Tag** - We play tactical laser tag weekly at church. This isn't your old school laser tag. We use commercial modern equipment. Come see for yourself! We always play on either Friday or Saturday night. It is a great way to get involved at church. It is also a great way to get friends on campus who wouldn't ordinarily attend church.

If you have any questions about these events, please don't hesitate to call or text me at (336) 250-3683. I am praying for our families, parents, teens and children as we grow in our walk with the Lord.

May this be our prayer this month for our children and teenagers:

**Romans 12:1-2 - "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."**

With Grace,  
Austin and Cheyenne Decker

### Special Music Schedule

Interested in singing special music? We need volunteers for the remainder of 2021! If you would like to bring special music please contact Laurie Roberts at [ltrivette42391@gmail.com](mailto:ltrivette42391@gmail.com), (336)469-4928 or sign-up on the choir room door!

### Choir Practice Resuming

Are you wanting to become more involved but not sure how? Come sing in the Celebration Choir! It is a great way to become actively involved in worship and have fun! We will be starting choir practice Sunday, **August 1st** at 5PM. No musical experience is needed!

### Vacation Bible School - Concrete & Cranes

Join us Sunday, **July 11th** through Wednesday, **July 14th** for VBS at New Friendship. If you would like to help with VBS, please contact Pastor Austin, Kim Longbottom or Holly Hoover.

### Women's Missionary Union

The WMU will meet Monday, **July 12th** at 10:30AM to hopefully visit one or more of our shut-ins and have lunch afterward. Please bring boys or girls socks (ages 6 to 17) for our Christmas Appalachian backpacks. Our July theme is **"Gift the Message"**. How better to do this than by sharing Christ's love with others?

### Deacon Ordination Service

Join us Sunday evening, July 25th at 5PM as we lay hands upon Ernie Lookabill ordaining him into the deacon ministry. Please keep our Deacons in prayer as they make decisions about our direction and "new normal".

### Congratulations

Two of our young couples were married on Saturday, June 19th. Congratulations to Brice Teague and Bailey Davis who tied the knot in Colorado. Congratulations to Adam Spiva and Ashton Cress who were married in Surry County.

### Thank You

*Dear New Friendship, Thank you for allowing me to participate in the honoring of the graduates, the gift of the Bible and the lunch provided. Thanks again! Tyler Holden*

### Sunday School And Children's Church

We are thankful for these workers: **Nursery:** Judy Tucker, Kathy Sneed and Bradley Motsinger; **Pre-School - K5:** Renee Russell; **1st - 3rd Grades:** Ernie and Joanna Lookabill; **4th - 6th Grades:** Esther Arrowood and Stephanie Woosley; **Youth:** Steve and Vikki Cook, Kim Longbottom, Darren and Ann Combs; **College:** Mark and Carla Arrowood. **Children's Church** has moved to the Fellowship Hall under the direction of Austin and Cheyenne Decker. Children will gather for worship with their families in the Sanctuary and then exit for Children's Church after the music portion of the service.

**We have resumed printing bulletins. Please remember that all information for the bulletin needs to be in the church office by 10AM on Thursday mornings.**

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](mailto: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**.

**"One flag, one land, one heart, one hand, one nation evermore."**

**~ Oliver Wendell Holmes**

**"America is a tune, it must be sung together."**

**~ Gerald Stanley Lee**

**"The life of the nation is secure only while the nation is honest, truthful and virtuous."**

**~ Frederick Douglas**

