

The Messenger

Pastor Kevin Cochran

Friendship United Methodist Church, 5222 Hwy. 150 East, Browns Summit, NC 27214 336-656-7151
May 2026

From the Pastor's Desk

We work and struggle for this: *“Our hope is set on the living God, who is the savior of all people, especially those who believe.”*¹¹ Command these things. Teach them.
(1 Timothy 4:10 – 11, CEB)



Dear Kevin,

The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church requires that every pastor be appointed for one year at a time. On behalf of the Western North Carolina Cabinet, I am pleased to inform you that you will again be appointed Pastor of Brown Summit – Friendship (Brown Summit) in the Northern Piedmont District, effective July 1, 2026. We believe this will continue to be a good appointment for both you and your church. An announcement may be made to your congregation on Sunday, April 26, 2026, at your worship service(s). Please keep this information confidential until that time.

Thank you for the conscientious way you have cooperated with this process. Your Bishop and Cabinet have tried to be faithful to our task and our responsibility for making missional appointments based on the uniqueness of our churches and the gifts of our clergy. (*Letter received from Rodvegas M. Ingram, Superintendent of the Northern Piedmont District; April 1, 2026*)

I love comedy movies from the 1980's and 90's. One of my favorites is "Ground Hog Day" starring actor/comedian Bill Murray. A grumpy meteorologist named Phil Connors (Murray) is given the assignment to cover the Ground Hog Day celebration in the town of Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. Connors covers the annual festivities and is ready to leave when a snowstorm suddenly causes him to spend another night in the town. When he wakes the next morning, it is the same day he had just experienced. Everyday ends the same way. He goes back to his bed and breakfast, settles in for the night, only to wake (the bedside radio always wakes him with Sonny and Cher singing "I Got You, Babe,") and the same day repeats itself. The benefit of this repetition is that he begins to learn everything about the town, the people, and even his co-worker with whom he eventually falls in love.

When I received my letter in the mail (pastors of Methodist churches know to expect a letter the first week in April), it marked the seventh time I received the same letter. The only difference was the Superintendent's signature. I retrieved the letter from the mailbox, opened it as I walked back to the house, and let out a sigh of relief as I read, *"you will again be appointed Pastor of Brown Summit – Friendship."* Then, for some odd reason, Bill Murray came to mind. (Continued on page 2)

(From the Pastor's Desk—Continued from page 1)

Maybe God is keeping me here until I finally get it right. Maybe I have stayed out of the district office and kept my nose clean, or maybe the Western North Carolina Cabinet "*believe this will continue to be a good appointment for both you and your church.*" Option number three is more likely the reason, but I'm good with any reason if it means I get to stay.

I have served Brown Summit – Friendship churches since July 2018, so this July will be my ninth year of ministry here. I love the area. I love the churches, and most of all I love the people whom I have had the privilege of ministering along side of for all these years. We have been through a pandemic together, and a denominational split. I have done numerous funerals and many hospital visitations. We have laughed together, cried together, prayed together and through it all, we have celebrated "*our hope . . . set on the living God.*" (vs. 10) I look forward to the year ahead as we share our life stories, seek to bring others to our churches, lean on one another, and affirm our belief in the one true God.

Murray, as Phil Connors, tells someone after multiple repeating days, "*Well, what if there is no tomorrow? There wasn't one today.*" We know, sisters and brothers, we are not promised tomorrow in this life, but as the chorus of the old Christian hymn says:

Many things about tomorrow,
I don't seem to understand;
But I know who holds tomorrow,
And I know who holds my hand.

(I don't know about tomorrow; Author: Ira F. Stanphill (1950) CCLI Number: 17982.)

I look forward to serving as your pastor once again as we continue this beautiful journey called life in Christ. Let us celebrate each and remember "*I got you, babe!*"

See you Sunday!

Pastor Kevin

May 25, 2026



MEMORIAL DAY

REMEMBER & HONOR



A fitting Bible verse for Memorial Day is John 15:13: "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." This verse captures the bravery and sacrifice of those we honor on Memorial Day. As we commemorate Memorial Day, let our prayers and the holy words of scripture remind us of the sacrifices made by our servicemen and women. Our prayers of remembrance, thankfulness, protection, and healing are humble offerings in memory of their extraordinary sacrifice. In the bustle of barbecues and the excitement of the coming summer, let's pause to remember, to honor, and to pray. We are the land of the free because we are the home of the brave. Let us remember the importance of practicing kindness and compassion towards one another, honoring the memory of our fallen heroes through acts of love and service. By doing so, we can ensure that the true meaning of Memorial Day is never forgotten and that the sacrifices of our fallen heroes continue to inspire and motivate us to be better, more loving, and more selfless individuals.



May
My month of
Sufficient
Grace

COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

We had a good Community Food Pantry in April! Twenty-four families were represented this week. Five of those families have 5 or more in their household, and we had 1 new family. This month we tried something new. We did not make up boxes of food, instead, we set up a "grocery store" type situation. Food was set out and the recipient walked through, and with the help of a volunteer, picked what they wanted. Not everyone wants or likes what we might pick for them, so this gives them a chance to have a say in what they get. They were able to pick which canned fruit they wanted, peaches, applesauce, fruit cocktail, or more. They picked the flavor of muffins and soup and much more. This personalized the groceries to their likes and desires. It may seem like a small thing, but how nice it is to have what you like for breakfast or supper. As always, we are blessed by the many donations you bring in. We are also grateful for the volunteers who show up every month. Our next Food Pantry is Wednesday, May 20. For the month of May, we need: saltine crackers, broth, peanut Butter (small jars), canned meat, canned fruit, canned green beans, canned corn, canned green peas, canned pasta (Ravioli, Spaghettios and Meatballs, etc.), rice, dried pintos beans, cookies, Instant Mashed Potatoes (pouches or small boxes), PopTarts (small boxes), pudding cups, mac & cheese, and Jiffy Corn Muffin mix. Also, we can always use plastic grocery bags and egg cartons. We appreciate any monetary donations. If you wish to write a check, please make it payable to Fairgrove UMC and write "Food Pantry" on the memo line. You can mail your check to Janice Henley, P.O. Box 462, Browns Summit, NC 27214. Thank you for all you do to help our neighbors in need. God bless you!

MAY EVENTS

Wednesday, May 6
Men's choir practice—6:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 10
Mother's Day
(Men will sing during anthem)

Monday, May 11
Ladies Group Meeting — 6:30 p.m.
Fellowship Hall
Guest speaker Josh Inlow, Beekeeper

Tuesday, May 12
UMM Meeting (cancelled)

Sunday, May 17
Rural Life Sunday
Friendship UMC—9:30 a.m. worship service

Sunday, May 24
Memorial Day Remembrance
Friendship UMC—9:30 a.m. worship service

Sunday, May 31
5th Sunday Night Singing
Brown Summit UMC —6:00 p.m.

May 10, 2026



This Mother's Day, we extend our warmest wishes not only to our biological mothers but also to grandmothers, step-mothers, godmothers, aunts, mentors, and all the incredible women who have taken on nurturing and supportive roles in our lives. Their love, guidance, and care make a world of difference. This Mother's Day, we want to take a moment to express our deepest gratitude for their unwavering love, endless support, and the countless sacrifices all those mothers have made. It's that time of the year that we acknowledge the importance of mothers in our lives. Please join us at **Friendship UMC at our 9:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, May 10**, as we honor all the women in our congregation and the men will join together to sing an anthem.

Ladies Group



New Ladies Group at Friendship

In April, a new ladies group was established at Friendship UMC. We had our first meeting on April 14 and all the ladies present were enthusiastic

about our goals and plans for this year. Exciting times! Our next meeting will be **Monday, May 11, at 6:30 p.m. at Friendship UMC in the Fellowship Hall** with light refreshments. Our guest speaker is beekeeper Josh Inlow. Josh's presentation will include an observation hive with live bees. Not only is Josh a fireman with the City of High Point and but he also owns The Bee Shack in Madison. Everyone is welcome to join us.



Rural Life Sunday—May 17 Friendship UMC

Friendship UMC will be participating in Rural Life Sunday on Sunday, May 17. This is a time to focus on creation care, the rural community and the farming families of our area. This Sunday recognizes that our church was built by hard-working farmers and that their livelihood and existence were made possible only through God's grace. The Methodist preachers, including the well-known John Wesley, were dedicated to serving the people in

rural areas, regardless of the lack of grand churches. They preached in fields, farmhouses, and barns, as long as they had a congregation to listen to them. The United Methodist Church recognized the need to celebrate and support these communities, leading to the establishment of Rural Life Sunday. Please join us at **Friendship UMC on Sunday, May 17, at our 9:30 a.m. worship service** when we honor the contributions of rural communities and their deep connection to the land as we participate in Rural Life Sunday.

5th SUNDAY NIGHT SINGING



"When you meet together, sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, as you praise the Lord with all your heart. Always use the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to thank God the Father for everything." (Ephesians 5:19-20 CEV). We hope you'll join us for our next 5th Sunday Night Singing on **Sunday, May 31, at 6:00 p.m. at Brown Summit United Methodist Church**. All who love to sing and hear good singing are invited to attend. Refreshments will be served following the singing. This is a time of good music, good fellowship, and good food. We hope you'll join us.

Our Mission: To build and sustain a Christian community where believers know, love, and serve God.



CLASS OF 2026

Graduation Recognition Sunday

Friendship United Methodist Church would like to honor our high school and college graduates during the worship service on **Graduation Sunday, June 14**. If your child is graduating from college or high school this year, please provide Frances Cable (336-908-1543) with their name, school they're graduating from, their relationship to you, any after-graduation plans (college, work, etc.), and a photograph. Graduates who have grown up at

Friendship will be recognized during the service. Graduates of relatives who attend other churches or live in other communities will also be recognized. Please plan to attend the worship service on **Sunday, June 14, at 9:30 a.m.** as Friendship celebrates with you on this special occasion.



Pastor Kevin Cochran returns for another year

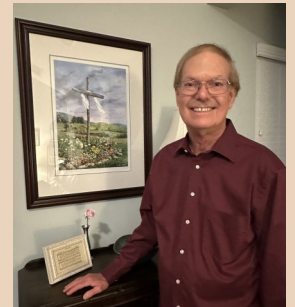
Pastor Kevin Cochran has been appointed by the Western North Carolina Conference of The United

Methodist Church to serve Friendship and Brown Summit UMCs for another year. Kevin will begin his 9th year serving both churches and during his time with us, he has served us as pastor, teacher, leader and friend in Christ. We are truly blessed and look forward to another year of Kevin's leadership and his continued ministry to us and our community. If you are looking for a church, we welcome you. If it has been a while since you've been at Friendship or Brown Summit, come back.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

We are excited to announce that Rev. Gary Owens, who served for many years as the pastor of Monticello Christian Church, will be our guest speaker at **Friendship's 170th Anniversary Homecoming on Sunday, July 19, at 11:00 a.m.** Please mark your calendars and join us as we welcome Gary and his wife Anne. We look forward to seeing you on July 19.



HOMECOMING

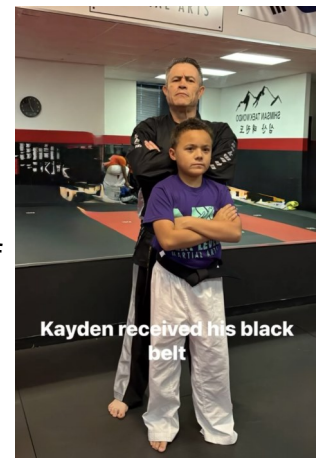
COMMUNITY WIDE • SEMI-ANNUAL

FOOD DRIVE

Volunteers from Friendship UMC participated in the Spring Food Drive on Saturday, April 18. The food drives, which were held at 17 Food Lion grocery stores and 6 Walmarts across the county, are a major source for the Greensboro Urban Ministry. The Greensboro Urban Ministry Food Pantry has provided food for people at risk of hunger in Guilford County for over 30 years. The purpose of the community food drives is to collect donated food, restock pantry shelves, and feed families in need. The Greensboro Urban Ministry's food pantry is the community's largest resource for men, women and families who do not have adequate access to food during the month. Thanks to all those who donated – we collected 2,213 lbs. of food. A huge thank you to our volunteers who helped to make this possible!

KAYDEN RECEIVES BLACK BELT

Kayden is the son of Maggie McMillan, and the grandson of Manny and Jeanne McMillan.





Church Family— Kathy Brande, Wayne Brann, Norma Gordon, Mac & Nancy Knight, Henry & Sue Lambeth, Pastor Rick & Dianna LeBaube, Giles & Jewel Lewis, Mike & Karen Linnane, Nick & Sherry Racz, Pastor Nick & Libby Scandale, Ronnie & Joe Anne Strader, Steve & Sharon Troxler

Other Friends & Family — Hal Augustine, Linda Rumley Brown, Leslie Burdette, Taylor Case and her children, Henry Chapman, Melvin Chrismon, John Cleary, Donna Coltrane, Tim Crews, Stephen Durham, Joe Edwards, Vince Emmett, George & Ruth Gilchrist, Michael Gordon, Doris Hall, Jane & John Hall, Clarence Hilliard, Lydia Juengel, Michael Payne, Veronica Percell, Vickie Roberson, Bobby Joe & Faye Roberts, Kristin Shores, Pat Simpson, Sabrina Soyars, 7-year-old Wyatt, Katherine Lane

In Sympathy — the families of Edwin Apple, Joyce “Junior” Busick, Linda Chapman, Sue Cross, George Cunningham, Mary Belle Stott Gilbert, JoAnn Hare, Dr. John Paul Jones, Richard Milan, Frances Jackson

In Our Military—Staff Sgt. Will Brann



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!

Henry & Sue Lambeth
8020 Old Reidsville Road
Browns Summit, NC 27214
336-656-3178



Staff Sgt. Will Brann
2790 Magnum Drive
Sumter, SC 29150

Pastor Kevin's Office Hours

Friday/Saturday—Days off

Other hours by appointment
(336-552-7912)

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

Pastor Kevin 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:

Frances Cable (336-908-1543)
(fcable@triad.rr.com)

Prayer Chain Requests:

Frances Cable (336-908-1543)
(fcable@triad.rr.com)

Fellowship Hall Requests:

Laura Rumley (802-236-4614)
(fumcfellowshiphallrsvp@gmail.com)

Messenger:

Frances Cable (336-908-1543)
(fcable@triad.rr.com)

This month is called **May** because:

It **MAY** rain

It **MAY** snow

It **MAY** be 80 degrees

It **MAY** be 20 degrees

anything **MAY** occur





2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Happy Birthday! Carley Ferrero	2
3 Happy Anniversary! Scott & Missy Mullis Hoopingarner	4	5	6 Men's Choir Practice	7 Happy Birthday! Stephanie Chrismon Zane Combs	8	9 Happy Birthday! Dianna LeBaube Sabrina Soyars
10 Mother's Day Happy Birthday! Cal Ferrero Sue Lambeth	11 Ladies Group Meeting	12 UMM Meeting (cancelled) Happy Anniversary! Alan & Maria Cable Skeeter & Jodie Strader	13	14	15 Happy Anniversary! Justin & Alicia May Happy Birthday! Amy Gordon	16 Happy Birthday! Caroline Smothers
17 Rural Life Sunday	18	19	20 Community Food Pantry	21	22 Happy Birthday! Maggie McMillan	23 Happy Anniversary! Clarence & Diane Hilliard
24 Memorial Day Remembrance Happy Anniversary! Ronnie & Joe Anne Strader	25 Happy Birthday! Jodie Strader Happy Anniversary! Woody & Tracey Woodson	26	27 Happy Birthday! Scott Chrismon Malisa Cochran Shelley Swing Sandmaier	28 Happy Birthday! Frances Cable	29 Happy Anniversary! Roger & Sabrina Soyars	30 Happy Birthday! Melanie Brann
31 5th Sunday Night Singing Happy Birthday! Libby Scandale						



Maundy Thursday Service

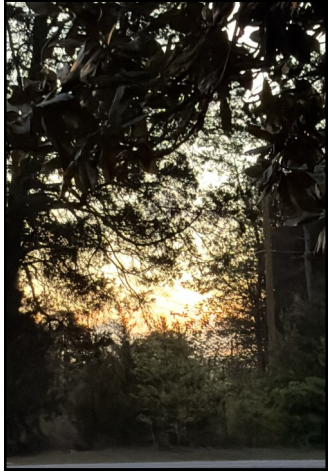


COMMUNITY WIDE • SEMI-ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE



EASTER

SUNRISE SERVICE



Easter

SUNDAY SERVICE



Girls Night Out @ Diamond P Farms!

Mosaic Coasters!

When: May 11th, 2026

Time: 6:00PM

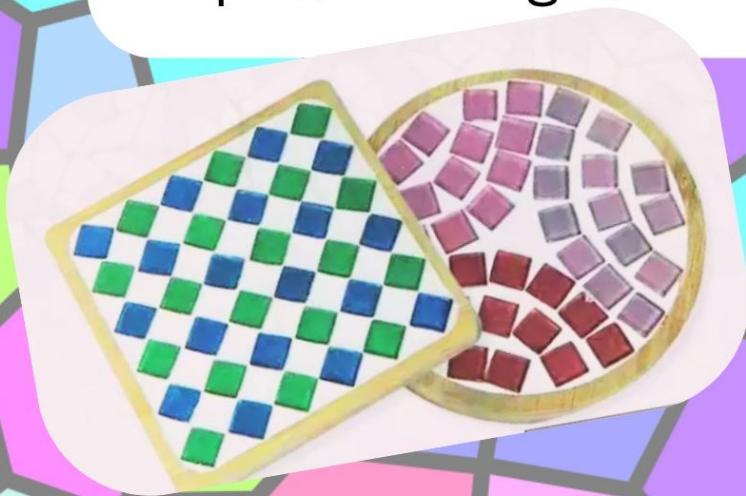
Price: \$30 Per Person

Where: 7741 Doggett Road
Browns Summit, NC 27214

**Price includes food, drinks, door prize
ticket, and all crafting supplies!**

*Sign Up by May 8th @

<https://forms.gle/mVdYYCr73o1Wy5Fa7>





-YOU'RE INVITED TO-

Emily Roberts

BRIDAL SHOWER

(Bride to be of Caleb Law)

JUNE

SUNDAY

14

2 - 4 PM

2026

Friendship United Methodist Church

5222 NC HWY150 East Brown Summit, NC 27214

REGISTERED AT TARGET & WILLIAMS SONOMA

RSVP (336) 613-0088

