

The Messenger

Pastor Kevin Cochran

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

September 2026



From the Pastor's Desk

"Do this so that you stand firm, united in one spirit and mind as you struggle together to remain faithful to the gospel. That way, you won't be afraid of anything your enemies do."
Philippians 1:27 & 28 (CEB)

Courage means different things to different people. The courage of a soldier in the heat of battle, or the courage of an adolescent student crossing the school threshold for the first time. Courage perceives danger, but shows up anyway. President Franklin D. Roosevelt said, "*Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the assessment that something else is more important than fear.*" (<https://www.azquotes.com/quote/388221>; accessed 8.28.2026,) Fear is a very natural, human response, but courage means acting despite it. Another famous FDR quote; "*The only thing we have to fear is fear itself.*" (<https://www.fdrlibrary.org/first-inaugural-curriculum-hub>; accessed 8.28.2026.) Roosevelt, serving the country during the Great Depression and World War II, knew something about fear and courage.

The Apostle Paul writing to the Philippians ties courage with worthiness. Worthiness isn't about proving ourselves to God. It's about letting our lives *reflect* the grace we've already received. Paul is inviting us to live as people whose citizenship is in heaven—people whose actions, attitudes, and relationships point back to Jesus.

He describes this worthiness as lives that interpret hardship through hope. To live worthy of the gospel is to live aligned with Christ's character: steady, humble, *courageous*, and united. It's choosing to let the gospel shape how you respond to whatever happens to you today; young or old, man or woman, soldier or student.

Paul reminds us that we belong to a higher kingdom, and as those united in Christ's love, "*stand firm, united in one spirit and mind as you struggle together to remain faithful to the gospel.*" (vs. 27 CEB) Christians find courage by uniting in the understanding we are worthy of love because "*God first loved us.*" (1 John 4:19) This love is most realized by the uniting of hearts around a common understanding; "*believing in Christ, but also of suffering for Christ's sake.*" (vs. 29) Believing in and suffering for Christ, we persist in life, together, no matter what fearful thing we face because there is something so much more important than fear.

See you Sunday,

Pastor Kevin

Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸ and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God.

Philippians 1:27-28



Tuesday, September 8

UMM Meeting—6:30 p.m.
Sanitary Cafe—Reidsville

Tuesday, September 8

WFF Meeting—6:30 p.m.
Friendship UMC

Saturday, September 12

Church-wide Yard Sale
Friendship UMC—8 a.m. to 12 noon

Sunday, September 13

Grandparents Day
Friendship UMC—9:30 a.m. worship service



The August Food Pantry was great. There were 30 families represented. Food was given to feed 97 people! We had 6 new families and 9 families with 5 or more members. In addition to the non-perishable items, folks also received milk, butter, eggs, meat, and fresh vegetables. Fresh sweet potatoes, ginger, zucchini, yellow squash, cucumbers, okra, corn, and watermelons were also distributed. Those items were so appreciated! Everyone was really happy to

have fresh veggies! We appreciate the local farmers and church members who so generously donate to the food pantry. The September food pantry is Wednesday, September 16. For the month of September, we need: saltine crackers, Instant Mashed Potatoes (pouches or small boxes), canned meat, broth (boxes), canned fruit, cereal, cookies, brownie mix, cake mix, frosting, Stuffing Mix, canned hot dog chili, canned pasta (Spaghetti's, Ravioli, etc.), canned green peas, canned corn, canned green beans, Peanut Butter (small jars), Jiffy Cornbread mix, and rice. We will also accept any egg cartons and plastic grocery bags. 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. Your donations help us to help our neighbors in need, and the need is great. Thank you!



Monticello Christian Church Homecoming
Sunday, September 27, at 11:00 a.m.
Speaker—Pastor Sam Garriss
Covered-dish meal following the
Service in the MCC Community Outreach Center



Shoebox collection items for
September - games/puzzles

Kenneth Chrismon and The Popes to the Inducted into the Georgia Southern Gospel Music Hall of Fame

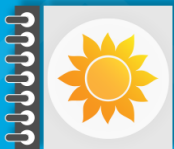


Kenneth Chrismon and the gospel singing group The Popes will be inducted into the Georgia Southern Gospel Music Hall of Fame in Atlanta in November. The following article is being shared from their Facebook page: "Formed in Powder Springs, Georgia, in February 1987, The Popes began when several family members and friends independently sensed that God was leading them toward a new Gospel Music Ministry. The original group included siblings Dennis, Jan, and Chris Pope, along with Marty Hall and bass singer Ken Chrismon. Dennis, Jan, and Chris came from a family steeped in church music. As children, they occasionally sang alongside their father, Hobert Pope, a former church chorister, while their mother, Betty Pope, a longtime church musician,



accompanied them at the piano. That musical foundation helped shape the versatile family harmony that would become an important part of The Pope's sound. Early in the group's formation, they approached Rev. Johnny Foster to help with songs and arrangements and to perhaps play piano for a few appearances until they could find a permanent musician. Instead, Foster became an integral part of the ministry. His material had been recorded by groups including The Kingsmen, The Nelons, The Mulls, The Lemings, Liberty, and The Gethsemane Quartet. Johnny also became The Pope's "On-The-Road Pastor." The group frequently provided music for Revivals led by Rev. Foster throughout the South and Midwest. In the summer of 1987, The Pope's signed with Tim Greene's 'Gloryland' record label and released their first project, 'Sing a New Song', that fall. Its first radio release, "Jesus Sits By the Throne," written by Johnny Foster and Eddie Dietz, became the group's signature song and climbed into the Singing News Top 80 chart. The doors continued to open. The Popes soon found themselves traveling more than 100 dates annually while still maintaining their secular day jobs. By 1990, this "part-time" group had surpassed an incredible 200 appearances in a single year. They recorded several other projects, including the unique 'Radio Favorites' - a project patterned after the Gospel radio programs of the 1940s and '50s and featuring old hymns alongside testimony and preaching excerpts from Johnny's grandparents, Rev. Ralph & Sister Flossie Foster. Legendary Kingsmen Quartet owner and baritone singer Eldridge Fox signed The Popes to his Pinnacle Records label. Their 1991 project, 'Worth the Wait', produced by Fox and Jeff Collins, yielded another Singing News Top 80 song, "Only By Faith," written by Johnny Foster and Chris Pope. Jan married and relocated to middle Georgia, so the guys continued on for a short time as an all-male trio until God began opening new doors for the individual members in pastoral ministry, church music, production, and their professional careers. Though their traveling ministry lasted only about five and a half years, those years were filled with hundreds of appearances, revival meetings, recordings, radio airplay, charting songs, and countless opportunities to share the Gospel. Their ministry was truly a labor of love. For their contribution to Southern Gospel Music, their dedication to Gospel ministry, and the lasting impact of the music and message they shared, The Popes are proudly welcomed into the Georgia Southern Gospel Music Hall of Fame!" Kenneth originally played bass guitar with The Popes and then started singing bass after several months. He traveled with the group to Nashville when they recorded their first album and remained with the group for almost two years. Kenneth is the son of the late Dwight and Mary Sue Chrismon. Congratulations, Kenneth and The Popes! Well deserved!

WHAT'S
HAPPENING
in OCTOBER



World Wide Communion Sunday—October 4
Crop Walk—October 4
Friendship Admin Board Meeting—October 6
Pastor Cookout—October 10
Pastor Appreciation Sunday—October 11
Children's Sabbath—October 11
Fairgrove UMC Homecoming—October 11
UMM Meeting—October 13
WFF Meeting—October 13
Brown Summit UMC Homecoming—October 18
Community Food Pantry—October 21
Fall Food Drive—October 24
Trunk or Treat—October 31

Sunday
September 13



Ladies Group



Sandy Brady was the special guest speaker at Friendship's Women of Faith and Friendship (WFF) meeting in August. Sandy shared his testimony of how he overcame his addiction to drug abuse and alcohol and how it led him to Christ. He has been sober for 19 years and is grateful for second chances. Sandy has the Traveling Pocket

Cross Ministry in which he makes pocket crosses out of tobacco sticks. He has distributed over 255,000 pocket crosses. Sandy gave one of his pocket crosses to everyone in attendance. You can follow Sandy on his Facebook page Sandy Brady Pocket Cross. Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 8, at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All the ladies are welcome to attend.



FREE Clothing Giveaway



Many are blessed by blessing others. A free Clothing/School Supplies Giveaway was held on August 15 at Friendship UMC. It was a great turnout, serving 101 people. Seventy school supply bags were also given away. Any remaining clothing and household



items were delivered to the people in the coal mining area in Coeburn, Virginia. Thanks to everyone who donated clothing, school supplies, and household items, and to those who assisted in organizing this outreach project. This is such a wonderful mission and the involvement of our church in the community is incredible.



Back-to-School Blessings



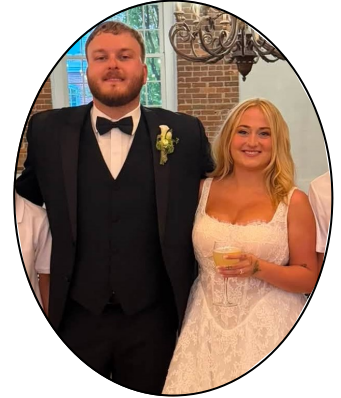
Students and teachers who worship at Friendship United Methodist Church returned to their classrooms for the 2026-2027 school year with book bags blessed during the children's message led by Pastor Kevin Cochran. The "Blessing of the Book Bags" service held August 16 was an opportunity for students and teachers to bring their book bags, totes that will carry items needed for them to learn, organize assignments and complete homework and projects. A special blessing tag that can be attached to their book bag was presented to each student. This is

a time of new pencils, new faces, new beginnings. We prayed for every student, teach, and staff member in our church and in our community as school starts back. May this year be full of curiosity, kindness, and belonging.





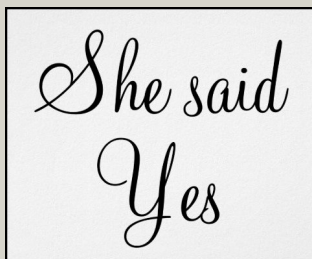
Congratulations to Caleb Law and Emily Roberts on their recent wedding on August 29! May your marriage be filled with love, laughter, and joy! May God shower your new lives together with many blessings. Friendship UMC wishes you the very best! Caleb is the son of Chris and Shannon Law, and the grandson of Frankie and the late Kay Wagoner and Samuel and the late Marsha Law.



Luke and Kamryn Cable welcomed their new baby boy on September 1. Tucker Everett Cable weighed 9 lbs. 6 ounces and was 21 inches long. His mom and dad are doing great. Congratulations on the birth of your beautiful baby boy! May your son fill your life with joy and love, and may God bless, guide, and watch over Tucker and your family. Tucker is the grandson of Wesley and Beth Cable and the great grandson of Floyd and Frances Cable.



Congratulations to Charlotte Jewel Lewis and Mason Albohn on their recent engagement! Friendship UMC hopes your future together is filled with infinite happiness, laughter, and love. May God bless both of you with warmth and care. Charlotte is the daughter of Scotty and Kristie Lewis and the granddaughter of Giles and Jewel Lewis.



My goal for the rest of this year is to walk closer with Jesus,
choose peace over worry,
and leave what I can't control
in God's hands.



MINDFULCHRISTIANITY

Faith Step

Take a walk today. Talk to Jesus as you go. Surrender your plans, whatever they are, to Him. Invite Him to direct your path, and thank Him for being trustworthy.



Church Family — Kathy Brande, Wayne Brann, Norma Gordon, Butch & Janice Henley, Mac & Nancy Knight, 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, Leslie Burdette, Henry Chapman, 8-year-old Lilly Cheek, Melvin Chrismon, Sybil Chrismon, Tim Crews, Paul Curry, Stephen Durham, Claudia Barber Everette, George & Ruth Gilchrist, Michael Gordon, Doris Hall, Jane & John Hall, Scott Hoopiingarnier, Gene Kimel, Robbie & Rhonda Kiser, Samuel Law, NW Guilford High School JV player Matthew, 14-year-old Levi McKinney, Michael Payne, Veronica Percell, Bobby Joe & Faye Roberts, Kristin Shores, unspoken requests, all those affected by the catastrophic flash floods and mudflows in Nepal

In Sympathy — the families of J.T. Bowman, Dolly Parton, 13-year-old NW Guilford Middle School student Caden Sorrell

In Our Military — Staff Sgt. Will Brann



Staff Sgt. Will Brann
705 Banister Drive
Clarksville, TN 37042

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)



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!

Sue Lambeth

8020 Old Reidsville Road
Browns Summit, NC 27214
336-656-3178

September

2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Pastor Parish Relations Meeting Happy Birthday! Graham Gordon	2	3 Happy Anniversary! Manny & Jeanne McMillan	4 Happy Birthday! Scott Boyd Tim Drum Garrett Law	5 Happy Birthday! Butch Henley Ashton Lambeth
6 Happy Anniversary! Daniel & Melanie Brann	7 Happy Anniversary! Jeff & Tracie Chrismon	8 UMM Meeting WFF Meeting	9 Happy Birthday! Rick LeBaube	10 Witness/ Outreach Meeting Happy Birthday! Matt Swing	11 Happy Birthday! Madeleine McMillan	12 Yard Sale Happy Birthday! Vinnie Critzer Ryan Thompson Happy Anniversary! Wade & Tracy Forbes Butch & Janice Henley
13 GRANDPARENTS DAY	14	15 Happy Birthday! Norma Gordon	16 Happy Anniversary! Andy & Lori Woodson	17 Happy Birthday! Preston Forbes	18	19 Happy Birthday! Byron Chrismon
20	21 Happy Birthday! Ken Troxler	22 First Day of Fall Happy Birthday! Kathy Brande Happy Anniversary! Woody & Lauren Childress	23	24 Happy Birthday! Missy Hoopingarner Happy Anniversary! Ken & Wanda Ball	25 Happy Birthday! Craig Jones Tracey Woodson	26 Happy Birthday! Meagan Boone Morgan Strader
27 Happy Birthday! Kayden McMillan	28 Happy Anniversary! Darrell & Cheryl Rumley	29	30 Happy Anniversary! Craig & Barbie Jones			Crop Walk: Oct. 4 Pastor Appreciation Sunday: Oct. 11 Fall Food Drive: Oct. 24 Trunk or Treat: Oct. 31



Friendship's Women of Faith
and Friendship

Church-Wide Yard Sale

\$10 Table Rental Fee

September 12th
8 am - 12 pm

Friendship United Methodist Church

5222 HWY 150 East

Browns Summit, NC 27214

*Email to reserve your spot. Vendors
may set up at 7 am. In the event of
rain, the Yard Sale will be inside the
Fellowship Hall.*

Church Email:
friendshipumc150@gmail.com

