

The Messenger

Friendship United Methodist Church, 5222 NC 150 East, Browns Summit, NC 27214 (336-656-7151)
February 2026



From the Pastor's Desk

"I have said this to you so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution, but take courage: I have conquered the world!" (John 16:33, NRSV).

There is a lot going on in the world today and I don't mean a lot of love and goodwill. Stark divisions exist in our world, our nation, and even in our churches. It seems everyone is angry. We can't talk anymore without it devolving into shouting and even physical altercations.

Jesus is startlingly honest in the Gospel of John. He doesn't promise a life free from hardship. He doesn't say, *"Follow Me and everything will be smooth."* Instead, He names the truth every believer eventually discovers: the world is broken, pain is real, and faith doesn't exempt us from suffering. But Jesus' honesty is not meant to discourage us. It's meant to remind us. He wants us to understand that trouble is not a sign of God's absence. It's simply part of living in a fallen world. What we are to remember, though, is when we are thrown down in life, and find ourselves in the valley of despair, we can face the challenges of life . . . together. Together we can climb out of despair as Christ's church. Jesus has defeated the spiritual forces that oppose God, established his church, and we are to continue God's work of love and truth together. Jesus conquered death. The power of sin is broken, and God has exposed the emptiness of the world's threats. We have the honor of playing on the winning team, the church.

The apostle Peter writes to suffering Christians in Asia Minor some 30 years or so after the death and resurrection of Jesus. A very anti-Christian society existed, and Peter knew the toll it was taking. He was concerned that people would abandon the church. Peter argued that the best way to respond to the world is to prove the genuineness of our faith, *"the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed."* (1 Peter 1:7) There are three ways we, as Christians, can deal with life's adversity: (1) go to God and ask Him to be in charge, (2) thank God for all the good things you have, and (3) enjoy and love other people again. The way we learn to do this is as the church.

Jesus' victory is ours. We face trouble, but we do so as people who stand by the side of the One who has already won. We stand together, as the church, and I am thankful for the one thing true in life: Jesus is the One who initiates, builds, and sends the community of believers into the world. Not a human invention, it is the continuation of Jesus' presence and mission in the world.

Doesn't it make sense to follow the One who has conquered the world? Conquering through peaceful resistance and compassionate sacrifice is so foreign to the world, but it is the great calling of the church. Find a church. Join a church or recommit to your church and remind one another, when faced with adversity and persecution, our leader Jesus is the One who has conquered the world once and for all.

See you Sunday,

Pastor Kevin



WELCOME

FEBRUARY

MAY THIS NEW MONTH BE
FILLED WITH GOD'S
BLESSINGS AND GOODNESS.



February EVENTS

Sunday, February 8
Souper Bowl Sunday

Monday, February 9
Administrative Board/Calendar Meeting
7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 10
UMM Meeting—6:30 p.m.
Sanitary Café —Reidsville

Sunday, February 15
Valentine's Breakfast
8:00 a.m. —Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, February 18
Ash Wednesday Service
Brown Summit UMC—7:00 p.m.

Monday, February 23
Lenten Bible Study
Brown Summit—7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 24
Lenten Bible Study
Friendship—10:30 a.m.

Saturday, February 28
Chili Cookoff/Bingo
Friendship UMC—5:00 p.m.

FoodPantry

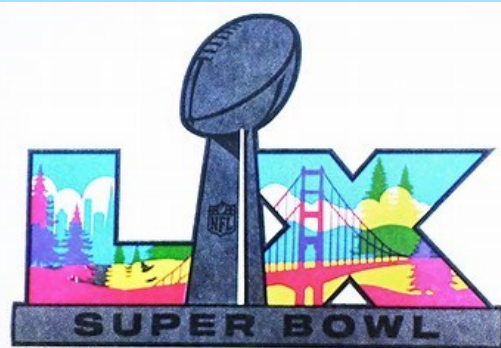
With more than 23,000 local churches around the United States, United Methodists sponsor food pantries and participate in community feeding programs and other ministries aimed at reducing food insecurity. Our Community Food Pantry operates on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at Fairgrove United Methodist Church, joined by Friendship UMC and Brown Summit UMC. We greatly appreciate your continued support for this ministry with your prayers, generous donations of money, supplemental food, untold hours of volunteer time and immeasurable amounts of energy expended in loading, unloading, and packing pounds and pounds of food. Our Food Pantry in January went very well. We had lots of folks who came by for food, eggs, and clothing. There was a lot of "snow talk." Some were looking forward to it, some not at all! At least, they all will have food and warm clothes and blankets. We gave out 24 boxes of food, meat, milk, butter, and eggs. Those 24 boxes were to feed 70 people. There were 6 families of 5 or more people, and we had 3 new families. In January, we provided the ingredients to make chili. Following is the list of items needed for our next food pantry which is February 18, 2026: saltine crackers, instant oatmeal, broth (boxes), instant mashed potatoes, canned fruit, dried pinto beans, rice, peanut butter (small jars), cookies, green beans, corn, green peas, mac & cheese, and Jiffy Cornbread mix. We will take any egg cartons. If you wish to make a monetary donation, please make your check payable to Fairgrove UMC, and in the memo line, show "Food Pantry." You can mail your check to Janice Henley, P.O. Box 462, Browns Summit, NC 27214. You are appreciated! You are so diligent in supporting the Community Food Pantry! God has blessed us all with the opportunity to serve our neighbors in need, and we are thankful for that. Your help makes it possible. We are making a difference in someone's life every time we give a box of food, help folks "shop," have a conversation, or just listen to them. It's always a good day at the Community Food Pantry! If you ever want to come by on "Pantry day," please do! The fellowship is wonderful!



SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY—FEBRUARY 8

While Super Bowl fans focus on bags of snack foods, dips and halftime feasts to accompany Sunday's football, there are others with not enough to eat. Football fans can score a few generosity points on Super Bowl Sunday by making a donation to the "Souper Bowl of Caring" program at Friendship UMC. The Souper Bowl of Caring movement has generated over \$220 million in food and monetary donations for local hunger-relief charities since its inception in 1990. This youth-led initiative involves thousands of

groups nationwide, with all donations going to local food banks, soup kitchens, and charities. The initiative aims to turn the Super Bowl weekend into a nationwide movement of giving. The annual **Souper Bowl of Caring is Sunday, February 8**, and once again, Friendship will be collecting cans of soup to support the Community Food Pantry to coincide with Super Bowl Sunday. Friendship has supported the cause for several years and this year is no different. Whether you are pulling for the Seattle Seahawks or the New England Patriots in the championship game or you may not be a fan of football at all, you can still be part of the game here at Friendship by bringing in cans of soup on Sunday, February 1, and Sunday, February 8. Please place your cans of soup in the box in the vestibule. Help Friendship collect cans of soup to stuff the shelves for use by the Food Pantry for items needed for those in our community. Thank you for your support!



United Methodist Men Valentine's Day Breakfast Sunday, February 15, 8:00 a.m.

Friendship's United Methodist Men will host a Valentine's Day Breakfast on Sunday, February 15 at 8:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome. Come join us for a great meal and good fellowship!



Happy Valentine's day





Ash Wednesday Service Brown Summit UMC Wednesday, February 18, 2026

Friendship UMC will mark the beginning of the season of Lent with **Ash Wednesday on February 18 at Brown Summit UMC at 7:00 p.m.** Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday (the day before Easter), a season that is traditionally seen as a time to prepare for Easter through repentance and devotion. On Ash Wednesday, we confront our own mortality and confess our sin before God within the community of faith. The use of ashes as a sign of mortality and repentance has a long history in Jewish and Christian worship, and the Imposition of Ashes can be a powerful way of participating in the call to repentance and reconciliation that characterizes the Lenten Season. Please join us on Wednesday, February 18.



Lenten Bible Study "The Last Supper"

Pastor Kevin will lead a five-week Lenten Bible Study entitled "The Last Supper: Conversations That Led to the Cross" by

Will Willimon (retired Bishop of the North Alabama Conference of the UMC) beginning February 23. Travel with Jesus on the road to Jerusalem in this profound Lenten study that explores the parables and stories Jesus told at tables along the way to his final meal. Will Willimon invites readers to experience how these table stories - about searching shepherds, welcoming hosts, prodigal sons, and rejected invitations - illuminate the deeper meaning of the Last Supper and Christ's sacrifice. Through engaging biblical exploration and Willimon's characteristic storytelling wisdom, you will: (1) Discover how Jesus used meals to reveal the surprising nature of God's kingdom; (2) Explore how stories of mercy, invitation, and radical hospitality prepare us for Holy Week; (3) Understand why sharing bread and wine became the central ritual of Christian faith; and (4) Experience Maundy Thursday's profound significance in fresh, meaningful ways. Each chapter concludes with thought-provoking questions for personal reflection or group discussion that connect these ancient stories to contemporary Christian life. This Lenten season, gather at the table with Jesus and his disciples to experience the journey from Palm Sunday to the cross through the stories that prepared the way. Willimon's accessible yet profound insights will transform how you understand both the Last Supper and your own place at Christ's table. Please join us on **Mondays from February 23 through March 23 at 7:00 p.m. at Brown Summit UMC and Tuesdays from February 24 through March 24 at 10:30 a.m. at Friendship UMC.** Get a book, mark your calendar, invite a friend and join us! This book is available at christianbooks.com, amazon.com, and cokesbury.com. For additional information, please contact Pastor Kevin (336-552-7912).



CHILI COOK-OFF

There's nothing quite like a cold February evening to bring out the best in a good bowl of chili, and even better, when it's shared with your church family! Join us at Friendship UMC for a night that's warm, welcoming, and full of fun. Get ready for a church-wide gathering where cooks of all skill levels compete for the title of **Best Chili at Friendship**. Whether you bring your famous family recipe or you're just here to taste and cheer, everyone's part of the fun. In addition to the Cookoff, we'll play some Bingo. This is a full church family event! Kids, students, adults, grandparents, neighbors, all are welcome to come enjoy a free chili dinner! Prizes will be awarded, along with a year's worth of bragging rights! **Join us at Friendship UMC on Saturday,**

February 28, at 5:00 p.m. for plenty of fellowship and good times all around!



Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse, is the world's largest Christmas outreach of its kind and seeks to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need worldwide and, together with the local church, share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Through a shoebox gift, lives have been impacted, families changed, and entire communities transformed. It's a hands-on way for you to demonstrate God's love to children in need across the world by filling shoeboxes with toys, hygiene items, school supplies, and fun gifts. According to a recent press release, Samaritan's Purse

is celebrating a successful season after collecting 12,205,900 Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts in 2025, sharing the love of Jesus with children in need worldwide. In 2026, Friendship UMC will again share the Good News of Jesus Christ with those who receive shoebox gifts, and we will collect specific items each month to help fill the shoeboxes. Please bring at least one item per month that is small enough to fit in a shoebox. Items must be new. The following items are not allowed: liquids, anything that portrays violence, food, toothpaste, and medicines. We hope you will join us as we help children in need.

Monthly Shoebox Item List:

January - mittens, hats, toboggans, and socks

February - washcloths, toothbrushes, combs, brushes, hair bows

March - Small boy toys (like Hot Wheels/trucks, bouncy balls, yo-yos)

April - Small girl toys (like dolls, toy jewelry, jump ropes)

May - Baby toys/supplies

June - Small stuffed animals (beanie-style works best)

July - School supplies (notepads, writing pads, pencils, paper, crayons, erasers, scissors, markers)

August - Books (coloring books, picture books)

September - Games/puzzles

October - Flashlights (with extra batteries)

November - \$10.00 donation for shipping costs

CONGRATULATIONS

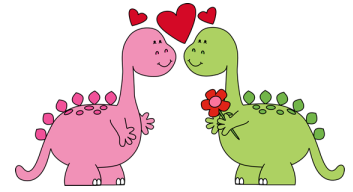
The 36th Annual North Carolina Commodity Conference took place in Greenville on January 14-15, marking the first time the event was held outside Durham after 35 years. Established in 1990, the Commodity Conference serves as a valuable platform for farmers to connect, exchange knowledge, and support North Carolina's agricultural sector. Attendees benefited from sessions on the latest trends, tools, and forecasts influencing agriculture and agribusiness. Highlights included keynote speeches, commodity and legislative updates, timely sessions, panel discussions, an awards ceremony, a vibrant exhibit hall, and abundant opportunities for networking. During the awards ceremony, outstanding individuals were recognized for their contributions to the agricultural community. Friendship takes great pride in Skeeter and Mitch Strader and BJ Roberts for receiving North Carolina's corn yield awards, and Jerry Apple for receiving Virginia's corn yield award. Notably, Steve Troxler, Commissioner of Agriculture, was among the distinguished guest speakers at the conference.



Sunday, January 11, was a wonderful day at Friendship! Kylen McMillan was baptized. Baptism is the act of God through the grace of Jesus Christ and the work of the Holy Spirit. In infant baptism, God claims the child with divine grace. Friendship's church family was blessed to participate in this holy sacrament of baptism with Kylen's family. Kylen is the son of Maggie McMillan, and the grandson of Manny and Jeanne McMillan. Kylen's brother Kayden stood by his side during the baptism. God bless all of you!



February 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 	2 Happy Birthday! Dawn Hall	3	4 Happy Birthday! Ed Combs Tammy Wagoner	5 Happy Birthday! Skylar Critzer Chris Law Mike Linnane Debra Swing Matthew Wagoner	6	7 Happy Birthday! Ryle Cable Floyd Cable
8 Souper Bowl Sunday	9 Administrative Board/ Calendar Meeting Happy Birthday! Dennis Hisey	10 UMM Meeting Happy Birthday! Wallace Hopkins	11 Happy Birthday! Lavinia Combs	12 Happy Birthday! Amy Strader Foushee	13 Happy Birthday! Allyson McLamb Ramos	14 
15 Valentine's Breakfast Happy Birthday! Mac Knight	16	17	18 Ash Wednesday service Brown Summit UMC 7:00 p.m.	19 Happy Birthday! Mike Gordon	20	21
22	23 Lenten Bible Study Brown Summit UMC 7:00 p.m.	24 Lenten Bible Study Friendship UMC 10:30 a.m.	25	26	27 Happy Birthday! Elliott Thompson	28 Chili Cookoff/Bingo Happy Birthday! Alicia May



Church Family — Wanda Ball, Wayne Brann, Norma Gordon, BeJay Hisey, Henry & Sue Lambeth, Pastor Rick & Dianna LeBaube, Giles & Jewel Lewis, Mike & Karen Linnane, Kay McCollum, Manny McMillan, Nick Racz, Allyson McLamb Ramos, Pastor Nick & Libby Scandale, John Smothers, Steve & Sharon Troxler

Other Friends & Family — Toni Andrews, David Brann, Richard Bullard, Lauren Casey, Linda Chapman, Darryl Chrismon, Melvin Chrismon, George Cunningham, Donna Gamble, George & Ruth Gilchrist, Michael Gordon, Doris Hall, Jane & John Hall, Dot Lambeth, Dan and Beth Mosca, Michael Payne, Vickie Roberson, Michael Strouble

In Sympathy — the families of Steve Adams, Ed Boelte, David (Butch) Chrismon, Richard Dickerson, Bob Massey, Ollie Johnson McDowell, Clyde Murray, Gail Roberson, Mike Simpson

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)



Sgt. Wade Lynch
c/o Pam Lambeth Lough
8018 Old Reidsville Road
Browns Summit, NC

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)

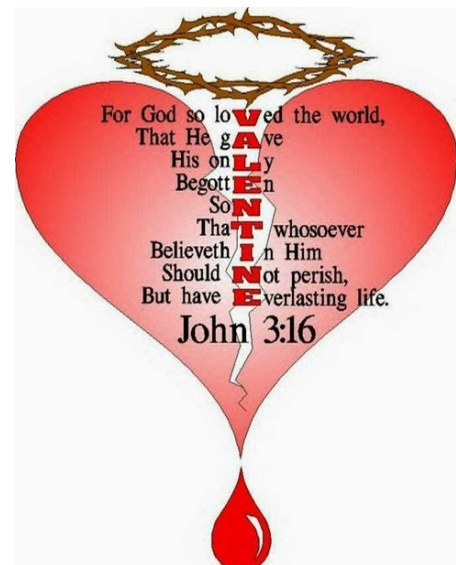
Pastor Kevin requests that only emergency calls be made between 9 p.m. and 8 a.m.

His email address is:
kcochran@wnccumc.net



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





5 Ways to Show God's Love on Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day is often celebrated through cards, candy, or romance. As children, we enjoy exchanging Valentine greetings and creating heart decorations. As adults, we may enjoy a special meal with a spouse or a movie together. But how can we show God's love on Valentine's Day? The Bible is silent about Valentine's Day, but not about sharing God's love. In fact, Scripture teaches God is love (1 John 4:8).

In addition, Jesus taught, "So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you should love one another" (John 13:34). Further, He did not give us this command without demonstrating how to obey it. Instead, "We love each other because He first loved us" (1 John 13:34) Scripture offers numerous opportunities to show God's love. The following five ways provide options we can consider for Valentine's Day—and any other day:

1. Share a Gift - Proverbs 18:16 observes, "A gift opens the way and ushers the giver into the presence of the great." Offering a gift both shows love and opens additional opportunities to be involved in the life of another person.

Who is someone in your life that would enjoy a personalized gift from you? It doesn't have to be purchased from a store or ordered online. You can create something special unique for your spouse, child, parent, friend, or other loved one to offer a tangible expression of God's love.

2. Give a Hug (or a Handshake or High Five) - There is a reason physical touch is known as one of the five love languages. Parents, hug your children (even when they outgrow you). Children, hug your parents, grandparents, and yes, even your brother and sister.

Did you know a hug can physically improve the life of another person? In fact, hugs have been shown to instantly boost oxytocin levels, which heal feelings of loneliness, isolation, and anger.

Of course, some caution may be warranted regarding hugs in certain situations. Use discretion, and ask beforehand if you feel the need, but realize a caring hug can communicate love in vital ways.

3. Write Encouraging Words - The Bible has been called God's love letter to humanity. We recognize the value of God's words of encouragement, yet we often miss the value of an encouraging handwritten note, a caring text message, or a positive email to a friend.

In fact, handwritten notes have become so uncommon in our digital age that the simple gesture of writing to a friend or loved one can have great impact. Don't know where to begin? Start with expressing a few reasons you care about the person. Look at the Bible for a verse to include. Simply say "thank you" or "I love you." You'll be amazed at the difference it can make.

4. Make a Call - Many young (and even older) people now prefer to text or use social media to communicate rather than to make a phone call. However, the power of hearing someone else's voice provide encouragement or say, "I love you," has a tremendous impact.

Think of a friend or family member you care about and have not spoken with in a long time. How would you feel if the person called you today just to talk? You'd probably highly value the conversation.

Instead of waiting for the "other person," why not take the initiative and call someone now? If the person doesn't call, consider leaving a voice message to encourage them through the influence of your voice.

5. Communicate God's Love - The greatest message we can share with another person is God's message of love regarding eternal life. If you haven't memorized it already, consider focusing on John 3:16. Why? God's love. God's love gives every person the opportunity to experience new life in Christ.

Those of us who know God also have the privilege and responsibility to communicate the love of Christ to others. We are called to both demonstrate and communicate His love to those who have yet to believe in Him.

Valentine's Day is a powerful reminder of God's love for us - and of how we can share His love with others. Make the most of the opportunity to express God's love to those around you today.

