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# Friendship Baptist Church

## 2025 Annual Report

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### “We Will Worship, Serve and Grow!”

#### Friendship Seats Its Ninth Pastor

On June 1, 2025, **Reverend Matthew L. Alexander** became the ninth pastor of Friendship Baptist Church. Pastor Alexander was seated after an 18-month search process that included reviewing applications from 32 ministers from across the country. He is joined in his ministry at Friendship by his life partner, Sister Morgan Alexander and their daughter, Madison and anticipated arrival of son, Matthew, Jr.

His first seven months as pastor has inspired him to charge the congregation with a joint commitment for the coming year to worship and pray with Fervency; to serve in Unity and to grow through Nourishing discipleship. To in short, Have FUN!

Pastor Alexander was installed on Saturday, August 30, 2025, in a ceremony that featured a keynote sermon from the Reverend Dr. Eric Moore, Pastor of Tree of Life Bible Fellowship.

*(Continued on Pg. 5)*

#### INSIDE:

##### MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MATT!

Pastor Alexander reflects on his inaugural year as pastor of Friendship Baptist Church. Pg.2

##### DEACON BOARD REPORT

Chair Deacon James Yarborough reflects on what Friendship accomplished in 2025. Pg.3

##### TRUSTEE BOARD REPORT

Friendship's Trustee Board chairman and financial secretary share details of the church's financial health. Pg.4

##### WELCOMING THE ALEXANDERS

Sharing images from Installation Weekend and Friendship's welcome of The Alexanders. Pgs.5-6

##### 2025 FBC AUXILIARY REPORTS

Auxiliaries, boards and committees share 2025 activities. Pgs.8-10



*“Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season...”*  
2 Timothy 4:2

Reverend Matthew L. Alexander, Pastor  
Friendship Baptist Church  
Voice:  
517-394-6369  
Email:  
PastorMatt@friendshipbapistlansing.org.

## Message From Pastor Matt!

*“Let’s Have FUN – and trust the Lord to strengthen His church and save the lost!”*  
(Acts 2:47)

Greetings Friends,

2025 has been a historic year for us all. By God’s providence, He saw fit to join us together for His glory and for our good. We began our journey with a joyful installation service, followed by a community picnic—a beautiful start to our life together as a church family. We also strengthened our shared convictions through a sermon series on our Articles of Faith titled, “Foundations of Our Faith.”

What I’m most grateful for, however, is the relationships we’ve begun to build. It has been a genuine joy getting to know many of you personally, and I’m praying that we continue to grow on the foundation God has already laid as we seek His will in 2026.

As we move forward, may the Lord keep guiding us—reshaping the posture of our hearts toward Him—and may we “have FUN” doing it: growing in fervency in worship, unity in ministry, and nourishment through discipleship, both in our church and in our homes.

In Christ,  
Pastor Matt



Pastor Alexander’s Installation weekend included a community picnic where volleyball was just one of the fun activities available for attendees. In the forefront, l. to r. Sister Zipporah Harris, Sister Joy Ferguson and Brother Kaecea Harris.

### OUR VISION

A Church of love who helps people know Jesus!

### OUR MISSION

To grow in Christ and in service to the community!

## Are you ready to have FUN?

Fervency in Worship and Prayer!

Unity in Ministry!

Nourishment through Discipleship!

# Deacon Board Report

“And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.”  
Galatians 6:9 KJV

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

Most of the work of the Deacon Board during 2025 related to the calling of a new pastor for our church. Here are some of the highlights related to that work:

- On January 25, we held a Family Conversation to discuss matters pertaining to our preparation to receive and work with a new pastor.
  - In early 2025, FBC received visits from the three finalists for our vacant pastoral position.
  - The Pastoral Search Committee began its work to prepare a summary report of its search activities including its recommendation as to who should be called as our next pastor.
  - In April, the Deacon Board voted unanimously to receive, support and bring forth the recommendation from the Pastoral Search Committee to the Church Body for its consideration. The Church Body approved this recommendation.
  - Deacon/Trustee Suttles and Deacon Yarborough met with Rev. Alexander to negotiate a contract. It was determined that Rev. Alexander would assume his duties as pastor on June 1, 2025. Also, Reverend and Sister Morgan Alexander became members of our Church on June 1.
  - The Deacon Board and the congregation extended its appreciation to Rev. James Douglas and Rev. Samuel Johnson for their service in the interim as a new pastor was being sought.
  - Rev. Matthew Alexander was installed as Pastor of Friendship Baptist Church on August 30, 2025 with the theme “Moving Forward in Faith.” Following the installation service, a community picnic was held to commemorate this very special occasion.
- Some other highlights from 2025 included the following:
- The Deacon Board decided to institute a wellness check program for members who live alone.
  - Members of the Deaconess Board were added in the Worship Order of Service Schedule.
  - The Deacon Board determined that for safety and security reasons, no one should be alone at the church. This matter was referred to the Trustee Board to implement.

## 2025 MEMBERSHIP REPORT

### Welcome to Friendship!

Sister Dorothy Armstrong  
February 9, 2025 by Restoration

Sister Theresa Brown  
December 29, 2024 by Restoration

Sister Henrietta Culmer  
January 5, 2025 by Restoration

Brother George W. Culmer  
January 5, 2025 by Restoration

Sister Gloria Davis  
September 7, 2025 by Christian Experience

Sister Cheryl Danyelle Griffin  
September 7, 2025 by Christian Experience

Sister Angela Jones  
June 29, 2025 by Christian Experience

Sister Jennifer Kerley  
February 9, 2025 by Baptism

Sister Shirley Willis  
June 22, 2025 by Christian Experience

### In Memoriam

Sister Velma DeMyers  
May 22, 1935 – April 15, 2025

Trustee David Leigh Duke  
August 15, 1956 – May 12, 2025

Deaconess Pearlle Welch  
February 14, 1930 -- February 28, 2025

Brother Thomas Charles Yarrell, Jr.  
May 19, 1957 – December 8, 2024

God was exceedingly good to Friendship Baptist Church during 2025, and we pray that He will also be gracious to our Church during 2026.

James C. Yarborough, Chair,  
Friendship Baptist Church Deacon Board

# Trustee Board Report

Our Trustee Board is responsible for managing the financial, property and personnel operations of the church. This year our Trustee Board was faced with several extraordinary challenges in the life of our aging church: financing a new pastor search, new pastor salary and benefits, replacing aging computers and copier, major equipment repairs to roof, heating and air conditioning systems.

Friendship has been experiencing both equipment and operational issues with our sound systems throughout the church. Trustees have corrected many of the issues and are currently looking to hire an audio/visual technician to assist us in making more improvements.

During 2026 the Trustees are faced with repairing parking lot potholes, fire alarm system upgrade and the possible replacement of outdoor lawn equipment. Trustees will continue to work with our music department on musician compensation and ways to enhance the music at the church.

In spite of these challenges our Lord Jesus continues to bless us as we worked to serve Him and His Church.

Revenues increased by 14.7% and expenses by 13.1% over the previous year. The positive revenue over expenses has allowed the church budget to be implemented with a positive year end balance.

We give God the All the Glory and thank All our members and friends for their stewardship.

Prayfully Submitted,  
Deacon Donald Suttles  
Chairman Board of Trustees

## Mortgage Liquidation Report

Friendship is required by our mortgage banker to refinance our mortgage every five years.

In August 2023 we refinanced our mortgage loan for \$974,942.50. This year we discontinued making the \$1,000.00 extra principal monthly mortgage payments in order to help fund our new Pastor's salary, office and administrative needs.

Our mortgage balance at the end of 2025 was \$859,382.30.

## Financial Secretary Report

Overall, Friendship's financial position has improved from 2024.

Our total average monthly revenue has increased substantially in the months following our new pastor's arrival in June 2025. Our cash reserve has increased as well.

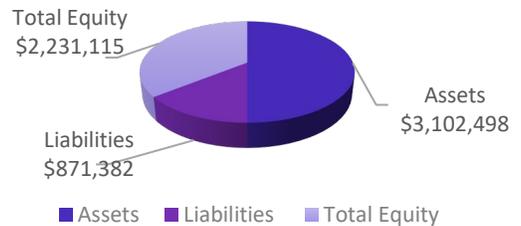
To God be the glory for the things He has done for Friendship Baptist Church.

Thank God for the faithful stewards at Friendship.

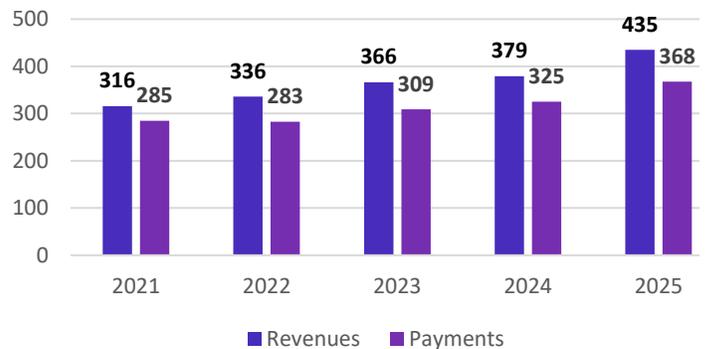
Deaconess Marsie Douglas  
Financial Secretary

## FRIENDSHIP FINANCIALS AT A GLANCE:

### Balance Sheet at 12/31/2025



### FBC 5-Year Financials



Revenues and payments totals are rounded to the next one-thousandth.

# Welcoming The Alexanders!

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*(Continued from Page 1)*

Dr. Moore is Pastor Alexander's professor and mentor from Moody Theological Seminary. The Installation theme was "Moving Forward in Faith!"

Key elements of the installation ceremony were provided by ministers whom Pastor Alexander credits with positively influencing his growth in the ministry. They included Pastor Stephen Herrod, of Bethel Baptist Church, Detroit who provided the invocation prayer; Pastor Orville Littlejohn, of Messiah Baptist Church, Detroit, who delivered the charge to Pastor Alexander; Pastor Dr. Aaron Robinson, of West Highland Baptist Church, Milford, who delivered the charge to the Friendship congregation and Pastor Sonny Smith, of Detroit Church, who conducted the Laying on of Hands and Prayer of Installation.

Pastor Alexander was welcomed to his pastorate of Friendship Baptist Church by remarks from ministers who have been strong friends and partners of Friendship over the years, including Pastor Timothy Chon, of North Westminster Presbyterian Church, Lansing and Pastor Jan Hite, of Redeemer Church, Lansing. Welcoming remarks were also provided by Pastor Marc Williamson, of True Light Missionary Baptist Church who represented the Chain Lake District Missionary Baptist Association.

Friendship's Senior Associate Minister Reverend Samuel Johnson, served as presiding minister for the Installation. The call to worship and prayer were led by Deacon Dr. Eugene Pernel and Deaconess Zeferonia (Doll) Demps.

Deacon James Yarborough, chair of the Deacon Board, welcomed guests and provided the event occasion. Scriptures from the Old and New Testaments were read by Sisters Autumn and Skye Fluker. Musical accompaniment was provided by Trustee Algie Watkins with a solo from Trustee Albert Henry.

Pastor Alexander was presented with symbols to guide his pastorate including a Bible presented by Deacon Adell and Sister Claudria Flourry, representing his responsibility to preach and teach the Word of God; a towel to represent servant leadership presented by Trustee Albert Henry and Deaconess Roslin Griffin; and a key presented by Trustee Katrina Kaufman and Trustee Xavier Yarborough representing his access to and responsibility for God's House.

The Installation ceremony concluded with remarks of appreciation and prayer from Pastor Alexander.



Deacon Adell, Jr. and Sister Claudria Flourry presented Pastor Alexander with a Bible as an Installation symbol representing his commitment to the Word of God.



Deaconess Roslin Griffin and Trustee Albert Henry present Pastor Alexander with a towel as an installation symbol of servant leadership.



Trustee Xavier Yarborough and Trustee Katrina Kaufman present Pastor Alexander with a key representing access to and responsibility for God's House.

## Community Picnic Concludes Pastor's Installation Celebration

Friendship invited the Greater Lansing Community to join in celebrating the installation of Pastor Alexander with a picnic held on the church grounds the Saturday afternoon following the installation ceremony.

Guests were treated to grilled foods, accompaniments and snow cones. Youth who attended also received gift bags including school supplies for the coming school year.

Fun was provided with an inflatable obstacle course and games of volleyball and basketball. There was face painting and a musical cake walk.



Installation picnic attendees tackle mastering the inflatable obstacle course.



Sister Rhonda Green, Sister Kennedy Eiland and Sister Skye Fluker show off their painted faces at the Installation picnic.



Pastor Alexander's family enjoy refreshments following his June 1 inaugural worship service. Seated from l.to r. – Pastor Alexander's sister, Gabrielle Smith; his wife, Sister Morgan holding their daughter, Madison; Pastor Alexander; his grandmother, Sister Rose McCrory; and his mother, Sister LaTonya McCrory.

## Welcoming Baby Alexander!

Friendship women gathered to celebrate the pending birth of Matthew L. Alexander, Jr. with a shower for the Alexanders on November 15, 2025.

The afternoon featured games designed to introduce Sister Morgan Alexander to the women of Friendship and introduce Friendship women to her.

Music was provided by vocalists Annamarie Horn and her daughters, Heiress and Symphony Horn.

Friendship women were adorned in a variety of colorful fascinators and hats and arrived with gifts not just for the Alexanders. Attendees contributed baby care and clothing items to be donated to community mothers in need.

Pastor Matt and Madison stopped by at the end to greet everyone and say thank you!



# The Installation of Friendship's Ninth Pastor

August 30, 2025

The Installation of Pastor Matthew L. Alexander launched with the processional of pulpit ministers followed by Pastor.



The Reverend Dr. Eric Moore provided the Installation Keynote Sermon sharing stories of Pastor Alexander's growth in his ministry. Also pictured on the pulpit from l. to r.: Reverend Dr. Aaron Robinson, Reverend Stephen Herrod, Reverend James Douglas, Reverend Orville Littlejohn, Reverend Sonny Smith and Reverend Samuel Johnson.

The Installation celebration concluded with the Laying of Hands on Pastor Alexander and his family Sister Morgan Alexander and their daughter, Madison by the ministers.



# Doing God's Work!

## 2025 FBC Auxiliary Reports

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### Advisory Council

The Advisory Council distributed the 2024 Friendship Annual Report to the membership at the April 2025 business meeting. It was also posted on the Church's website.

The Advisory Council also hosted a Friendship Family Conversation on January 5, to engage the congregation in preparing for welcoming Friendship's new spiritual leader. The session featured discussions on defining spiritual leadership and congregational support; meeting the financial obligations of hiring a new pastor; and prayerfully committing as a congregation to the success of a new Pastor. The event was held before pastoral candidate finalists' interviews began.

### Altar Guild

The Altar Guild, in consultation with the Pastor, makes recommendations for the purchase of church sanctuary furnishings that will enhance the worship experience. Altar Guild members are responsible for the care and preparation of the Altar, including the Chancel Bible, paraments, banners, Altar set, flags, and any other items used to enhance the members worship experience.

In 2025, the Altar Guild produced the annual Friendship Liturgical Calendar and made parament changes when needed to align with the liturgical seasons. The Altar Guild also provided floral arrangements for Pastor Alexander's inaugural sermon and installation celebration.



### Audio, Video and Teleconference Committee

The Audio, Video and Teleconference Committee maintains the various audio and video systems within the church. The committee is also responsible for providing virtual access to Sunday worship, Sunday School, weekly prayer meeting and Bible study and to the monthly business meetings through teleconference systems. These systems are also made available to support the various ministries and programs of the church.

### Benevolence Committee

Friendship provided \$2,313.23 in benevolence support and assistance in 2025. This support helped people pay utility bills to prevent shut offs and provided support with housing deposits and money to make rent payments to prevent evictions. Support was provided by the generosity of Lenten offerings and other benevolence gifts contributed by members.

### Board of Christian Education

#### Bible Institute

In 2025, the FBC Bible Institute continued study of the Bible with a focus on the books of Job and Isaiah meeting both in-person and virtually each Wednesday. Bible Institute is preceded each week by prayer meeting led by the Deacons on weekly duty.

#### Bible Study

In October 2025, Pastor Alexander began to lead FBC Bible Study with a focus on the biblical tenets of the Baptist ordinances – Baptism and Communion. Study sessions included deep dives into the scripture with discussion and homework.

### Sunday School Department

Sunday School convened in person and was available to attendees by teleconference each Sunday. Sunday School programming in 2025 included the Black History Program in February and Easter and Christmas presentations. Sister Rise' Alexander and Deacon Robert Owens led the adult lessons and Deaconess Zeferonia (Doll) Demps, Sister Patricia Fitzpatrick and Sister Connie Wilson taught youth attendees.

The Sunday School 2025 Christmas Program featured this beautiful manger scene featuring Front row from l. to r.: Mackenzie Gladney; Brother Joshua Gladney, Sister Dr. Morgan Gladney, Madison Gladney, Shepherds Owen Brown, Isaiah Walker and London Tinal; Back row from l. to r.: Angels Sister Michaela Gladney, Sister Kennedy Eiland, Sister Skye Fluker, Sister Autumn Fluker and Sister Rhonda Green.

# Doing God's Work!

## 2025 FBC Auxiliary Reports

### Budget Committee

The Budget Committee worked with the Trustee Board to provide oversight and guidance to implementation of the 2025 operating budget. They also worked to develop and make a budget recommendation for the 2026 operating year that was presented to congregation for approval in January 2026.

### Church Anniversary

The 91st Church Anniversary for Friendship Baptist Church was held on Sunday, December 14, 2025. The event, chaired by Trustee Deborah Sudduth, was themed "Obedience to the Lord in the Midst of Change" with guiding scripture from Psalms 40:8-9 ESV.

Pastor Alexander brought the anniversary message and a memorial tribute honored members lost in late 2024 and 2025 – Sister Velma DeMyers; Trustee David Duke, Deaconess Pearlle Welch and Brother Thomas Yarrell.

### Communications Committee

In 2025, the Communications Committee prepared and distributed the weekly church bulletin and kept members informed of upcoming programs, bereavement notifications and delivered other announcements to members as requested. The committee also maintained and updated the church's website and social media presence.

### Constitution and Bylaws Committee

The Constitution and Bylaws Committee offered four amendments to the constitution and bylaws in 2025 that focused on clarifying member in good standing definitions; allowed for absentee voting by sick and shut-in members and clarified when amendments to the constitution and bylaws can be distributed to membership.



Friendship distributed 49 Thanksgiving meals in November 2025 to assist Lansing families in need.

### Deaconess Board

The Deaconess Board continues to support Communion Service on the first Sunday of each month and during the Lenten Season. They provided Communion Kits for distribution by the Deacon Board to in-person congregants and arranged for distribution of Communion Kits, when requested, to those participating via teleconference.

In 2025, duties of the Deaconess Board were expanded to include assisting the Deacon Board in performing various components of the Order of Service during Worship including the Call to Worship and the Responsive Reading. They also shared hosting duties for Friendship's weekly prayer meeting.

The Deaconess Board stayed connected with Deaconesses who were sick and shut-in through visits, cards and phone calls.

### General Missionary Society

FBC Mission groups have continued to be involved in the community and with our members. They have also met weekly to study and pray together.

Mission members have attended Church Women United's Annual Friendship Day event. FBC General Mission Weekend's theme was "Jesus is the way, the truth and the light" and featured a workshop held on Saturday, Nov. 8 focused on mental, physical and spiritual health. The weekend concluded with the Mission Sunday celebration on Sunday, Nov. 9.

The Mission Department began the year by delivering school supplies in January 2025 to Riddle Middle School. The collection of supplies were contributed by Friendship members.

**Circle #4** collected and delivered 21 large cans of vegetables to the Lansing City Rescue Mission. **Youth Mission Seekers** assisted in planning activities for the Friendship's Installation weekend picnic. **Reach-Out Mission Circle** prepared and distributed 49 Thanksgiving baskets. The church was adorned with poinsettias for the Christmas holiday by Circle #4. They also gave plants to those on the church's sick and shut-in list. **The Laymen** helped in contacting recipients and delivering the plants.

All members have been calling, visiting and sending cards to those who haven't been able to attend service.

## Music Department

In 2025, members of the **Inspirational Choir** and the **Voices of Praise Choir** often came together to provide both combined group music and soloists during Sunday worship services.

Friendship welcomed Brother Nathaniel Lewis who served as the church organist and supporting pianist for the first, and third Sundays in 2025. Sister MaryAnne Graham served as pianist for fourth Sundays.

The Church's volunteer musicians included: Sister Rise' Alexander, sign artist; Sister Cheryl Dudley, pianist; Deacon Amel Eiland, saxophonist and percussionist; Deacon Adell Flourry, Jr., organist; Deacon Dr. Eugene Pernel, trombonist; Brother Rodney Singleton, percussionist, Sister Yvonne Pernel, pianist; Brother Phil Scott, guitarist and Trustee Algie Watkins, pianist.

## Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee recruited and provided the 2026 FBC officer slate that was presented for election at the November 15, 2025 Annual Business meeting. The ballot of non-trustee candidates was elected by unanimous vote.

## Pastoral Search Committee

The Pastoral Search Committee began their work for the search of Friendship's next Pastor in September 2023. After review of 32 candidate applications and 18 months of interviews and deliberation, the committee made its recommendation to the FBC Deacon Board to seat the Reverend Matthew L. Alexander as Friendship's ninth pastor. This motion was presented to the congregation on May 4, 2025 who, with majority vote, confirmed Pastor Alexander. This completed the work of the Pastoral Search Committee which was then disbanded.

## Safety Committee

The Safety Committee established an office for monitoring security both inside and outside of the church building. They continue to review security protocols and establish methods for providing for the safety of guests, members and church staff members.

Deaconess Terry Johnson listens as Sister Jean Davis serves as soloist for the last worship service of 2025, accompanied by Sister MaryAnne Graham.



## Ushers and Greeters Board

The Ushers and Greeters Board enjoyed another great year of service. We thank and praise God that we were able to cover our Sunday Services and other special events. We are small in numbers, but we are a great team.

In April we sponsored a Prayer Breakfast "Psalms of Prayer and Praise" honoring one of our own, Sister Demeka D. Duke who read from her newly published book of poems, "Godspeed: Surrendering to the Flow of God's Timing."

It was a wonderful morning of praise and thanksgiving made even more so by the perfect timing of Easter week.

We celebrated our 75th Annual Ushers and Greeter Day in August. It was a special day in the life of our church, seventy-five years of dedicated service in the house of the Lord. It was a spirit filled day of worship and fellowship.

We were honored to have our new Pastor Alexander as speaker for the day, who delivered a powerful message on the theme "Serve the Lord with Gladness". Sister Morgan Alexander served as our Mistress of Ceremony. In October we celebrated with the Galilee Baptist Church in Kalamazoo for their Annual Day.

We are excited to see what God has planned for us in 2026. If you are looking for an opportunity to serve the church, please consider joining us.



Friendship's Senior Usher Board and Greeter Ministry, Front row from l. to r.: Sister Keysha Duke-Booker, Sister Demeka Duke, Sister Evelyn Green, Sister Sarah Reed, Sister Ethel Culpepper, Sister Gloria Jones, Sister Vivian Tansil, Sister Mae Fields; Back row from l. to r.: Trustee Xavier Yarborough, Brother Harold Singleton, Sister Marilyn Crosby, Sister Eula Beard, Brother Herman Beard.

# Friendship Family! In Action and Fellowship



From l. to r., Deaconess Diane Owens, Sister Morgan Alexander, Deaconess Cynthia Carnegie, Sister Theresa Brown and Deaconess Terry Johnson take a photo break from visiting.



Sister Jean Davis, Sister Loraine Watkins and Sister Bernice Yarborough get caught up after worship service.

Sister Evelyn Green and Trustee Dr. David Green share a moment after church with Sister MaryAnn Graham.



Deacon Robert Owens shares remarks following the 2025 Easter Program.



Meet Friendship's new organist and pianist, Brother Nathaniel Lewis and his wife, Sister Blake Lewis.



# 2025 Friendship Auxiliaries, Boards, Councils and Committees

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## Ministers

Rev. Matthew L. Alexander, Senior Pastor  
Rev. James Douglas,  
Senior Associate Minister  
Rev. Samuel Johnson,  
Senior Associate Minister

## Deacons

Dea. James Yarborough, Chairperson  
Dea. Robert Owens, Vice Chairperson  
Dea. George Maki (*In Memoriam*)  
Dea. Lee Alexander  
Dea. Amel Eiland  
Dea./Tte. Dr. Lonnie Eiland  
Dea. Adell Floury, Jr.  
Dea. Larry Griffin  
Dea. Dr. Eugene Pernel  
Dea./Tte. Donald Suttles  
Dea. Julian Van Dyke  
Dea./Tte. Karl Wilson

## Trustees

Dea./Tte. Donald Suttles, Chairperson  
Tte. Algie Watkins, Vice-Chairperson  
Tte. Tommie Culpepper  
Tte. David Duke (*In Memoriam*)  
Tte. Kenneth Duke  
Dea./Tte. Dr. Lonnie Eiland  
Tte. Dr. David Green  
Tte. Albert Henry  
Tte. Katrina Kaufman  
Tte. Jokay Maxie  
Tte. Deborah Sudduth  
Dea./Tte. Karl Wilson  
Tte. Xavier Yarborough

## Deaconess Board

Deas. Sallie Flanders, Chairperson  
Deas. Pearlie Welch, Vice-Chairperson  
(*In Memoriam*)  
Deas. Cynthia Carnegie  
Deas. Zeferonia (Doll) Demps  
Deas. Marsie Douglas  
Deas. Roslin Griffin  
Deas. Terry Johnson  
Deas. Diane Owens

## Advisory Council

Sis. Cheryl Howell, Chairperson,  
At-Large  
Sis. Rise' Alexander, Vice-Chairperson  
Sis. Mildred Cain, Usher Board  
Sis. Marilyn Crosby, At-Large  
Dea. Amel Eiland, Music Department  
Deas. Sallie Flanders, Deaconess Board  
Sis. Zena Flanders, At-Large  
Sis. Patricia Fitzpatrick,  
General Missionary Society  
Sis. Norma Champion-Jones,  
Youth Department  
Tte. Jokay Maxie, At-Large  
Dea. Robert Owens,  
Christian Education Board  
Dea./Tte. Donald Suttles, Trustee Board  
Bro. Frank Warren, Laymen's League  
Dea. James Yarborough,  
Deacon Board

## Altar Guild

Sis. Edith Suttles, Chairperson  
Deas. Sallie Flanders  
Sis. Patricia Fitzpatrick  
Sis. Cheryl Howell  
Dea./Tte. Donald Suttles,  
Deacon Liaison

## Announcement Clerks

Sis. Rise' Alexander, Clerk  
Tte. Deborah Sudduth, Assistant

## Audio, Video and Teleconference Committee

Pastor Matthew Alexander  
Tte. Deborah Sudduth, Chairperson  
Tte. David Duke, (*In Memoriam*)  
Tte. Kenny Duke  
Dea. Amel Eiland  
Sis. Lori Fluker  
Deas. Roslin Griffin  
Tte. Albert Henry  
Tte. Jokay Maxie  
Tte. Deborah Sudduth

## Budget Committee

Sis. Evelyn Green,  
Chairperson  
Dea. Lee Alexander  
Sis. Marilyn Crosby  
Deas. Marsie Douglas,  
Ex-Officio  
Dea. Amel Eiland  
Deas. Roslin Griffin,  
Ex-Officio  
Tte. Albert Henry  
Dea./Tte. Donald Suttles  
Sis. Lorraine Watkins

## Board of Christian Education

Dea. Dr. Eugene Pernel,  
Chairperson  
Dea. Robert Owens,  
Vice-Chairperson  
Deas. Zeferonia (Doll) Demps  
Dea. Larry Griffin  
Sis. Vivian Tansil

## Bible Institute

Dea. Larry Griffin  
Dea. Robert Owens  
Dea. Dr. Eugene Pernel  
Sis. Vivian Tansil

## Sunday School Department

Dea. Dr. Eugene Pernel,  
Superintendent  
Sis. Nona Brown, Teacher and  
Assistant Superintendent  
Sis. Patricia Fitzpatrick,  
Assistant Superintendent and Teacher  
Dea. Robert Owens, Teacher  
and Assistant Superintendent  
Dea. Lee Alexander, Treasurer  
Sis. Rise' Alexander, Teacher  
Sis. Norma Champion-Jones  
Deas. Zeferonia (Doll) Demps,  
Teacher  
Deas. Sallie Flanders  
Rev. Samuel Johnson  
Sis. Yvonne Pernel  
Dea/Tte. Donald Suttles  
Sis. Danielle Rhodes  
Dea. Julian VanDyke  
Bro. Frank Warren  
Sis. Connie Wilson, Teacher

## Church Anniversary Committee

Tte. Deborah Sudduth, Chairperson  
Dea. Lee Alexander  
Sis. Rise' Alexander  
Sis. Mildred Cain  
Dea. Amel Eiland  
Dea. Lonnie Eiland  
Deas. Sallie Flanders  
Sis. Zena Flanders  
Dea. Adell Flourry  
Sis. Claudria Flourry  
Sis. Evelyn Gladney  
Sis. Yvonne Pernel  
Bro. Harold Singleton  
Sis. Pauline VanDyke  
Dea. Karl Wilson

## Church Clerk

Sis. Cheryl Howell  
Tte. Katrina Kaufman, Assistant

## Church Secretary

Sis. Connie Wilson  
Sis. Mildred Cain, Assistant  
Deas. Zeferonia (Doll) Demps, Assistant  
Tte. Katrina Kaufman, Assistant  
Sis. Edith Suttles, Assistant

## Church Treasurer

Deas. Roslin Griffin  
Tte. Jokay Maxie, Assistant

## Communications Committee

Sis. Vivian Tansil  
Sis. Mildred Cain (bulletin)  
Sis. R. Jean Davis (photography)  
Deas. Roslin Griffin (bulletin)  
Sis. Cheryl Howell (website)  
Sis. Katrina Kaufman (social media)  
Tte. Deborah Sudduth  
Dea./Tte. Donald Suttles  
Sis. Edith Suttles

## Constitution and Bylaws Committee

Sis. Vivian Tansil, Chairperson  
and Parliamentarian  
Deas. Zeferonia (Doll) Demps  
Deas. Sallie Flanders  
Sis. Cheryl Howell  
Dea. Robert Owens  
Dea. Dr. Eugene Pernel  
Dea./Tte. Donald Suttles  
Tte. Algje Watkins  
Dea. James Yarborough

## Events Coordinating Committee

Sis. Marilyn Crosby, Chairperson  
Tte. Jokay Maxie  
Dea./Tte. Donald Suttles  
Sis. Edith Suttles  
Sis. Vivian Tansil

## Facilities Use Committee

Dea./Tte. Karl Wilson, Chairperson  
Tte. Jokay Maxie, Vice-Chairperson  
Tte. David Duke (*In Memoriam*)  
Tte. Katrina Kaufman

## Financial Secretary

Deas. Marsie Douglas  
Bro. Jeff Champion, Assistant

## General Missionary Society

Sis. Patricia Fitzpatrick, President  
Sis. Rise' Alexander, Vice-President

## Circle No. 4

Sis. Rise' Alexander  
Sis. Mildred Cain  
Deas. Cynthia Carnegie, Emeritus  
Sis. Norma Champion-Jones  
Sis. Linda Daniel  
Sis. Ruby Daniel  
Sis. Ida Dulaney  
Sis. Patricia Fitzpatrick  
Sis. Claudria Flourry  
Sis. Yvonne Pernel  
Sis. Jaratha Walker, Emeritus  
Sis. Jackie Warren, Emeritus  
Sis. Erma Whiting  
Sis. Judy Williams, Emeritus

## Layman's League

Bro. Frank Warren, President  
Dea. Lee Alexander  
Bro. Herman Beard  
Bro. Ronald Cooke  
Tte. Tommie Culpepper  
Tte. David Duke (*In Memoriam*)  
Dea. Amel Eiland  
Dea./Tte. Dr. Lonnie Eiland  
Bro. Theo Fulwiley  
Dea. Larry Griffin  
Tte. Albert Henry  
Bro. Jayson Howell  
Rev. Samuel Johnson  
Dea. Robert Owens  
Dea. Dr. Eugene Pernel  
Bro. Fannie Price  
Dea./Tte. Donald Suttles  
Bro. Fred Whiting  
Dea./Tte. Karl Wilson  
Dea. James Yarborough  
Tte. Xavier Yarborough

## Reachout Mission Circle

Sis. Gloria Jones, Chairperson  
Deas. Zeferonia (Doll) Demps,  
Vice-Chairperson  
Deas. Marsie Douglas, Secretary  
Sis. Nona Brown,  
Corresponding Secretary  
Sis. Sarah Reed, Treasurer  
Sis. Ashley Brown  
Sis. Adella Christian  
Sis. Marilyn Crosby  
Sis. Treyna Duke  
Sis. Temekia Gibbs  
Sis. Mary Ann Graham  
Sis. Evelyn Green  
Deas. Roslin Griffin  
Sis. Teresa Jackson  
Deas. Terry Johnson  
Tte. Jokay Maxie  
Deas. Diane Owens  
Sis. Pauline Van Dyke  
Sis. Lorraine Watkins  
Sis. Connie Wilson  
Sis. Bernice Yarborough

## Youth Mission Seekers

Sis. Denise Evans, Chairperson  
Sis. Lori Fluker, Vice-Chairperson  
Sis. Nyla Hughes, Secretary  
Dea. Lee Alexander,  
Deacon Liaison  
Sis. Rise' Alexander  
Sis. Dr. Danielle Eiland  
Sis. Zena Flanders  
Rev. Samuel Johnson  
Sis. Danielle Rhodes  
Sis. Ra'chal Rhodes  
Tte. Xavier Yarborough

## Installation Committee

Rev. Matthew L. Alexander, Pastor  
Deas. Doll Demps  
Sis. Patricia Fitzpatrick  
Sis. Lori Fluker  
Sis. Katrina Kaufman  
Tte. Deborah Sudduth  
Dea. Donald Suttles  
Dea. James Yarborough

## **Kitchen Committee**

Sis. Norma Champion-Jones,  
Chairperson  
Sis. Rise' Alexander  
Sis. Nona Brown  
Sis. Ethel Culpepper  
Deas. Zeferonia (Doll) Demps  
Deas. Marsie Douglas  
Sis. Treyna Duke  
Sis. Ida Dulaney  
Sis. Patricia Fitzpatrick  
Sis. Tamara Fluker  
Deas. Roslin Griffin  
Sis. Gloria Jones  
Sis. Katrina Kaufman  
Sis. Sarah Reed  
Sis. Edith Suttles  
Sis. Pauline Van Dyke  
Sis. Connie Wilson  
Sis. Bernice Yarborough

## **Moderator**

Dea. James Yarborough

## **Music Department**

Sis. Rise' Alexander  
Dea. Amel Eiland, Chairperson  
Deas. Sallie Flanders  
Dea. Adell Flourry, Jr.,  
Sis. Mary Ann Graham  
Deas. Roslin Griffin  
Dea. Dr. Eugene Pernell  
Sis. Yvonne Pernell  
Sis. Dr. Gloria Smith  
Tte. Algie Watkins  
Sis. Bernice Yarborough  
Dea. James Yarborough

## **Inspirational Choir**

Dea. James Yarborough, Director  
Deas. Sallie Flanders, President  
Deas. Roslin Griffin, Vice-President  
Sis. R. Jean Davis, Secretary  
Sis. Velma DeMyers (*In Memoriam*)  
Dea. Adell Flourry, Jr.,  
Sis. Dr. Evelyn Gladney  
Tte. Albert Henry, Librarian  
Sis. Yvonne Pernell  
Tte. Deborah Sudduth,  
Communications  
Dea./Tte. Donald Suttles  
Sis. Edith Suttles  
Bro. Frank Warren

## **Musicians**

Bro. Gary Bryant, Piano  
Sis. Cheryl Dudley, Piano  
Dea. Amel Eiland, Saxophone  
Dea. Adell Flourry, Jr., Organ  
Sis. MaryAnne Graham, Piano  
Bro. Nathaniel Lewis, Organ/Piano  
Dea. Dr. Eugene Pernell, Trombone  
Bro. Phillip Scott, Guitar  
Bro. Rodney Singleton, Drums  
Tte. Algie Watkins, Piano

## **Voices of Praise**

Sis. Edith Suttles, President  
Deas. Roslin Griffin  
Tte. Albert Henry  
Sis. Marilyn James Crosby  
Sis. Lori Fluker  
Tte. Deborah Sudduth  
Dea/Tte. Donald Suttles  
Sis. Vivian Tansil  
Sis. Bernice Yarborough  
Dea. James Yarborough

## **Nominating Committee**

Sis. Mildred Cain, Chairperson  
Dea. Lee Alexander  
Dea. Amel Eiland  
Sis. Vivian Tansil  
Bro. Frank Warren  
Dea/Tte. Karl Wilson  
Tte. Xavier Yarborough

## **Pastoral Search Committee**

Tte. Deborah Sudduth, Chair,  
Trustee Board  
Sis. Mildred Cain, At-Large  
Deas. Sallie Flanders,  
Advisory Council  
Sis. Lori Fluker, At-Large  
Dea. Larry Griffin, Deacon Board  
Sis. Cheryl Howell, Advisory Council  
Dea. Donald Suttles, Trustee Board  
Bro. Fred Whiting, At-Large  
Dea. James Yarborough,  
Deacon Board  
Tte. Xavier Yarborough, At-Large

## **Safety Committee**

Pastor Matthew Alexander, Chair  
Tte. David Duke (*In Memoriam*)  
Tte. Kenny Duke  
Dea. Dr. Lonnie Eiland  
Sis. Evelyn Green  
Tte. Albert Henry  
Rev. Samuel Johnson  
Dea./Tte. Donald Suttles  
Dea. Julian Van Dyke  
Dea. James Yarborough  
Tte. Xavier Yarborough

## **Scholarship Committee**

Sis. Jacqueline Warren,  
Chairperson  
Sis. Norma Champion-Jones  
Sis. Ida Dulaney  
Sis. Patricia Fitzpatrick  
Deas. Terry Johnson

## **Transportation Committee**

Bro. Jeff Champion  
Tte. Tommie Culpepper  
Sis. Ruby Daniel  
Tte. David Duke, Chairperson  
(*In Memoriam*)  
Dea. Adell Flourry, Jr.  
Tte. Albert Henry, Vice-Chairperson  
Rev. Samuel Johnson  
Bro. Fonnice Price  
Sis. Ra'chal Rhodes  
Dea. Julian Van Dyke  
Sis. Pauline Van Dyke  
Tte. Xavier Yarborough

## **Usher Board**

### **Greeter Ministry**

Sis. Eula (Ann) Beard, Chairperson  
Bro. Herman Beard  
Sis. Ethel Culpepper  
Sis. Demeka Duke  
Sis. Keysha Duke-Booker  
Sis. Gloria Jones  
Bro. Harold Singleton  
Tte. Xavier Yarborough

### **Senior Usher Board**

Sis. Evelyn Green, Chairperson  
Sis. Marilyn James Crosby  
Sis. Pauline Anderson  
Sis. Mildred Cain  
Sis. Pamela Cooke  
Sis. Velma DeMyers (*In Memoriam*)  
Sis. Ida Dulaney  
Sis. Willisa (Mae) Fields, Emeritus  
Bro. Fred Porter, Emeritus  
Bro. Fonnice Price, Emeritus  
Sis. Sarah Reed  
Sis. Ra'chal Rhodes  
Bro. Harold Singleton  
Sis. Vivian Tansil  
Sis. Erma Whiting, Emeritus  
Tte. Xavier Yarborough

## Youth Department

Sis. Norma Champion-Jones,  
Director  
Rev. Samuel Johnson, Director  
Dea. Lee Alexander  
Sis. Rise' Alexander  
Sis. Eula (Ann) Beard  
Sis. Ruby Daniel  
Deas. Zeferonia (Doll) Demps  
Sis. Denise Evans  
Sis. Cheryl Dudley  
Sis. Patricia Fitzpatrick  
Deas. Sallie Flanders  
Dea. Adell Flourry, Jr.  
Sis. Evelyn Green  
Dea. Larry Griffin  
Deas. Roslin Griffin  
Sis. Gail Henry  
Sis. Gloria Jones  
Sis. Yvonne Pernel  
Sis. Sarah Reed  
Sis. Danielle Rhodes  
Sis. Edith Suttles  
Dea. Julian Van Dyke  
Sis. Pauline Van Dyke  
Sis. Connie Wilson  
Sis. Bernice Yarborough  
Dea. James Yarborough  
Tte. Xavier Yarborough

## Memorial Gifts Grow the Friendship Forever Fund

Nine members made gifts to grow the Friendship Endowment Fund in 2025.

Gifts were made in memory of:

**Trustee David L. Duke**  
**Brother Jasper L. Howell**  
**Sister Elise E. Kaufman**  
**Deaconess Bobbie J. Sudduth**  
**Deacon Lue C. Sudduth**  
**Mother Rosetta West**  
**Sister Octavia Watts**

# Making Your Gift for Friendship's Future

## Growing the Friendship Forever Fund

**N**ow that the Friendship Forever Fund is fully vested at \$78,319.94, Friendship has opportunity to work towards implementing strategies to continue to grow the endowment fund.

Endowments are typically funded by current and future charitable and philanthropic gifts made mostly by individuals.

Friendship's goal is to progressively grow the endowment fund each year with both current and estate gifts. A member can make a gift of any size at any time to grow the endowment fund.

A member can make a gift to the fund in honor of a loved one's birthday, an anniversary or as memorial gifts. Members can make a church anniversary gift each year to the endowment as a gift for Friendship's future.

Members or friends of Friendship wishing to make a current gift to grow Friendship's endowment can make that gift using cash, appreciated stock, and/or as part of their required minimum distribution from retirement accounts if the donor is aged 72 or older.

Current gifts can be made online by visiting [ourcommunity.org](http://ourcommunity.org), click Donate Now, and enter Friendship Forever Fund in the search bar, complete the gift form and submit. To mail your gift, send your check, made payable to the Capital Region Community Foundation, to 330 Marshall St., Suite 300, Lansing, MI 48912, with Friendship Forever Fund noted in the purpose line on your check.

Donors wishing to make a future gift to grow the endowment can plan and prepare for those gifts by naming the Friendship Forever Fund endowment held at the Capital Region Community Foundation as a beneficiary within a valid will, of an insurance policy, or a retirement account with remaining assets.

For future or planned estate gifts, as example, if 40 members leave an ultimate tithe of at least \$25,000 to the Friendship Endowment Fund, they will collectively grow the fund by \$1 million that can generate minimally \$40,000 each year in perpetual or permanent revenue for the operations of the Church.

Consider any one of these methods for making your investment in Friendship's future today or make a plan to make your ultimate gift in the future.





## Friendship Baptist Church

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Lansing, MI 48917

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Email: [info@friendshipbaptistlansing.org](mailto:info@friendshipbaptistlansing.org)

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### About the Annual Report

The Friendship Baptist Church Annual Report is a publication of the Advisory Council. The report documents for the membership the work of the Church in its fiscal year. The content reflects a compilation of the annual reports submitted by the officers and auxiliaries of the Church for the 2025 operating year.

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Photo Credits:

Great appreciation to Deaconess Zeferonia (Doll) Demps; Sister Jean Davis and Trustee Katrina Kaufman, for sharing the images that are featured in the 2025 FBC Annual Report.

## Join Friendship on Sundays!

### Sunday School in Person:

9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

Join Sunday School on Zoom:

Meeting ID: 852 3443 0954

Passcode: 2912

*Please mute phone when connected.*

### Worship in Person:

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Worship by Zoom:

Meeting ID: 819 7879 7775

Passcode: 2912

*Please mute device when connected.*

## Friendship Baptist Church Standing Meetings 2026

### WEEKLY

#### Monday

@ 5:00 p.m.      Reachout Mission

#### Wednesday

@ 11:30 a.m.      Prayer Meeting

@ Noon              Bible Study

@ 5:30 p.m.        Prayer Meeting

@ 6:00 p.m.        Bible Study

#### Thursday

@ 11:00 a.m.      Circle No.4

### MONTHLY

#### Second Tuesday

@ 6:30 p.m.      Deacon Board

#### Second Saturday

@ 10:30 a.m.      Trustee Board

#### Second Sunday

@ 1:00 p.m.      Youth Mission Seekers

#### Third Saturday

@ 9:00 a.m.      Laymen's League

@ 10:00 a.m.      Church Business Meeting

#### Fourth Saturday

@ 10:30 a.m.      Advisory Council