

# Senior Pastor

By Brandon Lemons, Senior Pastor

## Seeking Clarity in Our Direction

Have you ever opened a box that says, “Some Assembly Required,” only to find that it should have said, “*MUCH* Assembly Required,” and even worse, the instructions were practically worthless? I know I’ve had times when I basically set the instructions aside and figured it out on my own.



While this mentality may work when building a bicycle or bookshelf, it will not work if we want to be a healthy, disciple-making church. When assembling a bike or bookshelf, at least you know how the end result should look. In a church, however, an unclear mission and vague sense of purpose are very likely to cause us to miss God’s calling, even though we may have a lot of activity in the church. Therefore, we need to clarify our understanding of who we are, what we’re doing, and why we’re doing it.

I’m excited to share with you three main opportunities that are available this Fall for us to gain understanding and clarity regarding where God is leading us. Since two are on Sunday mornings and the third is only six weeks long, I encourage all members and regular attendees to make time to participate in each of these tremendous opportunities. I don’t think you will be disappointed!

### Opportunity #1

## FRIEDENS.NAVIGATE.101

On September 12, we’re beginning a 9-week sermon series on Friedens’ mission statement. Just as a compass guides travelers, our mission statement serves as a valuable navigational tool for clarifying the direction of Friedens Church. Please see page 1 for details on the topics of each week.



### Opportunity #2

## Sermon Discussion Groups

At 9:15 each Sunday morning (beginning September 12), we will have Sermon Discussion Groups that discuss the topic of the sermon. You don’t need to have heard the sermon before coming to one of these groups, but it will be a great way to dig deeper into the particular aspect of Friedens’ mission statement we are studying that day. And the groups are also a low-commitment way to get to know others at Friedens!

### Opportunity #3

## Membership Class

**Begins:** Sunday, October 10

**When:** Sundays from 6:00-7:30pm

**How long:** Six weeks

**Where:** Fellowship Hall

**For whom:** Everyone who wants to:

1. Become a Friedens member
2. Learn more about God and Friedens

**How to Sign Up:** Watch the Connection Card!

The Membership Class is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about Friedens, including our history, beliefs, mission, and ministries. It is required for those of you who desire to become Friedens members, but we believe so strongly in the class that everyone is strongly encouraged to attend. If you want to know what we’re about and where we’re going, this is the place to be.

We would like to make a special note about the time of the class. We scheduled it earlier in the evening so that: 1) Families with young children can get home earlier, and 2) Packers fans don’t have to miss much of the two Sunday-night games scheduled during the class.