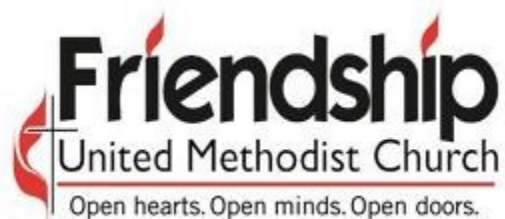




*Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old.
I am about to do a new thing:
now it springs forth,
do you not perceive it? (Isaiah 43:18-19)*



305 E. Boughton Road
Bolingbrook, IL 60440

Worship Service Sundays at 10:00am

Vision Statement:

*To **Be** a faith community that **Loves** God and all creation, **Grows** in the knowledge of God and **Serves** actively because of our faith in God.
If not us, then **WHO?***

630.972.1011 ~ friendshipchurchumc.org

Winter Sermon Series Wrestling with the Bible

The Bible is the primary source of Christian faith. We love the Bible. But there are portions and statements that make us wonder and question the will of God. As a new year comes, it is the opportune time to go to the source of our faith, the Bible, to rediscover the power of scripture today. We will wrestle together with “the difficult questions often raised by thoughtful Christians and non-Christians” of today.

Join us beginning January 14th for this five-part series:

Making Sense of the Old Testament
Making Sense of the New Testament
The Bible and Science
The Bible and Violence
Wrestling with Issues of Sexuality and Relationships



Bible Study Opportunities

Sundays at 9am, January 14-May 20

Making Sense of the Bible by Adam Hamilton

Join Pastor Anna for this study that accompanies the new sermon series.

Cost of the book is \$11 and you can sign up by contacting the church office or at the information station.

Wednesdays at 10:15am, beginning January 10th
Ladies Christian Study

The group will begin studying Anxious for Nothing: Finding Calm in a Chaotic World. When it comes to anxiety, depression, and stress-related illnesses, America is the frontrunner. Thankfully, there's a practical prescription for dealing with these issues.

Anxious for Nothing, the most recent book from *New York Times* bestselling author, Max Lucado, provides a roadmap for battling with and healing from anxiety. Contact Sharon to register - 630.378.4697.



Read the Bible in a Year

Guides are available on the information station that provide a practical sequence to reading the Bible in a year. Feel free to pick up one (or both!) and get started on your journey through this wonderful book!

Reflections from Pastor Anna Shin

I have encountered many people saying that having New Year's resolutions don't excite them anymore. Perhaps, if anything, it's always a little depressing. Although all those resolutions seem so resolute and sincere, somehow they amazingly with almost no exception failed to get motivated to get going. I totally understand that. I have had accumulated wisdom that no real change has ever happened in our life in body and in spirit because we have set a date for it to happen.

But I always find myself deeply appreciating the coming of January, a new calendar with lots of blank space in it. It is a new beginning! And when we look to the Bible, it is so apparent how much God desires new beginnings for us. God constantly clears what has become blurred, restores what has died, and recovers what has gone astray. *"Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing: now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:18-19)*

Jesus always presents this God as a deeply loving one who always gives another chance, waits for our return starting a new life in him and with him.

January is such a good time to deliberately stop and reflect how far we have come in our journey and refresh our vision before taking next steps and rejoice over the gift of another year given to us and be thankful for the new possibility hidden waiting to be born.

More than anything else, I'd like to thank our devoted ministry leaders who year after year have given their time and energy to build our church vibrant and fruitful. On the first Sunday in January our new leadership of the church council will be recognized. I am sure you don't want to miss worship this Sunday. Also we will offer the Covenant prayer in a Wesleyan Tradition. It is always an overwhelming experience to offer this prayer during our corporate worship service on the first Sunday in a new year. I believe as one of our hymns sings 'I am the church; you are the church; we are the church together.'

Think about it: what if everyone, not just some but everyone takes or teaches one class of study; what if everyone, not just a new member but everyone spend half an hour in reading the Bible daily and pray; what if everyone engages in one service in a week whether visiting or listening to our friends, tutoring kids, serving at the shelter or preparing for the treats for the fellowship hour on Sunday morning, recording the worship service, watering plants, calling or sending a card for worrying souls, folding weekly worship program. What if everyone would spend half an hour with another church friend over a cup of tea or prayer? I would like to hear your resolution about what Friendship can do in this new year with you. Please invite me into your small groups. Any creative suggestions are welcome!

Pastor Anna

Anna Shin



From the bottom of my heart:

I'd like to tell you how deeply I was touched as I opened your thoughtful Christmas gift wrapped in a big yellow envelope in which contain tracks of love and care from you for me and my family. It warmed my heart as I flew to Seattle to see my two older boys who have almost settled down in far west country! May the favor of our God who helps us to bond together in love through Christ be upon us and prosper for us the work of our hands! Anna



Pastor's Report For Annual Church Conference

On December 11, the annual Church Conference was held with 12 FUMC members and Pastor Anna in attendance. This yearly celebration of our church's ministries was presided over by the Reverend Tedd Steele from Wesley United Methodist Church. He informed the group of the new Northern Illinois Conference structural changes this year including a new governing board made up of 23 people. Below is the report submitted by Pastor Anna. For a complete packet of reports made by each of our ministries, contact the church office.

Report submitted by Reverend K. Anna Shin to the Northern Illinois Conference:

"Go and do likewise." (Luke 10:25-37)

"I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." (Ephesians 4:1-3)

*"Thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel:
In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength." (Isaiah 30:15)*

Being faithful, being the church in today's world is hard. Truthfully speaking, it has been like that from the beginning of the birth as the scripture proves. It requires courage and staying in love with God and one another.

More than ever, we face a division and an isolation among nations, churches, and neighbors, if not in families. I believe the climate of our current society are creating unique opportunities for the church to refine our calling to be good neighbors and to stand up and exercise a prophetic witness as Jesus followers in the world and for the world. I am reminded that religion is meant "to comfort the afflicted and to afflict the comfortable." (Amy-Jill Levine)

The year 2017 at Friendship has been a time to look into ourselves and to clarify and reemphasize the primary task of a church: making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. It is important to know and understand who we are and what we believe, and why we are 'here and now', and thereby what we decide to do together should reflect our identity and what we believe.

So I am very proud of what the church leadership has been working on, especially with the leadership of Staff-Parish Relation Committee and Lay Leadership Development Committee along with the task force group, called "A-Team", to clarify the core values of Friendship Church and to develop a way to work toward an accountable discipleship. Also I have been delighted to learn that our women's group has wanted to start the United Methodist Women unit at Friendship and searched a way to do it already!

Personally, I've been learning to let go of my schemes to achieve what I want to see happening and appreciate what is unfolded around us and in the midst of us. I've been learning simply rest in the grace of God who knows my desire more than I do through practicing centering prayer.

Pastor's Report Continued....

Among the highlights of 2017 were:

Prayer connection during Lent—prayers for 5 households a day during 2017 Lent were offered through emails. I was greatly graced by doing this so I'll invite the congregation to take the leadership parts to be prayer partners in 2018 Lent.

Sacred Conversations around race relations— we have been blessed with the grant from the Program Council of the Northern Illinois Conference (a creative ministry grant) last year. We invited Karen Young, a facilitator (intercultural communication trainer, Salvation Army) to lead us in conversations on race relations three Sundays in spring (February – April). About 20 attended from diverse ethnic groups of our congregation. We will continue to offer 'sacred conversations' in 2018 along with workshops for learning to live with differences.

'Disciple Making church has a disciple-making-System.'—from March through June, 9 people (Dan Henry, Mike DeWitt, Deji Sanyaolu, Dave Lichty, Robin Lichty, Vicki Karns, Leonard Jones, Carolyn Jones, Carolyn Weber) met every other week on Thursday to create a system that helps people to grow in faith and get equipped to be mature disciples and servant leaders.

A brochure using the tree metaphor was created by our own leaders along with the 5 basics that can be used for growth measurement. (a Discipleship chart). The group studied *Simple Church* by Thom Sainer and Eric Geiger, *TeamWork* by Craig Miller, and *Foundation* by Phil Maynard's work.

Following Jesus: Steps to a passionate Faith by Carolyn Slaughter— as a base level, 3 classes were offered on 12 Sundays after worship, 12 Wednesday mornings (women's bible study led by Sharon Hall), and 6 Fridays evenings. The total 20 graduates will be recognized on Sunday, December 10. The same book study will be offered in 2018 winter and fall in small group settings.

Empowering lay leadership (accountable discipleship) --The Church Council—

The job descriptions of the ministry teams were written, and the task and expectations of the leadership have been discussed and reemphasized to hold one another accountable as an effort toward mature discipleship.

8 ministry teams were confirmed (Children, Youth, Adult Faith Formation, Caring Christians, Missions, Outreach, Worship support, and Communication).

Administrative Board (Staff-Parish Relation; Lay leadership and Nominations; Trustees, and Finance Committee)

Friendship Fund Board and Preschool Board

Event planning and evaluation worksheet is created by Staff-Parish Relation Committee.

Relational and Invitational leadership (5-10 rules for the congregation; one-on-one mentor or partnership)

As I look forward to 2018, I would like to say thank you to our staff, (Music, Office, Worship Support, Building), paid and unpaid (Membership, Children's choir, eFocus, Youth Ministry, and Finance). And I am very grateful that Amber Pidgeon will be on board as the Administrator for the Children and Family Ministry from new year. Thank you for the financial support for that!

Children and Family News



January 2018

January 7, 14, 21, 28 - 10am
Sunday School

January 24 - Café resumes



Sunday School - Sundays at 10:00am

Join us this month as we explore the Jesus' life, beginning with a visit from some very special people from the East!

See you in Sunday School!



Choralier and Alleluia Choir

The choir will be taking a break after all the wonderful performances during Advent and Christmas Eve.

Thank you to all who participated - including the parents who faithfully bring their children each week to rehearsal!

Rehearsals for the Palm Sunday, March 25th performance will begin in February. All children 4 years old through 9th grade are welcome to join our choir!

Watch for specific dates in next month's LINK!

Please contact Jane Pierce at jane.pierce@comcast.net or in person if you have any questions!

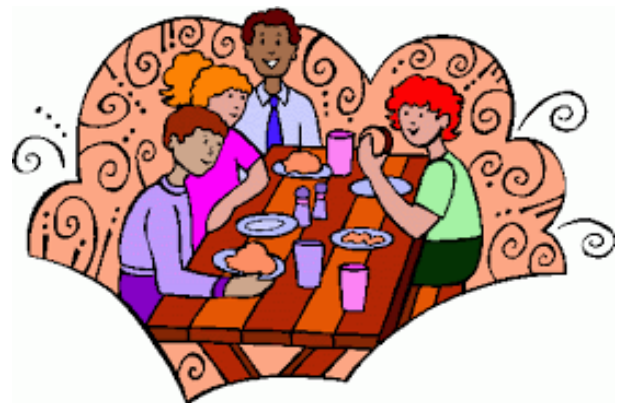
Friendship Café

Wednesdays - Beginning January 24th
6:00-7:45 P.M.

Come in out of the cold for a quick bite, a full meal, or just dessert and coffee!

Bring your whole family! It's a great opportunity for fellowship in the middle of the week.

Everyone welcome!



Youth Happenings

DATES TO REMEMBER

January 5-7 - Winter Retreat

January 7 & 13th - Fundraiser Sales

January 14th - Deposit and Forms due for the Mission Trip



**Middle School
Sunday School-
Sundays @10am**

Youth in grades 6-8 are invited to join us as we explore the time of longing and waiting in hope that gives way to the white/gold of Christmas, and we rejoice with two wise prophets, Anna and Simeon, as they see God at work reshaping and restoring lives.

The Foundry

Youth Fellowship of Friendship United Methodist Church

**The Foundry
Youth Group Meeting
Saturdays, 7-9pm**

Youth ages 6th-12th grade are invited for a time of worship, devotions and of course, youth group games! The praise band "Band of Bread" will rehearse from 6:30 to the start of the evening at 7pm.

Mission Trip Fundraiser

We are selling Dippin' Good Dips seasoning packets from a company in Rockford until January 13th.

Each packet costs \$5.00 and comes in a variety of flavors.

These dips would be a great addition to your Super Bowl Party!

Proceeds go towards the youth mission trip.

Dip'n Good Dips

College Care Packages

The youth group will once again be sending care packages to our friends who are away at college.

In order to help us collect addresses, we ask that parents of college students fill out a form (on the Youth bulletin board).

Parents can also email us at the address below:
friendshipfoundry@gmail.com

Please let us know by January 21st so your student can be included!



Worship Arts Alive at Friendship!

We are blessed at Friendship Church with many people who are good at seeing the creative side to worship. By bringing variety to our worship services, we expand our horizons of how and why we worship. God is creative (look what God did in seven short days!) so we know it is acceptable to push the envelope a bit when it comes to planning worship services.

That creativity has never been more evident than during our holiday season. We at Friendship Church are so fortunate to have members who go the extra mile in planning and implementing creative and beautiful elements to enhance our worship services. The Christmas cantata on December 17th, "I Hear the Prophet Callin'" was a beautiful and very meaningful start to the Christmas weeks to come. Thank you to Pamela Stephan who directed the event as well as the many talented voices and orchestration which enhanced the cantata.

On Christmas Eve, we experienced a delightful service "The ABC's of Christmas" directed by Jane Pierce. The Alleluia and Choralier Choirs as well as the wonderful narration by Joshan Christie, Hailey Caudill and Kris Valdez helped bring the true meaning of Jesus' birth to the audience. On Christmas Eve, we heard beautiful music from Pam Stephan, Jake Joo, Melissa Schoonover, David Olsen, as well as Jessica and Leonard Jones. The Nine Lessons and Carols traditional service told the Christmas story by scripture and song. Lovely, colorful poinsettias (thank you, Carolyn Larsen!) enriched the sanctuary space. Our Advent décor designed by Vicki Karns and installed by Gene Paquette and Larry Hilb brought serenity and grace to the sanctuary during the Advent and Christmas season.

Lest we forget, there are many others who contribute to our worship that we do not see: thank you to the ladies from Senior Lunch who help decorate the sanctuary and building, Donna McWilliams, our graphic designer, the projection and sound teams as well as Kim Bailey, our office manager who had numerous bulletins to create during Advent and Christmas. Another big thank you goes to Pat Prins, our building manager and Keith Deatrick for the many "set ups" and "take downs" needed during the season. Pastor Anna supports us all as we strive to bring value to our worship.

A heartfelt you to all those who made the Advent and Christmas season so meaningful at Friendship Church!



-Muffy Paquette, Worship Support Co-Chair



Christmas Eve

The Family Christmas Eve service at 5:00 p.m. had something for everyone!

The narration The ABC's of Christmas was read by three of our youth, Joshan Christie, Hailey Caudill and Kris Valdez. Joshan and Kris were recently confirmed and Hailey is a member of the confirmation class this year. Brady Kent, a high school senior, was the scripture reader during the narration.

The congregation participated in the narration by responding to the words...Angels (Hallelujah!), Shepherds (Let's go see!), and the Wise Ones (Look a star!) The Choralier and Alleluia Choir sang two beautiful Christmas Eve anthems. The Joy and Shahila Christie family lighted the Advent Candles and the Christ Candle.

The service ended with candle lighting and the carol Go Tell It on the Mountain!

Hot chocolate and cookies were then served to everyone in the Friendship Center!



Grace-Surprise-Joy-Divine Appointment-Gratitude:

Right before Christmas we received a letter from Missionary Christiana (Young Seon) Kim in Tanzania. Her letter was filled with overjoy over what God has prepared for her as she stepped out of her comfort zone. Her 58-day itinerary in the USA to raise funds for a Secondary School Project led her to meet new and old friends and supporters and build new partnership in mission. Her faith, 'God's grace was sufficient the air that I breathe every day' is inspiring! Copies of her newsletter are available on the information desk.



Thanks to everyone that bought gifts for our Giving Tree! The school was so surprised at the amount of beautifully wrapped gifts we sent. A true blessing at Christmas time.



Career Choices for High School Students

Friendship's current high school seniors and several of our college students who are at home for the holidays met to talk about preparing to graduate and go on to college. The seniors are currently involved in Friendship's Career Choices for High School Students (CCHSS). It was very engaging and informative as the high school seniors asked questions and talked about going into their last semester of high school. Our current college students and parents were very realistic and open about recommendations and encouraging the high school students. We prayed, talked, shared concerns and joys, acknowledged the excitement of aspiring careers, but also recognized the importance of continuing to be active and engaged with our church and giving back to those coming behind us.



United Methodist Women

Our United Methodist Women (UMW) will organize a committee to meet later in January. This committee will meet, discuss and make decisions about the mission priorities of our group beginning this year 2018. We hope to have 8-10 women from our church on this committee. There will probably be several meetings needed to get us started but we will not meet monthly!

It should be an exciting adventure to create an activity calendar and plan mission opportunities for our women, children and youth here at Friendship Church. We also hope to come up with opportunities for mission work in our community, state, country and world. Sounds overwhelming? We will take small steps to achieve our purpose and our decisions. Just come with your ideas! We need to get started!

If you would be interested in being on our UMW committee, please contact Jane Pierce (jane.pierce@comcast.net).

I hope to hear from you soon!!



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

First Friends Preschool

At First Friends, Christmas is all about Jesus. After hearing many versions of the Nativity story, each student created their own Nativity set, coloring pictures of the holy family, shepherds and kings.

We also decorated our Christmas tree with handmade ornaments of Christian symbols of lambs, stars and angels.

We will begin accepting registrations for the 2018-19 school year this month. Tell your friends and neighbors - we would love for them to join our First Friends Family!

Happy New Year!



Friendship Community

Prayer in the Chapel

Be a part of a group of people who pray for our congregation. The group of 4-5 people will meet in the chapel on Sunday mornings from 9-9:45am. There will be a rotation of members from month to month. Members will be given a list of prayer requests each week. If you would like to be part of this group, contact Kathleen Campbell. If you have a prayer request, please email them to the church office.

churchoffice@friendshipchurchumc.org

Celebration offerings

The tradition of the Celebration Offering came to us from our African Fellowship.

On the first Sunday of each month as we celebrate God's abundant gifts on our lives, a special offering is taken in addition to the general offering.

It's a chance to celebrate the blessings God has bestowed upon our lives. Look for the special offering envelope in the bulletin. There is a place to mark if you would like to share your story with the congregation during a Sunday worship.

We have received 8 envelopes totaled \$117.00. They are celebrating for a wonderful Thanksgiving with family; God's mercies on our family; a healing hand by the Great Physician; our 21st Anniversary.

May God continue to bless you richly as your compassionate heart grows daily!

Blessings,

Pastor Anna



DAYBREAK

Serving at **Daybreak** is a long standing tradition at Friendship. On the third Friday (and following Saturday morning) we donate food, cook and serve two meals. Watch inserts in 2nd Sunday bulletins for details on how to donate and get involved in serving at the shelter.

Dinner on Friday, January 19 @ 5:30 pm

Breakfast on Saturday, January 20 @ 5:00 am

Richard Guzman, Coordinator

SENIOR BIBLE STUDY & LUNCHEON

Is open to all senior adults. It meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 11:15am. The study is led by Pastor Anna and is followed by a delicious luncheon. If you would like to attend, contact the church office at 630-972-1011.

Study & Lunch: Thursday, January 18

AA & GA

Friendship is a place of help and hope for those struggling with addictions. Meetings are open to all.
AA Meetings: Saturdays @ 9am & Sunday @ 5pm
GA Meetings: Fridays @ 7:30 pm

ANXIETY/PANIC ATTACK SUPPORT GROUP

Meets the 2nd & 4th Thursdays of the month from 7—9pm. Open to all.

DONATIONS FOR LOCAL

FOOD PANTRIES:

POWER Connection

West Suburban Community Pantry

1st Sunday of every month

FIRST FRIENDS CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

MONDAY-FRIDAY

9:00am-12:00pm

Contact Chris Bosacki, Director,
for more information.

chrisbosacki@firstfriendspreschool.info

January 2018 ~ Friendship Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 10am BPC Ministry	3	4	5 10am BPC Ministry 6pm Youth Retreat 7:30pm GA	6 9am AA
7 9:15am Prayer in the Chapel 10am Worship & Sunday School 5p AA	8 Preschool Resumes 5:30pm Girl Scouts	9 10am BPC Ministry	10 10:15am Ladies' Christian Study 5pm Confirmation 6:30pm Boy Scouts 7:30pm Chancel Choir	11 7pm Anxiety Support	12 10am BPC Ministry 7:30pm GA	13 9am AA 7pm The Foundry
14 9am Prayer 10am Worship & Sunday School 5pm AA	15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday - No Preschool 5:30pm Girl Scouts	16 10am BPC Ministry	17 10:15am Ladies' Christian Study 5pm Confirmation 6:30pm Boy Scouts, Adult Bell Choir 7:30pm Chancel Choir	18 11:15am Sr. Lunch and Bible Study	19 10am BPC Ministry 6:30pm Girl Scouts 7:30pm GA	20 9am AA 7pm The Foundry
21 9am Prayer 10am Worship & Sunday School 5pm AA	22	23 10am BPC Ministry 10:30am Worship Planning	24 10:15am Ladies' Christian Study 5pm Confirmation 6pm Café 6:30pm Boy Scouts, Adult Bell Choir 7:30pm Chancel Choir	25 7pm Anxiety Support	26 10am BPC Ministry 7:30pm GA	27 9am AA
28 9am Prayer 10am Worship & Sunday School 5pm AA	29	30 10am BPC Ministry	31 10:15am Ladies' Christian Study 5pm Confirmation 6pm Café 6:30pm Boy Scouts, Adult Bell Choir 7:30pm Chancel Choir			