Friendship Church is a reconciling congregation. We are a dynamic multicultural and multi-generational congregation. As followers of Jesus Christ, we celebrate God’s gift of diversity and unconditional love. With open hearts, open minds and open doors, we see all people as sacred in God’s eyes, embracing and affirming each person regardless of age, racial and ethnic background, sexual orientation, gender identity, socio-economic condition, physical and mental ability and family status. At Friendship Church, we welcome all people into full inclusion in the life and ministries of the church. No matter where you have been in life’s journey, we invite you to come and join us on our walk of faith, helping one another and the world to see the face of God, experience the love of Jesus Christ and live in the power of the Holy Spirit. For more information visit rmnetwork.org

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit. –Psalm 51:12, NRSV
Limited In-Person Worship Has Returned!

With the governor lifting the Tier 3 COVID mitigations, we are cautiously and carefully welcoming a limited number of worshipers back to the sanctuary. CDC guidelines are being followed to ensure everyone's safety. We hope you can join us - as you feel comfortable doing so!

Reservations are strongly suggested. Invitations to reserve your spot are emailed each week - please be sure to update your current contact information by emailing the church office at fumcbolingbrook@gmail.com. You may also call the office to reserve your spot at (630)972-1011.

Services will still be available via Zoom conference call, and streamed live via Facebook on Sundays at 10am. Recorded services are available after noon on Sundays on our website and Facebook page. A copy of the week’s bulletin and announcements is also available on our website.

Lenten Worship Series
Sundays at 10am
“He took our infirmities and bore our diseases.” Matthew 8:17b

Each of us is created a precious and holy vessel of embodied love. We have been through a harrowing time since last Lent that has shattered our sense of wholeness—body, mind, and spirit—like a glass vessel fractured into pieces. In this Lenten “season of recovery” for our physical, communal, mental, intellectual, and environmental health, we will explore the healing narratives of Jesus that tell of divine solidarity with human suffering and remind us that we can begin a journey toward making something beautiful from that which is seemingly broken. Beach glass offers us a multifaceted symbol of this transformative process. Reflection pages to accompany each week’s service are available for download by contacting the church office—fumcbolingbrook@gmail.com.

Join us Sunday, March 7 for “Stories” and Holy Communion; Sunday March 14th for “Different Pictures”, Sunday, March 21st for Restoration and Sunday, March 28th for Palm/Passion Sunday.

Holy Week
Sunday, March 28th, 10am — Palm/Passion Sunday
On this final Sunday of our “Holy Vessels” series, the parade of compassionate power we celebrate today is underscored by a story of transformation, symbolizing our ability to fuel our movement of recovery.

Friday, April 2nd, 7pm — Good Friday Worship
Join us for a traditional Tenebrae service featuring scripture reading and contemplative music to accompany John's story of the trial, sentencing, execution, death, and burial of Jesus.

Sunday, April 4th, 10am—Easter Worship
Christ is Risen! Hallelujah! Join us as we celebrate!

All services will be offered in person, via Zoom, and Facebook Live.

More details will be emailed as the dates get closer.
Reflections from Pastor Anna

"Every time you listen with great attentiveness to the voice that calls you the Beloved, you will discover within yourself a desire to hear that voice longer and more deeply. (from Life of the Beloved, Henry J. M. Nouwen)

I encountered Henri J. M. Nouwen's words when I struggled with deep sense of insecurity during the early stage of pastoral ministry. He wrote this book when Fred, his friend, a young Jewish man from New York who struggled with the sense of meaningful life, asked Nouwen, "Why don't you write something about the spiritual life for me and my friends?"

Nouwen's writing reminded me of the first experience that I had in my 20s, the presence of the living God, real and palpable, in me, above me, under me, surrounding me. Deep within me was a loving presence who has known me from the beginning and would always love me and never leave me. I was overwhelmed with this discovery that 'Someone' — I was not sure how I should name its presence — was there and ready to listen to me. This was the beginning of my awareness of and relationship with God. It was a joyous secret that I have kept to myself. And over the years, I have learned to be attuned to this inner presence, now I call 'indwelling God' that is the source of guidance and strength, and consolation.

"Restore to me the joy of your salvation.." This beautiful Psalm 51, we often hear on Ash Wednesday, gives us a hint that we may be able to choose and direct our will to act in a godly way. It tells us that our will is needed, not sufficient but necessary, for our salvation which means freedom from fear in life and living in communion with God in whatever circumstances we find ourselves.

I know that sometimes my willful desire can go against my will. As Paul writes, we do what we want to do even when we know that is not for the best. The psalmist, however, reminds us that God gifts us with a powerful means, our will. And God invites and waits for us to have a willing spirit to turn away from the ways I wound my life, the lives of others, and the life of the world and open and ready to hear God's voice and follow God's ways.

Let us make these beautiful words from Psalm 51 part of our prayer during Lent. Sit quietly and begin to notice how your breath goes in and out. As you breathe in, pray: "Sustain in me." As you breathe out, pray: "a willing spirit." Repeat these prayers over and over until they settle in and resonate in your body. Perhaps you may do it in the early morning as the sun rises or any moment of your day. It would take 5 minutes or 20 minutes until your body and mind stay gentle.

As you move around in your daily life, be mindful of this breath prayer and be ready to attend to God's offering to you.

Looking forward to seeing your glowing face with God's light in person,

Peace,

Anna Shin
Celebrate Black History Month with Friendship Church UMW!

It’s time to highlight and support our African American small business owners in Bolingbrook. If you didn’t already know it, Adey and Yetunde Olatunde, Friendship Church members, are two of those owners!

Adey and Yetunde own the Afro-Caribbean Mart located at 265 N. Schmidt Road in Bolingbrook. From imported African spices, sauces, breads and canned goods etc., to beautiful African fabrics, ready-made clothes, scarves, shoes and jewelry there is a large variety of items to see and to buy!

They began their small business adventure after Yetunde and her friend wanted to order items from their home country. That led to the Afro-Caribbean Mart opening in Bolingbrook by the Olatundes. so others may shop and find many imported items to buy and/or order at the store. After 12 years their business is doing very well. Thanks for their dedication to the community!

The Afro-Caribbean Mart is also a family affair for the Olatunde family! All three of their now college age children, Olamide, Kunmi and Mayowa, work at the store whenever possible. No matter when you visit the store a family member is usually there with a smile on their face and ready to help you find just the item you need!

So, stop by the Afro-Caribbean Mart some day during February and talk with the Olatundes and take a look at all of the many items available in their mart!

They will gladly give you a tour and show you all of the items and services available!

At the Afro-Caribbean Mart there is something for everyone!

Celebrate the Olatunde’s business not only during Black History Month but all year long!

P.S. There are two other businesses, both restaurants, with African American owners in Bolingbrook. Stop by or order ahead for pick up at either

  Mandy’s Soul Food Kitchen on Boughton Rd. and
  Uncle Remus (Saucy Fried Chicken) on Weber Rd.
  Check out their websites!
UMW Appreciates Our Health Care Workers!

This month UMW recognizes the following Friendship Church members who provide services in the health care field. All of these dedicated individuals work tirelessly to provide the best possible physical/mental health care and related services for all of us! We sincerely say “thank you” to each and every one of them!

Yetunde Olatunde, Audrey Arowolo, Bukola Ogundero, Ibrahim Arowolo, Lauretta Kargbo, Matilda Mends, Mariatu Nettay, Olamido Olatunde, Mila Valdez Kloie Valdez, Silva Agustin, Lorna Tumamao, Godly Cayaba, Linda Comia, Jeanette Lood Camingawan, Kris Valdez, Jameson Pagano, Davis Bhagat, Amy Hanna, Jenny Taylor, Linda Guzman, Christina Grapengeter

God Bless you all!

Third Sunday March 21 Fellowship Time

Local Elections

The local elections in Bolingbrook and DuPage Township are scheduled for April 6. Who is running? What are the issues on the ballot? Please join us for a discussion after service on March 21.

The presentation will be followed by a Q&A session. In order to ask a question, you will need to either attend worship in person or be logged in to the Zoom conference call.

We hope you can join us!

Our JEDI Ministry Team
(Diversity, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion)

sent a message of encouragement, love and blessings to the newest and second only Reconciling Ministries Network church in Africa!

We are in this together!!
We are thrilled to welcome the newest Reconciling Church of the movement: Christ Chapel UMC in Oyani, Kenya!

Christ Chapel UMC is the second African Reconciling United Methodist Church in Africa.

Friendship Career Scholarship Donations

The Friendship Career Scholarship was started to help graduating seniors who have been active in the ministries of Friendship Church with the high cost of continuing their education at a trade school, college or community college. Two years ago, we expanded this ministry and offered scholarships for a lesser amount to active members who are in college and need help. Thanks to your generous donations, 12 of our students have received a scholarship. Applications for both scholarships may be found on the church’s website or by emailing the church office to receive a copy. Applications will be accepted through March 31st with the scholarships being awarded in May. Donations to the scholarship fund may be dropped off or mailed to the church with the designation of “Career Scholarship”, or by visiting our website and clicking on the donate button – be sure to add “Career Scholarship” in the notes. Thank you for your generosity.
### Senior Lunch

**Thursday, March 18th**

Every third Thursday (unless it’s a holiday) our cooks will create a lunch and deliver it to your front door, or you can drive up to the church for curbside pickup! All food will be prepared with CDC guidelines. You will be contacted prior to the above date when you can let them know if you would like a lunch and your preference of curbside pickup or delivery. We are so excited to offer this program again.

We wish we could be together at Friendship but for now, we send our blessings for good health!

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### Prayers for Lent

*These prayers are good for daily devotional practices during Lent.*

*O God your glory is always to have mercy. Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, forever and ever. Amen.*

*(Book of Common Prayer)*

*Everlasting God, because of your tender mercy toward all people, you sent your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon himself our flesh, and to suffer death upon the cross, that all should follow the example of his great humility. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of his patience and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

*(Book of Common Prayer)*

*God our Creator, the strength of all who put their trust in you, mercifully accept our prayers; and because, in our weakness, we can do nothing good without you, grant us the help of your grace, that in keeping your commandments we may please you, both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.* *(adapted from the Book of Common Prayer)*

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### Make sure you’re on time to church on the 14th when Daylight Savings Time begins!

Turn your clocks ahead an hour before you go to bed on Saturday!
Thank you to all who have been so generous during these trying times. We have received many grateful messages from West Suburban Community Pantry as they struggle to meet the growing needs in our community.

No contact drop off of non-perishable items can be made during office hours on Wednesdays (10am-3pm) at the south entrance to our building, and will be delivered to West Suburban Community Pantry.

Current needs are: pancake mixes, boxed potato mixes, canned tuna and chicken, boxed dinner mixes (like hamburger helper), jelly, paper towels, tissues, napkins, baby wipes and diapers.
There is also a need for individual, low sodium meal mixes for Seniors in need.

Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate?

Our UMW coffee and other beverages will be available on Wednesdays from 10:00am-3:00pm. The cart will be located inside the south entrance. You are welcome to take what you need and leave your payment.

Come over and support the UMCOR coffee project and donate to local food pantries at the same time!

Leadership Recognition
We are grateful for the many volunteers who lead and keep the ministry of our church moving forward!

This month we wish to recognize those who serve on the Finance Committee as they help us be good stewards of the resources given!

Thank you to: Mike DeWitt, Chairperson; Pat Prins and Donna Jacobs, Treasurers; Carol Fetters, Co-Finance Secretary; Gene Paquette, Head of Trustees and Co-Finance Secretary; Leonard Jones, Staff Parish Representative; Deji Sanyaolu, Council Chair and Mike Donahue, member at large.

Offering Information
Thank you for your continued generosity during these uncertain times! We are so grateful to our Friendship Family for their support!

Please continue your giving in the following ways: sign up for electronic giving, mail your donation to the church or visit our website for online giving.
friendshipchurchumc.org
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. Contact Richard Guzman, coordinator if you are interested in donating food or serving.

Richard Guzman, Coordinator
rrguzman@comcast.net to donate

SENIOR LUNCHEON
Invitations have been sent for a once a month delivery of lunch. If you would like to be placed on the mailing list, please contact the church office - 630.972.1011.

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

DONATIONS FOR LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES:
West Suburban Community Pantry
Wednesdays from 10am-3pm

Friendship Micro Pantry
North Entrance of building
“Take what you need, leave what you can”
Donations may be left 24/7 at the north entrance of the building

FIRST FRIENDS CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL
MONDAY-FRIDAY
9:00am-12:00pm
Contact Chris Bosacki, Director, for more information.
chrisbosacki@firstfriendspreschool.info

Prayer Chain
Requests are treated confidentially and shared only with Pastor Anna and the Prayer Chain. The Prayer Chain participants receive weekly prayer requests and pray for submitted requests. You may send your requests to: 630.972.1011 or 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.

We are grateful for the offerings made in the month of February for a new job and other unspoken celebrations!

Blessings, Pastor Anna

Birthdays
Jake Joo - 3rd
Muyiwa Arowolo, Yetunde Olatunde - 19th
Glien Cayaba, Fern Deatrick, John Kargbo, Kim Ramos, Rhonda Roy - 22nd
Nicholas McWilliams - 25th
Ibrahim Arowolo - 26th
Victoria Ansere - 27th
Stacy Caudill - 28th
Olamide Olatunde - 30th
Nancy M. Hansen - 31st