



We are excited about an alternative giving opportunity for Mother's Day, and we hope you will share our enthusiasm. The Mother's Day campaign is an opportunity for members of our congregation to honor their mothers or other women who have nurtured them. Please see the article on page three for further information on how you can help.

Reflections from Pastor Anna

The earth has finally shown a clear sign of spring. It is green everywhere! It has been a long winter, but nothing can stop the bursting energy of new life. If you drive around town on a sunny day, you will surely see people cleaning their yards, trimming bushes and planting flowers in the freshness of the soil. If you drive out a little bit into the countryside I am sure you will see tractors rolling across the farmlands digging up the ground, turning it over for spring readiness.

When I look at such lovely springtime readiness for new birthing and growing around the earth, I ponder on what it is like to have my heart ready for a new phase of life. I, too, must be open to the 'turning over of last year's harvest.' It might involve digging up with the sharp blade of a shovel shaking my convictions. I must allow my rough edges to be smoothed so that God's fresh seed can be settled and take root in me. I must be willing to break down the hardened spot in me so that fresh air of God's spirit can flow in and around me. Most of all I must trust in the work of God that has already worked on me even while I was in deep cold, nourishing and tending unceasingly.

This is not work done alone. Our readiness for growing relies on our potentials for trusting one another in this process of springtime readiness and the work of God in our midst.

May is an excellent time to face our readiness for new growth and recognize more of our potential for vitality as a congregation. It is an excellent time to encourage that growth in others. Growing involves pain. If there is encouragement, the pain would be endurable. And joy comes out of growing pains.

It is an excellent time to express appreciation. Whatever we do, we do together. May God bless us with God's presence in this season of new birth.

"The whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love. (Ephesians 4:15-16)"

Blessings,

Pastor Anna

p.s. I am deeply touched by the thank you card written in many languages from the card ministry team of Caring Christians. Thank you.



ANGELS UNAWARE

MAY 2013



A monthly column that highlights folks who do “good stuff” for Friendship Church

Happy Spring to all! Despite the late arrival of one of the most delightful seasons in the Chicago land area, we do have hope we will soon see warm spring breezes. We certainly have had April showers and then some. “To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven.” Ecclesiastes 3:1.

This month your Angel Reporter has had no trouble finding a suitable nominee for May Angel. You reporter has been flying about secretly observing this young man, David Olsen, for several months now. David’s accomplishments are many, both here at Friendship Church and in the community. With folks grumbling about “kids today and how self-centered they are,” David sets a wonderful example of a young person getting involved and making a difference. As many of you know, David has followed the example of his parents, Pam Stephan and Jerry Olsen in getting involved here at Friendship. David sings in the Chancel Choir and plays in the Adult Bell Choir. With his parents as accomplished musicians, this is a no brainer why David has musical talent. Yet he also serves as an assistant in our Confirmation Class and is a liaison to the Boy Scout troop we sponsor at FUMC. David has been a part of several dramas at Friendship and also serves as liturgist at the traditional service.

A longtime resident of Downers Grove, David graduated from Downers South High School and went on to attend the University of Illinois. Elected student body president during his tenure at U of I meant David represented more than 40,000 students and worked with faculty, administrators and community leaders to help guide the university through financial challenges. Upon graduation, David was hired at an energy trading company in downtown Chicago. Using his degree in finance and management, he became involved in community affairs as a precinct committeeman. In the recent April election, David became the youngest person ever elected as a commissioner in Downers Grove history.

As you can see, David Olsen has certainly earned his angel wings. Best wishes to you, David and we feel blessed to have you a part of Friendship’s congregation!

U.M.C. Northern Illinois Conference

Make this Mother's Day extra special!

We are excited about an alternative giving opportunity for Mother's Day, and we hope you will share our enthusiasm. The Mother's Day campaign is an opportunity for members of our congregation to honor their mothers or other women who have nurtured them.

It's been killing for thousands of year; since the time of King Tut. It's time to stop the killing. It's time to stand together. This disease that was eliminated in the 1950s, but Africa was left behind. This generation has the ability to end malaria deaths that have plagued the continent for centuries and continues to this day.

Malaria doesn't discriminate. It preys on the young and most vulnerable. Nearly 90 percent of malaria's victims are children under the age of 5 and pregnant women. It's robbing families of sons and daughters, literally stealing the future of Africa.

As you know, Imagine No Malaria is an extraordinary effort by The United Methodist Church to reduce preventable malaria deaths in Africa. When the campaign started in 2010, a child died every 30 seconds from this mosquito-transmitted disease. Now deaths have been cut in half, and a person dies every 60 seconds from malaria.

Mothers and children are the most vulnerable.

- Young children have not yet developed partial immunity to malaria.
- Pregnant women, whose immunity is decreased by pregnancy, especially during the first and second pregnancies, are also at risk.

Want to donate? Here's how!

Text MOM to 27722 and select a donation level of \$10, \$25, \$40, \$75 or \$100.

Mail donations to UMC-Imagine No Malaria, Mother's Day, P.O. Box 440544, Nashville, TN 37244. Pre-addressed envelopes will be in the May 12th bulletin and on the Information Station.

We are not alone. Imagine No Malaria has partners to help make beating malaria a reality. We work with the United Nations Foundation, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. These organizations are global leaders in the fight against malaria and other diseases of poverty.

Why do they need us? The United Methodist Church brings some very unique resources to the table. The financial support of 11 million United Methodists worldwide is a significant part of it. But there's much more. The United Methodist Church has worked in Africa for nearly 200 years. We operate churches, school, hospitals and clinics across the continent in places where no one else will go. Wherever the road runs out, you'll find us **bringing hope to the hopeless** and **empowering the powerless**.

These partners recognize the United Methodist Church is a key to healthcare delivery in Africa. As a result, your donation is multiplied many times by the support it provides.

Happy Mother's Day to all our Friendship Church Moms!

Around and about Friendship Church...

Easter Basket Sale

Many happy children received Easter baskets from our Children's Ministries annual sale this year during March!

We raised \$250.00 and the money has gone to support our FUMC Connectional Giving for this year.

Thanks to all our special parents, aunts, uncles, grandparents and friends who purchased a basket for a child or adult. Your generosity has reached out from our own congregation to support the global ministry and mission of the United Methodist Church!



Study Club

We resumed April 17, after Spring Break. We are well-rested and will have 5 more weeks to meet with the students. We still have 20 kids - Praise God! May 15 is our last day!

Families will be invited, refreshments will be served, students will receive a certificate and a book to begin their summer reading!

Our mentors are adult volunteers from our congregation and students from BHS National Honor Society. If anyone would like to join us next Fall - mid-October, please contact Kandy DeWitt through the Church Office—630-972-1011. It really is fun and rewarding to help a child!

2014 will be the **40th anniversary** of Friendship United Methodist Church. A task force will be formed soon to begin plans for next year.

Please remember the office when you come across any photographs of Friendship United Methodist Church in your spring cleaning! E-mail, bring a flash drive or bring hard copies of photographs for scanning.

Coming this summer...

The Bible and Other Sacred Texts,

Sundays June 23rd -- July 28th at 9am.

This Sunday morning class will be taught by Richard Guzman and begins and ends by looking at the Bible while the middle 4 sessions look at other Sacred Texts in comparison to the Bible. More information coming in the June Newsletter.

COMING THIS SUMMER!

Wednesdays

June 12th—August 21st

6:45-8:30pm

A ten week summer study based on

The Bible

miniseries produced and broadcast on the History Channel.

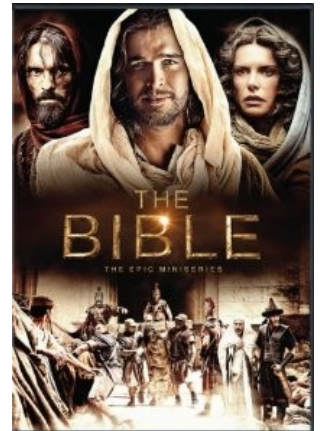
Each week we will watch one hour of the miniseries

and then have a 20-30 minute conversation based on what we have seen.

We will gather at 6:45pm in the Youth Room for a snack and gathering conversation.

The movie will begin promptly at 7pm.

This study is open to anyone entering 9th grade or older.



From the Northern Illinois Conference:

A celebration date has been set for the farewell of District Superintendent, Diana M. Facemyer, and the "passing of the torch"/ welcome of our new District Superintendent, Dick Wisdom.

The date is Sunday, June 2. The location is Downers Grove: First. The time is 3 - 5:30 PM. More information will be coming. Watch the Information Station or call the office.

Around and about Friendship Church...cont.

Staff Parish Relations Committee invites you to...

What	Safe Sanctuaries Information Session
Where	Friendship UMC 305 East Boughton Road Bolingbrook, IL 60440
When	Sunday, May 19 2:00 p.m.
Guest Speaker	Natarsha Gardner from the United Methodist Church Northern Illinois Conference
Questions	Please email Marnie Vidad at mav715@sbcglobal.net

Safe Sanctuaries policies were implemented to safeguard children, youth, and vulnerable adults. These policies include such things as screening and checking references for paid employees and volunteers; preventing abuse, recognizing signs of abuse and reporting incidents of abuse; making sure insurance coverage is adequate; and developing building usage policies. Through the program, the church train and certify persons as safe workers with children, youth, and vulnerable adults in United Methodist ministries. Please join us and learn more about Safe Sanctuaries.



The **Social Life Committee** needs a person to clean up refreshments and coffee after the 10:45 service.

Several people could share this job...maybe one each Sunday of the month?

FUMC Mowers could use a few extra hands to have teams to mow or as substitutes.

Interested volunteers may contact the office at 630-972-1011 or churchoffice@friendshipchurchumc.org. Thank you for considering serving at Friendship United Methodist Church!



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Everyone's Invited to First Thursday dinners

We will be meeting at Portillo's on Boughton and Route 53 for our First Thursday

Portillo's

dinners. Mark your calendar for 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on May 2, and June 6 to have a time of fellowship, friendship and NO COOKING with other church members.

June brings the Evangelism and Discipleship committee as hosts!

Church Council News

Many exciting programs and activities were announced at the last Church Council meeting on April 9th. In addition to replacing the flooring in the entryways, the Trustees are planning to re-design and redecorate the sanctuary. A committee will be formed soon in hopes of the work being completed for Friendship's 40th anniversary in October of 2014. Please contact me (csweber@comcast.net) if you have any ideas for our anniversary celebration next year.

Pastor Anna reported that 5 local churches have agreed to participate in a Bolingbrook Crop Walk on October 20th.

The Christian Formation Committee have many activities coming up. They will be conducting a survey soon concerning worship times and adult Sunday School. Marvelous Mission May will bring special activities to each Sunday service in the month of May. A summer adult class based on The Bible mini-series that was broadcast on the History Channel this Spring, is being planned for Wednesday evenings.

The Church Council's next scheduled meeting is June 11, 2012 at 7 PM.

Carolyn Weber

First Quarter Financial Report

The Stewardship Committee is pleased to report an excellent first quarter of giving by our members. During our fall Stewardship Campaign we received Pledge cards from 70 members with total pledges of \$195,540. At the end of the first quarter we have received \$48,479 or 24.8% of the annual amount. To be on target, we should be at 25% of annual pledges so this means that we are at 99% of our expected pledges through March 31st.

At the end of last year the Stewardship Committee reported that several members who have pledged in the past did not turn in pledge cards for 2013. As we expected, most of these members have continued to make regular donations. In the first quarter "loose" giving totaled \$9,283. Combining pledge and loose giving for the quarter totals \$57,762. In our 2013 budget, we projected \$220,000 in total member giving, or \$55,000 per quarter, so we are slightly ahead of that pace.

Our overall financial picture improved in the first quarter with. Total income was higher than budgeted and Expenses were lower than budgeted.

The Finance and Stewardship Committees are very encouraged by these results. We want to thank our members for doing their best to meet the financial commitments that you made with your pledges. Your faithful giving will allow us to expand our ministries and, more importantly, our outreach this year.

Submitted by,

Gene Paquette, Chair of Stewardship

Mike Dewitt, Chair of Finance

Outreach and Missions

The Ecumenical Advocacy Days (EAD), <http://advocacydays.org/2013-at-gods-table/>, is an annual conference held in Washington, D.C. to “strengthen the Christian voice and mobilize for advocacy on specific U.S. domestic and international policy issues.” There are 56 partnering organizations, including the United Methodist Church and United Methodist Women, who are sponsors of this event. This year’s conference was held on April 5 – 8 and focused on **Food Justice for a Healthy World**. We spent 3 intense days of workshops, discussions and fellowship discussing how people of faith can be more impactful in helping those that are food insecure—in other words helping those who go to bed at night hungry on a regular basis and then on the 4th day, we went to the hill and met with members of Congress or their office staff.

Approximately 850 people were in attendance, with about 150 of them being young adults. I attended the EAD with other representatives of the Northern Illinois Conference. I was also blessed to meet and talk to many people of faith who were passionate about serving. I especially enjoyed spending time with eight North Central College students who were all United Methodists. It was great to hear them talk about their passion for making a positive difference in the world. The last day of the conference was Mon., April 8, and it was our Lobbying Day. Arrangements had been

made for all attendees to meet with their Congressmen/women. We saw Senator Kirk but did not have an opportunity to sit down and talk to him. However, those in my group met separately with legislative aides of Senator Kirk and Representative Bill Foster. We shared a lot of information but our primary focus was encouraging Congress to support the Farm Bill by:

- Providing a circle of protection around those that are most vulnerable to food insecurity in our communities
- Supporting small and diverse farmers and local farmers markets primarily in under-served communities
- Supporting robust international food aid primarily by supporting farmers locally vs. shipping food overseas which oftentimes results in a greater cost and waste
- Protecting God’s creation through soil and water conservation efforts

At Friendship, we are blessed to have so many of you committed to addressing this issue of hunger through our work with Day-break, FISH and the West Suburban Community Pantry. Thank you for all you do! If you have any questions about EAD or getting involved in local ministries to help those in need, please let me know.

Amania Drane, Outreach & Missions Chair
Friendship United Methodist Church



Children & Family Ministry News

Friendship UMC-Bolingbrook

May 2013



Important
Dates

May
2013

Sun. May 5th
9am & 10:45am
Family Worship

Sun. May 12th
HAPPY MOTHER' DAY
9am & 10:45am
Worship & Sunday
School

Sun. May 19th
Pentecost & Confirmation
10am
Worship & Sunday
School

Sun. May 26th
10am
Worship & Sunday

Talking with Children Following a Traumatic Event

(like the Boston Marathon Bombing, Widespread Flooding, etc.)

In the span of less than one week last month, we experienced several events that could be considered traumatic to people of any age. As adults when we hear things on the news or see things on the TV, we are able to process what we hear and see differently than children. When children experience or hear about a traumatic event there are three questions they need to have answered: Am I safe? Are you, the people who love and take care of me, safe? How will these events affect my daily life? We need to be able to reassure the children in our lives that they are safe, even when we may feel not so safe. Keep in mind that when answering these questions, we must use age appropriate language and answers.

Here are some suggestions for working through difficult or traumatic events with children:

Pray with children. We can pray simple prayers for those affected by the events. *Dear God, help and bless the people who were hurt. Protect them with your loving arms. Amen.*

Discuss the events that have happened with your children. Do not be afraid to say you do not have all of the answers.

Share your own feelings with children. Fear is a natural feeling and it is important to affirm what children feel and that we are scared sometimes too.

Do good. Doing good for others helps children (and adults) overcome a sense of powerlessness.

Deacon Tammy Biltgen

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 22-July 26th 9am-11:30am

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!! *Everywhere Fun Fair* takes children Ages 3 years old thru 5th grade to a global celebration with the look and feel of a world's fair! Children will be introduced to special places all over the world and discover that we are all neighbors and children of God.



THANK YOU!!! THANK YOU!!! THANK YOU!!!

We are wrapping up another wonderful year in our Sunday school! I would like to thank all of our teachers for their hard work and commitment to bringing the stories of the Bible to life for our children!

Deacon Tammy Biltgen, Joy & Shahila Christie,
Faith Ann Fialek, Quenton (& Brandy) Ihne,



SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

Summer Sunday School begins on May 19th when we switch to our summer schedule of ONE worship service at 10am.

We will be looking for volunteers to teach 2 weeks at a time this summer. You will teach the same lesson, but to a different age group each week—Pre-K to 1st grade and 2nd to 5th grade.

Please let Deacon Tammy know if you are interested in learning more about this SHORT term teaching commitment!

Marvelous Mission May

Gather your pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, half dollars, and dollar coins!

Throughout the month of May we will be collecting loose coins for several mission needs in our congregation, our community, and our world! Please bring in your COINS and drop them in the container near the Information Station.

Coins collected each week will benefit the following:

Sunday May 5th	Friendship Youth Mission Trip
Sunday May 12th	Imagine No Malaria
Sunday May 19th	Friendship's Connectional Giving
Sunday May 26th	Bishop's Appeal <small>(offering for Annual Conference)</small>

Not only will we be collecting loose coins throughout the month of May, but we will also be collecting individually wrapped bar of soap (full size, not hotel soaps) and ONE gallon Ziploc bags for UMCOR health kits that will be assembled at Annual Conference.

We will have a blessing and celebration of all monies and items collected during worship on Sunday June 2nd!



First Friends Preschool

Every good preschool has a sensory table for the children! Here the students experiment with various materials in a large plastic tub.

As they have opportunities to mix, measure, mold and shape, they are learning science concepts of mass and volume and density.

Plain water is often in the table, but we vary the materials every week. Sometimes we offer sand, or cotton balls, or beans.

Recently, we mixed cornstarch and water to make "goop" which was quite interesting for the children, because it changed from wet to dry and slipped through their fingers when they squeezed it.

Another week, we tried a mixture of soap, water, and shredded paper, we called "clean mud," which could be manipulated like dough or paper-mache.

The sensory table gives children a place to interact with and think about the physical world while they develop their small muscles.

It also encourages interaction among the students as they discuss their activity with one another, sharing and building vocabulary.

A lot of learning occurs at the Sensory Table!

Chris Bosacki, Director/teacher



YOUTH MINISTRY

May '13

KEEP IN MIND, THIS IS WHAT IS HAPPENING....

On May 5th, FUMC Youth will travel to Fox Valley Mall in Naperville where they will participate in a Scavenger Hunt!! We will leave FUMC at 2, return at 6:30. Dinner at Mall Food Court! See Ms. Terri to sign up!!

In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" Acts 20:35

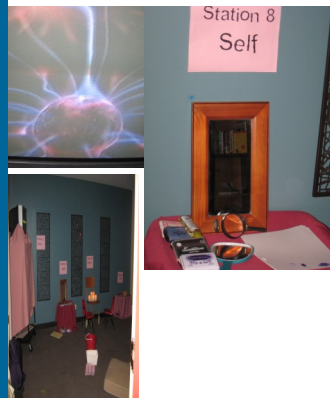


Family Sunday Confirmation Youth Group	5th
NO YOUTH Board Meeting, Confirmation, YOUTH GROUP	12th
Confirmation Rehearsal	18th
Confirmation Sunday!!	19th
Last "Organized" Youth Group of Year	26th
June... Family Sunday	2nd
Youth Board	9th

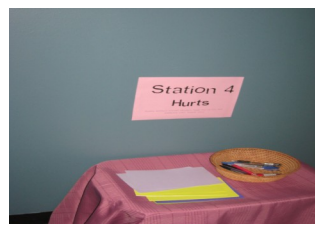
Once again FUMC Youth Participated in the 30 Hour Famine. The Youth raised \$1095.00 and they are STILL collecting more money!! That will feed 36 1/2 children for 30 days! OR 1 child for 1095 days! FUMC Youth also filled a 5 gallon bucket to overflowing, to give to the Bolingbrook FISH program that serves those locally who have a need.



They also took a journey on the Labyrinth Experience...



The experience will be available to you again in the future if you missed this....



They also had the opportunity to hear from others who have been missionaries in Africa for a month long mission trip, and who will be going back to dedicate a year of their lives...



What has been happening in youth group...what's next?

2nd Bible Study, April 20th, from 10:30—Noon. Ms. Robin offered to supply Hot Chocolate. Ms. Terri to supply Cookie/ Oreo/ brownies madness!! WAS AWESOME & YOU MISSED IT!!!

Keep a look out here, right here, in this space for the date and time for the KICK OFF Date of YOUR FIRST OFFICIAL YOUTH MINISTRIES MEETING. (NON ADULT)

Were trying it again.... May 5th will be the 3rd time... it's a charm right? We will be heading to Fox Valley Mall to do a Scavenger Hunt!! Wanna Go? Drivers Needed!

SPECIAL THANK YOU...

- For all the Juice & V8 drink for the famine and YUMMY food that was at our Pot Luck!! You truly bless us!



Service

Please email your requests to prayerrequests@friendshipchurchumc.org if you don't use email please call the church office and the request will be forwarded. If you do not have access to a computer and wish to join the prayer chain, please advise the church office or see Kathryn Bulman, prayer chain coordinator. Please be mindful that even though prayer requests may be common knowledge, it is our responsibility to maintain confidentiality.



Celebration offerings from April

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 been blessed continuously with generous sharing and giving from our church families to share their moments of thanksgiving and joy with others who need an extra encouragement. This month we received **12 celebration offerings**, totaled **\$141.00**. They are for the birthdays of children, Dave and Eric; successful job searching of grandson; a wonderful spring break and family time; season of spring-new life; the birth of a new family member, Brody; family together at Easter; a birthday; life.

May God continue to bless you richly as compassion in your heart grows daily! Blessings, 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, May 17 @ 5:00 pm
Breakfast Saturday, May 18 @ 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, May 16 @ 11:15 am

NEWBORNS IN NEED

This circle is open to all who would like to sew, knit, crochet or quilt baby items to be donated to local hospitals for the benefit of premature & high risk babies.

Meets the 2nd Saturday of each month @ 9 am.

AA & GA

Friendship is a place of help and hope for those struggling with addictions. Meetings are open to all.

AA Meetings: Saturday @ 9am & Sunday @ 5pm

GA Meetings: Friday @ 7:30 pm

DRESS A GIRL

Imagine a world where every little girl owned at least one dress.

Turn donated t-shirts into beautiful dresses for girls in need. Join us for cutting, sewing and assembling dresses. Call the Church office to find out when and where we are meeting next, **Feel free to drop off children's t-shirts, pillow cases, 100% cotton fabric and ribbon at the Giving Center in the front entry so this team can create beautiful dresses!**