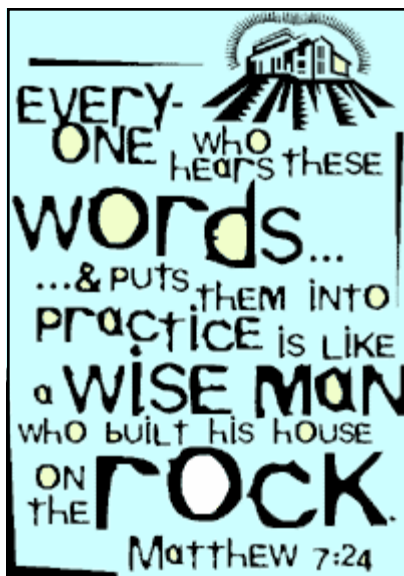




And let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. Galatians 6:9

Reflections from Pastor Anna



“You are like a smart carpenter who built his house on solid rock. Rain poured down, the river flooded, a tornado hit—but nothing moved the house. It was fixed to the rock. But if you just use my words in Bible studies and don’t work them into your life, you are like a stupid carpenter who built his house on the sandy beach.

When a storm rolled in and the waves came up, it collapsed like a house of cards. This book is about how to rebuild the house on the rock and escape the sinking sand.”

Matthew 7:24-27

As we kicked off our new season with the church picnic, participated in the parade passing out water bottles to people in town, cleaned the Sunday School closet, ordered the curriculum for children and youth, dusted off every corner of our building and even painted our tower, the landmark(?) of our town, and trimmed the rose bushes, I have ascertained that we have been sending out the clear message to people around us and beyond our walls: We are preparing a space for you.

Come and join us as we grow in love of God and our neighbors. We seek to be a blessed community and a blessing to all people.

Wait! Perhaps that is not the message that you exactly have in your heart. So I wonder what images or words are in your heart as you prepare yourself for coming to Friendship Church. Or what message you would like to send out?

People who have paid attention to church leadership agree that for better than fifty years the mainline church said to people: “Come a little bit, do a little bit, give a little bit, and say a whole lot.” I am afraid that has been my message or ministry here at Friendship.

In the most recent United Methodist Reporter, Bishop Sally Dick reminds us that vitality isn’t determined by size but the spirit of the congregation and its mission. She challenges small size congregation to think about ‘what makes a vital small congregation? She articulates five points to consider when we measure our sense of being church.

- Do we have a sense of direction that keeps us on task in terms of being church?
- Are we known for quality care not only for our members but for the community?
- Lack of existence of disruptive conflict: the most vitality-resistant factor is that in a small church there is a reluctance to talk about what is going on with the right people in the right place at the right time in the right way in order to resolve the disagreement. Instead it festers and becomes personalized toward the pastor or other laity.
- Joy factor
- At least one ministry with the poor.

I do not know why we (you and I) are chosen to be ministers of God’s mission in this time. But the fact is we are. It is mystery. But I trust that these are the best of times to be the church. And these are the worst of times to be a church.

Welcome on board!

In joy of serving God and God’s people,
Pastor Anna



Angels Among Us

ANGELS UNAWARE ~ October 2013

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

This will be the last angel article for now...your Angel Reporter is flying to another career!

This will be a reminder that there are many, many other Angels at Friendship Church. Some your Angel Reporter has highlighted over the past few years and others are still within Friendship's walls. This angel's advice to each and every one of you: strive to be that volunteer that Friendship Church needs! You can do something, even if it is a just a small job to help with Friendship's many ministries. It feels so rewarding to be a part of such a giving congregation and this Angel Reporter is confident that you all will step up.

Walter Marsh



This month the Angel Reporter is highlighting one of Friendship Church's youth members. **Walter Marsh** is the son of Tom and Stephanie Marsh and is currently a 7th grader at Jefferson Junior High in Woodridge. He is involved in the chess club at school and is the proud recipient of a trophy (along with his fellow members of the Jefferson Chess Club) for a first place finish at the last two year-end chess tournaments. Walter also enjoys swimming, basketball and baseball while participating with the Woodridge Park District sports organizations.

Walter has really risen to the occasion to be a super volunteer for Friendship Church. He's been active in our Youth Group and has joined other youth members the last two years on Friendship's Youth Mission trips to Michigan and the Peoria area. The "all church" work days have found Walter assisting the Trustees at FUMC; just last weekend he helped paint the tower and the front of our building. He's also mowed the church lawn with his dad, Tom during the summer rotation. Walter also has served as an acolyte at Friendship's worship services. You may even own part of Walter's artistic talent as he created and donated almost a hundred handmade crosses to our membership during the Lenten season of 2013.

When folks criticize the "youth of today," they probably haven't met such nice kids as we have at Friendship Church! Walter Marsh is certainly a wonderful example of giving of himself to help the ministries of Friendship Church. We're proud of you, Walter! Many thanks for your service to our church.



UMC Northern Illinois Conference

Aurora District Lay Servant Academy

Be a Living Example of the Love of Jesus Christ



November 2 & 9, 2013 | 8:00am—4:00pm

(First 2 Saturdays in November)

United Methodist Church of Geneva | 211 Hamilton Street, Geneva, IL

Fees: \$35 (Includes continental breakfast, lunch & materials)

COURSES

Life Together in the United Methodist Connection – How do we get things done? What are the rules and what do any of them have to do with embodying the Kingdom of God? This class will help UMC members consider the specific structural challenges the church faces in the 21st century. Led by Deacon Beth Galbreath, Woodridge UMC.

Bible Study: Faith & Work Life – This Bible study is for everyone who works: in an office, in the home, building a business or raising a family. We will ponder questions such as “For whom do we work? Why do we work? How do we make Christian decisions at work?” Led by Rev. Elizabeth Bowes, Pastor of Small Group & Adult Ministries, FUMC, Glen Ellyn.

Congregational Care – Caring for members of the church comes in many forms. This class will prayerfully study the dynamics of reaching others with God’s love and care. Led by Deacon Sue Ritts, Hope UMC, Joliet.

The Church Going Green – What are the historical, religious and political policies regarding our environment? How can a congregation become involved in “going green”? Explore the biblical mandates of environmental stewardship and how we can favorably impact our community and the world. Led by Tom Roose, Ph.D., Chair, Environmental Stewardship Work Area, FUMC, Downers Grove.

MAIL REGISTRATION & CHECK PAYABLE TO “Aurora/Elgin Regional Office” by **October 27** to:

Aurora District Lay Academy Registration
717 N. Washington St., Wheaton, IL 60187 | Phone: 630-709-3953
Email: stevemecker@gmail.com

Save the Date!



Friday October 25, 2013

**All are invited to join in a fall event called
“Glow-in-the-Dark Night!”**

We will gather for food, fellowship and prayer as well as a pumpkin craft and other fun activities.

Dinner will be at 5:30 and the evening will end with “trunk-or-treat!” (an alternative to traditional trick-or-treat.) Participants will decorate their cars for Halloween and children will walk from car to car to gather their goodies!

Other churches have started this tradition and if you search the web for “trunk-or-treat,” you will come up with all kinds of great ideas, if you would like to join in! Visit: <http://trunkortreat.homestead.com/>

If you would like to volunteer to help, please contact Jane Pierce or Chris Bosacki.

Putting God First in Living and Giving

Do we worship idols? The answer may surprise you.

During the month of November, our church will hear about God's generosity and our response as we experience our stewardship program, *First: Putting GOD First in Living and Giving*, developed by author and pastor Mike Slaughter of Ginghamburg Church.

There will be opportunities in worship, in small groups, in youth and children's classes, and in devotions that can be used at church or at home.

We are made in God's image and are meant to be creators of life and hope, not the consumers of our culture's shiny gods. We have the ability to change the world and create a legacy that will live forever in the lives of generations to follow. That legacy starts when each of us takes the hard steps of financial discipline and fulfilling the call to generosity that God has placed in all of us.

The goal of this stewardship program is not to make you feel guilty, nor is it to say that you have to be exactly like this or that person. The goal is for all of us to ask questions of ourselves and be open to the possibility that God will lead us in new directions in our lives.

During the four-week program, we'll be challenged in a number of different ways. We'll be asked to look for the idols in our own lives (Hint: Most of them aren't animals made of gold) and name the ways these idols enslave us, holding us back from living in the true freedom that God desires for us.

We'll be challenged to consider the place that money, work, and debt have in our own lives. What are our common understandings of these, and might the witness of Scripture lead us to some different understandings?

We'll be challenged to ask ourselves what it means for us to be faithful, to save, and to give. How do we balance all the competing interests in our lives? What priorities does God want us to have?

Finally, we'll be challenged to give with our hearts, not out of obligation or a sense of duty and not just when we think the recipient deserves our gift. Instead, we'll be challenged to give the way God gives—freely, fully, with no favorites or expectations of repayment.

It is our prayer that, at the end of these four weeks, we will have begun to grow into the individuals and the church that God knows we can be. Please join us in first: putting GOD first in living and giving.

first
first
first

Join us on Sundays in November

**November 3
November 10
November 17
November 24**

Around and about Friendship Church...

Church Anniversary

In **October of 2014**, Friendship will celebrate its 40th anniversary. The Bishop will worship with us on the first Sunday in October. Old friends and pastors of Friendship will be invited to attend.

A committee has been formed to begin working on the details for the occasion. If you have any suggestions, please contact one of the members listed below.

Wayne Fетters, Carolyn & Loren Weber, Jane Pierce, Jody Hargett, Mike DeWitt or Susan Higginbotham.



Update Your Information

We're updating our database!

Look for the form next time you are at church to update your information.

Please fill out the form and drop it in the box at the Information Station.



Everyone's Invited to First Thursday Dinners

We will be meeting at The Patio, 151 S. Weber Road, for our First Thursday dinners.

Mark your calendar for 6:00pm to 8:30pm on **October 3** to have a time of fellowship, friendship and **NO COOKING** with other church members.

Church Council News

Our second year of Core Groups at Friendship will begin in October after the leadership training on **October 6**. Short Core group meetings were held during Sunday worship on August 25. Thank you to those that shared their ideas at those meetings.



Pastor Anna is very excited about Friendship hosting the Bolingbrook area Crop Walk on **October 20**. There are now 7 churches and one other organization involved. More details are available elsewhere in *The Link*.

The committee to plan a 40th anniversary celebration for FUMC met in August. The Bishop has agreed to join us on **October 5, 2014**. The hope is to have a meal together following the Sunday service.

In June, the Northern Illinois Conference launched the Imagine No Malaria campaign. Their goal is to raise at least \$1 million. That would mean we could save 100,000 lives. We will be hearing more about this in the coming months.

The annual Church Conference will be held on **December 5** at 7pm. All are invited.

The Stewardship committee will hold a campaign during the 4 Sundays of November. This year's theme is "Put God First".

Our next meeting will be held on **November 19, 2013** at 7pm in the Friendship Center.

Carolyn Weber

coregroups
life is better together.

Core Groups Are Gearing Up for a New Year

The Core Group Kick-Off was August 25. If you aren't in a Core Group and would like to be, please contact the church office.

We hope you will give it a try!

Happy Notes and a Sad Note

Stephanie Coates has donated the set of Choir Chimes to Friendship that the adult and children's handbell choirs have played. It is a 3-octave set of Malmark Chimes and we are very grateful for her gift to our music program to add to the handbells.

The chimes have brought much enjoyment to both the adults and children and to our congregation, and we are so glad that will continue to be part of Friendship Church.

Stephanie's last Sunday as Director of Traditional Music at Friendship was Sunday, September 22nd. She has accepted a new position as Organist at the First Presbyterian Church in Western Springs. This new position will give her the chance to lead traditional worship on an organ which is comparable to a collegiate-level pipe organ, which is something she has always wanted to do.

Stephanie served in Friendship's music program for eleven years and we are thankful for her wonderful music ministry with us.



Thank You

Thanks to all who attended Bill's funeral, provided lunch and gave memorials in his memory.

We received many compliments on the hospitality of Friendship Church!

Loyeen Woodruff & Family



What is a Crop Hunger Walk?

*It's the original charitable walking event in the U.S.
End hunger locally and abroad by walking with us.*

Bolingbrook/Romeoville CROP Hunger Walk

Sunday, October 20, 2013
Friendship United Methodist Church
Registration: 1pm, Step-off ceremony: 1:30pm and Step-off: 1:40pm

The Walk is 1 mile or 5K.

CROP Hunger Walks are community-wide events sponsored by CWS and organized by local volunteers to raise funds to end hunger. For more information and to sponsor a walker or donate, visit: www.crophungerwalk.org/bolingbrookil



Be a part of the phenomena. Join the 160,000 walkers around the country to help end hunger!



It's almost that time of year!

Boy Scout Troop 35 will be taking orders for Christmas wreaths and greenery after both services on **Sunday, October 6th & Sunday, October 13th.**

Prices will range between \$20 - \$45. You will also have the option of ordering a gift-box wreath to be sent to family or friends.

The wreaths/greenery will be available for pickup on Sunday, **December 8th**, here at the church.

Thank you for supporting your Boy Scout Troop!

**Bolingbrook Pathways
Parade
Sunday, September 8,
2013**



First Friends Preschool was well represented!



"Rockin & Rollin in Bolingbrook"



Trustee's Work Day
Saturday, September 7,
2013





YOUTH GROUP

SCHEDULE



UPCOMING EVENTS FOR YOUTH

- | | |
|------------|---|
| October 6 | Youth Group 2-4pm |
| October 13 | Youth Ministry Team meeting 12:15 - 1:30pm
Youth Group 2-4pm |
| October 20 | CROP walk |
| October 27 | Youth 2-4pm |



Children & Family Ministry News



Save the Date!

Friday, October 25, 2013

“Glow-in-the-Dark Night”

Starting at 5:30pm.

(Additional details on page 4)



PARENTS, please stop by our Sunday School rooms for a visit in October.

The rooms will be freshly painted and decorated for our children.

Also, stop by and meet our special “teams” of Sunday School teachers this year!

Children’s Choir

The Children’s Choir will begin rehearsals again soon.

The choir will rehearse Wednesdays, November 6, 13, 20 and December 4 & 11 at 6:30pm.

The choir will sing in the worship service on **November 17** and **December 15**.



Sunday School Update

Through the United Methodist Grow, Proclaim and Serve curriculum, the children this quarter will...

- GROW in their relationship to God and Jesus
- GROW in discipleship
- GROW in their love of the Bible and Bible skills
- GROW in their relationships to one another
- GROW to love their neighbors as themselves



We want them to GROW in faith, PROCLAIM the Word of God, and SERVE God and neighbor.

During the month of October the children will collect a special mission offering through the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries and our Connectional Giving to build houses for God, churches in Russia & Eurasia. On the last Sunday in October we will dedicate our offering and send it to our FUMC Connectional Giving! A special offering envelope will be provided each week for the offering to help build houses for God all over the world!

Family Worship Sundays

Family worship will continue on the 1st Sunday of each month.
All Ages will be in worship at 9 & 10:45.

We will **NOT** have Sunday School on October 6, November 3, December 1, January 5, February 2, March 2, April 6, or May 4.

Children 3rd grade and under will go to Friendship Center during the sermon for a short lesson about worship.





First Friends Preschool News

We're off to a great start this year! Ms. Bosacki and Mrs. E. are excited to be working with two terrific groups of kids. The Monday-Wednesday-Friday class has 14 boys and 5 girls. The Tuesday-Thursday class has 5 boys and 3 girls.

During the first two weeks of school, we have been learning about school rules; like how to take turns, and stand in line, and routines; we start with circle time, we play outdoors, then we have snack, etc. To start the year off right, we've read many books about sharing and how to be a friend.

This week, we began our Letter of the Week program with the letter **A**. Abby Alligator helped us learn about the a sound in acrobat and astronaut. We sang songs about apples and alligators too. Coming up, Bubble Bear will teach us about things that begin with **B**.

We are planning a field trip to Johansen Farms in October!

For many of our students, it is their first experience of school, and we strive to make it a wonderful, fun, learning time for each child.

Thank you for your prayers and support! Chris Bosacki



Friday October 25, 2013 All are invited to join in a fall event called "Glow-in-the-Dark Night!"

We will gather for food, fellowship and prayer as well as a pumpkin craft and other fun activities.

Please see complete details on page 4 of this newsletter.

We hope you will join us!

Service

Please email your requests to prayerrequests@friendshipchurchmc.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



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.

Thank you all who remembered the celebration offering for the month of September. We received 6 envelopes totaling \$74.00. We are joyous to share your celebration of the start of a new school year, life, and a brother-in-law's successful hip transplant.

May God continue to bless you richly as your compassionate 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, October 18 @ 5:00 pm
Breakfast Saturday, October 19 @ 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, October 17 @ 11:15 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!

ANXIETY/PANIC ATTACK SUPPORT GROUP

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

PARENT MENTORING PROGRAM

PMP's mission is to equip parents with the tools and a support network to achieve success for themselves and their family. Meets the first Thursday of the month at 7pm.

October 2013 ~ Friendship Church

Worship on Sundays ~ 9:00am & 10:45am

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 10a Hour of Faith	2 6:30p Scouts	3 6p First Thursday Dinner @The Patio	4 10a Hour of Faith 7:30p GA	5 9a AA
6 Family Worship 12p Confirmation 5p AA 6p Core Group Training	7 5:30p Girl Scouts	8 10a Hour of Faith	9 10:30a Children's Ministry Mtg. 6:30p Scouts	10 7p Anxiety Panic Attack Support Grp	11 10a Hour of Faith 7:30p GA	12 8:30a Market Day 9a AA
13 Worship 12p Youth Ministry 12p Confirmation 5p Gujarati Worship 5p AA	14 5:30p Girl Scouts Columbus Day No Preschool	15 10a Hour of Faith	16 6:30p Scouts Study Club resumes	17 11:15a Senior Bible Study/Lunch	18 10a Hour of Faith 5p Daybreak 7:30p GA	19 5a Daybreak 9a AA
20 Worship 12p Confirmation 1p Crop Walk	21 5:30p Girl Scouts NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	22 10a Hour of Faith	23 6:30p Scouts	24 7p Worship Planning 7p Anxiety Panic Attack Support Grp	25 10a Hour of Faith 5:30p Glow-in-the-Dark Night/Trunk or Treat 7:30p GA	26 9a AA
27 Worship 12p Confirmation 5p Gujarati Worship 5p AA	28	29 10a Hour of Faith 7p Boy Scout Committee	30 6:30p Scouts	31	