

*He is not here; for
He is risen,
as He said.*

Matthew 28:6a





Reflections from Pastor Anna

Vision Statement for Friendship United Methodist Church:

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?

I am grateful that 17 of our church leaders gathered (I love this part most!) to make a discernment for the vision and short-term mission goals as a faith community on two Saturday mornings in February and March. The first fruit yielded is the 'Vision Statement' that you read above.

The vision simply describes how we might look when we, as a church, carry out the God-given mission and purpose in our community. In other words, when the community around us is asked who they understand we are, the community will describe us in the words above that we envision ourselves. I encourage you to read it several times out loud and imagine what it looks like. Pay attention to the verbs: BE, LOVE, GROW, and SERVE.

The second fruit is that we prioritized two things that we want to see happening in every corner of our life together:

- 1) We must be a church community that is active in the community in both involvement and outreach.
- 2) We must be relevant to young families and youth.

What's next?

The leadership is going to gather again this month to develop the strategies (how to make them happen in a tangible way). In order to do this part faithfully, we need your help, a huge help from all of you: a seasoned member and newly arrived guests, the outspoken and the quiet, teachers and students.

Aren't you excited? It's time for you to shake off the wintery mood and come out to discover green grass. Easter is not about feeling. It is a matter of faith.

I have realized that none of the resurrection stories in Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John have a clear ending. Go ahead and open your Bible and read the last chapter of each gospel. Perhaps they can't really end the story of Jesus in the resurrection story of our lord. Perhaps that was the whole point. They can't finish their book because it continues. And it needs to be continued. I mean the story of Jesus and its significance of the resurrection is to be continued in you and in me and in every life that is touched by the power of resurrection.

The revelation of crocus from the frozen soil always reminds me of this truth: the risen Lord still lives in me and you and, we will continue to tell the story of life overcoming the power of death.

In joy of the Risen Lord,

Pastor Anna





Holy Week At Friendship Church

Maundy Thursday

April 2, 7:30pm

A service of three acts of dramatic readings depicting the last evening of Jesus' life with his disciples. Come to remember and reflect on God's sacrificial love for all.

Good Friday

April 3, 7:30pm

Tenebrae Service

This night will be a somber service of shadows. Through scripture and candles, we will be led to the most somber moment of Holy Week, Jesus' crucifixion. Music by the Chancel Choir.

Easter Sunday

April 5, 9:00am and 10:45am

CHRIST IS ALIVE!

A celebration of Resurrection with the Chancel Choir, Brass and Bells!

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.

We celebrate that Christ is risen to show us love is more powerful than any forces of destruction.

Christ is alive!

Between the services, a traditional Easter egg hunt will take place around the church grounds!



Covenant Bible Study-Thursdays April 16-June 4, 7:00-8:30pm

COVENANT

bible study 

Exploring the BIBLE TOGETHER:

For countless numbers of people, the Bible is the most important guide to living a faithful Christian life. With an estimated 5 billion copies printed between 1815 and 1975, the bible remains the top-selling book of all time. When is the last time that you joined in studying the Bible in a group?

Mostly we read the Bible alone. However, reading the Bible in a small group gives us unique blessings. Some of you experienced an intimacy that comes with reading as a group last year under the leadership of Shirley Eatwell as you read the entire Bible in a year together.

When “people begin to share how scripture relates to their own lives, how they interpret it, and why it moves them, hearts are softened to others’ needs and an awakening happens within the group... Trust develops and growth ensues. It’s a beautiful thing to walk through life with friends you trust, friends who share your faith, friends who can pray for you through some of the toughest, most difficult moments of your life.” (*Interpreter*, March/April, 2015)

COVENANT Bible Study, a 24-week, video based study, is divided into three 8-week modules: Creating, Living, and Trusting.

- **Creating the Covenant** examines how the covenant community is created and established.
- **Living the Covenant** focuses on how the community lives out their covenant in faithful love—how it’s applied to actual relationships in everyday life.
- **Trusting the Covenant** looks at the crises that sometimes call Covenant life into question, and how we are restored to trust in God when troubling things happen.

Please join us as we grow, bond, and share our love of God through our life. We will start the first module in April. Register by emailing the church office: churchoffice@friendshipchurchmc.org or visit the information station to sign up.

Registration deadline is April 8th.





Coming this Easter Season: The God We Can Know

The God We Can Know A Sermon Series on the "I Am" Sayings of Jesus

In the Gospel of John, Jesus gives us the "I Am" sayings, meaningful metaphors such as "I am the bread of life" and "I am the light of the world," to reveal his mission and purpose.

One by one, the "I Am" sayings of Jesus not only grab our imagination about Jesus' identity, they also help us to experience God, who spoke the first "I AM" to Moses.

Join us for this insightful worship and sermon series as we learn more about the God we can know and as we seek to answer Jesus' question to us, "Who do you say I am?"



April 19

Introduction to the "I Am" Sayings of Jesus:
Knowing God

April 26

"I Am the Bread of Life":
Knowing God's Satisfaction

May 3

"I Am the Light of the World":
Knowing God's Guidance

May 10

"I Am the Good Shepherd":
Knowing God's Care

May 17

"I Am the True Vine":
Knowing God's Power

May 24

Special Pentecost Service

May 31

Guest Speaker

June 7

"I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life":
Knowing God's Way

June 14, "I Am the Resurrection and the Life": Knowing God's Possibilities





Children & Family Ministry News



Important Dates

April 2015

Sunday, April 5

9 & 10:45 Easter Worship
No Sunday School

10:00 Easter Egg Hunt

Sundays, April 12, 19, 26

9 & 10:45 Sunday School

Wednesdays, April 15, 22, 29

5:30 Friendship Café

Please Note: No Friendship Café on April 1st or 8th!

Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 5 at 10:00am

Bring your Easter basket and join in the fun Easter morning at our annual Friendship Church Easter Egg Hunt! The egg hunt will begin at 10:00 A.M. and will be held all around the grounds of the church. All children, ages babies through fifth graders, may attend.

The youth of our church have filled the eggs and will hide them for the children on Easter morning! Thanks to all of them!

Meet at the preschool room door to begin the hunt. Parents should accompany their children. Bags will be available if you forget your basket.

Bring your friends and relatives too. It will be a fun time for all!



Generous Giving!

Thanks to all of you who either constructed a basket or bought an Easter basket at our sale.



The baskets sold fast and with your help we made \$450.00 to be sent to *Imagine No Malaria!*

Our Friendship Lentil Soup jars not only provided a meal for Lent but also raised \$150 for *Imagine No Malaria!* Thanks to all of you who bought the jars and enjoyed the soup!



Summer Sunday School teachers needed!

Summer Sundays will soon be here. We will need Sunday school teachers to teach our summer curriculum to our students. If you are interested in teaching for a Sunday or two this summer at our 10:00 A.M. service, let the church office or Jane Pierce know. We promise it will be a rewarding experience for you and the children as you have the opportunity to work together this summer!



First Friends Preschool



U for Umbrella



V for Vest



W for Watermelon



Friends!



YOUTH MINISTRY



Sunday, April 12, 2-4pm—Youth Group

Sunday, March 17-19—30 Hour Famine
(See next page for more details)

Friday, April 2, 2-4pm—Youth Group

June 14-19, Mission Trip—See Mr. Tom or Miss Melissa for
more details.





It's time again for the youth to experience the 30 Hour Famine.

This year's theme is Make it YOUR Fight!

We are going to try something different this year. We will meet Friday, April 17 at 10 PM. We will have a time of worship and our final meal before we sleep.

Saturday, we will have activities that help us understand what it is like to live in Ethiopia. That night, we will go to bed hungry.

Sunday, we will wake at 7 AM. Members of the congregation are invited to bring a dish for a potluck BREAK-FAST at 7:30 AM. We will then attend the 9 AM service.

Please support the youth by doing the following –

- Pray for them. Strength to endure the hunger. Wisdom to learn and experience what it is like to be hungry.
- Join them in a meal. Friday at 10 PM at their final meal and/or Sunday at 7:30 AM at their break fast.
- Join them in the fast. Spend a night, part of a day, or the whole event with the youth.
- Donate water and non-acidic juice for the youth to drink.
- Donate \$\$\$. Funds raised go to World Vision.

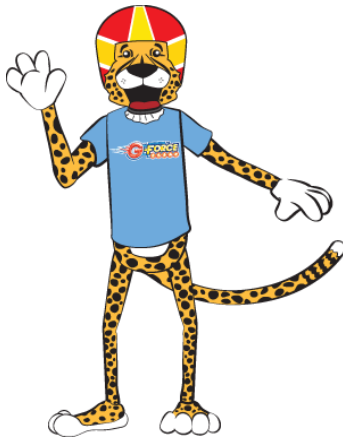
Thank you for supporting Friendship's Youth Group. The information table will have more information.

Contact Robin Lichty for questions – FUMCYouth316@gmail.com or 630-660-3215.





Save the Date!



G-Force is Coming to Friendship Church!

Vacation Bible School
July 27-31, 9:00-11:30am

Checkers the Cheetah and his friends will help kids explore how to put their faith into action. In this mission-focused VBS, kids experience God's unstoppable love and discover how to fuel up and move in and through life with God. Watch for registration instructions and volunteer opportunities!



All Church Picnic

Have you had enough of the winter weather? It certainly has been an adventure, but it is now time to look forward to warmer weather.

One way to do that is mark your calendars for the 2015 Church Picnic

which is scheduled to take place on Sunday, August 23, 2015 immediately following the 10:00 service.

This year the Social Life Committee is looking for members to be in charge of relay races, games, or other forms of entertainment for not only youth, but for "the more mature members." Any members with new ideas for the picnic please contact Dave Lichty, Kathleen Campbell, or the church office. We always have our ears and hearts open to new ideas.

REMEMBER SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 2015 FOLLOWING THE 10:00 SERVICE –
HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE.!



Called to Be Connectional: The Three Branches of The United Methodist Church

Last month we focused on United Methodists being called to be connectional, meaning that each part of the church is connected as part of one body. Connectional giving was also featured.

This month, our focus is based on the United Methodists' three branches of "government": the General Conference, the Judicial Council, and the Council of Bishops.

The General Conference, the primary legislative body, is the only body that speaks officially for the church. This branch works within the boundaries of the Church Constitution and General Rules to define church membership, the powers and duties of church officials, and the power and duties of church organization. It authorizes the organization, promotion and administrative work of the church.

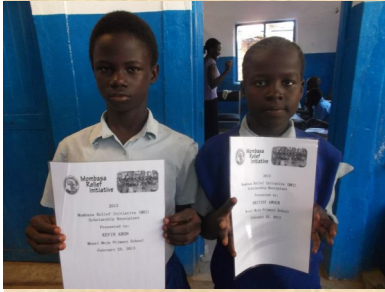
The Judicial Council, the denomination's "Supreme Court", interprets church law and determines constitutionality of proceedings at all levels of church life. Made up of nine members, the Council is elected by the General Conference and meets twice a year to consider whether actions of the various church bodies follow the rules outlined in the Book of Discipline.

The Council of Bishops, acts as the executive branch of the church. Composed of all active and retired bishops, the council meets as a group to lead and oversee the spiritual and temporal affairs of the united Methodist Church.

Similar to the U.S. Constitution's three branches of government, each branch is designed with checks and balances built into the structure to prevent any one branch from taking too much authority over the whole body.



Mission Focus: Mombasa Relief Initiative, Amania Drane



Pastor Anna sent an email to me a few days before our trip to Kenya which said, “Amania, I will pray for you and your team that you may be transformed through this wonderful mission trip and be a blessing to every soul that you touch!” Her words and the prayers of my Friendship family blessed me throughout the trip to Kenya. It is so difficult to express in words how blessed we were to go to Kenya and be around such giving, loving people who were so joyous to have us there. We went there to serve and give but we received so much more in return.

During our stay, we met with more than 600 students from 6 of the 8 schools that Mombasa Relief Initiative (MRI) supports. We gave out school supplies, health & hygiene kits, sports equipment, t-shirts, and financial funding to support different programs. We also had an empowerment luncheon for young girls and then took them swimming afterwards. Three of the schools we partner with are for mentally and physically handicapped children. It was a blessing to see that they were being cared for in a loving, nurturing environment. I have sponsored a student, Kevin Aron, in Kenya for the last 3 years and had the wonderful opportunity to meet and talk to him. That was truly a highlight of the trip for me!



I shun using the words, “less fortunate” in identifying people who do not have the material items as others. Personally, I feel that is so short-sighted. In my opinion, those who are “less fortunate,” are those who don’t understand the value of relationships, love, generosity, and sincerity of spirit.

Matthew 5:8 says, “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God” and although many suffer from abject poverty, I found many of our brothers and sisters in Kenya to be so blessed in the purity of their hearts. Although material wealth and position provides many opportunities and luxuries, that is only one aspect of being fortunate or blessed. If we don’t use these blessings to help others in need, what have we gained? It is quite true that those who do not have the material wealth to have adequate food, shelter, and clothing suffer immensely. That is why we, who love the Lord, must show that love by sharing what God has given us with our brothers and sisters in need. To learn more about the work that Mombasa Relief Initiative does, go to www.mombasarelieff.com. If interested in going on a future trip to Kenya, please see me or email me at niaenterprises1@comcast.net.



Thank you so much to my Friendship family for the love, prayers, and donations to support the work we do in Kenya.





Mission Focus: I Have a Bean

I Have a BEAN®

INSPIRED COFFEE EST. 2007

In the beginning of March, Pastor Anna and several members of the Church Council attended a District Leadership Event at Wheatland Salem Church in Naperville. Usually, these events feature training for Staff-Parish members as well as finance and budget training. However, this year the event featured speakers who serve in a special post-prison ministry.

One of the speakers was Louis Dooley. Louis shared his story of how he's gone from a prison sentence of life plus 100 years to being in post prison ministry to those who are still in and those who have been released. Louis Dooley and his family got a new chance at life because he was able to get a job from Pete Leonard. Post prison people most often can't get jobs or find a place to live when they get out. It is the recipe for the incredibly high recidivism rate there is in Illinois. Pete Leonard founded a coffee roasting company that only employs ex-felons. It is an incredible story and it's happening right in our district. It is an example of leadership in action and his principles can be applied by any of us to ministry situations within our reach.

Consider how you may help in this life-changing ministry. You can find out more about the Second Chance Coffee Company and how to support their ministry by visiting ihaveabean.com. Orders can be placed for this wonderful coffee in whole bean or K-cup form. You can also find them on Facebook at facebook.com/ihaveabean or twitter at twitter.com/ihaveabean.

THANKS

A Special Thanks:

Thanks to so many well wishers with encouraging words, cards, and calls during my treatments. It was much appreciated.

Blessings to all of you! Faith Ann Fialek



Find us on:
facebook®



Friendship Community

Prayer Chain:

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.

This month we have received 15 envelopes, totaled \$387.00. They are thanksgiving for spring and soon-to-arrive warm weather; joy of life; family; god's grace and faithfulness on family; being here in worship today; getting driver's license.; and in celebration of a grandchild being born (the 17th one!).

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, April 17 @ 5:30 pm

Breakfast Saturday, April 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, April 16 @ 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: 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.

STUDY CLUB

Wednesdays 4-5pm

Mentoring students from WoodView School.

DONATIONS FOR LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES:
7th Day Adventist Pantry & West Suburban Community Pantry
2nd Sunday of every month

FIRST FRIENDS CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL MONDAY-FRIDAY

9:00-11:30AM

Contact Chris Bosacki, Director,
for more information.

chrisbosacki@firstfriendspreschool.info

April 2015 ~ Friendship Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			11:15am Women's Bible Study 4pm Study Club 6:30pm Scouts 7pm Chancel Choir	2 Maundy Thursday 7:30pm Worship	3 Good Friday No Preschool 10am BPC Ministry 7:30pm Worship 7:30pm GA	4 9 am AA
5 Easter 9 & 10:45am Worship 10:00am Egg Hunt 5pm AA	6 5:30pm Girl Scouts Spring Break	7 Election Day 10am BPC Ministry	8 11:15am Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Scouts 7:30pm Chancel	9 7pm Anxiety Support	10 10am BPC Ministry 7:30pm GA	11 9am AA
12 9 & 10:45am Worship 2pm Youth Group 5pm Gujarati Worship 5pm AA	13 5:30p Girl Scouts	14 10am BPC Ministry	15 11:15a Women's Bible Study 4pm Study Club 4:45pm Confirmation 5:30pm Friendship Café 6:30pm Scouts 7:30pm Chancel Choir	16 11:15am Senior Lunch and Bible Study 7pm Covenant Bible Study	17 10am BPC Ministry 30 Hour Famine 7:30pm GA	18 9am AA 9am Market Day
19 9 & 10:45am Worship 5pm AA	20 5:30pm Girl Scouts	21 10am BPC Ministry 7pm Church Council	22 11:15am Women's Bible Study 4pm Study Club 4:45pm Confirmation 5:30pm Friendship Café 6:30pm Scouts 7:30pm Chancel Choir	23 7pm Covenant Bible Study 7pm Anxiety Support	24 10am BPC Ministry Confirmation Retreat	25 9am AA
26 9 & 10:45am Worship 2pm Youth Group 5pm Gujarati Worship 5pm AA	27	28 10am BPC Ministry	29 11:15am Women's Bible Study 4pm Study Club 4:45pm Confirmation 5:30pm Friendship Café 6:30pm Scouts 7:30pm Chancel Choir	30 7pm Covenant Bible Study	