



...until we all reach the unity of faith and knowledge of God's Son. . . to be fully grown, measured by the standard of the fullness of Christ.
Ephesians 4:13

Friendship
United Methodist Church
Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

305 E. Boughton Road
Bolingbrook, IL 60440

Worship Service at 10:00am throughout the year.

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



Reflections from Pastor Anna

God's purpose was to equip God's people for the work of serving and building up the body of Christ until we all reach the unity of faith and knowledge of God's standard of the fullness of Christ. ~ Ephesians 4:12-13

As I prepared for the final stage of building refurbishment (stop by any time to see the new carpet in my office), I cleaned my desk and book cases. As I browsed through them, I have to confess that at this stage of my life I have purchased more books than I can possibly read and remember what it says and apply it to my life. I've realized that I need to spend more time outside of my office to meet people where they are, to breathe fresh air, and to get Vitamin D from the sunlight.

Summer is a wonderful time for most of us to rejuvenate our bodies and minds. I hope you have had a chance to be in nature, visit different places, or enjoy a reunion with family members even in a limited period of time and space.

Summer is also a time for preparation for a new beginning. Most of our children who graduated from high school will leave us in a week or two. Five year-old children and their parents anticipate the first day of school fast approaching with excitement along with anxiety. I trust you will make a time and space to confirm the bond of love and trust in this summer.

During this summer I've enjoyed "Wednesday Gardener" time around our church yard. It was not real gardening, but 50% watering and 50% pulling out weeds. I've noticed that there is something in common between gardening and the Christian life.

Both gardening and life involve cultivation and tending. If you plant a garden, you don't simply walk away and come back at the end of summer to harvest the fruits and vegetables. If you do, you won't find much there aside from a bunch of overgrown weeds and dried up plants. One must water, fertilize and pinch off dead leaves and stems. It is hard but rewarding work.

To plan a garden is to invest in the future of one's well-being and bountiful table. Such work requires love, attention, care and commitment. Growing disciples involves similar effort and process. One doesn't baptize the person and then only attend to cultivating the disciple a couple of times a year or even an hour on Sundays. It takes the same kind of consistent effort and commitment to grow disciples and strengthen their faith as it does to take a plant from seedling to abundant harvest.

As we embark on a new school year, I invite all of you to take opportunities through Friendship Church to grow, love and serve. Get to know more of God's love by coming to worship. Learn God's will for all people by taking classes. Serve God and God's people by participating in several ministries that we need your support and engagement, get involved in mission works, or help serve in Sunday School for children and youth.

I trust God in whom we live, move, and exist will nourish our body and mind, and guide us with renewing spirit as we grow in love of God for the people of God in this land.

Pastor Anna





Back to Church



New Fall Worship Schedule!

Church Council recently approved a change to our Fall worship schedule. Many have remarked how they enjoy worshipping together in the summer.

On September 13, we will continue with one Sunday worship at 10am.

The children will attend Sunday School at the same time, making the classes a little larger for better interaction and discussion. The service at most times will include both the Praise Band and the Chancel Choir, directed by Pam Stephan. With one service year round, there will be no need for time changes for summer or special services. The Pastor and church staff will be making the necessary adjustments in the month ahead. We hope everyone has been able to get some rest and relaxation this summer and will be looking forward to starting a new chapter in the life of Friendship Church!

From Carolyn Weber, Church Council Chairperson

Back to Church Picnic Sunday, August 23, 11am-3pm

There's still time to invite your friends and neighbors Back to Church!

There will be a climbing wall, train rides, games for all ages, face painting, balloon animals, free food, door prizes and so much more!

This year we are hoping to invite those who we may not have seen all summer or someone who has not come to our church to come and check us out. Invitations are available at the information station or can be mailed if you contact the church office.

Also, opportunities to volunteer are still available. We are still looking for people to help handle traffic, to be greeters, and to serve at the welcome table for visitors. Food/monetary donations are still being accepted. Look for the green volunteer/donation form inserted in the bulletin or on the information station. You may also access it on our website at friendshipchurchmc.org.

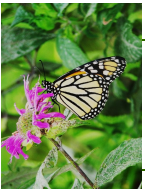
If you signed up to donate, watch for an email with further instructions as to how and where to drop them off during the week of the picnic!

It's going to be a great time to come back to church!



Church Picnic





Children & Family Ministry News

Important Dates August 2015

August 9, 16, 23, 30
Worship and Sunday School
@ 10am

August 16, 11:15am
Sunday School Teacher
Training

August 23, 11am
Church Picnic

Sunday School Teacher Training

All Sunday school teachers are encouraged to attend this mandatory training for the new "Deep Blue" curriculum for the fall. Erick McKnight from Cokesbury will be leading the training. For more information, contact the church office or Ann Louise Kuehn.



Summer Sunday School

Summer Sunday School continues to help our children, ages 3 through incoming 5th grade, understand God's plan for all of us. The children will learn through stories, scripture, music and related activities. Along the way, they will play games and have treats! We have a great group of our best teachers to make this summer a great way to learn more about what God wants us to do and how we should spread the good news!



LemonAid Stand



Look for our Children's Ministry LemonAid stand supporting our all church mission project Imagine No Malaria at the church picnic on Sunday, August 23rd!

Glasses of cool and tasty lemonade will be available for any donation you wish to give to Imagine No Malaria! We hope to collect more this year than our \$250 we collected last year! We are getting closer to our total pledge of \$5000 by the end of 2016!

We can do it!!
Visit our LemonAid stand once or often!



G-Force Vacation Bible School

A huge thank you to the more than 40 volunteers from our church as well as Crossroads of Faith United Methodist Church who showed up each day to help make G-Force VBS a huge success! 46 children were here to learn about God's love and how to put it into ACTION! The week finished with an ice cream social for both congregations where the children shared what they had learned during the week. The children also shared songs during worship on Sunday August 2nd. Almost \$650 was collected for Imagine No Malaria our mission project!



YOUTH MINISTRY

Lots of things are happening in Youth Ministry! The most exciting is that starting in September, we will meet on Saturday evenings from 6:30-8:30pm. We will have worship, and all the other fun things that Youth Groups do! Invite your friends! It's going to be great! Watch for more information as it becomes available. Be sure to sign up for our Youth ministry app! Directions are at the bottom of this page!

August/September Calendar:

August 22, Welcome Event for Incoming 6th Graders

August 23, Church Picnic 11am-3pm, Youth will be helping with games!

August 29, Confirmation Cookout at Pastor's Anna's home, 4:30-6:30pm

September 5, First Saturday evening meeting!!!!

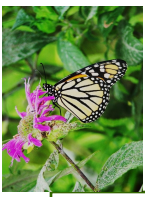
September 12, 19, 26, Saturday evening Youth Group



If you haven't yet signed into the new Youth Ministry Tracker App, see Miss Melissa to do so!!!



Become a Fan
on Facebook



Around the Church

Second Quarter Stewardship Update

For 2015 we received pledge cards from 62 members for a total of \$221, 616. This total was significantly higher than 2014. As of June 30th, we have received contributions from those members of \$103, 760 or 47% of the annual total. To be on track we should be at 50% or \$110,808 so we are about \$7,000 behind through the second quarter.

Overall the giving of our members to support our ministries is very encouraging. Loose giving (checks from member who did not pledge) through June totaled \$10, 990 and total giving through June was \$114, 770. If we can match this giving for the remainder of the year, total income would be over \$229,000 which is \$3,000 more than our budgeted income of \$226,000. The Stewardship Committee appreciates your faithful support of our ministries.

Second Quarter Finance Update

The overall financial condition within Friendship Church closely mirrors the stewardship results. Our total revenue is running approximately %1500 behind budgeted receipts and closely follows last year's results. Total revenues this year are \$123,918 vs. the budgeted amount of \$124, 602. In addition to pledges running slightly behind, building usage fees are also lagging behind budgeted plans. On the positive side, our Easter contributions were \$700 higher than expected.

Expenses for the 1st half of the year have remained within our budgeted totals are being handled extremely well by all the involved committees and staff. Currently, we are \$2000 below budgeted expenses.

The finance committee is very encouraged by our consistent giving and encourages all members to continue this positive trend. You are the reason we are a positive force in our community! Thanks to all!



A follow up from Richard Guzman

In Memory of Nedra, Akkmand...and Mike
To begin my sermon on "Family" this past July 19th, I played "Count Your Blessings," a song by one of the earlier versions of Friendship's Praise Band. As I said, this was a first take, with no rehearsal at all, but what came out was a song bursting with joy and great, detailed musical interplay. It was originally done as a tribute to Nedra and Akkmand, two of our family recently lost. Then in early July, Daniel brought the shocking news that Mike Feldmann, another important member of the band had died suddenly earlier this year. I re-did the video, inserting an "In Memory" to Mike, and said I would send a link to the final version. It's at richardguzman.com/count-your-blessings. Enjoy the song, and remember Mike, too.—
Richard.

A memorial service will be held for Nedra Groggins-Sage on Saturday, August 15th. Music and slide show presentation will begin at 10:30am with the service starting at 11:00 am. The service will be followed by a reception at the Hilton in Lisle.





Upcoming Events

Friendship Flames Tournament Day Saturday, August 15

Join your friends at this fun, family friendly event held at Remington Park Fields. Food and drinks are provided as you cheer on your favorite team, the Friendship Flames. Their first game is at 9:30am, but plan to stay for the day! This is a great way to support your church family as well as your community! Hope to see you there!



Bolingbrook Pathways Parade Sunday, September 13th, 2:00pm

Pathways Parade is always a great opportunity to highlight Friendship Church and First Friends Preschool. We have multigenerational, multicultural participation—we are clearly the most diverse entry. Our entry is led off by our costumed Dave Lichty driving a distinctive vehicle—it's worth participating just to see what Dave wears and drives this year. We hand out water bottles with our information on them and, of course, the obligatory candy for the kids. Since this year marks the 50th anniversary of Bolingbrook, Pam Stephan is planning to have a specially formed Marching Bell Choir playing a special fanfare for Bolingbrook! The parade route is from Bolingbrook High School to village hall via Lily Cache to Canterbury and up Canterbury to Briarcliff. Plan to come out and walk with our entry. For more information, contact Dave Lichty at thelichtys@comcast.net.

Crop Hunger Walk, September 27, 1:00pm Crossroads of Faith United Methodist Church

Ending hunger one step at a time!

The Bolingbrook-Romeoville Crop Walk will be Sunday, September 27th at 1:00pm. Crop Hunger Walks help Church World Service work with communities to determine the best solution to the challenges of providing fresh water and food to families in underdeveloped countries. Your participation will help families all over the world! Watch for more information about how you can get involved.



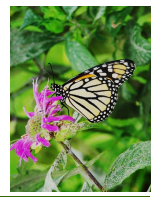
SAVE THE DATE! Friendship Methodist Women Fall Outing, Saturday, October, 10th Kuiper's Family Farm

Friendship Methodist Women ask you to save the date for our Fall Outing. We plan to go to Kuiper's Family Farms on Saturday, October 10th for apple picking, lunch, and a tour. Watch for details in the Newsletter, eFocus, and the Bulletin. There will be more information on the information station as well.



Mark you calendars for this fun event!

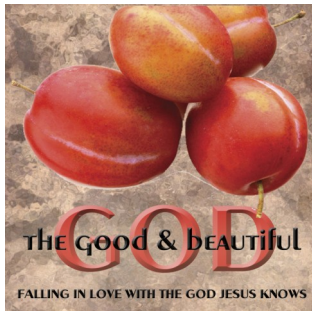
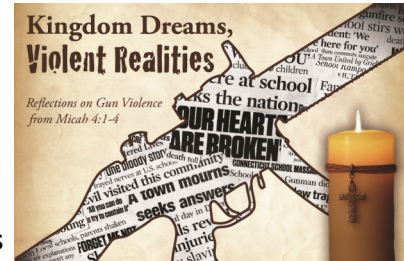
New Bible Study Opportunities



Reflection on Gun Violence from Micah 4:1-4

Sundays, August 2, 9, 30, 11:15am

Racism and gun violence are daunting challenges, but together we can do all things! Join us for a 3-session Bible study to be better able to understand and articulate that God's hope for the world, your nation and your community is to be free from the devastating tragedies of gun violence. It's not too late! Join us in the chapel this Sunday!



The Good and Beautiful God:

Falling in Love with the God Jesus Knows

Sundays, September 27-November 22, 8:30-9:30am

"We all have ideas we tell ourselves about God and how he works in our lives. Some are true-but many are false." Please join us this fall on Sunday mornings before worship. We will help you discover the narratives that Jesus lived by-to know the Lord he knew and the kingdom he proclaims-and to practice spiritual exercises that will help you grow in the knowledge of our good and beautiful God.

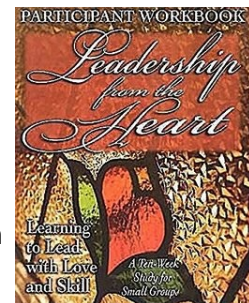
Leadership from the Heart:

Learning to Lead with Love and Skill

Thursdays, September 17-November 19, 7:00-8:45pm

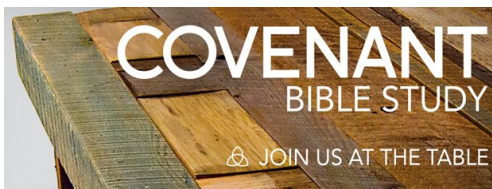
"Everywhere you look, there is a new leadership seminar offering the newly discovered secrets of leadership. While many of these resources truly are excellent, few are designed to help Christian leaders uncover their potential. In Leadership from the heart, we will focus our attention on our discipleship journey, our relationship with God, and how we can develop into Christian leaders who operate as faithful servants."

—Dan Entwistle, Executive Director of Equipping and Outreach, Church of the Resurrection.



This ten-session group study leads adults through key areas of Christian growth, servant leadership and team building. Participants will have a chance to find their spiritual gifts and discern their calling.

Covenant Bible Study Continues

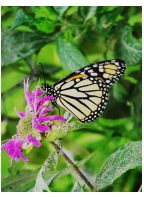


**Wednesdays, September 30-November 18,
10:30am-12:30pm**

Thursdays, January 22-March 10, 7:00-8:30pm

Thursdays, April 7-May 26, 7:00-8:30pm

Watch for more information and how to sign up. More information about the study can be found at covenantbiblestudy.com



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.

We have received 10 envelopes, totaled \$183. They are for celebrating life, daughter's first wedding anniversary and upcoming birth of their first child in December; God's grace and mercies to us all; successful cataract surgery; praising the goodness of God and God's love, freeing us from sin; sisterhood.

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, August 21 @ 5:30 pm

Breakfast Saturday, August 22 @ 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, August 20 @ 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 (During the school year)
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

August 2015 ~ Friendship Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 10am 11:15am Kingdom Dreams study 5pm AA	3 	4 10am BPC Ministry	5 6:30pm Scouts	6 	7 10am BPC Ministry	1 9am AA 8 9am AA
9 10am Worship & Sun- day School 11:15am Kingdom Dreams Study 5pm AA 5pm Gujarati Worship	10 	11 10am BPC Minis- try	12 6:30pm Scouts 7pm Nominations	13 7pm Anxiety Support	14 10am BPC Ministry	15 9am AA 11am Memorial for Nedra Groggins-Sage
16 10 am Worship & Sunday School 11:15am Sunday School Teacher Training 5pm AA	17 	18 10am BPC Minis- try 7ppm Church Council	19 6:30pm Scouts	20 11:15am Senior Lunch & Bible Study	21 10am BPC Ministry 5:30pm Daybreak 7:30pm GA	22 5am Daybreak 9am AA 9am Stewardship Training
23 10am Worship & Sunday School 11am-3pm Back to Church Picnic	24 	25 10am BPC Minis- try	26 6:30pm Scouts 7pm Nominations	27 	28 10am BPC Ministry 7:30pm GA	29 9am AA
30 10am Worship & Sunday School 11:15am Kingdom Dreams Study	31 					