



*Jesus said, "I came that they may have life,
and have it abundantly." John 10:10*

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?*

Reflections from Pastor Anna



Some of you know that I have a new family member, Ahri, a 3 months old Shiba Inu puppy. She came to us during spring break by a total surprise on my part. I was not quite ready to have another four-legged member, when Ahri arrived with Inha (my second son). She was so different from Scout (90 lbs golden retriever whom I lost last June) that I couldn't figure out how to respond to this small, 5 lbs, cute, cat-like behaving creature in the first moment.

Inha has presented to us his well planned out 'Family Plan.' Ahri was born in January. So about time when he starts working, after graduation from college in May, Ahri will be potty trained, and he can take care of her! I feel like I am invited (?) to be a grandma to Ahri! Perhaps I would be able to do that.

So our new family began. The first thing we did together as a family was to welcome Ahri and help her to understand that this is her new home. It is like building a relationship with the one who has a very different style of communication and behavior. It means that we all open ourselves both to new opportunities and new challenges in cultivating and nurturing relationship.

After the first check-up visit to the veterinarian, we registered for 'puppy training' class at a nearby pet store. We

have learned over the years that if we establish the structure and rhythm that all of us would be able to embrace, our life together would be much enjoyable. To help Ahri understand and accept it, first thing we need to do is to observe Ahri and name what we observe and communicate by repeating it until she responds to the naming. We understand we need patience and consistent practice until both parties become familiar with each other's expectations and needs. It can't be rigid. There should be space and time for allowing mistakes.

There is another unexpected blessing Ahri has given me. Every morning before I jump into my routine, Ahri has helped me to create a new morning ritual. While she enjoys exploring the outdoors, chasing squirrels, wondering of the birds, nibbling with her stuffed toys feeling secure around my presence, I also drop everything and pay attention to the surrounding beauty of nature with the first cup of coffee meditatively. It is a Godly moment as I am reminded through Ahri that life is given to appreciate every bit of it and be thankful.

Jesus says that he came so that we may have life, and have it abundantly (John 10:10). Jesus had a very busy life. He was so busy that his friends thought he would go mad (Mark 3:20-21). He was seldom left alone. So he had to make time to be alone, to give undivided attention to God. I believe those times must have given him awareness of the meaning of his life, his mission, his own identity and his relationship with God.

To live attuning to God is very challenging for us because we are so busy. We have so many urgent things to do, so many people to meet, so many books to read, so many events to attend. Our families need lots of care and time. Furthermore, we promise to do things for the church or for community

Continued from previous page

organizations. We simply don't have time.

Then someday, after children go to their own room, or after walking the dog or driving the children around, you might pause and ask yourselves, "Where am I going? "What am I doing in all these activities? Or Who am I?" I believe that this is the Godly moment that we are called to pay attention and open a space for God.

In these beautiful days of springtime when nature tries to attract our attention, I pray that you have some time to go outside to be attuned to God's presence around us. May your body and mind be renewed by the grace of God who sends fresh melody to our life.

Pastor Anna



The God We Can Know Sermon Series Continues

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

May 2015

May 3
9 & 10:45 Family Worship
No Sunday
School

Sundays, May 10, 17
9 & 10:45 Sunday School

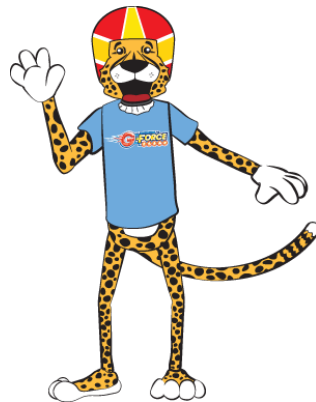
Sundays, May 24, 31
10:00 **One Service**
begins with
Sunday School
offered at this
time!

Please Note: Friendship
Café is on a break for now.
Watch for upcoming dates.



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.

Visit cokesburyvbs.com/friendshipchurchumc to register!

Summer Sunday School is Coming!

Summer Sunday school will begin in June! The children, ages 3 years old through incoming 5th graders, will gather together to experience an all-in-one Bible based curriculum. They will learn to work together, all ages, as a team and have an active learning experience. They will hear Bible lessons that they will remember!

God's word makes us strong
God wants us to spread the good news
It is important to listen to God
It is important to tell others about God's love
We can trust in God

Summer Sunday school will be a fun place for the children to experience God's love! Each week there will be a Bible lesson, a worship experience, activities, games, treats and music!

Have the children bring their friends, relatives and neighbors along
each Sunday morning at 10:00 AM!

Everyone will be welcome to come and have an exciting Sunday
school experience all together!



Children & Family Ministry



Easter Egg Hunt

The children at Friendship Church hunted for colorful filled eggs around the church grounds on Easter Sunday morning between the church services. The youth of the church placed the eggs on the grounds and then helped the children find the eggs. It was a beautiful morning and there were many excited children who each found plenty of eggs for their Easter basket!



YOUTH MINISTRY

The Confirmation class braved the cool temperatures to participate in a retreat on April 24 and 25. The retreat was held at Camp Reynoldswood in Dixon, Illinois.



Friday, May 15, 6:30-9:30pm—Movie Night

Sunday, May 17, 10:00am—Car Wash
2-4pm—Youth Group

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



Youth Ministries

Follow us on Twitter @FriendshipYout2



30 Hr. Famine

Youth learned about hunger while studying the country of Ethiopia. We are part way to our goal of \$500.00 raised. People can donate either in person or by going online to www.youth.worldvision.org. Our team name is "Friendship Fighters".

Movie Night - Friday May 15th 6:30pm – 9:30pm in the Youth Room

Come enjoy a night of fellowship and movies. See Ms. Robin with movie requests.



Car Wash - Sunday May 17th

To raise money for this year's mission trip, we will be washing cars after 1st service and during 2nd service. Car wash tickets can be purchased in advance for \$10.00 each. Youth are being asked to attend 1st service for their spiritual fulfillment and then to remain to wash cars. There will also be cans of pop available for sale for \$1.00 each.

Youth Meeting - Sunday June 7th 2:00pm – 4:00pm in the Youth Room

Mission Trip - Sunday June 14th – Saturday June 20th

This year's mission trip is to Big Creek Missions in Bear Branch, Kentucky. A sign-up sheet is posted on the youth bulletin board. Be sure to check with Mr. Tom or Miss Melissa for more details and forms.



Youth Meeting - Sunday June 28th 2:00pm – 4:00pm in the Youth Room

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



Upcoming Events

Flower Sale Pick Up—Saturday, May 9

10:30am-12:00pm



If you ordered flowers from Friendship Women's sale, Saturday's the day to pick them up. Flowers will be delivered to Friendship Church and can be picked up starting at 10:30am. If you are unable to take delivery at that time, please call Julie Verson at 630.355.6777 to make other arrangements. There will be a few extras if you were unable to order but would still like to purchase.

Core Group Events

Core Group 1—Sunday, May 3, 12:30pm

Join your group at the house of Mike and Kandy DeWitt, 404 DuPahze, Naperville. For more information, contact the DeWitts at 630.637.1216.

Core Group 4—Sunday, May 3, 2:00pm

Join your group of friends at the house of Leonard and Carolyn Jones for a cookout. Bring a dish to share to complement burgers and hot dogs. Contact Leonard or Carolyn at 630.972.0244 for more information and to RSVP.

Core Group 3 (CG3) - Friday, May 29, 6:30pm

This group will gather at the Pierce home for a picnic. Meat and drinks will be provided along with activities for all ages. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Contact Jane Pierce at 630.759.6953 for more information and to RSVP.

Want to get connected with a group? Contact Jody Hargett at jody.hargett@comcast.net to get connected.

All Church Picnic



It's time to look forward to Summer!

Church Picnic



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

Get Involved!

Coming soon - The Welcome Station

In an effort to further offer Radical Hospitality at Friendship Church, our Congregation will be staging the Welcome Station in the foyer each Sunday, beginning May 3rd.



The idea our Core Group came up with are that someone would man the Station every Sunday morning before first service, between services and optionally after services with whatever event their group is promoting. They would greet everyone and also help direct people to the Information Station, or wherever needed.

It could be The Advent Fair, The Lenten Fair, the Plant Sale, Youth selling sub sandwiches or any of their events, Scout troops selling cookies or wreaths, Imagine No Malaria, VBS, the Softball Team, Choirs or Study Club encouraging members to sign up, Daybreak, the Preschool, FMW Bake Sale and Ladies Dinner, Mission trips, or simply the current Greeter.

We hope to add a dry erase board where we could write something fun like "Free Hugs!" on weeks when there are no specific events.

Sign-up is on the door of the usher's closet, with the Flower sign-up. If two groups have a need at the same time, the table could be shared.

Each Welcome Station group will be responsible for setting up, manning and taking down the table on their Sunday. Any flyers or further information will be set out at the Information Station.

If you want further information, please contact the office.



Church Clean Up Day Saturday, May 16, 9:00am-12:30pm

All are invited to join the Trustees for a morning of Spring Cleaning! No previous experience required, there will be plenty to keep us all busy! You don't even have to stay the entire morning. There are a variety of jobs including landscaping, cleaning and light gardening (see ad below). Many hands make light work, so we hope you can all join us! Sign up for a two hour time slot at the information station, or contact the church office for more information.

churchoffice@friendshipchurchumc.org



Friendship Gardeners

Have a green thumb? Don't have a green thumb, but would like to get together with other members of the congregation to help keep the church grounds looking great? Consider giving some of your time each week to maintain Friendship UMC's lawn and flowerbeds.

We will meet once a week to trim and weed as well as enjoy some time together over a cup of coffee and fellowship.

Our first gathering will be the Church work day planned for May 16th at 9:00am. Plans will be made for a weekly schedule at this time.

No experience needed, but sunscreen is recommended!

Contact the church office for more information:
churchoffice@friendshipchurchumc.org.



From the Church Committees

May 2015 Church Council News

Church Council met April 21, 2015. Our business meeting was short to allow time to continue work on the planning and focusing that began at the two leadership meetings on February 28 and March 14.

The 2015 Bishop's Appeal for the June Northern Illinois Conference will be for (JFON), Justice for our Neighbors. JFON offers free legal services to those seeking to apply for visa status. The congregation will be asked to help with this later this month. Another initiative for the annual conference has already begun. It is the Emergency Cleaning Buckets Church Challenge. Please see Amania Drane, if you would like to help.

Social life would love to have help in the kitchen on Sunday mornings. The same volunteers are making coffee and putting out snacks each week. Please sign up to take a turn for a week or even a month. Youth are more than welcome. Donations of coffee, creamer, juice, paper towels, and napkins are also needed.

A task force was created to study our Sunday services. The group will study our worship times, worship styles, music, and education.

The next church council meeting will be on June 9, 2015 at 7 PM.

Carolyn Weber,
Chairperson



First Quarter Stewardship and Finance Update

For 2015 we received pledge cards from 61 members for a total of \$217,716. This total was significantly higher than 2014. As of March 31st we have received contributions from those members of \$50,054 or 23% of the annual total. To be on track we should be at 25% or \$54,429 so we are about \$4,400 behind through the first quarter. 44 families have given at least 90% of their pledge amount but several individuals are quite far behind on their pledges.

Loose giving (checks from member who did not pledge) for the quarter totaled \$6,262. If this continues, the annual total would be over \$25,000. Total giving for the quarter was \$56,122. If this giving continues, total giving from pledge and loose income would be \$224,500. Our budgeted income from pledge and loose income was estimated to at \$226,000 which means that we would be very close to our estimated income from our members.

Overall our finances for the first quarter were mixed as our total income was very close to our budgeted income but our expenses were slightly over budget. For the quarter, we ended up with a deficit of around \$2200. Our income was \$900 better than last year but \$1100 short of our budget. Our expenses climbed by \$3300 primarily driven by additional expenses and increased staff salary for the first quarter. We will be watching our expenses carefully over the next few months and hope to be back on budget by the end of 2nd quarter.

The Stewardship and Finance Committees appreciate your faithful support of our ministries.

Gene Paquette and Dena Byrd,
Co-Chairs of Stewardship
Mike Dewitt, Chair of Finance

First Friends Preschool



Now we know our ABC's!

Now that we have studied the whole alphabet, we are showing each other that we know our letters and sounds, using alphabet books, toys and puzzles.



We read a different alphabet book each day.
Even outside, we reinforce letter recognition with a letter search game.

It is wonderful to see the children helping each other and sharing and taking turns.
They have come a long way this year. We are almost ready for Kindergarten !



Annual Conference Giving Opportunities

Bishop's Appeal for 2015

Over the past two years an offering has been taken at Annual Conference as a part of an appeal by our Bishop. Those appeals have included Harvest 2020 and Imagine No Malaria. This year's offering will be for Northern Illinois Justice for Our Neighbors (NIJFON) as they expand their capacity at three area clinics, including offering special JFON legal help to those eligible for new immigration opportunities through Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals and Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents.

In 2010, the Northern Illinois Conference launched the Northern Illinois Justice For Our Neighbors program, which provides high quality immigration legal services at no cost to clients. To date, because of the support of hundreds of volunteers and a staff of one attorney and one paralegal, they have helped over 384 clients through their three clinics in Aurora, Chicago, and Rockford.

Bishop Dyck challenges us to top the total given last year to Imagine No Malaria of \$42,000. Together, we can make a difference in our own communities welcoming the sojourner among us and extending hospitality to our migrating neighbors.



The Bishop's Appeal offering will be collected on two separate Sundays, May 31 and June 7th. A special envelope will be included in the bulletin that day.



Our Church Is Challenged: Emergency Cleaning Buckets

Each year at Annual Conference, the NIC Board of Global Ministries and the Annual Conference Committee issues a mission challenge for local churches to bring items that go towards relief efforts through UMCOR or its partners like Church World Service (CWS). This year's collection is for CWS Emergency Cleanup Buckets. The cost of one bucket is \$56. Let's work together to make this happen! Listed below are the supplies needed to fill a bucket. If you would like to donate, please contact the church office.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Five Gallon bucket w/resealable lid _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Five scouring pads _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seven assorted sponges _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> One scrub brush _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 18 cleaning towels (like Easy Wipes) _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> 50-78 oz. dry laundry detergent _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12 oz. bottle liquid household cleaner _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> 25 oz. bottle dish soap _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Package of 50 clothespins _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Clothesline _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Five dust masks _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Two pairs latex gloves _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> One pair work gloves _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> 30-46 gallon trash bags (roll of 28) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 bottle insect repellent (non-aerosol) _____ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Whatever needed | <input type="checkbox"/> \$\$\$\$ to purchase needed items _____ |

Your generosity is much appreciated!



From Bolingbrook High School Theatre :

“Thank you for your continued support of the Bolingbrook High School Theater program with your sponsorship ad in our Spring Musical program book. The financial success of our Spring Musical is largely based upon paid advertising in our program, and your support is greatly appreciated.

Our students work so hard to make the show the best possible experience for our patrons, and their dedication and efforts are continually supported by the public audiences.”~Diane Parro, Sponsorship Chair

From the West Suburban Community Pantry:

“Your generous donation of 42 pounds of baby items in March is so greatly appreciated and we need it now more than ever as a new year delivers new challenges in our collective mission to alleviate hunger throughout DuPage County.

As we head for the close of our fiscal year this coming June, we are trending towards serving more than the 45,000 persons we served last year with more than 1.6 million pounds of products.

On behalf of the staff, and especially our clients, thank you for supporting the Pantry and helping our neighbors in need as they work their way back to the point of self-sufficiency.”~Michael McDonnell, CEO & Executive Director



THANKS

From the Mombasa Relief Initiative:

“Thank you so very much for the donation you made to the Mombasa Relief Initiative. Your gift made a definite impact on the lives of the children of Mombasa, Kenya. All donations are used to feed, educate, and empower children in the city of Mombasa where unemployment in some areas is as high as 60% of the population and the average salary is less than \$75 per month.

Our three key initiatives: education, health and economic enrichment cannot be realized without the assistance of people like you.

Our programs and initiatives have made a great impact on the lives of over 1500 children. Through the generous donations of our sponsors and individuals we have been able to provide services such as computer labs and school supplies, lunches, leadership training, medical supplies, and tuition to these children and young adults.”

Your generosity is most appreciated! ~ Kevin Bledsoe, President



Mombasa Relief Initiative



“Helping A Village Raise A Child”



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.

In the month of April, we received 5 envelopes which totaled \$240. They are about thanksgiving for a daughter's 10th birthday; first son's acceptance to prestigious university; life and family; first year anniversary of father's death.

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, May 15 @ 5:30 pm
Breakfast Saturday, May 16 @ 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 21 @ 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

May 2015 ~ Friendship Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
<p>3 9&10:45am Worship 12:30pm Core Group I 2pm Core Group 4</p> <p>5pm AA</p>	<p>4</p> <p>5:30pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p>5 10am BPC Ministry</p>	<p>6 11am Bible Study 4pm Study Club 4:45pm Confirmation 6:30pm Bell Choir, Scouts 7:30pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7pm Bible Study</p>	<p>8 10am BPC Ministry</p> <p>7:30pm GA</p>	<p>9 8am Graduation Breakfast 9am AA 10:30am Women's Flower Sale Pick Up</p> <p>6pm BPC Ministry</p>
<p>10 Mother's Day 9&10:45am Worship</p> <p>5pm Gujarati Worship 5pm AA</p>	<p>11</p> <p>5:30pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p>12 10am BPC Ministry</p>	<p>13 11am Bible Study 4:45pm Confirmation 6:30pm Bell Choir, Scouts 7:30pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>14</p> <p>7pm Bible Study 7pm Anxiety Support</p>	<p>15 10am BPC Ministry</p> <p>3pm Piano Rehearsal</p> <p>6pm Girls Scouts 7:30pm GA</p>	<p>16 9am AA 9am Market Day 9am Church Clean Up Day</p>
<p>17 9&10:45am Worship 10am Car Wash 2pm Youth Group</p> <p>5pm AA</p>	<p>18</p> <p>5:30pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p>19 10am BPC Ministry</p>	<p>20 11am Bible Study 4:45pm Confirmation</p>	<p>21 Last Day of Pre-school Picnic 11:15am Sr. Lunch and Study 7pm Bible Study 7pm Preschool Graduation</p>	<p>22 Last Day of Pre-school Picnic 10am BPC Ministry</p> <p>7:30pm GA</p>	<p>23 9am AA</p>
<p>24 9&10:45am Worship</p> <p>5pm AA & Gujarati</p> <p>31 9&10:45am Worship Bishop's Appeal Offering 5pm AA</p>	<p>25 Memorial Day Office Closed</p>	<p>26 10am BPC Ministry</p> <p>7pm Scout Leaders</p>	<p>27 11:00 Bible Study</p> <p>7:30pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>28</p> <p>7pm Bible Study 7pm Anxiety Support</p>	<p>29 10am BPC Ministry</p> <p>6pm Core Group 3 7:30pm GA</p>	<p>30 9am AA</p>