

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

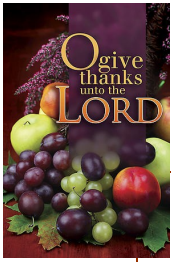
305 E. Boughton Road
Bolingbrook, IL 60440

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

"I will sing praises to you, my strength, because God is my stronghold, my loving God." Psalm 59:17

I forgot the title, but several years ago, I read about a man who decided to write a thank you note every day for a whole year, 365 notes, and he did.

What struck me most was he started this practice when he hit the bottom in his life. He had lost everything; his law firm, marriage, money, friendships, family—just like Job in the Old Testament. In the same manner of writing his last will, he picked up a pen and started to write "thank you" to those who had been in his life, starting with his own child who was estranged for many years. While writing a thank you note every day, he started to notice a change in him and when he completed this mission, 365 days later, not only was he transformed, but the community around him was transformed. Sounds surreal? This is a real story.

I was so touched by his life that I started to write down three "gratitudes" each day. At first what came to me were general ones: family, shelter, food. But then the gratitude became more real: a good conversation with Alex, beautiful songs of such creative musicians as James Taylor, the smell of newly cut grass, the middle of the night text message saying "I'm ok, Mom".

And then I found myself being intentional as I lived the day and looked for the gratitude: falling leaves, a remote parking lot for an extra workout, traffic jam on Highway 355 for extra time praying for loved ones, government leaders, sanitary workers. And I often found myself surrounded by many blessings that I can't

count them all. And I've become filled with pure gratitude and so burst with tears of joy that my wonderful life can be part of the bigger blessings of the universe, this sacred Given-ness from Creator God. I have discovered that gratitude is the secret to happiness.

"Rejoice always. Pray continually. Give thanks in every situation for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Paul did not say give thanks for every situation but in the midst of every situation we may face.

Johnson Oatman, Jr., a local Methodist pastor and businessman wrote in 1897 "Count Your Blessings" which has helped millions to focus on their blessings from God:

*When upon Life's billows you are tempest-tossed,
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,
Count your blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord has done.*

Gratitude is a spiritual practice. In this Thanksgiving season, let us practice gratitude. Count your blessings intentionally. As we do, God may transform our heart and help us discover abundant given-ness of God's generosity in our life and around us every day.

Thanks be to God!

Pastor Anna





Consecration Sunday is Coming!

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation's Stewardship committee has selected the *New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

New Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. *New Consecration Sunday* encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, November 22, 2015, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an *Estimate of Giving Card* does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team and Church Council members. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Carolyn Weber, Council Chairperson

Thanksgiving Celebration-Friendship Style

Sunday, November 22

10:00am~Consecration Worship

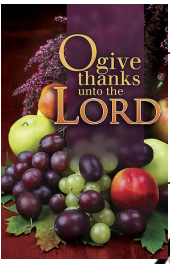
11:00am~Celebration Entertainment

11:30am~Celebration Lunch

Plan to attend this special service and stay for the delicious meal after! Sign up sheets will be available in the November 8th worship bulletin as well as on the information station. Please return your completed form to the office by November 16th so we can be sure to have enough eats and seats for everyone!

We hope to see you all there!





Children & Family Ministry News



November 2015

November 1, 8, 15, 22, 29~10:00am
Sunday School

November 4, 11, 18~5:30-7:30pm
Friendship Café

November 22~11:30am
Thanksgiving Luncheon



AutumnAid

Have a beverage with your Friendship Thanksgiving Dinner on Sunday, November 22nd.

Give a Donation to *Imagine No Malaria!*

Remember our many blessings on this special day.

Remember and bless our friends and neighbors in Africa.

Donate to *Imagine No Malaria* and help eradicate malaria.

Each \$10.00 collected helps save one life!

Wednesday Friendship Café

Share a free meal with your *Friends in Faith of all ages* each Wednesday at Friendship Café!

The Friendship Café will be open each week 5:30-7:30pm from October 14th through December 9th.
(There will be no Café on November 25th)

Meet and Eat in the Friendship Center!
Everyone is invited!

No need to bring anything and the meal is free!

Hope to see you all there!



YOUTH MINISTRY



A big thanks to Tom and Walter Marsh, Ryan Jacobs, Larry Hilb and Kayla Henry for helping give the youth room a facelift with a fresh coat(s) of paint!



Career Choices for High School Students (CCHSS)

CCHSS kicked off its first meeting of this academic year on October 4 with North Central College Chaplain Reverend Eric Doolittle. The group discussed the college atmosphere, financial aid, and opportunities to visit NCC's campus. Dr. Richard Guzman, professor at NCC, also shared some remarks.

CCHSS will continue to communicate opportunities for learning and engagement to help high school students prepare for a career after high school. This will include vocational opportunities and other career choices as well.

Our next scheduled meeting is Sunday, December 13 from 11:30am-12:30pm at church. The topic will be "Reflections on College Life." Last year's participants in CCHSS will return and talk about their college experience.

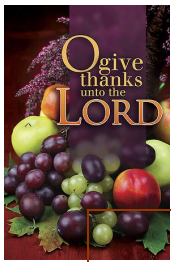
The leadership team includes Robin Lichty, Nisha Bhagat, John Collier, and Amania Drane. If you would like to receive information about this ministry, please contact Amania at niaenterprises1@comcast.net or 630.886.7469.



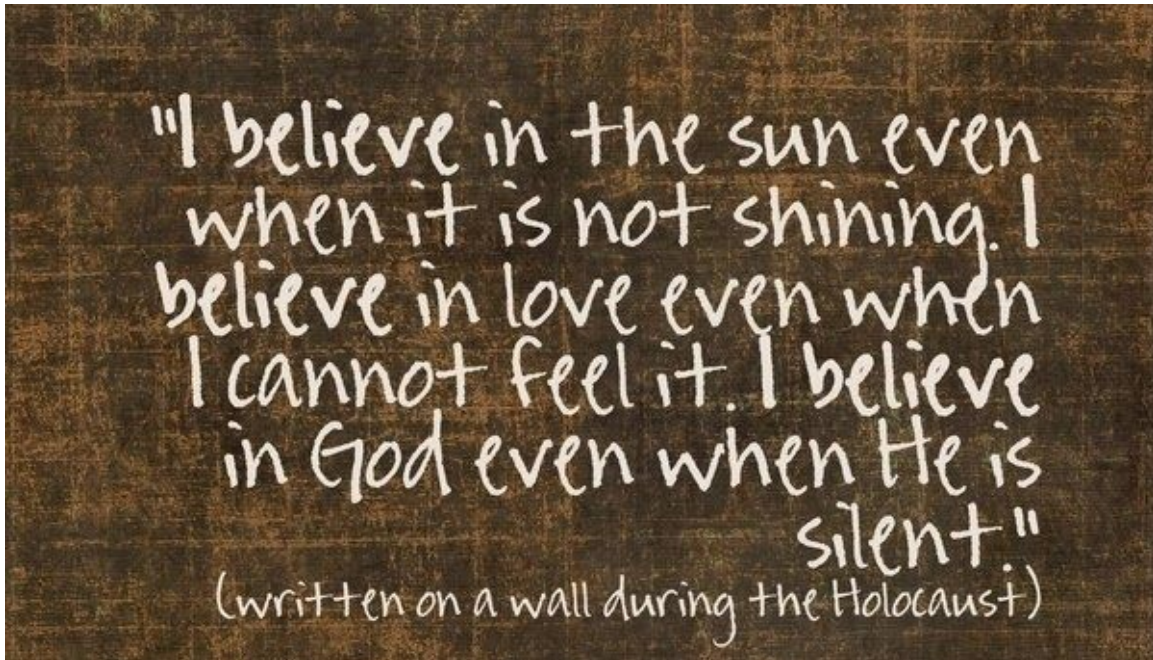
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Advent Sermon Series~ *I Believe....even when*



This defiant statement of faith was etched on a cellar wall in Cologne by a Jew hiding from the Nazi Gestapo during World War II. American soldiers discovered it below a Star of David when searching the bombed house. This poem is now a haunting anthem composed by Mark Miller and inspired this “I believe...even when” Advent worship series. In this poem, we hear the affirmation of belief in spite of what seems the absence of light, love, and sometimes, even what feels like the absence of God.

In this Advent/ Christmas sermon series we are going to explore the first chapter of each of the Gospels. We will acknowledge the presence of hope through Christ “even when...”

November 29	This I Believe...even when: I believe in the sun.
December 6	“I believe in Love”
December 13	“I believe in God”
December 20	“I Believe even when...”
December 24	Christmas Eve worship at 5:00pm and 11:00pm

Please join us as we find hope “even when”....

Odds and Ends

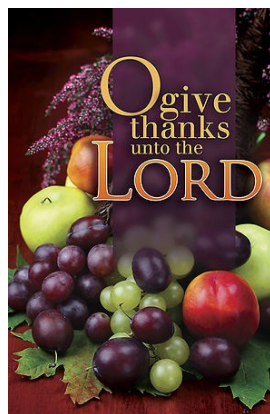
Third Quarter Stewardship Update

For 2015 we received pledge cards from 62 members for a total of \$221,616. This total was significantly higher than 2014. As of September 30th, we have received contributions from those members of \$154,409 or 69.7% of the annual total. To be on track, we should be at 75% or \$166,212 so we are about \$8,000 behind through the third quarter. Historically, the summer is a time when we fall behind in our giving and we normally see an increase in the fourth quarter.

Overall, the giving of our members to support our ministries is very encouraging. Loose giving (checks from members who did not pledge) through June totaled \$16,132 and total giving through June was \$170,541. If we can match this giving for the remainder of the year, total income would be over \$227,000 which is \$1,000 more than our budgeted income of \$226,000.

The Stewardship Committee appreciates your faithful support of our ministries. For those of you that have fallen behind in your pledge, we strongly encourage you to do everything possible to catch up by the end of the year. If you did not turn in a pledge card, please prayerfully consider what you can do to support the work of our ministries. Those of you that are on target (75%), we appreciate your continued support.

Dena Byrd
Gene Paquette
Co-Chairs,
Stewardship Committee



Friendship Church Women's Ensemble

Love to Sing?

Short Term Commitment!

No Prior Experience!

The Friendship UMC Women's Ensemble is forming and will sing during service on November 15th.

All women (and high school age girls!) are welcome!

Rehearsal schedule:

Wednesday 10/28, 11/4, 11/11~7:30pm

Sunday, 11/8~11:00am

Sunday, 11/15~9:15am

Hope you can join in the FUN!

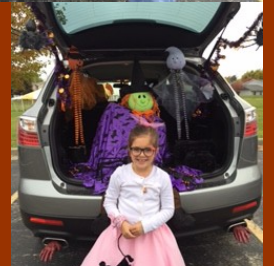
Questions?

Contact Pam Stephan at 630.776.8745 or pamstephan27@gmail.com.

Make a
Joyful noise
Unto The
Lord!



Fall Fun Day

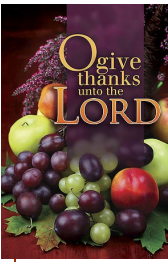


First Friends Preschool



Our trip to the Pumpkin Farm was a lot of fun! We pet and fed the goats, and baby chicks, too! We each got to pick out a pumpkin! It was really fun to bundle together and take a hay ride!





Friendship Community

Prayer Chain:

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

Celebration offerings



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 gratefully received 11 envelopes totaling \$181.00 for the month of October. They are for celebrating a sister and brother in law's 50th wedding anniversary; God's grace in the life of all my children and thanksgiving for their Confirmation; Confirmation; family; God's grace and faithfulness; God's grace and we remain forever thankful; life; daughter's birthday.

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, November 20 @ 5:30 pm
Breakfast Saturday, November 21 @ 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, November 19 @ 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
1st Sunday of every month

FIRST FRIENDS CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL MONDAY-FRIDAY 9:00-11:30AM

Contact Chris Bosacki, Director,
for more information.
chrisbosacki@firstfriendspreschool.info

November 2015 ~ Friendship Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 All Saints' Day 10am Worship and Sunday School 11:15am Leadership Study 11:15am Chime Squad 5pm AA	2 5:30pm Girl Scouts	3 10am BPC Ministry	4 10:30am Women's Bible Study 4pm Study Club 4:45pm Confirmation 5:30pm Café 6:30pm Scouts, Chorallier, Alleluia 7pm Crop Walk Mtg. 7:30pm Chancel	5	6 10am BPC Ministry 6pm Daisy Scouts 7:30pm GA	7 9am AA 7pm Youth Group
8 10am Worship & Sunday School 11:15am Leadership Study 5pm AA 5pm Gujarati Worship	9 5:30pm Girl Scouts	10 10am BPC Ministry 7pm Church Council	11 No Preschool 10:30pm Women's Bible Study 4pm Study Club 4:45pm Confirmation 5:30pm Café 6:30pm Scouts, Chorallier, Alleluia 7:30pm Chancel	12 7pm Anxiety Support	13 10am BPC Ministry 4pm Confirmation Retreat 7:30p GA	14 9am AA 5pm Confirmation Retreat Returns 7pm Youth Group
15 10am Worship & Sunday School 11:15am Leadership Study 5pm AA	16 5:30pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Staff Parish 7:00pm Church Conference	17 10am BPC Ministry	18 10:30am Women's Bible Study 4pm Study Club 4:45pm Confirmation 5:30pm Café 6:30pm Scouts, Choirs 7:30pm Chancel 7pm Leadership Study	19	20 10am BPC Ministry 6pm Daisy Scouts	21 9am AA 7pm Youth Group
22 10am Worship & Sunday School 11:30am Celebration Luncheon 5pm AA 5pm Gujarati Worship	23	24 10am BPC Ministry	25 Office Closed at Noon	26 Thanksgiving Office Closed	27 Office Closed 7:30pm GA	28 9am AA 7pm Youth Group
29 10am Worship & Sunday School 5pm AA	30					

