

God
Bless
Us
Everyone!



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

305 E. Boughton Road
Bolingbrook, IL 60440

Worship Service at 10:00am

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

Advent at Friendship Church



This Advent Series will take a look at how living in God's economy of grace and justice is the antithesis of the life-threatening addiction to money, success, exclusion and looking out for ourselves. The chimes of the clock-tower bells in Dickens' classic "A Christmas Carol" provide a wake-up call for Ebenezer Scrooge and turn him from his resentment, fear and isolation. Just as God's presence was born anew into this world, we too can be born anew, woken up and redeemed into renewed life, joy, passion, generosity, humility and love. Join us each week!

- December 4~The Remembrance of Christmas Past: Hope from Heartbreak
- December 11~The Life of Christmas Present: Look Upon Me
- December 18~The Hope of Christmas Future: Death-Defying Acts
- December 24~Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship at 5 & 10 pm-Join us for Special Music, Dramatic Readings and Candlelight as well as Holy Communion at 10pm.
- December 25~God Bless Us-Every One!-Join us for a special morning of carols and scripture!

*God has pulled the powerful down from their thrones and lifted up the lowly.
God has filled the hungry with good things....Luke 1*

Reflections from Pastor Anna



“O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8)

What an exciting time to be in Chicago as the Cubs won the championship at the World Series! The enthusiasm of the fans is so infectious that it seems there is no one soul not stirred up and shared the joy of the victory. I pray the life and ministry at Friendship would be filled with enthusiasm for knowing, loving, and serving God and God’s people and its impact is as infectious to our neighbors and families.

As I look back on the year 2016, I would like to say from the bottom of my heart ‘THANK YOU’ to our leaders and all those regular worshippers. It is a rare gift and blessing that Friendship has many devoted and seasoned leaders who have worked tirelessly focusing on serving our neighbors. I have learned patience, forgiveness, generosity from you! Even when I feel lost and challenged, our leaders have stayed closely with me and encouraged me to stay in hope in God’s lead! The trust and friendship in faith has held me accountable for the way I lead and live with the congregation. I have realized that I need to spend more time in prayer, alone and together. I pray you will join me and keep challenging me to be faithful to my promise that I follow the teachings of Christ and grow into the likeness of him. And I’ll depend on God to produce fruit.

Among many ministries, I would like to lift up the fruit of outreach efforts: **the mentor ministry at Bolingbrook High School, the Study Club, the Power Connection, the Senior Bible Study and Luncheon** which shows 50% growth, **Wednesday Café, the Giving Tree, the Crop Hunger Walk**. It is obvious that Friendship understands we are here to serve the community beyond our walls. This year, the **Wednesday Women’s Bible Study** group under Sharon Hall’s leadership has enjoyed several guest learners. It has proven that ‘invitation’ with genuine love for others is a way to growth!

As some work hard to meet the needs of the community, there has been caring ministry going on for our own family members behind the scene, such as card ministry, prayer ministry, visiting elderly and sick, and teaching young people.

Amber Pidgeon, our own member, is a new addition to staff who has been working with Jane Pierce to vitalize the children and family ministry. She will be a great asset to our ministry.

Even though the worship attendance has shown decline, our giving has been steadily increased. Especially I have been inspired by your generous spirit toward the connectional giving. We could give about 70% of our apportioned fund this year because of the extra effort you made in spring. We still have a way to go to be 100% giving congregation, but you have shown your desire to be faithful to our covenant. For that I would like to give thanks to God and our passionate leaders.

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While re-imagining what is bold and vital ministries that God would want us to do, I would like to suggest focusing on the following for 2017:

Equipping and empowering lay leadership:

Simplified leadership structure: Friendship is going to adopt “simplified structure” for the administrative body (Staff-Parish Relation Committee, Nominations and Lay Leadership Development committee, Trustees, Finance Committee) targeting from July 2017. During the first half of 2017, we will complete the job description of the ministry teams and begin to work for the nominations of the leadership.

Practicing team ministry, accountability from recruiting, planning to evaluation: We will continue to have annual retreat to envision what Friendship would focus on a new year. This all morning retreat, January 21, will be the vital and fun place and time as we discern God’s will and develop goals and talk about how to measure our success.

Offering a pilot program for the ‘Discipleship path’: This will be an intentional effort to grow in the knowledge of God in a systematic way. I trust it would be an opportunity to confirm what we believe and how to live as committed Christian. Materials from the Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, KS, are planned to be used (Journey 101, Apprentice).

Spiritual Maturity

Break Through with Prayer: We will seek to learn to pray and explore different ways to worship and pray throughout church seasons, such as Lent, Advent.

Cultural Detective workshop: To learn how the cultural differences work as we interact with one another and how to increase the cultural sensitivity. This is made possible with the grant from the Program Council of the Northern Illinois Conference. We should use our resource responsibly by engaging wholeheartedly.

Invitational Ministry:

We will focus on two programs as a way to reach out to the community and seek to establish and improve the way to connect, invite and follow up with guests.

The Core Groups will explore how we can be hospitable to one another and to others. Practicing fruitful congregations’ workbook has been selected.

Joy of Fellowship: We will seek ways to celebrate rich culture among us through worship and sharing meals on Sundays and explore more ways to develop fellowship, such as summer family camp, weekend retreat.

Faithfully serving,



Pastor Anna

Celebration Dinner ~ Friendship Style!

On November 20th, Friendship's Annual Celebration Dinner was held following a wonderful worship filled with music and special cardboard testimonies. With over 100 people in attendance, it was a delightful time filled with food, fun and fellowship. We truly have much to be thankful for!



Children and Family News



December 2016

December 4, 11, 18~10:00am
Sunday School

December 7, 14~5:30-7:30pm
Friendship Café

December 25-Christmas Day!
No Sunday School

Mitten Tree

Our annual mitten tree will be located by the information station. This year our tree will include donations of new warm winter children's mittens, gloves, scarves, hats and socks!

Gently worn or new winter jackets, sweatpants and sweatshirts are also needed, children's sizes 6-14.

Please, place your donations either on the tree or in the red container beside the tree by Sunday, December 18th!

These warm winter clothes will go to children in need at a local Valley View elementary school. Let's help keep our neighborhood children nice and warm during the upcoming cold days of winter!



Wednesday Friendship Café



Share a meal with your **Friends in Faith** each Wednesday at the Friendship Café! The meal each week is **FREE** for everyone so bring your family and friends of all ages!

The **Friendship Café** will be open each Wednesday **5:30 – 7:30 P.M.** through **December 14.**

See the Friendship Café chalkboards each Sunday for the coming Wednesday main course and menu.

Come for supper or just coffee and dessert!

Choralier and Alleluia Choir Wednesdays

The Choralier Choir (children ages 4 years old – 5th grade) and The Alleluia Choir (all youth grades 6th and up) will sing four times in November and December.

Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings, 6:30 – 7:15pm through December 14th. Pick up a complete choir rehearsal and worship service schedule on the information station.

Rehearsals are full of fun songs, including our anthems, with the addition of hand chimes and percussion instruments.

All are welcome! Join us!

Sunday School

The children will continue with the Deep Blue Curriculum and learn the story of the birth of Jesus! Please note that there will not be Sunday School on December 25th. Children are welcome in worship for a special Children's time!

Catch up with what's going on in the classroom by downloading the Deep Blue Kids App from the Google

Play Store or the Apple App Store!





Youth Happenings

Middle School Sunday School-Sundays @10am

6th-8th graders are invited to explore the meaning and mystery of the Bible through readings and discussion as they study God's creation, God's calling, and the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Teachers will follow the "Seasons of the Spirit" curriculum. Students will have the opportunity to join worship on the first Sundays of each month.

THE FOUNDRY

Saturdays, 7-9pm

Youth ages 6th-12th grade are invited for a time of worship, devotions and of course, youth group games!

The praise band "Band of Bread" will rehearse from 6:30 to the start of the evening at 7pm.

Contact Miss Melissa
mell0cell0@aol.com

Got Leaves? You sure did!

The youth raised over \$650 raking leaves this past weekend. These funds will go to their annual Mission Trip next summer. Thanks!





PARENTS' AFTERNOON OUT!

Saturday, December 10th
12:00-6:00pm

Parents, need some shopping time
this season
without the kids?

For a suggested donation of \$10, we
will treat your child(ren) to two
movies with a snack break
in-between.

Note - your child must be potty trained.

Money earned will go towards the
summer mission trip at Big Creek
Missions and the 30 Hour Famine.

Reservations may be made with the
church office at 630.972.1011



Sponsored by FUMC
Youth Ministries

Giving Tree

A huge thanks goes out to all who generously contributed to the Giving Tree Coat Drive. We took three trunkfuls over during October. A small dent for a large need. THANK YOU!!!!

The Christmas Giving Tree will be available on December 4th.

Ornaments containing Christmas wishes can be taken from the tree, a gift purchased and

brought back wrapped by December 18th. Please consider giving a local family a hand up! Questions can be directed to Julie Verson, jverson@me.com.



Cookies "Buy" the Pound Sunday, December 18

Starting immediately after service and ending when we run out of cookies or customer line! Donate and/or purchase homemade goodies to support the work of the Friendship Women's Ministry.

Any leftover goodies will be donated to POWER Connection to spread a little Christmas Cheer throughout our community!

Contact the church office for more information.





Caregiver Support Update

Friendship's Caregiver Support Group ~ now meeting every second Monday of each month. The next meeting will be held on December 12. Caregiver Guides will be available upon request throughout the month. The guide will be someone who listens to, prays with, and points the way to possible resources for the caregiver. If you are in need of support as a caregiver, please contact the church office or the caregiver email (hisgrace4caregivers@gmail.com) and a team member will contact you. A copy of the Caregiver Support devotional is also available at the Information Station outside the sanctuary.

Blue Christmas

**Sunday, December 18, 5:00pm,
The Church of St. Benedict**

There are years when we hurt at Christmas time and simply can't experience the festivities the way others seem to be able to experience them.

This brief service will be followed by a time for light refreshments and fellowship.

Please accept this invitation to be with us – a time to move from feeling “blue” to experiencing the wonder and hope of Christmas.



Many Thanks

From Pastor Royal Speidel:

A number of you wrote kind, congratulatory words at the time of my 80th birthday in October. Thank you very much. Your words were much appreciated. Seventy-two were at my birthday dinner, where my children, Paul (Boston) and Sonja (Indianapolis), put on a program. God is amazing and gets all the glory. Thank you for what you continue to do for the wonderful work of Jesus Christ through Friendship church. The world needs the continued witness of all of us.

From Marilyn Knoepfel:

Thank you so much for making that beautiful quilt with all the crosses and stars-wow! Julie gave it to me for an “apartment warming” when I moved to my Senior Residence. Whenever someone visits me, they really rave about it. It adds just the right punch -and brings many happy comments. So, just wanted you to know your hard work is very much appreciated here in St. Louis. Thanks again. May God richly bless you all.



Let It Be Christmas

Some Friendship members went to see Naperville Community Christian Church's production of “Let It Be Christmas” last December. It is a beautiful production with the Christmas story told through music of the Beatles, or as they say “The Gospel according to Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, George and Ringo”. This year will be their 9th consecutive year.

Performances will be December 9, 10 and 16, 17 at the Emerson Lane campus in Naperville.

For more information and to order tickets visit

<https://communitychristian.org>

Friendship member Michelle Braxton has been involved with “Let It Be Christmas” and can answer questions.

First Friends Preschool



Thanks to all who supported our recent fundraiser! With the funds we raised, we were able to purchase these two wagons for our playground! The children love to give each other rides and are learning to take turns!

The children have been playing in the sensory table with "Goop"! It's a mixture of cornstarch and water. It's fun to see if things sink or float in both the goop mixture and also water!



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 received 13 envelopes for a total of \$220.30 in celebration of 2 two good Samaritans who helped change a tire, a birthday, a son's new job, a 73rd birthday, and God's love, blessing, and grace in our lives.

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, December 16 @ 5:30 pm
Breakfast Saturday, December 17 @ 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, December 15 at 11:15am

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
POWER Connection
1st Sunday of every month

FIRST FRIENDS CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL MONDAY-FRIDAY

9:00am-12:00pm

Contact Chris Bosacki, Director,
for more information.

chrisbosacki@firstfriendspreschool.info

December 2016 ~ Friendship Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 10am BPC Ministry	3 9am AA
4 10am Worship & Sunday School 11:15am Core Group I 5pm AA	5 5:30pm Girl Scouts	6 10am BPC Ministry 10:30am Worship Planning	7 10:30am Women Bible Study 5:30pm Café 6:30pm Scouts, Choralier, Alleluia Choirs 7pm Confirmation	8	9 10am BPC Ministry 7:30pm GA	10 9am AA 12pm Parents' After-noon out
11 10am Worship & Sunday School 5pm Gujarati Worship 5pm AA	12 5:30pm Girl Scouts 7pm Caregiver Support	13 10am BPC Ministry 7pm Boughton Ridge Townhome Assoc.	14 10:30am Women's Bible Study 4pm Study Club 5:30pm Café 6:30pm Scouts, Choralier, Alleluia Choirs 7pm Confirmation 7:30pm Chancel Choir	15 11:15am Sr. Lunch & Study 7pm Preschool Christmas Program	16 10am BPC Ministry 5:30pm Daybreak serving 6:30pm Girl Scouts 7:30pm GA	17 5am Daybreak serving 9am AA 7pm The Foundry
18 10am Worship & Sunday School 11:15am CCHSS 5pm AA	19 5:30pm Girl Scouts	20 10am BPC Ministry	21 10:30am Women's Bible Study 4pm Study Club 7:30pm Chancel Choir	22	23 Preschool Break Begins Classes Resume on January 9 10am BPC Ministry	24 Christmas Eve 9am AA 5pm Service 10pm Service
25 Christmas Day 10am Worship 5pm AA	26 Office Closed	27 10am BPC Ministry	28 10:30am Women's Bible Study	29	30 10am BPC Ministry	31 9am AA