

Be kind and compassionate
to one another, forgiving
each other, just as in Christ
God forgave you.

Ephesians 4:32 (NIV)



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

SACRED CONVERSATIONS

ON RACE, CULTURE & RECONCILIATION

We live in a culturally diverse and rapidly changing society. Issues of race, justice, inequality and a changing culture are often at the center of our interactions. Differences are often highlighted, but not often celebrated.

As a multicultural church positioned in a diverse community are we able to build bridges across differences?

Are we equipped to minister effectively?

Are we the carriers of Good News?

SACRED CONVERSATIONS

Candid conversations in a safe space about topics that matter.

Sundays

February 19 ▪ March 19 ▪ April 30

11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Light lunch will be provided.

MORE INFORMATION? CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE @

CHURCHOFFICE@FRIENDSHIPCHURCHUMC.ORG



Reflections from Pastor Anna Shin

“Do not be confirmed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:2, NRSV)

Should churches join in the political talk or not? I wonder whether our congregation has thought about it. While political leadership of our nation has shown a peaceful transfer in January, over the past several weeks our nation has experienced a turmoil. Millions of women marched to make their voices heard. In every main city in our nation people have come out to the streets to protest whatever was decided. It is vivid that there are deep divisions among our citizens.

I believe we should. I don't need to bring up Karl Barth, 20th century theologian who says we need to have the Bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other hand. It's on everyone's mind, isn't it? The Bible itself deals with a full load of political struggles. Read the prophets, Kings, even Psalms. How about the Gospels and Paul's letters to the early churches? Just think about the statement of early Christians: Jesus is Lord. Or Jesus' own words: You can't have two masters. The Bible is deeply political.

“Religion and politics have always been deeply intertwined,” someone blogged. It's true. The church has always been involved in political battle ground. Think about the Civil Rights Movement, the fight against Apartheid and the following Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa, the liberation theology in Latin America, the ecumenical movement for an Interfaith dialogue or the Creation Care ministries-Justice for our Neighbor. Churches need to engage in the political talks. But how?

How do we talk politics without further pain or divisiveness but toward the wellbeing of the world and people in it, building up the beloved community that we all want to be in? Here are some suggestions that I found helpful in our denomination's resources to get started. Start with ground rules that insure mutual respect:

- Don't assume they voted for their candidate for the exact reason you didn't. In other words, don't assume the worst in them and the best in yourself.
- Plan to listen deeply for the personal stories behind the political passion.
- Assume they're not all wrong and you're not all right.
- Assume God loves you all.

(by Rebekah Simon-Peter, 'Should Churches Discuss Politics?', Ministry Matters.com)

Once these are in place, we should look for the biblical principles and ask how they get played out in a particular policy or issue: Do they build us up as a community or tear us down? This might be a great start as a congregation. If we engage in the conversations in such a way, deeply grounded in the knowledge of God and speaking the truth in love, I am certain, we are living out what the apostle Paul says in his letter to the Romans.

With that, please make every effort to join Sacred Conversations with Karen Young, intercultural trainer, on February 19, March 19, and April 30 from 11:30-1:00. This will be a great place to learn how to have difficult conversations. May God's mercy be upon us as we hold one another accountable as faithful followers of Jesus Christ as we seek to discern how to live here and now.

Blessings to you all,



Pastor Anna Shin



Children and Family News



February 2017

February 1, 8, 16, 23

Friendship Cafe

February 5, 12, 19, 26

Sunday School

Keep Kindness in Your Heart This February!

Let's all begin and take positive action in our daily lives in the month of February! If you feel the need to decompress from the stress of this world and find assurance that people really do care, a few meaningful pages from a beautiful coloring book that expresses appropriate and inclusive designs are just waiting for you at the information station! Every person here, young or old can participate! Children, youth or adults.....everyone will find this a positive experience in their life!

Each page has an uplifting and empowering message to help you relax and keep you inspired.

So, grab your favorite colored pencils or gel pens and get started. Find your favorite coloring page on the information station in the hallway. Keep your finished page for yourself, give it to someone, or return it to the church office so we can display them around our church! Whatever you choose to do with your page, it will help you and others continue to keep kindness in our hearts during February and always!



Wednesday Friendship Café

Share a meal with your **Friends in Faith** each Wednesday at the Friendship Cafe!

The meal each week is FREE for everyone so bring your family and friends of all ages!

Beginning February 1st, food and drink will be available from 5:30-7:30pm each Wednesday night. Check the menu board in the kitchen for each week's menu.

Come for dinner or just dessert and coffee! It's a great way to connect in the middle of the week!

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 during the Lent/Easter Season.

Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings, 6:30 – 7:15pm beginning again on **February 15th!**

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

All are welcome! Join us!

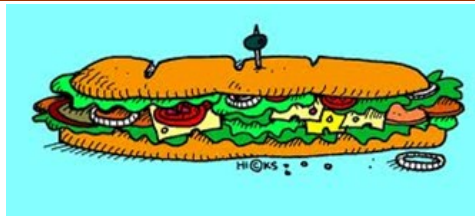
Sunday School

The children will continue with the Deep Blue Curriculum and learn about the life of Jesus!

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!

Don't miss out on all the fun!





“Sub”perbowl Sunday Pickup~February 5th!



A HUNGER FREE
WORLD BEGINS
WITH YOU

WORLD VISION'S
30 HOUR
FAMINE

30 Hour Famine-Friday, February 24-Saturday, February 25

Please see the ad on the next page for how you can participate.

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
mell0cell10@aol.com



The Confirmation Class served at the Daybreak shelter on January 20th.



Around and About Friendship



The youth group will be participating in the 30 Hour Famine February 24 and 25. Participants will have a final meal Friday at noon, and will not eat again until Saturday evening at 6 PM. During this time, the youth will form teams, or tribes, and learn about the people in South Sudan through activities provided by WorldVision. We invite the congregation to **participate** in any of the following ways -

+ **Pray** - Going without food - even for only 30 hours - can be physically - and emotionally – challenging.

+ **Donate** - \$40 will feed a child for a month. \$500 will feed a child for a year. Our goal is \$80 per participant. The youth have brightly colored envelopes they would love to fill with your money. You may also donate online (directions below).

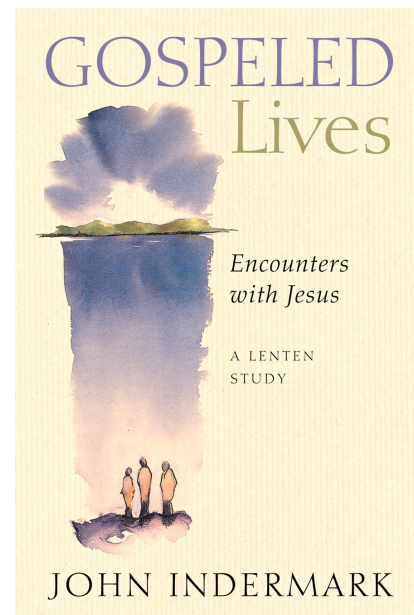
+ **Participate** - Some people cannot fast because of medical reasons. We could still use you for a couple hours. You could lead an activity. I would love to have someone take pictures and video.

+ **Celebrate** - Join us as we break our fast. Bring a dish to share Saturday at 6pm.

To donate to our team, go to 30hourfamine.org

- Click on Donate at the upper right.
- Click on 2017 Sign In / Log In
- Click on Donate to this team
- Type in Bolingbrook and Click on Search
- Click on Friendship UMC Bolingbrook Youth Group
- Click on Support Us

Any questions, please contact Robin at 630-660-3215.



Come and join us for a Lenten Study

Gospeled Lives: Encounters with Jesus

Sundays

March 5 – April 16

8:45 am – 9:35am

In this book we meet New Testament individuals who heard Jesus speak a word about their life.

Some responded with joy and gratitude.

Some ignored or rejected his word to them. Come and join us.

You may find your story as we seek to encounter with the living Christ.

A sign up sheet is available at the information station. Please sign up by February 12th so that books can be available by February 26. Cost of the book is \$11.

Contact the church office for more information. 630.972.1011

Around and About Friendship



Pajama Jam! - Saturday, February 18 5-7pm

Friendship Methodist Women invite all women 18 and older to an evening of food and fun dressed in your favorite PJ's and house slippers.

There is no cost to you, but feel free to bring a dessert to share.

RSVP by February 12:

Dena Byrd: dena.byrd@eesforjobs.com

Donna Jacobs: bbkjacobs@comcast.net

Giving Tree

The Valentine's Day Giving Tree is up and ready for your generosity. We are collecting boxes of Valentines to donate to The Power Connection to give to local students unable to buy Valentine's for their classmates, friends and family. We are collecting for the following Sundays: 2/5 and 2/12, but the sooner you bring them, the sooner we can pass them out. Thank you!



New Mission Opportunity Friendship Career Scholarship Fund

To help children of the church as they graduate and continue their education, the Friendship Career Scholarship Fund is being started. This fund will be used for a scholarship to help an active member of the church who is a graduating high school senior and has been accepted at a college or trade school.

Applications for the scholarship will be accepted in March with the recipient being announced in May. To make a contribution to the fund, please use the envelopes on the Information Station labeled "Friendship Career Scholarship Fund".



Caregiver Support

The support group will meet monthly in the Friendship UMC chapel room the 2nd Monday of each month (weather permitting during winter months). Caregiver Guides

will be available upon request throughout the month. The Friendship Caregiver Guides are Fern Deatricks and Jody Hargett. The guide will be someone who listens to, prays with, and points the way to possible resources for the caregiver. Please check in with either Fern or Jody or you can contact the Caregiver Support Team through the church office, or the caregiver email (hisgrace4caregivers@gmail.com) and a team member will contact you.

A weekly caregiver devotional is available and can be found in the folder bin marked: "**Caregiver Support Devotionals**" on the Information Station table at church.

First Friends Preschool



This month featured a “Daddy and me” day where dads could come and get an idea of what we do each day at First Friends. We played with some of our toys and even had pizza.

We also took advantage of the warmer weather and worked together to build a mountain!

Miss Laura from the library came to visit, too!



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 14 envelopes totaling \$175 in celebration of life and protection for my family; gratitude-God is good all the time; thanks for my life and my family; family and love; and the birthday of the beloved late Jose Tumamao,

May God continue to bless you richly as your compassionate heart grows daily!

Blessings,

Pastor 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, February 17 @ 5:30 pm
Breakfast Saturday, February 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, February 16 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

February 2017 ~ Friendship Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10:30am Women's Bible Study 4pm Study Club 5:30pm Café 6:30pm Scouts, Adult Bells 7pm Confirmation 7:30pm Chancel Choir	2	3 10am BPC Ministry 6:30pm Girl Scouts 7:30pm GA	4 9am AA 7pm The Foundry
5 10am Worship & Sunday School 5pm AA	6 5:30pm Girl Scouts	7 10am BPC Ministry 7pm Staff Parish	8 10:30am Women's Bible Study 4pm Study Club 5:30pm Café 6:30pm Scouts, Adult Bells 7pm Confirmation 7:30pm Chancel Choir	9 7pm Anxiety Support	10 10am BPC Ministry 6:30pm Girl Scouts 7:30pm GA	11 9am AA 7pm The Foundry
12 10am Worship & Sunday School 5pm Gujarati Worship 5pm AA	13 5:30pm Girl Scouts 7pm Caregiver Support	14 10am BPC Ministry 10:30am Worship Planning	15 10:30am Women's Bible Study 4pm Study Club 5:30pm Café 6:30pm Scouts, Adult Bells, Children's Choirs 7pm Confirmation 7:30pm Chancel Choir	16 11:15am Senior Lunch and Bible Study	17 10am BPC Ministry 6:30pm Girl Scouts 7:30pm GA	18 9am AA 5pm Women's Pajama Jam 7pm The Foundry
19 10am Worship & Sunday School 11:30am Sacred Conversations 5pm AA	20 No Preschool 6:30pm Girl Scouts	21 10am BPC Ministry 6:30pm Girl Scout Leaders 7pm Church Council	22 10:30am Women's Bible Study 5:30pm Café 6:30pm Scouts, Adult Bells, Children's Choirs 7pm Confirmation 7:30pm Chancel Choir	23 7pm Anxiety Support	24 10am BPC Ministry 6pm Youth 30 Hour Famine begins 7:30pm GA	25 9am AA 6pm Fast ends 7pm The Foundry
26 10am Worship & Sunday School 11:15 Burning of the Palms 5pm AA	27 5:30pm Girl Scouts	28 10am BPC Ministry				

