



*Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.*

~Isaiah 60:1, 2a



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

Coming this Winter



New Worship Series~Spiritual Affective Disorder

Millions of people suffer from some sort of anxiety or depression disorder. If you do not, chances are you are close to someone who does. Join us each week as we begin to look at spiritual practices to get us out of the mid-winter blues and into the light of our lives. We will see how experiencing the everyday activities of our lives can offer us a chance to be filled with the Light in whom we believe. Emmanuel, God-With-Us; For God is with us not only in times of rejoicing, but also God is with us in times of grief, fear, darkness.

During the winter, some of us have Seasonal Affective Disorder when the lack of light affects our moods. In this eight week worship series, entitled "Spiritual Affective Disorder," we will explore everyday life activities that can become spiritual practices-deepening our experiences of a meaningful life and making us more "light-hearted." Each week you will go home with suggestions for spiritual practices to bring more "light" into your life.



All Church Leadership Retreat-Saturday, January 21, 8:30-12:00pm

Help us set the direction of our ministry and outreach by attending this half-day retreat. All members and friends are encouraged to attend! We will celebrate the past year's ministries and look ahead to the coming year!

A light breakfast will be offered so please RSVP to the church office by January 18 to ensure there is enough for all, churchoffice@friendshipchurchumc.org.

Hope to see you all there!

Reflections from Pastor Anna Shin

This is what the LORD says: "Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls." --Jeremiah 6:16 (NRSV)

Happy New Year to you all! Have you set a new year's resolution or just renewed your old resolution with fresh mind as you walk into a new year, 2017? Perhaps it is related to healthy life style and exercises, like mine. Isn't it comforting to know that January comes always? It is indeed comforting to know that there is a new calendar, clean slate, new beginnings.

Imagine that you are standing at the crossroads. What you would do? Perhaps you check out how far you have come and look back what the journey has been like. Perhaps you want to restore your backpack with things that sustain you for your next journey. January offers us an opportunity to pause and refresh our dream for the journey as we set out once more.

Valerie E. Hess in her book, *Habits of a Child's Heart: Raising Your Kids with the Spiritual Disciplines* writes, "Nothing in our lives will keep us healthier than learning how to develop and hold on to a peaceful center. If we can do this—and we can—we are no longer helpless victims to life's ups and downs."

We know that some things we don't want to happen will happen and some things we wish would happen won't happen. As a parent I know how important it is to be able to find rest for my soul whatever comes my way, and I want to model them for my children and indeed for all children.

Those who pause and meditate on 'the good way' of the ancient paths at the crossroads before walking into the next path will find rest for their souls whatever comes their way. Jeremiah knows this is a lifetime attitude, tried and true practice, 'holy habits' for those who walk humbly with God.

I have ascertained when I allow room for prayer and solitude in my days, when I practice to sit with God daily opening myself trying to attune with God's dream for the world where I am, sometimes 30 minutes, other times hours, I experience my whole self a coming together much like 'the deer panting for streams of water' (Psalm 42) that come into life after drinking from it.

Developing and cultivating such a peaceful center in us is a process; it is to me to become like Jesus. I believe Jesus wants us to taste and know the joy of being at peace with ourselves and with God whatever comes our way.

Valerie says, the goal of the spiritual practice (disciplines) is "to place us in a position where the Holy Spirit can do God's transforming work in us."

This year 2017, pursue to put yourself in God's transforming work in you and through you. Would you walk intimately with Christ, live in community with others, and serve both the church and the world? Come and worship every Sunday with us this winter. You are invited and challenged to start to practice 8 different spiritual practices. It is and will be a great time to be at Friendship.

Anna Shin

*I have grown to fall in love with you, friends! Somehow it has not been an easy year, 2016, to me personally. As much as I have learned from church growth experts, my anxiety has increased and so is my lack of confidence as a leader. What brings me home, though, is your love, your prayer, your companionship through your wonderful Christmas gift year after year! I would like to say 'thank you' from the bottom of my heart. Our journey together with partnership with our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer would be fabulous one! ~ Pastor Anna



Children and Family News



January 2017

January 1

No Sunday School

January 8, 15, 22, 29

Sunday School



Mitten Tree
A huge thank you to the many who donated warm mittens, hats, and scarves to the children in our community.

Because of your generosity, we collected more than 100 items to be given out to the children in the Valley View School district!

Thanks for helping get this cold winter off to a warm start!



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 take a short winter break and open back up in late January/early February.

Keep an eye out for the Café chalkboards announcing the start up and menu!

Can't wait to see you there again!

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 in late February/early March.

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!



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.

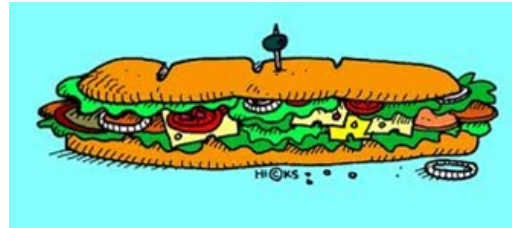
THE FOUNDRY

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

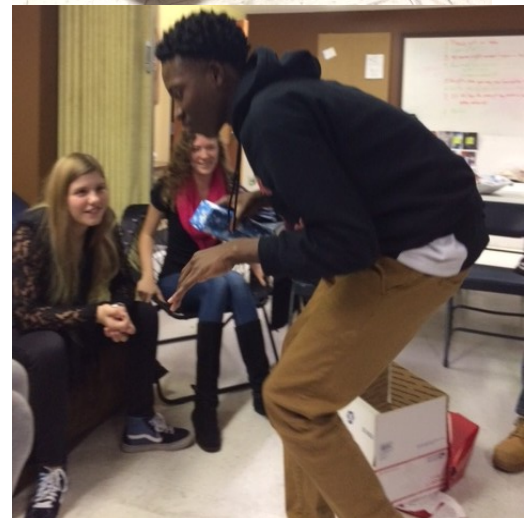


"Sub"perbowl Sunday Sales - January 22, 29

Help our youth raise funds for their mission trip to Kentucky by ordering a sub or two to enjoy during the big game!



The youth held a Christmas Party with a white elephant exchange.



Around and About Friendship



Caregiver Support

Friendship's Caregiver Support Group ~ now meeting every second Monday of each month. The next meeting will be held on January 9.

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.

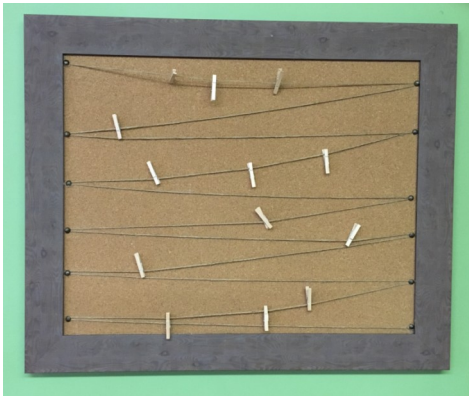
Giving Tree

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Christmas Giving Tree! When the gifts were delivered, I was almost brought to tears by the surprise, delight and complete gratitude of the staff.

We should know that our contributions will make many Bolingbrook children's Christmas much happier, warmer and more playful.

I am grateful for the opportunity to give gifts in Christ's honor. God bless you, everyone!

Julie Verson, Coordinator



Keep Us in the Loop!

Have you noticed the new memo/bulletin boards in the Friendship center? We'd like you to add your news to the message boards to display what's going on with you as well as our committees here at FUMC. Share a photo, a note of thanks, a newspaper clipping of what you think is important. If your child did a great drawing in Sunday school, share it with the rest of us! We'd love to have the memo boards full of news of what's happening both here at Friendship and the things we do outside our walls for the community.



From the Anxiety Disorders Support Group:

We'd like to again thank our friends at Friendship United Methodist Church for your generous support by providing us with such a nice meeting place.

Wishing you peace and joy through the year, we hope you all have a happy and healthy holiday season and new year!

Celebrations of Advent and Christmas



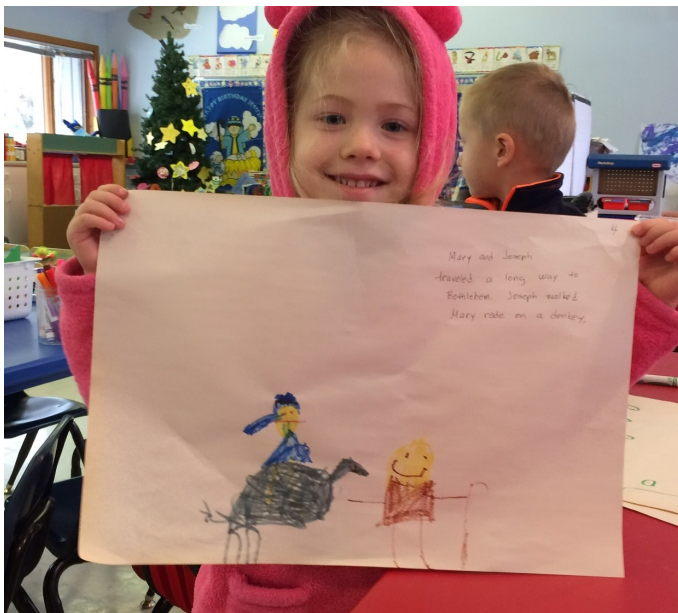
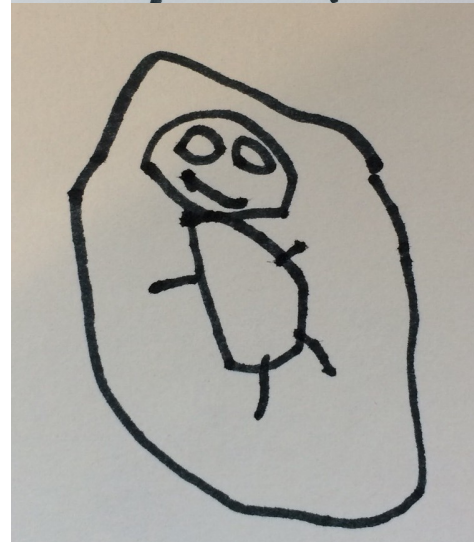
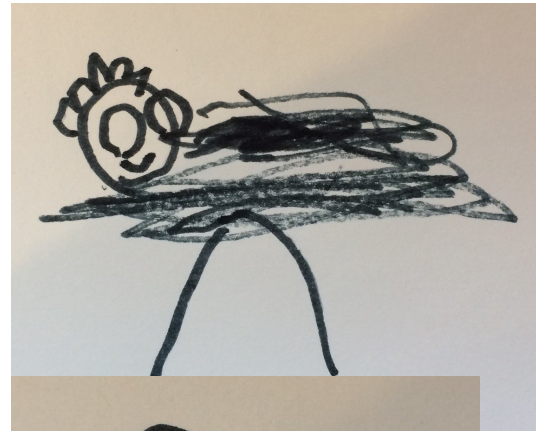
First Friends Preschool



During the month of December, the students learn about the birth of Jesus. Before the Christmas concert, Ms. Bosacki asks them to draw pictures of baby Jesus, the angels, Mary and Joseph, and she puts them on the front of the program. These are some samples of their drawings.

The children were able to play outside in the snow before it all melted.

Looking forward to more outside play as long as the weather cooperates!



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 10 envelopes for a total of \$90 in celebration of peace for our holiday; the lives of Andrew, Mary Ann, Mrs. Hantosh, and Chris who all passed away during the month of November; God's continued grace, love and blessings in our lives; the birthdays of two sons; and a wonderful Thanksgiving with family.

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, January 20@5:30 pm
Breakfast Saturday, December 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, January 19 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

January 2017 ~ Friendship Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Year's Day 10am Worship 5pm AA	2 New Year's Holiday Office/Building Closed	3 10am BPC Ministry	4	5	6 10am BPC Ministry 6:30pm Girl Scouts 7:30pm GA	7 9am AA 7pm The Foundry
8 10am Worship & Sunday School	9 Preschool Resumes 5:30pm Girl Scouts 7pm Care Giver Support	10 10am BPC Ministry	11 4pm Study Club 6:30pm Scouts 7pm Confirmation 7pm Scout Committee 7:30pm Chancel Choir	12	13 10am BPC Ministry 6:30pm Girl Scouts 7:30pm GA	14 9am AA 7pm The Foundry
15 10am Worship & Sunday School	16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day No Preschool	17 10am BPC Ministry 10:30am Worship Planning 7pm Boughton Ridge Townhome Assoc.	18 4pm Study Club 6:30pm Scouts 7pm Confirmation 7:30pm Chancel Choir	19	20 10am BPC Ministry 6:30pm Girl Scouts 7:30pm GA	21 8:30am All Church Retreat 9am AA 7pm The Foundry
22 10am Worship & Sunday School	23	24 10am BPC Ministry	25 6:30pm Scouts 7pm Confirmation 7:30pm Chancel Choir	26	27 10am BPC Ministry 6:30pm Girl Scouts 7:30pm GA	28 9am AA 7pm The Foundry
29 10am Worship & Sunday School	30	31 10am BPC Ministry				
5pm AA						