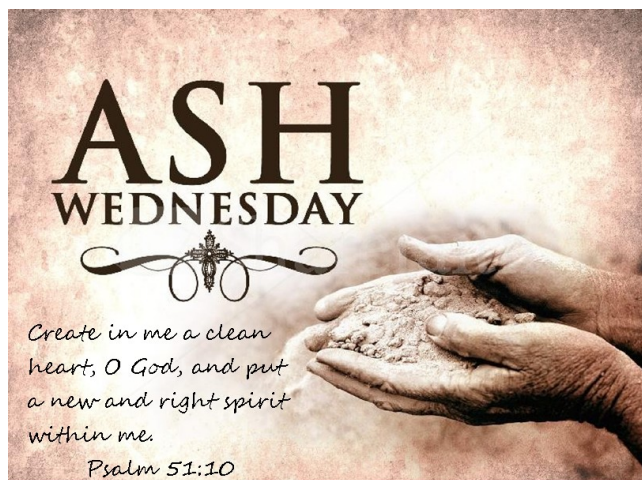




*Create in me a clean heart,  
O God, and put a new  
and right spirit within me.*

*Psalm 51:10*

## Lent Season at Friendship



### Ash Wednesday Observances- March 1

**Drive-Through Ashes- 7:00 am – 9:00 am**  
**North Circle Drive**

**Worship 7:30pm**

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday.

*Lent* comes from Anglo-Saxon word *lencten*, which means 'spring.' The season is a preparation for celebrating Easter which we celebrate the resurrection of Christ.

Lent is a journey that we take both alone and together. It is a time of focusing on God and taking the promises of God and letting them grow in our hearts. Those promises flow out of our lives into the lives of all those around us.

Please join us as we will begin our journey through the cross till Easter with worship. We will have the imposition of ashes which have been prepared by the Confirmation class.



Join us each Sunday during Lent at 10:00am for lessons in Psalms and the gospel story of Jesus' last days on earth.

### Encounter

Sunday, March 5 ~ Psalm 32; Matthew 4:1-11

*Jesus' days in the Wilderness*

Sunday, March 12 ~ Psalm 121; John 3:1-17

*Jesus and Nicodemus*

Sunday, March 19 ~ Psalm 95; John 4:5-42

*Jesus and the Samaritan Woman*

Sunday, March 26 ~ Psalm 23; John 9:1-41

*Jesus heals the blind man*

Sunday, April 2 ~ Psalm 130; John 11:1-45

*Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead*

Palm Sunday, April 9 ~ Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29;  
Mathew 26:14-27

*Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem*

### Holy Week Services

Thursday, April 13, 7:30pm ~ Tenebrae Service

Friday, April 14, 7:30pm ~ "Poured Out"

Sunday, April 16, 7:30am ~ "Son" Rise Service

Sunday, April 16, 10:00am ~ Easter Worship

## Reflections from Pastor Anna Shin

*“Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, just as it is well with your soul.” (3 John 2)*

How is it well with your soul today?

That is the question John Wesley used when he developed a way of holding one another accountable for being faithful followers of Christ. It is called Methodism as we know now as Methodists. It was more than 250 years ago.

They knew and we know that following Jesus is not for loners. So Wesley developed a way of meeting together in small groups, called ‘class meetings’ led by lay people, focusing on the spiritual growth through prayer, study, and support. And at the beginning of each meeting, every person in the group would be asked ‘how is it well with your soul today?’

We measure our lives in many ways—how much money we make, how much we know, how many hours we work, what is average GPA, how often do we hit the gym. I have spent many hours in recent years in learning of ‘best practices’ of church ministry, praying someday the practices of Friendship UMC’s ministry might be shown on the Google search engine like other ‘successful’ churches. Who doesn’t want to be successful?

And I met these words: *“Individual change precedes organizational change.(Dick Wills)”* Perhaps success comes or happens not by changing the organizational chart but changing myself first.

It has become clearer to me that what is needed is deep spiritual change in my own life to be on the right path in following Christ. What is needed to be known as ‘best’ for whatever we do, we need to be well with our own soul first. Indeed I need to start to ask Wesley’s question every day for my own relationship with God. And I am so grateful that the Church wisely has offered the season of Lent available to a person like me.

So how is with your soul today? I know any relationship that grows takes time. The relationship with your spouse could never grow if you just spoke once in a while. If you eat once in a while, or only when you feel up to, you will get cranky and off balanced.

This year, the season of Lent, I’d like to pray for you and with you. And I invite you to pray for me and your church as well. Soon you will get email invitation from me unless you don’t have access to emails. I’ll pray for five families each day. I’ll let you know when I pray for your family through emails two weeks ahead. If you have specific prayer concerns, I pray you will share with me so that I may include them in my daily prayer. May God breakthrough our lives and our church as we seek to be well with our soul.

In Christ,



Pastor Anna Shin



## Spiritual Life Exercises

### What is your plan for continued spiritual growth and development?

a. **How do you connect with God?** It is easy to get so caught up in the work of the church that we forget that at its most basic level Christianity is about having a relationship with God through our faith in Jesus Christ. Paying attention to our relationship with God is key to our personal vitality.

b. **How are you connecting with others?** Like our relationship to Jesus, our relationships with those around us need our attention and focus. Each moment we spend with another person is an opportunity to share the grace of the moment. Just as others need us, we need them to shape us and to form us into mature followers of Jesus Christ.

c. **What arts feed your soul?** The Creator has equipped us to be creative. Take time to develop your artistic side – it will both feed you and connect you to others in different ways.

d. **How are you taking care of your body?** We are physical beings and as a result the way we take care of our bodies affects every aspect of our relationship to God and to others. When we invest time in exercise and healthy eating we are enhancing our ability to be effective in ministry.

<b>Spiritual Life Template</b>	
<b>1. In which spiritual discipline(s) do you want to grow?</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Weekly worship <input type="checkbox"/> Daily Bible reading <input type="checkbox"/> Daily prayer <input type="checkbox"/> Frequency of communion: <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Service to others <input type="checkbox"/> Fasting or abstinence <input type="checkbox"/> Tithing/Giving <input type="checkbox"/> Family prayer <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;"><b>Wesley's Means of Grace</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>The public worship of God</b></li> <li><b>The ministry of the Word, either read or expounded</b></li> <li><b>The Lord's Supper</b></li> <li><b>Family and private prayer</b></li> <li><b>Searching the Scriptures</b></li> <li><b>Fasting or abstinence</b></li> <li><b>Christian conferencing</b></li> </ul> <p style="font-size: small; margin-top: 5px;">(Paragraph 62, p. 70 in the 1996 Book of Discipleship)</p> </div>
<p>Tip: How does your church teach &amp; mentor people in these disciplines?</p>	
<b>2. What is your plan for your continued spiritual growth and development?</b>	
<p><b>How do you connect with God?</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Day apart <input type="checkbox"/> Worship <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting with a prayer partner or coach <input type="checkbox"/> Family prayer <input type="checkbox"/> Daily devotion Other: _____	<p><b>How are you connecting with others?</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Time alone with spouse or friend <input type="checkbox"/> Focused time with your children <input type="checkbox"/> Regular connection with extended family <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer or accountability group <input type="checkbox"/> Time with friends outside of church Other: _____
<p><b>What arts feed your soul?</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Playing a musical instrument or singing <input type="checkbox"/> Writing <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing <input type="checkbox"/> Cooking <input type="checkbox"/> Dance <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening <input type="checkbox"/> Acting   Other: _____	<p><b>How are you taking care of your body?</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Walking/running <input type="checkbox"/> Active in a sport <input type="checkbox"/> Healthy diet <input type="checkbox"/> Yoga/Pilates Other: _____
<b>Tips</b>	
<p>As a spiritual leader you are creating the normative expectations for spiritual growth in your congregation and for those close to you (friends &amp; family). Your prayer life, physical health, artistic pursuits, and relationships have a direct influence on the spiritual life of your church. Build in the time and experiences that sustains you and connects you to God and others.</p>	



**MyWork**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**SPIRITUAL LIFE****What Are My Spiritual Practices?**

Early Methodists were taught that through the means of grace they would grow in faith and in practice. Because of the belief in sanctification (conversion as a lifelong process of being perfected in love), the means of grace were used as guidelines for Christian formation and growth.

Begin your time by taking the following Spiritual Leader Checklist, which is based on the means of grace. Answer the questions, and

close with Bible reading and prayer.

**Spiritual Leader Checklist**

Points	Give yourself 10 points for each yes. 120 is the highest possible score.
	1. I say grace before each meal.
	2. I set aside a time to pray each day.
	3. At least once a week, I pray out loud with another person.
	4. I read at least one verse of Scripture every day.
	5. I attend worship at our church at least three times a month.
	6. At least twice a month, I meet with a small group of people to pray, reflect on Scripture, and build one another up.
	7. I take Communion at least once a month.
	8. At least once a month, I give of myself to others outside the church by volunteering at a homeless shelter, mowing a neighbor's lawn, visiting a nursing home, etc.
	9. I fast from food, media, or some other distracter once a week.
	10. I give financially to my local church on a regular basis with a goal of tithing.
	11. I have a regular plan of physical exercise to promote my health.
	12. At least once a month, I use my spiritual gifts for ministry at my local church.
	Total

# Children and Family News



## March 2017

March 5, 12, 19, 26 at 10:00am  
Sunday School

March 8, 15, 22 at 5:30pm  
Friendship Cafe



## 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!*

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 – 5<sup>th</sup> grade) and  
The Alleluia Choir (all youth grades 6<sup>th</sup> and up) will sing during  
the Lent/Easter Season.

Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings, 6:30 – 7:15pm.  
Children will sing during worship on April 2.

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

## Sunday School

Children 3 years - 5th grade are invited to join us each  
Sunday during Lent to study the life of Jesus and his last days  
on earth.

From the healing of ten lepers to Zacchaeus in the tree,  
children will hear the age old stories of Jesus.

During the month of April as lent ends and Easter is  
celebrated, children will learn about the Last Supper, how  
Jesus prayed in the Garden, and his triumphant entry to  
Jerusalem.

We hope all can attend during this exciting time!







**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](mailto:mell0cell0@aol.com)





## The Faces of Friendship



**Friendship Methodist Women hosted a pajama party on February 18. The ladies had a great time snacking, playing games and socializing.**



**The first session of Sacred Conversations was held on February 19 with much healthy discussion on race and relations within our church. The next session is March 19. Join us by registering with the church office by March 15. 630.972.1011**





# First Friends Preschool



We use a "Letter of the Week" curriculum in the preschool program, and last week we learned about the letter "R" After reading a book about Rosie Rabbit's Radish, we tasted radishes, used rollers for roller painting, measured and poured rice in the Sensory Table and danced the Rainbow Ribbon dance!



## Friendship Community

### Prayer Chain:

Please email your requests to [prayerrequests@friendshipchurchumc.org](mailto: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.

This month we received 4 envelopes for a total of \$34 in celebration of Lydia's 15th birthday and worshipping with my family at Friendship.

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](mailto:chrisbosacki@firstfriendspreschool.info)



# March 2017 ~ Friendship Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1 Ash Wednesday</b> 7am Drive Through Ashes 10:30am Women's Bible Study  4pm Study Club 7:30pm Ash Wednesday Worship	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 10am BPC Ministry  6:30pm Girl Scouts 7:30pm GA	<b>4</b> 9am AA  7pm The Foundry
<b>5</b> 10am Worship & Sunday School  5pm AA	<b>6</b> No Preschool  5:30pm Girl Scouts	<b>7</b> 10am BPC Ministry  7pm Staff Parish	<b>8</b> 10:30am Women's Bible Study 4pm Study Club 5:30pm Café 6:30pm Scouts, Adult Bells 7pm Confirmation 7:30pm Chancel Choir	<b>9</b>  7pm Anxiety Support	<b>10</b> 10am BPC Ministry  6:30pm Girl Scouts 7:30pm GA	<b>11</b> 9am AA  7pm The Foundry
<b>12</b> 10am Worship & Sunday School  5pm Gujarati Worship 5pm AA	<b>13</b>  5:30pm Girl Scouts 7pm Caregiver Support	<b>14</b> 10am BPC Ministry 10:30am Worship Planning	<b>15</b> 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	<b>16</b> 11:15am Senior Lunch and Bible Study	<b>17</b> 10am BPC Ministry  6:30pm Girl Scouts 7:30pm GA	<b>18</b> 9am AA  5pm Women's Pajama Jam 7pm The Foundry
<b>19</b> 10am Worship & Sunday School 11:30am Sacred Conversations  5pm AA	<b>20</b>  6:30pm Girl Scouts	<b>21</b> 10am BPC Ministry  6:30pm Girl Scout Leaders	<b>22</b> 10:30am Women's Bible Study  6:30pm Scouts' Red & Green Dinner 7pm Confirmation 7:30pm Chancel Choir	<b>23</b>  7pm Anxiety Support	<b>24</b> 10am BPC Ministry  7:30pm GA	<b>25</b> 9am AA  7pm The Foundry
<b>26</b> 10am Worship & Sunday School 11:15 Burning of the Palms  5pm AA	<b>27</b>  5:30pm Girl Scouts	<b>28</b> 10am BPC Ministry	<b>29</b> 10:30am Women's Bible Study 4pm Study Club 5:30pm Café 6:30pm Scouts, Choirs, Bells 7:30pm Chancel Choir	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 10am BPC Ministry  7:30pm GA	



