



*Let us make a joyful noise to him
with songs of praise!*

Psalms 95:2

Reflections from Pastor Anna



*I planted, Apollos watered,
but God gave the growth.
(1 Corinthians 3:5)*

*I long to see you...that we
may be mutually
encouraged by each
other's faith.
(Romans 1:11)*

*Live in harmony with one another (Romans
12:16)*

*He took bread, blessed and broke it, and
gave it to them. (Luke 24:31)*

*God is able to provide you with every blessing
in abundance, so that ...you may share
abundantly.
(2 Corinthians 9:8)*

*Let justice roll down like waters.
(Amos 3:24)*

*Let us make a joyful noise to him with songs
of praise! (Psalm 95:2)*

These are some examples from the Bible that have kept me on the path. The Bible has a mysterious power. In whatever the circumstances I find myself, when I open myself to it, it offers something for me. It speaks to me. Sometimes it invites me to step back and take a deep breath. It leads me to see beyond my near-sightedness. Other times it strikes me right there absorbing my whole breath. It gives me strength to stand up even when there would be no soul who stands alongside. I wonder what your experience has been with the Bible.

As a pastor I am often confronted with questions that people have kept deep in their heart. Mostly those questions come out of painful experiences, struggles, and witnesses in real life: during the difficult times in life such as illness, conflict in relationships, loss of opportunity for a better life, or witnessing to unimaginable

atrocities in our world, unmanageable natural disaster, or the unbelievable damage and abuse that destroy the life of young people.

The more absurd thing is that scripture is often quoted to force the vulnerable to keep silent. And it is often used to keep the peace (I should say 'status quo.') in the community at the cost of the lives of the victims, instead of speaking the truth for a better world. (I was listening to the news about the former House Speaker, Dennis Hastert's sentencing.)

I believe the 'Bible is a guidebook for life' is not enough. John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist Movement, offers a tool for us as we reflect on our faith in life. He believed that the living core of the Christian faith was revealed in 'scripture' and therefore it is the primary source for the reflection of living faith. However, we need to consider having reason, tradition, and experience to have a healthy and living faith. So we call it, 'Wesleyan Quadrilateral.' In other words, the good faith would be vivified in personal experience, and needs to be reflected through human rationality and tradition of accumulated wisdom of the church.

I wonder what the Bible speaks for you, if it does, in today's world. Come to worship with us weekly as we explore the truth through the Bible, tradition, reason, and our experience (questions) in life.

In love,

Pastor Anna Shin





Step Up to the World!

Sunday, April 24 began a special three week campaign called “Step Up to the World”. Friendship Church is part of the global United Methodist Church and each year we are asked to support our district, conference and global outreach programs. This year, we will contribute \$16,000 to support these ministries. Many of us believe that we should try to do much more. Just as we are making an effort this year to increase our outreach here in Bolingbrook, we would like to do more to support the Methodist Church’s worldwide ministries.

Where exactly does this money go and how is it used? 12.4 million United Methodists in 136 countries around the world are making a difference. We witness to the love of Jesus to those who are hurting around the world.

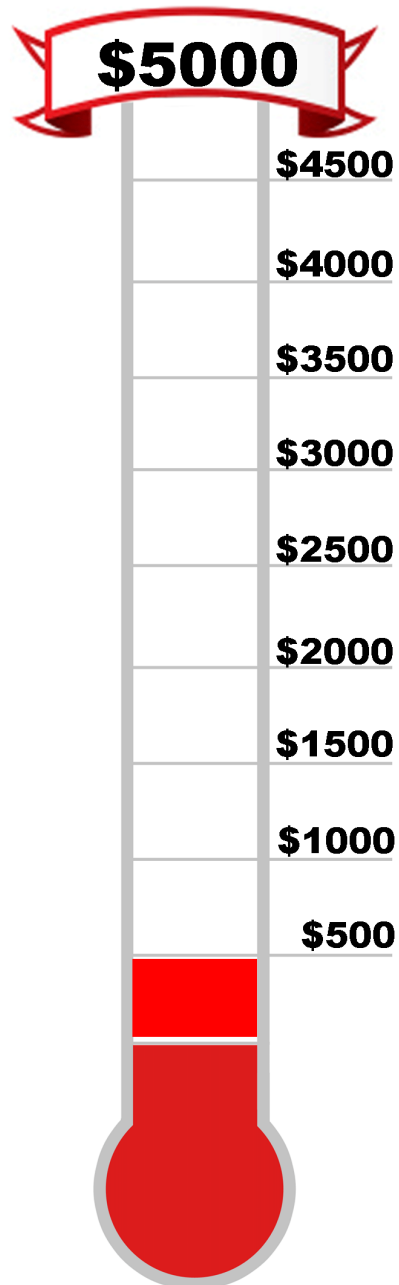
- In 2014 United Methodists gave more than \$135 Million to support various ministries such as education, advocacy and outreach.
- In addition, United Methodists contributed \$373 Million to benevolent causes.
- \$28,000,000 was given for disaster relief both locally and internationally.

We are asking you to make a donation equal to one week of your regular giving. In other words, if you give \$20 a week to Friendship Church, consider making a \$20 donation to “Step Up to the World.” If you currently give \$100/week, consider giving an extra \$100 for this campaign. We know that not everyone is in a position to make a contribution, but we ask you to do what you can. If everyone gave an extra week’s donation, we could reach

our \$5,000 goal to support our global connection.

Help us reach our goal! You can find a special envelope in the attendance binders or on the information station.

Thank you in advance for your generosity!





Children & Family Ministry News

Friendship Café

Friendship Café wishes to thank all who helped make the café a success by volunteering to set up, clean up or donate food: Carolyn Weber, Liz Chocian, Jane Pierce, Donna Jacobs, Carolyn Jones, Julie Verson, and Carolyn Larsen. We couldn't have done it without you!

The café will be closed for the summer but will return in the fall!



Our Choralier and Alleluia choir singing *Make Music!* on Sunday, April 24th!

They taught us it's all about each one of us joining hands with one another in a circle standing side by side and praising our God of acceptance and grace with music and joy in our hearts!

Thanks to the choir for this meaningful message for all of us!

Sunday School



A big thank you to all of our Sunday school teachers this year! Each one has been a faithful servant and because of their dedication, the children have grown spiritually as they continue on their journey to be Disciples of Christ!

Thanks to Amy Hanna, Liz Chocian, Cindy Chocian, Ann Kuehn, Katy Lichty, Solomon Kamara, Kunmi Olatunde, Megan McWilliams, Savannah DiPietro, Kloie Valdez, Bill Tarbell, Nisha Bagat and Shahila and Joy Christie!

We wish Katy and Solomon the best as they head off to college in September! Katy will attend Michigan Technological University in the upper peninsula of Michigan. Solomon is off to play football for Valparaiso University in Indiana. Congratulations to both of you!

Summer Sunday School

Summer Sunday School will begin Sunday, June 5th. If you are interested in teaching one or two weeks this summer, contact Jane Pierce (jane.pierce@comcast.net).

You will be able to get to know our children better and give the regular Sunday School teachers a well deserved break!

Our Deep Blue curriculum is teacher and child friendly and easy to teach. No prior experience needed!



Surf Shack is Coming to Friendship Church! July 25-29, 9-11:30am

Catch the wave of God's amazing Love!

Bring your surf boards, sunglasses and beach balls to Vacation Bible School this summer!

Ages 3 years old through 5th grade!

If you are interested in volunteering, contact Jane Pierce or Ann Kuehn!





Lots of things are happening in Youth Ministry! We meet on Saturday evenings from 7:00-9:00pm. We have worship and all the other fun things that Youth Groups do!

If you haven't yet signed into the new **Youth Ministry Tracker App**, see Miss Melissa to do so!!



May

May 7, 14, 21, 28 7:00pm

The Foundry with Band for Bread rehearsals at 6:00pm each night.

30 Hour Famine

Ten youth participated in the 30 Hour Famine from Friday, April 15 to Sunday April 17. They learned about hunger around the world, particularly in Kenya.

Thank you to all who participated, donated funds, food and their time, and prayed for us during the event.

A HUGE thank you to Robin Lichty who organized and lead the event! We appreciate all of your hard work!



Career Choices for High School Students

At the invitation of the Valley View School District, we will be starting a Career Choices for High School Students at Bolingbrook High School! Volunteers are needed. If you are available to assist with planning or be a volunteer, please attend our upcoming meeting on Sunday, May 22 at 11:15 am We will meet in the Chapel. Should you have any questions, please contact Amania Drane, Robin Lichty, Irene Christian, or Gene Paquette.

A breakfast for graduating seniors will be held at Ashbury's on Saturday, May 21st. If interested in attending, contact Amania Drane at niaenterprises1@comcast.net

Calling all graduates!

We would like to honor you during worship on June 5th. Please submit the name of the graduate, where they will be graduating from and any future plans.

Congratulations!





Outreach Opportunities



National Day of Prayer
Thursday, May 5, 6:00am
Bolingbrook Country Club
2001 Rodeo Drive, Bolingbrook

Join members and friends of Friendship Church as they gather with other leaders from Bolingbrook for a morning of prayer and fellowship. Tickets are \$10. Friendship would like to fill a table of ten.

RSVP to Amania Drane at 630.886.7469 or niaenterprises1@comcast.net.

One Day Volunteer Service Trip
Midwest Mission
Distribution Center
Chatham, Illinois
Friday, May 13, 2016
6:30am-5:00pm



Members and friends of Friendship Church have the opportunity to serve during this special day set aside in May.

Volunteers are needed to help with projects at MMDC, as well as drivers to Chatham, and those who can assist with preparing lunch while we are there.

If interested in joining the group, please contact Amania Drane at 630.886.7469 or email her at niaenterprises1@comcast.net.



Northern Illinois Conference Bishop's Appeal

The Northern Illinois Conference's 177th Annual Conference will be held on June 5 – 7, 2016. We are asking our Friendship family to help support two mission opportunities of the conference. Friendship's Giving Tree Ministry will provide an opportunity to purchase rulers and pencil sharpeners.

We are asking 25 people or families to participate in the Giving Tree Ministry. The items will be donated to Midwest Mission Distributer Center for school bags that are donated to children in need around the world. Please see Julie Verson if you have any questions about the Giving Tree opportunity.

In addition, we will be taking up a donation in support of the Bishop's Appeal to support Rosecrance, a United Methodist supported treatment facility. Rosecrance is a faith-based non-profit organization offering addiction and mental health treatment services at more than 40 locations across northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin. Rosecrance served more than 22,000 families in the past year. Please consider giving as you are able.

More Outreach Opportunities



POWER Connection

A group from FUMC had their first training/volunteering session at POWER Connection on Monday, April 25th. The pictures show several of our members filling bags of pasta for the food pantry there.

Many opportunities await our friends and members of FUMC.

If interested in volunteering, please contact Carolyn Jones at cmjones0112@gmail.com.

The next big group volunteer time will be the last Monday in May.

Committee Reports

Church Council News for May

Connectional giving: "Step up to the World" presentations will be made during worship to help everyone understand connectional giving in the United Methodist Church. The hope is that everyone will consider making a pledge of one additional week to help meet our apportionment obligation.

Upcoming events were shared by committee chairpersons. 15 volunteers will be trained for the food pantry at Power Connection on April 25. Others will work in the resale shop or help with food pickup. CCHHS will hold a second annual prayer breakfast on May 21.

Watch for news of a Food Drive around Father's Day. The 2016 Crop Walk will step off on October 16. The National Day of Prayer will be held on May 5 at 6 AM at the Bolingbrook Golf Club. A one day trip to the Midwest Distribution Center will be held on May 13. North Central College United Methodist Student Organization is encouraging congregations to visit their meetings. We will participate in the Pathways Parade again in September.

Our next meeting will be held on June 21, 2016 at 7 PM.

First Quarter Stewardship Report

The Stewardship Committee thanks you for your generous support of Friendship Church in the first quarter. 2016 pledges showed a significant increase of \$20,000 over 2015 with a total of \$246,563. Through March our members have given \$56,308 or 91.40%. The Church Council approved the 2016 budget based on receiving \$230,000 from pledge income. If our giving for the first quarter continues at the same pace for the rest of the year it will total \$230,482. If we are able to continue this level of giving, we will end the year with 99% of our budgeted income.

Carol Fetters, our Financial Secretary, sent out quarterly statements last week. If you haven't already done so, please review it to see if you are "on track" with your pledge. If you need to make a change in your pledged amount, please contact Carol at waynefetters@comcast.net.

Gene Paquette and Dena Byrd
Co-Chairs of Stewardship.



Around and About Friendship Church



18 members and friends of FUMC attended a workshop entitled “Cultural Competence” led by Karen Young from the Salvation Army. Karen talked about practical, skill building lessons to aid in developing cultural awareness and sensitivity that will make a difference right here at Friendship Church!

Wonderful Work Day

The Trustees want to thank everyone who came out last Saturday to help landscape around the patio, weed the gardens, trim bushes and clean up the trash around the church grounds. We had over 25 people attend including Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts and several of their adult leaders, members of the Trustees and other church members. We had lots of fun and ended our day with tacos. Thanks again!



First Friends Preschool



This month, the preschoolers have been learning about caterpillars and butterflies. We have been watching 5 caterpillars grow and this week they created their "sleeping bags" called chrysalis. Now we must wait for them to emerge. We have been creating butterfly art while we wait for the butterflies to come out.

Thank you so much to the scouts that built a new planting box in our playground on April 23rd! A preschool family will be donating a new tree and we will be creating a new garden!

We will be holding open houses on Fridays during the month of May. Encourage your neighbors and friends to stop by between 9:00am and 1:00pm and see what First Friends has to offer!



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.

For the month of April, we have received 5 envelopes that totaled \$64.00. These are for the thanksgiving for God's protection and blessing on family and thanksgiving for dad's life.

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, May 20 @5:30 pm
Breakfast Saturday, May 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, May 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

9:00-11:30AM

Contact Chris Bosacki, Director,
for more information.

chrisbosacki@firstfriendspreschool.info

May 2016 ~ Friendship Church

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|--|---|---|---|--|
| <p>1 10am Worship & Sunday School 11:30am Youth Sunday School Meeting</p> <p>5pm AA</p> | <p>2</p> <p>5:30pm Girl Scouts</p> | <p>3 10am BPC Ministry</p> | <p>4</p> <p>4pm Last Study Club 4:45pm Confirmation 6:30pm Scouts 7:30pm Chancel Choir</p> | <p>5 6am National Day of Prayer Breakfast</p> | <p>6 10am BPC Ministry</p> <p>6:30pm Daisy Scouts 7:30pm GA</p> | <p>7 9am AA</p> <p>7pm The Foundry</p> |
| <p>8 10am Worship & Sunday School</p> <p>5pm AA 5pm Gujarati Worship</p> | <p>9</p> <p>5:30pm Girl Scouts</p> | <p>10 10am BPC Ministry 10:30am Worship Planning 7pm Staff Parish</p> | <p>11</p> <p>4:45pm Confirmation 6:30pm Scouts 7:30pm Chancel Choir</p> | <p>12</p> <p>7pm Anxiety Support</p> | <p>13 10am BPC Ministry 8:00am Trip to Midwest Distribution Center 7:30pm GA</p> | <p>14 9am AA</p> <p>7pm The Foundry</p> |
| <p>15 10am Worship & Sunday School 11:15am Adult Ministry Meeting</p> <p>5pm AA</p> | <p>16</p> <p>5:30pm Girl Scouts</p> | <p>17 10am BPC Ministry 7pm Nominations Committee</p> | <p>18</p> <p>6:30pm Scouts 7:30pm Chancel Choir</p> | <p>19 11:15 am Sr. Lunch & Bible Study</p> | <p>20 10am BPC Ministry 5pm Daybreak 6:30pm Daisy Scouts 7:30pm GA</p> | <p>21 5am Daybreak 9am AA 9am CCHSS Breakfast</p> |
| <p>22 10am Worship & Sunday School</p> <p>5pm AA</p> | <p>23</p> <p>5:30pm Girl Scouts</p> | <p>24 10am BPC Ministry 6pm Feed My Starving Children</p> | <p>25</p> <p>6:30pm Scouts</p> | <p>26 Tuesday/Thursday Preschool Picnic 7pm Preschool Graduation 7pm Anxiety Support</p> | <p>27 Monday/Wednesday/Friday Preschool Picnic 10am BPC Ministry 7:30pm GA</p> | <p>28 9am AA</p> |
| <p>29 10am Worship & Sunday School</p> <p>5pm AA</p> | <p>30 Memorial Day Office Closed</p> | <p>31 10am BPC Ministry 7pm Scout Leaders</p> | | |  | |