

FRIENDSHIP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

small church | BIG MISSION

March 2020



*Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.
Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Isaiah 55:1-2a, NRSV*

I have long imagined this voice calling out to be a merchant in a crowded Middle Eastern bazaar, seeking to get the attention of passing crowds, hawking his wares with enthusiasm and excitement ... or even better, like a barker at an American carnival, calling out to hurried entertainment-seekers to come and see the astonishing realities that lie just beyond the open tent flap behind him!

This is no ordinary salesman. *This* vendor is inviting the crowd to engage in a very unusual and mysterious transaction. The normal rules of commerce don't seem to apply, and truthfully, they have been completely overturned. One need not bring goods to barter or money to pay, because water, bread, wine, and rich food will all be provided "without money and without price." All one must bring to the exchange is thirst and hunger.

But there's the rub. Here, the challenge is laid bare:
*Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?*

Even 2500 years ago, God's people needed to hear a wake-up call ... a call to take a moment, to turn for once from life's abundant distractions that promise much, but in the end, deliver little ... that seductively promise a fuller life, but cannot finally satisfy the longing of the soul?

The prophet knew his people better than they knew themselves. He knew that the distractions, the entertainments, all the amusing ways in which we are drawn more deeply into ourselves present themselves as liberation, as a satiation of our deepest desires, *but in the end they can't deliver the goods.*

(continued on page 2)



8531 Macon Hwy
Athens, GA 30606
706-543-6077 (office)
706-543-6199 (fax)
www.gotofriendship.org

Sunday School @ 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Worship @ 11:00a.m.

Pastor:
Rev. J. Thomas Buchanan
pastortom@gotofriendship.org

Church Administrator:
Donna Rigsby
office@gotofriendship.org

Please check out our website @
www.gotofriendship.org for our
online calendar





(From the Pastor—continued from page 1)

In this season of Lent, we, together with Christians all over the world, look closely at our lives, and choose to set aside, even in small ways, those things which we sometimes think we truly need, but don't really ... or not as much. We examine our own hearts and consider ways in which we might draw closer to God, together, by letting go of things which command so much of our attention.

Echoing the prophet, what is it that we spend our money for, but isn't bread? What is it that we labor for, but doesn't satisfy? Is chocolate or caffeine really your great nemesis? Or is it the multitude of ways we allow distractions to divert our attention from what might be a claim on us? What is it? Our answers will vary widely, of course, but we all could stand a little less of something in our lives, even if we sometimes think we can't live without it.

But this is not about self-denial for its own sake, but so that we might make room for something else far more satisfying – something which would heal and revive our souls ... something which would bring us into deeper communion with one another ... and so equip us to be light in a dark world.

And so, this Lent we might fast from many things, but then also *feast* on better things. May this call be a start as we look more deeply at our lives. May we hear it as a call to *live*, deeply and abundantly.

Grateful to be on this Lenten Journey with you,
Pastor Tom

Praying for You



If you have any updates or additional prayer requests, please notify an Elder or the Church Office.

- Rosemary Salter
- Rhenn Priep
- Elizabeth Broomfield
- Grace Hawn
- Mildred Rice
- Desmond Goergen (great grandson of Bev Davis)
- Mum and Reggie (friends of Lisa Buchanan)
- LMHB (dear friend of Lisa Buchanan)
- Nancy Adams (Sarah Bennett's niece—cancer)
- Richard Weber (loss of his wife Diane - Kathy Roberts' best friend)
- Andrea Williams (throat cancer)
- Skylar Kirkpatrick (granddaughter of Bev Davis)
- Jennifer Mitchell
- Jim Miller (friend of Bev Davis—melanoma)
- Donald Clem (Donna Rigsby's dad—Alzheimer's)



Session Report

Submitted by Leanne Vaeth

- A meeting to examine and receive Judy Hibbs and Charles Kauderer as members of Session was held on February 16th. Their installation was conducted the same day during the worship service.
- Leanne Vaeth was elected Clerk of the Session for 2020. Alan White will serve as Chair of the Nominating Committee.
- The covenant agreement regarding facilities use between the church and Northeast Georgia Presbytery was signed. Parties were informed that the alcove space may not be available all year due to possible construction work in that area. Alternative office space will be identified if needed.
- Session approved establishing a confirmation class during the season of Lent for interested middle and high school students.
- Session approved sending a donation to the American Cancer Society – Relay for Life. The funds were gathered as part of a church fundraiser in a prior year and the check was never processed.
- Judy Hibbs and Leanne Vaeth were selected as Elder Commissioners to attend the Stated Presbytery Meeting on February 29th at Covenant Presbyterian in Athens along with Pastor Tom Buchanan. Pastor Buchanan also serves on the Committee on Ministry for the NEGA Presbytery.
- Session members discussed and selected ministry areas to lead during the year. Committee members are being sought and the groups will meet to plan and implement activities for 2020.

Administration and Finance: Judy Hibbs
 Mission: Leanne Vaeth
 Preschool: Charles Kauderer
 Property: Alan White
 Welcome & Engagement: Frances Wilson
 Worship and Music: Karen Norris

- Session approved an Eagle Scout Service Project request from Nick Wheeler to landscape an area in front of the church sign near the traffic light. The project focuses on preventing erosion control. Nick is presenting his project to the church on February 22nd. An anonymous donor provided funding to cover the cost of the project.
- The preschool Board of Directors agreed to Session’s request that the increased cost for the cleaning service be absorbed by the preschool. The new service provider is in place and the property committee will conduct periodic reviews to assess the cleaning services in the sanctuary, basement, and Friendship Room.
- Pastor Tom Buchanan, Nan McMurray, and Kevin Kelly are conducting a variety of courses at the Osher Institute for Lifelong Learning (OLLI) during spring 2020.



	Liturgist	Offering Counters	Communion Servers
March 1	Bev Davis	Marks Towles	Kathy Roberts, Kathie Shinholser, Marks Towles, Ted Walker
March 8	Wallace Salter	Bev Davis	
March 15	Danielle Norris	Karen Norris	
March 22	Leanne Vaeth	Frances Wilson	
March 29	Nan McMurry	Alan White	



LENTEN MUSIC



By: Kevin Kelly

Few people today would think of Lent as a season for special church music, because Christmas has almost cornered the market (literally and figuratively speaking). Perhaps because of its inherently joyful message, Christmas music receives far more attention than the music of Lent and Passiontide, which is ironic, since the latter is regarded as the real highpoint of the liturgical year. Moreover, Christmas music, even though it has its own ample store of tunes, at times absorbs other seasonal compositions. For example, the “Hallelujah Chorus” from Handel’s Messiah, regardless of how many times it is performed in the Christmas season, actually celebrates the Resurrection, not the Nativity.

Lenten music and its texts have their own particular beauty, which may be lost on modern ears as the importance of liturgy and traditional church music declines, and as the idea of penitence has become alien to modern sensibilities. This is regrettable because when one considers the history of church music, Lent has been an enormous source of inspiration for composers.

In a certain sense, Lenten music began before the Church did. Jesus and the apostles sang Passover hymns on the first Holy Thursday, as testified by the Gospels of Matthew and Mark. The early Christians often sang of the passion and death of Christ, although their music has largely been lost.

The High Middle Ages proved to be fertile ground for penitential music. The Dies Irae (“Day of Wrath”) chant, attributed to the 13th-century musician Thomas of Celano, was eventually incorporated into the Requiem Mass in the 16th century. Many composers since the time of Mozart have seized upon this apocalyptic text as the inspiration for dramatic orchestration and choral singing.

The Stabat mater is another popular medieval hymn, ascribed to Jacopone da Todi, who died in 1306. This devotional text is a meditation on the Virgin Mary watching her son on the cross. Composers as diverse as Palestrina, Lassus, Pergolesi, Vivaldi, Haydn, Schubert, Rossini, Liszt, Dvorak and Verdi have created remarkable settings of the Stabat mater, attracted no doubt to the very personal and emotional implications of the text.

The Office of Tenebrae is celebrated on Thursday, Friday and Saturday of Holy Week. Beginning in the 9th century, it became the custom to extinguish fifteen candles at the end of each service: these candles represent the eleven faithful apostles, the three Marys and Christ. When the benediction was over, there would remain only one candle, to symbolize Christ’s solitude and suffering. When this candle was extinguished, the church was plunged into darkness (hence the name Tenebrae, Latin for “darkness”).

Included in the Tenebrae service are the Lamentations of Jeremiah. This Old Testament text contains five elegies in which the prophet mourns the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem by the Chaldeans in 587 B.C.; this lament is then extended to include all human sinfulness. The Lamentations adopt a rather complex literary form, that of the alphabetical acrostic: the first letters of each of the verses together form the whole Hebrew alphabet. Such a procedure is both mnemonic (aiding memorization) and incantatory; it also signifies, in Jewish tradition, the naming of God in its entirety. It is only natural that so evocative a ritual as the Lamentations, with its intricacies of verbal construction and highly dramatic text, should inspire composers. Lassus, Couperin, Palestrina, Tallis, Stravinsky, Ginastera and Bernstein have contributed significant settings.

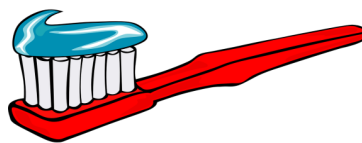
The Penitential Psalms (6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130, 143) were so named from very early times as those which express sorrow for sin. Psalm 51 (Miserere) and 130 (De profundis) have proven to be particular favorites for numerous composers.

Finally, mention should be made here of the four Passions by Johann Sebastian Bach, only two of which are extant. The St. John and St. Matthew Passions are high-water marks for Baroque choral composition, owing to their depth, complexity and emotional power. Related to Bach’s Passions are certain of his cantatas; this May, near the end of Passiontide, Friendship will have the opportunity to hear our choir perform Bach’s cantata based upon the German hymn Christ lag in Todesbanden (“Christ lay in the bonds of death”).

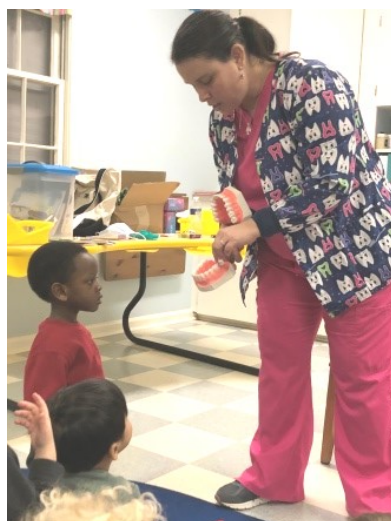


Preschool News

by: Susanne Hayes



It was Dental Week at the school. The student's enjoyed a visit from Ms. Missy who read us a book and told us how important dental health is at every age! Our students all received new toothbrushes as well!





Scouting at Friendship

By: Scoutmaster Paul Matthews

February has been a busy month of Scouting! We enjoyed starting the month with the Scout Sunday worship service, and as always appreciated the warm welcome and the opportunity to take part in the program. It was also great to have a moment to recognize Friendship's 60-plus years of supporting Scouting!

Although the weather caused multiple changes of plan, we did have the opportunity to hike the five-mile round trip up to the top of Blood Mountain, on the Appalachian Trail in north Georgia. We were glad to have one of the few non-rainy days this month, and enjoyed some great views and a solid day hike. We also were able to finish up the Cooking Merit Badge requirements for making "trail meals" on the trip.

Our Scouts elected new troop youth leadership for a six-month term starting in February; and, two Scouts were elected to Scouting's honor service and camping society, the Order of the Arrow. At the end of the month, the troop's annual Chicken Barbecue fundraiser was on Saturday, Feb. 29 at Harris Shoals. And on Friday the 28th, Pack 149 celebrated eight 5th graders for completing the "Arrow of Light" rank requirements, and crossing over into Boy Scouting. The Pack is also underway with the annual Pinewood Derby car construction and racing.

Also in February, Will Turner became our troop's newest Eagle Scout! Several other Scouts are also in various stages of other service projects, including landscaping at Friendship, removing the old storage building near the amphitheater, and building an outdoor firepit and amphitheater for Camp Twin Lakes. During our meetings, Scouts have been working on merit badges including Cooking, Family Life, and Reptile & Amphibian Study. And, many Scouts attended the semi-annual District Advance-a-Rama, a merit-badge work-day hosted at UGA on Feb. 22. Finally, several Scouts from the Troop and Pack volunteered to help with the flag ceremony at the council's "American Values Dinner" fundraiser at the Classic Center.



Cooking lunch at the shelter



The troop on the Appalachian Trail



View from Blood Mountain

Looking ahead, we have started signups for our week of Scout camp at Camp Rainey Mountain this summer, and are making progress planning the 2020 summer adventure to Yellowstone and Grand Tetons. In March, the troop will camp at Scoutland and work on canoeing and camping skills on Lake Lanier.

As always, thanks for your continued support of the Troop and Pack!



CHICKEN BBQ FUNDRAISER

Saturday - **FEBRUARY 29, 2020**

12 PM to 2 PM



Sponsored by:

BSA TROOP 149

Cost: \$10.00

**1/2 Chicken, Coleslaw, Chips
& Dessert**

**Pick Up at Harris Shoals Park on
Experiment Station Rd. (just off 441) in
Watkinsville, GA**



You can buy tickets online at:

<http://www.oconetroop149.org/payments/chicken-bbq-fundraiser>



Worship Attendance & Giving in February				
	Feb 2	Feb 9	Feb 16	Feb 23
Attendance	40	32	39	46
General Giving	\$2196.00	1510.40	\$987.00	\$1876.00

Friendship Presbyterian Church	
Year-To-Date Through January 2020	
Selected Assets and Liabilities	
Cash in Bank -- General Fund	\$48,620.09
Cash in Bank --Restricted Fund	<u>12,988.29</u>
Total Cash in Bank	\$61,608.38
Restricted Educational Funds	\$12,282.04
Savings -- New Covenant Securities	\$48,248.70
Income Statement Summary for December 2019	
Receipts from Congregation	\$26,737.21
Dye House Rent	0.00
Support from Preschool	2,630.75
All Other Income	<u>4.73</u>
Total Receipts	<u>\$29,372.69</u>
Administration Expenses	\$2,812.51
Personnel Expenses	12,656.44
Membership Development & Care Expenses	94.01
Discipleship/CE	0.00
Mission/Bldg & Grounds Expenses	607.83
Worship Expenses	<u>150.00</u>
Total Operating Expenses	<u>\$16,320.79</u>
Net Income / (Deficit)	\$13,051.90



MARCH 2020

Names in red-birthdays
Names in green-anniversaries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p>  <p>9:30 AM Adult Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service 12:00 PM Annual Meeting of the Congregation 2:30 PM Den Meeting</p>	<p>2</p> <p><i>David & Amy Ivy</i> 1:00 PM Friendship Room Reserved 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 149 7:00 PM Recorder Ensemble Rehearsal</p>	<p>3</p> <p><i>Peter Vaeth</i> 9:30 AM Preschool Chapel 10:30 AM Adult Bible Study 7:30 PM Athens Chamber Singers Rehearsal</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7:00 PM Friendship Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>5</p> <p><i>Doris Walker</i> <i>Pattie Ivy</i> 9:00 AM Friendship Room Reserved 6:00 PM Den Meeting</p>	<p>6</p> <p><i>Richard Williams</i> Church Office Closed</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p>  <p>Daylight-Saving Time Begins 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service 3:00 PM Friendship Room Reserved</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Preschool Closed 1:00 PM Friendship Room Reserved 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 149 7:00 PM Recorder Ensemble Rehearsal</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:30 AM Preschool Chapel 10:30 AM Adult Bible Study 7:30 PM Athens Chamber Singers Rehearsal</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7:00 PM Friendship Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:00 AM Friendship Room Reserved</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Church Office Closed</p>	<p>14</p> <p><i>Elizabeth Graham</i></p>
<p>15</p>  <p>9:30 AM Adult Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service 12:15 PM Stated Session Meeting</p>	<p>16</p> <p>1:00 PM Friendship Room Reserved 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 149 7:00 PM Recorder Ensemble Rehearsal</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:30 AM Preschool Chapel 10:30 AM Adult Bible Study 7:30 PM Athens Chamber Singers Rehearsal</p>	<p>18</p> <p>7:00 PM Friendship Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9:00 AM Friendship Room Reserved 6:00 PM Den Meeting 7:00 PM Pack 149 Meeting</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Church Office Closed</p>	<p>21</p> <p><i>Suzanne White</i></p>
<p>22</p>  <p>9:30 AM Adult Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service</p>	<p>23</p> <p>1:00 PM Friendship Room Reserved 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 149 7:00 PM Recorder Ensemble Rehearsal</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9:30 AM Preschool Chapel 10:30 AM Adult Bible Study 7:30 PM Athens Chamber Singers Rehearsal</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7:00 PM Friendship Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>26</p> <p><i>Roberta Schacher</i> 9:00 AM Friendship Room Reserved</p>	<p>27</p> <p><i>Nan McMurry</i> Church Office Closed</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p>  <p><i>Richard & Evelyn Montgomery</i> 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service 2:30 PM Den Meeting</p>	<p>30</p> <p>1:00 PM Friendship Room Reserved 6:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 149-Court of Honor 7:00 PM Recorder Ensemble Rehearsal</p>	<p>31</p> <p>9:30 AM Preschool Chapel 10:30 AM Adult Bible Study 7:30 PM Athens Chamber Singers Rehearsal</p>	<p>1</p> <p>7:00 PM Friendship Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>2</p> <p><i>Shirley Harris</i> 9:00 AM Friendship Room Reserved 10:30 AM NEGA Nominating Committee 6:00 PM Den Meeting</p>	<p>3</p> <p><i>Linden Crossley</i> Church Office Closed</p>	<p>4</p>

Please submit news for February's Newsletter to the church office no later than **Sunday, March 29, 2020**. Due to office schedule submissions after this date may not appear in next month's newsletter. All submissions are subject to editing.



FRIENDSHIP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

As followers of Jesus Christ, assured of God's unconditional love for everyone, we strive to be an accepting and joyful community that centers upon worship, encourages personal growth, celebrates diversity, nurtures individual gifts, and moves beyond boundaries to share, through service, Jesus' love, compassion, and justice in an uncertain world.

Grace to you and peace, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Friendship Presbyterian Church
8531 Macon Highway
Athens, GA 30606