



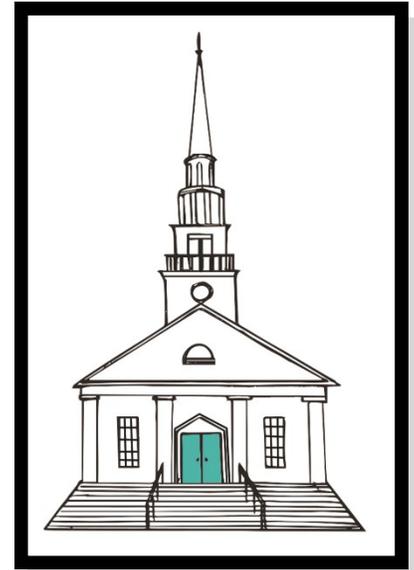
# FRIENDSHIP

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

small church | BIG MISSION



May 2020



*I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus.*  
(Philippians 1:3-8, NRSV)

Our “social distancing” continues. While some businesses are opening again to the public, it will be some time yet before life returns to anything like we knew it before. And of course, we are not yet returning to in-person worship services – it’s too soon for that. But while this is painful for us, these circumstances provide an opportunity for us to see that our oneness, our deep unity in Christ, is not changed by physical distance.

Consider that about half of the New Testament stems from the Apostle Paul being physically separate from those congregations he planted with love and care! Consider that their wisdom and warmth – wisdom and warmth which still enlighten and comfort us today – flow out of the heart of one who longs to see his brothers and sisters in Christ again.

The earliest Christians, though of many different places, races, and tongues, were drawn together into one body by the Holy Spirit. They experienced themselves as family to others both near and far away. No doubt being in fellowship with those near at hand unleashed miracles, but the greatest miracle of all was that of the community itself – a deeper and deeper community of diverse, spread-out believers who understood themselves as a *family*, of one heart and mind, united in purpose, identity, and destiny.

The Spirit which set those ordinary people afire with this vision of unity and love is the *same* Spirit on the loose in our midst here and now. We know this is true because we’ve seen it. Even in these days of separation, we’ve experienced those moments in which something holy breaks through into the ordinary, revealing a grace and beauty which transfigures everything it touches.

(continued on page 2)

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

Sunday Worship @ 11:00 a.m.  
ONLINE  
[www.GoToFriendship.org](http://www.GoToFriendship.org)

Pastor:  
Rev. J. Thomas Buchanan  
[pastortom@gotofriendship.org](mailto:pastortom@gotofriendship.org)

Church Administrator:  
Donna Rigsby  
[office@gotofriendship.org](mailto:office@gotofriendship.org)

Please check out our website @  
[www.gotofriendship.org](http://www.gotofriendship.org) for our  
online calendar





*(From the Pastor - continued from page 1)*

Even in these days, we have known those moments when someone has called or messaged us just to say that they care. And we ourselves have reached out, and in doing so have been an unwitting mouthpiece of the Divine. We are borne up by one another. We are loved. We have been the subject of more prayers than we could imagine. We are family.

I want to hug you all more than I can say (and that day will come again!), but until then, know that in the deeper sense, nothing has changed. We are one in the Spirit ... we are one in the Lord.

Grateful to be on the Journey with You,  
Tom Buchanan  
Pastor



### **Sunday Worship Services:**

Worship continues each Sunday – completely online! Simply go to our web site [www.GoToFriendship.org](http://www.GoToFriendship.org) and scroll down for the graphic link which will take you directly to the worship video, hosted by YouTube. The link will be activated each week shortly before the 11:00 AM hour, and the video is viewable any time after that.

An archive of past worship service videos and printed sermons are available from the “Sermons and Newsletters” page of our web site.

### **Giving to the Church:**

We now have online giving available on our web site! This is an easy, safe, and secure way to make donations to the church, without having to go to the trouble of writing and mailing a check. Simply go to our web site [www.GoToFriendship.org](http://www.GoToFriendship.org) and scroll to the bottom and click on **Give Now**. Doing so will take you to a secure portal where you will be asked to create a simple profile, and then allow you to make donations through your bank account or debit or credit card!

We do deeply appreciate your continued giving, as you are able, to Friendship as it seeks to carry out its mission. This time is a challenging one for all institutions, businesses, and organizations, and the church is no exception. As always, pledges and offerings may be made by check too, mailed to the church office. Again, we are grateful for your generosity and commitment.

### **Church Office Hours:**

Until further notice, the church office is closed. If you have any necessary business with the church office, please email Donna [office@gotofriendship.org](mailto:office@gotofriendship.org) to make arrangements.

### **Tuesday Morning Bible Study**

Just as before, we meet on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 AM – by Zoom video-conferencing!. If you have not been attending Bible study and would like to join in, please send an email to [pastortom@gotofriendship.org](mailto:pastortom@gotofriendship.org) ... and you'll be added to the Zoom invitation list each week.

### **Pastoral Needs:**

The Session has organized all members and friends of Friendship Church into “Care Groups,” with each Session member having pastoral responsibility for about six or seven households. They will reach out to you regularly going forward in love and concern.

If you or someone you know needs help of any kind – practical, spiritual, or emotional – please let us know, either by talking with the Elder who is assigned to you and your family, or by contacting Pastor Tom directly: [pastortom@gotofriendship.org](mailto:pastortom@gotofriendship.org) or by phone, 404-729-2144.



# Session Report

Submitted by Leanne Vaeth

- Session approved a recommendation that the church apply for funds under the federal Paycheck Protection Program. A forgivable loan was approved by the Small Business Administration submitted and is administered by Oconee State Bank. A letter will be sent to the congregation with additional information on the church's participation in the program.
- Session members continue to reach out to individuals and families in the congregation to check on their well-being and to see if assistance can be provided. Session recommended online programming continue and will reassess circumstances at its monthly meetings.
- Session reviewed the use of new technologies for online giving and streaming of church services and activities.
- A recommendation to provide mission funds to support the YWCO Summer Girls Camp was approved. During May, non-perishable items will be collected for ACTS using a Friday drop-off at church or a pre-arranged porch pick up at members' homes.
- The Preschool is planning a graduation celebration parade for students in May. Students and parents will remain in their cars and drive through church grounds.
- Repairs to the covered walkway and the front of the Sanctuary are complete. Lawn mowing and landscape work has restarted. Nick Wheeler completed his Eagle Scout erosion control project on the front hill.

## Praying for You



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

- Family of Mildred Rice (Mildred passed away April 15, 2020)
- Family of Mrs. Ida Mae Ellis (mother of Judy Hibbs-passed away April 13, 2020)
- Jane Towles
- Rosemary Salter
- Rhenn Prip
- Elizabeth Broomfield
- Grace Hawn
- Laurelyn Glick
- Brian Muise
- Alex Wheeler and the Brya Family (Alex is a Scout with Troop 149 and needs heart surgery)
- Hal Jackson (Oconee State Bank) and all bankers dealing with the recent SBA loans
- 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 (Bev Davis' friend - melanoma)
- Donald Clem (Donna Rigsby's dad - Alzheimer's)



by: Kevin Kelly

## **Pentecost**

*Come, Holy Spirit, our souls inspire,  
And lighten with celestial fire;  
Thou the anointing Spirit art,  
Who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart.*

On Sunday May 31 we will be observing Pentecost, one of the more neglected and misunderstood feasts of the church calendar. There are several possible reasons for this neglect. After the months of special emphases from Advent to Epiphany, then from Lent to Easter, ministers and parishioners alike may simply feel a psychological “let down.” Also, many may feel a certain caution or suspicion towards “Pentecostal” theology and styles of worship, associating these with more radical elements of the charismatic movement; these feelings may lead to downplaying the role of Pentecost in their own churches. Then too, those churches that promote a more “contemporary” and “open style” of worship tend to disregard the more formal aspects of the church calendar and rituals. As a result, there is a general lack of understanding about “how to articulate theology in symbols of sacred time and sacred place” (Dennis Bratcher, “The Church Year: Pentecost”). Whatever the reasons for its neglect, Bratcher reminds us that sacred times such as Pentecost “have value for the worshipping community and provide...new and varied opportunities for spiritual renewal.”

Originally Pentecost was an Old Testament festival, calculated as beginning on “the fiftieth day” (the literal translation of “Pentecost”) after the beginning of Passover. In the Christian calendar, it falls on the seventh Sunday after Easter, and hence is a movable feast. In the Old Testament it was an agricultural festival celebrating the first fruits of the early spring harvest (Leviticus 23, Exodus 23 and 34). By the early New Testament period, Pentecost had lost its association with agriculture and came to celebrate God’s creation of his people. After the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70, the festival focused on God’s gift of *Torah* (the “Law”) on Mt. Sinai; it continues to be celebrated in this manner in modern Judaism. While there are other references to Pentecost in the New Testament (eg, 1 Corinthians 16:8), it is most significant in Acts 2 and the scene of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on those in the “upper room,” after which the disciples were empowered to proclaim the gospel of the risen Christ.

The color of vestments worn on Pentecost is red, recalling the tongues of flame in which the Holy Spirit descended. Pentecost is also called “Whitsunday” (a contraction of White Sunday), because churches in ancient times often baptized converts on that day, who would wear white robes. In Italy it is customary to scatter rose leaves from church ceilings to recall the miracle of fiery tongues. In France it is customary to blow trumpets in the service, to recall the sound of the Spirit’s might wind. In Russia, worshippers carry flowers and green branches.

During the service on Pentecost, it has become tradition to sing “Veni Creator Spiritus.” The words to this famous hymn are attributed to Rabanus Maurus in 856, Archbishop of Mainz, and have been widely used from the tenth century on. In addition to its place in the Pentecost liturgy, “Veni Creator” has been assigned the official prayer for church councils and synods; it is also sung at conventions, missions, coronations of kings, etc.



# Preschool News

By: Susanne Hayes

Friendship Preschool sadly closed our doors to in-school instruction on March 13<sup>th</sup>. We had no idea on that day that we would not get to see our students again. Our Preschool teachers had to quickly learn how to transform their lessons and create a digital learning platform for preschool children. We miss our sweet students but know that this too shall pass.

For those who will be graduating and heading on to Kindergarten, we have planned a special celebration. On Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, we will be celebrating 32 graduating Pre-K students with a Parade. Our students will get to see their teachers and receive their diplomas from the safety of their vehicle. It is not the celebration we had planned, but under the health crisis, it is the safest option that will allow for these amazing students to be recognized and celebrated.



Food Banks around the state are especially in need of donations to help families at this time. Members of Friendship Presbyterian generously support ACTS through volunteering, cash donations, and helping add to its food pantry. At this time, ACTS can use whatever items we can provide including non-perishable and canned food items, paper goods, clean bedding, or clothing. We ask that you don't make a special trip out to the store, please just look on your shelves to see if you have something at home that you can spare.

If you would like to donate we are arranging a weekly pick up through the end of May. Donations will be picked up on Friday mornings between 8:30 and noon. Just send an email to the church office or Leanne Vaeth at [Leannep@Vaeths.com](mailto:Leannep@Vaeths.com) letting us know that you would like a porch pick up and provide your home address. Donations can be left in a grocery bag on your front porch so that we can maintain social distancing. If you prefer, you can leave your donations in the box at the door of the church Sanctuary for a noon pick up. Thank you for your continued support of Friendship's mission work.



## Scouting at Friendship

By: Scoutmaster Paul Matthews

Troop 149 had its last “in person” meeting for the moment in early March, including an outdoor orienteering course and welcoming our newest Scouts, who crossed over from Cub Scout Pack 149 at the beginning of that month. Since then, we’ve been holding weekly meetings on Zoom, including “breakout rooms” for specific advancement activities. While it’s a little slower than in-person sessions, the weekly meetings have offered Scouts opportunities to progress on Sustainability merit badge, Programming merit badge, and Genealogy merit badge, plus first aid sessions led by older Scouts, and new-Scout requirements with the Scoutmaster. The Scouts have even come up with virtual “game” activities for meetings, including Scouting trivia, in-house scavenger hunts, and more!

We have had to postpone or cancel a lot of scheduled Spring activities, including our semi-annual Court of Honor, and our planned camping trips. We are still uncertain on the feasibility of May’s planned Deep Sea Fishing and our June trip to Yellowstone—fingers crossed! As of now, the Council is still planning for its residential summer camp at Camp Rainey Mountain, which for us is scheduled for the final week of June; we have a great set of Scouts and adults signed up, so hoping that will also work out.

Although our in-person service project activities have also been curtailed, Nick W. was able to get the erosion-control area in front of Friendship seeded, and is continuing to water them on his own—hopefully progress will be visible there soon! Also, one of our Scouts (Victor P.) has been leading the troop the past two weeks to make simple (paper towel, staple, rubber band) disposable masks for a local retina surgeon (past Assistant Scoutmaster Mohan Iyer), providing over 300 thus far. He also produced some YouTube instructional videos and led Zoom sessions to engage other Scouts in the process. Other Scouts have been taking on trash pickups as they go on family walks. And several are working independently with merit badge counselors on Family Life projects, Cooking, Bird Study, Gardening, and more!

As always, thanks for your continued support of the Troop and Pack! Looking forward to seeing you all in person when the time comes!



Victor’s YouTube Instructional Video



Victor delivering masks!



<b>Worship Attendance &amp; Giving in April</b>				
	Week of April 5	Week of April 12	Week of April 19	Week of April 26
Attendance	—	—	—	—
General Giving	—	\$10,250.00	\$900.00	

<b>Friendship Presbyterian Church</b>	
<b>Year-To-Date Through March 2020</b>	
Selected Assets and Liabilities	
Cash in Bank -- General Fund	\$32,352.80
Cash in Bank --Restricted Fund	<u>13,235.74</u>
Total Cash in Bank	\$45,588.54
Restricted Educational Funds	
	\$11,601.52
Savings -- New Covenant Securities	
	\$42,215.90
Income Statement Summary for March 2020	
Receipts from Congregation	\$7,524.00
Dye House Rent	0.00
Support from Preschool	2,960.75
All Other Income	<u>3.60</u>
Total Receipts	<u>\$10,488.35</u>
Administration Expenses	
	\$2,137.23
Personnel Expenses	
	10,196.15
Membership Development & Care Expenses	
	53.35
Discipleship/CE	
	0.00
Mission/Bldg & Grounds Expenses	
	1,863.30
Worship Expenses	
	<u>0.00</u>
Total Operating Expenses	<u>\$14,250.03</u>
Net Income / (Deficit)	
	(\$3,761.68)



## MAY 2020

*Names in red-birthdays*

*Names in green-anniversaries*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 <i>Nancy Graham</i> 11:00 AM Worship Service-ONLINE	27	28 9:30 AM Preschool Chapel-Online 10:30 AM Adult Bible Study- Online	29	30 <i>David Ivy</i> <i>Jane McGahee</i>	1	2
3 11:00 AM Worship Service-ONLINE	4	5 9:30 AM Preschool Chapel-Online 10:30 AM Adult Bible Study- Online	6	7	8	9
10  11:00 AM Worship Service-ONLINE	11	12 10:30 AM Adult Bible Study- Online	13 7:00 PM Troop Committee Meeting	14	15 9:30 AM Preschool Drive-Thru Graduation	16 <i>Anne Lee</i>
17 11:00 AM Worship Service-ONLINE 12:00 PM Stated Session Meeting 3:00 PM Pack 149 Blue and Gold Banquet	18 <i>Kevin Kelly &amp;</i> <i>Nan McMurray</i> <i>Olivia Bennett</i>	19 10:30 AM Adult Bible Study- Online	20	21	22	23
24 <i>Maggie Ivy</i> 11:00 AM Worship Service-ONLINE	25  MEMORIAL DAY	26 10:30 AM Adult Bible Study- Online	27	28	29 <i>Bobby &amp;</i> <i>Kathie Shinholser</i> <i>Julie Hill</i>	30
31  11:00 AM Worship Service-ONLINE	1 4:30 PM Sanctuary & Friendship Room Reserved 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 149	2 10:30 AM Adult Bible Study- Online	3	4	5	6

Please submit news for June's  
Newsletter to the church office  
no later than

**Sunday, May 26, 2020.**

Due to office schedule  
submissions after this date may  
not appear in next month's  
newsletter.

All submissions are subject to  
editing.



Let not  
your hearts  
be troubled.  
Believe in God;  
*Believe also  
in me.*

John 14:1

#### **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