



FRIENDSHIP

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

small church | BIG MISSION



June 2020

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.*
(John 1:1-5, NRSV)

In the sixth of the eight Harry Potter movies, *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*, a most memorable scene takes place at the end. It is of the death of Albus Dumbledore, young Harry's great mentor and most powerful counter to the evil of the Dark Lord Voldemort. You don't have to be familiar with the Harry Potter series to appreciate the significance of the scene.

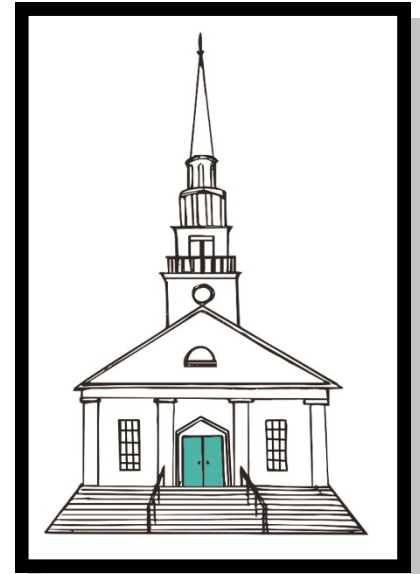
Dumbledore lies dead in the Hogwarts School courtyard, killed by an apparent traitor. Hundreds of students gather around his body in stunned silence and disbelief, as the sky turns dark as night. The menacing clouds take on a skull-like appearance – with a gaping jaw as if soon to swallow up all the goodness and beauty left in the world. It is a moment rife with the spirit of despair.

But then, just as hopelessness would descend, one wizard slowly held up her wand to the sky – its shining tip pointed at the very mouth of gloom and death. Another followed her example. And then another, and another, until *hundreds* of wands, with their small tips of light, were pointed at the sky. This simple gesture expresses the faith that against all odds, that in the midst of the deep darkness of this world, the Light still shines.

Between the threat of the coronavirus, and now the protests across the country stemming from long-time racial injustice (the killing of George Floyd representing a tipping point), it may feel like the skies are turning dark and hope is slipping away. But this is not the time for *us* to slip away. This is a time when we *stand together in faith*.

We stand together and support one another, while looking out for our neighbors. We lift one another up, and we share our stories. In this June newsletter, you will see a short column by my Lisa, asking you to submit your own thoughts and reflections on living through these last two and a half months, that we all may be strengthened and encouraged.

(continued on page 2)



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

Sunday Worship @ 11:00 a.m.
ONLINE
www.GoToFriendship.org

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)

We stand together and speak up for God's vision of peace and justice. Recent tragic events have laid bare the hard truth that this country has too often failed to live up to its promise of "liberty and justice for all" for our African-American brothers and sisters. With all people of goodwill, we must denounce looting and lawlessness, but we should with equal conviction search our own hearts in humility, confess our complicity in sinful systems and structures, and denounce the ugly violence of injustice that fosters such despair and rage.

We stand together and hold fast in these times, in the sure and certain knowledge that "neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38-39, NRSV).

We stand together, knowing that the Light still shines.

I am, as ever, grateful to be on the Journey with you,
Tom Buchanan



Session Notes

Submitted by Leanne Vaeth

- Year to date income and expenditures remain stable. Funds from the Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) are being utilized for payroll and utilities while pledged and unpledged giving remains strong. The PPP funds are helping to reduce the forecasted budget deficit for the year.
- Session approved consolidating bank accounts under one provider: Oconee State Bank. The transfers will occur after the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions are lifted.
- Session approved submitting a technology grant request to the Northeast Georgia Presbytery to support the church's online worship services and activities.
- Session discussed guidance issued by federal and state officials as well as local Presbyteries on reopening churches for in person worship. Online services will continue for the foreseeable future with additional fellowship opportunities being offered via Zoom and Sanctuary visits scheduled by appointment. Music offerings will continue to be expanded and incorporated into programs using technology to record remote performances. The use of a closed Facebook group will be expanded to incorporate more member specific announcements that aren't normally included in the YouTube recordings.
- Boy Scout Troop 149 sought permission to return to in person meetings and provided a proposal for consideration. The proposal includes social distancing, alternating Zoom and outdoor meetings, the use of masks, and contact tracing practices in case of exposure to Covid-19.
- The preschool graduation parade was a major success and will be part of future ceremonies. Pictures were shared on Facebook and families greatly appreciated the opportunity to celebrate with teachers and students.



Sunday Online Worship

Sunday Worship Services

Worship continues each Sunday - completely online! Simply go to our web site 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.

This coming Sunday, June 7, we will celebrate Communion (virtually), so before you view the service, be sure to have some bread or crackers handy, plus wine, juice, or other beverage. In the Spirit, though we are physically separated, we are one!

Then, on **Sundays from June 14 – July 26**, we will observe our **3rd Annual Summer Saints sermon series** during online morning worship. During our "Summer Saints" series, we take up one "saint" each Sunday, and listen closely. Each - whether alive or not, whether Christian or not - has something to teach us about the life of discipleship. You will be glad you tuned in!

The 3rd Annual "SUMMER SAINTS" SERMON SERIES @ Friendship Presbyterian Church

Sundays, June 14 – July 26
Online Morning Worship
GoToFriendship.org

An exploration of diverse lives – past and present, some Christian and some not – that have something to teach us about living faithfully today!

June 14	Albert Camus
June 21	Lillian Smith
June 28	Dietrich Bonhoeffer
July 5	Jonathan Edwards
July 12	Malala
July 19	Robin Williams
July 26	Julian of Norwich





Sunday Morning Coffee & Fellowship and Tuesday Morning Bible Study

On Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM, we gather online on Zoom, for fellowship and conversation on the scriptures being read in online worship for the day! Tuesday morning Bible study on Zoom also continues each week at 10:30 AM. If you would like to join in either or both of these opportunities, please send an email to PastorTom@GoToFriendship.org ... and you'll be added to the Zoom invitation lists each week.



Zoom is new to many of us, but in a short time, it has become an essential tool for facilitating church business, not to mention fellowship and education. For more information on Zoom and how to set it up, go to this page on our website: www.GoToFriendship.org/using-zoom



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 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.

Until further notice, the church office is open only on Tuesdays, from 9:00 AM to 12 noon. If you have any necessary business with the church office outside of those hours, please email Donna Office@GoToFriendship.org to make arrangements.

The Sanctuary will also be available - by appointment - on Tuesdays between 9:00 and 12 noon for prayer and meditation. Please contact Donna if you would like to make such an appointment.





The Forum @ Friendship

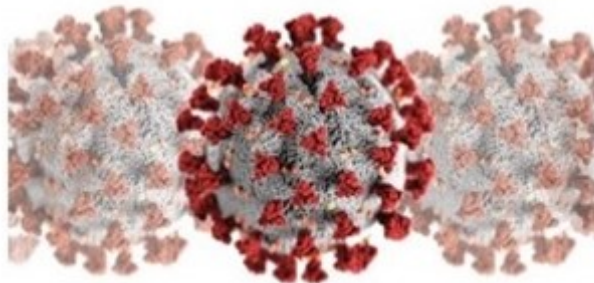
Our Forum @ Friendship evening program is coming in a few weeks!:

“QUESTIONING FAITH: GOD, THE CHURCH & COVID-19” on Thursday, June 18, from 7:00 to 8:30 PM on Zoom! We hope to have a great response for this first of many Forum @Friendship opportunities, as we seek to think deeply about our faith and put it into conversation with culture and these times. Registration is required (and free). To register and get on the Zoom invitation list, just send an email - PastorTom@GoToFriendship.org

QUESTIONING FAITH: GOD, THE CHURCH & COVID-19

A ZOOM Presentation and Discussion,
Led by Rev. Tom Buchanan, Pastor of Friendship Presbyterian Church, Athens
Thursday, June 18 ... 7:00 to 8:30 PM

*Where is God in this pandemic?
Why is this happening? What meaning
might be found in it?
What good does it do to pray?
What does it mean to be the Church if our
buildings are closed?
How do we live in the face of so much
uncertainty?
... and many others*



THIS EVENT IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

**TO REGISTER AND BE INCLUDED ON THE ZOOM INVITATION LIST, JUST
SEND AN EMAIL ... PASTORTOM@GOTOFRIENDSHIP.ORG**



**Friendship Presbyterian Church
8531 Macon Highway
Athens, Georgia 30606
GoToFriendship.org**



For the most part, I haven't left the house since the beginning of March. Now I don't know about you, but there are only so many times I can reorganize my closets, my kitchen, and catalog my yarn and fabric on hand. I've cooked and knitted to my heart's content (although Tom may speak against the quality of the food now and then).

While the immediate danger from this pandemic is medical, the more insidious damage is our loss of togetherness, the loss of our daily lives.

This column invites you to share how you've been spending this forced alone time. What has helped keep you connected? Share your stories and perhaps inspire someone in our Church Family. Send your contributions to Donna at office@GoToFriendship.org The deadline for the July newsletter is Sunday, June 28, 2020.



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 or by phone, 404-729-2144.



Praying for You



If you have any updates or additional prayer requests, please notify

- Jane Towles
- Rosemary Salter
- Rhenn Priep
- 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)
- 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)



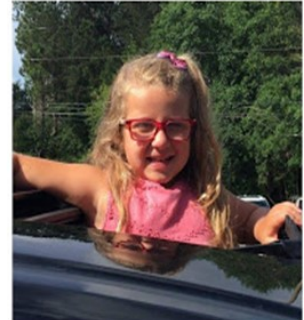
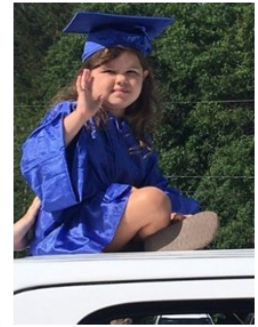
Just a quick shoutout to Valerie Vaeth, who has been collecting ACTS Donations for a few weeks now, from our congregation and beyond it.

Here is a picture from a few weeks ago when Valerie and her mom Leanne dropped off food donations that were collected from their neighborhood.

Thanks, Valerie, for your service to others! And thanks to all of you who have donated!



Preschool Graduation May 15, 2020



Drive-in preschool graduation took place on Friday, May 15th, 2020. Mrs. Susanne announced each graduate as their car pulled up and all the teachers and Pastor Tom were there to wave, blow bubbles and ring bells. The PreK teachers handed out graduation goodie bags, scrapbooks and diplomas. It was so fun to see all the students come through the parade. We are so proud of these rising kindergarteners!



Scouting at Friendship

By: Scoutmaster Paul Matthews

Troop 149 is looking forward to transitioning back to every-other-week in-person Scouts meetings this summer. These meetings will be held outdoors, with social distancing and enhanced sanitation; we'll also have every-other-week Zoom sessions with those Scouts who prefer that option. Although we didn't meet on Memorial Day, our May Zoom meetings have included breakout "rooms" for working on Citizenship in the Nation merit badge, Electronics merit badge, first aid, safe hiking, and other topics. At the national level, at the end of May the artists who contribute to Boys Life magazine offered four days of virtual "art lessons" for Scouts interested in working on the Art merit badge, too.

June brings a focus on Citizenship in the Nation, Public Health, and Reading merit badges, plus work on flag etiquette, knot tying, and more first aid. Unfortunately, the troop had to cancel the May camping trip (Deep Sea Fishing) as well as our weeklong outing to Yellowstone/Tetons in early June, due to the pandemic. Several Scouts did take part in the May 2 "camp-in", setting up tents in their backyard and participating in a Zoom-based virtual campfire program that evening!

We are still planning to attend our week of resident Scout camp at Camp Rainey Mountain, at the end of the month. CRM has put a number of protocols and restrictions in place, and the current Governor's order entails that all attendees will have to be tested for coronavirus the week before attending, so the logistics are becoming a little complex. Additionally, we hope to have our Patrols take part in some sort of outdoor activity in June, and to have a troop camping trip in July, following our new protocols as well.

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





Giving in May				
	Week of May 3	Week of May 10	Week of May 17	Week of May 24
General Giving	\$7480.00	\$3621.80	\$402.00	\$102.00

Friendship Presbyterian Church	
Year-To-Date Through April 2020	
Selected Assets and Liabilities	
Cash in Bank -- General Fund	\$38,487.73
Cash in Bank --Restricted Fund	<u>12,633.91</u>
Total Cash in Bank	\$51,121.64
Restricted Educational Funds	
	\$12,020.72
Savings -- New Covenant Securities	
	\$45,908.90
Income Statement Summary for April 2020	
Receipts from Congregation	\$11,984.00
Dye House Rent	1,748.00
Support from Preschool	2,960.75
All Other Income	<u>2.20</u>
Total Receipts	<u>\$16,694.95</u>
Administration Expenses	
	\$4,055.40
Personnel Expenses	
	12,152.63
Membership Development & Care Expenses	
	0.00
Discipleship/CE	
	149.00
Mission/Bldg & Grounds Expenses	
	3,442.00
Worship Expenses	
	<u>49.00</u>
Total Operating Expenses	<u>\$19,848.03</u>
Net Income / (Deficit)	
	(\$3,153.08)



JUNE 2020

Names in red-birthdays
Names in green-anniversaries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31  9:30 AM Sunday Morning Coffee & Fellowship - via ZOOM 11:00 AM Worship Service-ONLINE	1 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 149	2 9:00 AM Open Sanctuary - by appointment only 10:30 AM Adult Bible Study - via ZOOM	3	4	5 Church Office Closed	6
7 9:30 AM Sunday Morning Coffee & Fellowship - via ZOOM 11:00 AM Worship Service-ONLINE	8 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 149	9 9:00 AM Open Sanctuary - by appointment only 10:30 AM Adult Bible Study - via ZOOM	10	11	12 Church Office Closed <i>Teddy Vaeth</i> <i>Valerie Vaeth</i>	13 <i>Dave Robinson</i>
14 9:30 AM Sunday Morning Coffee & Fellowship - via ZOOM 11:00 AM Worship Service-ONLINE 12:00 PM Stated Session Meeting	15 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 149	16 9:00 AM Open Sanctuary - by appointment only 10:30 AM Adult Bible Study - via ZOOM	17	18 <i>Kelly McGovern</i> 7:00 PM Forum at Friendship— "Questioning Faith: God, the Church & Covid-19"	19 Church Office Closed	20 
21  <i>Rebecca Hill</i> 9:30 AM Sunday Morning Coffee & Fellowship - via ZOOM 11:00 AM Worship Service-ONLINE	22 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 149	23 9:00 AM Open Sanctuary - by appointment only 10:30 AM Adult Bible Study - via ZOOM	24	25	26 Church Office Closed	27
28 9:30 AM Sunday Morning Coffee & Fellowship - via ZOOM 11:00 AM Worship Service-ONLINE	29 <i>Ian Roberts</i> 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 149	30 <i>Marks Towles</i> 9:00 AM Open Sanctuary - by appointment only 10:30 AM Adult Bible Study - via ZOOM	1	2	3 Church Office Closed	4 

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

Sunday, June 28, 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