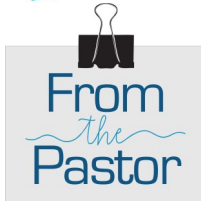




# FRIENDSHIP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

small church | BIG MISSION



## August 2020

*Then the man said,  
"You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel,  
for you have striven with God and with humans,  
and have prevailed."  
Genesis 32:28, NRSV*

With school starting back soon for many children, I think back to the many "first days of school" that I had. It may sound funny to say, but one thing I really hated on those first days was the first roll call in homeroom. You know, when your new teacher calls out the first and last names of each student in the class, alphabetically by last name, and you say "here." Of course, with Buchanan starting with a "B," I was usually one of the first two or three on the list.

I hated this exercise for two reasons: first, because almost no teacher I ever had pronounced "Buchanan" correctly on the first try; and second, because the roll always had my *actual* first name listed, and so everyone heard "Joel Buchanan," which meant that I then had to explain that though Joel *is* my first name, to call me "Tom" instead, because my full name is ... and all that. I always walked away from that experience a little embarrassed ... hearing my last name get butchered ... having to share more about myself than I really wanted to.

Names matter. They matter because they're *ours* ... They're *us*. As Frederick Buechner put it in his wonderful little book *Whistling in the Dark*,

*If somebody mispronounces [my name] in some foolish way, I have the feeling that what's foolish is me. If somebody forgets it, I feel that it's I who am forgotten. There's something about it that embarrasses me in just the same way that there's something about me that embarrasses me. I can't imagine myself with any other name ... If my name were different, I would be different. When I tell you my name, I have given you a hold over me that you didn't have before. If you call it out, I stop, look, and listen whether I want to or not.*

(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)

This essential truth about ourselves is key to understanding a strange, and yet richly human story from the book of Genesis. In it, we see Jacob facing a life-threatening moment of crisis and wrestling with God – a struggle in which he would be re-named and changed forever.

Like him, we too walk a long journey of faith towards our true home. The hope and promise of the gospel is that, on this journey, we are not alone. We often struggle, but we find that our struggle is finally with one who loves us beyond measure. We find ourselves *re-named*, living into the newness of a deeper, truer identity in the one who knew us before we were born, and loved us into life, and has never – and will never – let us go. In this unrelenting grace, we discover that we are now named *precious* and *chosen* ... and *beloved*.

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



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 early on Sunday morning, 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.

### 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](mailto:PastorTom@GoToFriendship.org) ... and you'll be added to the Zoom invitation lists each week.





## Session Notes

Submitted by Leanne Vaeth

- Session members discussed the Pre-School budget for 2020-2021. Final action will occur in early August when enrollment numbers are finalized (currently at 95 students). Director Susanne Hayes provided an overview of the cleaning protocols and practices the preschool will follow when it reopens and shared information on class composition for the age groups.
- Session approved Donna Rigsby and Susanne Hayes as authorized signers for credit card purchases.
- A review of the church's insurance policy was conducted. Session approved increasing coverage to industry standards and approved staying with the current provider.
- The Forum @ Friendship presentation in July was well attended and included a growing number of attendees from outside of Friendship.
- The family who requested permission to park their RV temporarily on church grounds during their move will stay at a local RV park and no longer requires access to church property.
- Session approved Pastor Buchanan taking time off July 22-August 3 and making alternative arrangements for services and outreach.
- The Property Committee was provided with names of local contacts who have knowledge of elevator or lift installations and will contact them for information. Boy Scout Troop 149 requested and was provided an overview of the service projects at the preschool and church.



Giving  
to the  
Church

Online giving is 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 [GoToFriendship.org](http://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!

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](mailto:Office@GoToFriendship.org) to make arrangements.

The Sanctuary is 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.





# Praying for You



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

- Jane Towles
- Rosemary Salter
- Rhenn Prip
- Elizabeth Broomfield
- Grace Hawn
- Laurelyn Glick
- Brian Muise
- Roy and Doots Stephens
- Rick Inglin
- Kathleen Hagens
- Paul Matthews (tested positive for COVID and is home quarantining)
- Lydia Hood (daughter of Marks and Jane Towles)
- Pendley Family (family lost home, cars, and all possessions in a house fire on June 29)
- Alex Wheeler and the Brya Family (Alex is a Scout with Troop 149-home recovering after 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)



## CARE GROUPS

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.



## **Scouting at Friendship**

**By: Scoutmaster Paul Matthews**



The week of June 28 to July 3, 11 Scouts and 5 adults spent the week at Camp Rainey Mountain in Clayton, GA. There were many fewer campers, and overall fewer classes and activities offered, but on the positive side, the weather was cooperative, we had a campsite all to our troop, and our Scouts enjoyed working on a range of merit badges such as Basketry, Chemistry, Welding, Swimming, Theater, Environmental Science, Rifle, Paddleboarding, and more! The troop also was recognized as the “honor troop,” or best overall troop, for the week, which was exciting. I had the opportunity to train other adults with a course on Scoutmaster/Assistant Scoutmaster fundamentals, and also recertified as a BSA Lifeguard; however, while doing my lifesaving training and demonstrations, I was exposed to COVID and ended up with symptoms and in quarantine for the next couple weeks after returning from camp. Fortunately, thus far, none of the Scouts in our troop have tested positive or had any symptoms.

Therefore, we ended up having the rest of our July meetings (until July 27) as Zoom only, and have been working on merit badges such as Electricity and Communication. We are planning for an outdoor orienteering course and compass training at the end of July, and also hoping to have a small group take part in the Council’s “aquatics weekend” camping trip at Lake Lanier in Gainesville. That will be an opportunity to take part in instruction on kayaking, paddleboarding, and more.

In August, we plan to try out having two in-person, outdoor meetings in a row, followed by a Zoom meeting, to give options to all our Scout families. We are hoping to have the opportunity to do a trip in August to the Conasauga River in Tennessee to observe the local river ecosystem with local park rangers. We will also begin our annual calendar planning process, to the extent that we can predict out for the rest of the year! And, we will have new youth leadership position elections at the start of the month, for the coming six-month leadership term.

Several of our Scouts are hoping to undertake service projects for Friendship Presbyterian, following a presentation by Leanne Vaeth of several possibilities for the church grounds and preschool. So far, Scouts have expressed interest in helping with the preschool pathway and mulching; enhancing the pebbled area around the church’s two white brick signs; fixing the seating at the amphitheater area; and possible more. Also in July, Garrett Anderson became our troop’s newest Eagle Scout, after completing an online Board of Review with the district. Congratulations, Garrett!

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



<b>Giving in July</b>				
	Week of July 5	Week of July 12	Week of July 19	Week of July 26
General Giving	\$1572.00	\$1983.80	\$3255.00	\$750.00

<b>Friendship Presbyterian Church</b>	
<b>Year-To-Date Through June 2020</b>	
Selected Assets and Liabilities	
Cash in Bank -- General Fund	\$53,020.74
Cash in Bank --Restricted Fund	<u>13,583.91</u>
Total Cash in Bank	\$66,604.65
Restricted Educational Funds	
Savings -- New Covenant Securities	\$48,340.91
Income Statement Summary for May 2020	
Receipts from Congregation	\$7,933.77
Dye House Rent	1,658.00
Support from Preschool	2,960.75
All Other Income	<u>2.93</u>
Total Receipts	<u>\$12,555.45</u>
Administration Expenses	
Personnel Expenses	10,779.85
Membership Development & Care Expenses	0.00
Discipleship/CE	0.00
Mission/Bldg & Grounds Expenses	402.79
Worship Expenses	<u>48.00</u>
Total Operating Expenses	<u>\$12,840.01</u>
Net Income / (Deficit)	
	(\$284.56)



# AUGUST 2020

*Names in red-birthdays*  
*Names in green-anniversaries*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>26</b> 11:00 AM Worship Service- ONLINE	<b>27</b> 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 149	<b>28</b> <i>Leanne Vaeth</i> 9:00 AM Open Sanctuary - by appointment only	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> <i>Beverly Davis</i>	<b>31</b> Church Office Closed	<b>1</b> <i>Rhenn Prip</i>
<b>2</b> <i>Kathie Shinholser</i> 11:00 AM Worship Service- ONLINE	<b>3</b> <i>Linda Bennett</i> 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 149	<b>4</b> 9:00 AM Open Sanctuary - by appointment only 10:30 AM Adult Bible Study - via ZOOM	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <i>Sarah Bennett</i>	<b>7</b> Church Office Closed	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 9:30 AM Sunday Morning Coffee & Fellowship - via ZOOM 11:00 AM Worship Service- ONLINE	<b>10</b> 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 149	<b>11</b> 9:00 AM Open Sanctuary - by appointment only 10:30 AM Adult Bible Study - via ZOOM	<b>12</b> <i>Rosemary Salter</i>	<b>13</b> <i>Donna McGinty</i> <i>Holly Border</i> 6:00 PM Preschool Parent Night-2D2 6:30 PM Preschool Parent Night	<b>14</b> Church Office Closed 9:00 AM Preschool Meet the Teacher	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> <i>Wallace Salter</i> 9:30 AM Sunday Morning Coffee & Fellowship - via ZOOM 11:00 AM Worship Service- ONLINE 12:00 PM Stated Session Meeting via ZOOM	<b>17</b> <i>Bobby Shinholser</i> First Day of Preschool <i>Richard</i> <i>Montgomery</i> 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 149	<b>18</b> 9:00 AM Open Sanctuary - by appointment only 10:30 AM Adult Bible Study - via ZOOM	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 7:00 PM The Forum @ Friendship via ZOOM	<b>21</b> Church Office Closed	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 9:30 AM Sunday Morning Coffee & Fellowship - via ZOOM 11:00 AM Worship Service- ONLINE	<b>24</b> 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 149	<b>25</b> 9:00 AM Open Sanctuary - by appointment only 10:30 AM Adult Bible Study - via ZOOM	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Church Office Closed	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> <i>Bruce Hildebrand</i> 9:30 AM Sunday Morning Coffee & Fellowship - via ZOOM 11:00 AM Worship Service- ONLINE	<b>31</b> 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 149	<b>1</b> 9:00 AM Open Sanctuary - by appointment only 10:30 AM Adult Bible Study - via ZOOM	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 10:30 AM NEGA Nominating Committee	<b>4</b> Church Office Closed	<b>5</b> <i>Chester Lee</i>

Please submit news for  
September's Newsletter to the  
church office no later than  
**Sunday, August 30, 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.**

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

Friendship Presbyterian Church  
8531 Macon Highway  
Athens, GA 30606