



FRIENDSHIP

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

small church / BIG MISSION



July 2020

*I sing a song of the saints of God, patient and brave and true,
Who toiled and fought and lived and died
for the Lord they loved and knew.
And one was a doctor, and one was a queen,
and one was a shepherdess on the green:
They were all of them saints of God,
and I mean, God helping, to be one too.*
“I Sing a Song of the Saints of God,” Hymn #364

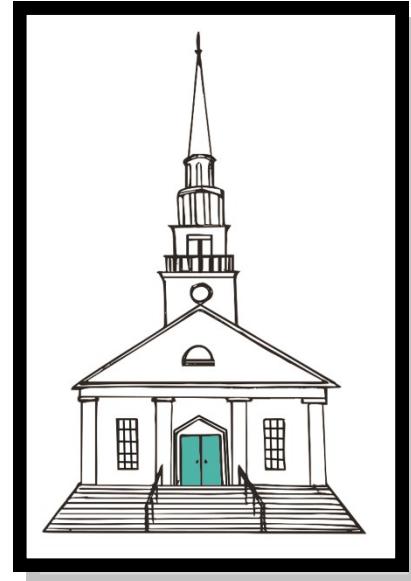
Sometimes it's hard to fathom that we have been facing the threat of the coronavirus for almost four months now. But it's not like things haven't been happening in all this time. Rather than feeling perhaps better rested, with more time at home, we may well feel weary, with the outside world roaring on with a vengeance and with so much shaking our consciences.

As you all know, in the midst of all this, we have been carrying on our new tradition of the “Summer Saints” sermon series, which will run through July 28. Our summer saints were/are “saints” in exactly the same way that we are saints ... imperfect people created and loved by God, and used of the Spirit to convey something of God’s majesty, love, and goodness.

Though the list was settled on in mid-May, I have been moved by how *providential* the choices have proven to be. Albert Camus, Lillian Smith, Dietrich Bonhoeffer ... all have been among the people we have most needed to hear from. In this recognition of the Spirit’s working in mysterious ways, I look forward to the remainder of the series!

This Sunday, we take up the life and witness of the 18th-century American theologian and revivalist Jonathan Edwards, one of the key leaders in the Great Awakening. In the weeks after, we will explore the lives of Malala Yousafzai (the only “Summer Saint” this year currently living – and hopefully for a long time to come!), the late comic Robin Williams, and the 14th-century nun Julian of Norwich. Even from my point of view, there’s no telling what they will have to say, but I look forward to finding out!

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



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





Words of Friendship



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 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.

We are currently in the midst of 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

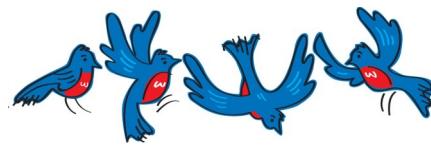
Sundays, June 14 – July 26
Online Morning Worship
GoToFriendship.org

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
June 21
June 28
July 5
July 12
July 19
July 26

Albert Camus
Lillian Smith
Dietrich Bonhoeffer
Jonathan Edwards
Malala
Robin Williams
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.



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 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 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.



Session Notes

Submitted by Leanne Vaeth

- Session adopted revisions to its protection policy for youth and vulnerable individuals so that it conforms to insurance carrier requirements. Quotes for increased coverage to reflect industry recommended standards are being requested.
- Session approved a request from a family to temporarily park a small RV near the church office. The agreement allows a frontline healthcare worker who is moving to the area to locate the RV in the church parking lot or ballfield on weekdays from mid-July to mid-August.
- The Boy Scouts held its first in-person meeting on church property.. The troop also held an overnight camping trip following agreed upon practices for gatherings. The troop performed community service by cleaning up space behind the preschool playground fence and washing all the picnic tables on the porch.
- A technology grant from the NEGA Presbytery was received to cover the cost of a camera to record services and other events posted on Friendship's website and Facebook page.



Words of Friendship



The Forum @ Friendship

Our July Forum @ Friendship evening program is coming soon!:

"Remaining Faithful and Thriving in Unusual Times: Christian Wisdom from the Middle Ages for Today" on Thursday, July 16, from 7:00 to 8:30 PM on Zoom, with special guest Carl McColman! We hope to have a great response for this second 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



THE FORUM @ FRIENDSHIP PRESENTS

Remaining Faithful, and Thriving, in Unusual Times: Christian Wisdom from the Middle Ages for Today

Between the COVID-19 pandemic, economic uncertainty, and bitterly divisive politics, things seem both chaotic and uncertain. Trying to remain faithful and positive can be challenging, to say the least. But the Body of Christ has survived difficult times before — like the 14th century, the age of peasant uprisings, perpetual war, and the bubonic plague! We have much to learn from one of the most optimistic and encouraging Christian voices of that time: Julian of Norwich, the first woman to write a book in the English language. The topic of her book was the limitless love of God. Known for proclaiming "All shall be well," Julian's wisdom is more relevant than ever. Join us while we learn about this remarkable "foremother" of our faith, and consider practical ways to apply her spiritual teaching to life today.



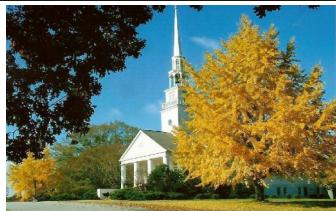
**THURSDAY, JULY 16, from 7:00 to 8:30 PM
A Zoom Presentation - Free and open to the public.**

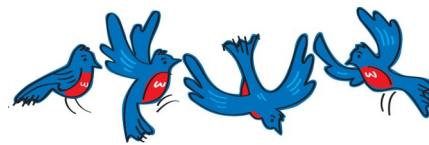
Email the host to register to be placed on the Zoom invitation list:
PastorTom@GoToFriendship.org



Our presenter, **Carl McColman**, is a Christian blogger, podcaster and author based in Stone Mountain. He regularly teaches in the Lifelong Learning program at Columbia Seminary and has led retreats at monasteries, churches, and retreat centers nationwide (although these days most of his work is online). Carl's books include *Unteachable Lessons*, *Befriending Silence*, and *Answering the Contemplative Call*.

**Friendship Presbyterian Church
8531 Macon Highway
Athens, Georgia 30606
(706) 543-6077**





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

Praying for You

Jane Towles
Rosemary Salter
Rhenn Priep
Elizabeth Broomfield
Grace Hawn
Laurelyn Glick
Brian Muise
Lydia Hood (daughter of Marks and Jane Towles)
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)



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.

*Words of Friendship*

Preschool News

By: Susanne Hayes



Ms. Adrienne's 5 Day 3 year old class met at the Botanical Gardens for some safe, social distancing fun outdoors.

Boy did these friends miss each other! Friendship Preschool is working hard on our Return to School Protocol for the Fall.

Our goal at this time, is to return to In-Person learning





Scouting at Friendship

By: Scoutmaster Paul Matthews

TROOP NEWS



The week of June 28 to July 3, we have 11 Scouts and 5 adults at Camp Rainey Mountain in Clayton, GA, attending summer camp for the week. CRM has made a number of modifications to their operating procedures this summer, including requiring COVID tests for staff and campers, reducing the number of class “periods” to allow more cleaning time, and shifting around the schedule to wrap up on Friday instead of Saturday for more transition/cleanup. They also canceled the first three weeks of program, so we will be only the second week of operation. Our Scouts are still looking forward to it, and are signed up for merit badges such as Welding, Swimming, Theater, Insect Study, Environmental Science, Rifle, Paddleboarding, and more!

We also “eased in” to face to face activities during June, with two in-person troop meetings (alternating with Zoom meetings every other week), outdoors at Friendship. Despite rain during both Monday night meetings, it was still great to have a chance to see our Scouts outside of through a computer monitor. We also did a one-night camping overnight in the field by the troop shed, with three Scouts and three adults. Despite Friday evening rain, we held a flag-retirement ceremony down at the fire ring that night, and on Saturday also moved some detritus from the rear of the preschool playscape plus washing and cleaning all the outdoor picnic tables in the inner courtyard area of the church. Plus, we had some excellent meals, and our Scouts got to work on some individualized advancement that works better in person, like axe-sharpening, campsite selection and poison plant identification.

At our meetings this month (Zoom and in person), Scouts have been working on Citizenship in the Nation merit badge and, appropriately, Public Health. On the service project front, Garrett Anderson completed his Eagle Scout project at Camp Twin Lakes, installing a fire pit and benches and refurbishing fencing; Nick Wheeler completed his Eagle project at Friendship (erosion control in the front slope); and two of our Scouts are considering other project possibilities for the church and preschool for later this summer.

The Troop is planning to take part in the Council’s “aquatics weekend” at the end of July, at Scoutland Camp in Gainesville. We hope participating Scouts will be working on water-based merit badges such as motorboating, sailing, canoeing, and more! In August, we will conduct our annual program planning and determine our upcoming monthly camping trips as well as, we hope, an adventure trip for summer 2021!

The Pack held a “drive through” advancement ceremony to provide the Cub Scouts their recognition items for their ranks and badges, and several adults from the Pack are helping to run a Cub Scout Day Camp in early July.

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



Monday night's outdoor troop meeting.

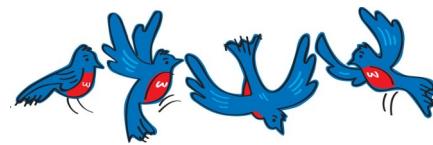

Words of Friendship


Giving in June				
	Week of June 7	Week of June 14	Week of June 21	Week of June 28
General Giving	\$2104.13	\$2353.97	\$1005.00	\$600.00

Friendship Presbyterian Church	
Year-To-Date Through May 2020	
Selected Assets and Liabilities	
Cash in Bank -- General Fund	\$48,943.24
Cash in Bank --Restricted Fund	<u>12,983.91</u>
Total Cash in Bank	\$61,927.15
Restricted Educational Funds	\$12,197.43
Savings -- New Covenant Securities	\$47,465.76
Income Statement Summary for May 2020	
Receipts from Congregation	\$11,605.80
Dye House Rent	
Support from Preschool	2.960.75
All Other Income	<u>2.70</u>
Total Receipts	<u>\$14,569.25</u>
Administration Expenses	\$3,599.43
Personnel Expenses	11,060.89
Membership Development & Care Expenses	0.00
Discipleship/CE	0.00
Mission/Bldg & Grounds Expenses	260.39
Worship Expenses	<u>0.00</u>
Total Operating Expenses	<u>\$14,920.71</u>
Net Income / (Deficit)	(\$351.46)



Words of Friendship



JULY 2020

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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
5 9:30 AM Sunday Morning Coffee & Fellowship - via ZOOM 11:00 AM Worship Service-ONLINE	6 <i>Courtney Bennett</i> 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 149	7 9:00 AM Open Sanctuary - by appointment only 10:30 AM Adult Bible Study - via ZOOM	8 <i>John Ivy</i>	9	10 Church Office Closed	11
12 9:30 AM Sunday Morning Coffee & Fellowship - via ZOOM 11:00 AM Worship Service-ONLINE	13 <i>Jason Adams</i> <i>Judy Hibbs</i> 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 149	14 9:00 AM Open Sanctuary - by appointment only 10:30 AM Adult Bible Study - via ZOOM	15	16 7:00 PM Forum @ Friendship - via ZOOM - "Remaining Faithful, and Thriving, in Unusual Times: Christian Wisdom from the Middle Ages for Today"	17 Church Office Closed	18
19 9:30 AM Sunday Morning Coffee & Fellowship - via ZOOM 11:00 AM Worship Service-ONLINE 12:00 PM Stated Session Meeting via ZOOM	20 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 149	21 9:00 AM Open Sanctuary - by appointment only 10:30 AM Adult Bible Study - via ZOOM	22	23	24 Church Office Closed	25 <i>Don Roberts</i>
26 9:30 AM Sunday Morning Coffee & Fellowship - via ZOOM 11:00 AM Worship Service-ONLINE	27 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 149	28 <i>Leanne Vaeth</i> 9:00 AM Open Sanctuary - by appointment only 10:30 AM Adult Bible Study - via ZOOM	29	30 <i>Beverly Davis</i>	31 Church Office Closed	1 <i>Rhenn Priep</i>



Please submit news for August's Newsletter to the church office no later than **Sunday, July 26, 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.

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