



FRIENDSHIP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

small church | BIG MISSION

April 2021


From
The
Pastor

When I was first ordained at the tender young age of 25, I served as an Associate Pastor in a Presbyterian church in New Jersey. My senior pastor's name was George Chorba. I learned much from him, though in my youth, I didn't recognize how much until later.

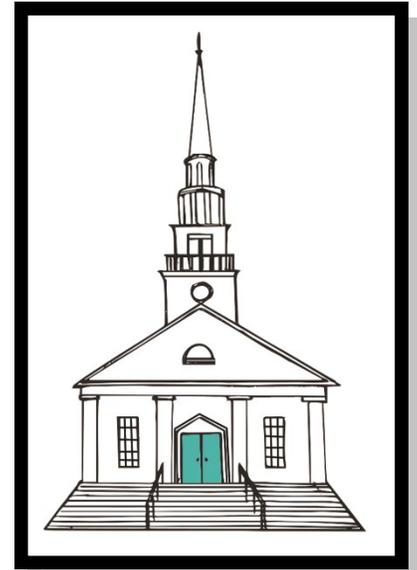
One thing that left a permanent mark on me was the way he did baptisms – the words he said to the baby as he was holding it right after the sprinkling of the water. He would look into its eyes and say something like this: “Little one, it was for you that Jesus Christ came into this world. It was for you that he was born in a humble stable. It was for you that he grew up and taught, for you he healed and forgave. It was for you that he was betrayed, and suffered, and died. And it was for you that he rose again in glory. And right now, you know nothing of this story, but we the people of God in this place have promised to teach it to you, so that in time, it may one day become the Great Story of your life.”

This story is a story that culminates in the events of Holy Week, Good Friday, and Easter. It's a story of how the great Mystery “which moves the sun and the other stars” was encountered and known in a human life. It's a story we tell over and over – of one who healed the sick, reached out to outcasts, sought out the lost ... of how he took it to the end and stretched out his arms upon a cross and suffered the depths of God-forsakenness in death.

And it's the story we tell of how this death, somehow, was not the end – for the women, and Peter, and all those scared and broken-hearted disciples discovered something that they would never have dared to dream. As they came together in support of one another, as they broke bread together in remembrance, they experienced the presence of their beloved friend among them still, empowering them to move forward and to live *in* him and *for* him, with passion and courage to the end of their days. They came to *know* in themselves that the Love they had known and in which they lived is a Love which conquers Time and Death. They discovered that their own stories, full of real joys and real sufferings, had been taken up into this Greater Story – finding their fulfillment, their completion, there.

It is the great joy of my life to share this journey with you as we live into this Great Story together. Doing this has been made harder by the events of the last year, but we are coming through it stronger and more committed than ever. **It is therefore with great joy that I share the news that the Session has set Sunday, May 23 ... Pentecost Sunday ... as the day that we hope to return to in-person worship in the Sanctuary. We will naturally still observe the safety protocols we have all become used to (masks, social distancing, etc.), but we will gather together – in person.**

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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



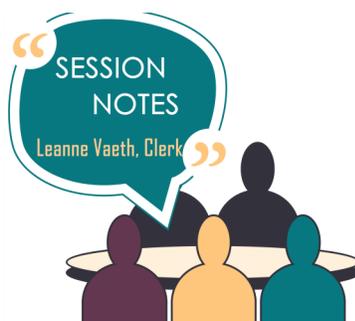


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Please note that we will continue to offer online worship every Sunday even after returning to the Sanctuary. This is a *permanent* change in how we do ministry, originally forced on us by COVID, but it's a change for the better! So know that if you are not yet comfortable with re-gathering in person, the online services will remain!

May the blessings of this Easter season be with you and yours always.

Tom Buchanan
Pastor



- Session recommended reopening for in person services on May 23, 2021. Services will continue to be recorded and made available online. During the Pentecost service on May 23rd, it is anticipated that the confirmation class participants will have completed their eight week course of study and may be present to formally join the church.
- Session considered requests to use the Sanctuary from Troop 149 for Court of Honor ceremonies and the preschool for graduation ceremonies. The requests were approved with the stipulation that safety protocols be followed. The protocol requires: 1) Use of the Sanctuary is limited to 50 people. 2) Social distancing is practiced with every other pew remaining empty (use of the choir seating area is allowed), 3) Families sit together to allow for proper distancing between groups, 4) Masks must be worn, 5) Guests must not socialize after ceremonies inside the Sanctuary and should not congregate at the entrance when entering and exiting.
- Session plans to meet in person for a half day visioning retreat on May 8th.
- The Property Committee arranged for the removal of two trees that were impinging upon the kitchen side of the building and the gravel road at the back entrance.



- Lisa Buchanan
- Frances Wilson
- Libby Rice
- Rosemary Salter
- Rhenn Priep
- Elizabeth Broomfield
- Tommy Severson (neighbor of Maurice Snook-in hospice care)
- Desmond Goergen (great grandson of Bev Davis)
- Jennifer Mitchell




Worship continues each Sunday – completely online! ***If you are on our church e-mail list, you will now receive an email in your inbox early on Sunday morning with a direct link to the worship service!*** Or, if you wish, you can still simply go to our web site GoToFriendship.org and scroll down for the graphic link to it. 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 ... and you'll be added to the Zoom invitation lists each week.




Midweek Devotional

Join us on the church Facebook page each Wednesday at 12 noon ... www.Facebook.com/FriendshipPresbyterianChurch or just link to Facebook from our web site GoToFriendship.org ... for a live-streamed Midweek Devotional, with scripture, encouragement, and prayer. If you miss it live, you can always catch it later by going to the Facebook page. ***Please note that you do NOT need to have a Facebook account to view the Midweek Devotion.***



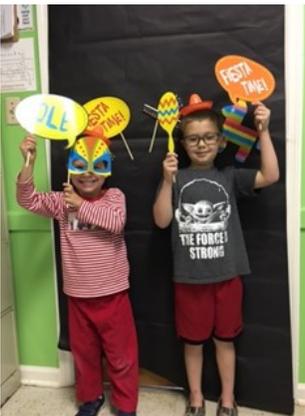
CARE GROUPS

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 or by phone, 404-729-2144.



PRESCHOOL NEWS
by: Susanne Hayes, Director



March has come and gone at the preschool.

Our wonderful Teachers continue to make Friendship a much-desired, sought after Preschool in the area. We are blessed to have so many loyal, attentive, dedicated teachers. Not only do they love what they do, they love our school and our students. This dedication is something that comes naturally to our staff. They were meant to be teachers! A kind word goes a long way, so if you ever see one of our amazing Friendship Teachers out and about in the community, share with them your appreciation!

The end of this month marks 138 Days of In-Person learning.



Scouting at Friendship

By: Scoutmaster Paul Matthews

At the start of March, Troop 149 held its annual chicken barbecue fundraiser at Harris Shoals; while smaller than usual, it still provided our Scouts the opportunity to earn funds to help cover their Scouting costs, and provided some tasty chicken meals for customers! And, in place of overnight camping, 14 Scouts learned about safe handling and shooting of 20- and 12-gauge shotguns with our instructors at a day activity at the Athens Rifle Club, including skeet shooting. Over half the Scouts completed the Shotgun Shooting merit badge, and all of them reported sore shoulders!

Also in March, several Scouts took part in a mile-long compass course (a First Class rank requirement), and all have been working diligently to finish up merit badges and rank advancement, in time for the semi-annual Troop Court of Honor, which was held on March 29th, outside at the amphitheater area. 21 rank advancements and 79 merit badges were recognized—great work! In addition to troop weekly meetings that featured Automotive Maintenance, Citizenship in the World, and Sustainability merit badges, plus pioneering and cooking, Scouts also took part in mostly-virtual “Advance-a-Rama” merit badges offered by our District. And Ethan Smith completed his district Eagle Board of Review to officially complete that rank; Thomas Barber has completed all requirements as well and will go through his district Board next month.



Shotgun Shooting



NOHS service project

Our Scouts have been working on community service as well. Teddy V. completed his Eagle Scout service project, leading a large group in installing path pavers at North Oconee High School, and Garrett B. organized a mulching and planter “upgrade” for Advantage Behavioral Health. Other Scouts are lining up additional projects this spring. Additionally, the Order of the Arrow (Scouting’s camping/service honor society) held an attendance-limited induction weekend for Ordeal candidates; one of our Scouts who was elected last year (when no events were held) was inducted in March, and we hope to have others go through a similar event in May.

Coming up in April, we are excited to celebrate Eagle Scout Nick Wheeler’s accomplishment with a Court of Honor for him. We also have an upcoming trip to the Georgia coast, for a



Deep Sea Fishing weekend this month. Wilderness Survival, an opportunity for Scouts to build their own shelters, cook without utensils, and demonstrate their ability to be “off the grid” and work together in teams for a weekend, will take place at the end of April/beginning of May (weather permitting!). Three Scouts are registered for this summer’s National Youth Leadership Training week offered through the Council, and of course we are looking forward to a June Yellowstone trip, and to our week of Scout camp at Camp Rainey Mountain in early July!

The Cub Scout Pack has been continuing to have some activities, including advancement and outdoor meetings as well as Pack and District “Pinewood Derby” races. They are planning their “Blue and Gold” awards ceremony for mid-May, at Harris Shoals, as well as a camping weekend at Hard Labor Creek in early May.

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



Giving in March				
	Week of Mar 7	Week of Mar 14	Week of Mar 21	Week of Mar 28
General Giving	\$12,152.00	\$2,377.00	\$1,554.00	\$50.00

Friendship Presbyterian Church	
February 28, 2021	
Selected Assets and Liabilities	
Cash in Bank -- General Fund	\$39,186.47
Cash in Bank --Restricted Fund	<u>13,191.07</u>
Total Cash in Bank	\$52,377.54
Savings -- Corporate Money Market	\$50,018.49
Savings -- New Covenant Securities	\$56,143.69
Restricted Educational Funds	\$6,372.62
Income Statement Summary—February 2021	
Receipts from Congregation	\$5,909.80
Dye House Rent	874.00
Support from Preschool	5,960.75
All Other Income	<u>17.23</u>
Total Receipts	<u>\$12,761.78</u>
Administration Expenses	\$5,268.06
Personnel Expenses	12,507.63
Membership Development & Care Expenses	0.00
Discipleship/CE	0.00
Mission/Bldg & Grounds Expenses	150.00
Worship Expenses	<u>0.00</u>
Total Operating Expenses	<u>\$17,925.69</u>
Net Income / (Deficit)	(\$5,163.91)



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!



APRIL 2021

Names in red-birthdays
Names in green-anniversaries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28  PALM SUNDAY 9:30 AM Sunday Morning Coffee & Fellowship - via ZOOM 11:00 AM Worship Service- ONLINE	29 <i>Richard & Evelyn Montgomery</i> 6:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 149- Court of Honor	30 10:00 AM Preschool Chapel 10:30 AM Adult Bible Study - via ZOOM	31 10:00 AM Preschool Chapel 12:00 PM Midweek Devotion (live- streamed)	1  MAUNDY THURSDAY	2  GOOD FRIDAY Church Office Closed Preschool Spring Break <i>Shirley Harris</i>	3
4  EASTER SUNDAY 9:30 AM Sunday Morning Coffee & Fellowship - via ZOOM 11:00 AM Worship Service- ONLINE	5 Church Office Closed Preschool Spring Break 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 149	6 Preschool Spring Break 10:30 AM Adult Bible Study - via ZOOM	7 Preschool Spring Break 12:00 PM Midweek Devotion (live- streamed)	8 Preschool Spring Break	9 Church Office Closed Preschool Spring Break	10 <i>Elizabeth Broomfield</i>
11 <i>Libby Rice</i> 9:30 AM Sunday Morning Coffee & Fellowship - via ZOOM 11:00 AM Worship Service- ONLINE	12 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 149	13 10:00 AM Preschool Chapel 10:30 AM Adult Bible Study - via ZOOM	14 10:00 AM Preschool Chapel 12:00 PM Midweek Devotion (live- streamed)	15 6:00 PM Den Meeting 7:00 PM Pack Meeting	16 Church Office Closed	17
18 <i>Charlie Newcomer</i> 9:30 AM Sunday Morning Coffee & Fellowship - via ZOOM 11:00 AM Worship Service- ONLINE 12:00 PM Stated Session Meeting via ZOOM	19 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 149	20 10:00 AM Preschool Chapel 10:30 AM Adult Bible Study - via ZOOM	21 10:00 AM Preschool Chapel 12:00 PM Midweek Devotion (live- streamed)	22	23 Church Office Closed	24 Wedding of Brannon and Rebecca
25 9:30 AM Sunday Morning Coffee & Fellowship - via ZOOM 11:00 AM Worship Service- ONLINE	26 <i>Nancy Graham</i> 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 149	27 10:00 AM Preschool Chapel 10:30 AM Adult Bible Study - via ZOOM	28 10:00 AM Preschool Chapel 12:00 PM Midweek Devotion (live- streamed)	29	30 Church Office Closed <i>David Ivy Jane McGahee</i>	1

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

Sunday, April 25, 2021.

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