



# FRIENDSHIP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*small church | BIG MISSION*



## March 2021

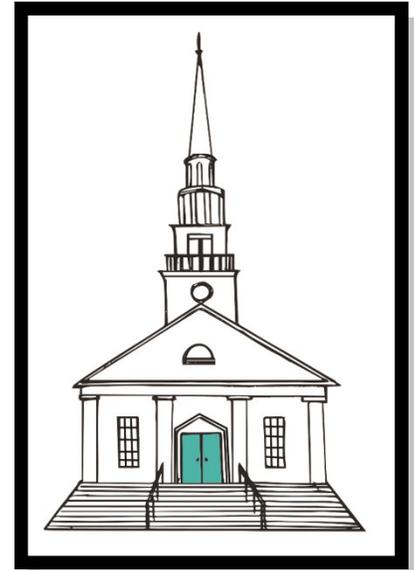
*The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the moneychangers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the moneychangers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place!" (John 2:13-17, NRSV)*

Have any of you started your Spring cleaning yet? I know that we at the Buchanan ranch have some to do, with a lot of it involving the boxes that have cluttered our garage for some time now. They contain some junk that just needs to be thrown out, but other things that we need and thought we lost, or *would* want but don't even remember we have! Until all that gets done, we'll never know exactly what we have hidden away, and of course, our garage can't go back to being a proper garage.

We at Friendship are now well into the journey of the Lenten season – a season of self-examination, certainly, but also of *community* self-examination, a time in which we "clean house" ... do some Spring cleaning ... in preparation for a divinely prepared renewal, rebirth, and transformation. It's a time in which we get rid of some junk in our lives and in our life together that we're better off without. But it's also a time to re-discover gifts ... to recover callings ... we have long neglected and forgotten.

I think it's telling that one of our gospel lectionary passages for this season is John's account of Jesus entering the Temple in Jerusalem and overturning the tables of the moneychangers. Now there's some "cleaning house"! Kicking out the junk and straightening things up, but also *liberating* the place to be what it was always meant to be – not a marketplace racket consumed with its own survival, but *God's* house ... a house of prayer for all nations ... a space from which the Spirit of life and love and freedom sweeps out into the world.

*(continued from 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



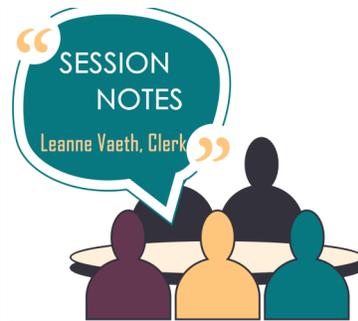


*(continued from page 1)*

As I ponder this provocative story, I'm haunted by a question that I can't let go of: What would it mean for us as the Church today to follow our Lord's lead into sacred space and "clean house" in our own time? What would it look like for us to do as Jesus did and overturn some tables and unsettle the status quo, all in the name of a God who has no patience for pious distractions or institutional games ... for anything less than justice?

As we journey on to Holy Week and to the scandal that is the Cross, may we hold these questions before us until we're ready to embrace their challenge. May we refuse easy – but false – ways out. And as we fight this good fight, may we also always know ourselves to be held in the loving mercies of God.

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

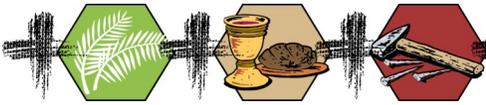


The Annual Congregational Meeting was held on February 28, 2021. Treasurer Judy Hibbs presented the Session approved budget for 2021 followed by the Pastor's Terms of Call which were then approved by the Congregation. Generous gifts from members continue to assist the church in addressing an anticipated shortfall in the 2021 budget.

Following the Annual Congregational Meeting, Session members met and discussed, at length, a variety of options for reopening for in-person services when members have been vaccinated and can safely return. Additional discussions are planned for upcoming Session meetings to assess options for outdoor services in the spring or small gatherings in the Sanctuary.

Session approved a confirmation class starting in the spring and discussed a number of new ideas for expanding Friendship's mission focus in 2021.

Session members selected ministry area assignments for the upcoming year and Pastor Tom reported on conversations held with representatives of Presbyterian Village. Pastor Tom also expressed his sincere appreciation for the love and support he and Lisa received during the past month. The many cards and texts have brought them happiness.




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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.Facebook.com/FriendshipPresbyterianChurch) or just link to Facebook from our web site [GoToFriendship.org](http://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.***

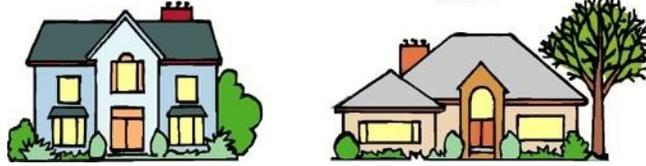
The Sanctuary is available - by appointment for 30 minute increments - on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday between 9:00 AM and 1:30 PM for prayer and meditation. Please contact Donna if you would like to make such an appointment.



Pray in the Sanctuary



## CHANGE OF ADDRESS



Donna McGinty and Nancy Graham have recently moved.  
Their new address will be:

**1460 Redbud Way  
Athens 30606**

(new address will not be recognized by the USPS until after **March 15**)



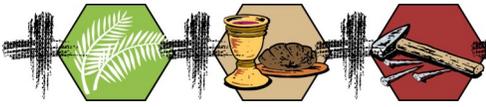
- Lisa Buchanan
- Frances Wilson
- Libby Rice
- Rosemary Salter
- Rhenn Priep
- Elizabeth Broomfield
- Tommy Severson (neighbor of Maurice Snook-in hospice care)
- Desmond Goergen (great grandson of Bev Davis)
- Jennifer Mitchell

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



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.



# Easter Story

## Word Search

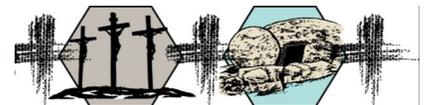
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 N C N C A M I E O C T F Y S C S J  
 E K E R K O S E W N E I D A L S U  
 P U T O N I R N W R P Y A O E A D  
 L E Z W R W M D R Q I T Y F O P A  
 B S M N D I S C I P L E S C X G S

APOSTLES  
 BETRAYAL  
 CAVE  
 CHURCH  
 CROSS  
 CROWN  
 CRUCIFIXION  
 DISCIPLES  
 FAITH  
 GOOD FRIDAY

JESUS CHRIST  
 JUDAS  
 LAMB  
 LAST SUPPER  
 LENT  
 MARY  
 MIRACLE  
 PASSOVER  
 PENANCE  
 PENTECOST

PRAYER  
 REDEMPTION  
 REJOICE  
 RESURRECTION  
 RISEN  
 SAVIOR  
 SON  
 THORNS  
 TOMB



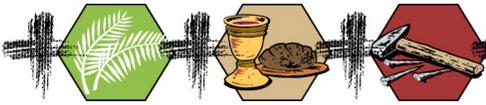


**PRESCHOOL NEWS**  
by: Susanne Hayes, Director

IT HAS BEEN ANOTHER  
WONDERFUL MONTH AT  
FRIENDSHIP PRESCHOOL



**Happy 100 Days to US!**



## **Scouting at Friendship**

**By: Scoutmaster Paul Matthews**

In early February, Troop 149 camped out at Watson Mill Bridge State Park and held a somewhat rainy trip, with opportunities for fishing (but not catching!), plant identification, cooking, and other Scout skills. And several Scouts have been working on service projects; Thomas B. led an Eagle Scout project at Sandy Creek Nature Center, improving trails and putting in pavers around the Eve Carson memorial bench there. Jack D. led Scouts in improving the Stancil courtyard appearance and minimizing erosion/splash issues.

At the start of February, our Scouts elected new youth leaders, who are planning and running the meetings. This month, our focus has included first aid skills, Weather merit badge, and Citizenship in the World merit badge, which has been helped by having a couple of families in the troop who are visiting from China. In March, the troop will work on Shotgun Shooting merit badge at the Athens Rifle Club, and we are also gearing up for the Chicken BBQ fundraiser, the sale of coupon cards, and preparing for a troop Court of Honor (hopefully outdoors!) at the end of the month.

Longer-term, we are looking forward to Deep Sea Fishing in April, Wilderness Survival in May, and the summer adventure to Yellowstone in June. We also are getting Scouts signed up for our week at Camp Rainey Mountain in early July.

The Cub Scout Pack has been continuing to have some activities, including advancement and outdoor meetings. Several 5<sup>th</sup> graders have completed their Arrow of Light and are crossing into several local Scout troops this month, as well.

Ethan Smith will go through his district Eagle Board of Review in mid March, after finishing all his remaining merit badges and requirements in February. We hope at some point to be able to have Courts of Honor for our most recent Eagles!

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



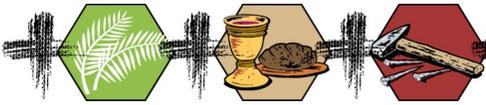
Giving in February				
	Week of Feb 7	Week of Feb 14	Week of Feb 21	Week of Feb 28
General Giving	\$1,624.00	\$50.00	\$2,237.00	\$723.80

Friendship Presbyterian Church	
January 31, 2021	
Selected Assets and Liabilities	
Cash in Bank -- General Fund	\$42,870.72
Cash in Bank --Restricted Fund	<u>13,550.51</u>
Total Cash in Bank	\$56,421.23
Savings -- Corporate Money Market	\$50,008.90
Savings -- New Covenant Securities	\$55,385.39
Restricted Educational Funds	\$13,101.90
Income Statement Summary—January 2021	
Receipts from Congregation	\$76,089.80
Dye House Rent	874.00
Support from Preschool	2,960.75
All Other Income	<u>6.15</u>
Total Receipts	<u>\$79,930.70</u>
Administration Expenses	\$4,406.95
Personnel Expenses	12,507.64
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>\$17,064.59</u>
Net Income / (Deficit)	\$62,866.11



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!



# MARCH 2021

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>28</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Sunday Morning Coffee & Fellowship - via ZOOM <b>11:00 AM</b> Worship Service-ONLINE <b>12:00 PM</b> Annual Congregational Meeting <b>12:15 PM</b> Stated Session Meeting via ZOOM	<b>1</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Boy Scout Troop 149	<b>2</b> <i>David &amp; Amy Ivy</i> <b>10:00 AM</b> Preschool Chapel <b>10:30 AM</b> Adult Bible Study - via ZOOM	<b>3</b> <i>Peter Vaeth</i> <b>8:00 AM</b> Preschool Staff Meeting <b>10:00 AM</b> Preschool Chapel <b>12:00 PM</b> Midweek Devotion (live-streamed)	<b>4</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> Den Meeting	<b>5</b> <i>Doris Walker</i> <i>Pattie Ivy</i> Church Office Closed	<b>6</b> <i>Richard Williams</i>
<b>7</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Sunday Morning Coffee & Fellowship - via ZOOM <b>11:00 AM</b> Worship Service-ONLINE	<b>8</b> Preschool Closed <b>7:00 PM</b> Boy Scout Troop 149	<b>9</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Preschool Chapel <b>10:30 AM</b> Adult Bible Study - via ZOOM	<b>10</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Preschool Chapel <b>12:00 PM</b> Midweek Devotion (live-streamed)	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Church Office Closed <b>6:00 PM</b> Pinewood Derby (Scouts)	<b>13</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> Pinewood Derby (Scouts)
<b>14</b> <i>Elizabeth Graham</i> <b>9:30 AM</b> Sunday Morning Coffee & Fellowship - via ZOOM <b>11:00 AM</b> Worship Service-ONLINE	<b>15</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Boy Scout Troop 149	<b>16</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Preschool Chapel <b>10:30 AM</b> Adult Bible Study - via ZOOM	<b>17</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Preschool Chapel <b>12:00 PM</b> Midweek Devotion (live-streamed)	<b>18</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> Friendship Room Reserved <b>6:00 PM</b> Den Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> Pack Meeting	<b>19</b> Church Office Closed	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> <i>Suzanne White</i> <b>9:30 AM</b> Sunday Morning Coffee & Fellowship - via ZOOM <b>11:00 AM</b> Worship Service-ONLINE <b>12:00 PM</b> Stated Session Meeting via ZOOM	<b>22</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Boy Scout Troop 149	<b>23</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Preschool Chapel <b>10:30 AM</b> Adult Bible Study - via ZOOM	<b>24</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Preschool Chapel <b>12:00 PM</b> Midweek Devotion (live-streamed)	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <i>Roberta Schacher</i> Church Office Closed	<b>27</b> <i>Nan McMurry</i>
<b>28</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Sunday Morning Coffee & Fellowship - via ZOOM <b>11:00 AM</b> Worship Service-ONLINE	<b>29</b> <i>Richard &amp; Evelyn Montgomery</i> <b>6:00 PM</b> Boy Scout Troop 149-Court of Honor	<b>30</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Preschool Chapel <b>10:30 AM</b> Adult Bible Study - via ZOOM	<b>31</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Preschool Chapel <b>12:00 PM</b> Midweek Devotion (live-streamed)	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> <i>Shirley Harris</i> Church Office Closed	<b>3</b>



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

**Sunday, March 28, 2021.**

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

All submissions are subject to  
editing.



*“I am the  
resurrection  
and the  
life.”*

John 11:25

#### **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