

# FRIENDSHIP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

small church | BIG MISSION

## May 2021



As we enter this month of May, with the prospect of re-opening for in-person Sunday morning worship in the Sanctuary on Pentecost Sunday (May 23), I'm feeling a bit reflective ... looking back on that week, almost 14 months ago now, in which our world changed, almost overnight.

Here's a bit from that letter we sent out on March 13, 2020, suspending all in-person church activities and pretty confident at the time that we'd be back together by April ...

*It is for this reason that the Session and I, on the expert advice of public health officials and with the input of leaders in our Presbytery and the wider denomination, have decided to suspend in-person worship and group activities at the church effective immediately, until the end of March. This decision and time frame are consistent with similar suspensions of activity at our Preschool, our local school systems, and the University of Georgia. At the end of the month, we will re-assess where things stand and hopefully be open for public worship together again on Sunday, April 5 ...*

We really had no idea, did we?

*Fourteen months later, here we are – having seen things we never thought we'd see and having learned things that we never imagined we'd learn. And in all of it, the words of the scriptures have held true: That “God IS our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble” (Psalm 46:1) and that *nothing* – “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).*

But this divine work of presence and provision has not left us standing still. We are different today than we were before, and life going forward will be different, both in the church and outside it. That's why the Session and I will be meeting soon for a “Life after COVID” Visioning Retreat – an opportunity to ask ourselves some important questions,

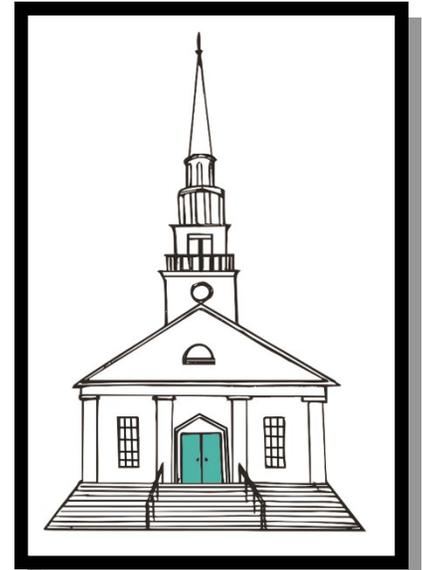
What have we learned over the past year? Where have we seen God at work?

What is the new lay of the land? What are the challenges before us?

What is God leading us to do now?

What does it mean to be faithful in a post-COVID world?

(continued on page 2)



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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

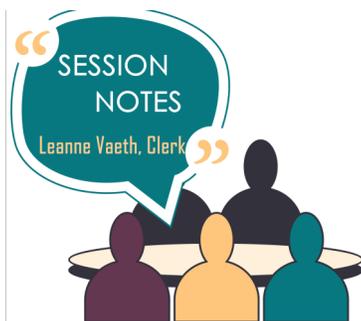




*(continued from page 1)*

I would humbly ask for your prayers for us as we seek to be attentive to the movement of the Holy Spirit. In uncertain times, it is natural to be anxious and to act out of a place of anxiety, but God is calling us to something far better than that. We are here, in this time and place, for a divine purpose that is even now unfolding before us. May we all, with hope and courage, live into that purpose as the grand adventure that it is!

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



- Session approved an annual budget for the Preschool with a projected enrollment of 104 students. Session also approved repairs and enhancements to the flooring and restrooms in the Preschool building with a not to exceed cost ceiling. Quotes for the work are being collected for review.
- Use of the Sanctuary for an in-person Preschool graduation ceremony was approved for May 14<sup>th</sup>. A plan was adopted to hold multiple ceremonies during the day and limit the number of attendees to maximize safety.
- Confirmation classes will conclude with a presentation on May 23<sup>rd</sup> when Friendship reopens for in-person worship services. High school and college graduates also will be recognized during the service. Online worship services will continue to be offered.
- Wendy Arthur and David Ivy were nominated to serve as our Commissioners at the meeting of the Northeast Georgia Presbytery on May 18<sup>th</sup>. They will attend via Zoom along with Pastor Tom Buchanan.
- A number of building maintenance issues are being addressed including possible replacement of the septic system, repairs to protect the stained glass window in the Sanctuary, and options for removing the gas stove in the kitchen due to lack of use and required repairs to the gas line.
- A meet and greet with residents of Presbyterian Village is scheduled for June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Pastor Buchanan, Kevin Kelly, and David Ivy will attend on behalf of Friendship.



- Lisa Buchanan
- Frances Wilson
- Libby Rice
- Rosemary Salter
- Rhenn Priep
- Elizabeth Broomfield
- Tommy Severson (long time next door neighbor to Maurice Snook-in Hospice Care)
- Jennifer Mitchell



Please feel free to stop by Friendship on Saturday, May 1st from 1:00-3:00 PM to help clean up the atrium area and Stancil Garden. We'll spend two hours removing leaves, cutting back shrubs, and sprucing up the flower beds. Bring some work gloves, water, and a rake or hand tools.

Contact Leanne Vaeth if you have any questions: 706-949-9745.



Worship continues each Sunday 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.



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.***



# Words of Friendship



## Celebrating our Graduates



### Monica Graham

Daughter of Bill Graham and Barbara Remmers

Monica is graduating from Clarke Central High School and heading off to Georgia Tech where she plans to study engineering and math.



### Wynn Ivy

Daughter of David and Amy Ivy

Wynn is majoring in Human Development and Family Science at the University of Georgia and will graduate Cum Laude this spring. Her studies included hands-on experience and research in the topics of adolescence and geriatric human development. She is also a member of Phi Sigma Pi, an honor fraternity on campus.



## Skylar Kirkpatrick

Granddaughter of Bev Davis

Until three years ago Skylar had never lived in the states. Her dad was a foreign service officer and she has lived in Azerbaijan, Denmark, Moldova, as well as both Berlin and Munich in Germany. She is graduating from Westminster Christian School where she has played basketball, volleyball and soccer. She will be attending the University of Augusta preparing to be a social worker.



## Danielle Norris

Daughter of John and Karen Norris

Danielle will be graduating from Athens Academy May 23, 2021. At Athens Academy she participated in Band (tuba), Drama Club and volunteered for the Leukemia Lymphoma Society. She continues to be a liturgist for Friendship Presbyterian Church. She has participated in competitive gymnastics for over ten years in Pennsylvania and Georgia. Danielle has accepted a position in the Honors College at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona, Florida to study Aerospace Physiology. She received merit and Air Force ROTC scholarships and is looking forward to starting there in the Fall of 2021.



## Valerie Vaeth

Daughter of Peter and Leanne Vaeth

Valerie is graduating from North Oconee High School and plans to pursue a Nursing major while attending the University of North Georgia's Dahlonega campus in the fall. Valerie completed the Healthcare Science Pathway and is a Certified Patient Care Technician. She currently interns at Athens Dermatology Group and is employed at Subway. Additionally, she has competed in Track & Field and Cross Country throughout high school and received a "Most Improved" award for her performance in Cross County. She has also received three EPOCS awards from her teachers and this spring received a State Excellence Award for her academic and extracurricular activities.



# Words of Friendship



150 Days of in person learning complete! We truly have the most amazing teachers and parents at Friendship. We were a united front that stayed together and kept the betterment of our students, staff and families at the forefront of our focus throughout the year. I am truly proud of this accomplishment! I would like to thank everyone who made this school year a tremendous success.

***Mary Ann Murray, Sharlee Ritz, Mimi Vinson, Catherine Thomas, Carole Bolden, Amberly Kenny, Christina Williamson, Marcia Keffer, Courtney Strickland, Amanda Painter, Adrienne Wrinkle, Sharon Townsend, Kristi Rivas, Salinda Rogers, Caroline Hargrove, Chris Burr, and Donna Riggsby.***

Their love and dedication to Friendship Preschool and our mission was unwavering! We opened our doors during a pandemic and provided a stable, loving, engaging environment for our children to thrive. It was not always easy, but we are coming away from this year stronger, with a full heart and resolute faith; confident that we made the correct decision and that the Lord's protection was with us every step of the way.





## Scouting at Friendship

By: Scoutmaster Paul Matthews

During April, Troop 149 has enjoyed the longer daylight and weather to take on several service projects and outdoor activities. Unfortunately, the weather didn't cooperate for our planned trip to the coast for a weekend of Deep Sea Fishing, so in consultation with the boat captains and participants, we have rescheduled that trip for early June (when we'll also hopefully be able to get a little earlier start on that drive). We are also looking forward to our Wilderness Survival adventure at the start of May, when our Scouts will test their skills in shelter building, fire starting, and teamwork to make it through a weekend with few technological resources and to complete the Wilderness Survival merit badge.

At troop meetings, the Scouts have been working on survival skills such as signaling, flint-and-steel use, and utensil-less cooking. They've also focused on merit badges including Citizenship in the Community and Automotive Maintenance. Current and upcoming service projects have included mulching and flower planting at Advantage Behavioral Health, beautification at another church, and litter cleanup on our Troop's adopted mile on Norton Road. Things are also gearing up for this summer, with our planned trip to Yellowstone National Park in June, and our weeklong summer camp in residence at Camp Rainey Mountain in Clayton.



Firestarting with flint and steel



Nick Wheeler Eagle ceremony

We enjoyed having an Eagle Scout court of honor in April to recognize Nick Wheeler for that accomplishment, and expect to have another Scout, Thomas Barber, complete his district Board of Review during May as well. As mentioned, we recognized all our Scouts at the end of March with our troop court of honor, presenting their merit badges, ranks, and special awards earned over the past six months.

Several of our troop members are also helping the Cub Scout Pack as "den chiefs"; the Pack has had outdoor meetings and is gearing up for a "Blue and Gold" recognition of member accomplishments and a family camping trip before heading into summer.

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



<b>Giving in April</b>				
	Week of April 4	Week of April 11	Week of April 18	Week of April 25
General Giving	\$320.00	\$6610.00	\$375.00	\$100.00

<b>Friendship Presbyterian Church</b>	
<b>March 31, 2021</b>	
Selected Assets and Liabilities	
Cash in Bank -- General Fund	\$34,403.59
Cash in Bank --Restricted Fund	<u>13,191.07</u>
Total Cash in Bank	\$47,594.66
Savings -- Corporate Money Market	
	\$60,030.11
Savings -- New Covenant Securities	
	\$57,229.77
Restricted Educational Funds	
	\$6,495.90
Income Statement Summary—March 2021	
Receipts from Congregation	\$16,185.00
Dye House Rent	961.40
Support from Preschool	4,460.75
All Other Income	<u>94.89</u>
Total Receipts	<u>\$21,702.04</u>
Administration Expenses	
	\$2,666.69
Personnel Expenses	
	12,657.62
Membership Development & Care Expenses	
	0.00
Discipleship/CE	
	149.00
Mission/Bldg & Grounds Expenses	
	1,675.00
Worship Expenses	
	<u>0.00</u>
Total Operating Expenses	<u>\$17,148.31</u>
Net Income / (Deficit)	
	\$4,553.73



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!



# MAY 2021

Names in red-birthdays  
Names in green-anniversaries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>25</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Sunday Morning Coffee & Fellowship - via ZOOM <b>11:00 AM</b> Worship Service-ONLINE	<b>26</b> <i>Nancy Graham</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> Boy Scout Troop 149	<b>27</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Preschool Chapel <b>10:30 AM</b> Adult Bible Study - via ZOOM	<b>28</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Preschool Chapel <b>12:00 PM</b> Midweek Devotion (live-streamed)	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Church Office Closed <i>David Ivy</i> <i>Jane McGahee</i>	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Sunday Morning Coffee & Fellowship - via ZOOM <b>11:00 AM</b> Worship Service-ONLINE	<b>3</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Boy Scout Troop 149 <b>7:00 PM</b> Recorder Ensemble Rehearsal	<b>4</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Preschool Chapel <b>10:30 AM</b> Adult Bible Study - via ZOOM	<b>5</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Preschool Chapel <b>12:00 PM</b> Midweek Devotion (live-streamed)	<b>6</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> Den Meeting	<b>7</b> Church Office Closed	<b>8</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Session Visioning Retreat
<b>9</b>  <b>9:30 AM</b> Sunday Morning Coffee & Fellowship - via ZOOM <b>11:00 AM</b> Worship Service-ONLINE	<b>10</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Boy Scout Troop 149 <b>7:00 PM</b> Recorder Ensemble Rehearsal	<b>11</b> <b>10:30 AM</b> Adult Bible Study - via ZOOM	<b>12</b> <b>12:00 PM</b> Midweek Devotion (live-streamed)	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  <b>9:30/11:00 AM</b> Pre-K Graduations Church Office Closed	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> <i>Anne Lee</i> <b>9:30 AM</b> Sunday Morning Coffee & Fellowship - via ZOOM <b>11:00 AM</b> Worship Service-ONLINE	<b>17</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Boy Scout Troop 149 <b>7:00 PM</b> Recorder Ensemble Rehearsal	<b>18</b> <i>Kevin Kelly &amp; Nan McMurray</i> <i>Olivia Bennett</i> <b>10:30 AM</b> Adult Bible Study - via ZOOM	<b>19</b> <b>12:00 PM</b> Midweek Devotion (live-streamed)	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Church Office Closed	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>  <b>11:00 AM</b> Worship Service	<b>24</b> <i>Maggie Ivy</i> <b>7:00 PM</b> Boy Scout Troop 149 <b>7:00 PM</b> Recorder Ensemble Rehearsal	<b>25</b> <b>10:30 AM</b> Adult Bible Study - via ZOOM	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Church Office Closed	<b>29</b> <i>Bobby &amp; Kathie Shinholser</i> <i>Julie Hill</i>
<b>30</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> Worship Service	<b>31</b>  <b>7:00 PM</b> Boy Scout Troop 149 <b>7:00 PM</b> Recorder Ensemble Rehearsal	<b>1</b> <b>10:30 AM</b> Adult Bible Study - via ZOOM	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Church Office Closed	<b>5</b>



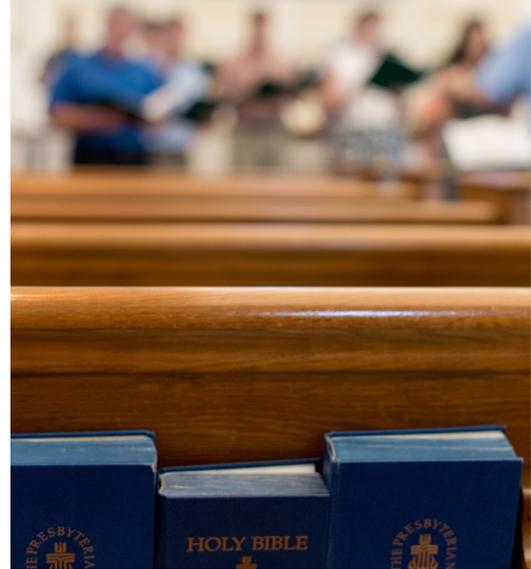
Please submit news for June's Newsletter to the church office no later than

**Sunday, May 30, 2021.**

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

All submissions are subject to editing.

*Returning to in-person Worship  
May 23, 2021*



#### **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  
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