



FRIENDSHIP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

small church | BIG MISSION

June 2021



*From the
Pastor*

*Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old.
I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?*

(Isaiah 43:18-19, NRSV)

So often in the scriptures we are encouraged to look back and *remember* – to remember what God has done in the past. In the midst of a present without many signs of hope, looking back and remembering can be a much-needed source of strength.

But there is a danger – and the people whose story is told in the Bible knew this all too well – that we may get so focused on the past that we *live* there, and box God in, and lose all sense of the Spirit's new possibilities in the Now.

In the scripture for this Sunday, the prophet Isaiah declares that God is not limited to acting in the same old ways to accomplish new acts of salvation, and that God's people will again be joyfully surprised at the power of God. And the same is true of *us*, here and now, if only we are attentive. And so, Isaiah encourages us: Pay attention in the present ... Notice the present ... Live in the present ... Read the present with eyes of faith. Use your memory to see the present differently. Remember what God has done so that you can see what God is now doing. "Behold I am doing a new thing," now, here, before your eyes. It's *happening* ... It's *breaking out!* Can't you see?

Over the last 15 months, we have faced a lot together. We have borne together one of the great challenges of our generation and have faced the challenges of *being* a church in the midst of it. We have come this far by faith, and by faith we journey on. We don't know the future, but we have seen enough in the past to know that God is full of surprises in the present, and therefore we walk with eyes and ears open and hands ready to serve.

(continued on page 2)



8531 Macon Hwy
Athens, GA 30606
706-543-6077 (office)
706-543-6199 (fax)
www.gotofriendship.org

Sunday School @ 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Worship @ 11:00 a.m.

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





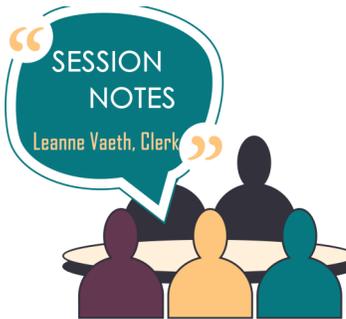
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Whatever God wills to do among us, whatever the direction of the winds of the Spirit, of this I am certain: that something is happening in our midst that is new, and right, and life-giving. New ideas, new energy, new conversations, new partnerships are in the works, all pregnant with possibilities of birthing new ministries – supported by faithful prayers and bathed from start to finish in hope.

What this “new thing” will look like, I cannot say for sure. In fact, I would hardly dare to guess, as I am certain that our imaginations aren’t big enough to contain what God can do. I just believe with all my heart that in days to come, and we are all older and we look back, that we will hold these days in our hearts with great affection, because they were days in which we let go enough to know a strength not our own.

I am, as ever, grateful to be on the journey with you!

Tom Buchanan
Pastor



- Session reviewed its approved protocol for in-person worship starting on May 23, 2021. A request for the Baptism of Monica Graham during the worship services on May 23rd was approved. A request to hold an outdoor reception after the service on May 23rd also was approved. Members of the congregation will gather in the Stencil Garden to receive its graduating seniors and members of the confirmation class.
- After discussion, Session recommended that the offering of Communion during in-person services be delayed during May and June while we assess alternatives that allow for touch-free practices or the distribution of pre-packaged materials.
- As part of its visioning work, Session members are discussing how Covid has impacted our lives as individuals, a community, and a congregation over the past fourteen months. The intent is to identify positive ways our lives have changed that can be helpful in strengthening our connections with one another and learning how the negative impacts can be more fully responded to in meeting the needs of our individual members and the larger community that surrounds us.
- Opportunities for sharing more information about our preschool with our congregation and recognizing the contributions of our preschool staff are being developed.
- More formal methods for welcoming visitors to our church services are being discussed. Investments in new technology to allow for livestreaming of worship services are being explored with the goal of simplifying the process and enabling others to share in the efforts of delivering program offerings online.
- Preschool flooring renovations will be undertaken after summer camp sessions conclude. Estimates for repairs to church property are being gathered for Session review and prioritization.
- Session approved a request from the Scout troop to allow for the optional use of masks during outdoor activities. The option will be at the discretion of adult advisors and Scouts will continue to practice social distancing. Masks are still required when inside church buildings.



	Liturgist	Offering Counters
June 6	Kathie Shinholser	Marks Towles
June 13	Wallace Salter	Karen Norris
June 20	Teddy Vaeth	Alan White
June 27	John Norris	Wallace Salter



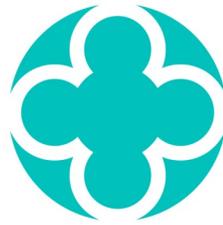
We are gathering in-person and online each Sunday! ***If you are on our church e-mail list, you will receive an email in your inbox early on Sunday morning with a direct link to the worship service!*** Or, if you wish, you can still simply go to our web site GoToFriendship.org and scroll down for the 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 in-person and via ZOOM for fellowship and conversation on the scriptures being read in worship for the day! Tuesday morning Bible study is on Zoom each week at 10:30 AM. If you would like to join via ZOOM, please send an email to 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 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.***



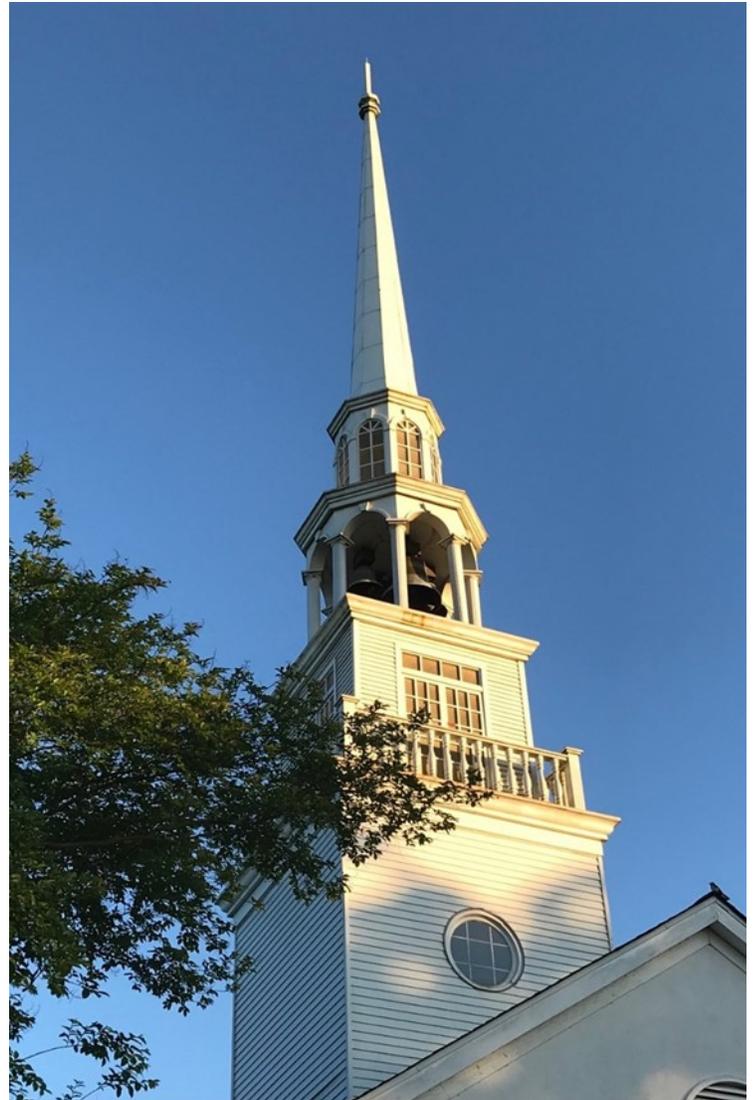
FRIENDSHIP
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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The 4th Annual
 “SUMMER SAINTS”
 SERMON SERIES
 @ Friendship Presbyterian
 Church

Sundays, June 20 – August 8
 In-Person AND Online 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 20	Soren Kierkegaard
June 27	Sojourner Truth
July 4	John Witherspoon
July 11	Emily Dickinson
July 18	William Henry Sheppard
July 25	Harper Lee
August 1	Charles Darwin
August 8	Katherine Johnson



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 8531 Macon Highway, Athens, Georgia 30606
 (706) 543-6077 GoToFriendship.org



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

It was a wonderful day celebrating our Pre-K graduates. The sun was shining and the excitement for what the morning had in store was felt by all. This year we asked our students to change so many things and they responded simply by trusting us. They listened, they adapted, they worked hard and we never missed a beat. Their innocence was a wonderful breath of fresh air and a reminder of why it is that we do what we do. Our students are worth all of this and more! We were so blessed to have had this time with them.





Scouting at Friendship

By: Scoutmaster Paul Matthews

Troop 149 is looking forward to a full summer of Scouting! In early June, we will be heading to the Georgia coast for our (rescheduled) deep-sea fishing trip, camping at Jekyll. We also have our annual swim check prior, to get ready for summer activities, including our annual week at Camp Rainey Mountain during the first week of July. Additionally, June brings a weeklong trip to Yellowstone and related areas for a group of our Scouts and adults. They plan to visit national parks, museums, and a rodeo, and to see several areas in Wyoming and Montana. And, at the start of May several of our Scouts are taking part in the Council's National Youth Leadership Training program, a week-long advanced leadership experience at Scoutland in Gainesville.

During May, our Scouts led numerous service projects, including a litter clean-up on Norton Road (our "adopt-a-mile"); landscaping at the Korean Presbyterian Church; and invasive species removal at Rock and Shoals. Additionally, at the start of the month, a small group of dedicated Scouts completed the Wilderness Survival merit badge during a "survival skills" weekend, in which they started fires without matches (using flint/steel, batteries/steel wool, and solar energy!), learned signaling techniques, and built shelters.



Scouts at the Norton Road cleanup



Grounds cleanup at Korean Presbyterian Church



Removing invasive species at Rock & Shoals



Wilderness Survival - firestarting



Wilderness Survival - lashing project



Wilderness Survival - shelter

We've been able to transition many of our troop meetings back to outdoors, working on merit badges including Collections, Citizenship in the Community, and Nature. On Memorial Day, the Scouts planned a "game night" with several team sports such as kickball and ultimate Frisbee. On the advancement front, Thomas Barber successfully completed his district Eagle Scout Board of Review in May, and Teddy Vaeth has finished all his requirements, and will take part in a July Board of Review since he will be taking part in Philmont trail crew experience in June in New Mexico.

While the Cub Scout Pack is taking a break during June, they held a family camping trip at a nearby state park in May, and recognized their Cub Scouts' accomplishments and ranks at a "Blue and Gold" recognition ceremony.

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



Giving in May					
	Week of May 2	Week of May 9	Week of May 16	Week of May 23	Week of May 30
Attendance	X	X	X	48	21
General Giving	\$4,222.00	\$2,157.00	\$3,604.80	\$3,005.00	\$2,047.00

Friendship Presbyterian Church	
April 30, 2021	
Selected Assets and Liabilities	
Cash in Bank -- General Fund	\$29,716.54
Cash in Bank --Restricted Fund	<u>13,441.07</u>
Total Cash in Bank	\$43,157.61
Savings -- Corporate Money Market	\$60,041.26
Savings -- New Covenant Securities	\$59,118.64
Restricted Educational Funds	\$6,710.27
Income Statement Summary—April 2021	
Receipts from Congregation	\$7,526.60
Dye House Rent	874.00
Support from Preschool	4,460.75
All Other Income	<u>18.48</u>
Total Receipts	<u>\$12,879.83</u>
Administration Expenses	\$4,648.11
Personnel Expenses	12,507.61
Membership Development & Care Expenses	0.00
Discipleship/CE	0.00
Mission/Bldg & Grounds Expenses	400.00
Worship Expenses	<u>0.00</u>
Total Operating Expenses	<u>\$17,555.72</u>
Net Income / (Deficit)	(\$4,675.89)



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!



JUNE 2021

Names in red-birthdays
Names in green-anniversaries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 9:30 AM Sunday Morning Coffee & Fellowship 11:00 AM Worship Service	31  Memorial Day 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 149 7:00 PM Recorder Ensemble Rehearsal	1 10:30 AM Adult Bible Study in-person and ZOOM	2 12:00 PM Midweek Devotion (live-streamed)	3	4 Church Office Closed	5
6 9:30 AM Sunday Morning Coffee & Fellowship 11:00 AM Worship Service	7 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 149 7:00 PM Recorder Ensemble Rehearsal	8 10:30 AM Adult Bible Study in-person and ZOOM	9 12:00 PM Midweek Devotion (live-streamed)	10 7:00 PM Order of the Arrow Meeting	11 Church Office Closed	12 <i>Teddy Vaeth</i> <i>Valerie Vaeth</i>
13 <i>Dave Robinson</i> 9:30 AM Sunday Morning Coffee & Fellowship 11:00 AM Worship Service	14 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 149 7:00 PM Recorder Ensemble Rehearsal	15 10:30 AM Adult Bible Study in-person and ZOOM	16 12:00 PM Midweek Devotion (live-streamed)	17	18 Church Office Closed	19
20  9:30 AM Sunday Morning Coffee & Fellowship 11:00 AM Worship Service	21 <i>Rebecca Hill</i> 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 149 7:00 PM Recorder Ensemble Rehearsal	22 10:30 AM Adult Bible Study in-person and ZOOM	23 12:00 PM Midweek Devotion (live-streamed)	24	25 Church Office Closed	26
27 9:30 AM Sunday Morning Coffee & Fellowship 11:00 AM Worship Service 12:15 PM Stated Session Meeting	28 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 149 7:00 PM Recorder Ensemble Rehearsal	29 <i>Ian Roberts</i> 10:30 AM Adult Bible Study in-person and ZOOM	30 <i>Marks Towles</i> 12:00 PM Midweek Devotion (live-streamed)	1	2 Church Office Closed	3



SUMMER HOURS for CHURCH OFFICE

Monday - Thursday

9:00a.m - noon



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

Sunday, June 27, 2021.

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

All submissions are subject to editing.

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

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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