



# FRIENDSHIP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*small church | BIG MISSION*



*From the  
Pastor*

March 2024

We are now three weeks into the season of Lent – a season in which we confront our deep humanity, our mortality, our imperfections. It can be a painful season, for these are things we spend much of our time trying to avoid or deny. But through it all, we are invited into an ever-greater awareness of God and of our need for God.

No modern American poet has expressed the truth that the beauty of the life we enjoy is a *tragic* beauty better than Mary Oliver. As she puts it in one memorable line, “O to love what is lovely and will not last!” Wonders we cherish may come but then never come again. Flowers bloom and then they fade. Life emerges, it flourishes, and then it passes. And so, to love our lives and this world wholly and to see their beauty must entail a deep acceptance of our mortality:

*To live in this world  
you must be able  
to do three things:  
to love what is mortal;  
to hold it  
against your bones knowing  
your own life depends on it;  
and, when the time comes to let it go,  
to let it go.  
(from “In Blackwater Woods”)*

If we could express the spirit of this in the poetry of Christian liturgy, we might say, as we do at the beginning of Lent, “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

Now this is terrible news if we are implacably committed to our own egos, to our own self-created walls and defenses which would demand to be guarded at all costs. But what if we could learn to let go of all that? What if we could, little by little, learn how to let go of the need to be important or to be in control or to prove anything? Freed from illusions of our own making ... freed to live in the now ... freed from self-concern long enough to see something beautiful in something simple ... freed to live into that simplicity with attention, appreciation, and gratitude? Would that not be Paradise? Would that not be the Kingdom of Heaven?

*(continued on page 2)*



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706-543-6077 (office)  
706-543-6199 (fax)  
[www.gotofriendship.org](http://www.gotofriendship.org)

Sunday School @ 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday Worship @ 11:00 a.m.

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





## Words of Friendship



(continued from page 1)

This is the true meaning of the journey of Lent – a time in which we face the sober reality of our lives, that we may re-discover a *freedom to live*. This is the journey to which the Spirit beckons us. So, come, let us continue walking together.

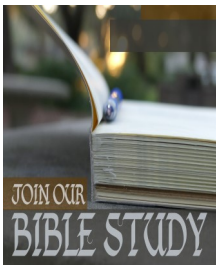
Grateful to be on the Journey with You,  
Pastor Tom

### Adult Sunday School

On Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM, we gather for fellowship and conversation on the scriptures being read in worship for the day!



### Tuesday Bible Study at 10:00 am Each Week On ZOOM!



The Tuesday Bible Study at Friendship Church is studying ... THE BOOK OF JEREMIAH. We seek to understand the scriptures in their historical context while also seeking to discern in them God's Word to us today. Join us each week at 10:00 AM on Zoom for great discussion, fresh insights, and warm fellowship!

To get on the Zoom invitation list for each week or if you have any questions, just email Pastor Tom Buchanan - [PastorTom@GoToFriendship.org](mailto:PastorTom@GoToFriendship.org)



### For ACTS in March: Spaghetti Supper!

Submitted by Caren Snook and Wendy



Spaghetti is good any time of year, but especially on a cool spring night, so Friendship will be collecting 1 lb. boxes of spaghetti and average, normal size jars or cans of spaghetti sauce during March. The picture shows a can of Hunt's pasta sauce. It contains 24 oz. and comes in several varieties. The good thing about canned sauce is that cans don't break. However, jars of spaghetti sauce are also acceptable.

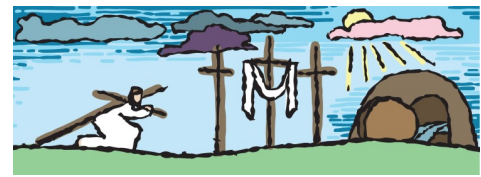
This past Sunday, the following food items were donated for ACTS: 7 bags of rice, 11 bags of dry beans, 3 bags of egg noodles, 1 bag of ramen noodles, 1 container of oatmeal and 2 cans of tomatoes. Many thanks to all who take the time to buy food for ACTS and then bring it to church.

Tuesday, March 26 will be Friendship's next opportunity to volunteer at ACTS. Everyone who has volunteered so far has found it to be an enjoyable and rewarding experience. Two or 3 volunteers will be needed that day.





## Words of Friendship



Community Good Friday Service  
 Oconee Presbyterian Church  
 March 29, 2024, at 7:00pm  
 Six Presbyterian communities will be  
 participating.  
 Friendship Family is invited.

Sunday, March 31st  
 Worship begins at 11:00am  
**Friendship Presbyterian Church**



	Liturgist	Offering Counters	Communion Servers
Mar 3	Kevin Kelly	Kathie Shinholser	Henry & Judy Hibbs
Mar 10	John Norris	Marks Towles	
Mar 17	Wendy Arthur	Ted Walker	
Mar 24	Alice Lund Smith	Karen Norris	
Mar 31	Nan McMurry	Alan White	Wendy Arthur, Ted Walker



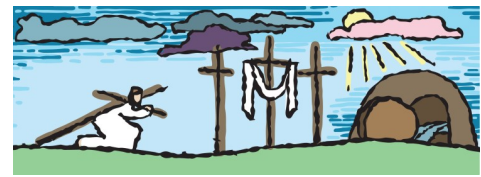


## *Words of Friendship*



Sweetheart Breakfast with Dad had a tremendous turn out this year.  
We are so blessed to have the best parents & students at  
Friendship Preschool.  
We spent three days showing our love and appreciation for all of our  
wonderful Dads!





## Scouting at Friendship

By: Scoutmaster Paul Matthews

Troop 149, along with Pack 149 and Troop 5149, enjoyed celebrating Scout Sunday with the congregation in February! The Troop has just welcomed 13 5th graders who crossed over from the Pack this month, as well as several other Scouts transferring from other units, so we have a lot going on at our weekly Monday night meetings. New Scouts are working on the Scout Rank requirements, while others have been doing Programming merit badge, first aid skills, Sustainability, and Cooking, along with finishing up individual advancement goals to be recognized at the troop's Court of Honor on March 25th.

In early February Troop 149 did a one-day snow-ski trip to North Carolina, and mid-month held a weekend campout at nearby Lake Oglethorpe, with a focus on the Cooking Merit Badge. The Scouts learned more about menu planning, food shopping, nutrition and health, and also practiced different cooking techniques for meal preparation. The female Troop 5149 did a camping trip at a nearby state park, with plenty of opportunities for rank advancement, and both groups were hosted for a half-day compass course the same weekend as the cooking trip.

Pack 149 is also aiming for a weekend trip to the Riverbanks Zoo & Garden in Columbia, SC in mid March. That same weekend, Troop 149 Scouts and adults will be off the Georgia coast camping on Sapelo Island, with planned activities including learning about the island's history, fishing, and special tours from the Dept. of Natural Resources. The Troop is also preparing for the district Advance-a-Rama (March), district "Highland Games" themed Camporee (April), a shooting sports merit badge event at Camp Rainey Mountain (May), whitewater kayaking (May), and GPS/geocaching (June). And of course we have our two-week summer adventure to Kandersteg International Scout Centre in Switzerland, and our regular week of summer camp at Camp Rainey Mountain. Lots to look forward to!

In February, Victor Piercy successfully completed his District Eagle Board of Review and became our troop's newest Eagle Scout! We look forward to celebrating at his court of honor in April. Several other Scouts are actively moving forward on service projects, including two planned at Friendship.



2024 Vitor Eagle BOR



Raylan reading at Scout Sunday



Food Shopping



Making burritos



Biscuits, eggs and bacon

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





## Words of Friendship



Giving in February				
	Feb 4	Feb 11	Feb 18	Feb 25
Attendance	27	65	31	34
General Giving	\$3,390.00	\$12,976.24	\$832.00	\$204.00

Friendship Presbyterian Church	
Jan 31, 2024	
Selected Assets and Liabilities	
Cash in Bank -- General Fund	\$11,868.09
Cash in Bank --Restricted Fund	<u>14,048.38</u>
Total Cash in Bank	\$25,916.47
Savings -- Corporate Money Market	
Savings -- New Covenant Securities	\$49,877.60
Restricted Educational Funds	
Income Statement Summary—January 2024	
Receipts from Congregation	\$9,304.00
Dye House Rent	874.00
Support from Preschool	5133.00
All Other Income	<u>18.30</u>
Total Receipts	<u>\$15,329.30</u>
Administration Expenses	
Personnel Expenses	14,428.09
Membership Development & Care Expenses	0.00
Discipleship/CE	0.00
Worship Expenses	0.00
Bldg & Grounds Expenses	<u>750.92</u>
Total Operating Expenses	<u>\$18,277.98</u>
Net Income / (Deficit)	
(\$2,948.68)	

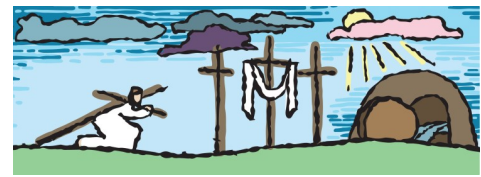


Giving  
to the  
Church

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!



# Words of Friendship



## March

Names in red-birthdays

Names in green-anniversaries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>25</b> 9:30am Adult Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service 1:00pm Sanctuary Reserved 7:00pm BSA Troop 5149 for Girls	<b>26</b> 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop 149 7:00pm Recorder Ensemble Rehearsal	<b>27</b> 9:30am Preschool Chapel 10:00am Adult Bible Study via ZOOM 7:30pm Athens Chamber Singers Rehearsal	<b>28</b> 7:00pm FPC Choir Rehearsal	<b>29</b>	<b>1</b> Church Office Closed	<b>2</b> <i>David &amp; Amy Ivy</i>
<b>3</b> <i>Peter Vaeth</i> 9:30am Adult Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service 7:00pm BSA Troop 5149 for Girls	<b>4</b> 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop 149 7:00pm Recorder Ensemble Rehearsal	<b>5</b> <i>Doris Walker</i> <i>Pattie Ivy</i> 9:30am Preschool Chapel 10:00am Adult Bible Study via ZOOM 7:30pm Athens Chamber Singers Rehearsal	<b>6</b> 7:00pm FPC Choir Rehearsal	<b>7</b> 6:00pm Den Meeting	<b>8</b> Church Office Closed	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b>  9:30am Adult Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service 12:00pm Second Sunday Fellowship 7:00pm BSA Troop 5149 for Girls	<b>11</b> Preschool/Church Office Closed 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop 149 7:00pm Recorder Ensemble Rehearsal	<b>12</b> 9:30am Preschool Chapel 10:00am Adult Bible Study via ZOOM 7:30pm Athens Chamber Singers Rehearsal	<b>13</b> 7:00pm FPC Choir Rehearsal	<b>14</b> <i>Elizabeth Graham</i>	<b>15</b> Church Office Closed	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 9:30am Adult Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service 7:00pm BSA Troop 5149 for Girls	<b>18</b> 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop 149 7:00pm Recorder Ensemble Rehearsal	<b>19</b> 9:30am Preschool Chapel 10:00am Adult Bible Study via ZOOM 7:30pm Athens Chamber Singers Rehearsal	<b>20</b> 7:00pm FPC Choir Rehearsal	<b>21</b> <i>Suzanne White</i> 6:00pm Den Meeting 7:00pm Pack 149	<b>22</b> Church Office Closed	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b>  9:30am Adult Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service 7:00pm BSA Troop 5149 for Girls	<b>25</b> 6:00pm Boy Scout Troop 149-Court of Honor	<b>26</b> <i>Roberta Schacher</i> 9:30am Preschool Chapel 10:00am Adult Bible Study via ZOOM 7:30pm Athens Chamber Singers Rehearsal	<b>27</b> <i>Nan McMurry</i> 7:00pm FPC Choir Rehearsal	<b>28</b> 	<b>29</b>  Church Office Closed Preschool Closed <i>Richard &amp; Evelyn Montgomery</i>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b>  9:30am Adult Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service 7:00pm BSA Troop 5149 for Girls	<b>1</b> Preschool Spring Break Church Office Closed 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop 149 7:00pm Recorder Ensemble Rehearsal	<b>2</b> Preschool Spring Break <i>Shirley Harris</i> 10:00am Adult Bible Study via ZOOM 7:30pm Athens Chamber Singers Rehearsal	<b>3</b> Preschool Spring Break Church Office Closed 7:00pm FPC Choir Rehearsal	<b>4</b> Preschool Spring Break Church Office Closed	<b>5</b> Preschool Spring Break Preschool/Church Office Closed	<b>6</b>



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

**Sunday, March 31, 2024**

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

Peter Vaeth  
Michael Arwood (Lydia Lee's nephew)  
Doris Walker  
Charles Kauderer  
Sarah Bennett  
Rhenn Priep  
Don & Shirley Harris  
Lauren Raineau - (daughter of Steve & Roberta Schacher)  
Riene Simpson (sister of Leanne Vaeth)  
Deb Williams (friend of Alice Smith)  
Libby Rice  
Robert Pittard - (friend of Dori Allen)

#### 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.

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Grace to you and peace, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Friendship Presbyterian Church  
8531 Macon Highway  
Athens, GA 30606