



FRIENDSHIP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

small church | BIG MISSION

April 2024



*From the
Pastor*

*Angels can fly because they take themselves lightly.
Never forget that the devil fell by force of gravity.
He who has the faith has the fun.*

G. K. Chesterton

Ever heard of *Holy Humor Sunday*? No? I hadn't either until about a few years ago. The idea of setting aside one Sunday each year to celebrate God's gift of laughter and joy may be fairly new to me, but it's got a long and rich history in many congregations around the world – and we're going to celebrate it on April 7! What a way to start living into the meaning of Easter faith!

Holy Humor Sunday (also known as *Laughter Sunday*, *Hilarity Sunday*, *God's Laughter Sunday*, *Bright Sunday*, or *Holy Fools Sunday*) has its roots in a number of different Christian traditions.

Churches in 15th century Bavaria used to celebrate the Sunday after Easter as *Risus Paschalis* ('God's Joke,' or 'the Easter laugh'). Priests would deliberately include amusing stories and jokes in their sermons in an attempt to make the faithful laugh. After the service, people would gather together to play practical jokes on one another and tell funny stories. It was their way of celebrating the resurrection of Christ – the supreme joke God played on Satan by raising Jesus from the dead.

The observance of *Risus Paschalis* was officially outlawed by Pope Clement X in the 17th century. Perhaps people were having too much fun.

In the Orthodox tradition, people would gather on Easter Monday to tell jokes and funny stories, and to dance and eat together.

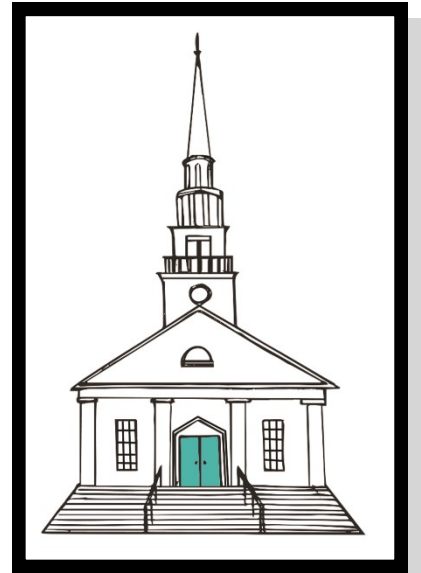
Other traditions celebrate *Laetare Sunday* (also known as 'Mothering Sunday') on the fourth Sunday in Lent. "Laetare" simply means 'rejoice,' and comes from the opening collect for that day: "Rejoice with joy, you that have been in sorrow." On this Sunday, the usual Lenten purple vestments and altar cloths are replaced by rose-colored ones instead. Flowers (not normally present during Lent) are also brought into the sanctuary.

In 1988, the Fellowship of Merry Christians began encouraging churches to resurrect some of these Christian traditions—to celebrate the grace and mercy of God through the gift of laughter and joy.

Here at Friendship, we are a people of laughter and joy, and so it's absolutely appropriate for us to pick up this mantle of praise and celebrate Holy Humor Sunday on this first week after Easter! So, join us and be prepared to have some fun!

With Great Joy,
Tom Buchanan
Pastor

*This message is edited and adapted from a piece on the Re: Worship web site –
<https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/03/laughter-sunday.html>*



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

Sunday School @ 9:30 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



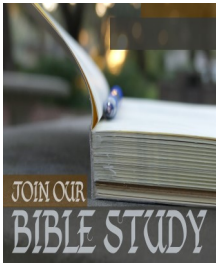


Adult Sunday School

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

ACTS NEWS

Submitted by Caren Snook



Throughout March, the following food items were donated to ACTS: 23 boxes of spaghetti, 19 cans/jars of spaghetti sauce, 2 tubes of toothpaste, 2 containers of oatmeal, 1 can each of tomato sauce and evaporated milk, and 1 package of egg noodles. Many thanks to all who contributed! Also, special thanks to those who volunteered at ACTS on Friendship's day, March 26.



April Volunteers

	Liturgist	Offering Counters
April 7	Kathie Shinholser	Kathie Shinholser
April 14	Karen Norris	Marks Towles
April 21	Lydia Lee	Ted Walker
April 28	Lisa Buchanan	Karen Norris



THE ATHENS CHAMBER SINGERS' SPRING CONCERT

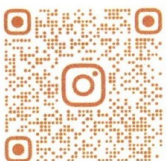


Sunday, May 5, 2024

4:00pm

Friendship Presbyterian Church
8531 Macon Highway, Athens, Ga
free admission

Instagram:



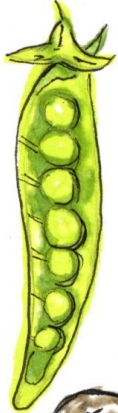
@ATHENSCHAMBERSINGERS

Website:

athenschambersingers.org



Facebook:





KITE NEWS
PRESCHOOL NEWS

by: Susanne Hayes



It was a fun-filled week at Friendship Preschool.
It may have been a shorter week for the students and staff, but we sure did pack in the Fun!
Each class enjoyed an Egg Hunt.
We are so thankful for our teacher's and parent's efforts to make these days at Friendship so memorable. We are also super grateful that the weather cooperated!

Wishing everyone a very Happy Easter!



Scouting at Friendship

By: Scoutmaster Paul Matthews

During March, Troop 149 Scouts and parents spent a long weekend on the Georgia coast at Sapelo Island. Despite the initial very rainy travel and arrival day, we enjoyed the weekend and got to spend some time touring the island, visiting the lighthouse, wading with a seine net under the supervision of a GA DNR staffer, and lots of good camping activities. At the end of April, we will be taking part in a district Camporee in Gainesville, with a “highland games” theme.

At Troop meetings, Scouts have been enjoying the longer daylight hours for activities and games. They have been working on merit badges including Sustainability, Personal Fitness, and Programming, and also got to take part in numerous badges at the district’s “Advance-a-Rama” held at UGA. At our semi-annual Court of Honor at the end of March, we recognized over a dozen rank advancements and three times that many merit badges that our Scouts had completed. During April, we are continuing with additional merit badges plus advancement opportunities on citizenship, nature, and more. Scouts have started signing up for our week of resident camp at Camp Rainey Mountain this summer, and our program selections have been confirmed for the group of us traveling to Kandersteg International Scouting Centre (KISC) in Switzerland this summer as well.

Several of our Scouts are making good progress on proposing and undertaking community service projects, including Garrett Bannevans’ project of cleanup and creating new seating for the church amphitheater area, with additional projects this month expected for erosion control at the front of the church (Sebastian Baggett), adopt-a-mile (Jackson Arledge), stair construction at the State Botanical Garden (Andrew Jones), and trail maintenance at Butterfly Dreams Farm (Martin Raybon).

Additionally, at the Troop Court of Honor, I announced that I will transition out of the Scoutmaster role this fall, upon completing 30 years in that position in August, and current Assistant Scoutmaster Rick Ormsby will take over the Scoutmaster role.

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



Sapelo beach



Sapelo around the fire



2024 Spring Court of Honor



Giving in March				
	Mar 3	Mar 10	Mar 17	Mar 24
Attendance	30	37	23	37
General Giving	\$2800.00	\$2117.00	\$315.00	\$1620.00

Friendship Presbyterian Church	
Feb 29, 2024	
Selected Assets and Liabilities	
Cash in Bank -- General Fund	\$13,761.83
Cash in Bank --Restricted Fund	<u>14,048.38</u>
Total Cash in Bank	\$27,810.21
Savings -- Corporate Money Market	
	\$49,925.41
Savings -- New Covenant Securities	
	\$64,391.00
Restricted Educational Funds	
	\$7,526.67
Income Statement Summary—February 2024	
Receipts from Congregation	\$18,622.24
Dye House Rent	
Support from Preschool	5,233.00
All Other Income	<u>59.72</u>
Total Receipts	<u>\$23,914.96</u>
Administration Expenses	
	\$7,443.11
Personnel Expenses	
	13,867.46
Membership Development & Care Expenses	
	0.00
Discipleship/CE	
	0.00
Worship Expenses	
	0.00
Bldg & Grounds Expenses	
	<u>445.84</u>
Total Operating Expenses	<u>\$21,756.41</u>
Net Income / (Deficit)	
	\$2,158.55



**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

Names in red-birthdays

Names in green-anniversaries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>31</p> <p>9:30am Adult Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service 7:00pm BSA Troop 5149 for Girls</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Church Office Closed Preschool Spring Break 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop 149 7:00pm Recorder Ensemble Rehearsal</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Church Office Closed Preschool Spring Break <i>Shirley Harris</i> 10:00am Adult Bible Study via ZOOM 7:30pm Athens Chamber Singers</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Church Office Closed Preschool Spring Break 7:00pm FPC Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Church Office Closed Preschool Spring Break</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Church Office Closed Preschool Spring Break</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7</p> <p>9:30am Adult Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service 7:00pm BSA Troop 5149 for Girls</p>	<p>8</p> <p>7:00pm Boy Scout Troop 149 7:00pm Recorder Ensemble Rehearsal</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9:30am Preschool Chapel 10:00am Adult Bible Study via ZOOM 7:30pm Athens Chamber Singers Rehearsal</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7:00pm FPC Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>11</p> <p><i>Libby Rice</i></p>	<p>12</p> <p>Church Office Closed</p>	<p>13</p> <p>4:00pm Eagle Scout Ceremony-Victory Piercy</p>
<p>14</p> <p>9:30am Adult Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service 12:00pm Second Sunday Fellowship 7:00pm BSA Troop 5149 for Girls</p>	<p>15</p> <p>7:00pm Boy Scout Troop 149 7:00pm Recorder Ensemble Rehearsal</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9:30am Preschool Chapel 10:00am Adult Bible Study via ZOOM 7:30pm Athens Chamber Singers Rehearsal</p>	<p>17</p> <p>5:30pm Stated Session Meeting-via ZOOM 7:00pm FPC Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>18</p> <p><i>Charlie Newcomer</i> 6:00pm Den Meeting 7:00pm Pack 149</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Church Office Closed</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21</p> <p>9:30am Adult Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service 7:00pm BSA Troop 5149 for Girls</p>	<p>22</p> <p>7:00pm Boy Scout Troop 149 7:00pm Recorder Ensemble Rehearsal</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9:30am Preschool Chapel 10:00am Adult Bible Study via ZOOM 7:30pm Athens Chamber Singers Rehearsal</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7:00pm FPC Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Church Office Closed <i>Nancy Graham</i></p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28</p> <p>9:30am Adult Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service 7:00pm BSA Troop 5149 for Girls</p>	<p>29</p> <p>7:00pm Boy Scout Troop 149 7:00pm Recorder Ensemble Rehearsal</p>	<p>30</p> <p><i>David Ivy</i> <i>Jane McGahee</i> 9:30am Preschool Chapel 10:00am Adult Bible Study via ZOOM 7:30pm Athens Chamber Singers Rehearsal</p>	<p>1</p> <p>7:00pm FPC Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Church Office Closed</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Blue & Gold Banquet</p>



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

Sunday, April 28, 2024

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

Michael Arwood (Lydia Lee's nephew)
Doris Walker
Charles Kauderer
Sarah Bennett
Rhenn Priep
Don & Shirley Harris
Lauren Raineau - (daughter of Steve & Roberta Schacher)
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.

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

Friendship Presbyterian Church
8531 Macon Highway
Athens, GA 30606