



FRIENDSHIP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

small church | BIG MISSION



*From the
Pastor*

February 2025

On Sunday, during the annual meeting, we spoke of different “highlights” of 2024. Lydia Lee-Jones highlighted her wedding last year at Friendship Presbyterian Church. All who attended mentioned how special it was to take part in such a significant event for a “child” of the church. As people were remembering the occasion, it was mentioned that just a few weeks earlier, Alan and Suzanne White had celebrated an anniversary. They, too, recalled being married in the church--Alan shared photos of the occasion with the choir the week of their anniversary. Very special! I got to thinking, who else might find this church, not just the facility, but also the community, as the “place” for their wedding? Suzanne and Lydia, raised in the church, saw it as the perfect place. It’s not often in this day to think, who might the church be “raising” that would see it as the “perfect” place for their wedding? Many young people, if they choose to get married, often don’t get married in “church.” That said, there are those who do. As we focus this year on ministries for children and youth, making a space for and nurturing their faith through our variety of gifts, one of the ways we could see fruit from this labor is the possibility, even if somewhat remote, that one of the children or youth whose lives are impacted by this effort this year or in future years might one day become engaged, and say to their fiancée, “I know the perfect place and community for this occasion.” The facility does make for a lovely setting for weddings, doesn’t it?

This month two occasions in particular provide opportunities to connect with children and youth. The first is this upcoming Sunday, February 2nd, for Youth Sunday. Kim Ness has been working with the youth to make for a meaningful time of worship, including messages from two seniors, Lorenzo Fischetti and Camille Attaway, youth I’ve known since they were about 6 years old! Later on February 16th, we will have the annual Scout Sunday, in which scouts will help lead worship and many of their families will be in attendance. Let us give thanks to God for the memories we share, the joys of the present we experience, and the dreams we are able to dream together.



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. Craig Topple
505-795-4890 (cell)
revtopple@gmail.com

Director of
Faith Formation & Outreach:
Kim Ness
kim.presbyterian@gmail.com

Church Administrator:
Donna Rigsby
office@gotofriendship.org



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!



Our next 2nd Sunday fellowship will be February 9. This is a perfect time to get to know one another and to just catch up on non-church things. Light snacks will be served.

We hope you will make plans to stay and fellowship on the 2nd Sunday of each month!



For Youth News click the icon or go to <https://sites.google.com/view/friendship-youth/home>



ACTS for February: Peanut Butter and Jelly



February brings to mind red hearts and sweet candy, so what better foods could we contribute to ACTS than **Jelly** and **Peanut Butter**. Strawberry jam is pink and sweet; grape jelly is purple and sweet. ACTS will be happy to receive any flavor and color of jelly/jam/preserves. It should be in a jar that holds about 18 oz., give or take a couple. Jelly can be a little pricey right now, though the store brands are fine and less expensive. Peanut butter is a nutritious food and most children love it (as do many adults)! So that is a good choice for ACTS. It should be **CREAMY peanut butter** in a 16 oz. jar.

FEBRUARY *Volunteers*

	Liturgist	Prayers of the People	Offering Counters	Communion Servers
Feb 2	YOUTH	YOUTH	Kathie Shinholser	Wendy Arthur Ted Walker
Feb 9	Wendy Arthur	Alice Lund Smith	Marks Towles	
Feb 16	Boy Scouts	Boy Scouts	Ted Walker	
Feb 23	Kevin Kelly	Kim Ness	Karen Norris	



Friendship Preschool News

By: Susanne Hayes, Director

We weren't sure if we'd ever get back into the rhythm of school after the Winter Break. While snowstorms are expected in January, having TWO in one month was certainly a surprise! As we settle into 2025, we're focused on finishing the school year strong!

January also marks a fresh start for both our current students and those who will join us in the future at Friendship. We recently hosted an Open House and began enrolling new students. Several classrooms are already full for the upcoming 2025-2026 school year, and we will continue to accept enrollments until all spots are filled.





Scouting at Friendship

By: Rick Ormsby, Scoutmaster

January has been an adventurous and productive month for **Troop 149, Pack 149,** and **Troop 5149** as we kicked off the new year with exciting activities and meaningful milestones.

We began the year wrapping up our **Christmas Tree Fundraiser**, which was a huge success. Our scouts worked hard driving to homes within a 15-mile radius of the church, collecting trees to help keep them out of the landfill. This project not only raised funds for our upcoming adventures but also supported our community and the environment.

The **Arrow of Light Webelos** from **Pack 149** visited Troop 149 at the start of the month, with **11 Cub Scouts** attending a regular Troop meeting. During their visit, they learned **flag etiquette**, worked on Scout skills, and enjoyed games with the older scouts. We're looking forward to welcoming them into the troop when they cross over from Cub Scouts in late February.

Life Scout Jackson Arledge is diligently preparing for his **Eagle Board of Review** in February. Several other scouts at the **Life rank** are making progress on their own paths to Eagle, working on service project proposals or completing paperwork. We are proud of their hard work and dedication as they reach for this significant milestone.

In mid-January, **13 scouts from Troop 149** traveled to **Homosassa, Florida** to snorkel with the **manatees** migrating into the warm springs of Florida's rivers. Even with wetsuits and hot springs, the water was a bit chilly, and rain added an extra challenge, but the scouts didn't let the weather dampen their spirits. They saw multiple manatees, including several calves, while snorkeling in water ranging from 6 to 10 feet deep. It was a truly magical experience.

Meanwhile, **Troop 5149** joined **Pack 149** on a trip to **Patriot's Point** in Charleston, SC. They explored the **USS Yorktown aircraft carrier** and the **USS Laffey destroyer**, spending the holiday weekend immersed in history. Scouts and leaders enjoyed learning about life aboard these historic ships and even got to sleep in the same bunks once used by real sailors.

We are incredibly proud of the efforts of all our scouts and grateful to **Friendship Presbyterian Church** for your ongoing support. Your encouragement enables our youth to explore, learn, and grow through Scouting. We look forward to sharing more adventures with you in the months ahead!

Scouting Adventures



Pack 149 on the USS Laffey



Pack 149 with Troop 5149 at Patriot's Point



Troop 5149 Girls



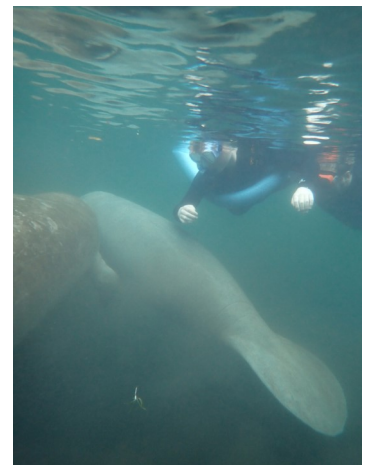
Snorkeling



Troop 149 Snorkeling



Scouts gathering Christmas trees



Swimming with Manatees

Giving in January				
	Jan 5	Jan 12	Jan 19	Jan 26
Attendance	39	44	65	45
General Giving	\$3,663.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,971.00	\$835.00

Friendship Presbyterian Church	
December 31, 2024	
Selected Assets and Liabilities	
Cash in Bank -- General Fund	\$7,092.05
Cash in Bank --Restricted Fund	<u>18,081.15</u>
Total Cash in Bank	\$25,173.20
Savings -- Corporate Money Market	\$35,886.45
Savings -- New Covenant Securities	\$71,065.42
Restricted Educational Funds	\$8,306.87
Income Statement Summary—December 2024	
Receipts from Congregation	\$12,950.74
Dye House Rent	
Support from Preschool	5,348.00
All Other Income	<u>356.59</u>
Total Receipts	<u>\$18,655.33</u>
Administration Expenses	\$2,068.99
Personnel Expenses	11,602.63
Membership Development & Care Expenses	124.94
Discipleship/CE	79.57
Worship Expenses	728.09
Bldg & Grounds Expenses	<u>365.92</u>
Total Operating Expenses	<u>\$14,970.14</u>
Net Income / (Deficit)	\$3,685.19



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!

February

Names in red-birthdays

Names in green-anniversaries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 9:30am Adult Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service 12:00pm Annual Congregational Meeting 7:00pm BSA Troop 5149 for Girls	27 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop 149 7:00pm Recorder Ensemble Rehearsal	28 7:30pm Athens Chamber Singers rehearsal	29 7:00pm FPC Choir rehearsal	30	31 Church Office Closed <i>Henry Hibbs</i> <i>Jane Towles</i> <i>Lizbet Adams</i>	1
2 <i>Betsy Lange</i> 9:30am Adult Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service - Youth 7:00pm BSA Troop 5149 for Girls	3 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop 149 7:00pm Recorder Ensemble Rehearsal	4 7:30pm Athens Chamber Singers rehearsal	5 Preschool Staff Meeting 7:00pm FPC Choir rehearsal	6 6:00pm Den Meeting	7 Church Office Closed	8 <i>Maurice Snook</i>
9 9:30am Adult Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service 12:00pm 2nd Sunday Fellowship 7:00pm BSA Troop 5149 for Girls	10 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop 149 7:00pm Recorder Ensemble Rehearsal	11 7:30pm Athens Chamber Singers rehearsal	12 <i>Dori Allen</i> 7:00pm FPC Choir rehearsal	13 <i>Ted Walker</i>	14 Church Office Closed Preschool Break	15
16 <i>Henry & Judy Hibbs</i> 9:30am Adult Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service - Scout Sunday 7:00pm BSA Troop 5149 for Girls	17 Preschool Break 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop 149 7:00pm Recorder Ensemble Rehearsal	18 7:30pm Athens Chamber Singers rehearsal	19 7:00pm FPC Choir rehearsal	20 <i>Steve Schacher</i> 7:00pm Pack Meeting	21 Church Office Closed	22
23 9:30am Adult Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service 7:00pm BSA Troop 5149 for Girls	24 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop 149 7:00pm Recorder Ensemble Rehearsal	25 7:30pm Athens Chamber Singers rehearsal	26 7:00pm FPC Choir rehearsal	27	28 Church Office Closed	1



PRAYER LIST

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

Sunday, Feb 23, 2025

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

Clare Newcomer
A.J. (great grandson of Richard & Evelyn Montgomery)
Charles Kauderer
Sarah Bennett
Rhenn Prip
Don & Shirley Harris
Nina Sanders and her daughter Emily Rea
Lauren Raineau (daughter of Steve & Roberta Schacher)
Michael Arwood (Lydia Lee's nephew)
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.

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