



FRIENDSHIP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

small church | BIG MISSION

March 2025

What a wonderful start it has been for me, my family, and the youth here at Friendship! I continue to be grateful to the members of this church who have welcomed us with open arms. And to all of the youth and parents for your willingness to try something new as we walk on this faith journey together. In many ways, it feels like we have been doing this for a long time. Friendship feels like home. But in others, I find myself still trying to get my feet under me. I wonder if you've felt similarly. Life flies by so quickly that we often don't have the time (aka take or make the time) to be fully present in the moment. We'll wake up this coming Saturday morning and realize that it's already March?! Then we'll blink and summer will be here. Life just continues to pass us by...

This is where the Season of Lent appears. A gift. A reminder. A gentle nudge to pause and reconnect with our loving God as we prepare for the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus at Easter. For 40 Days we are invited to pray, to fast, to turn inward. We can escape from the life of this world and into the life of the Spirit. Whether you are giving something up or taking something on, do so with the intention of growing closer to God. Choose a spiritual discipline that disrupts your everyday life, symbolizing your entry into the wilderness with Jesus.

As we walk into the wilderness together, we do so with the comfort of knowing Easter is just around the corner. Alleluia!

Kim Ness



GUEST PREACHER

Sunday, March 2. We welcome as guest preacher the Rev. Will Norman of The Table (formerly The Presbyterian Student Center). Will has brought passion and entrepreneurial spirit to the vital ministry among college students at UGA.

Historically, Friendship has been an important partner in that ministry. Let's rekindle that tradition.

Come hear Will preach and learn more about what's going on at The Table. Child Care will be provided.



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

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

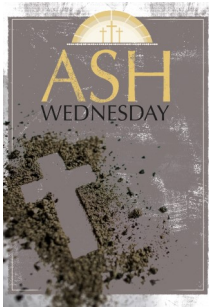
Church Administrator:
Donna Rigsby
office@gotofriendship.org





Adult Sunday School

On Sunday mornings at 9:45 AM, we gather for fellowship and conversation on the scriptures being read in worship for the day!



Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 5. At 7pm that evening, Princeton United Methodist Church, 2390 S Lumpkin St, will be hosting an ecumenical service of worship with the congregations of Friendship Pres and Milledge Ave Baptist. May you have a holy fast.

Donna Rigsby, after 17 years of dedicated and faithful service as office administrator, is retiring. **On March 23 after worship**, the church is hosting a reception for her and her family with a potluck dinner. Announcements forthcoming. Please contact Wendy Arthur, wendart03@gmail.com, if you have any questions or suggestions about how you can help. Come celebrate even as we say goodbye!



	Preacher	Liturgist	Prayers of the People	Offering Counters	Communion Servers
Mar 2	Will Norman	Kathie Shinholser	Wendy Arthur	Alan White	Henry & Judy Hibbs
Mar 9	Kim Ness	YOUTH	Alice Lund Smith	Kathie Shinholser	
Mar 16	Craig Topple	Karen Norris	Trasie Topple	Marks Towles	
Mar 23	Craig Topple	Nan McMurry	Kim Ness	Ted Walker	
Mar 30	Craig Topple	John Norris	Trasie Topple	Karen Norris	



March Box-a-thon for ACTS



Volunteers are still working on checking dates and sorting the thousands of cans of food that were donated to the November Can-a-thon. All food is not packaged in cans, however, so Friendship will collect boxes of food for March. Examples are saltines (1 lb. box), spaghetti (1 lb. box) and cereal (any size or variety). You will find other examples of boxed foods, regularly distributed by ACTS, in next week's newsletter update.

This past Sunday, the following were donated for ACTS: 6 jars of peanut butter, 5 jars of jelly and 7 egg cartons. Also, found on the Eastside Kroger's bargain shelf, a box of Cap'n Crunch cereal (\$1.72) and a small container of yellow Play-Doh (45 cents). So this week, add a box of something for ACTS to your shopping list and be on the lookout for bargains!



After 17 1/2 wonderful years of serving as the Office Administrator at Friendship Presbyterian Church, the time has come for me to step into a new season of life. With great joy, and a touch of sadness, I announce that I will be retiring at the end of March. I look forward to spending more time with my family, cherishing moments with my grand-babies, and starting a new chapter with my husband of 36 years as we begin our forever honeymoon together.

My time at Friendship has never felt like just a job. It has been a ministry, a calling, and a privilege that I have embraced with all my heart. I have been blessed to meet so many incredible people and have gathered memories that will stay with me forever.

Thank you all for being a part of my journey. Your love, support, and fellowship have meant the world to me. I will carry you all in my heart, and I pray for God's richest blessings upon each of you and upon Friendship Presbyterian Church.

With deepest gratitude and love,
Donna Rigsby



Words of Friendship



"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth...God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good." Genesis 1:1, 31

Lent is a season of reflection—an inward journey that we may then turn outward with greater commitment and meaning. This year, we are focusing on Creation Care as part of our Lenten practice. Through worship, service and educational activities, you will be invited to explore your place within God's Creation and to deepen your awareness of both the opportunities and responsibilities you have as a faithful steward of this precious gift. Our hope and prayer are that this time of reflection will inspire action, leading to meaningful change in our lives and in the world around us.

Psalm 24 states that "the Earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it." Humans simply hold the Earth in trust for God. We are tenants here, called to care for the creation on behalf of future generations and all species. Below are a few of the opportunities to look forward to:

Lenten small groups
 Devotional
 Grounds work day
 Nature hike
 Sunrise service
 Community garden

This Lenten Season, Friendship is also partnering with Milledge Avenue Baptist Church and Princeton United Methodist Church. We are grateful for the opportunity to learn and worship together*.

*Ash Wednesday

Palm Sunday

*Maundy Thursday

*Good Friday

*Good Friday Worship

*Easter Sunrise Service

Easter

Princeton United Methodist Church at 7pm

Friendship Presbyterian at 11am.

Friendship Presbyterian Church at 6pm.

Milledge Avenue Baptist Church will offer
 Stations of the Cross from noon to 5pm

Presbyterian Villages at 7pm with area
 Presbyterian churches

Princeton United Methodist Church at 6am.

Friendship Presbyterian at 11am.



Amethyst
BAROQUE ENSEMBLE

Concertare

An Evening of Concertos & Cantatas



with guest artists Dan McCarthy, Ute Marks, Jonathan DeLoach, Kelly Stewart, Gregory Hamilton, Dana Duncan-Davis, and Lisa Terry



Sunday, March 9

4:00 pm

Friendship Presbyterian Church
8531 Macon Highway, Athens

\$20 general; \$10 students, seniors, members of AEMA & ARS

No one turned away

amethystbaroque.com



We encourage you to attend this concert hosted by Friendship Presbyterian Church. It is presented by Amethyst Baroque, a professional music ensemble from the Atlanta area that includes recorder, strings, harp, harpsichord, and vocalist. The concert includes lesser known works by great masters of the Baroque --Bach, Telemann, Scarlatti and more.



Words of Friendship



Submitted by Kim Ness

Stay up to date with Youth News by clicking the icon above
or go to <https://sites.google.com/view/friendship-youth/home>

When we first launched a youth program, I felt it was important to keep everyone together. We were building a new group and there is comfort in numbers. As we've grown, a number of youth have asked about splitting into middle school and high school groups. I think it's time. Starting THIS week, we will separate middle and high school on Sunday nights. We will also open up MS youth group to current 5th graders, recognizing that some schools begin MS in that grade. Please spread the word.

Middle School will meet from 6-7pm.
High School will join us at 7pm for dinner.
Middle School will go home at 7:30pm.
High School will end at 8:30pm.

To make sure this is successful, I am looking for a few volunteers who want to come hang out with us (MS) on Sunday nights. If you are interested, please let me know:
km.presbyterian@gmail.com

Before Lent begins, youth will be heading down to Akins Arena for a Rock Lobsters game on March 2nd! During Lent, we'll meet at normal times for youth group to explore the Creation Story and God's call to care for Mother Earth. On Saturday, March 29th, we are planning to camp out in the back yard of the church and sleep under the stars! Join us for a sunrise worship service on March 30th at 7am down at the outside amphitheater.



We are exploring the possibility of taking a group to Honduras for a mission trip this summer with Honduras Outreach, Inc. (www.hoi.org). If you are interested in joining this intergenerational trip, please reach out to Kim by March 15th. Proposed dates are July 5-12 and estimated cost is \$2000.

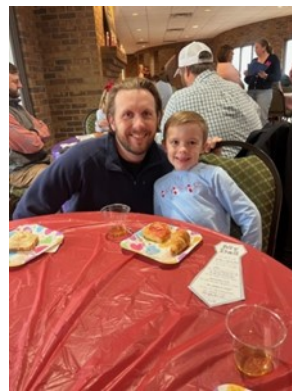


Friendship Preschool News

By: Susanne Hayes, Director



SweetHeart Breakfast



Each year in February, we celebrate our Dad's at our annual Sweetheart Breakfast.

It is a special morning for our friends to get to bring Dad, or a loved one, to school to enjoy breakfast and meet their teachers and classroom pals. We had a tremendous turnout and wanted to share our appreciation for those who were able to join us and make this a special day for their child.





Scouting at Friendship

By: Rick Ormsby, Scoutmaster

The new year is off to a strong start for **Troop 149** and **Troop 5149**, with new youth leadership, exciting outdoor adventures, service projects, and the addition of new Scouts to our ranks.

With the start of 2025, **Troop 149 recently elected new youth leaders**, who will help guide the troop throughout the year. As part of this transition, the **Patrol Leaders' Council** is now in place, and the troop has been restructured into **three patrols**—the **Eagles, the Drippy Llamas, and the Biohazard Bananas**. These newly elected leaders are already stepping up, helping to organize meetings, trips, and events to ensure the troop continues to run smoothly.

We are also thrilled to celebrate **Jackson Arledge**, who **earned the rank of Eagle Scout in February!** Achieving the Eagle rank requires years of hard work, leadership, and service, and we are incredibly proud of Jackson for reaching this significant milestone.

The past few weeks have been filled with exciting outdoor adventures. In February, **scouts traveled to Camp Daniel Boone in North Carolina**, where they had the opportunity to earn the **Snow Sports merit badge** while skiing and snowboarding in the mountains. Whether it was their first time on the slopes or they were seasoned pros, every scout had a blast challenging themselves in a new environment.

Service remains a core part of Scouting, and our scouts were hard at work in February **cleaning up the church grounds, re-mulching the flowerbeds by the Fellowship Hall entrance, and removing fallen limbs** after the last big storm. These efforts help keep **Friendship Presbyterian Church** looking its best and allow the scouts to give back to the congregation that has supported them for so many years.

Another exciting moment this month was **welcoming new scouts into Troop 149!** The **Arrow of Light Scouts** from Pack 149 crossed over in February, marking a major milestone in their Scouting journey. At **Hardigree Wildlife Sanctuary, 12 AOL Scouts** took part in a memorable crossover ceremony, where they fired flaming arrows into the lake to in a symbolic representation of their Arrow of Light. We are excited to welcome them and look forward to seeing them grow as Scouts.

Our fundraising efforts are also in full swing as our Scouts sell **Camp Cards** to raise money for **summer camp and other upcoming adventures**. These \$10 discount cards offer great deals and savings at local businesses in Athens and Oconee County. Fundraisers like these help our Scouts earn their way to camp and other exciting experiences, reinforcing "**A Scout is Thrifty**".

On the advancement front, our scouts are actively working on their **Citizenship in Society merit badge**, while also helping the recently crossed-over AOLs earn their **Scout rank**. Mentorship is an important part of Scouting, and our older scouts are doing a great job guiding the younger members as they begin their journey toward Eagle.

Coming up, scouts from **Troop 149 and Troop 5149** will be attending the **Cherokee District Advance-a-Rama at the University of Georgia**, where they will work alongside experts in various fields to earn merit badges such as Swimming, First Aid, Citizenship in the World, Chemistry, and Electronics.

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Meanwhile, **Troop 5149** continues to grow under **Scoutmaster Jaylene Katt**. These young women are getting outdoors every month, camping, hiking, and working on merit badges. This summer, **Kylie Katt will be the first Scout from Troop 5149 to attend NYLT (National Youth Leadership Training)**, a major milestone in leadership development. With four active girls, the troop is looking forward to welcoming even more members and continuing their adventures.

As always, we are grateful to Friendship Presbyterian Church for being our charter organization and supporting Scouting in our community. Your continued encouragement allows our youth to learn, grow, and serve while preparing them for a lifetime of adventure and leadership.

Scouting Adventures



A pit stop at Buc-ee's after camping



Scouts mulch flower beds

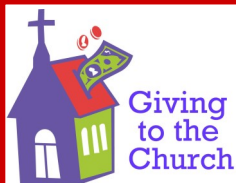


Scouts instructing Cubs



Giving in February				
	Feb 2	Feb 9	Feb 16	Feb 23
Attendance	93	43	55	40
General Giving	\$18,991.00	\$176.00	\$164.00	\$727.71

Friendship Presbyterian Church	
January 31, 2025	
Selected Assets and Liabilities	
Cash in Bank -- General Fund	\$4,241.99
Cash in Bank --Restricted Fund	<u>19,381.15</u>
Total Cash in Bank	\$23,623.14
Savings -- Corporate Money Market	
	\$35,927.50
Savings -- New Covenant Securities	
	\$72,506.65
Restricted Educational Funds	
	\$8,475.33
Income Statement Summary—January 2025	
Receipts from Congregation	7,889.00
Dye House Rent	873.00
Support from Preschool	5,215.00
All Other Income	<u>181.88</u>
Total Receipts	<u>\$14,158.88</u>
Administration Expenses	
	\$4,244.23
Personnel Expenses	
	12,421.74
Membership Development & Care Expenses	
	0.00
Discipleship/CE	
	0.00
Worship Expenses	
	250.00
Bldg & Grounds Expenses	
	<u>1,001.92</u>
Total Operating Expenses	
	<u>\$17,917.89</u>
Net Income / (Deficit)	
	(\$3,759.01)



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!



March

Names in red-birthdays

Names in green-anniversaries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
23 9:45am 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
2 <i>David & Amy Ivy</i> 9:45am Adult Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service 4:00pm Youth Group-Rock Lobsters Game 7:00pm BSA Troop 5149 for Girls	3 <i>Peter Vaeth</i> 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop 149 7:00pm Recorder Ensemble Rehearsal	4 7:30pm Athens Chamber Singers rehearsal	5  7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service-Princeton UMC 7:00pm FPC Choir rehearsal	6 6:00pm Den Meeting	7 Church Office Closed	8
9 FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT 9:45am Adult Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service 4:00pm Amethyst Baroque Ensemble Concert 6:00pm Middle School Youth Group 7:00pm BSA Troop 5149 for Girls 7:00pm Youth Dinner 7:30pm High School Youth Group	10 Preschool Closed 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop 149 7:00pm Recorder Ensemble Rehearsal	11 7:30pm Athens Chamber Singers rehearsal	12 7:00pm FPC Choir rehearsal	13	14 Church Office Closed <i>Elizabeth Graham</i>	15
16 SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT 9:45am Adult Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service 6:00pm Middle School Youth Group 7:00pm BSA Troop 5149 for Girls 7:00pm Youth Dinner 7:30pm High School Youth Group	17 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 6:00pm Den Meeting	21 Church Office Closed <i>Suzanne White</i>	22
23 THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT 9:45am Adult Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service 12:00pm Farewell Reception for Donna Rigsby 6:00pm Middle School Youth Group 7:00pm BSA Troop 5149 for Girls 7:00pm Youth Dinner 7:30pm High School Youth Group	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 <i>Nan McMurry</i>	28 Church Office Closed	29 <i>Richard & Evelyn Montgomery</i> 4:00pm Youth Camp-Out
30 FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT 7:00am Youth -Sunrise Service 9:45am Adult Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service 7:00pm BSA Troop 5149 for Girls	31 6:00pm Boy Scout Troop 149-Court of Honor	1 7:30pm Athens Chamber Singers rehearsal	2 <i>Shirley Harris</i> 7:00pm FPC Choir rehearsal	3 6:00pm Den Meeting	4 Church Office Closed	5



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

Sunday, Mar 30, 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.

Friendship Presbyterian Church
8531 Macon Highway
Athens, GA 30606