



Friendship United Methodist Church

August 2022

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Rev. Nate Lehman~Pastor

Gene Houston~Music Director

Maribeth Burke~Assistant Music
Director

Maria Wallace~Simple Worship
Director / Traditional Worship
Accompanist

Kimberly Bowling~Family
Ministries Youth Coordinator

Ruby Holt~Church
Administrator

Kyla Smith~Administrative
Assistant

Nursery~Rose Smith & Amanda
Hale-Seabrooks

Friendship Store
Manager~Terry Hodge

Good Morning! Summer is coming to a close and a new season is upon us! I for one am very excited about the possibilities of the new season. Unfortunately, even in the excitement there seems to be a dark cloud hovering over our congregation. It may not be in the forefront but the conversation concerning the future of the United Methodist Church looms. All that I can say right now, is that there will be a time and a day that the church will have to make a decision, but that day is not here yet.

If I chose to stay inside every day there was a cloud in the sky, for fear of the rain, then nothing would ever get done. The cloud is there. We know that it will rain one day, but today it is not raining, so we must continue to do the work we were called to do! We have so much work that needs to be done.

We have a lot planned for August and a lot of work to be done. Wednesday nights are starting back! This is going to be a great night in the life of the church. Dell Shingler is assembling a kitchen crew that will provide awesome meals. We are restarting small groups for the adults, and will be going through the Jesus Is__ study. Children and youth will also start a new programming model. We want Wednesday night to be a night for the entire family! We are going to kick off Wednesday nights with some fun fellowship nights! August 10th we will have a Bluegrass Gospel Sing featuring Roger Aligood. On August 17th we will play family feud! (We need some volunteers to be our contestants) On August 24th the fellowship continues with a Churchwide Talent Show sponsored by our Choir. The last Wednesday of August will be our launch for adult small groups. We are making plans even as the cloud hovers over us and the work needs to be done!

Bringing back Wednesday nights to our church is going to be a lot of work. Mrs. Dell is going to need help in the kitchen, and we need volunteers for the children's programming. Most of all we need YOU to participate and get involved. We have made it easy for you to get involved on Wednesday nights. Simply open up your app and go to the Wednesday Nights Sign Ups tab and click where you would like to get involved or you can visit our website www.friendshipdonalsonville.church and sign up there.

As for the cloud, in the next few months we will be having discussions about navigating the future of the United Methodist Church. We have created a tab on our app and website for you to gather more information. We hope that you will take it upon yourself to pray and research the situation.

Nate

FRIENDSHIP UMC
US 84 and Woolfork Ave.
Donalsonville, GA 39845

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Donalsonville, GA 39845
Permit # 6
Non-Profit Organization

God among the rubble

The nonprofit World Central Kitchen provides fresh meals for communities in need following natural disasters or during humanitarian crises. After Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, WCK fed millions of people in the country and refugees at border crossings.

When I feel discouraged by tragic news and ask where God is, I'm reminded that God shows up precisely in people such as the WCK teams. They are God's hands serving healthy food to people fleeing home. They are God's heart and arms welcoming those in need to be nourished.

Often in the Bible God shows up around meals: Sarah and Abraham host the Lord in the form of three visitors; God rains manna from heaven for the Israelites; an angel provides food for exhausted Elijah; Jesus eats with "tax collectors and sinners" and feeds crowds with a few loaves and fish. Supremely, Jesus gives to all the meal of Holy Communion, the bread and wine that are his very body and blood.

In our broken world, God is among the rubble, among the helpers, among us.

—Heidi Hyland Mann

New seat, new perspective

In older sitcoms, family members, especially parents, each had their own chair in the living room. No one else sat there. If its "owner" wasn't present, the on-set chair remained empty. Church can be like that too, with people claiming the same seat week after week. Our view of the service and of fellow worshipers is familiar and comfortable.

Recently, our family was "bumped" back a bit, which felt surprisingly different at first. But we interacted just the same with the service. As a bonus, I talked with different people. And after church we stayed to visit a bit longer.

I'm glad church seats don't have nameplates. And I'm thankful that God nudges me out of my comfort zone from time to time, giving me a new perspective.

—Janna Firestone

CHOIR NOTES FOR INQUIRING FOLKS VERY FEW PEOPLE WANT TO STRETCH

Are you one of those people who gets set in your ways and are complacent where you are? Do you ever feel like just sitting down and not getting back up? Have you ever felt like you were just going in circles and couldn't spin out of it? Well, you might just need a bottle of stretch! That's right! Sounds like a TV commercial, doesn't it! The fact is many of us, especially me, do not like to stretch. I don't enjoy sitting on the floor and watching some of these exercise programs teaching me how to "stretch", but when I do these stretches, I always feel better. We as a choir need to stretch out from our comfort zone.

Stretching involves changing. Of course, that means doing something different. Our choir is absolutely the best at stretching. You all are excellent in listening to new ideas and going with them, even if we fall on our faces. Now, I can't remember ever falling on our face; however there have been a few times that I made a wrong call and we all stuck together and pulled through by the grace of God. Our choir is so much more than average. Believe it or not, there are some people who are willing to settle in a comfort zone where they choose comfort over potential. We are not one of those people. As we move into August, September, and so on.....let's stretch. Let's give up excuses and push forward. Let go of any tension that we might have and relax, breathe, stretch out, reach out to people and exercise for the glory of God!

Choir rehearsals are about to get started back again. I have some new music to read through. We are looking at Christmas cantatas. Get ready for the kickoff. School is underway! Just a couple of quick items, August 17th we have a Sing-A-long with guest musicians Roger Aligood (and crew)! I promise, you'll enjoy this music! On August 24th our choir has been asked to be (in charge) of the Talent Show so ask around for talent! Any age, anything.... Well, almost! Ok, now step out and let's all stretch! I hope to see you on Sunday and on Wednesday. Let's stay connected.

Gene



A message from Kimberly

How can it already be time for the new school year? Summer flew by and we are ready to get things rolling again! Wednesday nights are gearing up and we are going to have a youth small group, so come on out, grab some dinner with us, and let's learn about Jesus together! We're having a 'back to school breakfast' during youth Sunday School on August 7th, so come hungry! On Saturday, August 20th, the youth will be helping with the Manna Drop followed by a pool party! We'll be starting a new series in Sunday School this month called "Master Design" where we're going to jump in and focus on how God designed and created each of us in a very special way and for a very special purpose!

We have such an amazing group of young kids here in our Church and we need volunteers to keep things running great! If you're interested in volunteering with our youth, being either a rotation leader, providing a fun snack, or opening your home and hosting our kids for dinner, please reach out to Kimberly Bowling. I hope you will join me this month in praying for each child in our Congregation as they begin this school year.





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|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 02-Kem Earnest | 19-Chris Miller |
| 03-Jordan Trawick | 19-Shana Bridges |
| 08-Kathy Reese | 19-Colin Shoemaker |
| 09-Jared Gordon | 19-Kimberly Bowling |
| 09-Bethany B. McElyea | 20-Tim Bowen |
| 10-Neal Rumble | 22-Meredith Shingler |
| 10-Preston Drake | 22-Jean Trice |
| 12-Jhett Jones | 22-Brayden Rogerson |
| 13-Kevin Lewis | 22-Martha Loyless |
| 16-JC Carr | 27-Gene Houston |
| 16-Joe Simpson | 27-Leanne Pollock |
| 17-Becky Williams | 29-Evelyn Shingler |
| 18-Tommy Holloman | 30-Garrett Bridges |



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|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Nate and Erica Lehman | August 2, 2003 |
| Joshua and Molly Thomas | August 11, 2007 |
| Ernest and Karen Ponder | August 12, 1989 |
| Larry and Mary Hartzog | August 21, 1960 |
| Chip and Cindy Stewart | August 26, 1978 |
| Billy and Becky Williams | August 27, 1995 |

Keeping It Simple

Nearly every parent is familiar with Psalm 127:3 which states that “children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb is a reward.” But parents also know that anything worthwhile doesn’t come easy, and that training children is a big responsibility as well as a privilege! With the beginning of the school year approaching, my heart goes out to parents, no matter the ages of the children.

As a parent of 4 sons, and as a teacher, I wish I could say parenting gets easier, but it really doesn't- there are always new things to learn! With each age and stage, from toddlers to teens, and even college students, there are challenges faced along the way. So how do parents navigate through this journey? Without making this article too long, I will just say that one of the keys is in knowing you are not alone. It's easy to think thoughts like, “All the other parents have it together- I bet I'm the only one that goes through this” ...” how is that family always so perfect?”

However different each family may be, all parents go through similar challenges, and need a support system. That can come from your immediate family- grandparents are great sources of wisdom and support! But in today's society, it is crucial that parents have connections with other parents. That is where a good church family comes in. At FUMC, I'm excited that there is a new Sunday School class starting that will bring young adults together! This can be a wonderful group for support and encouragement, as each person has their own wisdom and experiences to share.

If you're coming to Simple Worship at 9:00, you'll already be in the right place at the right time! Wayne Worsham will be teaching this new class in the shed following the service. If you consider yourself a “younger” adult, then check out “Pairs and Spares”, which will kick off on August 7th!

Hope to see you there!

Maria

PAIRS AND SPARES SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS BEGINNING AUGUST 7TH

THIS IS A NEW CLASS GEARED FOR
YOUNG ADULTS TAUGHT BY WAYNE
WORSHAM IN THE MISSION SHED



Join us for Wednesday Day Night Activities starting August 10th!



Bluegrass
Gospel
Night

Join us for a night of music featuring Roger Aligood. This will be immediately following our dinner Wednesday night, August 10th at 6:15.



Would your family like to be in the feud?
Join us for
Friendship
FAMILY FEUD
Wednesday, August 17th
Please let us know if you and your family would like to play!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS
FOR OUR
TALENT SHOW
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24TH
FOLLOWING OUR WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER

THIS TALENT SHOW IS A FAMILY EVENT, OPEN FOR ANYONE TO ENTER
PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING



Small Groups
Beginning Wednesday, August 31st
Use the app to let us know you are interested in participating in a small group.



**WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER WILL
BEGIN AUGUST 10TH AT 5:30.
PLEASE USE THE CHURCH APP TO
MAKE A RESERVATION.**

Wednesday Night Menu

Aug. 10th: Smoked Pork Chops, Hashbrown Casserole, Green Beans, Rolls, Tea, Dessert

Aug. 17th: Baked or Grilled Chicken, Brown Rice, Layered Salad, Rolls, Tea, Dessert

Aug. 24th: Baked Ham, Mac and Cheese, Butterbeans, Rolls, Tea, Dessert

Aug. 31st: Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, English Peas, Rolls, Tea, Dessert

Adults-\$6 Kids-\$4