



Friendship United Methodist Church

April 2022

201 E Third Street

P. O. Box 305

Donalsonville, GA 39845

Phone: 229-524-2328

Fax: 229-524-8323

Parsonage: 229-524-2327

Email Address:

friendshipumc@windstream.net

Website:

www.friendshipunitedmethodist.net

Rev. Nate Lehman~Pastor

Gene Houston~Music Director

Maribeth Burke~Assistant Music Director

Michael Reynolds~SIMPLE WORSHIP Leader

Maria Wallace~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! I hope that you are all doing well! I want to first thank all of you for your support through my journey to be Ordained as a Full Elder in the United Methodist Church. This has been a long and hard journey and I could not have done it without your great support. I am eagerly looking forward to June 6th and the official Ordination Service which will be held during Annual Conference at St. Luke UMC in Columbus at 7:00 p.m. This service is open to the public.

In March I had the honor of being inducted into the Order of the Flame. The Order of the Flame is a Wesleyan covenant group that focuses on evangelism. For one week I spent time with Wesleyans from all over the world. One of my tablemates was a United Methodist pastor who escaped the persecution of Congo Africa to become a refugee living and serving in Iowa. Escaping with only his immediate family he left behind many loved ones for fear of their lives. I cannot imagine what it must be like for him to serve in such a foreign land. Iowa and Africa have many differences and few similarities.

During that week I could not help but think about the war in Ukraine and all the chaos of the world. We as American Christians take so much for granted. We can freely attend any place of worship that we choose and have nothing to fear when we make the decision to attend worship. Our biggest worries on a Sunday morning revolve around the wardrobe we wear and if the pastor will hurt our feelings for confronting our sins. It is humbling to know that there are people who are fighting life and death battles to attend worship, while some of us nonchalantly decide on a whim if the weather is suitable or if our schedule is not too busy to attend worship this Sunday.

My goal for writing this was not to make you feel guilty about being an American Christian but instead to challenge you to not take the freedom you have for granted. Realize that you have been blessed by God to be born in a country with so much freedom. I believe with this freedom you also have a great responsibility to defend it. Make no mistake our freedom to worship is being challenged, it may not be comparable to the violence of Ukraine and Africa but it can be just as damaging. Remember not acting on your freedom, perpetuates its loss.

1 Peter 2:16

16 As servants of God, live as free people, yet do not use your freedom as a pretext for evil.

Nate

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

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Why Christ calls us to worship

Easter services are usually well attended, but what about other weeks? What draws you to worship on an "average" Sunday, and what might Jesus have in store for people in the pews?

Consider this from Pastor Charles Aaron: "Did we come to church this morning thinking it was a safe thing to do? Did we come with some expectation of receiving a blessing, a bit of comfort, but no real challenge? Did we think about the possibility that encountering Jesus would rearrange our lives, explode our priorities, cause us to give more than we ever expected? Did we think we could get a little something from Jesus, a dose of grace to help us through the week? Did we come for the fellowship, the music, the spiritual boost? No one can argue with those reasons."

He continues: "The risen Christ, however, may have had other plans for this worship service. Christ may want to come under our skins and transform us. Christ may see through us so that something we have well hidden comes to the surface. Christ may kick out from under us the things we use to prop ourselves up but that we don't really need. Are we ready for that? Did we bargain on that when we walked through the door today?"

—from *The Wired Word*

Gratitude, all year long

It's not Thanksgiving time. But what if we made a point to practice gratitude all year long?

In her book *Grateful*, theologian Diana Butler Bass writes: "As human beings, we possess an intuitive awareness that we depend on others to survive. We are safer and happier when we care for each other in community, when we do things for each other. ... How we live together in and with gratitude makes all the difference in the world. Indeed, living gratefully makes the world different."

A message from Kimberly

April is here and we're so excited to be jumping right on into Spring! During the month, our Sunday School class will be talking about Easter and we'll be challenging our youth to think about how 'empty' can actually be a good thing. On Sunday, April 10th our youth Sunday school class will be setting up all of the Easter Eggs for the children's Easter Egg Hunt! At Youth Rotation, we're starting a brand new series this month called "Who is Jesus?" Where we'll be exploring who Jesus is, what He did for us at Easter, and what it means for our lives today! On April 24th, we're heading to 'Escape Dothan' for a great afternoon of fun and team building. If your child is interested in joining us, please let Kimberly Bowling know. We are still in need of Rotation Leaders and volunteers, especially for the month of May. If you have any questions about leading or volunteering, Kimberly would be happy to meet with you! Our youth here in the church are an absolutely fantastic group of kids and we want to make sure that they continue to get the support while being led into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. Parents, here is a prayer you can pray with your child this month: "Jesus, may we always be aware of Your presence and remember we can talk with You about anything at any time."



INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

We're in need of Rotation Leaders and Volunteers, especially for the month of May.
Contact Kimberly Bowling for more information!



"WHO IS JESUS?"

5 WEEK YOUTH SERIES
SUNDAY NIGHTS 5:30-6:30PM IN THE WURST HOUSE

Easter Egg Hunt!



We will be having a church wide
Picnic and Easter egg hunt

April 10th

at the Walkers

After the 11:00 service

*Every family brings their own picnic lunch and blanket

Please bring in 12 candy filled eggs (NO CHOCOLATE) by
April 3rd

Upcoming Dates to Remember

Easter Egg Hunt – April 10th – 12:00

Holy Week Services – April 11th-15th –
Donalsonville Church of God

Maundy Thursday Service – April 14th – 6:00

Easter Sunrise Service – April 17th - 7:00

Easter Simple Worship – April 17th – 9:00

Easter Traditional Service – April 17th – 11:00





01-Charlie Yates	22-Samantha R. Dukes
01-Kevin Lane	23-Emmitt Payne
02-Shay Shingler	23-Aubrey Hollomon
06-Matthew Lane	23-Gina King
07-Linda Arnold	23-Mike Carr
08-Erin S. Woodside	24-Jackson Jones
08-Ladon Swanner	24-Stacy Miller
10-Ashley C. Milner	24-Mitzy Moye
12-Millie Vines	24-Kathryn Logue
14-Nicholas Downing	26-Lance Roland
15-Mackenzie Thompson	27-Foster Wurst
15-Martha Ross	27-Jase Walker
17-Diane Horne	28-Reese Wilbur
21-Ruth Breckenridge	28-Nicholas Miller
21-Cliff Guterman	30-Loren Shattles, Jr
21-Larry Wells	30-Matthew Shingler
21-Bradley Harris	30-Sandy Snipes
22-Joseph Knowles	30-Layne Edwards
22-Dustin Bowen	



Gerald and Beth Lane	April 5, 1970
Cleve and Pam Bridges	April 6, 1974
Jeff and Maggie Brannan	April 9, 2011
Kyle and Katie Kelley	April 11, 2015
Will and Kimberly Heard	April 14, 2018
Charlie and Beth Yates	April 22, 2016
Stan and Melody Kennedy	April 23, 1977
Ken and Greer Downing	April 23, 1983
Jay and Addison Fields	April 27, 2019

CHOIR NOTES FOR INQUIRING FOLKS

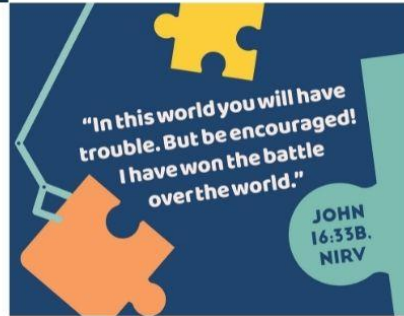
I'M SURE THAT YOU HAVE SEEN SOME OF THE FOOTAGE THAT NETWORKS ARE SHOWING REGARDING THE UKRAINIAN CRISIS. CHILDREN GRABBED UP BY A MOTHER AND LEAVING THE ONLY PLACE THAT THEY HAVE EVER KNOWN. I CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE TO JUST LEAVE OUR HOMES IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT AT THE SOUND OF A SIREN NOT KNOWING WHERE WE MIGHT BE GOING OR IF WE WILL EVEN MAKE IT. WHAT CAN WE DO? HOW CAN WE HELP? ONE THING THAT ALL OF US CAN DO IS PRAY. PRAY WITHOUT CEASING. PRAY WITH THE EXPECTATION OF GOOD THINGS COMING OUT OF THIS. PRAY INTENTIONALLY. WE KNOW THAT GOD HAS THIS IN THE PALM OF HIS HAND. WHEN I SEE THESE THINGS GOING ON, I AM ALWAYS REMINDED OF HOW SIMPLE MY PROBLEMS REALLY ARE!

LATELY, I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT ALL OF THE THINGS THAT NEED TO BE DONE OR FINISHED AND IT CAN BE OVERWHELMING! IT SEEMS TO COME FROM EVERY ANGLE. MY AUNT IRENE USE TO COME AND STAY A FEW DAYS. SHE WOULD MAKE ME SIT DOWN AT THE PIANO AND PLAY HER FAVORITE HYMNS WHILE SHE TRIED TO SING THEM. THERE WERE A FEW HYMNS THAT STAYED WITH ME FROM TIME TO TIME. THE WORDS OF THOSE HYMNS GO SOMETHING LIKE THIS. "IN TIMES LIKE THESE, WE NEED AN ANCHOR; BE VERY SURE YOUR ANCHOR HOLDS AND GRIPS THE SOLID ROCK." THEN ANOTHER ONE OF AUNT IRENE'S HYMNS "DID YOU THINK TO PRAY". SHE WOULD ALWAYS PREACH TO ME AFTER WE HARMONIZED THESE OLD HYMNS. USUALLY, AUNT IRENE WOULD SAY SOMETHING LIKE THIS. "NOW GENE, YOU GONNA COME UPON ALL KINDS OF TROUBLE IN LIFE. DON'T GET SO BUSY THAT YOU FORGET TO PRAY AND BE SURE THAT YOUR ANCHOR GRIPS THE SOLID ROCK."

THE CHOIR WILL SING SELECTIONS FROM "WHAT LOVE IS THIS?" DURING HOLY WEEK. NATE WILL BE TELLING A STORY OF JESUS RIDING INTO THE STREETS OF JERUSALEM AS JESUS' FOLLOWERS CELEBRATE. THIS IS A WONDERFUL ADAPTATION OF "THE EASTER STORY" THROUGH MUSIC. TUESDAY, FRIENDSHIP IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE HOLY WEEK SERVICE. THIS WILL BE HELD AT DONALSONVILLE CHURCH OF GOD. I WOULD LOVE FOR SOMEONE TO VOLUNTEER TO SING A SPECIAL DURING THAT SHORT SERVICE. THURSDAY, WE WILL HAVE A MAUNDY THURSDAY COMMUNION SERVICE IN THE SANCTUARY LEADING INTO GOOD FRIDAY AND OFCOURSE, EASTER SUNDAY BEGINS WITH SUNRISE SERVICE, SIMPLE WORSHIP AT 9:00 AND TRADITIONAL WORSHIP AT 11:00 AM. COME AND JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE THE 'RISEN CHRIST' THROUGH MUSIC AND THE SPOKEN WORD! ENCOURAGE SOMEONE TODAY AND EVERYDAY!

Gene

April 2022



The preschool will continue talking about Jesus being our forever friend by learning about Jesus walking on water, palm Sunday, Easter and Breakfast on the beach. Children's church during the 11:00 service also uses this same curriculum and will be learning the same Bible stories.

We are going to be looking at HOPE- Believing that something good can come out of something bad. We will be digging into the stories of Lazarus, Palm Sunday, Crucifixion and resurrection, and Jesus appearing to Thomas.

Please bring 12 candy filled eggs to the office by **April 3rd** (no chocolate)

Anyone may donate eggs and candy but if you have a child participating in the egg hunt you must bring in 12 eggs per child.



Easter Egg Hunt



There will be a church wide Easter egg hunt at the Walkers
April 10th
following the 11:00 service
Families bring your own blanket and picnic lunch