



Friendship United Methodist Church

May 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

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! I hope that you are all doing great! It is May. How crazy is it to think that this year is almost halfway over! The school year is coming to an end and summer is right around the corner. In my life, I have never really thought of January as the beginning of a new year. I know that on the calendar January 1st is the official time that we change the year to the next but for me, the new year always begins in August. August is the end of the Summer and the start of the school year. I believe the reason that I feel this way is because the church calendar is closely connected to the school calendar. We plan many of our events and programming based on the school calendar and usually during the summer the church slows down. August and September according to research are the months that people are more likely to visit a church or begin attending a church. So why am I talking about August and September in May? Because now is the time to plan for the "new year."

We have not had a normal year since 2017! Now that is a long time! Those abnormal years have affected our congregation in numerous ways, the greatest effect was on our discipleship ministries. Our discipleship ministries are suffering. There are numerous reasons that they are suffering, the two that come to the forefront are lack of consistency and not being relevant to those who attend our church. The lack of consistency can be attributed to the leadership changes that we have experienced in our Family Ministries programming and the chaos that has come with hurricane recovery and COVID. Families are busier than ever and over-scheduled. Wednesday nights and Sundays used to be reserved for the church but are now filled with other activities. Discipleship, growing as a believer, has become a low priority for many families. That is why we have to start talking about discipleship NOW!

NOW, that we are looking towards a new normal year, we need to start planning now! August will be here before you know it! That is one reason we will be meeting on May 1st to discuss how we can get our congregation to engage beyond worship. It is not enough to just come to worship; we are called to grow. Through discipleship, we grow in our understanding of God in our life. Your relationship with God is supposed to be the most important relationship in your life, but like any other relationship, if it is not cared for, it will fail. Very few real relationships last if we invest only an hour a week out of our lives in them.

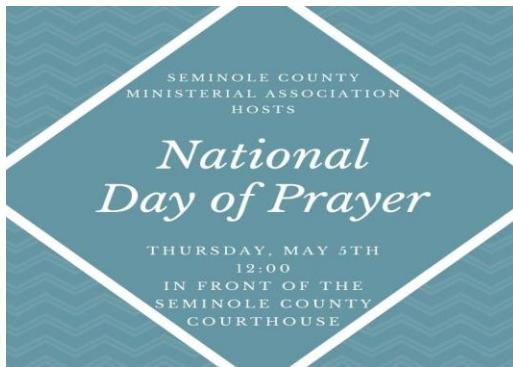
To put it into perspective there are 8760 hours in a year, if you are awake 16 hours a day that means you are awake 5840 hours in a year. This means you have 5840 hours to fill with your job, your family, and your other activities. The typical person works a total of 2080 hours a year if they do not take vacations, and 2000 hours a year if they take two weeks of vacation. That leaves 3760 hours for your family and your other activities. If you go to worship 1 hour a week every week of the year, you will only spend 52 hours on your relationship with God. To put it another way, in a year you would only spend 1.38% of your year working on your relationship with God. Nothing that you put 1.38% of your life into will be strong. This is why it is important to work on our discipleship NOW.

Nate

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Where home is

As Christians, we trust that after this life, we'll be safe with God in heaven. What heaven is like is a mystery, but we rely on images from the Bible, including "the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven" (Revelation 21:2). Wait — what? Usually we imagine going "up" to God. What a difference to picture God's city, and God himself, "coming down" to *us*!

When we travel from the place we know best to visit others, no matter how much we love them we usually don't feel "at home." On the other hand, when I went from college to visit my parents and sisters, I was immediately at home, not just physically but emotionally.

Revelation 21:3 (NRSV) says, "The home of God is among mortals." God is "at home" with us! He knows our routines, understands how we live, fits right in. We don't have to behave in any special way, like for "company," because God is family. He "gets" us and loves us. Best of all, because God is at home with us, we can be at home with God.

—Heidi Hyland Mann

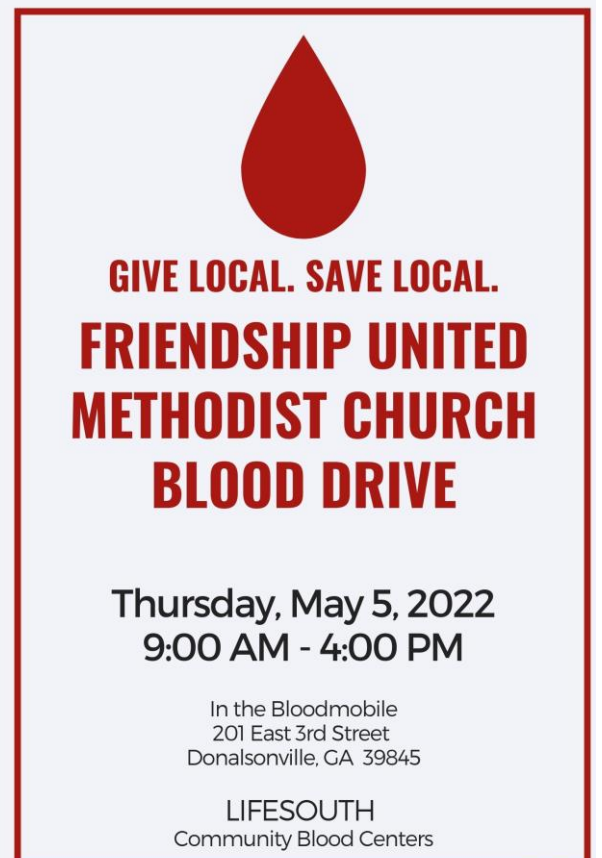
A preemptive prayer

Becoming angry is quite easy. The difficult part, as Aristotle observed, is "to be angry with the right person and to the right degree and at the right time and for the right purpose and in the right way." That, he added, "is not within everybody's power."

But with God's power — and prayer — we can resist the pull of anger. Use these Scripture-inspired words: "Teach us, O God, how to keep our cool when provoked, exercising patience and self-control so we can think wisely and creatively about how to handle stress calmly, after the heat of the moment has passed. Help us choose our associates wisely, avoiding those who are hot-tempered and easily angered. Help us choose your way of handling anger, rather than our own, so we might conquer harmful impulses by doing good. In the name of Christ, who showed us how to use anger for good rather than evil. Amen."

A message from Kimberly

May is here which means the school year is winding down and we'll be celebrating our graduating Seniors! We have four very special graduating seniors who have been a huge part of our church community over the years: Camille Davis, Jack Davis, Lane McElyea, and Will Pace. We will be hosting the Graduation Luncheon at 12pm on Sunday, May 22nd, so come on out, bring your favorite side dish, and help celebrate our Seniors! This month during youth rotation, we are starting a brand new series called 'Who is Jesus?' where we will be exploring who Jesus is, what He did for us at Easter, and what it means for our lives today. Youth Week 2022 will be held June 27th-July 1st so make sure and mark your calendars! We are also in need of volunteers throughout the week, so if you are interested in volunteering any day, please let us know! 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." On Sunday, May 29th, we will not be having youth rotation due to Memorial Day weekend.





02-Kathryn Touchton	15-Carson Ross
04-Ernest Ponder	16-Lisa McLaughlin
04-Connie Mills	16-Travis Payne
05-Danny White	17-Neal Hall
05-Greer Downing	19-Davis Williams
06-Zack Conoly	19-Ben Hampton
06-Emma Shoemaker	19-Cas Arnold
07-Charles Walker	20-Carey Horne
09-Maribeth Burke	20-Saylor Cunningham
09-Daniel Hartzog	21-Logan Conoly
10-Adam Burke	22-Erin R Courts
10-Caleb Smith	23-Halibeth King
10-Gracie Smith	23-Zane Whittaker
11-Karla Young	29-Kimberly Heard
12-Maggie T Brannan	30-Renee Harris
14-Jack Davis	31-Emily Earnest



Bradley and Mikayla Harris	May 9, 2019
Cody and Kimberly Bowling	May 11, 2018
Charles and Jeanie Walker	May 15, 1975
Ben and Lindsay Dickerson	May 23, 2015
Wayne Becky Worsham	May 25, 1985
Mike and Lynda Henderson	May 25, 1974
Steven and Gayle Horn	May 30, 1987

CHOIR NOTES FOR INQUIRING FOLKS

THANK YOU to our choir for wonderful EASTER MUSIC this year! All the children coming down the aisle bringing flowers and placing them on a cross while we all sang “Christ the Lord is Risen Today” was outstanding and the story told was so moving. Who would not be move in such as service as this! Such a time of joy, a time of victory, a time of celebration that Jesus is Lord and Savior of our lives. We began our week on Palm Sunday celebrating Jesus’s riding into Jerusalem as children were waving palm branches shouting Hosanna! On Thursday we continued this story as we communed, remembering that this would be Jesus’ last meal together with His disciples. Holy week was a special time for many this year as we were able to fellowship with other Christians in and around our community. I pray that we would never take for granted the price that Jesus paid for our sins so that we could have life eternal.

Just as we are about to catch our breath, the month of May zooms in. The Choir is working on new music, getting ready for Mother’s Day, Senior Sunday, and other special days. We are looking to purchase new choir robes. If you are interested in helping with this project, please let the office know. There are many things going on in and around the life of our church. Let us all keep engaged so we won’t miss anything. Choir... let’s all engage as we prepare church service music each week. We want to truly worship and glorify God. I am confident that by praising Him, we will be the one who gets the blessing. We all know that saying, “you can’t outgive God.” When we give our time and talents, He gives back to each of us... so much more. One more thing, if you have not yet downloaded our church app on your phone, and clicked “CHOIR,” please do so, or get someone to help you with it. We want you to know what’s happening in the life of our choir. It’s easy, fun, and sometimes entertaining!

See you Sunday,

Gene

Kids Club

May 2022

Preschool



Preschool Sunday school class and children's church will be talking about the creation in May.

Memory verse: "God saw everything He had made. And it was very good." Genesis 1:31

Key question: Who made everything?

Bottom line: God made everything



Graduation Sunday is on May 22nd
Please let me or the church office know if you kindergarten graduate will be participating. The kindergartners will walk in at the beginning of service in their cap and gown in front of the seniors and will sit up front. After the presentation of the kindergartners they can go back and sit with their families.

Elementary



Elementary students will be learning about how God is always working in our lives. It is important that when we get knocked down we get back up again.

Bottom Lines for each week :

- 1- God is always with you.
- 2- Keep going even when it gets tough.
- 3- You can choose joy when life gets hard.
- 4- Trusting God can help you get back up.
- 5- Keep going because of what Jesus did for you.

Upcoming Dates:

May 1st- Engaged beyond worship meeting

May 22nd- Graduation Sunday

June 12th- Family picnic at the lake

July 25th-29th- VBS