



Friendship United Methodist Church

November 2021

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Maria Wallace~Accompanist

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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 good. I know that the last few weeks have been a flurry of busyness. We did take time though for a day away and visit one of the most beautiful places in the state, FDR State Park and the Little White House in Warm Springs. There are very few places that compare to the views that are found there. While visiting the Little White House I was overcome by the history and quickly understood why Franklin D. Roosevelt loved spending time there; eventually passing away while posing for a portrait in a home that I would guess was a little more than 1500 square feet. Imagine a modern-day president living in a home that size.

F.D.R. was our country's longest serving president and led during some of the most difficult years that our country has known. Beyond the politics and parties there is no doubt that he had a lasting legacy on our country. While walking around one of the exhibits something caught my eye. It was a coin with the inscription: The Four Freedoms: Speech, Worship, Want and Fear. I was struck by those words and the message they had for the people of that time and our time now. Do we as Americans really comprehend the freedoms that we have and often take for granted. The Four Freedoms were highlighted in a 1941 speech to congress just as the country was emerging from the Great Depression and the horizon of World War 2. I imagine that those who were living at that time knew more than most the value of those freedoms.

Today I am thankful for those freedoms because they allow me to preach, worship, and provide without fear. As we move into the new seasons of Thanksgiving and Advent, let's remember the freedoms that we enjoy today because of the sacrifices that were made for us in the past. Not just for our country but for our world through Jesus Christ.

The next time that we complain about the inconvenience of going to church, remember that today there are people who will risk their lives to simply hear the word of God. An estimated 3,462 Christians have been killed in Nigeria in the first 200 days of 2021, according to a new study. This equates to 17 Christians being murdered every day in Africa's most populous country, reported ACI Africa, CNA's African news partner.

Nate

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US 84 and Woolfork Ave.
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Veterans Day has its roots in what was called Armistice Day, when a peace agreement ended World War I on November 11, 1918. President Wilson proclaimed that Armistice Day was to be marked with solemn pride in heroism and with gratitude for victory as well as the “opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice.” In 1954, the remembrance was renamed Veterans Day to honor all U.S. military personnel. It’s a reminder to pray for and honor all who serve and sacrifice, to support and assist their families, and to pray that God will bring peace on earth.

A Gratitude Game

Years ago, ads for a toy-store chain featured an animated kangaroo jumping on a frown to turn it upside down. That reminds me of family life, which can feel like a nonstop attempt to keep everyone happy. Busy schedules, grumpy kids and tired parents can be a bad combination.

When our family needs to turn frowns upside down, we play the thankful game. The rules are simple: We take turns sharing one thing we’re thankful for. Everyone plays. No one can pass. No repeats are allowed. Our kids, now teens, still chime in.

As we share gratitude for football, Grandma, hugs, warm brownies, coffee and more, kids tend to stop bickering, and adults get a mental reset. Try playing — and bring on lots of smiles!

—Janna Firestone

A NOTE FROM GENE

Hello, I hope you are having a glorious day! I am getting excited as Fall is in the air and everywhere you go there is talk about Christmas being just around the corner! Our Christmas cantata will be on the night of December 19 at 6:00 p.m. We need every choir member present to put this beautiful music together and spread God's Christmas message around. Our Advent theme this year is celebrating "HOPE." Yes, there is hope for all of us. We will begin celebrating on the first Sunday of Advent by singing a choir anthem that shares a music message of Hope.

This year the choir will be responsible for putting up a live Christmas tree as our church lights up Woolfork Ave. We will soon know where our spot will be and can begin putting up and decorating our tree. Any great ideas are welcomed and appreciated. Decorating the tree will also be appreciated. December 1st will be lighting of the "HOPE" Christmas tree at 6:00 p.m. Prayerfully I hope that you will be able not only participate but soak up every drop of the wonderful season that we call Christmas! Christ is Born! Alleluia! See you Wednesday!

Gene

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The YWA (Youth Worship Arts) team is busy preparing for our Christmas program. We are joining the younger kids, performing "glory to God in the Lowest." The story focuses on the shepherds' accounts of the birth of Jesus. It's full of funny "one liners" and fun songs. Be sure to come out and see it, on Wednesday evening December 15th at 6:00 PM.

"Glory to God in the Lowest" is a catchy title. When angels appeared outside the town of Bethlehem proclaiming the greatest news the world had ever heard, they didn't deliver their message to the "high and mighty," but to the simple and lowly shepherds! Have you ever felt unworthy of God's love? Do you feel like you aren't "special" enough to be called to do God's will? If so, you are NOT alone. All of us feel like this at some point in our lives. When we feel broken, lost, or defeated we can feel the idea of turning to God for His guidance and love is unattainable. We feel this way because we have created this sense of unworthiness. The truth is there isn't a single one of us that deserves God's Love. However, because of God's grace and goodness, a relationship with Him is available to us all!

Although God is not of this world, He has given us the ability and tools to better understand why He created us and why we are indeed deserving of His love. Join me in mapping out and understanding why God's love is available to everyone and where we can start building the foundation to understanding why we feel this way. We are born into this world with the knowledge of self, but not of God. Thankfully, God has equipped the world with wisdom and guidance that we can understand through the use of one book, the Bible. Through trials, examples, stories, commandments, covenants, promises, and righteous people, God has created a text for all of us to better understand our purpose and our relationship with Him. It gives us the wisdom we all need to thrive not to just survive! Dive into His Word. Talk to Him about EVERYTHING! Sing songs of praise and thanksgiving! Because of Jesus and the sacrifice He has made for us, we all one day will have the ability to live an eternal life in the presence of God.

In His Love,

Maribeth



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 01-Lynda Henderson
- 05-Ouida Carr
- 06-Pat Shoemaker
- 06-Addison P. Fields
- 06-Davis Ponder
- 06-Hadley Heard
- 07-Scott Hartzog
- 08-Angela Harvey
- 10-Kirk Loyless
- 10-Donnie Boyd
- 11-Billy Shingler, Jr
- 13-Lamar Cobb
- 13-Chrystal Smith
- 15-Chad Downing
- 16-Chane Rathel
- 17-Jessie Lou Swanner
- 18-Glenda Snyder
- 18-Jo Beth Kelley
- 19-Dana Davis
- 19-Michelle T. Enfinger
- 20-Buck Jones
- 21-Robert Hudgins
- 24-Kerry Simpson
- 24-Reid Dennis
- 25-Jeffery Ross
- 26-Koby Smith, III
- 26-Cindy Bowen
- 30-Ashley Shingler
- 30-Gant Bridges



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- Ladon and Jessie Lou Swanner November 2, 1960
- Ben and Sky Cunningham November 7, 2020
- Mac and Dana Davis November 8, 2003
- Logan and Desiree Shattles November 18, 2017
- Jamie and Logan W. Holt November 18, 2017
- Shawn and Layne Edwards November 24, 2012
- Boone and Victoria Kennedy November 28, 2015

A message from Kimberly

Youth is 'S'more fun with YOU,' we're having a bonfire night on November 14th.

Our youth are headed to the 'Encounter Youth Retreat' November 19th-21st. This year, it's going to be held on Jekyll Island at the 4-H Center and it's going to be just as awesome!

This month we are wrapping up our series called "In Charge" where we've been learning that Jesus is the example of good authority, that we can always choose to be honorable, and to lead with love. Parents, here is a prayer you can pray for your child this month "God, help [my child's name] and me to realize that You are the main authority in our lives. Help us to model Your love in how we think and interact with others."

A Big Thank You!

Things can change a lot in a span of three months. Finding out that I needed surgery and then cancer treatments was a huge change. One thing that remained unchanged was the loving response of the Friendship UMC. I am blessed to be a part of the wonderful Friendship community. I have seen this church celebrate good times with family as well as how faithfully we serve one another by helping out each other. These past months I have been on the receiving end of that care. Martha and I have been fed, been visited, and the church provided much transportation to and from Dothan for treatments. Thank you for all the ways you have blessed us.

I have finished the first round of treatments with more decisions ahead. I continue to be hopeful in response to our Lord's steadfast love. May God bless you all!

Kirk Loyless

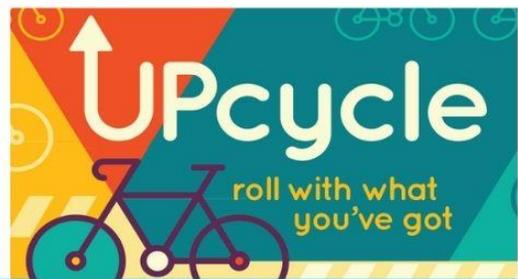
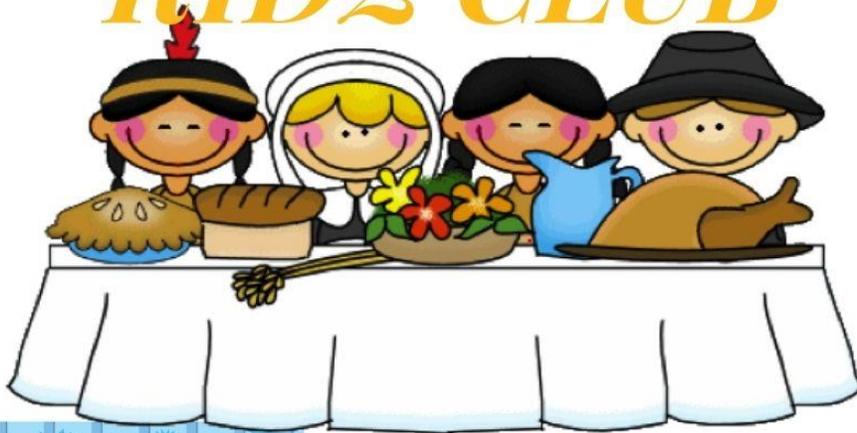
Have you downloaded the new church app yet? If you don't yet know how to install it search for "Friendship UMC" in the apple app store or google play store and install it on your phone. Open the app, browse around, and get familiar with the app. It includes screens for giving, watching services, adding prayer requests and more. One of the features we have been utilizing is the messaging function. In the upper right-hand corner of the app there are 3 small icons. If you click the one on the far right it will take you to the messaging function which will allow you to join messaging groups. Once you get into that module click "Discover" at the top, browse the groups, and join the groups that you are interested in staying up to date on. There is one for each service, Sunday school classes, Wednesday night groups, and more. Check it out.

Simple Night of Hope will be December 12 and we are working on the music now. Please check the Simple Worship Service Group in the church app where pastor Nate is asking for help picking songs and respond with your suggestions.

Have a good week and we hope to see you on Sunday...

God Bless.... Michael

KIDZ CLUB



The preschool kids will be learning about being thankful. Their bottom line is I can thank God for everything. Their memory verse is "I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart" Psalm 111:1

The theme for the elementary kids is Upcycle. The monthly life app is CONTENTMENT- learning to be okay with what you have. The Basic truth is I can trust God no matter what. The Bible verse is "I have learned to be content no matter what happens to me. I know what it's like not to have what I need. I also know what it's like to have more than I need" Luke 12:15



345 is for our 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. It gives them the chance to get together to have fellowship time and a way to transition into youth. We decided to do 3rd-5th because that is how our Sunday school classes are divided up Kindergarten-2nd grade and 3rd-5th grade. Our next 345 event is TBD





Notes from Erica

December 1st -Christmas tree lighting

- The children will have a tree; you are not going to want to miss this

December 2nd- Christmas parade

If you are interested in helping us with our float please see myself or Kimberly

December 16th- Christmas play and cookies with Santa we will be having rehearsal as it gets closer to time so please be on the lookout for that.

December 22nd- Youth and children Christmas caroling

We are planning a movie and hot chocolate day for all the children. Date TBD



We really could use some volunteers on Wednesdays. If you are interested in helping with the elementary kids please let me know I would really appreciate your help. In the meantime as a result of our lack of volunteers and the numbers we are have on Wednesdays for Wednesdays ONLY we will be moving the kindergarten children to the preschool class. Sunday mornings will remain the same with Kindergarten-5th grade meeting in the common room for the Bible story and than splitting into our Sunday school classes of Kindergarten to 2nd and 3rd to 5th.



I have been organizing and cleaning out our Sunday school supplies for the preschool and elementary school classes. Below is a list of items on our wish list that we could really use.

- Crayons (preferred Crayola)
 - Markers (most if not all our markers are dried out)
 - kid scissors (the scissors we have are really old and do not work well with small hands)
 - glue (we have plenty of glue sticks but we could use some regular white glue)
 - Hot glue gun sticks (we are out of hot glue gun sticks for small hot glue guns)
- Ideally thanks to Covid it would be really nice if we had pencil boxes so each kid could have their own set of supplies and not have to share with everyone; so if we could get some of those that would be great as well but not necessarily something we have to have.



Trees of Hope



This year we are asking each church group to decorate a tree that will line the street. We will start at the corner by the Mission Shed and go toward the office on Woolfork Ave. Your group will be responsible for providing a live tree, tree stand, and decorations. We will provide electricity and water. We are also working on a way to stabilize the trees so they will not fall over. We will have a tree lighting ceremony On Wednesday, December 1st at 6:00. We would love to see every group of the church involved with this event!

Wednesday, November 17th we will be “Hanging the Greens”. We will have a potluck dinner at 5:30 in the social hall and then we will head to the sanctuary to get the decorations in place for the Advent Season.



Intentional Communication

We have had quite a few conversations lately about intentional communication. We realize that we need to communicate to the members of the church what is happening in the life of the church, however, we do not want to overwhelm you with too much information. It has been brought to our attention that constant emails and texts are not enjoyable. We are trying to be proactive, so we are encouraging everyone to get the new church app and join the message groups that apply to you. This will be a very convenient way to communicate with everyone.

We will continue to send our weekly Friendship This Week email. We are asking that any information you wish to send out to the church in the form of an email is sent to the office by Monday afternoon. This will allow it to be put in the weekly email on Tuesday. We will continue to have our weekly printed bulletin on Sunday's as well as our monthly printed newsletter that is mailed.

We understand that this change may be frustrating to begin with, but we feel that this will create an overall better communication experience for our congregation.