



Friendship United Methodist Church

October 2021

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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 and that whatever college football team you cheer for is doing good. October is here and in just three short months a new year will begin. That is crazy to think about, it feels like we have been living in the year 2020 for two years now. Hopefully in our rush to start a new year we do not zoom through the advent season! I truly meant the pun using the word zoom!

Zoom has become a natural part of our language now. A tool of technology that was hardly used or understood just two years ago has now become a natural part of our life. It may not be the actual tool zoom that we are using, but zoom has become the unofficial mascot of all the new technology we have been thrust into.

This may be painful for some to hear but technology and the church are not going away. Some of us have tried to avoid using technology but have found that by avoiding it we have lost connection with some of our friends and family. The truth is that technology is not a new fad in the church, it has always been around. Some of us have chosen to avoid using it. Avoiding something does not always work out for the best. In the case of the church by avoiding technology we are behind the world in many ways.

The church has lost ground in communicating with people the message of Jesus Christ to the message of the world. The evidence is seen now as pews are empty and programming attendance is slim to none. Sunday school classes have disappeared, and other fellowship groups like United Methodist Men and Women have evaporated. Please understand that I am talking about the church as a whole, not just Friendship. These are the trends of the church worldwide.

In 1955 Robert Schuller had the vision to use the technology of the time to spread the message of Jesus Christ. At that time, the work of the Crystal Cathedral Ministries was groundbreaking, and Robert Schuller faced a lot of criticism for what they were doing. At one point in their ministry, it was revealed by secular media outlets that the Crystal Cathedral Ministries "Hour of Power" was reaching over 20 million viewers. While there have been some unfortunate circumstances surrounding modern Crystal Cathedral Ministries, they have demonstrated the possibilities of using technology to spread the message of Jesus Christ to the world.

I have no desire to be like the Crystal Cathedral, but I am happy to say that Friendship has been very proactive in using technology to reach our community. When the pandemic began and in-person church services were canceled, our church was prepared and already had a small online presence through Facebook and YouTube. We have seen the evidence of our ministry in the testimonies of the people in our community. I have had people approach me at the grocery store and tell me that they watch our services on Sunday and how thankful they are. I have heard our own members say they watched our service while they were sitting on the beach. HOW GREAT IS THAT! They were hundreds of miles away but still connected to the body of Christ! I have had our own members who are homebound share how much being able to watch our service means to them. The message of Jesus Christ is truly going beyond our sanctuary and into the homes of our community.

Friendship is now taking the next step in using technology. We have a new website: friendshipdonalsonville.church and are now on Roku TV and Apple TV. We are excited that we now have an app for phones! Now you can take Friendship wherever you go! Friendship will be with you in Athens and Destin. Now I realize that technology can be confusing and scary at times so if you need help please call the church office, or even better stop by and visit with us! We can walk you through the process of getting connected through all of our new technology.

Nate

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

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US POSTAGE
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Non-Profit Organization



Going to extremes

When a herd of elephants ventured into a town in eastern India, people chased them away. But soon they learned that a baby elephant had fallen into a 30-foot well and been left behind. Workers had to use three backhoes to free the calf, breaking down the brick well and digging a sloping trench for the youngster to walk out on.

Righting a wrong — and even saving a life — may require extreme measures. A structure holding someone captive may need to be torn down. And in many cases, it's better to allow the trapped one as much independence and agency as possible. Rather than hoisting the elephant out vertically, which might have been dangerous and traumatic, helpers made a path so it could take part in attaining its freedom.

God often works like this, restoring and equipping us to partner with him. How can we assist others while granting them the dignity of being part of the solution?

—Heidi Hyland Mann

Time to hit delete?

If we really have too much to do, there are some items on the agenda that God did not put there. Let us submit the list to him and ask him to indicate which items we must delete. There is always time to do the will of God. If we are too busy to do that, we are too busy.

—Elisabeth Eliot

Youth is back! We had a blast attending Hangar 38, where we were able to reconnect, eat pizza, bowl, and go head-to-head on some classic arcade games. Now we're getting settled back into Sunday nights in the Wurst House with games and worship. We've started a new youth series called 'The Big Questions' where we're exploring that it's okay to ask the tough questions, that our biggest questions deserve better answers and 'knowing Jesus changes everything.' Mark your calendars because next month we are headed to Reed Farm and Ranch on October 24th for an afternoon filled with hayrides, a 10-acre corn maze, and more! Parents, here is a prayer you can pray for your child this month "I pray that (my child's name) will begin to pursue their own faith. Give me the wisdom to know how to nurture their desire to know YOU more.

Kimberly



Esther 4:14 (paraphrased)

Who knows if perhaps you were made [queen] for just such a time as this?"

The story of Esther is one of my very favorites. To do something big for God, you've got to believe in your calling. You have to determine that you will not let anything stop you from doing what God has called you to do.

That takes guts! It's not easy to do something like Esther did. Standing up for people, doing something different isn't easy. But if you want to be a person who does big things for God, you've got to believe in your calling and take a risk.

When you believe in your calling, it allows you to step out and do things that you might have otherwise been [afraid to do](#).

So today, all of us.... all ages... if you have questioned your calling, challenge yourself to live this year differently. Choose to believe that you are called and then each day live life on purpose. Determine to not let anything distract you from what God has called you to do!

If you are unsure as to what's God's plan or purpose is for your life, seek Him and He will reveal your purpose. God will disclose why you were created. When you seek God, He will unpack why you were born for such a time as this. Your birth was not by happenstance. You were planted in time, by God, for His pleasure. You are not a mistake. You are not a failure. You are His True Treasure.

In His Love,
Maribeth

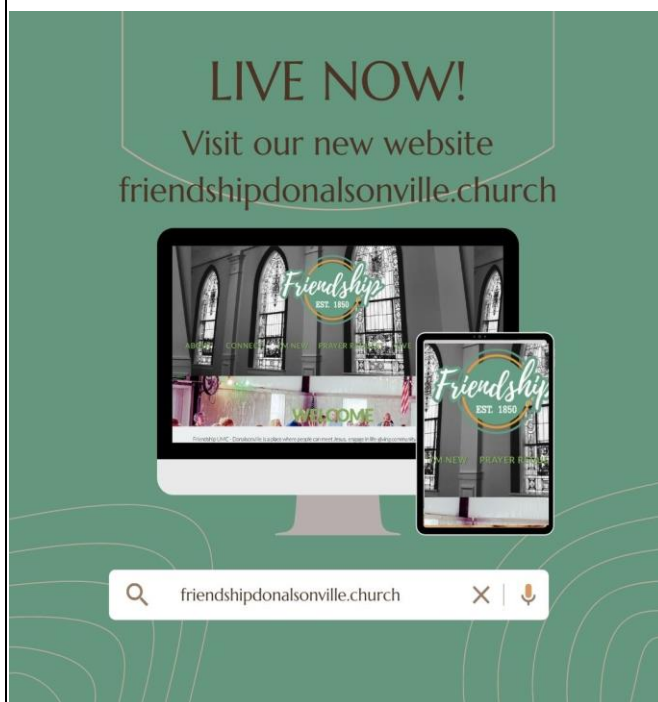


01-Mike Henderson	22-Sissy Harrell
03-Fred Brackin	22-Brayson Reynolds
03-Ryan Shingler	24-Jeremy Burke
04-Michael Jon Rogerson	24-Sam Mills
05-Kate Shingler	24-Beth Marable
05-Clay Henderson	25-Mikey Hampton
06-Beth Lane	25-Jeff Henderson
07-Katie Earnest	25-Logan Shattles
08-Charles Harvey	26-Al Harris, Jr.
12-Patty Atkinson	27-Vince Kelley
13-Pam Cunningham	27-Gabe Lowry
18-Ausben Hicks	27-Cody Shattles
18-Anne Edwards	27-Ricky Coachman
20-Bill Crosby, Sr.	29-Logan W. Holt
21-Judy Carr	30-Tanner Trawick
21-Dave Fain	31-Broaddus Simpson



Jake and Suzette Hartzog

October 8, 2016



A NOTE FROM GENE

Do you ever feel that you take two steps forward and one step back? That is how I have felt this summer. I know many of you have felt this same way because you have told me so. It seems the more that we do.... the more we need to do! Paul says in Romans 1 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel; It is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believes. To the Jew first and then to the gentile we share Jesus Christ." Let's do this through music!

We are all feeling "tired and worn" during this time, but God expects us to keep moving forward and give our best. There are many times that Jesus could have thrown his hands up in the air and given up on us. He chose to keep teaching us the word, molding us into the person that God wants us to be. God is not going to push us to work for his kingdom. We will make the choice. We can either work for him or against him. As we sing in the choir, we are doing service for His kingdom. One person can't do it all. The preacher can't do everything. The Secretaries can't do it all. The music leaders can't do everything. It takes us All. One is not more important than another. It takes everyone working together.

As we return to our Wednesday rehearsals at 7:00, we must give him the best that we have to offer and share His word through music. The staff has been getting familiar with our new app. This has been so much fun! I hope that you will find a few minutes to "fiddle" around with it.

One more thing! It's beginning to look a lot like Thanksgiving; but Christmas is just around the corner! That sounds like a cool name for a song! Just remember, WE can't spell music without U so come and join us as we prepare. Let's all continue to pray as God leads us along the way! With U... together we can make a difference. Let's keep on singing and praising the Lord! Hope to See you Sunday!

Gene

Have you signed up for the Simple Facebook Group yet. If not, go to Facebook and click groups on the left-hand side.

Once the groups page comes up, search "Simple Worship" and it should be the 1st group that comes up. Once the group comes up click Join Group and you will be added to the group.

Nate posts notifications and the band posts songs from rehearsal. I post a new songs. Also, I want to interact with you guys through that page. I have done one song pick'em, but I want to do more collaborations to define the order or whatever else God impresses on us. We are constantly trying to tweak what we put out there so join us and collaborate. It is quite fun.

Come Magnify the Lord with me...

I've been listening to a song based on Psalm 34, and it has my mind racing about how eloquently David wrote songs in times of great strife. To be thankful even in the tough storms of life is to be faithful. It is my prayer that you all will lean on God more each day whether you be on top of the world or in the depths of the lowest valley. In my own life God reveals Himself to me when I least expect it and He is always showing me a better way. The journey seems long sometimes, but God lights our path and puts us on His shoulders when necessary. And he gives us the example of how to love each other. So join me in magnifying Him to the world both day and night. He will insulate your path. Come taste and See, and He will surprise you with how good He is...

Psalm 34: 1;3-6;8

- 1 I will bless the LORD at all times;**
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
- 3 O magnify the LORD with me,**
and let us exalt his name together.
- 4 I sought the LORD, and he answered me,**
and delivered me from all my fears.
- 5 Look to him, and be radiant;**
so your^(a) faces shall never be ashamed.



- 6 This poor soul cried, and was heard by the LORD,**
and was saved from every trouble.
- 8 O taste and see that the LORD is good;**
happy are those who take refuge in him.
- God Bless.... Michael**

OCTOBER

KIDZ CLUB



Preschool

The preschool children will be learning about that God has big things for us to do. Their key question is "Who made you to do big things?" Their bottom line is "God made me to do big thing." Their basic truth is God made me.

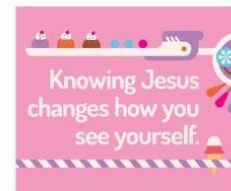
Bottom Line:
God made me to do big things.

Memory Verse:
"Be strong and courageous.
Do not be afraid . . . for the Lord
your God goes with you."
DEUTERONOMY 31:6, NIV



Elementary

We will be looking at the connection between individuality and God's character. Jesus showed us what it means to be created in God's image in the way He loved all people and helped people feel like they had value.

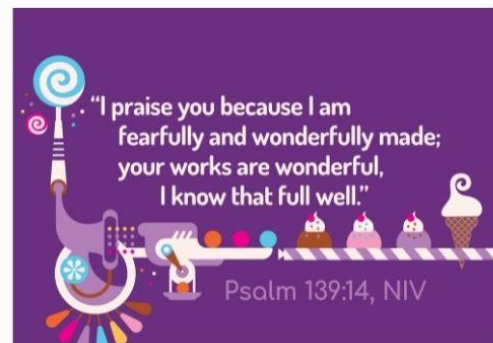


UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



We will be planning some more fun events for the 3rd-5th graders so please be on the lookout for that.

- We are still looking for people willing to volunteer to teach Sunday school and on Wednesday nights. If you would like to help out with either our preschool class or elementary classes please let me know. If you would just like to be available as a substitute on days our normal volunteers are not available I would love to add you to my list.
- Thank you!





Who is ready for some fun games and candy!

We will be having a joint trunk or treat on Sunday October 31st with the Presbyterian church in the field between our 2 churches.

A sign up will be coming out soon for those interested in doing a trunk or helping with games.

We will be collecting bags of candy as our Sunday school offering for October during Kidz club but if you would like to donate bags of candy please drop them off at the church office. We greatly appreciate it.

