



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:

friendshipmc@windstream.net

Website:

www.friendshipdonalsonville.church

Rev. Nate Lehman~Pastor

Gene Houston~Music Director

**Maribeth Burke~Assistant Music
Director**

**Maria Wallace~Simple Worship
Director / Traditional Worship
Accompanist**

**Ruby Holt~Church
Administrator**

**Kyla Smith~Administrative
Assistant**

**Nursery~Rose Smith & Amanda
Hale-Seabrooks**

**Friendship Store
Manager~Brittany Scott**

Friendship Methodist Church

August 2023

Good morning! It is hard to believe that summer is coming to an end and school is starting back! Soon we will be starting back our Wednesday Night Programming. I am excited about what we have planned and hope that you will be involved, because we need your help!

Christian families are under attack in the world today. This may sound like a harsh statement, but it is the reality that we live in. The culture of the world is slowly eroding what it means to be a family led by Christ. Current trends in worship are demonstrating this fact. Statistics show that families are attending worship together far less than the generation before.

I am a fan of visiting Providence Canyon in Lumpkin. When you make it down to the bottom of the canyon it is amazing to see the layers of earth. What is more amazing to me is that this little "grand" canyon is only a few decades old.

Historical accounts indicate that the canyon began forming in the early 1800s as the result of poor soil-management practices. Native forest cover had been cleared so the land could be farmed, and early-nineteenth-century farmers in this region took no measures to avoid soil erosion. We are at that point in the life of the church. How do we stop the erosion? It starts with the children.

I believe that the future of the church is seen in the children of the church. A church with no children is a dying church. I love the noise of children in the sanctuary! That noise is the heartbeat of our church. We all know what it means if there is no heartbeat.

Children will be our focus on Wednesday Nights! We are going to try to continue the fun of Vacation Bible School on Wednesday Nights. Starting with Hero Hotline, the children will have a slightly scaled down version of VBS on Wednesday Nights. They will have fun music to sing along with, awesome crafts to create and best of all they will hear the message of Christ! WE NEED YOUR HELP! We need volunteers that are willing to invest in the future of the church and help stop the erosion!

We will also offer two small groups. These small groups will be focused on building relationships and supporting families. One will be for women and one for men. Erica will be leading the women's group and discussing the book Mama Bear Apologetics. Please understand this book is not just for young mothers! It is a book for everyone who have children in their life. It has information pertinent for every generation! You can purchase this book through Amazon. Nate will be leading the men through the book of Acts. We will be discussing our role as men in the church and the challenges we face today! It is my hope that if you decide not to be involved in a small group that you would be involved in the children's programming! Children learn their priorities by watching their parents. If parents do not make church a priority, they can't expect their children to. Please let us know that you can help us stop the erosion!

Nate

FRIENDSHIP UMC
US 84 and Woolfork Ave.
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When we least deserve love

"Love me when I least deserve it," says a Swedish proverb, "because that's when I really need it." My mom recounts how my 1-year-old sister, scooting around in a walker, somehow got hold of and spilled a loosely capped bottle of cooking oil. As Mom cleaned up, my sis scooted into the bathroom and unwound all the toilet paper.

Mom went to investigate the ruckus, and as she respooled the TP, my sister went back to the kitchen, pulled crackers out of a lower cupboard, tossed them on the floor and drove over them — in the remaining oil. At that point, Mom decided it was naptime! Yet I know Mom laid her little one in her crib with tender love. After a rest, they'd start afresh.

In John 21, the risen Jesus addresses Peter, who had denied him three times the night of Jesus' arrest. But Jesus didn't treat Peter harshly. In love, the Savior offered his disciple a fresh start. So too, when we're at our worst, hurting God's heart by hurting others and creation, God loves us all the more. He loves us into a fresh start — even, and especially, when we least deserve it.

—Heidi Hyland Mann

God is watching

In the cafeteria line one day, a seminary dean noticed a bowl of big, juicy oranges. A sign by it read, "Take only one. God is watching you!" At the other end of the lunch line sat a large plate of freshly baked chocolate chip cookies. Beside it was a hastily scrawled note, likely from a hungry student: "Take as many cookies as you want. God is back there watching the oranges."

The message behind that good-natured irreverence? If you believe that God's sight is limited to one place, then your idea of God is too small!

—adapted from *The Wired Word*

CHOIR NOTES FOR INQUIRING FOLKS

Even though we may not be directly involved with all of the school activities, we will be involved in so many other ways. Kids will be fund raising and teachers might need extra help from the community, or even our church. We need to be there for them and most of all we need to be praying for them.

School has changed so much since I taught. Technology has become key. Recently I went to a concert at Florida State. I was watching the choir as they held their books up just right and then it hit me why their books never seemed to move. They weren't books at all. They were using iPads to read the music. This is not exactly a new thing. I am just behind with the technology. I wonder if there will be a day when the choir director will ask the choir members "who will or won't be here Sunday?" The choir director will just relay this to the sound booth, and he will program the computer to add 2 tenors, 1 Bass, an alto, and maybe a soprano!

Well, I guess that's not "back to the future" yet, but until it gets here we need to serve in the choir. Please let me know the Sundays that you can't be here so we can make adjustments. I will have a dry erase board on the wall. Please write down dates that you won't be in the choir. God always provides and he will continue to provide; however, he does expect us to give our best to Him. WE can't learn new music or work on a cantata if we are not at the rehearsals.

Some choir directors will tell you not to show up on Sunday if you miss the Wednesday night rehearsal. That is not me! Maria and I want you to be here on Sunday, even if you missed the Wednesday rehearsal. It is certainly more fun when you are familiar with the music by rehearsing on Wednesday, but if you have to miss, just come on Sunday.

I am already listening to Christmas Cantatas. It seems really hot to be singing Christmas music, but that season is approaching quickly. We will begin Wednesday night rehearsals soon and will begin rehearsing the cantata. God tells us to "Relax and allow Him to lead." So, let's do just that.

Gene

Wednesday Nights at Friendship



COKEBURY'S
**HERO
HOTLINE**
Called Together
to Serve God

**THE
ACTS**
OF THE APOSTLES
LOUIE GIGLIO

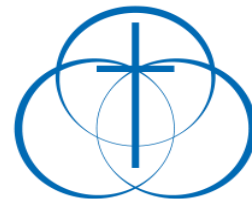
**MAMA
BEAR**
Apologetics
HILLARY MORGAN FERRER

Youth and Children
HERO HOTLINE!

Men's Small Group
The Acts of the Apostles

Women's Small Group
Mama Bear Apologetics

Starting
August 16th



GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH

The Global Methodist Church's logo brings together in its three circles the one God – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit – who alone we worship. The circles intersect at the center of the cross of Jesus Christ, the symbol of our deliverance from our slavery to sin and fear of death. The outer circumference of the rings represents the globe. As a whole, the logo communicates God's sending of the church into the world. The sky blue color reminds us that even though Global Methodists live all around the world, they are all united together in God's great creation.



August

BIRTHDAYS

02-Kem Earnest	19-Colin Shoemaker
03-Jordan Trawick	19-Kimberly Bowling
08-Kathy Reese	20-Tim Bowen
09-Jared Gordon	22-Meredith Shingler
09-Bethany B. McElyea	22-Jean Trice
10-Preston Drake	22-Brayden Rogerson
12-Jhett Jones	22-Martha Loyless
16-JC Carr	23-Wyatt Shingler
17-Becky Williams	27-Gene Houston
18-Tommy Holloman	27-Leanne Pollock
19-Chris Miller	29-Evelyn Shingler
19-Shana Bridges	30-Garrett Bridges



August

ANNIVERSARIES

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

Ushers for August

August 6th– Michael Rogerson

August 13th – Drew Godwin

August 20th – Homer Breckenridge

August 27th – Dustin Bowen

Keeping It Simple-A Note from Maria

I hope hearing the stories of others during the July "Soundtrack Sermon Series" encouraged those who heard. I know that as I shared my story, there was a lot to share in a little time! I left out some parts of what has most impacted my life. I am reminded of one of the biggest impacts as we approach the beginning of the school year, and parents release their children to be away for at least 8 hours of the day, influenced by school culture. So how can parents have a bigger influence than their child's peers? What can you do to build a foundation that cannot be shaken? In the parable of the wise man who built his house on the rock, contrasted with the foolish man who built his house on the sand, Jesus clearly states that it's the man who "hears my sayings and does them" who is the wise man. It's not enough just to hear the Word; we have to do it. When it comes to parenting, what you do speaks a lot louder than what you say. A pastor I remember used to say, "What you do in moderation, your kids will do to excess." So, then we need to be doers of the Word! Also, in my own story of some major impacts in my life, the way that I came back to God, after straying like a lost sheep, was through the love I saw in my parents. I could not believe that they could love me after all that had happened, but their love was the same no matter what. The thing that broke through to me was a Bible verse that I remembered learning as a child. Actually, it was only 3 words of 1 John 4:16, " ...God is love." Those 3 words made me realize that the only way my parents could love me the way they did was because their love originated from God because God is love. That was when my life completely turned around! I learned that verse for Sunday School as a small child, and that seed of God's Word reaped a harvest in my life years later. Parents, please place a value on teaching your children the Bible at a young age. Bring them to church, where they hear it again in Sunday School and children's church. I pray that we have enough people in the church who will see just how impactful children's ministry is and choose to serve/volunteer in that ministry! That way, our children can be Godly influencers instead of being influenced!

See you Sunday!

Maria