



Maria Ruhe
FFUMC Preschool Director

I have had the honor of being in an educational setting since my own early days of preschool! After growing up on a farm in western Iowa with a high school graduating class of 36, I went on to the University of Northern Iowa where I earned my bachelor's degree in Secondary Mathematics. From there, my 10-year teaching career was spent in the Des Moines Public Schools where I taught various math classes between grades 8-12. I also coached a variety of sports and held many different leadership positions, which led me to getting my master's degree in Educational Leadership at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa.

My husband, Paul, and I met in 2012, got married in 2014, had Hugo in 2016, and moved to Georgia in 2018. Paul flies for Delta Air Lines, and the commute to Hartsfield-Jackson from here is resoundingly better than the commute from Des Moines! Since living here, we added Otis to our family in 2020.



A long term goal of mine has always been to be a principal or superintendent. After spending five years away from a formal classroom setting to spend more time with my family, I'm confident that being a Preschool Director is now the perfect fit. Since having children of my own, I have completely fallen in love with young children – their curiosity, their creativity, their genuine selves, their tiny (and huge) personalities, and everything that goes along with them. I'm excited for the future of the preschool here at FFUMC!