

# connections

REACHING OUT...IT'S WHO WE ARE!

## First United Methodist Church of Dothan

Dr. James B. Sanders III, Senior Pastor | December 6, 2018



The United Methodist Children's Home (UMCH) has "helped transform the lives of thousands of hurting children since 1890". The UMCH is a collaborative ministry of the North Alabama and Alabama-West Florida Conferences. We have an opportunity to join in the ministry of the UMCH to help fulfill their efforts in making a difference in the lives of children and youth through their mission, focus, and spiritual care.

**Our Mission** -- *Our mission is to follow the example of Christ by embracing all God's children ... one child, one family at a time.*

**Our Focus** -- *We are to be servants of Christ providing safe homes, caring support, and college scholarships to neglected and abused youth from Alabama and Northwest Florida.*

**Spiritual Care** -- *We connect our children with local churches in their area so they may participate in worship services, Sunday school, and children and youth activities.*

The UMCH has set the theme for this year's White Christmas campaign as **"No Greater Gift Than a Place to Call Home."** This Sunday, December 9, you are encouraged to bring your White Christmas offering to church as a way to partner in ministry with the UMCH in transforming the lives of some of the youngest of God's children. By doing this you are helping countless children and families across Alabama and Florida. All gifts made before December 31 will be matched up to a certain amount by a generous family in our church. Thank you for your generosity in supporting this ministry.



### Second Week in Advent

#### Sunday, December 9th

- White Christmas Offering
- Christmas Parties for Children, Tweens, and Youth
- Gift wrap event for Christmas with The Harbor, Gym, 2:30

### Third Week in Advent

#### Sunday, December 16th

- Chancel Choir and Orchestra Presentation Sanctuary, 8:55 and 11:00
- The Promise of Christmas Bring coats, blankets, underwear, and socks to donate. Fellowship Hall Refreshments, 5:30; Praise and Worship, 6:00

### Wednesday, December 19th

- Christmas with The Harbor Dinner, Fellowship Hall, 5:30-7:30

### Fourth Week in Advent,

#### Sunday, December 23rd

- Regular morning services and Life Groups

### Monday, December 24th Christmas Eve

- "Experience Bethlehem" presented by FUMC Children's Ministry, Fellowship Hall, 3:00
- Sanctuary Services, 4:15 and 5:30
- Come and Go Communion, Chapel, 5:00-6:00

### Christmas Day, December 25th

Christmas Eve... Love One → Pray One → Bring One

## CHILDREN

### Sunday, December 9

- Rock Solid, 9:20
- Sunday Morning Life Groups, 10:00
- Children's Ministry Christmas Party, Axtion Air, 4:00-6:00

### Wednesday, December 12

- No WACKY/SonShine Time

### Sunday, December 16

- Rock Solid, 9:20
- Sunday Morning Life Groups, 10:00
- No afternoon activities (Christmas Break)

### Wednesday, December 19

- No WACKY/SonShine Time

## TWEENS

### Sunday, December 9

- Tweens sing in the Traditional Services in the Sanctuary at 8:55 and 11:00. We will meet there at 8:40 and then again at 10:45. If your Tween attends Sunday School, we will send them to the Sanctuary at the appropriate time.
- Our Annual Tween Christmas Party will be held on Sunday, December 9, in the Fellowship Hall and Gym from 2:30-4:30. Meet at 2:30 in the Fellowship Hall. You will not want to miss this fun event! Parents, please contact me if you're willing to help. I promise you'll have a blast.

## YOUTH

### Sunday, December 9

#### • Wrapping Christmas Presents for Christmas with The Harbor

Meet in the gym at 2:30. We will wrap until we are finished. Bring scissors.

- **Youth Christmas Party** will be 5:15 until 7:15. Drop off and pickup will be at Henry and Elizabeth Ivey's home; 401 Montezuma Avenue. We will provide Zaxby's chicken fingers. Boys should bring a salty snack and girls should bring a sweet snack. Everyone should bring their favorite 2L drink. We will be playing Dirty Santa, so everyone should bring a wrapped \$5 to \$10 gift that is appropriate for giving at a church party.

### Tuesday, December 11

**Youth Breakfast:** Join us in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00. We will be serving French toast, eggs, bacon, sausage, and cheese grits. Cost is \$3.

**Youth Bible Studies** resume January 9. Christmas Break.

### Wednesday, December 19

Christmas Dinner and Presents for The Harbor: call, text, or email Whit with any questions and let him know how you will help at [whit@fumcdothan.org](mailto:whit@fumcdothan.org) or 714-1766.

## ADULTS

**Lunch Club** is Tuesday, December 11, at Basketcase. Meet there at 11:00. A signup sheet is outside Hannah's office.

**Book Club** meets Wednesday, December 12, at 3:30 in Room 154. The book is "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" by Barbara Robinson.

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

**Recently hospitalized:** Katherine Carothers, Marc Crews, Tami McKeown, George Summerford, Taylor White

#### Our sympathy to:

- Glenn and Tami Spivey and Marbury and Maryann Spann and family; death of Glenn's mother and Marbury's sister, Marion Spann Spivey, November 25.

- Family and friends of Conway Crane, who died November

**Congratulations to** Beverly Bryan and Cliff Allsup; married December 1.

## WE'RE HIRING

We are seeking a part-time director of tween ministry to join our exceptional and collaborative team of staff and laypeople. This part-time position is for up to 22 hours/week which includes Sundays and Wednesdays. Direct inquiries or resumé with references to Pamela at [pamela@fumcdothan.org](mailto:pamela@fumcdothan.org).

## GIFTS AND MEMORIALS

**Please Note:** When you give a memorial or honorarium, whether by check or e-giving, please use the form (found online, or in the front or finance offices). This form helps us to acknowledge the gift using correct information.

## HOLY BAPTISM



### Samuel Deighton Shaw

received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on Sunday, December 2. He was born July 7, 2018 and is the son of Katie and Douglas Shaw. Grandparents are Julie and Steve Shaw. Great grandmother is Juleann Torrence



# HELP WANTED!

## Christmas with The Harbor

### This Sunday Afternoon, December 9th

Volunteers are needed for this Gift Wrapping Event.

Come help and bring your scissors!

Gym • 2:30

### Wednesday, December 19th

Christmas Dinner with The Harbor

Fellowship Hall at 5:30

We will have all of the children and their families join us for dinner at FUMC. We will have a meal together, hear the Christmas story, and distribute the gifts to the children. We hope that you will be a part.

You can donate online or by sending any money to FUMC through the mail, in the offering plate or by hand delivery.

# Christmas Presence

Presented by the Chancel Choir and Orchestra  
 Sunday, December 16th  
 Sanctuary 8:55 and 11:00



"A Night of Contemporary Worship featuring  
 The Bridge praise band Promise"  
 Sunday, December 16th  
 Fellowship Hall

The coats, blankets, new socks and underwear  
 you donate will be distributed by The Harbor.

Refreshments, 5:30 • Music begins, 6:00  
 Bring a salty or sweet snack!  
 Enjoy coffee, hot chocolate, and pink lemonade!

## Spirit of GIVING

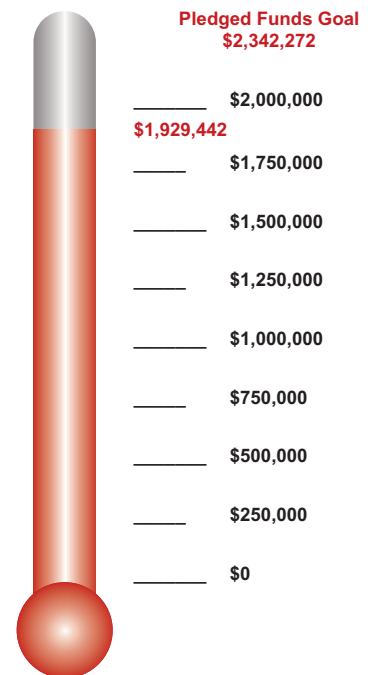
Christmas Blood Drive • This Sunday, December 9th • 8:30 to 12:30  
 Bloodmobile in our East Parking Lot

### END OF YEAR GIVING

December has traditionally been a time when our community of faith has generously given to God's work in and through our church. Before this year ends, we have the opportunity to faithfully support the wonderful breadth and scope of our life together by making generous contributions to our 2018 Ministry Plan. \$417,800 given before December 31 will ensure the fulfillment of all our 2018 ministry dreams and obligations. As the pace of life speeds up around the holidays, you may find electronic giving a most welcome way to make contributions. Visit [www.fumcdathan.org](http://www.fumcdathan.org) or call Carla Barnett at 944-3222 for more information. Thank you for your generosity!



The estimate of giving reflected in your Opportunity Card, in addition to being an important act of sacrificial faith, is a necessary resource allowing your church to build a responsible 2019 Ministry Plan. If you have not already turned in your 2019 Opportunity Card, please consider doing so today by mail or online at [www.fumcdathan.org](http://www.fumcdathan.org). Our church understands this is an estimate of your generosity and may need to be adjusted.





**First United  
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Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World!

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Our *Discipleship in Action* emphasis for December is

# Prepare the Way

We prepare to hear the good news of Jesus' birth once  
again; we prepare our hearts to receive Jesus' Lordship;  
we prepare our lives so that when time is over,  
whether soon or far in the future, we are ready.

hope • peace • love • joy

## WEEK AT A GLANCE

### Sunday, December 9th

#### White Christmas Offering

- 8:15-8:45 First Light Communion (Chapel)
- 8:30-12:30 Blood Drive (Bloodmobile East Parking Lot)
- 8:55 The Gathering (Parlor)
- 8:55 Sanctuary Worship
- 8:55 The Bridge Worship (Fellowship Hall)
- 10:00-10:50 Sunday Morning Life Groups for All Ages
- 10:00-10:55 Kay Williams Class Christmas Brunch
- 11:00-12:00 Sanctuary Worship
- 2:30-4:30 Gift Wrap Event (Gym)
- 2:30-4:30 Tween Christmas Party (Fellowship Hall)
- 4:00-6:00 Children's Christmas Party (Axtion Air)
- 5:15-7:15 Youth Christmas Party (Ivey Home)

### Monday, December 10th

- (8:00-7:00) Gym Open
- 9:00-11:30 In Christ's Name (Room 134)
- 10:00-2:00 Respite Care (Rooms 157/158)
- 1:30-3:00 Ladies Fellowship Bible Study (Room 131)

### Tuesday, December 11th

- 8:00-7:00 Gym Open
- 8:45-9:45 Senior Stretch and Strengthen (Gym)
- 10:00-2:00 Respite Care (Rooms 157, 158)
- 11:00-12:00 Lunch Club (Basketcase)
- 1:00-3:00 Joyful Hands Sewing (Room 152)
- 6:00-8:00 Church Party (Fellowship Hall)

### Wednesday, December 12th

- 8:00-7:00 Gym Open
- 7:00-8:00 Men's Breakfast and Bible Study (Shoney's)
- 9:00-10:00 Daycare Chapel
- 10:00-2:00 Respite Care (Rooms 157, 158)
- 3:00-4:30 Book Club (Room 154)
- 6:00-7:00 Men's Roundtable (Room 163)
- 6:00-7:15 Chancel Choir (Room 255)

### Thursday, December 13th

- 8:00-7:00 Gym Open
- 8:45-9:45 Senior Stretch and Strengthen (Gym)
- 10:00-2:00 Respite Care (Rooms 157, 158)
- 12:00-1:30 Bob King's Table Top Men's Lunch and Study (Fellowship Hall)
- 5:30 Respite Caregivers' Christmas Dinner (Parlor)

### Friday, December 14th

- 8:00-5:00 Gym Open

### Saturday, December 15th

- 8:30-12:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 9:00-12:00 Gym Open
- 12:15-3:15 Promise Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)