

# connections

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

## First United Methodist Church of Dothan

Dr. James B. Sanders III, Senior Pastor | June 11, 2020

### Our Pastor on Racism and Clergy Appointments

Dr. Tony Evans, in his book, *Oneness Embraced: A Fresh Look At Reconciliation, The Kingdom, and Justice*, states: "The racial problem in America is the asterisk on an otherwise respectable reputation. Whether manifesting itself overtly in conflicts between differing racial and cultural groups, or simply lurking below the surface as a suspicion camouflaging the true depth of the problem, it continues to be the one dominant area of our failure as a nation. In spite of our successes in science, education, medicine, and technology, becoming truly 'one nation under God' continues to elude us."

The recent killing of George Floyd and the ensuing reactions across our nation have numbed my spirit and left me with few words. We are weary people living in a weary land. I grieve our sins and our inability to live justly and lovingly in community together. Our racism is a stain that seems to persist. Mother Teresa once diagnosed the brokenness of the world by saying: "If we have not peace it is because we have forgotten we belong to each other." Without a doubt, the time to embrace one another is upon us. God is calling all of us to be a part of ending systemic racism and injustice.

I'm praying about how we as a church family can help ourselves and those in our community embrace a sense of "sacred belonging" with people of color. Will you pray about this with me? "Lord Jesus, get our feet moving so that your 'beloved community' may be present here on earth as it is in heaven. We need you, Jesus." I also plan to attend The Dothan Solidarity Drive and Rally which will begin at the Wiregrass Commons Mall on June 14<sup>th</sup> at 2:00. We will drive to Rip Hewes Stadium for a COVID-safe rally, led by Mayor Saliba and Dr. Charles Lewis. All participants will remain in their cars.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, last week's AL - W. FL Annual Conference was postponed. However, Bishop Graves has made clergy appointments for the next Conference year. Our church family has been blessed with gifted clergy who continue to serve Christ and the world. Beyond the bounds of our Conference, Lonnie Pittman will begin serving the Mt. Pleasant UMC in Tobaccoville, NC(1) and Bishop Lawson Bryan will continue to serve the South Georgia Episcopal Area(5).

Below are the names of our previous pastors, along with those who grew up in our church who were appointed by Bishop Graves, their appointments (as of 7/1), and the year to which each is being appointed to his or her present ministry location.

Sterling Boykin - Ashland Place UMC, Mobile(4)  
David Hendrix - Retiring and moving back to Dothan.  
Wes Kelley - First UMC, Clanton(4)  
Woods Lisenby - Dauphin Way UMC Associate, Mobile(4)  
Clint McBroom - FUMC, Tallassee(3)  
Tim Trent - Pensacola District Superintendent(6)  
Hunter Pugh - FUMC, Brantley(2)

Scott Grantland - Grace UMC, Auburn(1)  
Jenni Hendrix - Bethel UMC, Ozark(5)  
Stephen King - Sardis UMC(24)  
Stephan Margeson - FUMC Associate, Ozark(2)  
Steve Spinning - Livingston UMC(5)  
Gillian Lisenby Walters - FUMC Associate, Montgomery(8)

Bishop Graves also appointed Jack Hinnen(2), Lynn Smilie Nesbitt(16), and Mary Noble Parrish(4) back to Dothan, FUMC for another year of service. I invite you to reach out and express your pleasure at their return. They truly are exceptional leaders and we are blessed to be in ministry with them.

For the privilege of being appointed to serving as your Sr. Pastor for my 14<sup>th</sup> year, Sally and I are greatly honored. Thank you for nurturing us and growing with us as we all seek to "make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world". May transformation come to us all!

Inhale Faith; Exhale Fear.

Jim Sanders

([jim@fumcdothan.org](mailto:jim@fumcdothan.org) & 333-2995)



Though our building is closed,  
our hearts are open.

## CHILDREN

What kinds of "storms" might your child encounter in their life? There may be challenges like moving, changing schools, losing a pet or arguing with friends. Why are these things difficult? How can we handle it when they come up? Jesus says that we are to hear His words and put them into practice.....how can we do that? At home, review methods of what Christ directs: read the Bible, pray, listen in church, obey parents. Describe how this will help keep a solid foundation. The more we know and love the Lord, the more stable and reliable our faith is. Even in hard times it will hold firm.

Read Matthew 7:24-27 with your child and discuss how you can help them build their life on the solid rock of Jesus.

Activities to go along with this story are located on the church website under children's ministries and they will also be sent to you via email. If you do not receive the weekly Sunday School stories and songs, please let [leeanne@fumcdothan.org](mailto:leeanne@fumcdothan.org) know.

~ Lee Anne Holland

Follow us on Instagram  
[@fumc\\_childrens\\_ministry](https://www.instagram.com/fumc_childrens_ministry)

Follow us on Facebook  
[@FUMC Dothan Children's Ministry](https://www.facebook.com/FUMC-Dothan-Childrens-Ministry)

## TWEENS

**SMILE** Like you've never cried  
**FIGHT** Like you've never lost  
**LOVE** Like you've never been hurt  
**LIVE** Like there's no tomorrow

There is always a reason to **SMILE**.  
Find it.

*If I say, "I will forget my complaint,  
I will put off my sad face, and be of  
good cheer."*  
Job 9:27

Check out the church website and Tween page for Sunday School videos and activities.  
~ Sonia

Follow Tweens on Instagram  
[@Tweensfumcdothan](https://www.instagram.com/Tweensfumcdothan)

Follow Tweens on Facebook  
[@FUMC Dothan Tween Ministry](https://www.facebook.com/FUMC-Dothan-Tween-Ministry)

## YOUTH

We are having Sunday School classes through Zoom at 10 am. We will also be having Youth Zoom sessions each Sunday and Wednesday evening from 6-7.

The links for the Zoom meetings will come from a Remind text message. If you have not signed up for our Remind messages, please text @fumc19-20 to 810-10.  
~ Brad

## ADULTS

Book Club will meet Wednesday, July 8, at 3:30 in Room 165! We will be discussing *The Discovery*, by Dan Walsh and *The Silent Patient*, by Alex Michaelides.  
~ Hannah

## RESPITE CARE MINISTRY

Did you know?

Watching a giant bubble float is very much like meditation. Bubbles reflect light, so they change colors. It's a scientific phenomenon, but looks like magic.

You can't use a computer, talk on the phone, or drive a car while you're making bubbles. Neighbors and strangers will inevitably appear and watch, creating community and social interaction while physically distancing.

Your bubbles will pop! It's a good lesson in non-attachment. When you're making bubbles, nobody cares how old you are. Every age loves making bubbles!

The recipe for bubble solution and many other fun activities will be in our Weekly Respite Email on Monday. Contact [Margaret@fumcdothan.org](mailto:Margaret@fumcdothan.org) if you would like to be added to our email list.

## Caregiver Zoom Support Group Thursdays at 10:30

Maria, Margaret and I look forward to our time together on Thursdays! Last week we shared tips for better sleeping to help our caregivers and the ones they are caring for. This week will talk about creating a safe environment at home for families living with dementia. Next week we will share conversation tips and tricks for meaningful communication.

If you or someone you know needs support and encouragement please email [katie@fumcdothan.org](mailto:katie@fumcdothan.org) for more information.

~ Katie

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

### Our Sympathy to:

~ The family and friends of Elizabeth Allen, who died June 6.

*This week we are especially praying for the ways our church family is reaching out through our Prayer Team letter writers, who have written over 320 notes of prayer and encouragement since September.*

## BAPTISM

Hanin Camille Benefield was baptized in the Sanctuary on June 7. Hanin is pictured with her parents, Laura and Brandon, and her big sister, Lucy.



## MEMORIALS

### Patsy Bowling

Brenda & Bobby Bottoms

### Dr. Jim Dees

Progressor's Sunday School Class

Brenda & Bobby Bottoms

Pervis & Susan Hester

Lenore Hilbert

Barbara Jackson

Lester & Patricia Stewart

Mitzi & William Watson

Pat & Bill Wente

Jane Williams

### Jamie Elliott

Sigma Nu Moms Club

Nagel & John Byrd

Sha'nah Martin

### Susan Fischer

Pervis & Susan Hester

### McDavid Flowers, Sr.

Amy & Charles Andre

Sandra & Top Bishop

Brenda & Bobby Bottoms

Nagel & John Byrd

Lenore Hilbert

Sheila & Joe Kelly

Elizabeth Schlichting

Bill & Gloria Shealy

Jane Williams

### Gerald Hudson

Nagel & John Byrd

## MEMORIALS CONT.

### Bill Lisenby

Open Door SS

Amy & Charles Andre

Joe & Barbara Boughton

Susan & Hank Gerards

Mike & Carol Goodman

Sha'nah Martin

Allyson Parrish

Mitzi & William Watson

Theolyn Whiting-Miller

Jane Williams

### Bob Long

Nagel & John Byrd

### James Reed

Fred & Margaret Grissom

Pervis & Susan Hester

### Bill Roberts

Jane Williams

### June Sanders

Brenda & Bobby Bottoms

### Beth Shealy

Brenda & Bobby Bottoms

### John David Spears

Mitzi & William Watson

### Sharon Spears

Mitzi & William Watson

### Wynette Thomas

Brenda & Bobby Bottoms

### Ann Todd

Brenda & Bobby Bottoms

## Welcome to the Team

### Kash Deaton

We are excited to announce that as of June 14, Kash Deaton will serve as our Interim Coordinator of Youth Ministry. Kash brings experience in youth ministry and a deep love of God, FUMC, and youth. We are blessed to have Kash serving during this interim season.



## Ways To Give



### Give Online

[fumcdathan.org/give](http://fumcdathan.org/give)



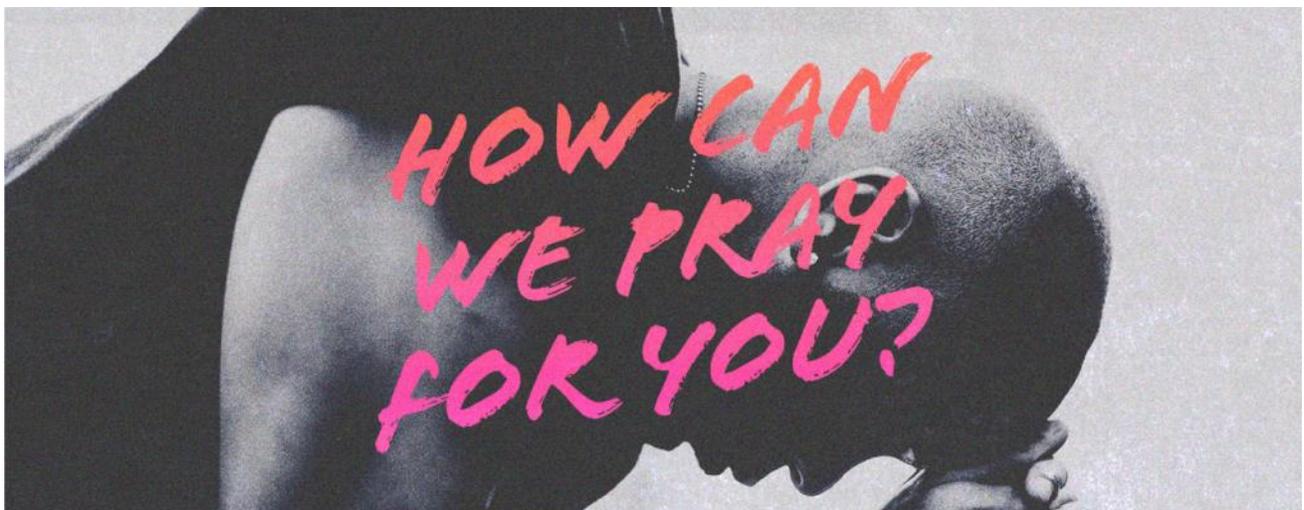
### Text To Give

text "give" to 1-334-219-0240



### Mail In

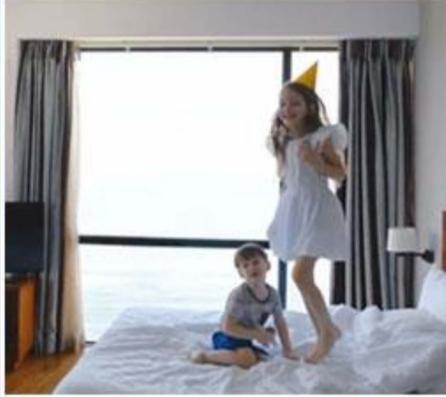
1380 W. Main St.  
Dothan, AL 36301



# Get Excited!

BRIDGE Worship:  
Now Live Streaming!  
Sundays @ 8:55 am

Facebook: @FUMCDothan  
YouTube: FUMCDothan  
Website: fumcdothan.org



## LIVE STREAM WORSHIP TECH SUPPORT

Should you need assistance or help connecting to our LIVE Sunday worship, we will have volunteers in the church office for technical support. Please call 334-793-3555 to speak with someone between 8:45 and 10:00 on Sunday morning.

SANCTUARY 8:55 AM

*Livestream*  
CHURCH SERVICES

WATCH FROM HOME ▶

BRIDGE 8:55 AM

## Need to contact the church?

For immediate assistance,  
call the on-call number: 334-796-9937



For all other needs,  
please email the staff member  
you need to reach.

staff emails listed at [fumcdothan.org/clergy-staff](http://fumcdothan.org/clergy-staff)

## A Good Word

Devotional Videos

New Every Monday - Thursday  
Church website: [fumcdothan.org](http://fumcdothan.org)

Sign up to receive by email: [www.fumcdothan.org/email-sign-up](http://www.fumcdothan.org/email-sign-up)

