

connections

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

First United Methodist Church of Dothan

Dr. James B. Sanders III, Senior Pastor | June 18, 2020

Father's Day

Happy Father's Day! Few holidays have shifted for me like this one. For the past five years things have been different. I've always known that Jesus goes to great lengths to impress upon his followers just how close they are to the heart of God. He encourages them to pray in Luke 11, not to a God that is distant and uncaring, but one that is close and compassionate. One could even translate "Abba Father" as "Daddy" with its intimacy. It is worth remembering that sometimes poor relationships with our earthly fathers strip the positivity right out of the analogy, but I've always known that "God the Father" is close.

I've always known that men in the church were to be emulated, not perfect, but worth having in my life. Some of my favorite memories of the church are with caring men who taught me about the world and how to love others like Jesus. I've been taught the importance of integrity, compassion, and honesty. My time at First United Methodist Church, Dothan has already proven this to be true. I've always known there were men in my life who loved me. Shout out, by the way, to Dr. Hinnen and Mr. Smith for doing just that.

What I didn't know, but have been able to experience for the past five years, was the reality of being a father myself. This is where I'm supposed to tell you that being a dad has taught me the precious value of children. Or, that being a dad has taught me that I can love unconditionally. However, being a father has taught me just the opposite.

Do you know what being a father has taught me? I've learned how much I am in need of grace. You see, I desire the world for my kids. They aren't even teenagers yet, and I'm already painfully aware of all my failings. Joking aside, I love them a lot. I love them so much that I can be more honest about my sin and do what's necessary to be a better father. The work of my hands rarely embodies the entirety of my love for them. So, I'd say I see Father's Day differently now.

This Father's Day, I hope you'll reflect on a relationship that has meant the world to you and caused you to ask, "How can I do this better?" May it help you look more like Jesus for someone you love.



Jack Hinnen
Associate Pastor



This week at FUMC

CHILDREN

What is a Dad?

A Dad is a person who is loving and kind, and often, he knows what you have on your mind.

He's someone who listens, suggests and defends. A dad can be one of your very best friends.

He's proud of your triumphs, but when things go wrong, a dad can be patient and helpful and strong.

In all that you do, a dad's love plays a part; there's always a place for him deep in your heart.

And each year that passes, you're even more glad, more grateful and proud just to call him your dad!

Happy Father's Day to all of the special men that we consider fathers. Let's not forget the most special Father of them all, our Heavenly Father. God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but will everlasting life. John 3:16

~ Lee Anne Holland

Follow us on Instagram
[@fumc_childrens_ministry](#)

Follow us on Facebook
[@FUMC Dothan Children's Ministry](#)

TWEENS

Happy Father's Day to all who are a Dad in any and all ways to someone you love!

Dear God,
We gratefully thank you for giving us a dad.
You must really love us, because You gave the best You had. Watch over him and bless him Lord, and keep him in Your care. May he feel our love for him, this is our humble heartfelt prayer.

The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him.
Proverbs 20:7

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

Follow Tweens on Instagram
[@Tweensfumcdothan](#)

Follow Tweens on Facebook
[@FUMC Dothan Tween Ministry](#)

YOUTH

JOIN US:

Zoom Sunday School, 10 AM.

Senior Sendoff & 7th Grade Welcome Drive-By Parade.
June 28th, 6 PM, CLC Parking Lot.

TIME CHANGE:

We will be having Youth Zoom sessions each Sunday and Wednesday evening at 7:30.

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.**
~ Kash

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.

Book Club with Cheryl Hinnen will meet at 11:00 on Tuesday, July 14 in the Parlor. We will discuss Lisa Sharon Harper's, *The Very Good Gospel: How Everything Wrong Can Be Made Right.*
~ Hannah

RESPITE CARE MINISTRY

Caregiver Zoom Support Group Thursdays at 10:30

If you or someone you know needs support and encouragement please email katie@fumcdothan.org for more information.
~ Katie

JOYS AND CONCERNS

In the Hospital:

~ Alison Lancaster
~ Officer Pete Markow

Released from Hospital:

~ Sue Hall

This week we are especially praying for the ways our church family is reaching out through our Harbor Ministry, who is going into the streets to share food with the hungry.

MEMORIALS

Elizabeth Allen

Susan Price
(family of Bill & Evelyn Davis)
Lillian Ann Robison
(family of Bill & Evelyn Davis)
Bo & Martha Thagard
Barbara Thomas
(family of Bill & Evelyn Davis)
Warren & Shannon Wooley family

Dr. Jim Dees

Bill & Frances Castlen
Tom & Nina Thomas

Susan Fischer

Diana & Bob Hagler
Bo & Martha Thagard

McDavid Flowers, Sr.

David Eubank
Miriam Forrester
Dr. & Mrs. Bill Grubb
Diana & Bob Hagler
Juleann Torrence

Bill Lisenby

Bo & Martha Thagard

Exciting News!

CHURCH OFFICE REOPENS JUNE 22

Monday – Thursday
7:30am - 2:30pm

Changes to Expect When Entering the Church Building

As we begin "slow starts" in some of our ministry areas this week and open our church facility on June 22nd, you will notice some changes. Presently, groups are limited to 12 people or less. To help make your experience at our building positive and safe, here are a few of those changes.

- Every person who is a rising 7th grader or older will be best protected and communicate love to others by wearing a mask when inside our facilities. Masks will be required for entrance into the building.
- Food and drinks (including working water fountains) will not be available.
- Everyone is expected to maintain at least a 6 foot distance from others.
- Everyone is expected to help clean (wipe down) all the areas that they and/or their small group use while in the building including the bathrooms.
- Please check with each staff member before entering her/his office.
- On June 22nd, you can enter our facilities through the Main Office door where your temperature will be taken with a "no-touch" thermometer and your presence registered.

Thanks for helping us care for each other!
Jim Sanders

Recreation Ministry Update

Monday, June 22
Our exercise room will reopen!

We're so excited to be re-opening for our first phase, and can't wait to see you when you return! Of course, due to COVID-19, we've implemented several important policy changes for the health and safety of everyone entering our facilities. Those details can be found at fumcdathan.org, along with our new hours of operation, and a link to make your exercise room reservation.

Weekday Children's Ministry Update

We are open!

Our phased re-opening began this week, and next Monday (6/22), we'll be open to our full capacity. Our 'new normal' will look quite different, but we are thrilled to be welcoming these children back into our facilities for a safe, fun, and educational experience. We have missed everyone so much since March! You can help us by praying for the safety of the children in our care, and the wonderful staff who care for them each day!

Brittany Freeman
Administrative
Assistant
to the Senior Pastor

Please welcome Brittany Freeman to the wonderful and gifted FUMC staff. Her first day will be Monday, June 22, as we reopen the church office.



Kash Deaton
Interim Coordinator of
Youth Ministry

Please welcome Kash Deaton to the wonderful and gifted FUMC staff. She began leading our youth on Sunday, June 15th, through Zoom gatherings.



Weekday is Open!



Ways To Give



Give Online

fumcdothan.org/give



Text To Give

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



Mail In

1380 W. Main St.
Dothan, AL 36301

Church Office Now Open
Monday – Thursday
7:30am - 2:30pm

334-793-3555



SANCTUARY 8:55 AM

Livestream

CHURCH SERVICES

WATCH FROM HOME ▶

BRIDGE

8:55 AM