

# connections

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

## First United Methodist Church of Dothan

Dr. James B. Sanders III, Senior Pastor | October 8, 2020



### Living Well

“The water I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.” ~ John 4:14b

I grew up in a Victorian-style house. It had a wrap-around porch, high ceilings, and plaster walls. It was dilapidated; so my family renovated it. In the yard was one relic of the by-gone era that we didn't renovate, but instead placed a steel plate over: the well. I often wonder how living in that house would have been different if we had reconstructed that well. Would we have had neighbors over and gathered around it? Would I have made wishes that God would somehow honor? Instead, that steel sheet just sat there and is probably still there today, ominously hiding unknown treasures that fascinated my younger self.

The well still served a purpose. It still grounded me in the yard. I still found myself playing around it. I never had the inclination to actually draw water from it, and since we lived in town there was never a reason for a pump. Yet knowing there was a well under that steel kept me close by and hopeful for something fun to happen there. Wells, whether operational or decorative, have a tendency to ground us.

Before the pandemic started, I bet you were grounded around a figurative well. Everyone has watering holes. We all have people or places where we can be refreshed and, after a deep drink of a sacred relationship or a sacred place, truly feel like we are living well.

The Bible is full of wells. Stories in a land as arid as Israel where wells are focal points of entire communities. Both provision and community happens at a well. In the Book of Revelation, the 22nd Chapter, the last image used to describe God's city is a river of living water coursing through it, quenching the thirst of God's people. It's a never-ending well of water!

Our church will spend the month of October focusing on Living Well. “Living Well” means two things for our church. First, we understand Jesus Christ as our living water, who through his life, death, and resurrection provides for us the sustenance and grace necessary to live life well. Second, as we wrestle with necessary changes brought on by a pandemic, we also want to be encouraged by the Holy Spirit to live in a way that is considered good, right, and life-giving. Living Well is both Jesus and our attempts to be like Jesus.

During this time you will hear from people who have thought hard about what living well looks like and who want to pass on some of their learnings. This is a season where the church must re-gather around Jesus, in the midst of difficulty, gathering like we used to. This is a hopeful stewardship campaign, where we recognize that people must be called and invited to gather again around the watering hole.

We hope that at the end of this crazy year you'll be empowered to contribute to the work of the church. As a beloved pastor at FUMC once reminded our congregation: when we get to where God is taking us, it will be because of the work of others that brought us there. We draw from wells we did not dig. I'd like to add to that sentiment that our children, our neighbors, and our enemies can and should grow to know God's goodness around wells that we help build.

So, will we place a steel sheet over what was and move on? Or, will we take what has been given to us, build and share, and help others gather around a living well? Together may we find the living well.



Rev. Jack Hinnen



# this week at FUMC

## CHILDREN

Truly listening and being present with someone is about more than just being in the same room and hearing them talk. True presence is about paying attention to what someone is saying and how they are thinking and feeling. Being truly present with someone else means showing them how much we care about them. God is present with us like that. God listens to everything we say, even the things we don't say out loud or have words for. God always cares, whether our concerns are big or small.

Discuss with your child:

1. Who is someone in your life who truly listens to you?
2. How do you know when someone is really listening and paying attention to you?
3. How do you show people you are listening to them?

### Reminders:

- \* Children's Team Meeting  
Monday, October 12th at 6:00 in the children's conference room
- \* No B.L.A.S.T. time on Sunday, October 11th. Programming will return on Wednesday, October 14th.

**BLAST Time**  
**Wednesday 6:00-6:45pm**

**Click to Sign Up**

~ Lee Anne Holland  
[leeAnne@fumcdathan.org](mailto:leeAnne@fumcdathan.org)

## TWEENS

Our church is known for the pumpkin patch that is currently sitting on the front lot. Being a Christian is like being a pumpkin in more than one way. After choosing us, God then washes off any dirt that may cling to us and scoops out all the yuck inside.

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come; the old has gone, the new is here!*  
2 Corinthians 5:17

He gave all that we may spend eternity with him, a gift beyond measure. Thanks be to God!

- \* No Tweens Time for God on Sunday, October 11.

**Tweens Time for God**  
**Wednesday 6:00-6:45pm**

**Click to Sign Up**

~ Sonia Crutchfield  
[sonia@fumcdathan.org](mailto:sonia@fumcdathan.org)

## YOUTH

- \* **No Bible Study Sun., Oct. 11.**

**7th – 12th Grade Small Groups:**  
**Wednesday 6:00-6:45pm**

**Click to Sign Up**

- \* *Mask and Waiver Required for Bible Studies.*

**Join our Youth Remind**  
Text @[fumc19-20](https://www.instagram.com/fumc19-20) to **81010**

## RESPITE CARE MINISTRY

### Meal Delivery

**Thursday, October 15**

Our last Meal Delivery Night was a hit! Email [katie@fumcdathan.org](mailto:katie@fumcdathan.org) for ways YOU can help with this one!

### PUMPKIN FEST!

**Thursday, October 22**

We will be painting pumpkins for our Caregivers to display on their front porch! Pumpkin Painting will be outside under the covered Respite Care Entrance. If you would like to donate a pumpkin (and support our Youth ministry at the same time), paint a pumpkin, or deliver a painted pumpkin to our families living with memory loss, email [katie@fumcdathan.org](mailto:katie@fumcdathan.org). Please email Katie and make your reservation to paint by Tuesday October 20.  
~ Katie

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

### **Our Sympathy to:**

~ Larry Flowers and family due to the death of his mother, Mary Flowers, who died September 26.

### **In the Hospital:**

~ Afrey Wright

### **Released from Hospital:**

~ Thomas Harrison  
~ Marbury Spann

*This week we are especially praying for the ways our church family is reaching out through our support for the Dothan Rescue Mission as they minister to many who find themselves in crisis transitions in their lives.*

## LOOKING AHEAD:

- November 1<sup>st</sup> is our target date for in-person Sunday School to begin.
- Sunday School will be offered for all ages, nursery, children, tween, youth, and adults.
- Sunday School time will be 9:45-10:30.
- Registration will be required for Sunday School.
- November 15<sup>th</sup> is our target date for 11:00 In-Person Sanctuary Worship.

## MEMORIALS

**Elizabeth Allen**

Dottie Johnson

**Martha Nell Dean**

Tommie Logan

**Jo Garrett**

Sam & Wileria Casey

Chief Justice Sue Bell Cobb (Ret.)  
& Mr. William Cobb

Dottie Johnson

**Fred Garrett**

Dottie Johnson

**Clayton Jordan**

Sam & Wileria Casey  
Mick & Susan DeJulius  
Dottie Johnson  
Allyce & Joe Read

**Carlos Lee**

Sam & Wileria Casey  
Dottie Johnson

**Bill Lisenby**

Mick & Susan DeJulius  
Annie Hall  
Elinor & Frank Johnson

**Lillian Ann Robison**

Sam & Wileria Casey

**R. V. Seymore, Jr.**

Dottie Johnson

**Ruth Seymore**

Dottie Johnson

**Ann Gillis Stutts**

David Eubank

*IN-PERSON  
WORSHIP REGISTRATION  
MON. 8:00-THURS. 11:00AM*

~ Call the church office at 334-793-3555.  
~ Email paula@fumcdothan.org.  
~ Register online at fumcdothan.org.

# Discipleship Corner



Dr. Phil Maynard  
Director of Discipleship Ministries

### *Discipleship: More Than Knowing About Jesus*

The meanings of words change over time. Consider the following:

THEN		NOW
Silly, foolish	Nice	Compliment
Worthy	Silly	Weak, foolish
Worth Awe	Awful	Terrible
Circle w/arms	Fathom	Understand
Ball of yarn	Clue	Evidence
Have nothing	Naughty	Behave badly
Young Knight	Bachelor	Unmarried man

(from a TED talk by Anne Curzon, ideas.ted.com)

THEN	DISCIPLE	NOW
Deliberate Apprenticeship		Student Learner
Living copy of the Master		Attend Church. Attend class to learn about the Master.
Becoming		Knowing

Discipleship is not just about knowledge. It is about behaviors.  
Discipleship is not just about education. It is about transformation.  
Discipleship is about *becoming* like Jesus.

RESPIRE CAREGIVER PARADE



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



# FUMC PUMPKIN PATCH!

Come Support the FUMC Youth Ministry!

DAILY HOURS:

Mon-Fri: 10am-6pm

Sat: 9am-7pm

Sun: 2pm-6pm



United  
Methodist  
Women  
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

Praise the Lord! We are meeting again! We will provide updates from the district office and future meetings via streaming and other means. Next month, we hope to be back on a regular schedule.

**October 13:**

Touchpoint (minus lunch), 11am, FH

## HURRICANE RELIEF TRIP

**October 17-18**  
Foley, Alabama

The FUMC Missions Team, along with Jack and Cheryl Hinnen, are making a trip to Foley, AL to assist with hurricane clean-up next weekend. Possible projects include tree cutting, debris removal, tarps, and general cleaning up. The team is leaving early Sat (Oct 17<sup>th</sup>), spending the night at Foley UMC, working on Sunday (Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>), and returning home that evening.

For more information or to volunteer with this mission opportunity, please contact Cheryl Hinnen (205-532-0494 / [cheryl.hinnen@gmail.com](mailto:cheryl.hinnen@gmail.com)).

## Confirmation Parent Meeting

OCTOBER 18 | 6 PM  
FELLOWSHIP HALL

If your child is in 6th grade and you have not received an email concerning confirmation class, contact [sonia@fumcdothan.org](mailto:sonia@fumcdothan.org).



## Jack-o'-lantern Jubilee

OCTOBER 25TH

Visit the website for more info  
and to reserve your spot online.  
[fumcdothan.org/events](http://fumcdothan.org/events)

