

connections

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

First United Methodist Church of Dothan

Dr. James B. Sanders III, Senior Pastor | November 5, 2020

NEW, MODERN WORSHIP SERVICE BHAG



When I graduated from seminary in 2006, I left Atlanta to start a new worship service at Riverchase United Methodist Church. My seminary roommate, Lonnie Pittman, went a bit further south for the same purpose. Many of you can recall when Lonnie came to First United Methodist Church of Dothan and joined others in starting The Bridge. Our church and community still benefits from the work of Lonnie and so many others that chose to try something new to reach people for Jesus. Others, while not directly involved with the Bridge, have prayed for it and supported it in other ways.

Recently, thanks to Rev. Phil Maynard joining us on staff, I was tasked with dreaming about what a new worship service could look like at our church. I am already joining in the work that Jim Sanders, Mike Thomas, and others have contributed to the cause. The middle of a pandemic may seem like a silly time to start something new, but I think it is *precisely* the right time to dream about how we can help our church and community look more like the Kingdom of God. I hope we can create a new expression of faith that will compliment the other ways our church strives to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

As we've wrestled with how COVID-19 has changed Dothan, it's obvious that trying something new is not just opportunistic, but is required if we hope to invite our neighbors to face this different world together, in Jesus. This is not about replacing what we knew before or hindering what we already enjoy in the church. This is about recognizing that God has plans we cannot yet see, and we can be a part in bringing new life into the body of Christ. In Luke 5:33-39, Jesus describes the importance of creating new wineskins for new wine. Starting a new worship service is like creating new community for new people. Our hope is to create a fresh expression of faith that will create new life in Jesus Christ because it is based in Scripture, diverse as our community, and invites our neighbors to God's table in a relevant way that meets unchurched folks where they are.

You can help! If this sounds like something you'd like to be a part of, I hope you'll join me for a listening session on either November 17th at 6:30pm or November 22nd at 4pm. We hope to meet in person, but we will definitely be on Zoom. Of course, please pray for this endeavor and how it could benefit our church for years to come.

Be well,

Jack

NEW WORSHIP SERVICE

Listening Sessions

November 17, 6:30PM, Parlor & Zoom OR
November 22, 4:00PM, FH & Zoom

RSVP: 793-3555 or jack@fumcdothan.org



This week at FUMC

CHILDREN

Candy Devotion

Everyone in your family should take one piece of leftover Halloween candy. Unwrap it and eat it together at the same time. As a group, talk about how the candy tastes to each person. See if you notice the word "sweet" coming up a few times. Next, show your children that in Psalm 119:103, the writer says that God's word is so sweet – sweeter than honey (which was like candy to the people in Bible times.) Just like we love to get excited about candy at Halloween and we crave its sweetness, we can crave God's word. Then, as we read God's Word, we can enjoy the goodness and sweetness of His promises for us!

B.L.A.S.T. TIME

Sundays 5:00-5:45pm

OR

Wednesdays 6:00-6:45pm

[Click to Sign Up](#)

CHILDREN'S AREA HELP WANTED

We need help with the registration table, taking children to class, teaching, and overall helping during Bible study time.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

to sanitize before 11:00 service.

Estimated 30 minutes of spraying, wiping, fogging. Contact church office or tony@fumcdothan.org.

TWEENS

TWEENS SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday 9:45-10:30

Masks, temperature checks, and signed waiver required. I hope you will join us for worship and in class this Sunday.

TWEENS TIME FOR GOD

Sundays 5:00-5:45pm

OR

Wednesdays 6:00-6:45pm

[Click to Sign Up](#)

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Sundays 6:00-6:45pm

During confirmation we learn and experience that our God is loving, generous, forgiving and holy. Students will be challenged to accept Christ as Lord and Savior of every part of our lives. Masks, temperature checks, and signed waiver required.

YOUTH

7th - 12th SMALL GROUPS

Wednesday 6:00-6:45pm

[Click to Sign Up](#)

7th-12th BIBLE STUDY

Sunday 5:00-5:45pm

[Click to Sign Up](#)

* Mask and Waiver Required

Join our Youth Remind

Text @fumc19-20 to 81010



Stewardship Update

As of November 5, we have had 164 Commitment Cards turned in with a total giving of \$1,025,192.00.

RESPITE MINISTRY

CAREGIVER MEAL DELIVERY

Thursday, November 12

Email katie@fumcdothan.org to sponsor or deliver a meal.

WE NEED YOU!

Wednesday, Nov. 18,
1:30, RM 153

Join Respite Care Ministry as we continue our tradition of stuffing the bags for Bread of Life Ministry. Email katie@fumcdothan.org by noon on Tuesday, November 17th if you'd like to help.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Our Sympathy To:

~ J.C. and June Lewis and family due to the death of June's sister, Janie Arnold, who died October 22.

This week we are especially praying for the ways our church family is reaching out through our provision of a place of quiet and prayer for all on Election Day.

MEMORIALS

Randy Barnes

Laura Wainwright

Bill Fendley

Nagel & John Byrd

Jo Garrett

Alabama State Board of Occupational Therapy c/o Ann Vinzant

Carlos Lee

George & Deanna Tatom

Delores Lindholm

Nagel & John Byrd

Sara Nell Williams

William & Mitzi Watson

Discipleship Corner

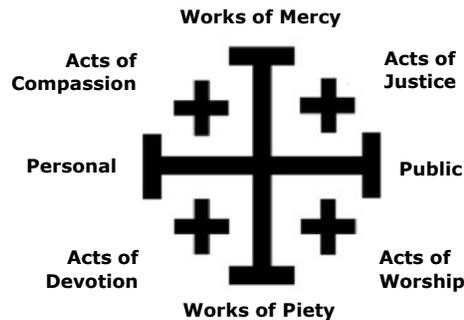
Dr. Phil Maynard, Director of Discipleship Ministries

DISCOVER THE POSSIBILITIES:

doing good works, visiting the sick, visiting those in prison, feeding the hungry, and giving generously to the needs of others

reading, meditating, and studying the scriptures, prayer, fasting, regularly attending worship, healthy living, and sharing our faith with others.

Spiritual Disciplines



seeking justice, ending oppression and discrimination, and addressing the needs of the poor

regularly share in the sacraments, Christian conferencing (accountability to one another), and Bible study

Questions for Discussion:

- ~ Why is it valuable for us to engage in spiritual practices/disciplines?
- ~ In what personal spiritual disciplines do you regularly engage? What have you found most helpful?

(from Disciple Like Jesus (Small Group Participant Guide) by Phil Maynard)

REGISTRATION NO LONGER REQUIRED

for in-person worship & Sunday School

First United Methodist Church is no longer requiring advanced registration for in-person worship or in-person Sunday School. We will continue to record who is in attendance for contact tracing purposes, but that will be recorded upon entry rather than the week ahead.

Beginning Sunday, November 8, 2020:

- No Registration for In-Person Worship
- No Registration for In-Person Sunday School
- Attendance Recording and Temperature Screening with Sticker upon Entry
- Open Entrances Include:
 - ◊ Main Street Entrance of the Fellowship Hall
 - ◊ Main Street Entrance of the Sanctuary
 - ◊ Entrance of the Children's Lobby
- [Waiver Required](#) for Children 19 and Under to Attend Sunday School

Will we worship In Person or Online Only? Check email and social media Friday afternoon for our status.

- In Person & Online: Houston County is rated low risk for COVID
- In Person & Online: Houston County is rated medium risk for COVID
- Online Only: Houston County is rated high risk for COVID
- Online Only: Houston County is rated very high risk for COVID

Remembering Our Saints

Walter Jack Morris

Susan Baxter Hart

Minnie Sue Bridges

William Gilbert

Ann Banks Todd

Sarah Celeste Snell

David Anderson Waters

Amanda Blankenship Slocomb

James Everette Reed

Sondra Butch Correll

Susan Shelk Fischer

Michael Edward Wilkins Jr.

William Carl Lisenby III

Stephen Pierce Spivey

James Willyn Dees

John McDavid Flowers

James Boyce Elliott Jr.

Elizabeth Martin Allen

R.V. Seymore

Margaret Daughtry Owens

Lillian Ann Robison

Mae Jo Garrett

William Clayton Jordan

Ann Gillis Stutts

Carlos Everett Lee

Martha Nell Dean

Joyce Lamb Moseley



United
Methodist
Women
FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

TOUCHPOINT
Nov. 10, 11:00, Room 165

PARKING:

You may park and enter the building at the Burdeshaw entrance. We will check temperatures at those doors.

WORLD THANK OFFERING:

Please make checks out to United Methodist Women and mail to church office if you will not attend the meeting.

Communion

THIS SUNDAY

AT CHURCH AND AT HOME



This Sunday will be our first opportunity for in-person Holy Communion since the pandemic began. We invite you to join us in the Sanctuary, the Bridge, or at home via live stream.

There will be some changes, so here is what you can expect on Sunday morning at the church:

- ◆ We will have individually-packaged communion elements.
- ◆ One individual (with gloves) will hand you communion elements as you enter.
- ◆ Discard your used cup in the receptacle provided as you exit the worship space.

For those of you planning to worship by live stream, we invite you to receive Holy Communion with us in your home. We suggest that you prepare in advance by gathering bread/crackers and juice to have available on Sunday morning.

CONNECT

class

4 Sundays Beginning

November 15, 10AM, Parlor & Zoom

This 4-week class is for anyone struggling to connect with the church or needing a refresher on what it means to be a member at FUMC.

RSVP: 793.3555 /jack@fumcdothan.org