

connections

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

First United Methodist Church of Dothan

Dr. James B. Sanders III, Senior Pastor | December 10, 2020

*Peace, Love,
and Respite*



One meal might not sound like a lot for some, but for our caregivers it is a night of RESPITE. It is a night off from having to decide "what's for dinner?", and from having to prepare it after a long day of meeting needs and answering the same questions. It is a night our caregivers feel "CARED FOR" and that means the world to them. On Wednesday, December 16th, the Respite Care volunteer family will be loading their sleighs for the last meal delivery of 2020! This holiday delivery will include the usual wonderful catered meal, and it will also include a small rosemary tree.

Rosemary is the herb of memory and has been linked to the concepts of enduring love, memory enhancement, and in the 14th Century, it was believed to restore vitality. This Christmas, this small herb tree represents all people living with dementia, their care partners, and community volunteers, who are.....ALL IN THE NEED OF RESPITE!

Merry Christmas and God bless,

Katie Holland

Respite 2021...

Save the Date: January 29th - 10:00-12:00

LIVE webinar with dementia care professional, Teepa Snow. This webinar, "Managing Behavior: Start with Yourself" is free. We will have 2 hours of training for our Respite Caregivers, Volunteers, and anyone you know that could benefit from this incredible training time. Link for registration will be available on fumcdothan.org.

Teepa Snow founded *Positive Approach to Care* to support and engage people experiencing changes in brain function. Her techniques center around not focusing on what they can no longer do, but on what they have left to give. You do not want to miss this!



This week at FUMC

SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:45-10:30am

Classes for children, tweens, youth and adults are available. Children and tween lessons are sent via email and are available on our website.

SMALL GROUPS

7th-12th YOUTH BIBLE STUDY
Sunday 5:00-5:45pm

7th-12th YOUTH SMALL GROUP
Wednesday 6:00-6:45pm

YOUTH

CHRISTMAS WITH THE HARBOR
Wrapping and Packing Meals
Sunday (12/13) in Gym

Delivering Gifts and Meals
Wednesday (12/16)

RESPITE MINISTRY

CHRISTMAS MEAL DELIVERY
Wednesday, December 16

Help deliver a meal or sponsor a meal in honor of someone you love for Christmas. You will be giving the gift of Respite to a caregiver! Email Katie@fumcdothan.org for more info.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Our Sympathy to:
~ Kevin and JoNell Kirkland and family due to the death of Kevin's grandmother, Mary Ellen Jewell, who died December 2.

Congratulations to:
~ Jake and Heather Pugh who are announcing the birth of their daughter, Saylor Rae Pugh, born December 1. Grandparents are Jay and Kay Pugh.

This week we are especially praying for the ways our church family is reaching out through ministry with The United Methodist Children's Home and for each child and teenager who is served.

FINANCE

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 2020 Ministry Plan. \$572,472 given before December 31st will ensure the fulfillment of all our 2020 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 fumcdothan.org or call Carla Barnett at 944-3222 for more information. Thank you for your generosity!

LIVING WELL GOAL UPDATE



CARDS:
287

OUR GOAL:
\$2,249,172

The estimate of giving reflected in your *Living Well Commitment Card*, in addition to being an important act of sacrificial faith, is a necessary resource, allowing our church to build a responsible 2021 Ministry Plan. If you have not already turned in your 2021 *Living Well Card*, please consider doing so today by mail or online at fumcdothan.org/living-well/.

Our church understands this is an estimate of your generosity and may need to be adjusted.

MEMORIALS

- Jo Butka**
Mary Kate & Eddy Keel
- Martha Dean**
Mary Kate & Eddy Keel
- Bill Fendley**
Gloria Sorrells
- Jo Garrett**
Mary Kate & Eddy Keel
- Clayton Jordan**
Mary Kate & Eddy Keel
- Michael Kennedy**
Gloria Sorrells
- Alice Kieran**
Carol & David Ethridge
George & Laura Flowers
Cathy Parsons Duggan
Stephanie Stewart
- Lillian Ann Robison**
Mary Kate & Eddy Keel
- Ann Gillis Stutts**
Martha & Chip Grizzle
- Sara Nell Williams**
Pervis & Susan Hester

HONORARIUMS

- Mr. & Mrs. Alan Clark**
George & Laura Flowers
- Mary Clare & Hugh MacGregor Davis**
Paul & Beverly MacGregor
- Sara Hayes Brewer**
Andrea Granger
- Katie Holland & Respite Ministry**
Hazel Patton
- Mr. & Mrs. Davis Malone**
George & Laura Flowers
- Mr. & Mrs. Steve Shaw**
George & Laura Flowers
- Mr. & Mrs. Page Todd**
George & Laura Flowers
- Mark Warren**
Andrea Granger

NOW HIRING

TODDLER TEACHER

more info: fumcdothan.org

Discipleship Corner

Dr. Phil Maynard, Director of Discipleship Ministries



CENTERING PRAYER

ACTION: A struggle many people experience when entering into a time of prayer is that instead of focusing on God, our minds begin to race with all the normal distractions of life (the thing we forgot at the grocery store, the person we need to call, or an insight on a project on which we are working). This is normal, and it's not a sin. One thing that is helpful is to acknowledge these things and even take a moment to write them down so we don't have to keep focusing on them.

A prayer practice that helps us center on our time with God is a Centering Prayer technique called the Breath Prayer. It is very simple and usually very effective. This prayer consists of these steps:

- Take a deep breath in and as you do, imagine breathing in the very presence of God (often referred to as the Spirit of God or even wind of the Spirit).
- As you breathe out, consciously release to God all those distractions and concerns.

Repeat this process several times until you find yourself able to focus (be centered) on your time with God.

JOURNAL REFLECTION: How did this work for you? What was your experience with being really focused on God?

GIVE
COMFORT
**give
Joy**

2020 WHITE CHRISTMAS

WHITE CHRISTMAS OFFERING

for the United
Methodist Children's
Home will take place
THIS Sunday.

DON'T MISS IT - TONIGHT AND TOMORROW!

Bethlehem



on Burdeshaw

A Drive-Thru Nativity Experience

**WHEN: TONIGHT AND
TOMORROW NIGHT!!**
6:00-8:00 pm

WHERE: W. Burdeshaw St. behind FUMC
(Enter at Fellowship Hall/CLC
parking from Main St. and exit
Burdeshaw at Pariton Ave.)

Join Us!

Last Week to Order!

Christmas Poinsettias
Deadline is THIS Sunday.

Poinsettias are \$25.00 each.

Order at fumcdothan.org or
by calling/visiting the church office.





**Christmas
with
The Harbor**
(2020 style!)

Wrapping Up Next Week!

Sunday, 12/13
Wrapping Gifts
and Packing Meals

Wednesday, 12/16
Delivering Gifts and Meals
to Children and Families



Christmas Caroling

with your church family

Thursday, Dec. 17 at 6:00pm
Saturday, Dec. 19 at 3:00pm

Email katie@fumcdothan.org as soon as possible if you will be joining us so we can plan travel and routes.



Sunday, December 20
Worship Service- 8:55am
Food Drive - 4-6pm

Please Note the Below Changes for 2020!

The Promise of Christmas will be during
The Bridge 8:55am worship service.

This year, The Harbor has requested
non-perishable food items. We will have a food
drive at the CLC portico from 4-6pm on
December 20. You may also bring your food
items to the church office by Dec. 18th.

Appalachian Winter

A CANTATA FOR CHRISTMAS

By Joseph M. Martin

Our Christmas Worship
Celebration will air on
WDHN next Sunday,
December 20 from 2-3pm.



Harold Flammer
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It is also available for viewing
on our website at any time:
fumcdothan.org/events

The Longest Night

A SERVICE OF
HOPE & HEALING
WITH FUMC DOTHAN

VIRTUAL ONLY
December 19
5:30 pm



Interactive Kits for Virtual Christmas Eve Worship

Pick your Christmas Eve Kits up
from the church office Dec. 17-23.

Christmas Eve Worship



Curbside Communion

When: 4:00-6:00 pm

Where: Children's (West)
Parking Lot

Drive through different stations for a warm and personal time of communion.

Outdoor Worship

When: 4:30-5:15 pm

Where: Green Space
Behind FUMC
(W. Burdeshaw)

We will be safely distanced and outdoors to allow for a larger number of people.

Virtual Worship

When: 5:00-5:40 pm

Where: fumcdothan.org
Facebook
YouTube



Interactive Christmas Eve kits available for pickup at church office Dec. 17th - 23rd.