

connections

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

First United Methodist Church of Dothan

Dr. James B. Sanders III, Senior Pastor | February 11, 2021

SACK CLOTH & ASH WEDNESDAY

In an effort to continue our practice of safe distancing, we will be handing out sack cloth (pictured) rather than imposing ashes this Ash Wednesday (Feb. 17). People wore sack cloth in ancient times as a sign of mourning and penitence. I'm grateful to our tween and youth ministries for helping us prepare our Ash Wednesday sack cloth this year.



From 7:00 – 8:30 am on Ash Wednesday, we will have three "Ashes to Go" locations: Friend Bank, Children's entrance, and the Christian Life Center parking lot.

At 6:05 pm on the 17th, we will gather in the Sanctuary for in-person Ash Wednesday Worship. This service will be live streamed for those who wish to worship virtually. Those worshipping virtually may pick up their sack cloth now at the church office.

During Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday, we will engage in a church-wide study titled **Disciple Like Jesus**. These small groups are being offered on a number of days and at varying times. Some groups will meet in person and others will meet virtually on Zoom. You can register for a group on our website(www.fumcdothan.org).

We will also offer a series of "Deeper Dive" experiences during Lent where we can engage in practicing the discipleship theme of the week. We'll have the opportunity to serve a meal to our frontline workers at our local hospitals, engage in a community service project supporting **Love Dothan**, deepen our prayer lives with a prayer labyrinth, and attend workshops for deeper learning.

Henri Nouwen wrote a prayer for Ash Wednesday that speaks to the deep places of my heart. I close with Nouwen's prayer taken from his book, *Show Me The Way*.

Lord, I am still so divided. I truly want to follow you, but I also want to follow my own desires and lend an ear to the voices that speak about prestige, success, human respect, pleasure, power, and influence. Help me to become deaf to these voices and more attentive to your voice, which calls me to choose the narrow road to life.

I know that Lent is going to be a very hard time for me. The choice for your way has to be made every moment of my life. I have to choose thoughts that are your thoughts, words that are your words, and actions that are your actions. There are no times or places without choices. And I know how deeply I resist choosing you.

Please, Lord, be with me at every moment and in every place. Give me the strength and the courage to live this season faithfully, so that when Easter comes, I will be able to taste with joy the new life which you have prepared for me. Amen.

Inhale Faith; Exhale Fear.

Jim

(jim@fumcdothan.org & 333-2995)



this week at FUMMC

PRESIDENT'S DAY & ASH WEDNESDAY

No B.L.A.S.T Time, Tween Time for God, Confirmation, or Youth Small Groups this week because of President's Day and Ash Wednesday.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

SUN. 9:45-10:30

Classes available for all ages, but not all adult classes are resuming in-person gatherings at this time.

RESPIRE MINISTRY

CAREGIVER LUNCH DELIVERY

February 25, 11:15 am

Email katie@fumcdathan.org to sponsor a meal (\$25 meal for two), deliver a meal, or order a meal for yourself.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Our Sympathy to:

~ Keith and Michael Morrison and family due to the death of their mother, Susan Morrison, who died Feb. 1.

In the Hospital:

~ Gloria Weeks

Released from the Hospital:

~ Anna Singletary
~ Tami McKeown

Congratulations:

~ Stephen and Sierra Margeson who are announcing the birth of their daughter, Ellie James Margeson, born Jan. 29. Grandparents are Christian and Trish Margeson.

~ Happy Birthday to Bill Lies who celebrated his 95th birthday on Feb. 4.

~ Happy Birthday to Helen Newton who celebrated her 90th birthday on Feb. 5.

This week we are especially praying for the ways our church family is reaching out through our support of Jason and Abby Keel who work in missions with foreign students in the Atlanta area.

MEMORIALS

Rev. Dr. Jerry Dooling
Jon & DeNiece Smith

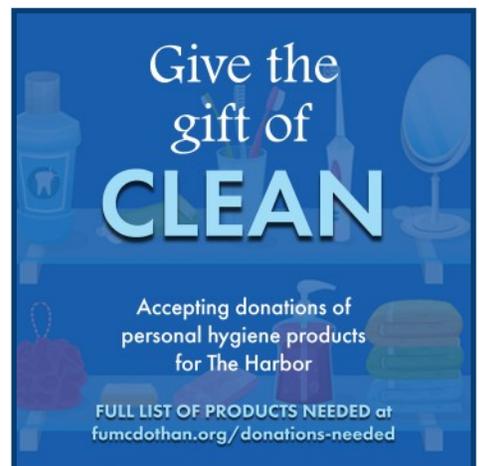
Joe Dunlap
Betty Stubbs

William Hause
Pete McInish

John Hudgens
Dwayne & Mary Louise Hoven
Julia Lee
Martha & Billy Wilson

Alice Kieran
Lacy & Jill Brakefield

Ken Penuel
Brenda & Bobby Bottoms



We've changed our seating arrangements to increase worship capacity. Join us Sunday at 8:55 or 11:00.



THE GREAT COMMISSION

Jesus could not have made it clearer. Our co-mission with him is to make disciples. That is the calling of every Jesus follower. He put it like this: **Wherever you go, make disciples...** (Phil's translation).

If we're going to live into that calling, we need to be able to share the reason for our faith. As the Apostle Peter puts it: *Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.* (1 Peter 3:15)

To be prepared you might consider the following questions:

- Why Jesus? How does knowing Jesus impact life?
- Why Church? What can people get at church that they can't get elsewhere?
- Why THIS Church? What's different? Would I join if I weren't already a member?

May we always be prepared to share the good news of Jesus Christ and our story about the difference Jesus has made.



How are you GROWING IN DISCIPLESHIP?

Find out with our personal discipleship survey tool.
CLICK HERE!



ONLINE GUESTS SMALL GROUP

BEEN VISITING OUR ONLINE WORSHIP?

SIGN UP FOR "DISCIPLE LIKE JESUS" LED BY JIM SANDERS!

ASH  WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 17

We are handing out sack cloth crosses for a safe & socially-distanced Ash Wednesday. Pin them to your shirt or place them on your refrigerator with attached magnet.

<p>Ashes To Go 7:00 - 8:30 am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Friend Bank - Children's Entrance - CLC Parking Lot 	<p>Evening Service 6:05 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sanctuary - Facebook / YouTube - fumcdothan.org <p><small>*Sack cloth crosses are available for pickup at church office for anyone worshipping from home.</small></p>
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thanking our frontline workers  

FUMC is Feeding 1,500 Hospital Employees

March 2 - Flowers Hospital
March 6 - Southeast Health

[CLICK HERE](#) for event details and to sign up to serve/give.

WEEKDAY CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

100 DAYS OF SCHOOL



I crawled my way through 100 days!



Special "100 Days" Activities

"100-Year-Old" Preschoolers

A BIG
thank you
♥

Recently, we were given the opportunity to schedule 100 appointments for COVID-19 vaccinations to be administered by Dothan Pediatric Clinic on Feb. 3rd. We are so thankful that God provided a way for our church to be involved with providing this hope for our community.

Many of the recipients were church members, but many were friends or family members you thought of and recommended, who wouldn't have otherwise had this opportunity. We've heard so many thank yous and seen such joy from those who have patiently waited for this day to come. To God be the glory!

Thank you, church family, for spreading the word and helping vaccinate those at greatest risk. And thank you, Dothan Pediatric Clinic, for the opportunity to connect you with people in need of the vaccine.



MORE

LIFE AS JESUS INTENDED

DEEPER DIVES START SOON - CLICK TO SIGN UP TODAY!

"MORE: Life As Jesus Intended" WORSHIP SERIES

February 21:

Worship All The Time

February 28:

Saying "Welcome, Y'all" as God Does

March 7:

Riding the Wave of God's Love

March 14:

Wrapped in the Word

March 21:

What's Your SHAPE?

March 28:

A Life Fully Lived

MORE Series: DEEPER DIVES

February 21 & 24:

How to Have a Devotional Time

March 2 & 6:

Serving Frontline Workers

March 9-11:

Prayer Labyrinth

March 17:

How to Study Your Bible

March 27:

SHAPE Workshop

April 3:

Love Dothan Community Service

SMALL GROUPS

Disciple Like Jesus

Making Disciples Like Jesus
Who Make Disciples Like Jesus

Phil Maynard
Eddie Pipkin

DISCIPLE LIKE JESUS: Making Disciples Like Jesus Who Make Disciples Like Jesus

All participants receive a PDF of the
Disciple Like Jesus book and supportive study materials.

If you would like a hard copy of the book (\$20),
visit the church office or [click here to order online.](#)

[CLICK TO SIGN UP
FOR A SMALL GROUP](#)

[ORDER BOOK
DISCIPLE LIKE JESUS](#)