

connections

First United Methodist Church of Dothan

Dr. James B. Sanders III, Senior Pastor | August 5, 2021

Honduras Mission Trip 2022

Orphanage Emmanuel in Guaimaca, Honduras is a wonderful example of God's love on display. Emmanuel has between 400-500 children at any given time that have nowhere else to go. David and Lydia Martinez founded this orphanage by answering God's call some 30+ years ago. By their obedience to God's call thousands of Honduran children's lives have been changed forever. When I think about the work God is doing at Emmanuel; I am reminded of 1 Corinthians 3:6, "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow." Our mission trip team is already preparing to go back to Emmanuel to witness that growth first hand and there are two ways you can help.

- Pray for our team as we plan for our trip in January 2022 and consider sponsoring a fried chicken meal for the entire orphanage (this is like Christmas for them) or popcorn and a movie for each house (this is also a big deal).
- As a way of supporting the Orphanage, our church is working on sending a shipping container full of assorted items that the orphanage needs on a daily basis. We need your help in securing those items. The shipping container is how the orphanage gets the majority of anything they need. More information will be coming about our container so stay tuned. A sample list of items needed is on page 4. Contact me if you are interested in helping.



[Orphanage Emmanuel on Facebook](#)

[Orphanage Emmanuel Website](#)

[Full list of items needed](#)

Dios Bendiga
(God Bless)

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ryan".

Ryan Deaton
Director of Recreational Ministries/Coordinator of Adult Discipleship
First United Methodist Church Dothan
Office 712-9223

A Word From Our Senior Pastor

August 2, 2021

Dear Friends in Faith,

In I Corinthians 3:6-7, the Apostle Paul wrote: ***I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.*** Paul's words lead me to believe he would have loved our United Methodist system of itinerancy and sending pastors. In my time on the clergy staff of FUMC Dothan, I have reaped in fields planted by and watered by Dr. Wilbur Walton, Bishop Paul Duffey, Dr. Carlisle Miller, Dr. George Gilbert, Dr. Lester Spencer, Dr. Jerry Dooling, Bishop Lawson Bryan and others. God used all of these and God's Kingdom grew deeper and wider.

Trusting in the years to come that others (laboring with God) will reap where I have planted and watered, I share with you that my last day among you will be August 15th. While I will officially remain in my role as Senior Pastor through the end of June 2022, my duties and responsibilities at FUMC, Dothan will end at noon on August 15th. At that time, I will begin a season of renewal, recreation, spiritual growth, study, prayer and noodling (thanks to Dr. Len Sweet for this good discipline!). Bishop David Graves will appoint an interim pastor/head of staff to lead our remarkable church staff and faith family through June of 2022.

Reflecting on my 21-plus years at FUMC, first as an Associate Pastor and now as Senior Pastor, I am filled with loving gratitude for my time and ministry with you. During my tenure, we have shared sorrows and bountiful, life-giving joys. In every moment, we have been surrounded on all sides by God's great love in Jesus Christ. Together we have touched new lives for Jesus, *reached out* through creative, new ministry areas and remained focused on growing mature disciples of Jesus who grow more mature disciples of Jesus.

For all the good that materialized in my time at FUMC, I say: "Praise God and thank you church family!" For all that never materialized, I say: "God and church family, forgive me please!"

Perhaps Paul's words to the Christ-followers in Philippi say it best. ***I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the One who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. (Philippians 1:3-6)***

We can never predict or determine with much accuracy the path before us. The past seventeen months have been a powerful reminder that we, our church, our denomination and our nation, are in the midst of an ever-changing liminal season. None of us can be certain of what the future holds. However, I am more than certain that the Living God who holds all our futures is faithful, gracious, just and abounding in steadfast love. Moreover, I am certain our God is calling us all into the future. I know this to be true for each of you, my family, and myself.

I pray that you may live the Jesus life, the life that really is life!
Inhale Faith; Exhale Fear.

Jim Sanders



So that we may be safer during this COVID-19 surge, and in alignment with the new CDC recommendations, our COVID-19 Advisory Team asks that all of us mask this Sunday and continue masking until notified the infection rate has gone down. There will also be additional seating available for distancing.

To read the full announcement from the FUMC COVID-19 Advisory Team, visit <https://www.fumcdothan.org/coronavirus/>

JOYS & CONCERNS

Our Sympathy to:

- ~ Tina and Arthur Gardner and family due to the death of Arthur's sister, Mary Lee Blankenship, who died July 26.
- ~ Melinda Loftin and family due to the death of her husband, Walt Loftin, who died July 8.

Released from Hospital:

- ~ Sharon Williams
- ~ Evelyn Theune
- ~ Ronny Lisenby
- ~ Jim Stuckey

Congratulations to:

- ~ Happy Birthday to Moe Sigmon who celebrated his 91st birthday on July 30.

This week we are especially praying for the ways our church family is reaching out to Abby and Jason Keel and their three children as they minister to international students at Kennesaw State University in Georgia.



JOYS AND CONCERNS

We are a praying church who cares for the joys and concerns of our people. We'd like to encourage you to keep us in mind for news as it relates to any health concerns, birth announcements, and more.

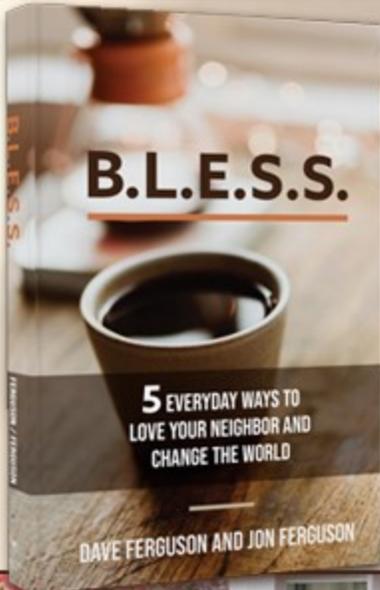
In need of pastoral care?

With COVID cases increasing, hospital access for clergy visitation has become limited again. If you'd like us to visit you or a loved one, please contact the church office. We would love to visit and pray for any need you have.

Celebrating a special time in your family?

If you are welcoming a new member to your family by birth or marriage, please let us know so we can announce that celebration in our joys & concerns to our church family.

To share, please call the church office at 334.793.3555.



Coming Soon!

An FUMC Dothan Fall Sermon Series
& Small Group Study of

*B.L.E.S.S. - 5 Everyday Ways to
Love Your Neighbor and Change the World*



Orphanage Emmanuel Needs

- Hygiene Items (shampoo, conditioner, soap, etc.)
- Clothes (underwear, shoes)
- Office Supplies (copy paper, hanging folders, pens, etc.)
- School Supplies (notebook paper, pencils, glue, etc.)
- School Uniforms (t-shirts, khakis, belts, etc.)
- Salon Belleza (hair dryers, curling irons, nail clippers, etc.)
- Other (blankets, sheets, tools, bath towels, sewing machines, washing machines and dryers, etc.)

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL LIST OF ITEMS NEEDED.](#)

