

connections

First United Methodist Church of Dothan

March 24, 2022



United Women in Faith

Organization gets a new name and look

The **United Methodist Women (UMW)** organization has undergone a name change. Earlier this year, **“United Women in Faith”** became recognized as the official women’s organization of the United Methodist Church.



The new name is part of a refreshment of the organization which includes a new look, as well as new and improved programs designed to better nurture current members and welcome new ones. The new logo features the new name, next to a Christian cross in muted yellow, blue, orange and green, to reflect the forward-looking faith and the diversity of the organization, and God’s world.

The member-elected UMW board of directors, with input from the program advisory group, has guided the organization throughout the process of change. The decisions for these changes were made after conducting surveys, utilizing focus groups and through interviews with more than 24,000 United Methodists as well as women from other denominations and Christian traditions.

New changes to the former bylaws will now allow for members of United Women in Faith to become leaders, even if they are affiliated with another denomination.

I had the honor and privilege to serve as one of four National Directors on the committee that helped plan the implementation of these changes. I know first-hand, the many hours spent working through this process. Each change was made only after much discussion and prayer.

Welcome to United Women in Faith!

~ Betty Helms,
National Director, United Women in Faith

This Week at FUMC

CHILDREN

ROCK SOLID
Sundays, 9:25-10:00am

SUNDAY SCHOOL
10:00-10:45am

CREW
Sundays, 5:00-6:00pm

BLAST
Wednesdays, 3:30-4:30pm

CHILDREN'S CHOIR
Wednesdays, 4:30-5:00pm, Rm. 255

 FUMC Dothan Children's Ministry
 fumc_childrens_ministry

TWEENS

SUNDAY SCHOOL
Sundays, 10:00-10:45am

CREW
Sundays, 5:00-6:00pm

CONFIRMATION
Sundays, 6:30-7:30pm

SWAG
Wednesdays, 3:30-4:30pm

TWEEN MUSIC
Wednesdays, 4:30-5:00pm, Rm. 255

 FUMC Dothan Tween Ministry
 Tweenfumcdothan

YOUTH

BIBLE STUDY
Sundays, 6:00-7:30pm

SMALL GROUPS
Wednesdays, 6:00-7:30pm

 FUMC Dothan UMYF
 Fumcdothanyouth

JOYS & CONCERNS

RELEASED FROM HOSPITAL
~ Tom Thomas
~ Lynn Epps

CONGRATULATIONS
~ Happy Birthday to Dottie Jones who celebrated her 94th birthday on March 15.

~ Happy Birthday to Kathryn Piper who celebrated her 94th birthday on March 17.

MEMORIALS

Ray Capaldo
Martha & Bo Thagard

Josh Dagostin
Minna Appleby
Susan & Pervis Hester
Susan & Alan Livingston
Lisa & Ben Martin
Nancy & Charlie McDaniel
Shea Mendheim
Sheila & Roy Spears

Ann DeYoung
Susan & Alan Livingston

Agnes Jaasma
Tril & Joe Ausley
Babs & John Blanks
Nagel & John Byrd
Wileria & Sam Casey
LouAnn Casper
Kathleen & Bob Daniel
Ray & Tillie Dempster
Walker & Lynn Epps
Susan & Alan Livingston
United Methodist Women
Progressors Sunday
School Class
Martha & Bo Thagard
Mikell & Lee Thomas
Mitzi & William Watson

Ed Jones
Minna Appleby
Ray & Tillie Dempster
Hazel Patton

Betty King
Susan & Alan Livingston

Bill Lies
Martha & Bo Thagard

Martha Nix
Mikell & Lee Thomas

Bobby Sirmon
Shea Mendheim

Jo Williams
Minna Appleby
Susan & Pervis Hester
Susan & Alan Livingston
Gene & Sandra McGriff
Sheila & Roy Spears
Melanie & Mark Williams

MUSIC

HANDBELLS REHEARSAL
Sundays, 5:30-6:30pm, Rm. 256

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

**UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH
(FORMERLY UMW)**
Will meet April 5 at 11:45am in the Fellowship Hall. Speaker: Rev. Robin C. Wilson. For lunch reservations email betty@fumcdothan.org

HELPING OTHERS



This is Harris Liddon. Recently, Harris helped to pack bags of food with the Bread of Life program at FUMC Dothan. According to his mother, upon arriving home, he packed a bag of his own favorite snacks, placed all of his own money in an envelope and insisted his parents drop his donation off at a local primary school in order to help another child in need.

Harris Liddon, you are an inspiration to us all. Thank you for helping others!

If you would like to find out more about this special program that helps food insecure school children, please email Lee Anne Holland at leeanne@fumcdothan.org.



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LENT

Sermon Series &
Small Group Study

Reading Plan
For Week 4:
John Chapters 12-17

Get ready for fun times with the
FUMC Dothan Youth as they plan
to travel to Six Flags in June!
Limited spots available, so sign
up NOW!

For more information, go to
[www.fumcdothan.org/ministries/
youth](http://www.fumcdothan.org/ministries/youth) or email Robbie Amunds at
robbie@fumcdothan.org.



OVER GEORGIA

June 13, 2022

The sign up deadline is May 1.

A Great Ministry Opportunity!

New Mexico Mission Trip Informational Meeting



Sunday, March 27, 4 p.m. in the Parlor.

For more information, email
Ryan Deaton at ryan@fumcdothan.org.



United Women in Faith

Meeting: Tuesday, April 5 - 11:45 a.m.

Guest Speaker: Rev. Robin C. Wilson

Make lunch reservations by calling the church
office or by email to: betty@fumcdothan.org

*The United Women in Faith Board meets
at 11 a.m. in Room 165*

Finding Hope, Humor & Heart

Alzheimer's / Dementia
Caregiver Workshop

With Elaine Sanchez

**Thursday, April 7,
10 a.m.- 2 p.m.**

For more information and to
register, visit fumcdothan.org.



Candy

Collecting for
Easter

**The Children's Ministry
is collecting candy for
the April 10th
Easter Egg Hunt.**

If you would like
to donate, please bring
individually-wrapped candy
to the children's lobby
or church office. Thank you!

A Note from Robin

Dear First UMC Family,

On Monday night, I asked our Board of Stewards to consider changing our Sunday schedule for a brief season beginning May 29 through October 30, and they voted to do so. I wanted you to have some of our discussed reasoning for these seasonal changes:

- We want to set our new Senior Pastor up to connect with all persons in the church quickly, both Bridge and Traditional worshippers.
- We want the sanctuary to have more people during the traditionally slim summer and early fall months, especially as we expect new visitors and returning congregants to show interest in a new pastor. More people to worship and welcome shows the vibrancy of our congregation.
- We want to disrupt the existing schedule the least amount.
- We did not want to make permanent changes. This is just for a season; new leadership can make decisions about the future.
- We reviewed the attendance trends in both 8:55 services and 11:00 services, and so noted how many people will actually be displaced.

July-December 2021

Combined sanctuary service average attendance: **175**

Bridge service average attendance: **145**

January-March 2022

Combined sanctuary service average attendance: **155**

Bridge service average attendance: **185**

- We want all the clergy to be present in all worship services, to continue to show a united witness to the church, as well as to free up Sean from weekly sermon preparation to reach out to the community more.
- We want to eliminate the congregational discomfort at the lack of robust attendance in the traditional services.
- We want to allow the articulated values of unity and fellowship which emerged from our neighborhood meetings last fall to occur on Sunday mornings with fellowship time in the parlor.
- We want our new age level choirs to be able to sing in both Sunday services.

I want you to know that I have NEVER asked a congregation in my 20+ years of ministry to consider changing worship times! I have the deepest respect for the traditions and emotional connections that we all have to our Sabbath patterns. Indeed, that rhythm forms and shapes us. So please hear me that it was with much prayer that I initiated the conversation with the Board of Stewards.

Here is the schedule for this brief season:

8:45 – The Bridge

9:45 – Coffee and doughnuts in the parlor for whomever wants to stop in (great chance to meet David!)

10:00 – Sunday School

11:00 – Traditional Worship in the sanctuary

Again, please note that this is not permanent change, just a sacrifice on everyone's part for the good of the whole church and the new clergy. I cannot wait to watch what God is going to continue to do in the life of FUMC. The best is yet to come!

Yours,
Robin