

connections

First United Methodist Church of Dothan - March 23, 2023

A Word from Pastor David regarding our Study Group Recommendation

Approved by the Board of Stewards (48-4; 1 abstention)—March 19, 2023

The Board of Stewards recently acted upon a recommendation from a study group of First United Methodist Church that formed to seek God's will for our congregation's future as it relates to the United Methodist denomination. The laity-led study group organized at my request in November of 2022, as questions continued to arise about the direction of the denomination. The group consisted of twenty-four members of our church selected by numerous Sunday school classes and other small groups and represented a broad cross section of the membership of the church both in age and in views of the issues at hand. The purpose of the group was to educate and advise the members of the Board of Stewards on the many issues concerning this season of disagreement and separation within the United Methodist Church. The group considered the pros and cons of (1) Remaining a part of the UMC or (2) Disaffiliating from the UMC and becoming a part of the Global Methodist Church, a newly formed denomination, or becoming independent. During and between its meetings the study group prayerfully explored a multitude of resource material, researched issues associated with disaffiliation, and conducted its own listening session and internal survey following detailed presentations. **The study group recommended to the Board of Stewards on March 19, 2023, that First United Methodist Church of Dothan not enter a period "Discernment."**

Under the *Book of Discipline* and the policies of our annual conference, the Board of Stewards is the administrative body of our local church, which must decide to initiate the process of churchwide "Discernment." Fifty-three of the duly elected members of the Board of Stewards heard the report from the study group before voting overwhelmingly to accept the group's recommendation. Forty-eight persons, over 90%, voted that, at this time, we do not enter an official period of "Discernment."



Dr. David R. Saliba

This decision means that we will remain a part of the United Methodist Church for the foreseeable future. The General Conference of the United Methodist Church will meet April 23-May 3, 2024. Until then the UMC's stance on human sexuality will remain unchanged. There will be a meeting of the Board of Stewards after General Conference to discuss its outcomes and determine if any further action is required for us to be the church God calls us to be.

In John 17, Jesus prays for the unity of his followers, declaring it to be the most powerful witness to the truth of his resurrection. As a congregation within the United Methodist Church, FUMC of Dothan has a long history of bearing witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ through our broad missional impact within our community. In his last words, Jesus instructed his disciples to go and make disciples and to teach all nations "to observe all that I have commanded you." Our mission is to *make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world*. This mission statement is vital to how we understand our identity as a church. Our emphasis on loving and serving Jesus Christ has defined our congregation through the years, and continuing to expand these efforts in the future is extremely important to our congregation. I ask that you join me in praying that God would unite us by His Spirit to faithfully proclaim the truth of Christ's Resurrection to the world:

Almighty God, by Your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.

This week at FUMC Dothan

CHILDREN



J.A.M Time (Jesus and Me Time)
Room 217, Sundays during worship

SUNDAY SCHOOL
Children's Bldg., 10-10:45 a.m.

C.R.E.W.
(Christians Ready, Equipped & Willing)
Suspended due to Spring Break.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR
Suspended due to Spring Break.

B.L.A.S.T.
(Bible Learning And Sharing Together)
Suspended due to Spring Break.

 FUMC Dothan Children's Ministry
 fumc_childrens_ministry



TWEENS

SUNDAY SCHOOL
5th & 6th Graders
Tween Rm. 266, Sundays, 10 -10:45 a.m.

C.R.E.W.
Suspended due to Spring Break.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES
(for 6th graders)
Suspended due to Spring Break.

S.W.A.G.
(Saved With Amazing Grace)
5th & 6th Graders
Suspended due to Spring Break.


 FUMC Dothan Tween Ministry
 Tweensumcdothan

YOUTH

SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH
Meet every Sunday from 6-7:30 p.m.
Suspended due to Spring Break.

TUESDAY MORNING BREAKFAST
Suspended due to Spring Break.

BIBLE STUDY
Suspended due to Spring Break.

 Fumcdothanyouth

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

Suspended due to Spring Break.

55 FORWARD

INFORMATIONAL MEETING -
Wednesday, March 29 at 10 a.m. in
the Parlor. We will discuss future
trips and travel. For more
information, email Ashley Brasington
at Ashley@fumcdothan.org.

JOIN THE FUMC STAFF

For job descriptions, and how to
apply for the positions listed below,
please visit our website at
fumcdothan.org/join-our-team

POSITIONS:

- **FT Associate Director
of Student Ministry
and Girls Ministry**
- **FT Administrative Assistant**
- **PT Music Intern**
- **PT Nursery Worker**
- **FT Daycare Worker**

WORSHIP PERFORMING ARTS

SUNDAY EVENING
Children's Chimes, suspended
through Easter Sunday.
Westminster Handbell choir,
Mar. 26 & Apr. 2 - 5:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY EVENING
Children & Tween choirs,
Suspended due to Spring Break.
Chancel choir, 6-7:30 p.m.

RESPIRE CARE MINISTRY

**RESPIRE CARE MINISTRY
VOLUNTEER & CAREGIVER
TRAINING
(Next meeting April 12)**
The training group meets on the 2nd
Wednesday of each month in
Rm. 158.

**RESPIRE CARE MINISTRY
CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP
(Next meeting April 20)**
The support group meets on the 3rd
Thursday of each month in Rm. 158.

MEMORIALS

Doss Cleveland
Minna Appleby & Greg Gilbert
Diana & Robert Hagler

MEMORIALS, continued

Peggy Driggers
Diana & Bob Hagler

Celeste Hart
Susan & Alan Livingston

Helen Hudson
Susan & Alan Livingston

Patty Roberts
Minna Appleby
Diana & Bob Hagler
Susan & Alan Livingston

Glois Speigner
Nagel & John Byrd
Sis & Bill Lee
Susan & Alan Livingston

Lynne Summerford
Susan & Alan Livingston
Mira & Eddie Griffith

Wilber Walton Jr.
Susan & Alan Livingston

JOYS & CONCERNS

OUR SYMPATHY TO:
~Keith & Gindi Prutzman and family
due to the death of Gindi's mother,
Ginger Vaughan who died March 14.

~William & Mary Sue Reed and
family due to the death of William's
father, Johnny Brewer Reed who died
March 8.

~Michael & Traci Paramore and
family due to the death of Michael's
brother, Phil Paramore who died
March 16.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:
~Dottie Jones who celebrated her
95th birthday on March 15.

~Juleann Torrence who celebrated
her 90th birthday on March 17.

~Kathryn Piper who celebrated her
95th birthday on March 17.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:
~Jackson & Ashley Dennis who are
announcing the birth of a daughter,
Adeline Marie Dennis born March 17.
Grandparents are Cara and Mark
Dennis.

~Josh & Bailey Summerford who are
announcing the birth of a son,
Townes Andrew Summerford born
March 13. Grandparents are: Libba &
Myron Williams, Andy & Beth
Summerford. His great grandfather is
George Summerford.




Senior Ladies exercise class has been suspended for Tuesday, March 28, and Thursday, March 30. Classes will resume April 4.

Place your order
of
WHITE HYDRANGEAS
for Easter Sunday
by April 2

Ways to order:

1. Order form inside Sunday's bulletin
2. Online order form: Click here!

Questions? Call 793-3555

 **Lenten Lunches**
WEDNESDAYS, MARCH 1 → APRIL 5


Each Wednesday During the Season of Lent You're Invited to Join Us in the Fellowship Hall for a Delicious Meal, Music and a Message.
Lunch is Served at 11:30 a.m. Program 12:00-12:50

March 29
Rev. Randy Sellers
Rector of Episcopal Church of the Nativity

Rev. Sellers is a graduate of the Virginia Theological Seminary. Randy feels a strong call to parish ministry to preach and teach the Gospel of Christ. Randy has a passion for Christian formation and community outreach. A particular interest is working to develop new ways to 'do church' in order to meet people where they are in our rapidly changing culture. Randy and his wife Darla, have 2 children.

Menu:
Pork Loin, Sliced Carrots, Green Bean Casserole, Potato Salad, and a Traditional Salad Bar

Suggested Donation \$8 per person
For more info: call 334-793-3555 or visit FUMCdothan.org

 **SCAN ME**

CANDY NEEDED
FOR THE
EASTER EGG HUNT

Palm Sunday Egg Hunt Candy collection bins are located in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall.



United
Women
in Faith

Meeting

April 4

11:45 a.m.
Fellowship Hall

UWF Board Meeting
Parlor at 11:00 a.m.

Register
793-3555

Speaker
Pastor Larry Flowers
of The Harbor



EASTER SUNDAY

we invite you to visit
Walton Garden
as we

FLOWER THE CROSS

Come and add wildflowers, purchased flowers or blooms from your garden, and transform the cross into a glorious symbol, signifying new life in Jesus Christ. You are welcome to take Easter photos of yourself or your families here as well.

SIGN UP NOW!

for our small group study,
beginning on April 12

"WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?"

by **Malcolm B. Yarnell III**

at 6 p.m. with leaders,
Mark Saliba &
Larry Williams - Rm. 152.
fumcdothan.org



BLUE LAKE


CAMP ENERGIZE

JUNE 19-23

For current 3rd-5th graders
Early Bird Price: \$355
Regular Price: \$375 (after April 1)

REGISTRATION PACKETS/FEES DUE MARCH 24

Please make checks payable to FUMC Dothan
*Registration packets are available
in the Children's Building*



INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Q TRIP IDEAS FOR 2023 AND 2024

March 29th - 10 am
Parlor



DONUTS

with David

April 16

see you there!
in the Parlor
10 a.m.