

What is a Jesse Tree?

One of my favorite childhood memories was counting down the days to Christmas with my advent calendar. This simple cardboard box with magical windows that revealed hidden chocolates became one of the most important practices of my morning routine for the entire month of December. It wasn't until I was nine, however, that I was introduced to the medieval advent calendar known as the Jesse Tree.

At the time I was living in Germany, and my mother was the children's ministry director of our base chapel in which all the children from the Catholic, Protestant, and Gospel services came together for Sunday School, Children's Church, and Bible activities. It was here that she found a book about the Catholic practice of the Jesse Tree, and she decided to use it as the basis of our 1988 Christmas production.

The Jesse Tree first appeared in the Middle Ages, and its name is a reference to Isaiah 11:1, "A shoot shall come out of the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots." At the time, most churchgoers from all classes were illiterate. The Catholic church often

Jesse Tree Performance

December 13,
6 p.m. in the
Sanctuary

used stained glass windows to illustrate the stories of the Bible. In these early images, the Jesse tree was usually an olive tree, and each branch contained an image relating to the stories leading up to the birth of Christ. It wasn't until much later, when evergreen trees were adopted by Christians that the Jesse Tree became a bridge between a pagan practice and preparation for the coming of Christ.

For twenty-five days beginning on the 1st of December, families read a scripture and share a devotional corresponding to an important story or prophecy in the Bible. Then they place a Christmas ornament with a related image on a special tree. In this way, they are brought closer together as they prepare their hearts during this liturgical season.

This year, with the support of the entire FUMC staff, I proposed we begin a tradition of using the Jesse Tree as our Children's Christmas production. I wanted every member of



our church to be offered the opportunity to be involved in its successful and meaningful execution, and I hope it will be something we do every three to five years so all children who grow up at FUMC will have the opportunity to know this beautiful tradition. Many artists and crafters in our congregation are working diligently to make the ornaments that will be used in the performance, while the children's choirs are preparing the music.

In the next few weeks, we will begin to meet with the children, tweens, and youth who will read the scriptures; and we already have the tree. We also want to bring this practice to our families, and so in lieu of offering the Gingerbread Bash the children and tween departments are holding an Advent Fair on the 3rd of December at 3 p.m. where

families will receive a Jesse Tree devotional book and make a set of ornaments to be used in their homes. That same evening at 5 p.m. we will hold a dress rehearsal, which will culminate in our performance on Wednesday, December 13, at 6 p.m.

There is still time to get involved. Children may join our chimes and children's choirs on Sunday evenings to prepare the music, all readers are yet to be identified, and we always need adult help during rehearsals and the performance. My hope is that this production will have a similar impact on our children that it did for me thirty-five years ago.

Soli Deo gloria,

**Erin M. Smith
Director of Music**

This week at FUMC Dothan

CHILDREN

J.A.M. Time (Jesus and Me Time)
Available during the 8:30 & 8:55 a.m.
worship services.

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

C.R.E.W. & CHOIR
(Christians Ready, Equipped & Willing)
Sundays, 4:50 - 6 p.m.

B.L.A.S.T.
(Bible Learning And Sharing Together)
Wednesdays, 6-7 p.m.

FB: FUMC Dothan Children's Ministry

IG: fumc_childrens_ministry

TWEENS

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

C.R.E.W. & CHOIR
(Christians Ready, Equipped & Willing)
Sundays, 4:50 - 6 p.m.

CONFIRMATION
6th Graders, Sundays, 5-6 p.m.

S.W.A.G.
(Saved With Amazing Grace)
5th & 6th Graders
Wednesdays 6-7 p.m.

FB: FUMC Dothan Tween Ministry

IG: Tweenfumcdothan

YOUTH

SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH
Great Pumpkin Scavenger Hunt! Oct. 22,
6-8 p.m. begins in the Fellowship Hall.

TUESDAY MORNING YOUTH
BREAKFAST
Begins at 7 a.m.

BIBLE STUDY
Wednesdays from 6-7:30 p.m.
Bring your own food!

IG: Fumcdothanyouth

JOYS & CONCERNS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:
Tillie Dempster who celebrated
her 96th birthday on October 15.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:
Anna & Press Thornton announce
the birth of a son,
Pressly LaFayette Thornton, V,
"Quinn" born October 10.

Grace Marie Powell & Kamryn Faria were
married in the Sanctuary October 14.
Grace Marie is the daughter of
Alyson & Scott Powell.

IN THE HOSPITAL:
Billy Sawyer - Flowers Hospital

OUR SYMPATHY TO:
Our Christian love and sympathy are
with Lynn Nesbitt and family due to
the death of her father,
Lloyd Smilie, who died October 9.

Our Christian love and sympathy are
with Juli & Andrew Love and family
due to the death of Juli's father, Jack
Danner, who passed away October 11.

55 FORWARD

Fall Family Fellowship Day at
Aplin Farms, Oct. 29, 4-6 p.m.
Everyone from our church is invited to
meet us at 2729 North County Road
49. No sign up required. Ticket prices
are \$8 or \$12. They have
an animal barn, play area,
a wagon ride and more!

Thanksgiving Potluck takes place
November 2, at 11:30 a.m. in the
Fellowship Hall. If you would like to
sign up to bring a side dish or dessert,
please do so by **October 26** by calling
the church office.

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:

- PT Music Intern
- PT Nursery Worker
- FT Children's Ministry Director
- FT Daycare Worker
- FT Custodian

RESPIRE CARE MINISTRY

VOLUNTEER & CAREGIVER
TRAINING
(Next meeting Nov. 8)

The training group meets on the 2nd
Wednesday of each month in
Rm. 158.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP
(Next meeting Nov. 16)

The support group meets on the 3rd
Thursday of each month in Rm. 158.

MEMORIAL

Sara Brewer
Katharine Haygood
Betty Coleman
Lillian Dickson
Mitzi & William Watson
Frances Harper
Stephanie & William Beckett
Rufus Lee
Katharine Haygood
Richard Schulman
Yvonne Williams

THIS WEEK IN WORSHIP

FIRST LIGHT CHAPEL COMMUNION

Exodus 33:12-23
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22

BRIDGE AND SANCTUARY WORSHIP

"Kingdom Treasure: The Problem
with Two Masters"
Matthew 6:19-21, 24

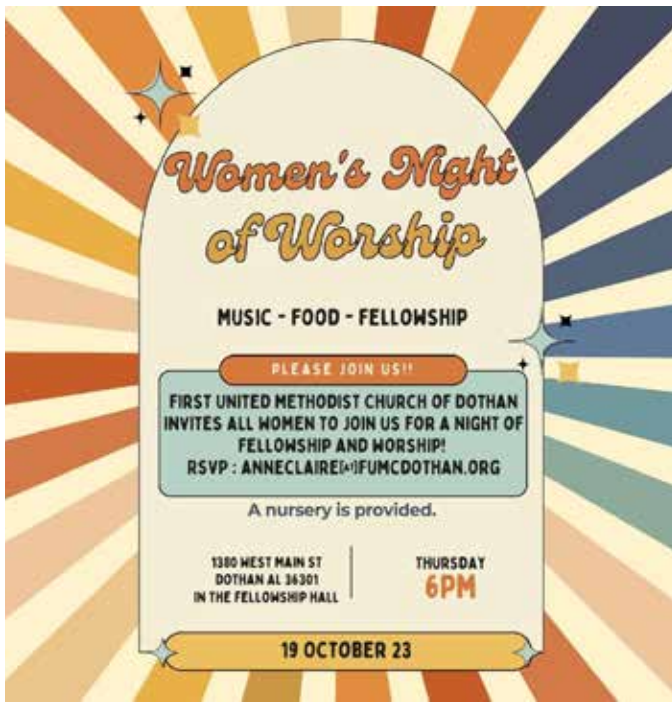
WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

October 25 Menu
Adults: Methodist chicken, white rice
with gravy, green beans, salad, roll,
dessert, beverage

Children: Chicken sandwich, green
beans, rice with gravy, roll, dessert,
beverage

LEADERS & TEACHERS

Small Group Leaders & Sunday
School Teachers Meeting
Monday, October 30 at 5:30 p.m. in
Room 157. We will learn and share
best practices and discuss discipleship
opportunities for the new year. Contact
Ryan Deaton for more information.



On Sunday, October 22,
at 10 a.m., our Mission
team members will be
in the Parlor sharing a
presentation on their
recent trip to Orphanage
Emmanuel. All are
welcome!





Donuts with David - October 29, 10 a.m. in the Parlor - New members and visitors are welcome! If you are new to FUMC Dothan, interested in membership, or if you just want to know more about what it means to become a Christian, please join us!

