



It all started with an invitation.

The experience of grace, is vast in the same way the ocean is vast. The ocean is deep and wide enough to make up most of the world's surface. It's a place we visit, admire, and enjoy, but we only ever get to see a small portion of it at a time. There is so much more to it, so much unknown, and it makes an incredible impact upon the whole world.

God's grace is similar, in that it's abundant and can be experienced in so many ways we can't begin to count them, and He works this grace in our lives in large and small ways.

While attending college, I experienced grace by way of an invitation to get involved in the work and life of the church. My parents raised me in church, but as an adult, it was up to me to determine what I would do on Sunday mornings and *how*, or even *if* I would participate in church.

I received an invitation to visit my grandmother's church after trying on all the others in town. Initially, I complained to my grandfather that I wouldn't have anyone to sit with, because grandma sang in the choir, but when I finally showed up, I found my grandfather had saved a spot so I could sit with him. That was so meaningful to me. We worshiped together for that hour, and I just soaked it in.

After attending for several months, the church was getting ready for summer and Vacation Bible School. I had heard every announcement, read them on the back of the bulletin, saw the postings and requests for volunteers, and never once made the connection that they were inviting me to take part in anything. Then, one day, I received a call from Mrs. Linda who was *the* "church lady" who helped with everything. She called to invite me to lead the music for VBS, *but I perceived her invitation as a desperate plea for help*. After convincing me I didn't need to be "good" at music, and even though I was

quite full of self-doubt, I decided I would give it a shot. Mrs. Linda was thrilled.

This one invitation turned out to be a life-changing event for me. From there I went on to help several churches in our community with VBS music that summer and even the next.

This small portion of my journey eventually led to discerning my call to ministry. With this one simple invitation, God has worked repeatedly, and I have had a glimpse into the beautiful kingdom of God.

In John 1:43-51, there are two invitations, Philip is invited to follow Jesus, and later, Phillip invites Nathanael to meet Jesus. As Nathanael encounters Jesus, his eyes are opened more and more to the wonders of God. Jesus called Nathanael to see and experience the great power of God in the transformation of discipleship. This is the cresting wave of grace that took Nathanael even deeper into the life of faith. More than an invitation to believe, he had been invited to be a part of the faithful.

Likewise, God's grace is at work in your life right now, even if you don't realize it. God is reaching out to you, calling you into the journey of discipleship. Maybe in an audible way like Philip, through other means like Ms. Linda, or through a friend like Nathanael. I hope you won't ignore the nudges and invitations. I hope you will accept the invitation to follow Jesus. I hope you will let yourself be seen, and like Philip, you will see others and invite them to join in the work of Jesus.

Peace,

Pastor Liz



Rev. Elizabeth Hinton

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)
Returns Jan. 21.

B.L.A.S.T.
(Bible Learning And Sharing Together)
Returns Jan. 17.

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)
Returns Jan. 21.

CONFIRMATION
Suspended for Holiday weekend

S.W.A.G.
(Saved With Amazing Grace)
5th & 6th Graders
Returns Jan. 17.

FB: FUMC Dothan Tween Ministry

IG: Tweenfumcdothan

YOUTH

SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH
Suspended due to retreat and
Holiday weekend.

IG: Fumcdothanyouth

THIS WEEK IN WORSHIP

First Light Chapel Communion

1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20)
1 Corinthians 6:12-20
John 1:43-51

Bridge and Sanctuary Worship

"The Best is Yet to Come"
John 1:43-51

JOYS & CONCERNS

CONGRATULATIONS TO:
Ashton & Seth McGowan who welcomed
their daughter, Monroe Britton, on
January 4. Her grandparents are
Lisa & Gary McGowan.

IN THE HOSPITAL:
Gloria Weeks - S. E. Health

RELEASED FROM HOSPITAL:
Merritt Carothers
Tyrone Parish

55 FORWARD

Jan. 25 - Movie Afternoon -
2 p.m., Room 165. Join us for
popcorn and the movie, *Sense*
and Sensibility (1995). For more
information, contact Ashley Brasington
at ashley@fumcdothan.org.

RESPIRE CARE MINISTRY

VOLUNTEER & CAREGIVER
TRAINING
(Next meeting Feb. 14)
The training group meets on the 2nd
Wednesday of each month in
Rm. 158.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP
(Next meeting Jan. 18)
The support group meets on the 3rd
Thursday of each month in Rm. 165.

JOIN THE FUMC STAFF

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

POSITIONS:

- PT Nursery Worker
- FT Daycare Worker

HONORARIUM

Sunday School Teachers
and Officers
Walker Epps Progressors Sunday
School Class
Amy & Charles Andre
Cathy & Dan Denney
Beverly Bromfield
Babs & John Blanks
Wileria Casey
Heather Turpin
Marty & Alan Clark
Cathy & Dan Denney

HONORARIUM, continued

Ed & Leslie Cox
Mary Kate & Eddy Keel
Debra & Philip Dozier
Jan Rollins
Wanda & Bob Emblom
Jan Rollins
Laura & George Flowers
Cathy & Dan Denney
Tony Garrette and his Staff
Babs & John Blanks
Melissa & Web Gholson
Hancel Cody
Nancy Harrell
Jan Rollins
Judy Harris
Hancel Cody
Pem & Scott Helms
Mary Kate & Eddy Keel
Jack Hendrix
Debbie & David Hendrix
Liz Hinton
Ann & Jim Ellis
Katie & Bill Holland
Mary Kate & Eddy Keel
Maurine & David Johnston
Cathy & Dan Denney
Julie & Kevin Kramer
Cathy & Dan Denney
Matt Langford
Ann & Jim Ellis
Susan & Alan Livingston
Hancel Cody
Nancy & Charlie McDaniel
Hancel Cody
Sean Peters
Ann & Jim Ellis
David Saliba
Ann & Jim Ellis
Dale & Fred Saliba
Cathy & Dan Denney
Julie & Steve Shaw
Cathy & Dan Denney
Jane Shelor
Hancel Cody
Dawn & Bob Theune
Cathy & Dan Denney
Jan Rollins
Rosalyn Timbie
Hancel Cody
Mary Alice & George Veale
Jan Rollins
Debby & George Wilson
Jan Rollins
Steve & Annette Wilson
Jan Rollins

MEMORIAL

Dot Brannon
Sha'nah Martin
Betty Coleman
Katie & Bill Holland

Welcome new members to FUMC Dothan



Mandy & James Rane, and their sons, Trip, Miller, and Leo joined our church January 7.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

With Pastor David

Meets every Tuesday
at 6 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

MEMORIAL, continued

Martha Davis

Dr. & Mrs. Hugh Davis

Timothy Elswick

Ann & Jim Ellis

Walker Epps Progressors Sunday
School Class

Betty Hendrix

Debbie & David Hendrix

Furnie & Jo Johnston

Herb & Toye Gannon

Katie & Bill Holland

Jo Johnston

Kathryn Hornsby, Amilia Ragland,
Beth Johnson & Brenda Warren
Camerin Debardiliben, Paige
Colantonio, Susan Young, & Tabby
Brown, Brunson, Wilkerson, Bowden
& Associates, P.C.

Sherrill & Lawson Bryan

Nagel & John Byrd

Diane & Steve Clouse

Pat & Mike Conaway

Saliba Construction Company, Inc.

Cathy & Dan Denney

Ann & Jim Ellis

Barbara & Paul Flowers

Sis & Bill Lee

Sha'nah Martin

Lisa & Gary McGowan

Wayne & Cindy Mitchell

Patty & Paul Muller

Karen & Bob Northcutt

Patti & Jerry Reeves

Joe Smith

Sharon Toole

Natalie Woods

Suzanne & Billy Woods

Joe Miller

Nagel & John Byrd

Sam Casey

Sha'nah Martin

Linda Poyner

Patricia & Lester Stewart

Neil Shelor

Hancel Cook

Brent & Jennifer Cook

Cathy & Dan Denney

Ann & Jim Ellis

Herb & Toye Gannon

Katie & Bill Holland

Mary Kate & Eddy Keel

Andy Love

Sha'nah Martin

Lisa & Gary McGowan

Pam & Jim Paxton

Jan Rollins

Urological Associates of

Southeast Health -

Dr. and Mrs. John Vukovich

Dr. and Mrs. John Peacock

Dr. and Mrs. Rob Schuyler

Dr. and Mrs. Jason Phillips

Dr. and Mrs. Bryant Williams

William Thompson

Jeanne & Theron Wells

Suzanne & Billy Woods

Natalie Woods

Moe Sigmon

Katie & Bill Holland

Barbara Stockman

Linda Poyner

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

January 17 Menu

Adults & Children: Hamburgers,
hot dogs, green beans, baked
potatoes or french fries, salad bar,
dessert, beverage.

WORSHIP PERFORMING ARTS

**Chancel Choir rehearsals resume
on Thursdays from 6-7:30 p.m.,
beginning January 18.** For more
information, contact Erin Smith at
erin@fumcdothan.org.

SAFE SANCTUARY TRAINING

**Adults volunteering with our
children's, tweens, youth, or any
of our vulnerable adult ministries
including Respite or Church
Party are invited to join us for Safe
Sanctuary training. Please plan to
attend one:** January 21 or February
25 during Sunday School at 10:05
in the Youth Room or Wednesday
night, January 24 or February 28 at
6 p.m., in Room 157. This training is
essential as we live out our call to be
a safe place for all of God's children,
and is part of our Safe Sanctuary
policy adopted at charge conference.

Small Group studies begin Jan. 16 - sign up at fumcdothan.org!

"The Gospel Comes with a House Key," small group study begins this Tuesday, January 16, led by Lindsay Roth. To sign up, visit fumcdothan.org.

Ignite Women's Bible Study, begins this Wednesday, January 17, 6-7 p.m. in the Parlor, led by Elizabeth Whitfield.

Women's Pursue Group, small group study, begins this Wednesday, January 17, 6-7 p.m., Room 252, led by Kristin Helms & Claire Hutto.

Pursue Group, small group study, begins this Wednesday, January 17, 6-7 p.m., Room 165, led by Scott Helms & Sam Stanfield.

Men's Discipleship, small group study, begins this Wednesday, January 17, 6-7 p.m., Room 158, led by Ryan Deaton.

Women's Pursue Group, small group study, begins Sunday, January 21, 5-6 p.m., Room 250, led by Kash Deaton.

Men's Pursue Group, small group study, begins Sunday, January 21, 5-6 p.m., Room 158, led by Jarrod Hanchey.

Pursue Group, small group study, 6-7 p.m., at the Rehobeth Community Center, led by Kerri & David Barfield, resumes Monday, February 5.

We hope to see you in one of these study groups, soon!

Due to remodeling efforts, foot traffic to the church office will be rerouted through the Weekday Daycare/Children's Ministry entrances until further notice.

The **main office** is now located in **Room 131**, the former Open Door Sunday School Classroom.

Logos is now in Room 157
Open Door will meet in the Parlor
Emmaus is now in Room 165
New Beginnings is now in the Conference Room 134
Cornerstone will meet in Room 263

55 FORWARD SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

MOVIE Day



**2 PM
ROOM 165**

JANUARY 25

CALL ASHLEY FOR MORE INFO: (334) 350-1088

Fellowship Hall

**Parent
RECHARGE**



**January 26: 6-8:30 PM
January 27: 9 AM-Noon**

For more information, contact ryan@fumcdothan.org.

9TH-12TH GRADES

HIGH SCHOOL WINTER RETREAT

Ski Trip to Beech Mountain, North Carolina



**COST: \$400, DEPOSIT OF \$200
DUE DEC. 10 TO SAVE YOUR SPOT**

FEBRUARY 16-19

FOR MORE INFO:
ROBBIE@FUMCDOTHAN.ORG