

# connections

REACHING OUT...IT'S WHO WE ARE!

## First United Methodist Church of Dothan

Dr. James B. Sanders III, Senior Pastor | September 24, 2020

### Resuming Large, In-Person Gatherings & Worship

I am happy to announce a target date for the resumption of large, in-person gatherings at our church facilities. When I say "large, in-person gatherings," I am referring to gatherings (including worship services) of more than twelve people at both FUMC and The Harbor. Our facilities at The Harbor will open for large, in-person gatherings the morning of October 3<sup>rd</sup> and our facilities on West Main Street will open for large, in-person gatherings on October 4<sup>th</sup>.

We are indebted to those on our servant teams and church staff who have made this possible. They have been and are presently doing fantastic ministry!

I have already been asked if this is a permanent decision. Certainly not! It is a target date and a work in progress. Since mid-March, our leadership team has been examining COVID-19 data from AL, GA, FL and Houston County on a daily basis. We will continue to monitor this data daily and respond in the most responsible and safest ways possible in the future.

On October 4<sup>th</sup>, FUMC will resume in-person worship at the 8:55 Bridge and 8:55 Sanctuary Services. In-person Sunday School will begin again at a later date.

If you have health concerns about being in a room with a large group of people for a 40-45 minute service, if you have been exposed to someone who has recently tested positive for COVID-19, if you have had a fever in the last 36 hours or are not feeling well, I encourage you to worship by means of live stream or YouTube. If you feel "at risk" in any fashion, please worship with us from home. Your safety and the safety of others are paramount.

#### Here are a few things you will find helpful to know about our in-person worship services:

~ Reservations will be required to be present at any in-person worship service as there will be assigned seating. Each week, registration is open from 8:00am on Monday through 11:00am on Thursday for the following Sunday's service. Reservations for both services can be made by calling the church office (793-3555), by emailing Paula Harrison ([Paula@fumcdathan.org](mailto:Paula@fumcdathan.org)), or by visiting

[fumcdathan.org/worship-registration](http://fumcdathan.org/worship-registration).

- ~ All who worship will be asked to maintain a social distance of at least six feet. Families may sit together.
- ~ Everyone will enter through the W. Main Street doors of our worship spaces.
- ~ Before entering the facilities, everyone will go through registration, wear a mask, and have his or her temperature taken. I strongly suggest arriving earlier than normal in order to go through registration.
- ~ Masks will be worn throughout the entire worship service by our adults and children.
- ~ Food, snacks, and drinks will not be available.
- ~ The congregation will not be singing during the service.
- ~ Children will remain in the worship service and no childcare will be provided.
- ~ Specific bathrooms will be open for use, but will only be cleaned periodically.
- ~ Everyone who participates will need to be flexible, prayed up, and ready to worship!

I'm excited! Psalm 122:1 states: "When they said, 'Let's go to the house of the Lord,' my heart leaped for joy." I look forward to worshipping in-person with you and your invited guests in October.

Thank you for your prayers in this new adventure and thank you for the joy of serving Christ in the world with you!



Jim  
[jim@fumcdathan.org](mailto:jim@fumcdathan.org)  
333-2995



# This week at FUMC

## CHILDREN

Parents,

I wanted to clarify a few things. We have had a great response to our Sunday program for BLAST Time. Last week's Wednesday program (6:00-6:45) was cancelled due to weather, but **we have 4 open spots for this week**. Please remember if you are unable to come, let me know so others can fill the spots. You can also cancel your sign-up on the website, which will show parents if there are openings. We have a waiting list on Sundays and I hope it will be the same way for Wednesdays once we get it started.

Remember that you have to move through the whole calendar and sign up for the small groups that will fit best into your schedule. If you signed up on the first date that does **not** mean you have a spot for the whole 8 weeks.

If your child participates, he/she will need to bring the waiver that is attached to the program. This will need to be done for all people 18 and younger in the church.

**BLAST Time**  
Sundays 5:00-5:45pm  
OR

Wednesdays 6:00-6:45pm

**BLAST Time Sign Up:**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4FA5A72DA3FDCE9-blast>

~ Lee Anne Holland  
[leeAnne@fumcdothan.org](mailto:leeAnne@fumcdothan.org)

Follow us on Instagram  
[@fumc\\_childrens\\_ministry](https://www.instagram.com/fumc_childrens_ministry)

Follow us on Facebook  
[@FUMC Dothan Children's Ministry](https://www.facebook.com/FUMC_Dothan_Children's_Ministry)

## TWEENS

The pumpkins arrive this Sunday! This is a great opportunity to offer a helping hand to our youth program. Unloading will look a little different this year so help will be greatly appreciated. The unloading will take place from 1:30-3:30, so set a reminder, wear an old shirt and come help spread some pumpkins around.

**Tweens Time for God**  
Sundays 5:00-5:45pm  
OR

Wednesdays 6:00-6:45pm

**Tweens Time for God Sign up:**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050F48ACAF2FA3F58-fumc>

~ Sonia Crutchfield  
[sonia@fumcdothan.org](mailto:sonia@fumcdothan.org)

Follow Tweens on Instagram  
[@Tweensfumcdothan](https://www.instagram.com/Tweensfumcdothan)

Follow Tweens on Facebook  
[@FUMC Dothan Tween Ministry](https://www.facebook.com/FUMC_Dothan_Tween_Ministry)

## YOUTH

Volunteer to Set Up and/or Serve at the Pumpkin Patch! Pumpkins are being delivered THIS Sunday, and we need help unloading them all!

**Sign up to Unload Sunday:**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080d4eaaa822a1fa7-pumpkin1>

**Sign up for a Shift**  
During October:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080d4eaaa822a1fa7-pumpkin2>

**Join our Youth Remind**  
Text **@fumc19-20** to **81010**

Follow Youth on Instagram  
[@fumcdothanyouth](https://www.instagram.com/fumcdothanyouth)

Follow us on Facebook  
[@FUMC Dothan UMYF](https://www.facebook.com/FUMC_Dothan_UMYF)

## ADULT MINISTRY

FUMC Military committee shipped care packages to 6 service members serving in different parts of the world. Please join us in praying for our service members this week.

## RESPIRE CARE MINISTRY

**Caregiver Support Group**  
Thursdays at 10:30 on Zoom

If you know a caregiver that needs support, even if they live far away, email [katie@fumcdothan.org](mailto:katie@fumcdothan.org) for Zoom info. We would LOVE for anyone to join us!

~ Katie

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

**Our Sympathy to:**

~ Lysie and Patrick Guin and family due to the death of Patrick's father, Dan Guin, who died Sept. 16.

**Released from Hospital:**

~ Judy West  
~ Sallie Harper  
~ Nevin Cherry

*This week we are especially praying for the ways our church family is reaching out through our ministry with the United Methodist Children's Home.*

## MEMORIALS

### Elizabeth Allen

Moe & Pat Sigmon

### Randy Barnes

Westside Terrace

Debi Breedlove

Judy Harris

Katie & Bill Holland

### Jo Butka

Debi Breedlove

### Dr. Jim Dees

Debi Breedlove

Moe & Pat Sigmon

### Jo Garrett

Dr. & Mrs. Bill Beckett

Debi Breedlove

Pervis & Susan Hester

Katie & Bill Holland

Elanor 'Frog' Michel

Stan Scott

Moe & Pat Sigmon

### Clayton Jordan

Friend Bank

Debi Breedlove

Judy Harris

Katie & Bill Holland

### Carlos Lee

Katie & Bill Holland

Moe & Pat Sigmon

### Bill Lisenby

Debi Breedlove

### Margaret Owens

Moe & Pat Sigmon

### Bill Roberts

Debi Breedlove

### Lillian Ann Robison

Judy Harris

Katie & Bill Holland

### Ann Gillis Stutts

McDaniel & Associates

Land Title Company of Alabama

Mr. & Mrs. Cliff Ayers

Missy, Charlton Bargerson & family

Judy Harris

Pervis & Susan Hester

Katie & Bill Holland

Mr. & Mrs. Bill Miller, Jr.

Dr. & Mrs. Roger Smith

Catherine Smith

Bartley Statham & family

## HONORARIUM

### Allie Freeman

Debi Breedlove

### Rhett & Jo Williams

Debi Breedlove

## Discipleship Corner

Welcome to the Discipleship Corner!

Talking about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus seems to be a good place to start as we begin this journey together. I have found the following definition to be helpful:

From a biblical perspective (Matthew 4:19) it looks like this:

***Come, follow me*** (Belonging to the Body of Christ)

***And I will make you*** (Becoming more like Jesus)

***Fishers of men*** (Blessing the world)

**How does *your* life as a disciple  
line up with this definition?**

