

The Hanging of the Greens service is a service you will not want to miss! **On Wednesday, November 29, at 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary** we will all learn again the reason for the many Christian symbols we use in our Christmas decorations. It is a cheerfully chaotic moment when we deck the halls of our homes, and it is no less so in God's Sanctuary. Our children will all be asked to help decorate the Chrismon Tree, families will process in with wreaths, evergreen garlands, candles, and more, and you will hear the story of the ornamentation that brings light to this sacred time.

The First Sunday in Advent, December 3, begins our liturgical, year-long journey through the life of Christ. As we begin the Christian Year, we also celebrate the Holy Season known as Advent. It is a time when we prepare ourselves for the coming of our Messiah. Advent means "Coming." We celebrate these days of Advent in expectation and preparation for Christ's arrival.

Through the centuries, Christians have observed a time of waiting and expectation before celebrating the birth of the Savior at Christmas. The Advent season is a time for reflection and preparation, but its mood is joyful. This season makes innkeepers



out of all of us, asking each of us to make room for the arrival of Christ the King. One of the many ways we celebrate His coming is to ready our hearts and lives by making ready our homes and our sanctuary!

The Hanging of the Greens Service began in Europe. Originally, live greens were used just prior to Christmas and kept throughout the final days of Advent and the 13 days of the Christmas Season (sundown December 24 through sundown

January 6) with proper care. Evergreens used at Christmas were first understood as a symbol of the Eternal One coming to dwell among us as Word made flesh. They also were a sign of life and growth overcoming and flourishing amid the dead of winter, and so symbolized the resurrection of Christ.

Most churches now, like ours, hang the greens closer to or even just before the beginning of Advent for use throughout the Advent and Christmas Season.

When hung for Advent, the symbolism of evergreens points to the unending life of the age to come when Christ returns, and our own everlasting life as the new creation of Christ. Join us on Wednesday, November 29, at 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary as we continue this ancient tradition of preparing our hearts and walls for the coming of the Newborn King!

See you Sunday!

Pastor David

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
Youth Snack Supper - 6-6:30 p.m.
Youth Worship - 6:30-7:30 p.m.

IG: Fumcdothanyouth

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

Church offices are closed Thursday
and Friday in observance
of Thanksgiving.

JOYS & CONCERNS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:
Hilde Caldwell who celebrated
her 95th birthday on November 19.

RELEASED FROM HOSPITAL:
Trip Wheelless

55 FORWARD

Shopping Day in Sandestin,
November 30. Meet us here at 7:30
a.m., to catch the church bus for a
great day of outlet shopping, lunch
and fellowship. Shopping ends at
4:30 p.m., and we will arrive back at
the church by 6:30 p.m. If you'd like to
come with us, please call the church office
by *November 23*, to save your spot!

Christmas Brunch in the Parlor
takes place at 10:30 a.m.,
December 6. If you would like to
fellowship with us, please sign up by
November 27, by calling the church
office at 334-793-3555. Afterwards,
we hope you'll join us for lunch and
our Midday worship service beginning
at 11:45 a.m., in the Fellowship Hall

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 Daycare Worker
- FT Custodian

RESPIRE CARE MINISTRY

VOLUNTEER & CAREGIVER
TRAINING
(Next meeting Dec. 13)

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

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP
(Next meeting Dec. 21)
The support group meets on the 3rd
Thursday of each month in Rm. 165.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

November 29 Menu

Adults: Catfish filets, cheese grits,
coleslaw, green beans, hush puppies,
dessert, beverage

Children: Fish nuggets, cheese grits,
green beans, hush puppies, dessert,
beverage

THIS WEEK IN WORSHIP

FIRST LIGHT CHAPEL COMMUNION

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Ephesians 1:15-23
Matthew 25:31-46

BRIDGE AND SANCTUARY WORSHIP

"My Three Sons: Isaac, Jacob,
Joseph"
Genesis 41:38-42

HONORARIUM

Elizabeth Sconyers
Brenda & Bobby Bottoms
Sis & Bill Lee

MEMORIAL

Furnie Johnston
Rosemary & Eddie Andrews, Kit &
Ross & Kim & Blake
Beth Harrison
Sara, Kyle, Catherine &
Charlotte Kinney
Joe Smith
Moe Sigmon
Pat & Eddie Hulan
Loyd Smilie
Beth Harrison
Barbara Stockman
Juleann Torrence

*Happy
Thanksgiving!*

Welcome new members to FUMC Dothan



Rhonda & Michael Maddox joined our church November 19.

A note from the finance office



The month of December is a busy month and this holds true for the finance office as well. We always receive an abundance of memorials during the month of December and all of the ministries that benefit from memorials are grateful for these gifts.

Because of this, we would ask that any memorials you wish to be acknowledged and printed in the *Connections Newsletter* for 2023 be turned in to the finance office by **December 11**.

Also, in order to receive credit for your 2023 contributions, if you are mailing your gift, please make sure to have it postmarked by **December 31**, or bring your check in to the office by 5 p.m. that day. If making online contributions, please remember to complete the transaction by midnight **December 31**.

Thank you, and we hope everyone has a joyful and blessed Advent season. If you have any questions, please contact Carla Barnett at 334-793-3555.



JOIN US FOR LUNCH & WORSHIP AT

MIDDAY

FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH

11:45a-12:45p

We hope to see you
December 6!

Rise
AGAINST HUNGER

**Volunteers Needed
December 6**

1st shift: 5-6 p.m.

2nd shift: 6-7 p.m.

CLC Gym

Sign up online at fumcdothan.org or email Ryan Deaton
at ryan@fumcdothan.org for more information.

Please Join us for

Santa 4 Seniors



To Benefit SARCOA

FELLOWSHIP HALL

DEC. 7

9 AM-3PM

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