

Happy Thanksgiving Day!

connections  First United Methodist Church  
Dothan - November 28, 2024



## *The* Hanging of the Greens

**T**he Hanging of the Greens service is a service you will not want to miss! **On Wednesday, December 4, 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.



Dr. David R. Saliba

The First Sunday in Advent, December 1, 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 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. Come, join us 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 & more 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.

**CHILDREN'S CHOIR & CHIMES  
REHEARSAL, 5 P.M., Dec. 1**

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY**  
Dec. 1

**WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY & CHOIR**  
*Suspended for the Holidays*

**FB:** FUMC Dothan Children's Ministry

**IG:** fumc\_childrens\_ministry

## TWEENS

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

**TWEEN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY**  
Dec. 1

**SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP &  
WORSHIP ARTS**  
*Suspended for the Holidays*

**WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY**  
*Suspended for the Holidays*

**FB:** FUMC Dothan Tween Ministry

**IG:** Tweenfumcdothan

## YOUTH

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
Youth Cafe, Sundays, 10-10:45 a.m.

**YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY**  
Dec. 1

**YOUTH SHOPPING DAY  
FOR THE HARBOR**  
Dec. 8, 1 p.m. - meet at Garden Center  
entrance at Northside Walmart.

## JOIN THE FUMC STAFF

For job descriptions, and how to  
apply for the positions listed below,  
visit [fumcdothan.org/join-our-team](http://fumcdothan.org/join-our-team).

### POSITIONS:

- Food Services Director
- Jr. High Ministry Director
  - PT Nursery Worker
  - FT Daycare Worker

## JOYS & CONCERNS

**IN THE HOSPITAL:**  
Ray Gibson - Flowers  
William Speigner - Boston  
Gloria Daughtry - UAB

**RELEASED FROM HOSPITAL:**  
Beth Harrison  
Cheryl Gibson  
Nancy Maloney  
Ashley Waller  
Paul Thomas

*Let us know if you, or someone  
you know, has concerns, joys,  
hospitalizations, upcoming  
surgeries, or is expecting a baby.  
Please call the church office at  
334-793-3555, or email  
prayer@fumcdothan.org.*

## RESPIRE CARE MINISTRY

**VOLUNTEER & CAREGIVER  
TRAINING**  
**(Next meeting Dec. 11)**  
The training group meets on the 2nd  
Wednesday of each month in  
Rm. 158.

**RESPIRE CARE MINISTRY  
CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP**  
**(Next meeting Dec. 19)**  
The support group meets on the 3rd  
Thursday of each month in Rm. 165.

## THIS WEEK IN WORSHIP

**First Light Chapel Communion**  
Jeremiah 33:14-16  
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13  
Luke 21:25-36

**Bridge and Sanctuary Worship**  
"Reclaiming Christmas:  
God Gives"  
Luke 1:15-25

## 55 FORWARD

**Christmas Brunch – Dec. 11,  
10 a.m., Parlor.** If you would like to  
fellowship with us, please sign up by  
calling the church office at  
334-793-3555 by **Dec. 4.**  
For more information, contact  
Ashley Brasington at  
[ashley@fumcdothan.org](mailto:ashley@fumcdothan.org).

**All Is Calm: The Christmas Truce  
of 1914, Cultural Arts Center –  
December 13, 7 p.m.** Tickets are  
\$22. To save your spot on the church  
van, sign up by calling the church  
office at 334-793-3555 by **Dec. 6.**  
For more information, contact Ashley  
Brasington at  
[ashley@fumcdothan.org](mailto:ashley@fumcdothan.org).

## EMMAUS WALK

**Emmaus Walk Meeting**  
**Dec. 1, 3 p.m. - Room 134**  
For more information, contact  
Linda Isley at [lipisley1@gmail.com](mailto:lipisley1@gmail.com).

## CHILDREN'S CHOIR & CHIMES

**Children's Choir  
and Chimes Rehearsal**  
**Sunday, Dec. 1, 5 p.m.,  
Sanctuary**  
We will practice for the Hanging  
of the Greens and Lessons and  
Carols services. Afterwards, the  
children will attend a Christmas  
party in the children's wing. For  
more information, please contact  
Erin Smith at  
[erin@fumcdothan.org](mailto:erin@fumcdothan.org).

**All church offices and programs will be closed  
beginning at noon, Wednesday, Nov. 27,  
through Friday, Nov. 29, in observance  
of Thanksgiving.**

# Welcome new members to FUMC Dothan



Dr. Barbara Holt joined our church  
November 24.

## Baptism



William "Liam" Rhodes Spry was baptized Sunday,  
November 24. He is pictured with his parents,  
Tori Lynn & Andrew Spry.



*"Let the little children come to me..."*

*Matthew 19:14*



FUMC Flower ministry invites you to donate your small to medium flower vases to the church.  
Drop off in the Parlor kitchen or reach out to Susan Warren at 334-598-1205 for porch pick up  
or if you have any further questions.



## The Harbor **SERVE DAY** Saturday, Nov. 30 7:30-9:30 AM

A Church-wide Ministry Opportunity  
For details: [Ryan@fumcdothan.org](mailto:Ryan@fumcdothan.org)

**Ways to Serve:**

- Serving Breakfast
- Completing intake forms
- Praying with participants
- Organizing supplies
- Street ministry



The Harbor  
A Refuge From Life's Storms





**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY**  
**DEC. 1** 5:30 PM  
 KIDS CORNER

**TWEEN CHRISTMAS PARTY**  
**DEC. 1** 5-6 PM  
 YOUTH CAFE

**YOUTH Christmas Party**  
**DEC. 1** 6-7:30 PM  
 FELLOWSHIP HALL

What to Bring:  
 \$5-10 wrapped gift for a game  
 Boys: salty snacks + appetizers  
 Girls: sweets + desserts

United Women in Faith **CHRISTMAS PARTY**

December 3, 10:30 a.m., The Parlor

Come, enjoy a time of singing, snacking, and fellowship!  
 Members, please bring some of your favorite Christmas goodies to share.  
 To learn more, call or text Priscilla Tucker at 334-618-0210.

**MIDDAY** FUMC  
 WORSHIP SERVICE + LUNCH  
 DEC. 4  
 FELLOWSHIP HALL

55 FORWARD  
**Christmas BRUNCH**  
 Dec 11 | 10 AM | The Parlor

Potluck Style Brunch! Please call the church office to sign up with name, phone number and the dish you're bringing.

**CRAFTS & CAROLS**  
 Fellowship Night  
 Dec. 11 | 5-7pm | Fellowship Hall