



The Shepherd School welcomes its inaugural class of students and their teachers, Pam McCoy and Laurie Gilmore.

Meet our newest ministry

"Shepherding hearts, unlocking minds" at The Shepherd School



Pastor David Saliba visits the first class of The Shepherd School.

First United Methodist Church (FUMC) Dothan is excited to announce the opening of **The Shepherd School**, a specialized learning environment designed to support students with language-based learning differences, especially those with dyslexia. Using the proven Orton-Gillingham method, The Shepherd School provides a tailored, individualized approach to learning, helping students from first through sixth grade thrive academically. The goal is for students to attend the school for 2-4 years, after which they will be equipped to transition back to a traditional classroom setting.



Patti Flowers
*Executive Director,
The Shepherd
School*

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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.

FB: FUMC Dothan Children's Ministry

IG: fumc_childrens_ministry

YOUTH

Sunday School

Youth Cafe, Sundays, 10-10:45 a.m.

Worship & Snack Supper

Sundays, 6-7:30 p.m.

Confirmation Retreat - Aug. 22-23

Sixth & Seventh graders

Wednesday Bible Study

returns Sept. 10 - 6-7 p.m.

JOIN THE FUMC STAFF

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

Positions:

- PT Associate Worship Arts Director/Organist
 - PT Ministry Intern
 - PT Nursery Worker
- FT Children's Ministry Director
- FT Daycare Worker

RESPIRE MINISTRY

Respite Ministry Caregiver Support Group

(Next meeting Aug. 21)

The support group meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month in Rm. 165.

Volunteer & Caregiver Training

(Next meeting Sept. 10)

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

CHARGE CONFERENCE

There will be a called Charge Conference on **Sunday, August 24**, at noon in the Fellowship Hall. A nursery will be provided. The meeting should last no longer than half an hour.

THIS WEEK IN WORSHIP

First Light Chapel Communion

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Hebrews 12:18-29

Luke 13:10-17

Bridge and Sanctuary Worship

"Back to the Basics:

Blessed are the Meek"

Psalms 37:10-17

JOYS & CONCERNS

Our sympathy to:

David Burleson and family due to the death of his brother, Joe Burleson, who died Aug. 11.

Joe & Tril Ausley and family due to the death of his brother, Jerry Ausley who died Aug. 15.

In the hospital:

Pug Grimes

Camille Sherer

Carol Ann Jones

Released from hospital:

Gloria Weeks

Ashley Spears Cannon

Taras Hanuszczyk

Lamar Loftin

Happy birthday to:

Sue Byrd who celebrated her 93rd birthday on Aug. 12.

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.

55 FORWARD

Senior Adult Ministry Movie Afternoon - August 27, 2 p.m. - Room 165

- Join us for popcorn and the movie, *The Secret* (2020). For more information, contact Ashley Brasington at ashley@fumcdothan.org.

Senior Adult Ministry Lunch Fellowship - Thursday, September 11, 11:30 a.m.

- Join us at Broadway Cafe, located at 429 Broadway Street, in Ashford.

To reserve your seat, and if you would like a ride, please call the church office at 334-793-3555 by **September 3**.

CHURCH PARTY MINISTRY

Church Party Ministry

Church Party is a special needs ministry of FUMC Dothan. Volunteers are needed to drive children to and from church on Tuesdays (no CDL required).

Also, if you would like to help our ministry by providing a meal for 20 people to include pizzas, dessert and fruit, we would appreciate it! Contact Susan Warren at 334-596-1205 or Nina Lisenby at 334-714-7108. To learn more, visit online at: fumcdothan.org/church-party-ministry

TREAT TROLLEY

Join the FUMC Treat Trolley Team!

Help us bless local teachers with homemade treats and snacks this school year! The Treat Trolley serves approximately 170 educators at three schools, including: Girard Elementary, Dothan 6th Grade Center, and Selma Street Elementary—four times a year. We need bakers and delivery helpers to make this outreach possible.

If you'd like to serve, contact Tracy Pruitt at 334-701-7630 or email her at keithtracypruitt@gmail.com.

NAME TAG SUNDAY



Name Tag Sunday - September 7 -

Our church family is growing—with new members,

visitors, and staff! To help us connect, please wear your FUMC name tag to worship.

Don't have one? Send an email to paula@fumcdothan.org to order and pick up yours at the welcome table in the back hall, or pick up a paper tag at the entrance that morning.

BRAIN SCIENCE LUNCHEON

The Fourth Annual Brain Science Luncheon

takes place Thursday, Oct. 9, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Renaissance Hotel in Montgomery. Dr. Lisa Genova, Harvard-trained neuroscientist and bestselling author of *Still Alice*, will be their keynote speaker. **Please contact katie@fumcdothan.org before Sept. 23**, if you need more info, or would like to attend.

Welcome new members to



Walt and Morgan Ellis, and their children, Watson, Mary Chase, and William



Sarah Kate Howell

Taking place this Sunday!

**CHARGE
CONFERENCE**
at noon

**Acolyte
& Server
Training**

Sunday,
August 24
10 a.m. - Sanctuary



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This initiative has been a long-time dream of FUMC member Mary Olivia Jones, whose own family faced the challenges of dyslexia when her oldest son was diagnosed in kindergarten. Struggling to find adequate resources in the area, Mary Olivia was determined to bring the support her family needed—and what so many other families in Dothan were lacking. With the knowledge of specialized schools in Atlanta, she set out to make a difference. After researching various schools across the Southeast, she brought her vision to Pastor David Saliba, who enthusiastically embraced this vision, helping to make it a reality through facility resources at FUMC. Thanks to FUMC's support, this dream is now a reality. A section of the secure Children's Wing has been converted into a dedicated classroom for The Shepherd School. Housing Dothan's first school of this kind on campus allows students to benefit from other school facilities, including the playground and gym. The 2025–2026 school year will mark the school's pilot year of 8 students. Teachers Pam McCoy and Laurie Gilmore will lead the class, both of whom are trained in the Orton-Gillingham method.

To learn more about
The Shepherd School, visit
fumcdothan.org/shepherdschool

The Shepherd School's approach is grounded in the Orton-Gillingham Method, a structured, evidence-based approach that has proven particularly effective for students with dyslexia. Each child receives daily, intensive



Pictured from left: Tee, Mary Olivia, Asa, and Turner Jones.



instruction in phonics, reading, spelling, writing, grammar, and math. In addition, students engage in science, social studies, fine arts, health, and physical education. The low student-to-teacher ratio, combined with a project-based, experiential learning approach and regular movement breaks, ensures that every student receives the attention and support they need. The flexible, non-traditional classroom environment adapts to the unique learning needs of each child.

The school will be overseen by an Executive Director, Patti Flowers, an FUMC member with 38 years of experience in teaching students

with learning differences. Patti has completed over 100 hours of Orton-Gillingham training and is deeply passionate about helping children overcome academic challenges. "I want these students to be met at the level where they are and have the opportunity to grow, to be successful, and to realize they have learning differences, not deficiencies," Patti explains. "At the same time, we want them to be confident in themselves, knowing they are loved by God and supported by this church, with the belief that they are called to fulfill God's will in everything they do."

The Shepherd School is not just a ministry to students; it is a resource for families as well. It offers a nurturing and supportive environment where children can grow into confident learners, while assuring families that their children's individual needs are being met. Each child is seen, loved, and supported in a way that allows them to thrive in their learning journey.

Rise
AGAINST HUNGER

Wednesday, September 3
5-7 p.m. | CLC Gym

Dinner and nursery provided.

SIGN UP NOW TO VOLUNTEER!



fumcdothan.org/events

DONUTS
with David

SEPTEMBER 7
10 AM | PARLOR

New members and visitors are welcome!
If you are new to FUMC Dothan, interested in membership, or if you want to know more about what it means to become a Christian, please join us!