

## A SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS: 144 YEARS OF TRADITION

In 1880, E.W. Benson the Bishop of Truro, later the Archbishop of Canterbury, designed a service of lessons and carols to draw people out of the common houses, or bars, and into the Cathedral on Christmas Eve.

Benson's service was structured around nine scriptures and reflective carols detailing the Fall of Humanity, the prophecy of the Messiah, the Incarnation, and the Great Commission. Although many British churches adapted his work, it was not until 1918 when Eric Milner-White, the Dean of King's College in Cambridge, established a tradition of inviting the townspeople to join the students on Christmas Eve for a Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols.

As an act of Christian outreach this invitation seems less than unique, but it served a greater purpose among the decimated student body in the wake of the First World War, which concluded a month earlier. Milner-White set his service apart from others by including what he called a Bidding Prayer, in which he invited those present to meditate upon the Good News and "to go even unto Bethlehem." His prayer has seen additions and adjustments through the years, but his focus upon the poor, hungry, and oppressed remains unwavering.

In 1928, King's College agreed to televise their service for the first time, and this exposure influenced churches, colleges and universities, and communities across the globe to host their own festivals. It is with the joyful weight of this tradition that our worship arts ensembles will come

together with guest musicians from the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra to present our Third Annual Service of Lessons and Carols. It is with great pleasure that we invite one and all to join us on the journey to Bethlehem.

**Soli Deo gloria (Glory to God Alone),  
Erin M. Smith  
Worship Arts Director**

### *Excerpt of Bidding Prayer by E.W. Benson*

*Beloved in Christ, be it this Christmastide our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing, which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger... let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill among all his people; for unity and brotherhood within the Church he came to build, and especially in this our diocese ... let us remember, in his name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children; all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love... all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore, and in a greater light, that multitude which no man can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are one forevermore.*

DECEMBER 8 | 6PM  
SANCTUARY

# 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.

### 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.

### 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 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:

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

## JOYS & CONCERNS

### IN THE HOSPITAL:

Martin Andre - Children's Hospital

### RELEASED FROM HOSPITAL:

Ray Gibson  
William Speigner  
Gloria Daughtry

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Minna Appleby celebrated her 91st birthday Nov. 26.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Kathryn & Steven Justice announce the birth of their twins, daughter, Maggie and son, Charlie, born Nov. 26.

Madi & Joey Pruitt who announce the birth of their son, Thomas, born Nov. 26. Grandparents are Tracy & Keith Pruitt. His great-grandmother is Sue Pecci.

*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](mailto: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.

## 55 FORWARD

### 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).

### Movie Afternoon - Dec. 12, 2 p.m., Room 165.

Join us for popcorn and the movie, *The Shepherd*. For more information, contact Ashley Brasington at [ashley@fumcdothan.org](mailto:ashley@fumcdothan.org).

## HONORARIUM

### Jane Williams

Bettye Forbus & Bill Perkins

## MEMORIALS

### Karen Cunningham

Jane Williams

### Rudy Heintzelman

Pat Sigmon

### Tag Hogue

Pat Sigmon

### Bob King

Jane Williams

### Patricia Melton

Jane Williams

### Natalie Woods

Jane Williams

## THIS WEEK IN WORSHIP

### First Light Chapel Communion

Malachi 3:1-4

Philippians 1:3-11

Luke 3:1-6

### Bridge and Sanctuary Worship

"Reclaiming Christmas:

God Calls"

Mark 1:1-8

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.







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




55 FORWARD  
**Movie**  
*The Shepherd*

DEC. 12 @ 2PM RM 165

POP CORN

*Thank You!*  
**BETTY HELMS**




**RETIREMENT RECEPTION**  
 December 15, 10 a.m., Parlor

**CHRISTMAS** with the *HARBOR*



**Gift Wrapping**  
 December 15: 2 pm, gym  
 Wrapping Volunteers Needed



**PROMISE OF CHRISTMAS**  
 Benefiting The Harbor

**December 15**  
**5:30pm**





Children's Ministry



2024  
Christmas  
Parties  
Tween's Ministry



Youth Ministry