

New Beginnings

Isaiah 43:1-3a; 43:19



Changing Lives by Sharing Christ, Making Disciples, Serving and Giving Hope

Oct 1 Sermon Notes "New Beginnings-Hope"

This week, begins a five week emphasis, *Generosity: New Beginnings*. This entire series engages *Isaiah 43*, inviting us to consider the new things that God is doing in our lives and First United Methodist Church. How is good taking our prayers, presence, resources, service, and witness to do a new thing in our church? We begin this series by examining the hope that we have in the Lord.

During this series, I invite you to...

Read and Study *Isaiah 43*

Spend time with the reflection question each week. This week is "What new things do you see for the future of First United Methodist Church?"

Participate in the interactive prayer experience (more details to follow Sunday).

Pray about what new step of discipleship God is inviting you to do for 2024 and consider how you will live into your membership vows for 2024.

God is doing a new First United Methodist! Now it springs up, do you not perceive it?

In Christ,

Rev. Sherri



New Beginnings

Isaiah 43:19

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?

I am making a way in the

wilderness and rivers in the desert.

October 1: Hope

October 8: A Great Adventure

October 15: Our Witness

October 22: Investment

October 29: A Matter of Worship

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Worship Opportunities

Thursday Worship: 5:30 pm, Sanctuary

Sunday Morning:

Celebration 9 am* Traditions 11 am*

*In Person (Sanctuary) and Online

ACOLYTES

October 1: Anna Kate Casey

October 8: Marit Norris

Tech Team Schedule

(Please arrive 45 minutes before the service.)

October 1

Celebration: Eric Wright, Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman

Traditions: Mark Condra, Sheila Freeman

October 8

Celebration: Sheila Freeman, Jacob McKiven, Carmen

McKiven

Traditions: Neil Mullin, Sheila Freeman, Brad Barnes

Spiritual Gifts Inventory [Spiritual Gifts \(umc.org\)](http://umc.org)

Every child of God is filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, specially gifted to play a unique and valued role in the body of Christ. No one is without gift or purpose. **Begin the journey.** Discover your gifts. Talk about your gifts with others. Strive together to understand your gifts and how you can use them to **serve God, neighbor, and world.**

You have been gifted. You have been given a purpose.

SUNDAY SCHOOL *Open* HOUSE

Sunday School Classes for All Ages!
*Light Refreshments will be served in many of our classes.
It is an opportunity for you to visit and find your place!*

Children's Sunday School Rooms 108 and 104
New Adult Sunday School Room 209
Living Waters Room 110

Youth Sunday School Room 211
Pathfinder/Seekers Room 208
Martin Fellowship Room 114

(Nursery provided for Children under 3)

SUNDAY | 1 | OCTOBER

10:00 AM

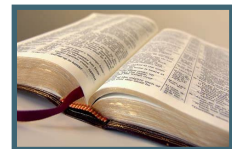
FIRST UMC GADSDEN 115 S. 5TH ST, GADSDEN, AL 35901



Wednesday Morning Bible Study w/Pastor Sherri Reynolds

Based on the week's Lectionary Readings.

@ 11 am in the Gathering Rm, # 201



Men at the Well Thursday Mornings, 7:00 am

You are invited to join the weekly Bible study with the Men at the Well small group. They are currently meeting at the Choice Restaurant at 7 am. Beginning July 13, the study will be focusing on leaders of the Bible. Each week the small group will discuss a key leader from the Old and New Testament. This study will conclude September 14.

Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Meal October 4

@ 5:15 pm!

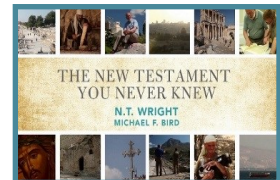
Menu: Chicken Fingers & Mac&Cheese

\$7 per person, \$3 for ages 11 & Under

Small Groups for children, youth and adults begin at 6 pm.

Adult Small Groups @ Wonderful Wednesdays

"The New Testament
You Never Knew"
by N.T. Wright
w/Pastor Sherri
6 pm, Rm 208



"Breathing Room" w/Harriet Murray
6 pm, Room 110

October is

Pastor

APPRECIATION MONTH

New Sunday School Class **Beginning October 1**

Life is full of transitions, questions, and new beginnings. Whether you are married, single or divorced, with or without children, this is a place to help you find genuine community, create new friendships and learn from each other, and grow your faith in Jesus.

There will be nursery care available for ages under 3 and Sunday school classes for Children and Youth, 4 years through 12th Grade.

Led by **Jeanne Mabeus & Eric Wright** Room 209



During the month of October we will be offering training for First UMC Gadsden's Safe Sanctuaries Policy. **Everyone** in our church should be concerned about Safe Sanctuaries and **anyone** is welcomed to attend this important training on Sunday, Oct. 8 @ 12 noon and another date TBA.

What is Safe Sanctuaries? The Safe Sanctuary Policy puts in place rules and guidelines for our church family as a whole and the church staff and volunteers for ministry with children, youth and vulnerable adults. This policy is important because it protects our children and youth under the age of 19 and vulnerable adults! While the policy has a lot of specifics for various aspects of nursery care, Children's Ministry and Youth Activities, **it is important to remember these three rules for all church activities, events, practices, and meetings of any kind:** 1) There must be **two unrelated adults** present. 2) Volunteers in ministry with these groups must be **active in the church for at least 6 months** before taking a leadership role. 3) Volunteers in leadership roles **must be at least 5 years older** than the age group that they are working with. ***Thank you for helping us keep our most precious gifts safe!***



ELC News

The end of September has come quick at the ELC. This week we enjoyed a visit from The Dog House for our first lunchbox revolt of the year. Its always fun to talk with Mr. Johnny or Mr. Greg and let them know what we like on our hot dots. For Chapel time, our story was David and Goliath. This coming week will be fall pictures on Tuesday and Wednesday. Preparations are being made for our annual Halloween Parade on Tuesday, October 31st. —Helene Haller

Youth Ministry News

October 1 Youth Sunday School, Room 211

Trips and Fun Times

- October 7 Six Flags
- October 21 Haunted Chicken House
- October 22 Kickball tournament at Camp Lee

Carmen McKiven, Youth Counselor

Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Dinner, Oct 4: Chicken Fingers & Mac & Cheese
\$7 Adults, \$3 for 11 & under Text your reservation: 256-490-5018

B.L.A.S.T OFF
INTO
SUNDAY SCHOOL!
(Believe, Learn, And Seek the Truth)

GFUMC kids
Sunday's at 10:00
Room 106 & 108

Children's
Church
Ministry

Children's Church meets during worship on Sunday Mornings @ 9 am & 11 am

Blessing of the backpacks
August 6

Fall Fest
October 25

GFUMC CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
DECEMBER 10

GFUMC Children's Ministry
Fall calendar 2023

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS START BACK
AUGUST 16

FRIENDSGIVING
NOVEMBER 15

Brunch with Santa 10:00am
December 3

Rake and Run
October 8

Community Thanksgiving
November 22

Christmas party
December 13

Mission Focus



Etowah Free Community Clinic

We will be collecting the following items in our **RED Buckets at the entrances to the church** during the month of September to support the Etowah Free Community Clinic!

1. Paper Towels
2. Toilet Paper
3. Cotton Balls
4. Q-Tips
5. Band-aids
6. Rubbing Alcohol (bottle)
7. Hydrogen Peroxide
8. Triple Antibiotic Ointment
9. Antifungal Cream
10. Prayers



Thank you for your support of the August Mission Focus, our Adopted School, W.E Striplin Elementary School! Your gifts and service make this mission and ministry possible.

—The Mission Team

Clothes Closet Needs



We have had many donations from our church members, friends and neighbors to our clothes closet. Recently we had a donation of clothing from "Hannah's Closet".

We appreciate all of our community helping in this mission that helps many individuals and families.

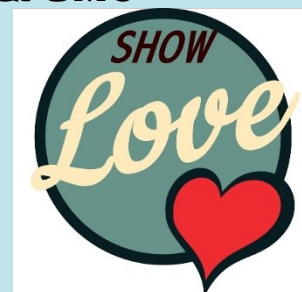
Thanks from your Volunteers

United Women in Faith

The next monthly Luncheon is October 9 at 12:00 noon. Our featured speaker is Mayor Craig Ford. His presentation will be "Gadsden At A Glance- An Overview of the Mayor's First Year." Please mark your calendars and make your lunch reservation by noon on Friday, October 6, by texting or calling Delores Abney at 256-458-0376. *Barbara Bennett, President*



GFUMC



"By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:35

Ladle of Love

Fridays, 11:00am-12:00pm,
at the Portico entrance.

Donations may be made to the Ladle of Love Fund in honor or in memory of a loved one.

Clothes Closet

Workdays

1st & 3rd Tuesdays

Open to Public

1st & 3rd Wednesdays

September open dates are

9/6 and 9/20

9:00 am to 11:00 am

516 Broad Street Gadsden

Find out more about mission and service opportunities @ www.fumcgadsden.org/serve

Clients Served

August 2023

Ladle of Love 390

Clothes Closet 247

Thanks to our volunteers!

Phone: 256-543-8200

Email: fumc@fumcgadsden.org

#gfumcreconnect2023

EVERYONE is INVITED
“Gadsden At A Glance”
Featured Speaker Mayor Craig Ford
October 9 at 12:00 noon
Gathering Room, Room 201



The featured speaker is Mayor Craig Ford.
His presentation will be **“Gadsden At A Glance-
An Overview of the Mayor’s First Year.”**

United Women in Faith is hosting this monthly luncheon.
Please mark your calendars and **make your lunch
reservation by noon on Friday, October 6**, by texting or
calling Delores Abney at 256-458-0376.

Time to Shop for Fall!
**And Support the Children’s
Ministry of GFUMC!**

October 17
Gathering Room
Trunk Show By
Robbie’s of Fayette
Women’s Clothing Boutique

25% of total sales
benefits GFUMC Children’s Ministry!

MARCY PUCKETT



Marcy was born in Pittsburg, PA, attended high school in Ft. Lauderdale, then went to the University of Alabama, where she studied Fashion Merchandising. As a young woman, she was the Ladies Buyer and Store Manager of the high-end clothing store, Hagedorn’s, in Gadsden. In her late 50s, she started an Interior Redesign business, which she ran for 10 years, calling it “the most fun thing” she’s ever done. Her husband, Sam Puckett, has been with his family’s business, “Puckett & Co., Inc.,” for many years. Their daughter, Karen Hernandez, is a Pastor and District Superintendent in Idaho. Their other daughter, Julie Anderson, teaches Second Grade in Oxford, AL. Marcy has been delivering meals for Manna for 25 years. She loves Mah-jongg, gardening, and home decorating.

He Brews
...where your cup runneth over



FIRST UMC GADSDEN

Inviting Ministries

Please join us for HeBrews Coffee Café
between the Sunday morning worship services,
from 10 am to 11 am.

We can’t wait to see you there!!!



Over the next five weeks, I invite you to consider how God is inviting you to a new beginning. Through the spiritual disciplines of prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness God transforms us and makes us new. God may be calling you to a new prayer emphasis, or a renewed commitment to worship. The Lord may be inviting you to tithe or a new avenue of service. God could be nudging you to invite someone to church or share your faith in another way. **The 2024 “New Beginnings” generosity campaign through a wide perspective invites you to something new and to be made new in what the Lord is doing.** We hope that you will share “New Beginnings” —your hopes, prayers, thoughts and expectations for our church on the prayer wall in the Chestnut Foyer during the month of October.

In Christ, *Rev. Stu Reynolds*

Secure Online Giving

Scan the QR Code or
Text to Give: 256-344-8464
First United Methodist Church of Gadsden

*Strength for Today
Bright Hope for Tomorrow*



**Gadsden First U. M. Church
online giving**

Give Now Sign in

My Donation

One-time Recurring

Generosity: Ways to Give

In-person, at the offering time during worship.
www.fumcgadsden.org/give
Text to Give: 256-344-8464
Mail your tithe or gift: 115 S. 5th Street ,
Gadsden, AL 35901

**Look!
The color
scheme for our
eGiving portal
has changed!**

Calendar for October 1-7, 2023

Oct 1 Sunday

9:00 am Celebration Worship, Sanctuary

10:00 am Sunday School Open House

HeBrews Coffee, Chestnut Street Lobby

11:00 am Traditions Worship, Sanctuary

Oct 2 Monday

9:00 am-1:00 pm ELC Fall Schedule

9:00 am-10:00 am Exercise Group, Gym

Oct 3 Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm ELC Fall Schedule

9:00 am-11:00 am Clothes Closet workday

5:00 pm-6:00 pm Yoga, Gym

Oct 4 Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm ELC Fall Schedule

9:00 am-11:00 am Clothes Closet open

11:00 am Wednesday Morning Bible Study, Gathering Rm

4:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal,, Room 110

5:15 Wednesday Night Meal, Gathering Room

6:00 pm Children's Activities, Room 108

6:00 pm Youth Activities, Room 211

6:00 pm Small groups, Room 110 & 208

6:00 pm Choir Practice

Oct 5 Thursday

9:00 am-1:00 pm ELC Fall Schedule

9:00 am-10:00 am Exercise Group, Gym

5:30 pm Thursday Worship

Oct 6 Friday

11:00 am-12:00 pm Ladle of Love

Save the Date: Monday, October 9, UWF Luncheon

Speaker: Mayor Craig Ford. See page 6 for details.

District Days with the Bishop

North Alabama Conference

Everyone is invited and encouraged to come hear the Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett as we celebrate our shared ministry while looking to the future as Christ followers. The message... "Hope Abounds".

Monday, October 9, 6:00 pm

Sweet Home United Methodist Church

218 N. 6th Street, Gadsden, AL 35901

Honorariums & Memorials

Early Learning Center Scholarship Fund

In memory of Hilde Willis, given by Steve & Lynne Frederick.

New Handbell Choir

The **NEW** Handbell Choir is rehearsing each Wednesday at 4:30 pm in room 112. We are looking forward to adult participation in our new handbell choir. If you are interested and know basic musical notes, please join us!

For more information, you may contact
Monica Gilmer at 256-328-4420.

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Lisa Dobbins

Family of Dennis Griffin (Classmate of Libby Reynolds)

Chris Wadsworth (Keith Copeland's nephew)

Jimmie Sue Hoekenga (friend of Barbara & Mark Condra)

David Perry (friend of Ray Macon)

Continued Prayer Concerns

Ruth Chandler Jane Jones Susan George

Dawn Rains Vicki Handy Lewis Hill

Juanita Hammons Nancy Smith Rodney Thompson

Birthdays

Oct 1 Kathy Taff, Ann Guffey,
Angela Wilson, Tyler Harrell

Oct 2 Pam Newman, Beverly Godfrey

Oct 3 Julia Knox

Oct 4 Wilson, Abel, Martha Smith,
Alyssa Branch

Oct 5 Harding Leach, Hilary Jarecki,
John Paul Wilson, Madison Walker

Oct 6 Susan Swann, Emily Kate Hayes

Oct 7 Miller Wigley

Please update your family's record in the church office to include all dates of birth.

Thank you! —Susan Swann

Week of September 24, 2023

In Person Total *177 Worship Total 554

Online 377 Thursday Worship *13

Traditions Service *105/209

Celebration Service *59/168 UWF *8

Adult Sunday School *20 Children *8

Bible Study Groups *29 Children *41

Youth *13 Nursery *3 Misc. 4

Blessing of the Animals *60

General Offering Budget \$12,777.00

General Offering Received \$6,557.00

YTD General Offering Budget \$498,303.00

YTD General Offering Rec'd \$439,271.00

Take the Spiritual Gifts Inventory @

[Spiritual Gifts UMC.org](https://www.spiritualgifts.umd.org)

