

New Beginnings

Isaiah 43:4-7;19

A Great Adventure

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

Thursday, October 5 & Sunday, October 8

Sermon Notes

“A Great Adventure”

We are in the second week of Generosity: New Beginnings. The prayer question for this week is “How have you been led to ‘step up’ for God in ministry at Gadsden First UMC?” and the scripture is Isaiah 43:4-7. I hope you are reading Isaiah 43 and praying about how God can use your prayer, presence, gifts, service, and witness and committing them to the Lord for what is ahead in 2024.

Any time that we “step up” for the Lord, it can be a great adventure. You never know where obedience and discipleship might lead. When the Israelites received the assurance from Isaiah that God did not forsake them and they would be restored to the land which they were promised, it was hope-filled, but challenging. There would be obstacles in the return (read Ezra and Nehemiah) and they weren’t certain what the future would bring, only that God was with them. We too may feel challenged in our “stepping up”, but we need not fear. The Lord is with us too! Verse 5 from this week’s reading reminds us, “Do not fear, for I am with you.” Rest in this promise as you consider the prayer question: “How have you been led to “step for” God in ministry at Gadsden First UMC?”

Blessings,
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

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.

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Worship Opportunities

Thursday Worship: 5:30 pm, Sanctuary

Sunday Mornings:

Celebration 9 am* Traditions 11 am*

ACOLYTES

- October 8: Marit Norris
- October 15: Luke Barnes

Security for Thursday Worship

- October 12 Mark Condra
- October 19 Todd Rains

Tech Team Schedule

October 8

- Celebration:** Sheila Freeman, Bill Haller, Carmen McKvien, Jacob McKiven
- Traditions:** Neil Mullin, Wayne Peyton, Sheila Freeman

October 15

- Celebration:** Eric Wright, Bill Haller, Brad Barnes
- Traditions:** Mark Condra, Neil Mullin, Sheila Freeman

Sunday
SCHOOL

Sunday School Classes for All Ages!

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 116

(Nursery provided for Children under 3)

SUNDAYS

10:00 AM

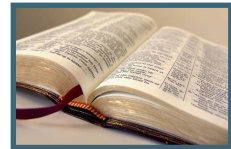
FIRST UMC GADSDEN
115 S. 5TH ST, GADSDEN, AL 35901



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 11

@ 5:15 pm!

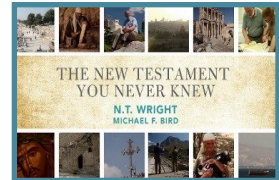
Menu: Pizza

\$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**



**"Happy" w/Harriet Murray
6 pm, Room 110**

TO ALL MY SWEET FRIENDS AT GFUMC,

The outpouring of love I have experienced since my accident, has been such a huge blessing! The food, the flowers, the visits, the cards, the calls, the rides and most of all, the prayers have gotten me through this tough time. All of you, along with God, have been part of my healing process.



I can't believe God has blessed me with so many precious and loving friends! I love my church family and can not wait to be back with you soon! — Susan Copeland

October is

Pastor

APPRECIATION MONTH

New Sunday School Class Room 209

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



First United Methodist
Church of Gadsden

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!**



Youth Ministry News

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

ELC News

We had a great two days of fall pictures. We will be closed on Monday, Oct 9th and Tuesday, Oct 10th for Fall Break. On Thursday, October 19th, the 4K class and teachers will visit Fire Station One. We are always excited to ride the church bus. Thursday, October 31st will be our annual Halloween Parade.

—Helene Haller

Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Dinner, Oct 11: Pizza

\$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 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

Fall Fest is October 25!

Donations needed: Cupcakes (Store-bought) and Individually wrapped candy. Volunteers are also needed!

A Fall Fest table for donations and sign up is located in the Chestnut Street Foyer.

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

Clothes Closet Needs

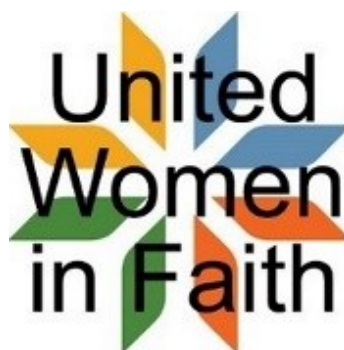
We have had many donations from our church members, friends and neighbors to our clothes closet. Recently we had a donation of clothing from "Hannah's Closet" and the Rainbow City Lutheran Church. We appreciate all of our community helping in this mission that helps many individuals and families.



*Thanks from your
Volunteers*

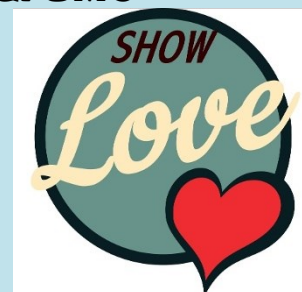
United Women in Faith

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!

OLIVIA KENDRICK



Olivia grew up in Rainbow City, attended Etowah High, then received her Bachelors and Masters degrees from Auburn University. She got her “Doctor in Public Health” degree from the University of California at Berkeley, with a specialty in “Public Health Nutrition.” Olivia became Department Chair of “Human Nutrition and Hospitality Management” at the University of Alabama, then retired as “Associate Dean of the College of Human Environmental Science.” Active in First Methodist of Tuscaloosa, she served as Lay Member of the North Alabama Conference and Chair of the Staff Pastoral Relations Committee (SPRC). She is the widow of Richard Kendrick, an accountant from New England. In 2016, Olivia moved back to Gadsden to be with her parents and attended Rainbow First Methodist, where she also served as Chair of the SPRC. We’re

delighted that she will become our Chair Elect of United Women of Faith in January! Olivia enjoys Mah-joong and spending time with her dad and her 2 little dogs.

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 8-14, 2023

Oct 8 Sunday

9:00 am Celebration Worship, Sanctuary

10:00 am Sunday School for All Ages

HeBrews Coffee, Chestnut Street Lobby

11:00 am Traditions Worship, Sanctuary

Oct 9 Monday

ELC Closed, Fall Break

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

10:30 am UWF Executive Board meeting, Room 208

12:00 pm UWF Luncheon, Gathering Room

6:00 pm, District Days with the Bishop at Sweet Home UMC

Oct 10 Tuesday

ELC Closed. Fall Break

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

Oct 11 Wednesday

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

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 12 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 13 Friday

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

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

Save the Date: Monday, October 9, UWF Luncheon
Speaker: Mayor Craig Ford. See page 6 for details.

Honorariums & Memorials

Sara Rabun Johnson Scholarship Fund

In memory of Amy Sanner, given by Janet & Lynn Page.

In memory of Carolyn Gregory, by Janet & Lynn Page.

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 Louise Ferguson

Chris Wadsworth (Keith Copeland's nephew)

Dathan Phillips (Leigh Carroll Phillips' husband)

Jimmie Sue Hoekenga (friend of Barbara & Mark Condra)

Continued Prayer Concerns

David Perry (friend of Ray Macon)

Ruth Chandler Jane Jones

Susan George

Dawn Rains Vicki Handy

Lewis Hill

Juanita Hammons Nancy Smith

Rodney Thompson

Birthdays

Oct 9 Kinley Freeman

Oct 10 Cynthia Whitt, Abby Ross

Oct 12 Dotty Ivey

Oct 13 Mary Gomillion, Lara Murray

Oct 14 Alana Woodall Clemens,
Addison Rains



Please update your family's record in the church office to include all dates of birth.
Thank you! —Susan Swann

Week of October 1, 2023

In Person Total *141 Worship Total 482

Online 341 Thursday Worship *12

Traditions Service *87/188

Celebration Service *42/153

Adult Sunday School *43/1 Children *6

Bible Study Groups *35 Children *31

Youth *11 Nursery *2 Misc. 2

*In person

General Offering Budget \$12,777.00

General Offering Received \$15,493.77

YTD General Offering Budget \$511,080.00

YTD General Offering Rec'd \$454,764.77



Alta & Ralph Whitfield

Jacob Whitfield

Marie & Ted Johnson