



Unified IN CHRIST

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

8-20-23 Sermon Notes "Unified In Christ"

Many of us have beloved prayers which we have memorized, like the Lord's Prayer, a childhood bedtime prayer, the Serenity prayer, or the prayer of St. Francis of Assisi. How comforting it is to know that these prayers have been prayed across generations and continue to connect us with God. The Psalm for this week is one of those prayers.

Psalm 133 is a prayer that was used by the Jews as a recited prayer as they made their way to Jerusalem for holy festivals. This is Psalm of Ascent, which was prayed by pilgrims, recited as a holy prayer. It reminded them of the blessings of being united people of God and helped them unite as they prayed the words together on the journey to the Temple.

This week as you prepare for worship, I invite you to pray this ancient prayer. May it focus you for worship and remind you of the blessings of being united in Christ.

Psalm 133 Behold, how good and pleasant it is when we live together in unity!

It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down upon the beard, upon the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes!

It is like the dew of Hermon which falls on the mountains of Zion! for there the Lord has commanded the blessing, life for evermore.

Rev. Sherri Reynolds

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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
www.fumcgadsden.org/media or
 on Facebook Live: @FUMCgadsden

ACOLYTES

August 20: Marit Norris & Hadley Hedgspeth
 August 27: Jack & Sarah Kate Brookshire

Tech Team Schedule

(Please arrive 45 minutes before the service.)

August 20

Celebration: Eric Wright, Bill Haller, Carmen McKiven, Jacob McKiven

Traditions: Neil Mullin, Mark Condra, Brad Barnes

August 27

Celebrations: Eric Wright, Bay Brown, Brad Barnes

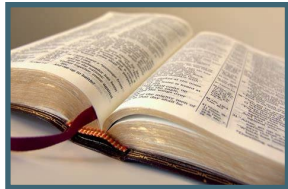
Traditions: Davis Varner, Neil Mullin, Sheila Freeman

Help us welcome Principal Anthony Ash this Sunday morning!

Principal Anthony Ash of our Adopted School, W.E. Striplin Elementary School, will be visiting our church on Sunday, August 20th, in both services, to say "Thank You" along with our Mission Team. Hope you will be here for worship on Sunday morning!

Out of Town on the Weekend?
Come to Thursday Worship!
5:30 to 6:00 pm each week
In the Sanctuary

Wednesday Mornings @ 11 am
Starts September 6, in the Gathering Rm 201, Bible Study w/Pastor Sherri Reynolds
Based on the weekly Lectionary Readings.



Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Meal August 23 @ 5:15 pm! Menu: Barbecue

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

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

Small Group Study w/ Pastor Sherri, Rm 208

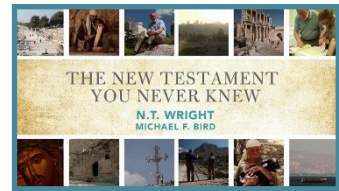
Wednesdays 6 pm

The New Testament

You Never Knew"

by N.T. Wright

Study Guides are available in the church office for \$11.00.



Wednesday Small Group,, 6 pm
w/Harriet Murray, Room 110

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.

Contact Todd Rains, Mark Condra, Mark Casey, or any of the Men at the Well for more information.

There's a Place for you in Sunday School!

- Living Waters Sunday School Class, with a study of "Invitation to John", by Robert Kysar, **Room 112, In person and online. Contact a member of the class for the link to join online!**
- Martin Fellowship Class, **International Bible Studies, Room 116**
- Multi-Age Sunday School, with Eric Wright and Harriet Murray, **Room 208**
- Pathfinders and Seekers Classes are currently meeting with the Multi-Age Sunday School Class, with a study of "The Walk" by Adam Hamilton. **Room 208**



Sign Up to Receive Emails from the Church

Sign up to receive emails from the church including the Weekly News, Devotionals, Ministry and Mission Notes, and Sermon Notes.

Go to: <http://www.fumcgadsden.org/sign-up-to-receive-emails>



Have you downloaded the Church APP?

Search: First UMC-Gadsden

Need Help? Contact Sheila Freeman @ 256-490-5018

ELC News

- ♦ The ELC faculty will begin preparations for the 2023-2024 school year starting Friday, August 11th.
- ♦ Open House is Thursday, August 17, from 10 am to 11 am.
- ♦ First day of school is Monday, August 21st.

—Helene Haller



Youth Ministry News

Wonderful Wednesday Nights are back!
Come for the meal at 5:15 pm and stay for
UMYF at 6:00 pm.

Carmen McKiven
Youth Counselor

Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Dinner, Aug 23: Barbecue

\$7 Adults, \$3 for 11 & under Text your reservation: 256-490-5018

Children's Ministry

Children's Church
Sundays @

A colorful circular graphic representing a fall calendar for 2023. It features several overlapping circles in shades of orange, yellow, green, and red, each containing text for a specific event. The text is in various fonts, including cursive and bold sans-serif. The events listed are: Blessing of the backpacks (August 6), Fall Fest (October 25), GFUMC CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM (DECEMBER 10), Lunch with Santa (December 10), Christmas party (December 13), CommUnity Thanksgiving (November 22), FRIENDSGIVING (NOVEMBER 15), WEDNESDAY NIGHTS START BACK (AUGUST 16), and Rake and Run (October 8). The text "GFUMC Children's Ministry Fall calendar 2023" is also present in the graphic.

Blessing of
the backpacks
August 6

Fall Fest
October
25

GFUMC CHILDREN'S
CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
DECEMBER 10

Lunch with
Santa
December 10

Christmas
party
December 13

CommUnity
Thanksgiving
November 22

FRIENDSGIVING
NOVEMBER 15

WEDNESDAY
NIGHTS
START BACK
AUGUST 16

Rake and
Run
October 8

GFUMC
Children's
Ministry
Fall calendar
2023

August Mission Focus

Our August Mission Focus is our adopted school, Striplin Elementary. Over the last years we have been a presence in the school to support the teachers and faculty, but most important to encourage the students to work hard and be successful.

These things are accomplished with your generous donations which enable us to thank the teachers with a "Welcome Back to School" breakfast, "Teacher Appreciation Luncheons," and giving Gift Cards to each "Teacher of the Month" and then the "Teacher of the Year."

The students are rewarded with a party each grading period, when they achieve the A/B Honor Roll Award for their hard work.

We would not be able to make this difference at Striplin without your kind generosity! Principal Anthony Ash will be visiting our church on Sunday, August 20th, in both services, to say "Thank You" along with our Mission Team. Hope you will be here!

"Welcome Back to School" Teacher Breakfast



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

August open dates are

8/2 and 8/16

9:00 am to 11:00 am

516 Broad Street Gadsden

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



Clothes Closet Needs

We desperately need men's and children's clothes! As the season is beginning to change please clean out your closets so that many in need can also be clothed. We are hoping for all men, women, and children to hear the "Cry of the Needy."

Thanks from your Volunteers

Clients Served

July 2023

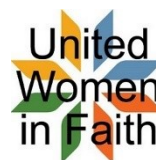
Ladle of Love 180

Clothes Closet 380

Thanks to our volunteers!

United Women in Faith

UWF Luncheon is September 11 at 12:00 pm. The program will be "2nd Chance— Assisting Victims of Domestic and Sexual Violence." Speaker is Eve Hamrick, Director. Call Delores Abney for a reservation by noon on Friday, September 8 at 256-458-0376.

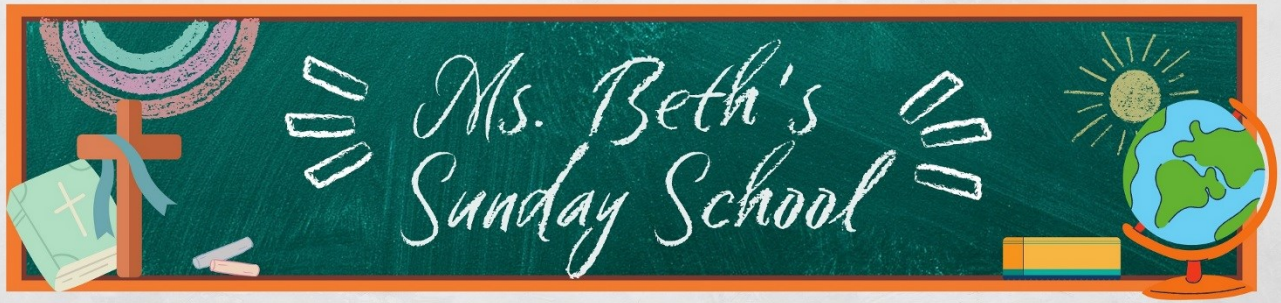


—Barbara Bennett, President

Phone: 256-543-8200

Email: fumc@fumcgadsden.org

#gfumcreconnect2023



Ms. Beth's Sunday School



The Kindergarten Classroom, 114, was dedicated to Ms. Beth on Wednesday, August 16, 2023.



Inviting Ministries



FUMC Gadsden

He Brews

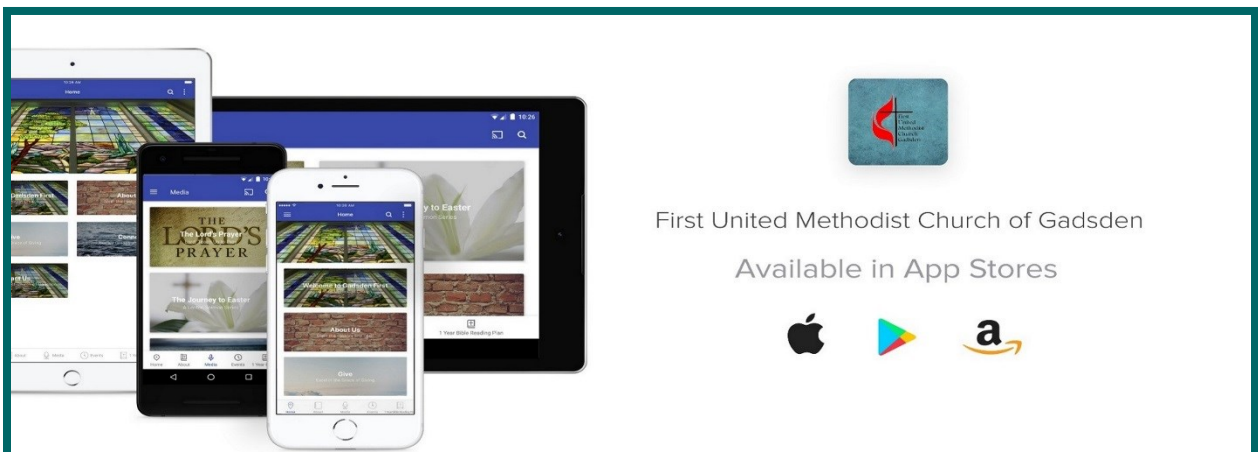
Sundays @ 10 am
between
the worship
services

Important Deadlines

Information for the weekly announcement sheet is due each Wednesday by noon.




Events for the church calendar are needed one month prior to the event.

All Meetings, Events and Activities must be scheduled in advance with the church secretary, Susan Swann by email or phone, susan@fumcgadsden.org or 256.543.8200. This will allow us to serve you better! We will reserve a specific room(s) for you, ensure that the air conditioning is on, and that there is access to the building.



First United Methodist Church of Gadsden

Available in App Stores



DID YOU KNOW...

That you can reduce your tax exposure by making a gift from your IRA to your church? An IRA Qualified Charitable Withdrawal (QCD) is a simple and easy way for you to use your IRA to help GFUMC fulfill its mission.



DOES AN IRA QCD MAKE SENSE THIS YEAR?

If you are age 70 ½ you can use pre-tax dollars in your IRA to donate to the church. This amount is capped at \$100,000.


If you are age 73 (for tax year 2023), this amount can be used to satisfy your Required Minimum Distribution.

Check with your tax professional to see how an IRA QCD could impact your taxes while helping the ministries and missions of the church.





Secure Online Giving



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

Generosity: Ways to Give

In-person, at the offering time during worship.

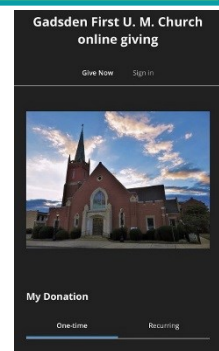
www.fumcgadsden.org/give

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 August 20-26, 2023

Aug 20 Sunday

9:00 am Celebration Service, Sanctuary
10:00 am Sunday School; HeBrews Coffee
11:00 am Traditions Service, Sanctuary

Aug 21 Monday

9:00 am-1:00 pm ELC Fall Schedule
9:00 am-10:00 am Exercise Group, Gym
5:00 pm Trustees Meeting, Parlor

Aug 22 Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm ELC Fall Schedule
5:00 pm-6:00 pm Yoga, Gym
5:00 pm Finance Team meeting, Parlor
6:00 pm Board of Stewards meeting, Gathering Rm.

Aug 23 Wednesday

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

Aug 24 Thursday

9:00 am-10:00 am Exercise Group, Gym
9:00 am-1:00 pm ELC Fall Schedule

5:30 pm Thursday worship

Aug 25 Friday

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

Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Dinner, Aug 23: Barbecue

\$7 Adults, \$3 for 11 & under Text your reservation: 256-490-5018

Honorariums & Memorials

General Budget Fund

In memory of Kenneth Davis, given by Diana Rampey.
In memory of Larry Payne, given by Diana Rampey.
In memory of Dr. James Isbell, given by Carol Vasher.

Altar Flower Fund

Gifts to this fund are used to place flowers on the altar for special worship days throughout the year. Flowers may also be placed on the altar in honor or in memory of a loved one by personal request. Contact Susan Swann in the church office for available dates and more information.

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Family of Dr. James R. Isbell	Jeff Davis
Lisa Dobbins Nancy Smith	June Longshore
Peggy Burnett Cathy Bohanon	Asher Mae Collins
Dawn Rains	

Continued Prayer Concerns

Lewis Hill	Rodney Thompson	Bibb Holland
Chris Gunnells (Gail McNair's nephew)		
John Jones (Dotty Rogers' Son)		

Update Your Contact Information

Please help us update the membership records in the church office with your current mailing address, phone number, email address and birthdays for all family members.

Updates may be sent to susan@fumcgadsden.org or call Susan in the church office @ 256-543-8200.

Birthdays

Aug 20 Joyce Noojin, Brad Norris
Aug 21 Stephe Wood
Aug 22 Maria Swinfor, Donny Gray, Mike Taff, Lisa Dobbins
Aug 23 Jud Dawson, Carey Malone
Aug 24 Sally Whitt, Reid Richey
Aug 25 Tracy Jones, Suzanne Phillips, Daniel Sizemore, Jodie Hosey, Hadley Freeman
Aug 26 Connor Moran

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

Week of August 13, 2023

In Person Total *138 Worship Total 488
Online 350 Thursday Worship *10
Traditions Service *71/190
Celebration Service *57/160
Adult Sunday School *37/4
Bible Study Groups *7 Children *19
Youth *0 Nursery *1 Misc. *0
Total Small Groups *66 *In Person

General Offering Budget \$12,777.00
General Offering Received \$9,461.00
YTD General Offering Budget \$421,641.00
YTD General Offering Rec'd \$392,012.00



**Download our
Church App
FUMC-Gadsden
On the App Store or
Google Play**