



Who Do You Say That I Am?

Rev. Sherri Reynolds

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

8-27-23

Sermon Notes

"Who Do You Say I Am?"

With football season about to kick off, I anticipate seeing more team spirit. Many of you will soon find yourself wearing fan clothing, posting more on social media, and screaming in front of the television. Numerous folks have been waiting for this time of year with great anticipation. They love and connect with football so much that it becomes part of their identity. If you are one of those who do not fit into this category, you are still likely to have something else with which you identify.

This week, I challenge you to consider how you identify with Jesus' identity. I know that sounds a little confusing but hear me out. Jesus asked the disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" Peter correctly identified Jesus as "The Messiah, Son of the Living God." This is Jesus' identity. So, the next question becomes for us, "If you say, 'Jesus is the Messiah, Son of the Living God,' how does this impact who you are and how you are known in the world?" If we believe Jesus to be the Messiah, then we should be our primary identity in him. Many of the ways which we are known are great fun and recreation, such as football teams. But the most important way we are to be known, as followers of Jesus, is not only about our witness, but our relationship with the Lord. (Matthew 16:13-20)

In Christ,
Rev. Sherri

September Sermon Series

Sept 3

The Devoted Fan

Sept 10

Team Loyal

Sept 17

Recruiting Counts

Sept 24

Position Well Played

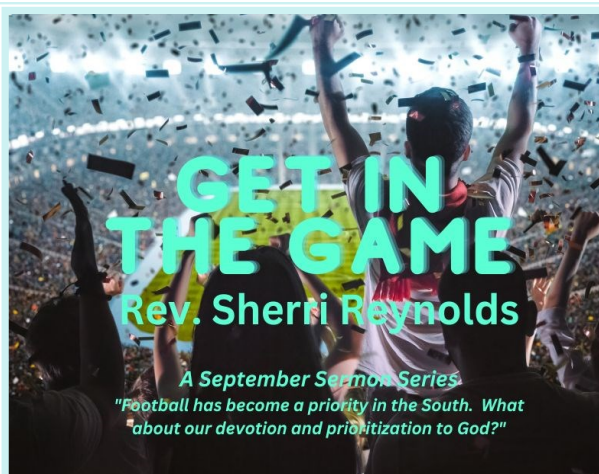


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Worship Opportunities

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 27: Jack & Sarah Kate Brookshire

September 3: Silas Hosey

Tech Team Schedule

(Please arrive 45 minutes before the service.)

August 27

Celebrations: Eric Wright, Bay Brown, Brad Barnes

Traditions: Davis Varner, Neil Mullin, Sheila Freeman

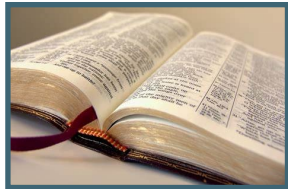
September 3

Celebration: Eric Wright, Sheila Freeman, Brad Barnes

Traditions: Wayne Payton, Neil Mullin, Sheila Freeman

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 30 @ 5:15 pm! Menu: Chicken Fingers

\$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

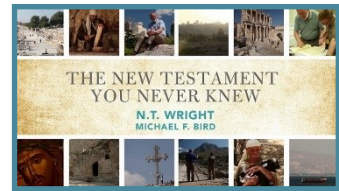
Wednesdays 6 pm

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

"Breathing Room" 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

"Week One" has been great! Students, parents and teachers are adjusting well. Thank you to UWF for the biscuit breakfast during our preparation week. The ELC will be closed on Monday, September 4th for Labor Day!

—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 30: Chicken Fingers

\$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), Wednesday NIGHTS START BACK (AUGUST 16), FRIENDSGIVING (NOVEMBER 15), Rake and Run (October 8), CommUnity Thanksgiving (November 22), and Christmas party (December 13). 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

Wednesday NIGHTS START BACK
AUGUST 16

FRIENDSGIVING
NOVEMBER 15

Rake and Run
October 8

CommUnity Thanksgiving
November 22

Christmas party
December 13

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!

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



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

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



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

July 2023

Ladle of Love 180

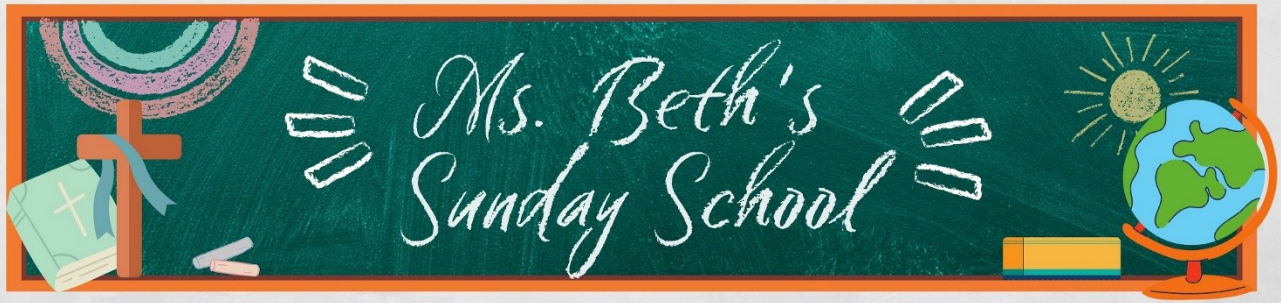
Clothes Closet 380

Thanks to our volunteers!

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

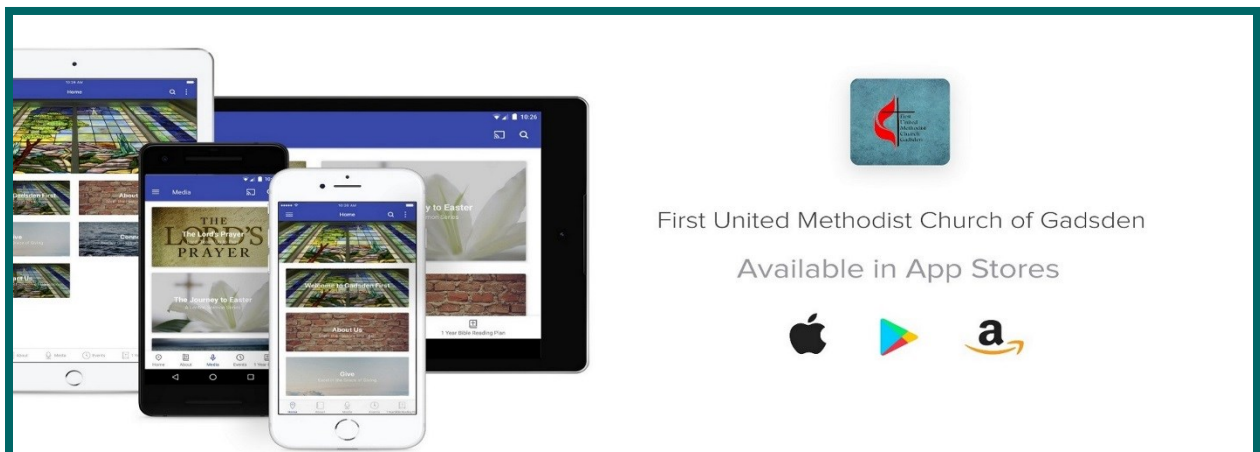
Sundays @ 10 am
between
the worship
services

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!

Gadsden First U. M. Church
online giving

Give Now Sign In

My Donation

One-time Recurring

Calendar for August 27-September 2, 2023

Aug 27 Sunday

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

Aug 28 Monday

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

Aug 29 Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm ELC Fall Schedule
5:00 pm-6:00 pm Yoga, Gym

Aug 30 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 31 Thursday

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

5:30 pm Thursday worship

Sept 1 Friday

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

The ministers and congregation of First United Methodist Church of Gadsden extend Christian sympathy to Bill & Helene Haller in the death of her sister, Hilde Willis on August 15, 2023



Volunteers Are Needed!

If you attend Celebration Service at 9:00 am, and are willing to be a greeter & usher, please see Susan Swann or Karen Owen.

Honorariums & Memorials

General Budget Fund

In memory of Dr. James Isbell, given by John & Kathryn Dugger.
In memory of Dr. James Isbell, given by Carla Vinson.
In memory of Dr. James Isbell, given by James Ezell.
In memory of Dr. James Isbell, given by Laurie Holtsford.
In memory of Dr. James Isbell, given by Phyllis Parks.

Howell Erwin Medical Fund

In memory of Dr. James Isbell, given by Sonya Nesbitt.

Caring Angels

In memory of Jane Bugg, given by Leone Norris.

UMCOR

In memory of Dr. James Isbell, given by Dotty Ivey.
In memory of Ken Davis, given by Dotty Ivey.

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Lisa Dobbins Marcy Puckett Vicki Handy
Juanita Hammons Lori Sokol
Jimmie Sue Hoekenga (friend of Barbara & Mark Condra)
David Perry (friend of Ray Macon)

Continued Prayer Concerns

Jeff Davis Nancy Smith June Longshore
Peggy Burnett Cathy Bohannon Asher Mae Collins
Dawn Rains Rodney Thompson
Bibb Holland Lewis Hill
Chris Gunnells (Gail McNair's nephew)
John Jones (Dotty Rogers' Son)

Birthdays

Aug 29 Janet Edwards, Erin DeLucca, Afton Yarnell, Henry Hopper

Aug 30 Jane Weaver, Tommy Hood, Aaron Andrews, Jennifer Yarnell, Warren Vallejo, Zander Calcote

Aug 31 Cecil Dorsett, Faye Kennah, Bill Green

Sept 1 Louis Loveman

Sept 2 Sherry Bridges, Neita Taylor, Susan George, Frances Isbell, Sam Blackstock, Sarah Blackstock



Week of August 20, 2023

In Person Total *166 Worship Total 553
Online 387 Thursday Worship *12
Traditions Service *85/204
Celebration Service *69/183
Adult Sunday School *40/1 Children *2
Bible Study Groups *11 Children *21
Youth *9 Nursery *2 UWF *21
Total Small Groups *106 *In Person

General Offering Budget \$12,777.00
General Offering Received \$7,431.00
YTD General Offering Budget \$434,418.00
YTD General Offering Rec'd \$399,443.00



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