



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

Sermon Notes: Thursday January 4 & Sunday January 7

Did you know that the month of January is named for the Roman god, Janus? Romans believed Janus to be the deity of transition, gates, and duality. He can be recognized, because he is the god of two faces, one face to look forward and one to look backward. Thus, Janus looks to the past, while looking to the future. January is named for him, because as the first month in the new year, it provides an opportunity to look back and remember, while also looking forward to what is ahead.

I not only invite you to spend some time looking back to 2023 and forward toward 2024, with your personal life, but also for the church. Reflect and thank God for the blessings of 2023 upon First United Methodist Church. Also, spend time praying for the year ahead. In both may we "trust God with all of our heart and lean not on our own understanding." (Proverbs 3:5)

Happy New Year!

Rev. Sherri

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Worship Opportunities

5:30 pm Thursday Worship

Sunday Mornings:

Celebration 9 am* Traditions 11 am*

*In Person (Sanctuary) and Online

www.fumcgadsden.org/media

Beginning January 17 *The Chosen Bible Study*

Rev. Sherri will be leading a Bible study based on *The Chosen*, Season 1. This popular Christian historical drama focuses on people who encountered Jesus, and how Jesus may have been viewed through their eyes. The study will include episodes from the show, examination of relevant scriptures, separation of scripture from dramatization within the episodes, theological reflection, and personal application. The study held will be at 11am and 6pm on Wednesdays, starting January 17 in room 208. No books are required. Classes will last until March 20 (skipping February 14 for Ash Wednesday). Room 208.



ACOLYTES

January 7

Security for Thursday Worship

January 4 Todd Rains

January 11 Mark Condra

Tech Team Schedule

January 7

Celebration: Eric Wright, Bill Haller, Brad Barnes

Traditions: Davis Varner, Neil Mullin, Carmen McKiven

Sunday SCHOOL

Classes for All Ages!

**Children's Sunday School Rooms 108 and 104
Youth Sunday School Room 211**

**New Young Adult Sunday School Room 209
Pathfinder/Seekers Room 208
Living Water Room 116**

(Nursery provided for Children under 3)

Wednesday morning Bible study w/Pastor Sherri will resume on Jan. 17

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.

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

**Wonderful
Wednesday
Fellowship Dinner
5:15 pm
\$7 Adults, \$ 3 11 & U**

**January 10
Chick fil A**

Adult Small Groups @ Wonderful Wednesdays

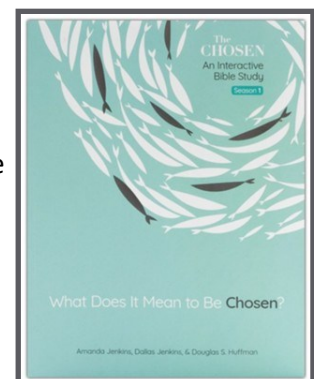
Will resume on Wednesday, January 10.

6 pm Small Group with Harriet Murray, Room 110

"I Guess I Haven't Learned that Yet"

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ELC News

ELC News:

We're back. The Spring 2024 semester started this past Wednesday. Students and faculty were so excited to be back together. The Spring semester will be filled with love, laughter and learning. We get ready to welcome our next addition to the Nursery class this coming Monday, January 7th.

—Helene Haller



Youth Ministry News



Jan 7-Pastor Sherri
Jan 14-Sheila Freeman

More Fun Stuff Coming
WW resumes on January 10.

Youth Counselor
Carmen McKiven

Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Dinner

5:15 pm, January 10 —Chick fil A

\$7 Per Person \$3 Age 11 & Under

Please make a reservation:

Text: 256-490-50158

GFUMC CHILDREN'S CALENDAR JANUARY 2023

Children's Church, Sunday's 9:00 & 11:00

Wonderful Wednesdays @6:00

MEASURE UP: JESUS' EARLY LIFE

January 10: God guides us to safety

January 17: Love God with our actions

January 24: We can follow Jesus

January 31: We are ready at the right time

January 24 😊

National Belly Laugh Day

Bring a joke this Wednesday!

www.fumcgadsden.org/children

Children's Church
GFUMC
Gladys
Friedman
McKiven



January 3, 2024

Dear ELC Families, Faculty and Friends,

It's time to put in your King Cake orders for 2024. Once again, we are selling King Cakes from Randazzo's bakery in Slidell, LA. There are several flavors and two sizes in each option. Last year, we hoped to sell at least 100 cakes but due to your generosity and campaigning we sold 409. The bakery has a maximum order of 500 cakes per fundraiser.

This sale, we will be collecting orders through an online method only. We feel that this will be the best way to manage the orders and not exceed the maximum number allowed. We have an order link on the church website: www.fumcgadsden.org/elc. Payment will be collected through PayPal or cash or check dropped off to the church within 24 hours of ordering.

The fundraiser is currently open, and all orders and money are due by Friday, January 19. This will give plenty of time to review all the orders and count the money before giving a grand total per item to the bakery. Sheila Freeman and I will be driving to Slidell to pick them up on Thursday, February 1.

Flavors, Sizes and Pricing:

Small Traditional: \$25

Medium Traditional: \$30

Small Filled (Choice of Apple, Strawberry, or Cream Cheese): \$30

Medium Filled (Same choices above): \$35

Dates to Note:

Due date for orders and money is Friday, January 19th.

Pickup/Delivery date will be Saturday, February 3rd

We were so blessed by this sale last year that we had to do it again. Monies raised this year will be set aside for updating the third floor play area.

Thank you all for your love and support.

—Friends of the ELC Committee

January 2024 Mission

January Mission Focus- UMCOR US Disaster Relief & Tornado Buckets for UMCNA UMCOR Disaster Relief Warehouse:

Your Mission Team will be leading the way to once again fill Tornado Buckets for the UMCOR Disaster Relief Warehouse in Decatur! This year, we will be collecting donations of items for the buckets so that those can then be divided up and packed!

You can help by donating multiple quantities of the same item or by sponsoring a tornado bucket. *The estimated cost of the items for one tornado bucket is \$120. We hope to have lots of buckets ready to take to our Disaster Relief Warehouse*

Specific Items Needed to Complete a Tornado Bucket

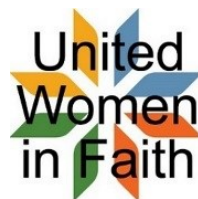
- 1 Standard Size Claw Hammer
- 1 Shirt Pocket Notebook
- 1 Permanent Marker
- 1 Pencil and Sharpener in a Ziploc Bag
- 12 Black 30-45 Gallon Trash Bags
- 1 Roll of Toilet Paper in Zip
- Lock bag Work Gloves-Leather Palm or All Leather Gloves
- 50 Count #8 Nails
- 10 White 13 Gallon Trash Bags with drawstrings.
- 1 Cellophane Packing Tape
- 10 One Gallon Zip Lock Bags
- 1 Box Cutter
- 1 Hand Sanitizer (4oz to 12 oz)
- 1 Insect Repellent Spray or Can, or Wipes or combination
- 1 pair Safety Glasses
- 6 Clear 40 -55 Gallon Trash Bags
- 3 Tampons or Pads in a Zip Loc Bag

Thank you in advance for your continued support of all of our GFUMC Missions.

United Women in Faith

The next luncheon will be January 8, 2024 at 12:00 noon. The program will be Rev. Sherri Reynolds speaking "Women As Leaders in UMC". To make a reservation please text Olivia Kendrick by noon on Friday, January 5th. 205-454-4375

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



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
are Tuesdays before open days from 9:00-11:00 am.

Open to Public

1st & 3rd Wednesdays

January open dates are

1/3 and 1/17

9:00 am to 11:00 am

516 Broad Street Gadsden

Find out more about mission and service opportunities @

www.fumcgadsden.org/serve

Phone: 256-543-8200

Email:

fumc@fumcgadsden.org

#gfumcreconnect2023

Clients Served

October 2023

Ladle of Love 377

Clothes Closet 247

November 2023

Ladle of Love 294

Clothes Closet 248

Thanks to our Volunteers!

"I'm about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." Isaiah 42:19

I wanted to follow up on Generosity: New Beginnings. In this emphasis you were invited to consider how God is calling you to a new beginning and how you are committing to a new beginning. Through the spiritual disciplines of prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness God transforms us and makes us new. God may have called you to a new prayer emphasis, or a renewed commitment to worship. The Lord might have invited you to tithe or a new avenue of service. God could have nudged you to invite someone to church or share your faith in another way. I am so excited about all the ways First United Methodist has stepped up and responded. Many of you have answered the call to follow God into a new discipline in the coming year. This new commitment includes an increased commitment to giving, with a greater amount pledged for 2024 and being just three commitments shy of surpassing last year's number of pledges.

If you have not made a commitment to your new beginning and completed your estimate of giving card, I encourage you to do so. Your card may be turned into the church office, in the offering plate, or electronically on the church website/app. If you have lost your card, blank estimates of giving cards are available at the information table in the Chestnut Street lobby. Your commitment is not a binding contract but helps the leadership plan for 2024 and to be good stewards of resources. The information is kept confidential by the financial secretary. In addition to the logistical aspect of stewardship, this year's card includes a space for you to indicate and commit to how God might be calling you to step up in 2024. If you are planning on carrying your 2023 commitment to the coming year, please let our financial secretary, Sheila Witherspoon, know even if the amount remains the same. All of this allows you to be a part of new beginnings which are happening here.

I am so excited about the year ahead. By the power of the Holy Spirit, I can feel that God is doing a new thing at First United Methodist Church, and I am blessed to be on this journey with you!

In Christ,

Rev. Shu Reynolds



**Sixty-three (63)
"New Beginnings
Estimate of Giving" Cards
have been returned
as of 12.20.23
Thank You!**

Generosity: Ways to Give

In-person, at the offering time during worship.

Online: www.fumcgadsden.org/give

Text to Give: 256-344-8464

Mail your tithe or gift: 115 S. 5th Street,
Gadsden, AL 35901



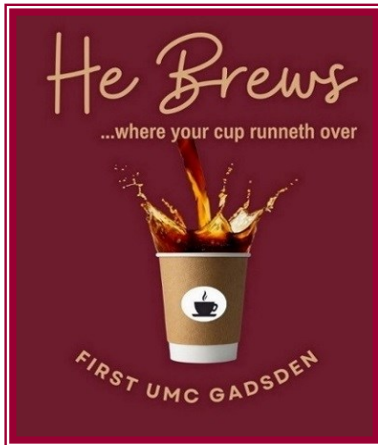
Strength for Today
Bright Hope for Tomorrow

Secure Online Giving



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

Inviting Ministries



Please join us for HeBrews Coffee Café
between the regular Sunday morning worship
services,
from 10 am to 11 am.
We can't wait to see you there!!!

Do You Know?

A weekly interview column by Anna Mullin & Inviting Ministries to help our church family get to know one another. Anna may be calling you soon, so we can get to know you too!

DOROTHY ROBINSON



Dorothy grew up in Gadsden and attended Carver High. She received a Bachelor's degree in Secondary Education from Jacksonville State, with a double-major in English and History. Dorothy taught at Carver High, then when the school principal became ill, was appointed the school's Administrative Assistant to handle all of his duties, a job which she held until the school closed in 1972. She then worked at Alabama Technical College as an instructor in Vocational Rehabilitation for the State of Alabama, finding suitable vocations for people with disabilities. After returning to the University of Alabama and to Auburn to receive a

Counselor 3 level of training in Vocational Rehabilitation, she worked for 23 years at Gadsden State before retiring. She has served as a "Voting Inspector" for many years, overseeing the operation of two precincts. She also became the Director of the Gadsden-Etowah Tourism Board after serving on the board for 30 years. She was on the board for Gadsden's winning "All-America City" bid, as well as on the Beautification, Red Cross, United Way, Salvation Army, and Darden Rehabilitation boards. She was one of the Founders of the Carver Museum and Fellowship Baptist Church. Dorothy has two children: Angela Hood and Robert "Bobby" Robinson.

Calendar for January 7-January 13, 2024

Jan 7 Sunday

9:00 am Celebration Worship, Sanctuary
 10:00 am Sunday School for all ages
 HeBrews Coffee, Chestnut Street Foyer
 11:00 am Traditions Worship, Sanctuary

Jan 8 Monday

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

Jan 9 Tuesday

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

Jan 10 Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, ELC Spring Schedule
 No Wednesday Morning Bible Study
 5:15 pm Wednesday night meal, Gathering Room
 6:00 pm Children & Youth activities
 Gym & Rooms 108 & 211
 6:00 pm Small Group Study, Room 110
 6:00 pm, Choir practice, Choir room

Jan 11 Thursday

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

5:30 pm Thursday Worship

Jan 12 Friday

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

New! First UMC Gadsden is now a registered charity and can receive donations through Venmo: @FirstUMCGadsden

(Please search in Venmo under charities or follow the link in the QR Code.)

Please note: This new option for online giving is **IN ADDITION TO** First UMC Gadsden's eGiving platform. No changes have been made to our online giving platform where one-time & recurring gifts, and text to give are all still available!



venmo

Honorariums & Memorials

General Budget Fund

In memory of George Varner, given by Mr. & Mrs. Crag Marble.
 In memory of Bill Campbell, given by Mr. & Mrs. Craig Marble.
 In memory of George Varner, given by Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Payton.
 In honor of Evelyn Brannon, given by Olivia Kendrick

Howell Erwin Medical Fund

In memory of Jane Bugg, given by Gigi Bugg.
 In memory of Hazel Dake given by Gigi Bugg.

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Jan Humphrey Evelyn Pierson
 Rodney Thompson Janie Gray
 Regina Holloway

Continued Prayer Concerns

Lisa Dobbins
 Asher Mae Collins
 Bessie Crow



Birthdays

Jan 7 Jenny Skelton, Ross Hudak
Jan 9 Anna Mullin, Bob Oltman, Elizabeth Gilbert, Timothy Isbell
Jan 10 Heather Staton
Jan 11 Tallie Beckett, Ali Gardner
Jan 13 Craig Marble, Heather New, Bay Brown

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



Week of December 31, 2023

In Person Total *77 Worship Total 249
 Online 172 Thursday Worship *0
 One Service 10 am *77/172
 Sunday School-Adult 0 Children 0
 Sunday School-Youth 0 Nursery *1
 Bible Study Groups 0 Children *15
 Youth *7 Misc. *06 *in person

General Offering Budget *Year end
 General Offering Received \$7,628.00
 YTD General Offering Budget \$664,404.00
 YTD General Offering Rec'd \$639,301.00

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 @