



Matthew 25:1-13

LIVING FOR THE LAST DAYS

Rev. Sherri Reynolds

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

Thursday November 9 & Sunday November 12

Sermon Notes *"Living for the Last Days"*

With recent events such as the war in Israel, mass shootings, inflation, terrorism, and moral decline; I hear people say often it looks like Jesus is returning soon or this could be the end of time. I also hear people speculate and translate the events of the Biblical book of Revelation to reflect incidents which are happening now. I subscribe to the belief that what Jesus said in Matthew 24, that no one knows the time of his return, not even the angels, only the Father. Basically, I believe that God knows and that is enough for me. I trust God and don't try to figure out the timeline, but I do acknowledge scripture and realize that there is a need to be prepared for the end of times and Jesus' return. We need to be prepared for tomorrow if that is the day Jesus' returns or if Jesus does not even make an appearance in our lifetime.

This week's scripture Matthew 25:1-13, speaks of preparation for Jesus' return. In fact, the entire 25th chapter of Matthew speaks of preparation. From these parables of Jesus, we can learn as we watch and wait for His return.

In Christ,
Rev. Sherri

November Sermons:

- | | | |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| November 5 | <i>"The Great Cloud of Witnesses"</i> | All Saints' Sunday |
| November 12 | <i>"Living for the Last Days"</i> | |
| November 19 | <i>"So You Might Remember"</i> | Thanksgiving Sunday |
| November 26 | <i>"Preparing for Holy Seasons"</i> | Christ the King Sunday |

Advent & Christmas: PREPARE

- | | | |
|-------------|--------------|--|
| December 3 | 9 am & 11 am | 1st Sunday of Advent |
| December 10 | 9 am & 11 am | <i>"Preparing for a Perfect Christmas"</i> |
| December 17 | 9 am | Christmas Unplugged, Chapel |
| | 11 am | Christmas Music Chancel Choir & Orchestra, Sanctuary |
| December 24 | 10 AM | One Worship Service |
| | | <i>"Preparing for the Unexpected"</i> |
| | 4 PM | Christmas Eve Candlelight Service |
| | 6 PM | Christmas Eve Candlelight Service |
| | | <i>"Preparing for the Baby"</i> |
| December 31 | 10 am | One Worship Service |
| | | <i>"Preparing for a New Year"</i> |
| | | <i>"A New Year's Covenant Service in the Wesleyan Tradition"</i> |

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Worship Opportunities

Thursday Worship: 5:30 pm, Sanctuary

Sunday Mornings:

Celebration 9 am* Traditions 11 am*

*In Person (Sanctuary) and Online
www.fumcgadsden.org/media

ACOLYTES

November 12 Anna Kate Casey
November 19 Volunteer

Security for Thursday Worship

November 9 Bob Blount
November 16 Mark Casey
November 30 Kirk Mabeus

Tech Team Schedule

November 12

Celebration Bill Haller, Bay Brown, Genevieve Corley
Traditions Neil Mullin, Wayne Payton, Brad Barnes

November 19

Celebration Eric Wright, Bill Haller, Genevieve Corley
Traditions Mark Casey, Parker Casey, Wayne Payton

Sunday
SCHOOL

Sunday School Classes for All Ages!

Children's Sunday School Rooms 108 and 104
Youth Sunday School Room 211
New Adult Sunday School Room 209
Pathfinder/Seekers Room 208
Living Water Room 116
(Nursery provided for Children under 3)

SUNDAYS 10:00 AM

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

It's Time for **New Beginnings**...Maybe you have never participated in Sunday School or you have been out for a while! **YOU** Belong in Sunday School! Choose a class to visit—there are lots to choose from!



Join Pastor Sherri for **"A Charlie Brown Christmas" Advent Study**

Beginning Wed. November 15

11/15, 11/29, 12/6, & 12/13

Wednesday Mornings @ 11 am

Gathering Room, 201

Wonderful Wednesday @ 6 pm

Room 208

Prepare and learn this Advent season with "A Charlie Brown Christmas." This cartoon classic includes the message of Jesus' birth and reminds us of the real meaning of Christmas. Join this study for all ages, which brings the Biblical message of Jesus' birth and deals with the real issues around the holidays. This study uses clips from the cartoon to enhance Biblical study and reflection.

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. Their current study is the "12 Tribes of Israel".

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**

**Menu for 11/15: Chicken
Fingers, Mac 'n Cheese**

\$7 Adults

\$3 Children 11 & Under

Adult Small Groups @ Wonderful Wednesdays

"A Charlie Brown Christmas" Advent Study w/ Pastor Sherri

Wonderful Wednesday @ 6 pm

Room 208

Advent Study beginning 11/15

"Why In the World-The Reason God Became One of Us"

6 pm, Room 110

Basketball Team Practice Time Requests

Scheduling Requests for use of the First UMC Gadsden Gym for Youth

Basketball practice must be turned in by November 15, 2023. Once all requests have been received, team practice times will be finalized and approved by the church office. Each team is required to submit the following documents to the church prior to the first practice.



- 1) Coach's Acknowledgements of Safe Sanctuary Policy and Gym Use Rules
- 2) Team Roster
- 3) Emergency contact information for Coach and Sponsor.

The goal of Gadsden First United Methodist Church is to care for children and youth and administer to their needs in responsible ways. This includes helping to ensure their safety with trained security monitoring the building and following our Safe Sanctuary policy. Both help protect participants, coaches, parents, and FUMC from dangerous situations, unforeseen hazards, and potential liability. Therefore, Gadsden First United Methodist Church has instituted new rules regarding the use of the gymnasium for basketball practice. These rules start for the 13-week time period between mid-November 2023 to mid-January 2024.

This policy is for practice only. Member-based teams receive priority over non-members. One-hour practice sessions for basketball are limited to Monday, Tuesday, Thursday nights. The gym is not available for practice on Tuesdays from 5- 6 pm or anytime on Wednesday nights. Church events or other scheduled activities may take priority over basketball practice times. Please refer to the complete GFUMC Facility Use Policy for more information. Effective this season, GFUMC is asking for a one-time, minimum donation of \$500 from each basketball team for the season. Any additional donations are appreciated. This donation serves to help offset building and security expenses.



First United Methodist Church of Gadsden

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

Tuesday November 14th will be our next Lunchbox Revolt. We will have Chick-fil-A and pre-orders were due Thursday, November 9th. 4K students will have another round of show and tell. We love to see what they bring that is so special to them and why. Thursday, November 16th will be team spirit day at the ELC. Sport your favorite school colors and get ready to cheer on your favorite teams. The ELC will be closed for Thanksgiving Nov 20th through Nov 24th.

—Helene Haller



Youth Ministry News

- **Youth Sundays**
10 am,
Room 211



- **Youth Group, Wednesdays**
6 pm, Room 211

Youth Counselor:
Carmen McKiven

Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Dinner

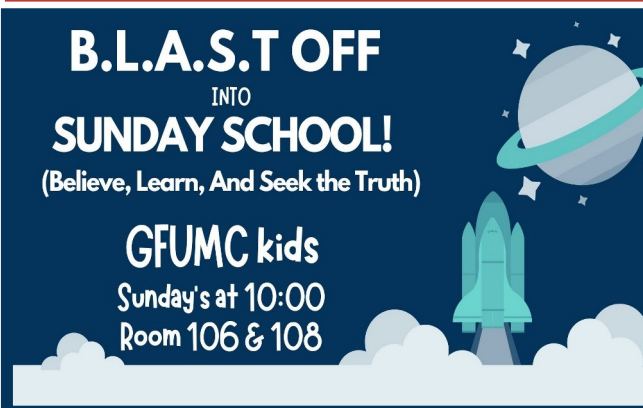
5:15 pm RSVP: 256-490-5018

\$7 Adults, \$3 Children 11 & under

Menu for Wed., Nov. 15

Chicken Fingers & Mac 'n Cheese

Children's Ministry



November Missions

CommUnity Thanksgiving Meal

It is that time of year when we begin preparing for the CommUnity Thanksgiving event. As in the past, our church will provide the money to purchase the desserts for the meal. They are planning on feeding 8,000 people this year. We are going to have individually wrapped cakes (Little Debbie) for the pick-up and delivered meals. Then, the usual pound cakes for those eating in the Venue. If you would like to make a donation, please send a check or e-give and mark it for CommUnity Thanksgiving. Donations of approximately \$1200.00 are needed to provide these cakes. Thanks, as always, for your unending generosity!



Many Volunteers are needed for CommUnity Thanksgiving

There will also be an opportunity for you to sign up to volunteer prior to Thanksgiving Day to slice cakes or help in other ways. If you would like to serve please contact the church office for more information.

If you would like to serve or need more information on receiving a meal by pickup or deliver, please call:

Thanksgiving Bags for Salvation Army

Now is the time to fill a bag with groceries for a family who has applied through Salvation Army for help with a meal for Thanksgiving. The bags will be located at each entrance to the sanctuary and in the Chestnut Street lobby for you to pick up. The deadline to return them is November 16.

—GFUMC Mission Team

United Women in Faith

November 13— Luncheon at 12 noon.
Benny Campbell will be bringing us into the holidays by making beautiful arrangements. Please make your reservation by noon on Friday, November 10th by calling or texting Delores Abney at 256-458-0376.

November 21— LuVerna Waid Circle Meeting at 6:00 pm in the parlor. BYOBrown Bag for supper. Cookies and drinks will be provided.

—Barbara Bennett



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

November open dates are

11/1 and 11/15

9:00 am to 11:00 am

516 Broad Street Gadsden

Find out more about mission
and service opportunities @

Clients Served

September 2023

Ladle of Love 488

Clothes Closet 260

Thanks to our
volunteers!

www.fumcgadsden.org/serve

Phone: 256-543-8200

Email: fumc@fumcgadsden.org

#gfumcreconnect2023

Do You Know?

STEVE & SHERRI WATSON



Steve and Sherri are from Memphis, TN. He attended the University of Memphis, then Middle Tennessee State University, where he received his degree in Anesthesia. Steve worked at St. Jude Children's Hospital in Memphis before moving to Gadsden in 2000 to take a position as a Nurse Anesthetist at Gadsden Regional Medical Center. Sherri also attended the University of Memphis and worked in Marketing and Advertising, representing Coppertone, Mabelline, and Dr. Scholl's products. She became a Nurse, working in Labor and Delivery,

then in Eye Surgery. Her third career is buying condemned housing, fixing it up, and renting it. She serves as Property Manager for those rentals. Steve's hobby is woodworking, while Sherri enjoys growing herbs and vegetables. They share a love of Travel and Pickleball and enjoy spending time with their 4 children and 6 grandchildren.

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!!!



**Forty-eight (48)
"New Beginnings
Estimate of Giving" Cards
have been returned
as of 10.31.23
Thank You!**

During the month of October, we journeyed through 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 excited to hear about all the new beginning at First United Methodist Church of Gadsden.

If you have not made a commitment to your new beginning and completed your estimate of giving card, I encourage you to do so. Forty-two giving units within the church have done so already. 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 estimate of giving cards are available at the information table in the Chestnut Street lobby. Please turn your card in as soon as possible, this helps the leadership plan for 2024 and to be good stewards of resources. Remember that your estimate is just an estimate, and not a binding contract. The information is kept confidential with 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.

God is doing a new thing in the life of First United Methodist Church and I can't wait to see how you are going to be a part of it!

In Christ,

Rev. Shari Reynolds

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



Secure Online Giving



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

Calendar for November 12-18, 2023

Nov 12 Sunday

9:00 am Celebration Worship, Sanctuary

9:15 am Handbell Choir Practice, Room 112

10:00 am Sunday School for All Ages

HeBrews Coffee, Chestnut Street Foyer

11:00 am Traditions Worship, Sanctuary

Nov 13 Monday

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

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

Nov 14 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

Nov 15 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

5:15 Wednesday Night Meal, Gathering Room

6:00 pm Children's Friendsgiving

6:00 pm Youth Activities, Room 211

6:00 pm Adult Small groups, Room 110 & 208

6:00 pm Choir Practice

Nov 16 Thursday

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

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

5:30 pm Thursday Worship

Nov 17 Friday

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

Charge Conference

GFUMC Charge conference will be
November 19th at 4 pm at Southside UMC.

*The rose on the altar is in celebration of the birth
of*



Eleanor Elizabeth West

Born: October 29th

Big Brother: Liam

Parents: Phillip & Amy West

Thank you to all who shopped at

Robbie's of Fayette

Women's Clothing Boutique

Trunk Show

On October 17

Our Children's Ministry received a check for

\$1,850.00 from the sales that day.

We appreciate their generosity!

Honorariums & Memorials

General Budget Fund

In memory of Joe Anderson, given by Keith & Harriet Murray.

In memory of Michael Ridens, given by Keith & Harriet Murray.

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Lisa Dobbins

Continued Prayer Concerns

Asher Mae Collins

Rodney Thompson

Birthdays

Nov 12 Paul McIntyre, Scott Skipper,
Roger Mills, Emily Lindsey

Nov 13 Wesley Shumate

Nov 14 Juanita Hammons,
Stephens Watson

Nov 15 Shelby Smith,
Catherine Harrison

Nov 17 Zane Lindsey, Will Roach,
Liz Barnes



Week of November 5, 2023

In Person Total *166 Worship Total 636

Online 470 Thursday Worship *15

Traditions Service *90/200

Celebration Service *55/270

Adult Sunday School *37/1 Children *6

Bible Study Groups *24 Children *36

Youth *22 Nursery *3

Volunteers *5 *In person

General Offering Budget \$12,777.00

General Offering Received \$9,683.80

YTD General Offering Budget \$574,965.00

YTD General Offering Rec'd \$499,074.70

Important Deadlines

For the week of Thanksgiving,
information for the newsletter is
needed by Monday, Nov. 20.

Information for the weekly
newsletter is due each Tuesday
by noon.

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.