

## ALL SAINTS' DAY

*The Great Cloud of Witnesses*

Rev. Sherri Reynolds

Thursday, Nov. 2 &amp; Sunday, Nov 5

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

## Thursday November 2 &amp; Sunday November 5

## Sermon Notes: "The Great Cloud of Witnesses"

November 1 is All Saints Day, and this coming Sunday is All Saints Sunday. It is a day when we remember and honor the saints who have joined that "great cloud of witnesses" over the past year. In the United Methodist Church, a saint is anyone who is a follower of Jesus Christ, not just someone who has been a channel for a miracle or was spiritually perfect. Thus, we are all Saints. I am a saint. You are a saint. We believe that the saints continue to be a witness to us about Jesus, after they have died and received their heavenly reward. This Sunday provides an opportunity for them not only to give thanks for the lives of the saints, but also give thanks to God for these great witnesses. All Saints Sunday is a long standing, meaningful tradition in the church, reminding us that we are part of the larger body of Christ and some of the members of that body, may not be physically with us, but they are with us in influence, memory, spirit, and witness.

This week, reflect upon these words from Hebrews 12:1-2: *Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.* Also, take the time to give thanks for the saints and cloud of witnesses in your life.

Blessings,  
Rev. Sherri



*Fall back*  
turn the clocks back

Spiritual Gifts Inventory [Spiritual Gifts \(umc.org\)](https://www.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\*

\*In Person (Sanctuary) and Online  
[www.fumcgadsden.org/media](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/media)

## ACOLYTES

November 5 Luke Barnes  
 November 12 Anna Kate Casey

## Security for Thursday Worship

November 2 Eric Wright  
 November 9 Bob Blount

## Tech Team Schedule

November 5

**Celebration** Eric Wright, Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman  
**Traditions** Mark Condra, Neil Mullin, Sheila Freeman

November 12

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

**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!**

### Wednesday Morning Bible Study w/Pastor Sherri Reynolds

**Based on the week's Lectionary Readings @ 11 am in the Gathering Rm, # 201**



**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.

### Adult Small Groups @ Wonderful Wednesdays

**Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Dinner 5:15 pm**

**Menu for 11/8: Barbecue**

**\$7 Adults**

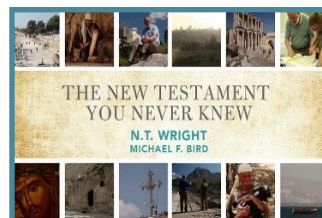
**\$3 Children 11 & Under**

**"The New Testament You Never Knew"**

**by N.T. Wright**

**w/Pastor Sherri**

**6 pm, Rm 208**



**"Happy" w/Harriet Murray**

**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, the ELC students enjoyed trick or treating the halls and church office. Thank you to all our volunteers who helped hand out candy. The ELC will have an early dismissal on Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> so everyone can attend the Gadsden Veteran's Day Parade. Tuesday November 14<sup>th</sup> will be our next Lunchbox Revolt; details will come home soon.

—Helene Haller



### Youth Ministry News

- **Youth Sundays**  
10 am, Room 211
- **Youth Group, Wednesdays**  
6 pm, Room 211
- **Trips and Fun Times**  
Camp Lee, Nov 4 & 5  
Youth Counselor:  
Carmen McKiven

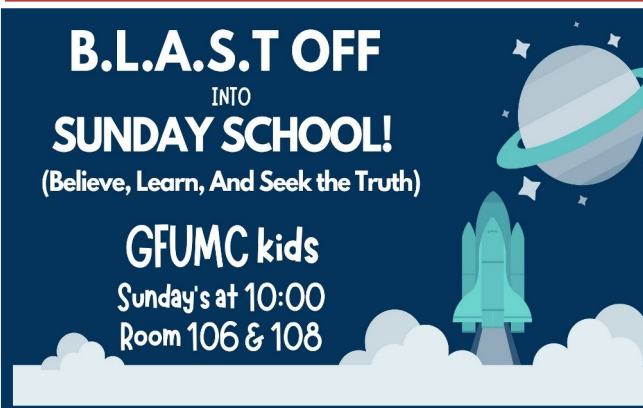
### Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship

Dinner, 5:15 pm RSVP: 256-490-5018

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

Menu for Wed., Nov. 8: Barbecue

## 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.

## 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](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/serve)

Phone: 256-543-8200

Email: [fumc@fumcgadsden.org](mailto:fumc@fumcgadsden.org)

#gfumcreconnect2023

# Do You Know?

## RALPH & ALTA WHITFIELD & JACOB WHITFIELD



Alta is from Sardis and attended Jacksonville State, where she marched with The Southerners. After attending Atlanta School of Design, she worked for "Mike George Interiors" in Birmingham, then opened "Alta's Attic" in Boaz and met and married Ralph. They moved to Gadsden 30 years ago and live in Rainbow City. She continues to work as a successful Interior Designer. Ralph grew up in East Gadsden and attended Gadsden High. He graduated from Jacksonville State with degrees in Education and Trombone Performance. He received his Masters degree from the University of Nebraska in Trombone Performance and Composition and also has a

Bachelor's Degree in Engineering from UAH and an MBA in Engineering Management from Bethel University. Ralph currently teaches Engineering at Gadsden State, but has also been involved as a church Choir Director for a total of 19 years. He plays trombone with his brass ensemble and with the Gadsden Symphony Orchestra. Their son, Jacob, is also a member of our church and currently studying Music Production in Louisiana.

## 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-two (42)  
"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](http://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 5-11, 2023

## Nov 5 Sunday      **All Saints 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 6 Monday

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

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

## Nov 7 Tuesday

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

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



*Fall back*  
turn the clocks back

## Nov 8 Wednesday

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

11:00 am Wednesday Morning Bible Study, Gathering Rm

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 Adult Small groups, Room 110 & 208

6:00 pm Choir Practice

## Nov 9 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 10 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.

## **All Saints Sunday, November 5**

We invite you to join us as we honor the memory of your loved one. We will recognize and call the names of members who have died during the past year.

You are also invited to light a candle in memory of a loved one who has died.



## **Honorariums & Memorials**

### Prayer Ministry Fund

In memory of Michael Ridens, given by the Prayer Team members.

### General Budget

In memory of Dr. James Isbell, given by Mrs. Thomas Hughes, Inga, & Lisa.

### Ladle of Love

In memory of Mary Edwards, given by Mr. & Mrs. Mark Condra.

### Youth Ministry

In memory of Michael Ridens, given by Living Waters Sunday School Class.

In memory of Michael Ridens, given by Paula Wilson.

## Immediate Prayer Concerns

Lisa Dobbins      Jackie Herlong

## Continued Prayer Concerns

Asher Mae Collins      Rodney Thompson

Juanita Hammons

Chris Wadsworth (Keith Copeland's nephew)



## **Birthdays**

**Nov 5** Becky Owen, Vicki Kirk,  
Daniel Whisenant, Robert Branch,  
William Branch, Fletcher Beckett

**Nov 6** Ted Johnson, Sheila Ford,  
Maddi Frickey

**Nov 7** Alison McCoy

**Nov 8** Dee Grimes, Hunter Skipper

**Nov 9** Jane Ann Gann, Lynn Page,  
Oliver Wright, Andrew Woodall

**Nov 10** Katharine Barnes



## **Week of October 29, 2023**

In Person Total \*134    Worship Total 540

Online 406    Thursday Worship \*14

Traditions Service \*76/218

Celebration Service \*44/188

Adult Sunday School \*39/1    Children \*5

Bible Study Groups \*15    Children \*42

Youth \*9    Nursery \*1    Fall Fest \*250

Volunteers \*40      \*In person

General Offering Budget \$12,777.00

General Offering Received \$7,480.90

YTD General Offering Budget \$562,188.00

YTD General Offering Rec'd \$489,390.90



Dr. Seth Spotnitz