

LAITY SUNDAY 2022

2 TIMOTHY 1:8-12

RISE AND UP! REVEAL GOD'S GRACE.

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

A Letter from Your Pastors

10.12.22

Dear Church Family,

The last couple of months have been filled with lots of conversations, meetings, prayers, and speakers about the subject of staying with or disaffiliating from the United Methodist Church. This all led up to our church conference vote on September 27, at which time we had a total of 254 votes cast – 68.5% voting to remain UMC and 31.5% voting to disaffiliate. That being the case, we will continue to be a United Methodist Church, serving in the heart of the City of Gadsden.

It has been a stressful time in the life of this church. I want to commend the hard work of the Pathways Task Force – Mark Condra, Joni Smith, Harry Vance, Debbie Hiltz, Karen Owen, George Varner, and Keith Copeland – for their hard work and dedication to provide all our members with every opportunity to hear from all sides of this sensitive issue. Every person had a chance to ask their questions and voice their opinions. We tried to do everything in a spirit of love and cooperation.

As your pastors, we love each and every one of our members! It saddens us that some may choose to leave our church to unite with another congregation. No one was asked to or is expected to leave. We will continue to love all and we will continue to welcome all who come our way and want to walk their faith journey along with this church family.

What does it mean that we are remaining a United Methodist Church? It means that we will continue to follow and abide by the same *Book of Discipline* of the United Methodist Church, and that we will still be a part of the connection in the North Alabama Conference and the Mountain Lakes District. No changes in the polity of our denomination are possible unless voted on and approved at General Conference in 2024. Nobody can predict for sure what will happen at that time.

What will happen to the United Methodist Churches who voted to disaffiliate? Once their disaffiliation is voted on at the called Annual Conference on December 10, 2022, and once they have paid the costs associated with disaffiliation, they will no longer be United Methodist Churches.

Things will look different in the North Alabama Conference after 2022. Facing change can be unsettling. Please rest assured that God is with us, that you are loved, and that Gadsden First United Methodist Church continues to remain focused on our mission: *Sharing Christ, Making Disciples, Serving, and Giving Hope.*

Grace and peace,

Pastor Sam Hayes Pastor Andy Yarnell



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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 or
 on Facebook Live: @FUMCGadsden

ACOLYTES

October 16:

Liam Humphreys & Anna Kate Casey

October 23:

Silas Hosey and Clementine Hilburn

Tech Team Schedule

(Please arrive 45 minutes
prior to the start of the service)

October 16

Celebration: Joe Pritchard, Carmen McKiven,
Jacob McKiven, Sheila Freeman

Traditions: Davis Varner, Sheila Freeman

October 23

Celebration: Eric Wright, Bill Haller,
Sheila Freeman

Traditions: Tammy Hayes, Sheila Freeman

October 19 Chili and Hotdog Supper
Join us for Fall Fest on October 19.

Wonderful Wednesday will resume October 26.



Small Group Study on Sunday Mornings!

Join us this Sunday, October 16 at
"Blessing of the Animals"
on the West Lawn & Portico.

Meets in Room 208 @ 10 am
All Ages are Welcome!

"Un-Distracted" By Bob Goff
Resumes October 23

Bible Study with Pastor Sam

Wednesday Mornings

11 am In Person Bible Study

Gathering Room, 201 The Book of Acts

Facebook Live @ 6 pm or on demand-via the
FUMC APP or website

6:00 pm Small Groups

Harriet Murray – Forgiveness, Room 110 will
resume on October 26.

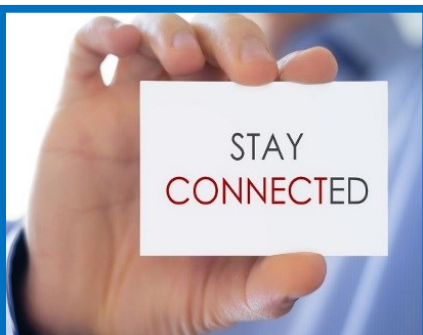
Men at the Well Thursday Mornings 7:00 am

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. "A Guide to Prayer for All Who Seek God" by Norman Shawchuck and Rueben P. Job.

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

RECONNECT with the Sunday School Class of Your Choice!

- Living Waters Sunday School Class, "Everybody's Normal Till You Get to Know Them", by John Ortberg, 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 resumes Oct. 23.
- Pathfinders Class is currently meeting with the Multi-Age Sunday School Class, Room 208 resumes Oct. 23.



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>

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

ELC News

Fall pictures were taken, and we enjoyed so many sweet outfits. The ELC will be closed Monday, October 10th for Fall Break. We hope you all enjoy this day of rest. On Wednesday, October 19th, 4K will visit Fire Station #1, and we hope to meet Sparky. Our next lunchbox revolt will be on Wednesday, October 26th, and we will have Papa John's Pizza. —Helene Haller



Youth Ministry News

Wonderful Wednesdays are back!
Dinner at 5:15, please make a reservation!
For UMYF, we will volunteer at Fall Fest this Week!

**Sunday School is back for Youth! Room 210
10 am on Sunday mornings.**

October 5, Wednesday, Haunted Ginger Bread
House competition.

October 16 "Blessing of the Animals" @ 10:00 am

October 19 Fall Fest 5-7pm "Come and Help!"

October 23 Haunted Chicken House

Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Dinner will resume on October 26!

See you at Fall Fest Chili Supper

Children's Ministry

Wednesday Night
Activities
Wednesdays at 6:00pm
Kid's Worship Room
Rm 108

SUNDAY MORNINGS
Children's Church
@ Celebration Worship and Traditions Worship
PLEASE JOIN US!

Gadsden First United Methodist
Church invites you to
Fall Fest
& Chili Supper
Wednesday,
October 19th
GFUMC 5:00

inflatables
fun games
FREE food

October Mission Focus

MANNA is a non-profit corporation, organized by local people. It's purpose is to meet the nutritional needs of housebound people who are unable to provide an adequate diet for themselves and have no one else to do it for them. Find out more or volunteer: <https://mannagadsden.org>

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! 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.

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 are 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.

CLOTHES CLOSET

The season is changing, so we are ready for you to send us your fall and winter clothing. The racks are looking empty in all areas, but especially in the Men's Department!

Let's clean out our closets and get our clothes closet stocked again! Your generosity is greatly appreciated!



UMW News

LuVerna Waid Circle will meet Tuesday, October 18th, at 6:00 pm at El Tapatio in Rainbow City. Hoping to see all of our wonderful members back for fellowship and spiritual growth. We are continuing to use the Upper Room Devotion Book as our guide until the end of 2022. At that time we will start a new Bible Study for 2023. See all of you next Tuesday!

UMW Circles

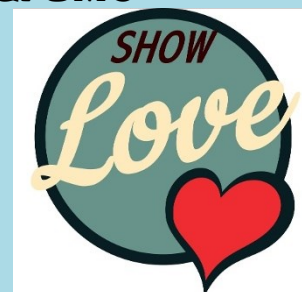
LuVerna Waid Circle: Susan Copeland, Leader
Stevens Circle: Regina Holloway, Leader
Peggy Casey Circle: Jenn Yarnell, Leader
Jean Holtsford Circle: Cherie Cornelius, Leader

If you wish to visit a circle meeting, contact the leader for time and place. Thank you.

—Barbara Bennett, President



GFUMC



"By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:35

Clothes Closet

Workdays

1st & 3rd Tuesdays

Open to Public

1st & 3rd Wednesdays

October dates are:

10/5 and 10/19

9:00 am to 11:00 am

516 Broad Street Gadsden

Ladle of Love

Fridays, 11:00am-12:00pm,
at the Portico entrance.

Clients served in September 2022

Ladle of Love 390

Clothes Closet 229

*Thank you to all our
volunteers for their time and
service to these missions!*

Find out more about mission
and service opportunities @
[www.fumcgadsden.org/
serve](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/serve)

Church Phone 256-543-8200
fumc@fumcgadsden.org

#gfumcreconnect2022

**LAITY
SUNDAY
2022**

2 TIMOTHY 1:8-12

RISE *UP!* AND REVEAL GOD'S GRACE.

Laity Sunday celebrates the ministry of all Christians to love God and neighbor. As we (the people) grow in grace to become "all love" disciples in community, we gather with others and connect all to God's love in Jesus Christ. So, on Laity Sunday (this year, October 16, 2022), we continue to lift up the vocation of all (all

means all) to follow the way of Jesus and lead others to him – particularly as we rediscover practices of togetherness that reveal "God's presence for the life of the world" (Dorothy Bass, Craig Dykstra, "A Theological Understanding of Christian Practices," *Lifelong Faith*, (Volume 2.2 Summer 2008), 5).

*Blessing
OF THE
ANIMALS*

Sunday, Oct 16
10:00 AM
West Lawn
(Greenspace)



On Sunday, October 16, you are warmly invited to join us at 10 am on the West Lawn (near the portico entrance) for the "Blessing of the Animals". Pets of all sizes, shapes, and varieties are welcome! Please ensure that your pet is secured in a way that provides safety for them and for the other pets present. You are welcome to bring a photo of your pet if they are unable to accompany you.

For those who have lost a pet recently, you are invited to bring a photo to place on our Memorial Wall.

This blessing event is a chance to give thanks for all God's Creation, especially our pets and the special place they hold in our hearts and lives. We look forward to seeing you and your pet.

Fall Fest donations

- Snack cakes for cake walk
- Individually wrapped candy
- **Volunteers** to serve food
- **Volunteers** for Trunk or treat (tables)
- **VOLUNTEERS**



Fall Festival will be at GFUMC on Oct 19

**Gadsden First United Methodist
Church invites you to**

**Fall Fest
& Chili Supper
Wednesday,
October 19th
GFUMC 5:00**

inflatables
fun games
FREE food



Generosity: Ways to Give

www.fumcgadsden.org/give

Text to Give:
256-344-8464

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

giving
powered by
NCS SERVICES

Calendar for October 16-22, 2022

Oct 16, Sunday

9:00 am Celebration Service, Sanctuary
 10:00 am Blessing of the Animals, West Lawn
 10:00 am Sunday School; HeBrews Coffee Ministry
 11:00 am Traditional Service, Sanctuary

Oct 17, Monday

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

Oct 18, Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm ELC Fall Schedule
 9:00 am-11:00 am Clothes Closet workday
 5:00 pm Yoga, Gym

Oct 19, Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm ELC Fall Schedule
 9:00 am-11:00 am Clothes Closet open
 11:00am, Bible Study Room 208 (Facebook Live @ 6pm)
 5:00 pm-7:00 pm Fall Fest and Chili Supper

Oct 20, Thursday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, ELC Fall Schedule
 9:00 am-10:00 am Exercise Group, Gym
 5:30 pm Thursday Worship, Sanctuary

Oct 21, Friday

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



RISE UP!

2 TIMOTHY 1:8-12

AND REVEAL GOD'S GRACE.

The ministers and congregation of First United Methodist Church of Gadsden extend Christian sympathy to Lou Ellen Phillips in the death of her husband, Richard (Dick) Phillips on October 3, 2022.



Honorariums and Memorials

General Budget Fund

In memory of Judy Dressman, given by Carma Rayburn.
 In memory of Judy Dressman, given by Gloria Rives.
 In memory of Judy Dressman, given by Marian Ford.
 In memory of Judy Dressman, given by Mr. & Mrs. Greg Cusimano.
 In memory of Barry W. Phillips, given by Mr. & Mrs. Bob Oltman.
 In memory of Judy Dressman, given by Nancy & David Dressman.
 In memory of Judy Dressman, given by Gregory & Katrina Herman.

Clothes Closet Fund

In memory of Gail Linton, given by Mr. & Mrs. Keith Copeland.

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



*Mason Lee Russell
 September 30, 2022*

*Parents: Daniel & Shelby
 Big Brother: Felix*

*Given by the Children's Ministry
 and the Early Learning Center*

Birthdays

Oct 16 Margaret Kirby, Millie Martin, Ashby New
Oct 18 Bob Blount
Oct 19 Rex Pruett, Becky Oltman, Brandi Martin
Oct 20 Bubba Masters, Dane Hyatt, Reagan Mullin, Allison Haller
Oct 21 Bess Estis, Mandell Tillman, Zackery Jones
Oct 22 Brynn Crain



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

Week of October 9, 2022

In Person Total *121 Online 198
 Worship Total 319 Thursday Worship *8
 Celebration Service *47/92
 Traditional Worship *66/106
 Adult Sunday School *34 Children *2
 Bible Study Groups *28/26 UMW 0
 Children *22 Youth *18 Nursery *6
 Total Small Group Attendance *110/26
 *In Person

General Offering Budget \$13,175.00
 General Offering Received \$11,072.00
 YTD General Offering Budget \$540,175.00
 YTD General Offering Rec'd \$537,562.00

Text to Give: 256.344.8464

IN OUR
Thoughts and Prayers

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Alex Holtsford
 Albert Gibson
 The family of Dick Phillips
 The family of Paula Beck

Continued Prayer Concerns

Jerry Casey
 Jane Gardner
 John Jones (Dottie Roger's son)