

New Beginnings

Isaiah 43:4-7;19

Our Witness

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

Thursday, October 12 & Sunday, October 15

Sermon Notes

"Our Witness"

This week marks the middle of Generosity: New Beginnings. The prayer question for this week is "How is your ministry a witness for what God can do?" and the scripture is Isaiah 43:8-13. I encourage you to study and read Isaiah 43 as we work through this sermon series. I believe this additional time of study will enrich your experience as we move through the series. In the scripture reading, the prophet shares that God's children were once blind and deaf to the works of God. They will know that their false gods were ineffective, and God will deliver them. They will be able to see God's mighty acts of salvation and they will be witnesses to the power of God.

The passage for this week, challenges us to consider how we might be "witnesses" for God. Like it or not, as Christians, all that we do is a witness of God. The question is, "Is this a positive or a negative witness?" How we honor God and the church with our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness is our witness. Do our actions and words tell the world of God's might saving grace and the Good News of Jesus Christ?

Blessings, Rev. Sherri



New Beginnings

Isaiah 43:19

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

October 1: Hope
October 8: A Great Adventure
October 15: Our Witness
October 22: Investment
October 29: A Matter of Worship

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

ACOLYTES

October 8: Marit Norris
October 15: Luke Barnes

Security for Thursday Worship

October 19 Todd Rains
October 26 George Varner


Tech Team Schedule

October 15

Celebration: Eric Wright, Bill Haller, Brad Barnes
Traditions: Mark Condra, Neil Mullin, Sheila Freeman

October 22

Celebration: Sheila Freeman, Bill Haller, Carmen McKvien, Jacob McKiven
Traditions: Neil Mullin, Wayne Payton, Sheila Freeman



Sunday SCHOOL

Sunday School Classes for All Ages!

Children's Sunday School Rooms 108 and 104
 New Adult Sunday School Room 209
 Living Waters Room 110
 (Nursery provided for Children under 3)

Youth Sunday School Room 211
 Pathfinder/Seekers Room 208
 Martin Fellowship Room 116

SUNDAYS

10:00 AM

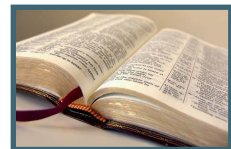
FIRST UMC GADSDEN
 115 S. 5TH ST, GADSDEN, AL 35901



Wednesday Morning Bible Study w/Pastor Sherri Reynolds

Based on the week's Lectionary Readings.

@ 11 am in the Gathering Rm, # 201



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.

Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Meal October 18

@ 5:15 pm!

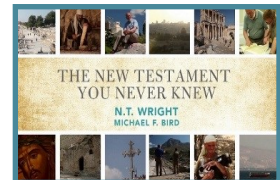
Menu: Chick-fil-A

\$7 per person, \$3 for ages 11 & Under

Small Groups for children, youth and adults begin at 6 pm.

Adult Small Groups @ Wonderful Wednesdays

**"The New Testament
You Never Knew"
by N.T. Wright
w/Pastor Sherri
6 pm, Rm 208**



**"Happy" w/Harriet Murray
6 pm, Room 110**



New Sunday School Class **Room 209**

Life is full of transitions, questions, and new beginnings. Whether you are married, single or divorced, with or without children, this is a place to help you find genuine community, create new friendships and learn from each other, and grow your faith in Jesus.

There will be nursery care available for ages under 3 and Sunday school classes for Children and Youth, 4 years through 12th Grade.

Led by Jeanne Mabeus & Eric Wright **Room 209**



**First United Methodist
Church of Gadsden**

During the month of October we will be offering training for First UMC Gadsden's Safe Sanctuaries Policy. **Everyone** in our church should be concerned about Safe Sanctuaries and **anyone** is welcomed to attend this important training on Sunday, Oct. 8 @ 12 noon and another date TBA.

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

We came back from Fall Break rested and ready to go. This week in Chapel we learned about David and Jonathon's friendship. On Thursday October 19th, the 4K class and teachers will visit Fire Station One. We are always excited to ride the church bus. Thursday October 31st, will be our annual Halloween Parade.

—Helene Haller



Youth Ministry News

Youth Sunday School, Room 211

Trips and Fun Times

October 21 Haunted Chicken House
 October 22 Kickball tournament at Camp Lee
October 25 Lion & Lamb Café @ Fall Fest—Get your tickets early! \$15 per person.
All proceeds will help youth go on the retreat to Camp Lee. Carmen McKiven, Youth Counselor

Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Dinner, Oct 18: Chick-fil-A

\$7 Adults, \$3 for 11 & under Text your reservation: 256-490-5018

B.L.A.S.T OFF

INTO

SUNDAY SCHOOL!

(Believe, Learn, And Seek the Truth)

GFUMC kids
 Sunday's at 10:00
 Room 106 & 108



Children's Ministry

Children's Church meets during worship on Sunday Mornings @ 9 am & 11 am

Blessing of the backpacks
August 6

GFUMC Children's Ministry
Fall calendar 2023

Fall Fest
October 25

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS
START BACK
AUGUST 16

Rake and Run
October 8

GFUMC CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
DECEMBER 10

Brunch with Santa 10:00am
December 3

Christmas party
December 13

FRIENDSGIVING
NOVEMBER 15

Community Thanksgiving
November 22

Fall Fest is October 25!

**Donations needed:
Cupcakes**

(Store-bought) and Individually wrapped candy. Volunteers are also needed!

A Fall Fest table for donations and sign up is located in the Chestnut Street Foyer.



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 have had many donations from our church members, friends and neighbors to our clothes closet. Recently we had a donation of clothing from "Hannah's Closet" and the Rainbow City Lutheran Church. We appreciate all of our community helping in this mission that helps many individuals and families.



*Thanks from your
Volunteers*

United Women in Faith

LuVerna Waid Circle Meeting—
Tuesday, October 17 at 6 pm, in the parlor. There are books available in the church office for the current study, "Taming of the Tongue" \$6.00 each. Jeanne Mabeus is teaching. Please read the first five chapters. Cookies and water will be provided. Brown Bag supper. Come grow with us! Please plan to be there.
The next luncheon is November 13 at 12 noon with Benny Campbell bringing us into the holidays.



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

August 2023

Ladle of Love 390

Clothes Closet 247

**Thanks to our
volunteers!**

Phone: 256-543-8200

Email: fumc@fumcgadsden.org

#gfumcreconnect2023

Lion and Lamb Café @ Fall Fest

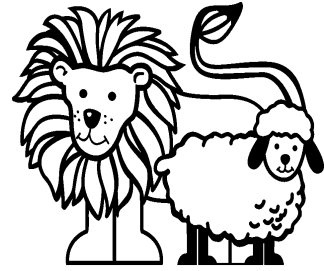
Spaghetti Supper on the Walking Track

Sponsored and served by the Youth

Get your tickets early! \$15 per person.

Donations Welcomed!

All proceeds will help youth go on the retreat to Camp Lee and other youth activities and events.



LIBBY, ROB, & RACHEL REYNOLDS

(left-right, pictured with Pastor Sherri)



Rob Reynolds is from Skowhegan, Maine. He moved to Alabama and to attend Jacksonville State University in 1991. There he met his wife Sherri and made his move to Alabama permanently. He and Sherri have been married for 26 years and they have two daughters: Rachel and Libby. Rob currently lives and works in Tuscaloosa, but plans to move to Gadsden next summer. Rachel Reynolds is a sophomore at Mississippi State University. She is majoring in biochemistry. Rachel is a member of Phi Mu and an officer in Dance Marathon for Children's Hospital. Rachel plans to attend

dental school after graduating from MSU. Libby Reynolds is a senior at Northridge High School in Tuscaloosa. She has varsity letters in soccer and flag football. She is a member of Tuscaloosa Civinettes, The National Honor Society, the Key Club, and the Northridge Miracle. Libby plans to attend college next year upon graduation from Northridge.



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!!!



Over the next five weeks, I invite you to consider how God is inviting you to a new beginning.

Through the spiritual disciplines of prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness God transforms us and makes us new. God may be calling you to a new prayer emphasis, or a renewed commitment to worship. The Lord may be inviting you to tithe or a new avenue of service. God could be nudging you to invite someone to church or share your faith in another way. **The 2024 “New Beginnings” generosity campaign through a wide perspective invites you to something new and to be made new in what the Lord is doing.** We hope that you will share “New Beginnings” —your hopes, prayers, thoughts and expectations for our church on the prayer wall in the Chestnut Foyer during the month of October.

In Christ, *Rev. Shu Reynolds*



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 October 15-21, 2023

Oct 15 Sunday

9:00 am Celebration Worship, Sanctuary

10:00 am Sunday School for All Ages

HeBrews Coffee, Chestnut Street Lobby

11:00 am Traditions Worship, Sanctuary

Oct 16 Monday

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

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

Oct 17 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

6:00 pm- LuVerna Waid Circle, Parlor

Oct 11 Wednesday

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

9:00 am-11:00 pm, Clothes Closet open

11:00 am Wednesday Morning Bible Study, Gathering Rm

4:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal,, Room 110

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

Oct 12 Thursday

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

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

5:30 pm Thursday Worship

Oct 13 Friday 11:00 am-12:00 pm Ladle of Love

Time to Shop for Fall!

Support the Children's Ministry of GFUMC!

October 17

Gathering Room

Trunk Show By Robbie's of Fayette

Women's Clothing Boutique

25% of total sales

benefits GFUMC Children's Ministry!

The ministers and congregation of First United Methodist Church of Gadsden extend Christian sympathy to Michael & Carmen McKiven in the death of her father, and Todd & Jacob McKiven in the death of their grandfather

Michael A. Ridens

on October 6, 2023



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



Sadie Brooke Edwards

Born: October 4th

Grandparents: Debbie & Chris Edwards

Parents: Ryan and Madison Edwards

Given by the Children's Ministry and the ELC

Immediate Prayer Concerns

The Family of Michael Ridens (Carmen McKiven's Father)
Chris Wadsworth (Keith Copeland's nephew) Lisa Dobbins
Dathan Phillips (Leigh Carroll Phillips' husband)
Jimmie Sue Hoekenga (friend of Barbara & Mark Condra)

Continued Prayer Concerns

David Perry (friend of Ray Macon) Ruth Chandler
Susan George Dawn Rains Vicki Handy Lewis Hill
Juanita Hammons Nancy Smith Rodney Thompson

Birthdays

Oct 15 Dr. Mike McEwen,
Robin Wilson, Anna Catherine Edwards

Oct 16 Margaret Kirby, Millie Martin,
Dr. Nancy McCorkle, Ashby New

Oct 18 Bob Blount, Rachel Reynolds,
Georgia Godfrey

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

Week of October 8, 2023

In Person Total *153 Worship Total 518

Online 365 Thursday Worship *16

Traditions Service *82/167

Celebration Service *55/168

Adult Sunday School *46/ Children *6

Bible Study Groups *26 Children *26

Youth *11 Nursery *2 Misc.

*In person

General Offering Budget \$12,777.00

General Offering Received \$10,190.00

YTD General Offering Budget \$523,857.00

YTD General Offering Rec'd \$464,954.77

**Take the
Spiritual Gifts
Inventory @**

Spiritual Gifts UMC.org

