

New Beginnings

Isaiah 43:14-21; 43:19

Investment

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

Thursday, October 19 & Sunday, October 22

Sermon Notes

"Investment"

This Sunday marks the fourth week of Generosity: New Beginnings. The prayer question for this week is "How is the "new thing" God is calling you to a kingdom investment?" and the scripture is Isaiah 43:14-21. I hope you are reading Isaiah 43 and praying about how God can use your prayer, presence, gifts, service, and witness and committing them to the Lord for what is ahead in 2024. If you have not turned in your commitment card, I ask that you continue to pray over the commitment and return your estimate of giving card to the office or in the offering plate by the end of the month. The leadership of the church has been blessed by your response thus far, and your response is helping us to prepare for 2024. A commitment for 2024 is not just a commitment for the year ahead, but it is also an investment. Many who heard the prophets' words would not live to see the prophecy fulfilled. Isaiah was a long tenured prophet, and it would take time for his prophecy to be realized. Yet, Isaiah spoke a message which would bring hope to the current generations and generations to come. It even brings hope to us today. Any "new" of today can continue to bless and encourage for years to come. As you considered "stepping up" for the Lord, realize that you are not only investing in the church of today, but also the church of tomorrow. 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*

ACOLYTES

October 22: Sarah Kate & Jake Thornburg
October 29: Clementine & Rhett Hilburn

Security for Thursday Worship

October 19 Todd Rains

October 26 George Varner

Tech Team Schedule

October 22

Celebration: Eric Wright, Genieve Corley, Brad Barnes
Traditions: Davis Varner, Carmen McKiven, Jacob McKiven

October 29

Celebration: Eric Wright, Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman
Traditions: Mark Casey, Parker Casey, Wayne Payton



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

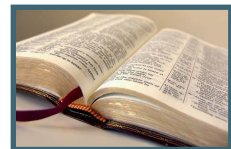
FIRST UMC GADSDEN
 115 S. 5TH ST, GADSDEN, AL 35901



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

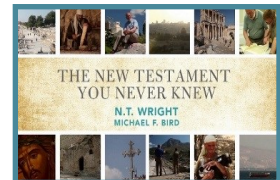
You are invited to join the weekly Bible study with the Men at the Well small group. They are currently meeting at the Choice Restaurant at 7 am. Their current study is the "12 Tribes of Israel".

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

Wonderful Wednesday
Join us on October 25
For the Fall Fest (2nd Floor)
& Chili Supper (Gathering Room)
5-7 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

GADSDEN FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



FOOD 🍁 GAMES

PRIZES

October 25
5:00-7:00



Lion and Lamb Café @ Fall Fest

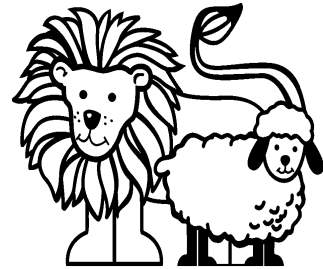
Spaghetti Supper on the Walking Track

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.



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. **Safe Sanctuary, Wednesday, November 1, 4:30 pm in the Senior High Room, 211 and 6:30 pm, Room 209.**

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

This week our 4K students enjoyed a field trip to Fire Station 1. We all enjoyed traveling to the fire station on the church bus. Wednesday October 25th is lunchbox revolt. We will have Papa John's Pizza for a cost of \$3.50 a student. Order forms went home Wednesday. 4K will have another exciting rendition of Show and Tell. Make plans to attend our annual Halloween Parade on Tuesday, October 31st. We will start about 9:30 and trick or treat the church.

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 will resume on November 1.

Join us for the Fall Fest & Chili Supper, 5-7 pm, on Oct 25!

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



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

**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.

Blessing of the backpacks August 6	Fall Fest October 25	GFUMC CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM DECEMBER 10
GFUMC Children's Ministry Fall calendar 2023	WEDNESDAY NIGHTS START BACK AUGUST 16	Brunch with Santa 10:00am December 3
Rake and Run October 8	FRIENDSGIVING NOVEMBER 15	Christmas party December 13
	Community Thanksgiving November 22	

October Missions



2nd Chance, Inc. Shelter Needs List for October 2023

Contact: Eve Hamrick
256-547-6888 ex. 103

Deodorant
Body Wash
Ethnic Hair Care Products
Combs/brushes
Cleaning Supplies
Sponges
Laundry Detergent (High Efficiency)
Toilet Tissue

Paper Towels
Towels—all kinds. Can be in good used condition
Sheets (Twin and Full)
Blankets (Twin and Full)
Comforters (Twin and Full)
Women's Underwear (Size 7-10)

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! 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.

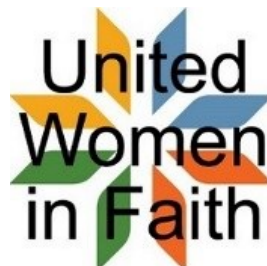
Thanksgiving Bags for Salvation Army Now is the time to fill a bag with groceries for a family who has applied through Salvation Army for help with a meal for Thanksgiving. The bags will be located at each entrance to the sanctuary and in the Chestnut Street lobby for you to pick up. The deadline to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

—GFUMC Mission Team



United Women in Faith

Our next luncheon is November 13th at 12 noon with Benny Campbell bringing us into the holidays by making beautiful arrangements. Please make your reservation by noon on Friday, November 10th. Call Delores Abney at 256-458-0376. Invite someone to come with you.



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

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 @ www.fumcgadsden.org/serve

Clients Served

September 2023

Ladle of Love 488

Clothes Closet 260

Thanks to our volunteers!

Phone: 256-543-8200

Email: fumc@fumcgadsden.org

#gfumcreconnect2023



We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.
1 Thessalonians 1:2-3

LINDA CLEVELAND



Linda grew up in Dothan, AL, and went to college at Jacksonville State University, where she was a Marching Ballerina. Involved in Finance her entire adult life, she was one of the first employees of Merrill Lynch when it opened in Gadsden. She raised her two girls, Christy and Carolyn, in Southside, AL, then moved to Florida for 21 years. Following back surgery, Linda returned to our area to be close to family during recovery. She attended Rainbow City Methodist, where she helped with the Clothes Closet and was in a Circle that made scarves and other items for the homeless. During Covid, she made face-mask holders and created prayer beads. Linda has continued her work with the Clothes Closet at First Methodist and serves as a substitute to answer our church's front-desk phone when needed. Linda enjoys making jewelry, walking her dog, reading, and participating in fitness activities.

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!!!



Twenty-three (23)
 "New Beginnings
 Estimate of Giving" Cards
 have been returned
 as of 10.15.23
 Thank You!

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.

You should have received, by now, your 2024 New Beginnings Estimate of Giving Card. You are invited to pray over this card to consider how God might be wanting to do a new thing through you. Please return the card by October 29. Each Sunday, you will not only have an opportunity to turn in your Estimate of Giving card, but also reflection cards about what "new beginning" God might be calling you to. In our Methodist tradition, we believe that our growth in grace does not stop with our salvation, but we continue to grow in faithfulness and to be more like Jesus. God never stops doing new things in our world and in our lives, encouraging us to grow to be made perfect in love in this lifetime. I want to encourage you to use this season to grow in his grace.

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 October 22-28, 2023

Oct 22 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

Oct 23 Monday

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

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

5:00 pm Trustees meeting, Parlor

Oct 24 Tuesday

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

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

5:00 pm Finance Team meeting, Gathering Room

6:00 pm Board of Stewards, Gathering Room

Oct 25 Wednesday

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

11:00 am Wednesday Morning Bible Study, Gathering Rm

5:00 pm-7:00 pm Fall Festival & Chili Supper

5:00 pm, Lion & Lamb Café (Reservation required.)

Oct 26 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 27 Friday

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

Fall Festival & Chili Supper 5-7 pm, Oct 25
All are Welcome! See Page 3 of the News!

The ministers and congregation of First United Methodist Church of Gadsden extend Christian sympathy to Chip & Lucy Edwards in the death of his mother

Mary Joyce Edwards
on October 16, 2023



Fall Fest is October 25, 5-7 pm!

Donations Needed:

**Cupcakes (Store-Bought) &
Individually Wrapped Candy**

Visit the Fall Fest Table in the Chestnut Foyer to find out how you can Step Up and Volunteer or email: Katharine@fumcgadsden.org

Honorariums & Memorials

General Budget Fund

In memory of Michael Ridens, given by Dr. & Mrs. Kim Whitt.

In memory of Michael Ridens, given by Dotty Ivey.



Immediate Prayer Concerns

The family of Mary Joyce Edwards (Chip Edwards/ mother)

Sam Fleming Lisa Dobbins Jackie Herlong

Chris Wadsworth (Keith Copeland's nephew) Lisa Dobbins

Dathan Phillips (Leigh Carroll Phillips' husband)

Continued Prayer Concerns

David Perry (friend of Ray Macon) Ruth Chandler

Susan George Lewis Hill

Juanita Hammons Rodney Thompson

Birthdays

Oct 22 Brynn Crain

Oct 23 Jack Brookshire,
Hadley Hedgspeth

Oct 24 Sonya Nesbitt,
Jennifer Brookshire, Samuel Dabbs,
Anna Casey, Josephine Leach,
Charlie Hilburn

Oct 25 Page Whitt, Susan Whitt,
Philips Leach, Haley Goodwyn,
Jordan Ryle

Oct 26 Stacy Hilburn, Qwintan Brothers

Oct 27 David Schmuck

Oct 28 Mary Tom Hale, Haddon Jarecki

Week of October 15, 2023

In Person Total *133 Worship Total 622

Online 489 Thursday Worship *16

Traditions Service *76/247

Celebration Service *41/242

Adult Sunday School *35/1 Children *7

Bible Study Groups *35 Children *32

Youth *4 Nursery *2 UWF *45

*In person

General Offering Budget \$12,777.00

General Offering Received \$9,478.00

YTD General Offering Budget \$536,634.00

YTD General Offering Rec'd \$474,432.77

**Take the
Spiritual Gifts
Inventory @**

[Spiritual Gifts UMC.org](https://www.spiritualgifts.org)

