

# New Beginnings

Isaiah 43:22-25 Isaiah 43:19

*A Matter of Worship*

Rev. Sherri Reynolds  
First United Methodist Church of Gadsden

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

Thursday, October 26 & Sunday, October 29

**Sermon Notes: "A Matter of Worship"**

We are at the end of our journey through Isaiah 43. While the entire chapter has been a message of hope and new beginnings, Isaiah concludes the chapter with a word about what got the Israelites in the predicament that they were experiencing. He says that instead of bringing the Lord, God honoring sacrifices that they only brought him their sins and iniquities. The Lord will forgive them for their lack of worship and keep His promises. Isaiah reminds them that it is not God who wronged Israel, but Israel who was disobedient by not properly worshipping God.

Paul writes in Romans 12:1, That we are to present ourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is our spiritual worship. Worship is not simply a noun or a time when we show up once a week. Our worship is how we show up and present our best to God. The Israelites failed to honor God with proper worship. How are we doing in worshipping with our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness? I pray you consider your worship as you look to your commitment to First United Methodist Church in 2024.

Blessings,  
Rev. Sherri



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.**

## Table of Contents:

**Page 1**—Sermon Notes; Tech Schedule; Acolyte Schedule; Thursday Worship Security  
**Page 2**—Sunday School Classes; Small Groups  
**Page 3**—Thank You Notes; Safe Sanctuaries  
**Page 4**—ELC News; Student Ministries; Children's Ministry; Fall Fest Oct 25  
**Page 5**—GFUMC Missions News; Clothes Closet; Ladle of Love; United Women in Faith  
**Page 6**—Pastor Appreciation; Do You Know? & HeBrews  
**Page 7**—Generosity 2024 "New Beginnings"  
**Page 8**—Calendar, Prayer Concerns, Memorials; Birthdays, Weekly Financial & Attendance Report

## Worship Opportunities

Thursday Worship: 5:30 pm, Sanctuary

## Sunday Mornings:

Celebration 9 am\* Traditions 11 am\*

\*In Person (Sanctuary) and Online

## ACOLYTES

October 29: Clementine & Rhett Hilburn  
November 5: Luke Barnes

## Security for Thursday Worship

October 26 George Varner  
November 2 Eric Wright  
Nov 9 Bob Blount

## Tech Team Schedule

October 29

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

Nov 5

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



# Sunclay 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 Waters Room 110	Martin Fellowship Room 116

(Nursery provided for Children under 3)

---

**SUNDAYS**

---

10:00 AM

---

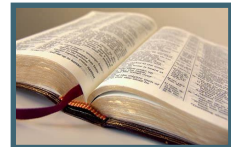
FIRST UMC GADSDEN  
115 S. 5TH ST, GADSDEN, AL 35901



### 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

5:15 pm, November 1

Menu: Italian Night

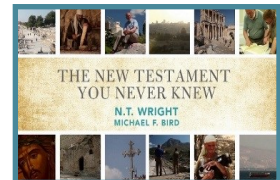
\$7 Adults

\$3 Children 11 & Under

### 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



THANK YOU 🍁

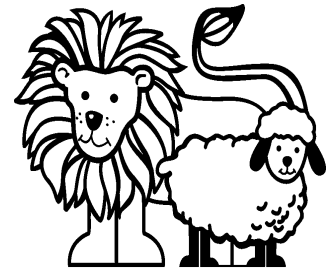
VERY MUCH!



All your donations of candy and cupcakes are very much appreciated! But most of all thank you for giving of your time to volunteer and make Fall Fest 2023 special for our children!

## Lion and Lamb Café @ Fall Fest

**Thank you for supporting our youth through this fundraiser! We appreciate all those who joined us for dinner and those who generously donated to the youth! 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 we enjoyed our 2<sup>nd</sup> lunchbox revolt for the year. We had Papa John's Pizza. 4K had another exciting rendition of Show and Tell.

If you would like to volunteer to hand out candy on Tuesday, October 31<sup>st</sup> for our annual Halloween Parade please let Helene know. Trick or Treating starts about 9:30. The ELC will have an early dismissal on Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> so everyone can attend the Gadsden Veteran's Day Parade.

—Helene Haller



## Youth Ministry News

- **Youth Sundays**  
**10 am, Room 211**
- **Youth Group, Wednesdays**  
**6 pm, Room 211**
- **Trips and Fun Times**

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

**\$7 Adults, \$3 Children 11 and under** **Menu for Wed., November 1, Italian Night**

# Children's Ministry

**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 Church meets  
during worship on  
Sunday Mornings  
@  
9 am & 11 am

Wonderful Wednesday  
Small Groups & Activities  
for Children  
6 pm

# October Missions



## 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. Benny Campbell will be 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

**Please Note next weekday is Tuesday, October 31.**

### 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](https://www.instagram.com/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.*

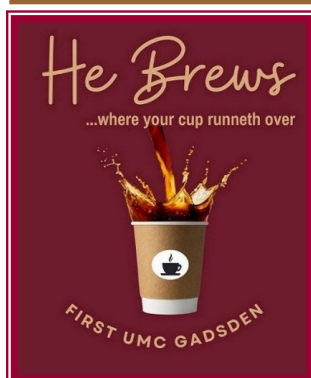
## TED & MARIE JOHNSON



Marie grew up in Gadsden and graduated from Gadsden High School. She worked 20 years with Belk, Inc., then moved to Russellville, AL, serving as the Director of the Chamber of Commerce for Franklin County for nearly 6 years. She then moved back to Gadsden and worked for United Way, becoming the first Director of the Family Success Center and serving in that capacity for 18 years. In 2022, she became the Director of the Etowah County Food Bank, a position which she currently holds. Ted worked 32 years with Republic Steel, then worked in heavy construction with his

son's company, Johnson Excavation, in Hokes Bluff. Ted and Marie make their home in Hokes Bluff, and Marie enjoys gardening whenever she has spare time.

## 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](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 October 29-November 4, 2023

## Oct 29 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

## Oct 30 Monday

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

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

## Oct 31 Tuesday

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

9:00 am-11:00 am Clothes Closet workday

9:30 am ELC Halloween Parade & Parties

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

## Nov 1 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 Activities, Room 108

6:00 pm Youth Activities, Room 211

6:00 pm Small groups, Room 110 & 208

6:00 pm Choir Practice

## Nov 2 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 3 Friday

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

*The ministers and congregation of First United Methodist Church of Gadsden extend Christian sympathy to Todd & Jackie Edmondson in the death of his father,  
Carl E. Edmondson  
on October 20, 2023*



*The ministers and congregation of First United Methodist Church of Gadsden extend Christian sympathy to Paul & Sherry DeJong in the death of his brother,  
Warren DeJong  
on October 23, 2023*



## Honorariums & Memorials

### General Budget Fund

In memory of Bill Campbell, given by Alex Holtsford.

### Youth Ministry Fund

In memory of Michael Ridens, given by Dick & Dee McCoy.



## Immediate Prayer Concerns

The family of Carl Edmondson.

The family of Warren DeJong.

Lisa Dobbins Jackie Herlong

Chris Wadsworth (Keith Copeland's nephew)

### Continued Prayer Concerns

Chris Wadsworth (Keith Copeland's nephew)

Juanita Hammons Rodney Thompson

## Birthdays

**Oct 30** Katlyn Leach

**Oct 31** Harriet Murray

**Nov 1** Martha Bullock, Marcy Puckett,  
David Livingston

**Nov 2** Bob McElroy, Tregg Johnson,  
Dr. Stephen Blackstock

Regina Holloway, Brody Ostendorf

**Nov 3** Jeffrey Blackwood, Sam Sollie

**Nov 4** Kelley Branch, Gray Skelton,  
Laney Claire Wigley

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

## Week of October 22, 2023

In Person Total \*142 Worship Total 622

Online 521 Thursday Worship \*9

Traditions Service \*85/272

Celebration Service \*48/249

Adult Sunday School \*43/1 Children \*4

Bible Study Groups \*26 Children \*22

Youth \*16 Nursery \*0 UWF \*15

\*In person

General Offering Budget \$12,777.00

General Offering Received \$7,477.23

YTD General Offering Budget \$549,411.00

YTD General Offering Rec'd \$481,910.00

## 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.**