

# What Have I Gotten Myself Into?

PASTOR ANDY YARNELL

SEPTEMBER 4, 2022

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GADSDEN

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

## 9-4-22 Sermon Notes "What Have I Gotten Myself Into?"

Discipleship's Demands

Luke 14:25-33 CEB

(25) Large crowds were traveling with Jesus. Turning to them, he said, (26) "Whoever comes to me and doesn't hate father and mother, spouse and children, and brothers and sisters—yes, even one's own life—cannot be my disciple. (27) Whoever doesn't carry their own cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. (28) "If one of you wanted to build a tower, wouldn't you first sit down and calculate the cost, to determine whether you have enough money to complete it? (29) Otherwise, when you have laid the foundation but couldn't finish the tower, all who see it will begin to belittle you. (30) They will say, 'Here's the person who began construction and couldn't complete it!' (31) Or what king would go to war against another king without first sitting down to consider whether his ten thousand soldiers could go up against the twenty thousand coming against him? (32) And if he didn't think he could win, he would send a representative to discuss terms of peace while his enemy was still a long way off.

(33) In the same way, none of you who are unwilling to give up all of your possessions can be my disciple.

**What Have I Gotten Myself Into?** Have you ever asked yourself. "What have I gotten myself into?" Maybe after you purchased a home that needed way too much work, after starting a new job, after beginning a new relationship, or after committing to running in a race? When reading this scripture, I imagine some in the crowd following Jesus heard Jesus talk about the cost of being a disciple and must have thought, what did I get myself into? This Sunday, let's look at this scripture, let us count the cost, let's talk about what it means to pick up our cross daily. Following Jesus is serious. For some it might change our social status (think about who Jesus ate with), it may change our time management, where we live, how and who we serve. May we all reevaluate what it means to be a disciple this Sunday. We will also partake in Holy Communion this Sunday.

Pastor Andy

Have a safe Holiday Weekend!



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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) or

on Facebook Live: @FUMCGadsden

## ACOLYTES

September 4: Silas Hosey & Luke Barnes

September 11: Anna Kate Casey & Quinn Darden

## Tech Team Schedule

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

### Sept 4

**Celebration:** Eric Wright, Brad Barnes, Sheila Freeman

**Traditions:** Mike Self, Sheila Freeman

### Sept 11

**Celebration:** Joe Pritchard, Bill Haller, Will Brookshire

**Traditions:** Mark Casey, Parker Casey, Tammy Hayes

## September 7 Wonderful Wednesday

5:15 pm– Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Dinner

6:00 pm- Bible Study and Activities for Adults, Youth and Children

Please make a reservation by Tuesday @ Noon!

Call the church office @ 256-543-8200 or Text 256.490.5018

**Menu 9/7: Chicken Fingers, Mac & Cheese, Tea & Dessert**

### Unshakeable Hope

by Max Lucado

Small Group Study on Sunday Mornings!

Will meet in Room 208 @ 10 am

All Ages are Welcome!

with Eric Wright & Harriet Murray

### 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

Pastor Sam -Based on the book United Methodist

Divided, Room 208

Harriet Murray –Forgiveness, Room 110

## 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.

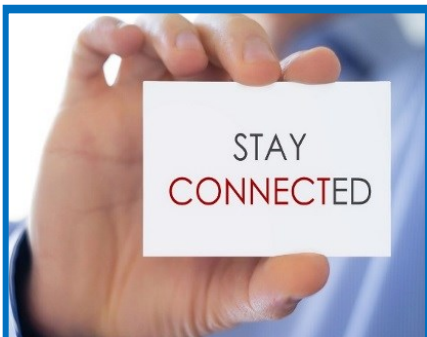
Currently meeting at the Choice Restaurant. "A Guide to Prayer for All Who Seek God" by Norman Shawchuck & Rueben P. Job is the current study.

Contact Todd Rains, Mark Condra or

Mark Casey or any of the Men at the Well for more information.

## RECONNECT with the Sunday School Class of Your Choice!

- Living Water 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, Unshakeable Hope, by Max Lucado, with Eric Wright and Harriet Murray, Gathering Room 201 or 208
- Pathfinders Class is currently meeting with the Multi-Age Sunday School Class, Gathering Room, 201 or 208



### Sign Up to Receive Emails from the Church

Sign up to receive emails from the church including the Weekly News, Devotionals, Sermon Notes, and Ministry and Mission Notes.

Go to: <http://www.fumcgadsden.org/sign-up-to-receive-emails>

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

## ELC News

We are off to a great start this year. Everyone is getting into the swing of things and we have welcomed Anna Claire Lett to our faculty. Anna will be our floater teacher for this year. Spanish and Music classes began this week and the children were so excited to welcome Mrs. Nancy back. Monday, September 5<sup>th</sup> we will be closed for Labor Day and pray that everyone has a safe and fun long weekend.

*Helene Haller*



## Youth Ministry News

Wonderful Wednesdays are back!  
Dinner at 5:15, please make a reservation!  
UMYF @ 6pm

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

September 17-Youth Retreat to Camp Lee!  
September 18- "Blessing of Car Keys" in both  
worship services.

*—Pastor Andy*

# Children's Ministry



**Wonderful Wednesday  
Please Make a Reservation!**

**5:15 pm, Wednesday,  
September 7**

## Menu:

Chicken Fingers  
Macaroni & Cheese  
Tea and Dessert

**\$7.00 ea/\$20.00 per family**

**f GFUMC**  
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

# FALL 2022

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES  
6:00PM ROOM 108

AUG 17	WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES RESUME W/ ICE CREAM SOCIAL
OCT 19	FALL FESTIVAL AT GFUMC 
NOV 16	FRIENDSGIVING! 
DEC 4	 LUNCH WITH SANTA AT 12:00 
DEC 4	CHRISTMAS PLAY AT 3:00 
DEC 14	 UGLY SWEATER PARTY 

KATHARINE BARNES • 256-543-8200 • [WWW.FUMCGADSDEN.ORG/CHILDREN](http://WWW.FUMCGADSDEN.ORG/CHILDREN) • PROVERBS 22:6



## September Mission Focus

### Etowah Free Clinic

Gadsden First UMC Missions supports **The Etowah Free Clinic**. This clinic provides uninsured patients of Etowah County with access to physicians, nurses, support staff, prescription medication and a variety of holistic care services, at no cost. The clinic has had a dramatic impact, not just in the lives of those they serve, but also in the community in which they live, work and play.

Local physicians volunteer their time to treat patients at the clinic, and make necessary referrals to participating specialists who treat patients in their offices. They treat people for diabetes, hypertension, thyroid disorders, high cholesterol and other chronic conditions which, when left untreated, can lead to life-threatening complications and lengthy stays in the hospital.

Acute conditions are also treated, often requiring nothing more than a simple antibiotic. The EFCC is able to provide treatment to patients who would otherwise arrive at the emergency room with no means of payment or go without treatment.

***The Etowah Free Clinic is proud to serve Etowah County and improve the lives of people who would not have access to medical care***



### August Missions Wrap Up



**Thank you for donating to the “Striplin Fund at First UMC Gadsden! This fund is available for donations throughout the school year. Our church continues striving to make a difference for all the sweet students at Striplin Elementary School. Principal Ash, the teachers, and the students’ families appreciate our church for adopting their school many years ago. In order to continue providing support**

**and encouragement for the students and teachers through**

- **A/B Honor Roll parties**
- **“Welcome Back” Teacher Breakfast**
- **Teacher of the Month and Teacher of the Year Recognition and Gift Cards**
- **Teacher Appreciation Luncheon**

**Thank you for helping *shine God’s Love by giving to the “Striplin Fund”!***

### UMW NEWS

UMW Luncheon is Monday, September 12 at noon  
Program: CommUnity Thanksgiving  
Guest Speakers: Craig Scott and Darlene Harcrow  
Executive Board meeting @10:30 am  
Lunch catered by “Downtown Chief”  
Reservations need to be called in by noon on Friday, September 9, to Delores Abney or your circle leader.

—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

9:00 am to 11:00 am

516 Broad Street Gadsden

Please hold your fall and winter donations of clothing until the first of September.  
Thank you!

### Ladle of Love

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

Clients served in  
July 2022

Ladle of Love	465
Clothes Closet	303

*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](mailto:fumc@fumcgadsden.org)



**Inviting Ministries  
welcomes you to our Coffee Café!**

**We have your Sunday Cup of Coffee waiting for you  
between 10 am 11 am on Sunday mornings.**

**Join us this Sunday!**

***Come visit with friends, old and new, in Christian  
Fellowship! After Celebration and before Traditions and  
on your way in or out of Sunday school!***

***There is nothing like being here!***

	<p>MONTHLY LUNCH/BRUNCH AT 12:30 FOLLOWING TRADITIONAL SERVICE.</p>
<p><b>Sunday, September 18– Jefferson's All Young Adults and Families Welcome!</b></p>	



**Generosity: Ways to Give**

[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



## First UMC Gadsden

# Pathways for Our Future

<h3 style="text-align: center;">Awareness</h3> <p style="text-align: center;">August 28, 9 &amp; 11 am Monica Harbarger, Directory of United Counseling</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*****</p> <p style="text-align: center;">August 28*</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Speakers: Rev. Dee Dowdy &amp; Rev. Tammy Jackson</p> <p style="text-align: center;">September 11*</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Speakers- Rev. Belinda Rives &amp; Rev. Eddie Gooch</p> <p style="text-align: center;">October 2*</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Speakers- Rev. Harvey Beck &amp; Rev. Kevin Thomas</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*Sanctuary, 3-6 pm</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">All sessions available via livestream and on demand @ <a href="http://www.fumcgadsden.org/media" style="color: white;">www.fumcgadsden.org/media</a></p>	<h3 style="text-align: center;">Assessment</h3> <p style="text-align: center;">August 17- September 11 Wednesdays @ 6 pm, Learning Session based on the book, <u>United Methodist Divided</u> with Pastor Sam</p> <p style="text-align: center;">August 31, 6 pm Bishop Wallace-Padgett, Christ Central UMC</p> <p style="text-align: center;">September 11 through October 6</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Daily Prayer &amp; Weekly Fasting</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Listening Sessions</i></p>	<h3 style="text-align: center;">Action</h3> <p style="text-align: center;">October 3, 6 pm Church Conference*</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>A Called Church Conference led by the D.S. Jeff Davis</i></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">*Only full members present at the time of the vote will be eligible to vote – no proxy votes or absentee ballots. If 2/3 of those present and voting vote to disaffiliate, then we will proceed in the disaffiliation process. If the 2/3 majority is not reached, we will remain UMC.</p>
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Additional information and answers to frequently asked questions are available at  
[www.fumcgadsden.org/pathways4future](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/pathways4future)      password: Pathways2022

## Awareness– Prayer, Listening, Learning

**Pathways for Our Future Awareness Session 2 , Sept. 11 - 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm**

**Rev. Belinda Rives from Discovery UMC** will speak from 3:00 - 3:30 on what led her to want to stay UMC  
3:30 - 4:00 - Q and A

**15 minute break**

**Rev. Eddie Gooch from Hokes Bluff FUMC** will speak from 4:15 - 4: 45 on what led him to want to disaffiliate from UMC 4: 45 - 5: 15 - Q and A

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**Learning Session with Pastor Sam, 6 PM, Wednesday nights from Aug. 17 - Sept. 14** - A series based on the book "United Methodists Divided" led by Pastor Sam Hayes. This class will discuss how we got to where we are currently in our denomination, differences over Scripture Tradition, Experience, and Reason, etc.. (Some of you may have attended a similar class in 2019 with Pastor Sam.)

### GFUMC Member Survey —We value your opinion!

The purpose of this survey is to determine what members want to know about the differences in our denomination and the vote that will take place in the fall of 2022 about whether we will stay UMC or disaffiliate from the denomination.

Printed survey forms are available in the church office or you can fill out the online survey form @ <https://forms.gle/itKvoHZAMsA5kV8S7>



## Calendar for September 4-10, 2022

### Sept 4, Sunday

9:00 am, Celebration Service, Sanctuary  
10:00 am, Sunday School; HeBrews Coffee Ministry  
11:00 am, Traditional Service, Sanctuary

### Sept 5, Monday

**OFFICE and CHURCH CLOSED for HOLIDAY**

**ELC Closed**

### Sept 6, Tuesday

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

### Sept 7, 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)

### Sept 7, Wednesday, cont'd

5:15 pm, Wednesday Night meal, Gathering Room  
6:00 pm, Adult Bible Study, Room 208 and 110  
6:00 pm, Children activities, Room 108  
6:00 pm, Youth activities, Gym & Room 211  
6:00 pm, Choir Practice, Choir Room

### Sept 8, 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

### Sept 9, Friday

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

*Special donations may be made, in honor or memory of a loved one, to the General Budget Fund or other designated funds. You can send a check by mail, drop in the offering plate, or use e-giving. Be sure to include the name of the person you want to be remembered.*

### Honorariums and Memorials

#### General Budget Fund

In memory of Darrell Yarnell, given by Mr. & Mrs. George Reamer.  
In memory of Sue Roberts, given by John K. Molen.  
In memory of Sidney Gardner, given by Kay Lovvorn.

### Prayer Concerns

Are for our members and their families. Please notify the pastors or church office with any updates on Prayer Concerns...Ongoing or new.

### Immediate Prayer Concerns

#### Unspoken

#### Prayer Requests



#### Continued Prayer Concerns

Jerry Casey Jane Gardner  
John Jones (Dottie Roger's son)  
Alice Hayes (mother of Sam Hayes)

### Birthdays

**Sept 5** Makayla Walker  
**Sept 6** Jonathan Blount  
**Sept 7** Carmen McKiven,  
Andrew Jackson  
**Sept 8** Mark Condra,  
Michael McKiven  
**Sept 9** Roberta Clonts,  
Mallory White, Anderson Roberts



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

### Week of August 28, 2022

In Person Total \*135 Online 234  
Worship Total 369 Thursday Worship \*5  
Celebration Service \*44/111  
Traditional Worship \*86/123  
Adult Sunday School \*35/1 Children \*1  
Bible Study Groups \*28/28  
Children \*19 Youth \*13 Nursery \*6  
Total Attendance \*102/29 \*In Person

General Offering Budget \$13,175.00  
General Offering Received \$7,372.00  
YTD General Offering Budget \$461,125.00  
YTD General Offering Rec'd \$461,755.00

**2022 Pledges: 82 for \$420,924.85**

**Text to Give: 256.344.8464**

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**Michelle Morgan**

**Delores Abney**

**Bob and Becky Oltman**

### Update

#### Your Contact Information

**Submit your current  
Address, Phone #, Email and  
Birthdays for the church  
records: 256-543-8200 or  
Susan@fumcgadsden.org**