



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

9-10-23

Sermon Notes

“Team Loyal”

When you joined First United Methodist Church, you were asked, “As members of Christ’s universal church, will you be loyal to the United Methodist Church, and do all in your power to strengthen its ministries?” *Loyalty* can be defined as faithfulness and allegiance and is part of our membership vow, along with prayer, presence, gifts, service, and witness. How do we live out this loyalty as followers of Jesus Christ? The prophet Elijah ministered in a time when the peoples’ loyalty was not pure, so he challenged them by asking “How long will you waiver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him, but if Baal is god, follow him.”

I Kings 18:17-24. The people were called to declare their allegiance and be faithful. This Sunday, we are going to look at “Team Loyal.” Just like with football teams, loyalty to the Church can be a mixed bag. With football, one minute you have some fans praising the team, and the next calling for a change in playing positions or coaching staff with a single loss. If *loyalty* is a virtue, how can we cultivate it as other disciplines? How can we grow in allegiance and faithfulness to Christ’s Church?

May the Peace of Christ Richly Dwell in You,  
Rev. Sherri

## September Sermon Series

Sept 3  
The Devoted Fan  
Sept 10  
Team Loyal  
Sept 17  
Recruiting  
Counts  
Sept 24  
Position Well  
Played



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## Worship Opportunities

Thursday Worship: 5:30 pm, Sanctuary

## Sunday Morning:

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 10: Brooke Bone and Luke Barnes

September 17: Sara Kate Thornburg &

Jake Thornburg

September 24: Clementine Hilburn & Rhett Hilburn

## Tech Team Schedule

(Please arrive 45 minutes before the service.)

**September 10**

**Celebration:** Eric Wright, Sheila Freeman, Bill Haller

**Traditions:** Wayne Payton, Sheila Freeman

**September 17**

**Celebration:** Eric Wright, Bill Haller, Bay Brown

**Traditions:** Davis Varner, Carmen McKiven, Jacob McKiven

**It's Time for New Beginnings...Maybe you have never participated in Sunday School or you have been out for a while! YOU Belong in Sunday School! Choose a class to visit—there are lots to choose from!**

### **New Sunday School Class Beginning October 1**

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 & Kirk Mabeus and Eric Wright  
Room 209

- **NEW** Sunday School Class w/ Jeanne Mabeus and Eric Wright **Beginning October 1, Room 209**
- Living Waters Sunday School Class, with a study of "Invitation to John", by Robert Kysar, **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**
- Pathfinders and Seekers Classes are currently meeting with the Multi-Age Sunday School Class, with a study of "Simple" by Andy Stanley, **Room 208**



### **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 September 13 @ 5:15 pm!**

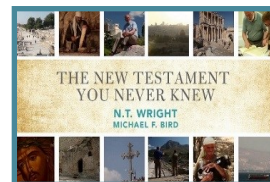
**Menu: Assorted Sub Sandwiches,  
Pasta Salad, Chips, Dessert**

**\$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**



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

## ELC News

We all enjoyed our extra day off on Labor Day! We were all smiles to be back on Tuesday. Toddlers and 2K had a special visitor. Ms. Molly Page came and read a book to get us excited about fall. This week in Chapel we learned about Adam and Eve and how they disobeyed God by eating fruit from the Tree of Knowledge.

—Helene Haller



## Youth Ministry News

September 17 Camp Sumatanga  
September 24 Cherokee Rock Village

*Carmen McKiven*  
*Youth Counselor*

**Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Dinner, Sept 13: Assorted Sub Sandwiches, Pasta Salad, Chips, Dessert** \$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  
Church  
meets  
during  
worship  
on  
Sunday  
Mornings  
@  
9 am  
& 11 am

**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

**FRIENDSGIVING**  
NOVEMBER 15

**Lunch with Santa**  
December 10

**Rake and Run**  
October 8

**Community Thanksgiving**  
November 22

**Christmas party**  
December 13



## September 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
2. Toilet Paper
3. Cotton Balls
4. Q-Tips
5. Band-aids
6. Rubbing Alcohol (bottle)
7. Hydrogen Peroxide
8. Triple Antibiotic Ointment
9. Antifungal Cream
10. Prayers



Thank you for your support of the August Mission Focus, our Adopted School, W.E Striplin Elementary School! Your gifts and service make this mission and ministry possible.

—The Mission Team

### Clothes Closet Needs



We desperately need men's and children's clothes! As the season is beginning to change, please clean out your closets so that many in need can also be clothed.

We are hoping for all men, women, and children to hear the "Cry of the Needy."

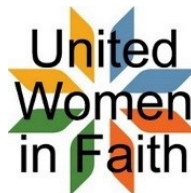
*Thanks from your Volunteers*

### United Women in Faith

UWF Luncheon is September 11 at 12:00 pm. The program will be "2nd Chance— Assisting Victims of Domestic and Sexual Violence." Our speaker is Eve Hamrick, Director.

Call Delores Abney for a reservation by noon on Friday, September 8 at 256-458-0376.

—Barbara Bennett, President



### 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](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/serve)

#### Clients Served

July 2023

Ladle of Love 180

Clothes Closet 380

**Thanks to our volunteers!**

Phone: 256-543-8200

Email: [fumc@fumcgadsden.org](mailto:fumc@fumcgadsden.org)

#gfumcreconnect2023

First United Methodist Church of Gadsden

Blessing  
OF THE  
ANIMALS

Sunday, Sep 24

10:00 AM

West Lawn  
(Greenspace)



OUT OF TOWN OR WORKING ON THE WEEKEND?

Thursday  
WORSHIP

5:30 pm

A SERVICE OF PRAYER AND WORD

FIRST UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH  
GADSDEN

Celebration  
worship

SUNDAYS  
9 AM

In the Sanctuary



Traditions  
Sundays  
11:00 am

GET IN  
THE GAME

Rev. Sherri Reynolds

A September Sermon Series

"Football has become a priority in the South. What  
about our devotion and prioritization to God?"

Aug 31 & Sept 3

The Devoted Fan Mark 12:28-34

Sept 7 & 10

Team Loyal 1 Kings 18:17-24

Sept 14 & 17

Recruiting Counts Romans 10:13-17

Sept 21 & 24

Position Well Played 1 Corinthians 12:4-14

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Weekly Worship Schedule

Thursdays 5:30 pm

Sundays 9:00 am and 10:55 am

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Sunday School 10 am

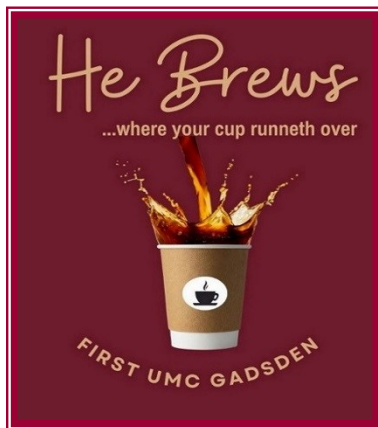


## Who's Who

## KIRK & JEANNE MABEUS



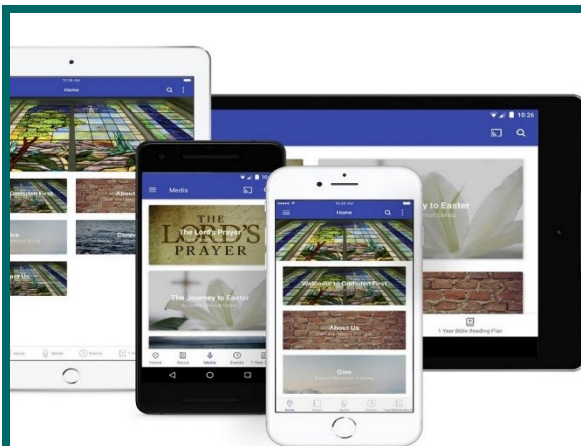
Kirk and Jeanne Mabeus (pronounced Jee-nee May-bus), both from Ponca, Nebraska, own the distributorship for Interstate Batteries in Gadsden. His hobbies include hunting and fishing. Jeanne was an English teacher at the Secondary School level for 10 years. She loves music and plays the piano and flute. Previously, she has led Contemporary Worship services; and currently she helps with the Children's Music program at FUMC, assisting during our 2023 Vacation Bible School and looking forward to helping with our children's Christmas music. Their daughter Kelsey (38) is an Elementary School counselor in Vestavia, AL; and their son Zach (34) is an RN working in the ER department for UAB Health Systems. Kirk & Jeanne have 3 grandchildren (pictured with them).



## 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!!!



First United Methodist Church of Gadsden

Available in App Stores



## DID YOU KNOW...

That you can reduce your tax exposure by making a gift from your IRA to your church? An IRA Qualified Charitable Withdrawal (QCD) is a simple and easy way for you to use your IRA to help GFUMC fulfill its mission.



## DOES AN IRA QCD MAKE SENSE THIS YEAR?

If you are age 70 ½ you can use pre-tax dollars in your IRA to donate to the church. This amount is capped at \$100,000.

If you are age 73 (for tax year 2023), this amount can be used to satisfy your Required Minimum Distribution.

Check with your tax professional to see how an IRA QCD could impact your taxes while helping the ministries and missions of the church.





## 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.

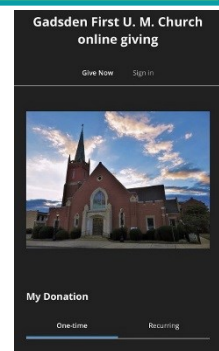
[www.fumcgadsden.org/give](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/give)

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!



# Calendar for September 10-16, 2023

## Sept 10 Sunday

9:00 am Celebration Worship, Sanctuary  
10:00 am Sunday School; HeBrews Coffee  
11:00 am Traditions Worship, Sanctuary

## Sept 11 Monday

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

## Sept 12 Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm ELC Fall Schedule  
5:00 pm-6:00 pm Yoga, Gym

## New Handbell Choir

The **NEW** Handbell Choir will meet for the first time and begin rehearsals on Wednesday, September 13 at 4:30 pm in room 110. We are looking forward to adult participation in our new handbell choir. If you are interested and know basic musical notes, please come to this first rehearsal or for more information, you may contact Monica Gilmer at 256-328-4420.

## Immediate Prayer Concerns

Ruth Chandler Susan Copeland Lewis Hill  
Lisa Dobbins Vicki Handy Juanita Hammons  
Jimmie Sue Hoekenga (friend of Barbara & Mark Condra)  
David Perry (friend of Ray Macon)

## Continued Prayer Concerns

Marcy Puckett Lori Sokol Cathy Bohannon  
Nancy Smith June Longshore Peggy Burnett  
Asher Mae Collins Dawn Rains Rodney Thompson  
Bibb Holland  
Chris Gunnells (Gail McNair's nephew)  
John Jones (Dotty Rogers' Son)

## Sept 13 Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm ELC Fall Schedule  
11:00 am Wednesday Morning Bible Study, Gathering Rm  
4:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal **NEW, 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

## Sept 14 Thursday

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

## 5:30 pm Thursday Worship

Sept 15 Friday 11:00 am-12:00 pm Ladle of Love

## Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Meal @ 5 pm

Menu for September 13: Assorted Sub Sandwiches,  
Pasta Salad, Chips, Dessert \$7 Adults, \$3 Children  
Make a Reservation: Text 256-490-5018



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## Honorariums & Memorials

### General Budget Fund

In memory of Dr. James Isbell, given by Howard & Delores Malone, Becky & Doug Morgan, Brenda & John Gregory.

## Birthdays

**Sept 12** Chris Hill, Makenzie Staton  
**Sept 13** Betty Ballard, Linda Marble  
**Sept 14** Tommy Bone, Marihugh Leach  
**Sept 15** Alicia Dowling, Kendra Selsor, Anna Dobbins, Danielle Wilson  
**Sept 16** Elaine Spearman, Bibb Holland



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

## Week of September 3, 2023

In Person Total \*131 Worship Total 517  
Online 386 Thursday Worship \*13  
Traditions Service \*66/133  
Celebration Service \*52/253  
Adult Sunday School \*26/3 Children \*3  
Bible Study Groups \*18 Children \*31  
Youth \*9 Nursery \*4 Misc.  
Total Small Groups \*91 \*In Person

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General Offering Budget \$12,777.00  
General Offering Received \$13,583.00  
YTD General Offering Budget \$459,972.00  
YTD General Offering Rec'd \$418,401.00



Download our  
Church App  
**FUMC-Gadsden**  
On the App Store or  
Google Play