



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

9-3-23

Sermon Notes

"The Devoted Fan"

What do you love? I don't mean the way we use the word to express like. For example, "I love spaghetti" or "I love sunsets." I mean intense affection, adoration, or devotion type of feeling. Many people in Alabama love football. This is a feeling beyond "like" to be deep affection, adoration, and devotion for a college team. Most of the time, this devotion is good fun and recreation. Issues arise when our love for earthly pursuits, compromises our relationship with God. This is not just a problem with college football, but can also be an issue with pursuits, relationships, habits, or focuses. Anything which becomes our "god" gets in the way of our relationship with God.

Jesus said the greatest command is that you "must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." (Mark 12:30 CEB). This week, I encourage you focus upon your love for God and pray about the barriers which prevent you from loving God fully. We tend to think of idols as Old Testament sculptures, but our world is filled with idols. The idols of our day are more sinister because they are hard to recognize. May God give us eyes to see and strength to follow, so that we may love the Lord with all our heart, soul, and mind.

May the peace of Christ dwell in you richly,

Rev. Sherri

Table of Contents:

Page 1—Sermon Notes; Tech Schedule; Acolyte Schedule

Page 2—Small Groups and Sunday School

Page 3—ELC News; Student Ministries; Children's Ministry

Page 4— GFUMC Missions News; Clothes Closet; Ladle of Love; United Women in Faith

Page 5— September Sermons Series

Page 6— HeBrews, Stay Connected

Page 7— Generosity

Page 8— Calendar, Prayer Concerns, Save the Dates, Birthdays, Weekly Financial & Attendance Report

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 or

on Facebook Live: @FUMCgadsden

September

Sermon

Series

Sept 3

The Devoted Fan

Sept 10

Team Loyal

Sept 17

Recruiting Counts

Sept 24

Position Well

Played



ACOLYTES

September 3: Silas Hosey

September 10: Brooke Bone and Luke Barnes

Tech Team Schedule

(Please arrive 45 minutes before the service.)

September 3

Celebration: Eric Wright, Sheila Freeman, Brad Barnes

Traditions: Wayne Payton, Neil Mullin, Sheila Freeman

September 10

Celebration: Eric Wright, Sheila Freeman, Bill Haller

Traditions: Wayne Payton, Sheila Freeman

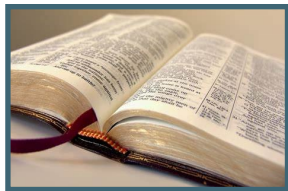
Out of Town on the Weekend?

Come to Thursday Worship!

5:30 to 6:00 pm each week

In the Sanctuary

Wednesday Mornings @ 11 am
Starts September 6, in the Gathering Rm 201, Bible Study w/Pastor Sherri Reynolds
Based on the weekly Lectionary Readings.



Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Meal September 6 @ 5:15 pm! Menu: Italian Night

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

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

Small Group Study w/ Pastor Sherri, Rm 208

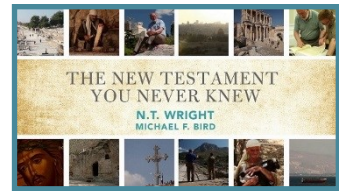
Wednesdays 6 pm

The New Testament

You Never Knew"

by N.T. Wright

Study Guides are available in the church office for \$11.00.



Wednesday Small Group, 6 pm

"Breathing Room" w/Harriet Murray, Room 110

Men at the Well

Thursday Mornings

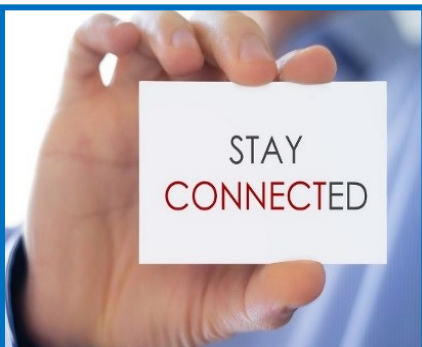
7:00 am

You are invited to join the weekly Bible study with the Men at the Well small group. 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.

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

There's a Place for you in Sunday School!

- 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**
- Multi-Age Sunday School, with Eric Wright and Harriet Murray, **Room 208**
- Pathfinders and Seekers Classes are currently meeting with the Multi-Age Sunday School Class, with a study of "Simple" by Andy Stanley, **Room 208**



Sign Up to Receive Emails from the Church

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

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



Have you downloaded the Church APP?

Search: First UMC-Gadsden

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

ELC News

This week our fun special activities started. Those that signed up for Spanish had their first lesson with Ms. Erika. All students new and old were excited to see Mrs. Nancy and start music class. Thursday saw the first chapel of the year for 2K through 4K. The ELC will be closed on Monday, September 4th for Labor Day!

—Helene Haller



Youth Ministry News

September 6 The Alley
September 17 Camp Sumatanga
September 24 Cherokee Rock Village

Carmen McKiven
Youth Counselor

Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Dinner, Sept 6: Italian Night

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

Children's Ministry

Children's Church
Sundays @

A colorful circular graphic representing a fall calendar for GFUMC Children's Ministry. It features several overlapping circles in shades of orange, yellow, green, and red, each containing text about an event. The text is in various fonts, including cursive and bold sans-serif. The overall theme is autumn and holiday celebrations.

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."

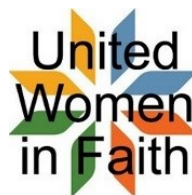
Thanks from your Volunteers

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

Clients Served

July 2023

Ladle of Love 180

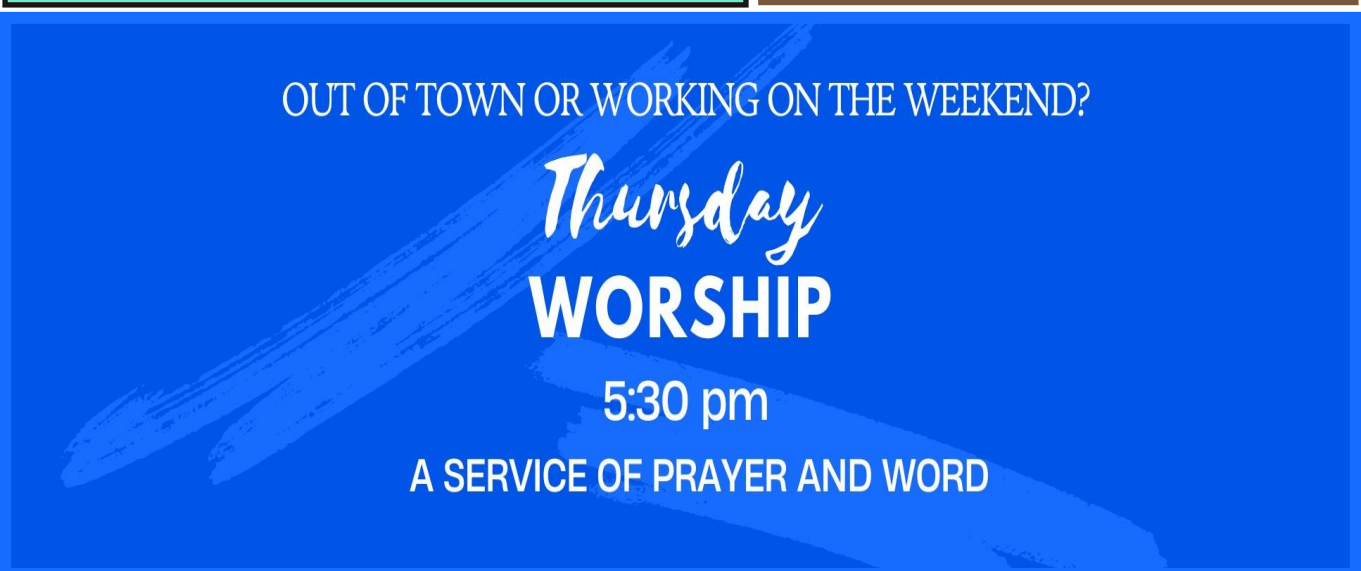
Clothes Closet 380

Thanks to our volunteers!

Phone: 256-543-8200

Email: fumc@fumcgadsden.org

#gfumcreconnect2023



Inviting Ministries



FUMC Gadsden

He Brews

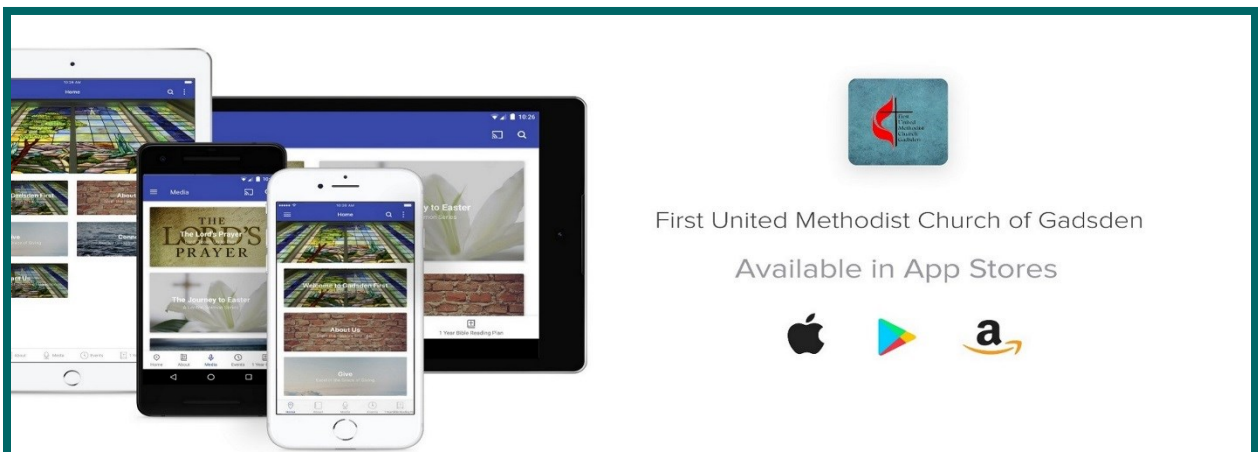
Sundays @ 10 am
between
the worship
services

Important Deadlines

Information for the weekly announcement sheet is due each Wednesday by noon.




Events for the church calendar are needed one month prior to the event.

All Meetings, Events and Activities must be scheduled in advance with the church secretary, Susan Swann by email or phone, susan@fumcgadsden.org or 256.543.8200. This will allow us to serve you better! We will reserve a specific room(s) for you, ensure that the air conditioning is on, and that there is access to the building.



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.

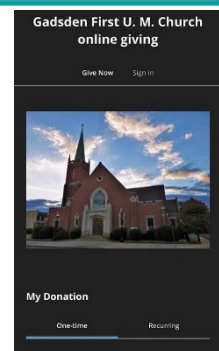
www.fumcgadsden.org/give

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 3-9, 2023

Sept 3 Sunday

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

Sept 4 Monday

Office Closed

Sept 5 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

Sept 6 Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm ELC Fall Schedule
9:00 am-11:00 am Clothes Closet open
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 7 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 8 Friday

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



Follow us on Facebook
and Instagram..



Handbells

The new Handbell Choir will meet for the first time and begin rehearsals on Wednesday, September 13 at 4:30 pm. 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

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
Jeff Davis 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)

Honorariums & Memorials

General Budget Fund

In memory of Dr. James Isbell, given by Randal & Vanessa West.
In memory of Dr. James Isbell, given by Julia Knox.
In memory of Dr. James Isbell, given by Scott & Ingrid Easter.
In memory of Dr. James Isbell, given by Wesley & Cherie Smith.
In memory of Hilde Willis, given by Harriet & Keith Murray.
In memory of Carol Kurovics, given by Harriett & Keith Murray.
In memory of Dr. James Isbell, given by Gilbert Porter.

Birthdays

Sept 5 Makayla Walker
Sept 6 Jonathan Blount
Sept 7 Carmen McKiven,
Andrew Jackson
Sept 8 Mark Condra, Michael McKiven,
Lydia Horton
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 27, 2023

In Person Total *156 Worship Total 518
Online 362 Thursday Worship *6
Traditions Service *82/195
Celebration Service *68/167
Adult Sunday School *36 Children *2
Bible Study Groups *19 Children *34
Youth *9 Nursery *4 Misc. *3
Total Small Groups *107 *In Person

General Offering Budget \$12,777.00
General Offering Received \$5,375.00
YTD General Offering Budget \$447,195.00
YTD General Offering Rec'd \$404,818.00



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