

# "DO I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION?"

Rev. Sherri Reynolds

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

## **Sermon Notes: Thursday, August 29, & Sunday, September 1, 2024**

We live in a world filled with distraction. From our phones to the noise around us, it can be hard to pay attention. Add to this, the busyness of our calendars and the demands of our modern life and you will find the recipe for not paying attention. So, this leads me to wonder, "How does God get your attention?"

In the story of Noah and the Ark, I also wonder how God got Noah's attention. Yes, it was a simpler time, but we must remember that God was not in covenant relationship with humanity. There was not regular worship of God or any faith communities. There were no scriptures or laws to guide Noah. Also, building a big boat on a sunny day and collecting animals was a big ask from God. What we learn from Noah, not only causes us to ponder what made him pay attention, but also what caused him to act. Maybe, Noah's story can help us listen with faithfulness to the Lord (Genesis 6).

In Christ,

Rev. Sherri



**WE BELIEVE**

**Confirmation for Adults -**  
**Everyone is welcome!**  
*Ever wonder what students learn in confirmation class?*

Want to learn more about the United Methodist Church or Wesleyan Theology?  
 Need a refresher on the basics of faith?

Then this class is for you. Based on the We Believe curriculum, the class is an overview of the basics. Be a part of all the classes or drop in for one. The class will meet for one hour on Wednesdays at 11 am in the Gathering Room or Wednesday nights at 6 pm in classroom 208. See the schedule on page 2 for the topics of classes, dates, and times.

--Rev. Sherri Reynolds

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## **Worship Opportunities**

**Thursdays:** 5:30 pm

**Sunday Mornings:** Celebration 9 am\*

Traditions 11 am\*

\*In Person (Sanctuary) and Online

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

## **ACOLYTES**

September 1: Volunteer

September 8: Luke Barnes

## **Tech Team Schedule**

**September 1**

**Celebration:** Eric Wright, Sheila Freeman, Rob Reynolds

**Traditions:** Sheila Freeman, Wayne Payton, Carmen McKiven

**September 8**

**Celebration:** Eric Wright, Sheila Freeman

**Traditions:** Davis Varner, Sheila Freeman, Brad Barnes



## Confirmation for Adults - w/ Rev. Sherri

**Ever wonder what students learn in confirmation class?** Want to learn more about the United Methodist Church or Wesleyan Theology? Need a refresher on the basics of faith? Then this class is for you. Based on the We Believe curriculum, the class is an overview of the basics. Be a part of all the classes or drop in for one. The class will meet for one hour on Wednesdays at 11 am in the Gathering Room or Wednesday nights at 6 pm in classroom 208. See the schedule below for the topics of classes, dates, and times.

—Rev. Sherri Reynolds

|                               | <b>Wednesday at 11am</b>                | <b>Wednesday at 6pm</b> |
|-------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| God the Father                | September 4                             | August 28               |
| God the Son                   | September 18                            | September 4             |
| God the Holy Spirit           | September 25                            | September 11            |
| Church History                | October 2                               | September 18            |
| Sacraments                    | October 9                               | September 25            |
| Sin and Salvation             | October 16                              | October 2               |
| Growing in God's Grace        | October 23                              | October 16              |
| Living a Christian Life       | October 30                              | October 23              |
| Responding to God's Grace     | November 6                              | October 30              |
| First United Methodist Church | November 13                             | November 6              |
|                               | (No study on August 28 or September 11) |                         |
|                               | (No study October 9)                    |                         |

**Advent Study** @11am- November 20, December 4, and December 11

@ 6pm- November 13, November 20, December 4, and December 11

**Wednesday Fellowship, Gathering Room/201  
Dinner 9/4 Chicken Fingers & Macaroni & Cheese**

**\$7 Adults & Youth \$3 Children 11 & Under**



**Wednesday Morning Bible Study @ 11 am, Gathering Room**

**Confirmation for Adults w/ Rev. Sherri Reynolds. See full schedule and dates above.**

**Adult Small Groups @ Wonderful Wednesdays**

**6 pm Confirmation for Adults w/ Rev. Sherri Reynolds, Rm 208. See full Schedule and dates above.**

**6 pm Small Group w/ Harriet Murray, Rm 110**

**Renewed: Finding Hope When You Don't Like Your Story**



**Sunday School  
for all ages**

Children's Sunday School Room 104 & 108  
4 years through 5th Grade

Youth Sunday School Room 211 w/ Becca  
6th Grade through 12th Grade

Transitions (New Young Adult) Room 209

Pathfinders/Seekers Room 208

Living Water/Martin Fellowship Room 116

★Nursery Available for Children 3 and under

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

## ELC News

The ELC is off to a great start!! Please note the ELC will be closed Monday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> for Labor Day!

—Helene



## Youth Sundays

August 18  
Youth Sundays w/ Becca  
Sunday mornings at 10 am  
Middle School and Senior High  
Meet in the Youth Room, 211.

## September 4: Wonderful Wednesday

Dinner is served beginning at 5:15 pm. Menu: Chicken Fingers and Mac & Cheese  
Sr. High Youth-6 pm, Youth Room, Room 211  
Middle School Youth-6 pm, Room 209

Camp Lee

Sept 13-14

Fall Festival

October 9

\*\*\*Lion & Lamb Café\*\*\*

Haunted Chicken House

October 19

Hockey Game ----schedule is not out yet

November ???

Community Thanksgiving at the Venue

November 27

Christmas Eve Live Nativity

December 24

Ice Skating in Chattanooga

December 29

For more Information for Sr. High Youth Activities Contact  
Sr. High Youth Counselor, Carmen McKiven 256.458.3375 or  
[cmckiven@hotmail.com](mailto:cmckiven@hotmail.com)

# Children's Ministry

Sunday Mornings @ 9 am and 11 am, Children's Church & 10 am Sunday School  
Wednesday Night Supper: Menu for September 4: Chicken Fingers, Mac & Cheese  
\$7 adults, \$3 11 & Under  
Activities for Children: 6 pm, Children's Worship Room

GFUMC Children's  
September Unit

## LEAD THE WAY

Wednesday's  
at 6:00

#WeAreFirst

WEEK 1

God teaches us  
**HOW TO LEAD.**

WEEK 2

We **FOLLOW**  
God's lead.

WEEK 3

God leads us to  
**SAFETY.**

WEEK 4

God will lead  
us to **WHAT  
WE NEED.**

"Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths."

Psalm 25:4 (NIV)



GFUMC KIDS  
FALL  
CALENDAR

20  
24

AUG  
14

ICE CREAM SOCIAL  
WONDERFUL WED. RESUMES

FALL FESTIVAL  
5:00-7:00 PM

OCT  
09

NOV  
20

FRIENDSGIVING  
6 PM

SANTA BRUNCH  
10:00 AM

DEC  
8

DEC  
15

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM  
5:00 PM

**Wonderful Wednesdays, every Wed. @6:00**

August Dreaming: From Genesis to Joseph  
September Lead the Way: Series on Moses  
October Are We There Yet? In the Wilderness  
November Right Track: Series on Joshua  
December Christmas Vacation: Series on Christmas



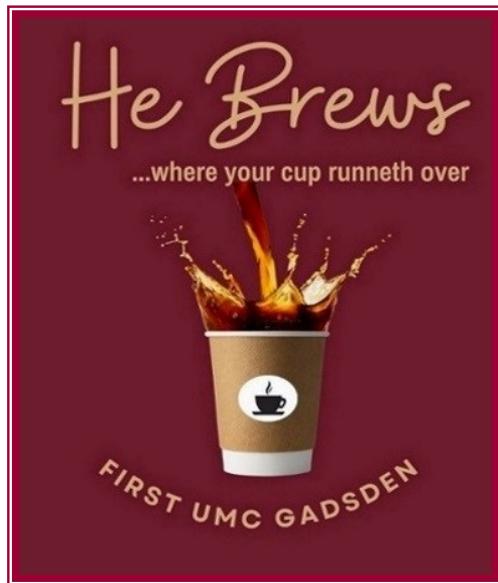
FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT [WWW.FUMCGADSSEN.ORG/CHILDREN](http://WWW.FUMCGADSSEN.ORG/CHILDREN)

We need your photo!



We are creating a prayer wall in the Kid's Worship Room, and we need photos of our kids! If you would like for your child to be included, bring a current photo, selfie, or portrait!

Philippians 1:3



Please join us for HeBrews Coffee Café between the regular Sunday morning worship services, from 10 am to 11 am.

*We can't wait to see you there!!!*



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## KEITH & SUSAN COPELAND



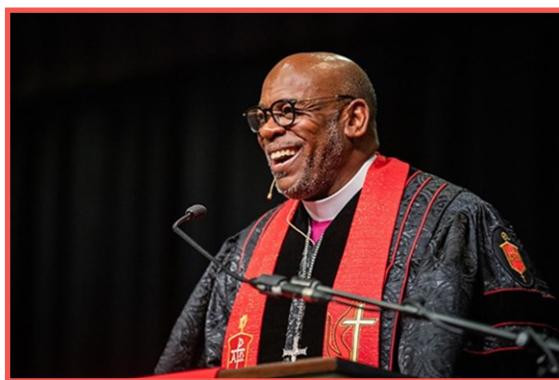
Susan grew up in Gadsden and was both baptized and married at our church. Memorial services for her parents, Charles and Joyce Strickland, were also held here. Susan graduated from Gadsden High, then attended Auburn University, where she received an undergraduate degree in Elementary Education. She worked for the Vestavia School System during the day and received a Masters in Education through night classes at Samford. She also taught Jazzercise in Birmingham for 19 ½ years. Keith also grew up in Gadsden and was in the first graduating class of Westminster Christian School. He attended Gadsden State for two years in order to receive a pilot's license, then went to Samford for a degree in Management before attending Birmingham School of Law. He worked as a bailiff in Jefferson County Court,

then went into the family business, Copeland and Copeland Law Firm, located on Chestnut Street in Gadsden. Keith and Susan have been very active in our church since they moved back to Gadsden in 1998. She has been on the Board of Stewards and a Team Leader for both Missions and Inviting Ministries. Keith was very involved with our Capital Campaign and has served as Chairman of Trustees and been on the Board of Stewards and on the Staff-Parish Relations Committee. His interests include racquetball, weightlifting, and swimming.

## PHILLIP & LESLIE JOHNSON



Phillip grew up in Gadsden and graduated from Gadsden High. He then received a B.S. in International Studies from the University of Alabama, as well as a Masters in Special Education. He worked for the Alabama Dept. of Mental Health while also serving as a Professor at South College in Montgomery for 12 years. In 2002, he and Leslie bought "Blue Ridge Motorcycle Campground" in Canton, N.C., which they operated for 20 years before moving back to Gadsden in 2006. Leslie also grew up in Gadsden and graduated from Gadsden High. She then attended Gadsden State, followed by going to Real Estate School and taking Business courses at Huntington College in Montgomery. She was an Event Planner for the Alabama Hospital Association and the Alabama Trucking Association before moving to North Carolina to run their motorcycle campground. Currently, she works in customer service for King's Olive Oil Company, located on Broad Street in Gadsden. In their free time, both she and Phillip enjoy riding their motorcycles. They are also active in our Ladle of Love program, working to feed the hungry every 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday. Phillip and Leslie have two grown children: Heather Lincoln (51), who lives in Prattville; and J. Johnson (50), who lives here and works for the City of Gadsden.



### SAVE THE DATE

A SERVICE CELEBRATING  
THE EPISCOPAL  
ASSIGNMENT  
OF

*Bishop L. Jonathan Holston*

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2024  
ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, BIRMINGHAM  
4 PM

*Reception immediately following the service*

# September Mission Focus



**Etowah Free**  
COMMUNITY CLINIC

***The Etowah Free Community 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 served, but also in the community in which they live, work and play. The clinic is located at 423 South 3rd Street · Gadsden, AL 35901 · (256) 546-3456***

**Donate paper products, such as paper towels, tissues, and toilet paper, during the month of September. Items may be placed in the Red Buckets located at the entrances to the sanctuary and in the Chestnut Foyer.**

**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 are Tuesdays before open days from 9:00-11:00 am.

Open to Public  
1st & 3rd Wednesdays

September open dates are  
9/4 and 9/18

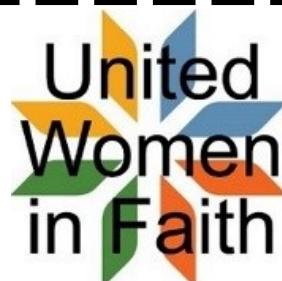
9:00 am to 11:00 am

516 Broad Street Gadsden  
Find out more about mission and service opportunities @ [www.fumcgadsden.org/serve](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/serve)

Phone: 256-543-8200

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

#gfumcreconnect2023



## United Women in Faith

The monthly UWF Luncheons are at 12 noon and will resume in September. The luncheons are open to all. Please make a reservation by calling or texting Olivia Kendricks prior to the meeting date. 205.454.4375

- ♦ **September 9-Rev.Tammy Jackson, Book signing**
- ♦ **October 14-Gadsden State Community College A Capella Choir**
- ♦ **November 11-History of Gadsden & Etowah County, by Ms. Mollie Smith**
- ♦ **December 9-Christmas Luncheon, ELC Children will sing**

**Delores Abney, President  
Olivia Kendrick, Vice-President**

**Clients Served  
June 2024**

Ladle of Love 388

Clothes Closet 232

**Thanks to our  
Volunteers!**



REV. SHERRI REYNOLDS  
**GET IN THE GAME**

THURSDAYS, SEPT 12, 19, & 26  
SUNDAYS, SEPT 15, 22 & 29

Working or Out of Town on the Weekend?

*Thursday*  
**WORSHIP**

A SERVICE OF PRAYER AND WORD

5:30 pm to 6:00 pm      In the Sanctuary  
First United Methodist Church of Gadsden

# It's Time! Nominations for Leadership 2025

## How will you serve in 2025?

Find out more about church leadership @ [www.fumcgadsden.org/leadership](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/leadership)  
Follow the QR Code Below or look for the Serve Card in the GFUMC Church APP.  
Complete the Serve Card to share your interest in serving on various leadership  
roles and teams and a member of the nominations team will contact you!

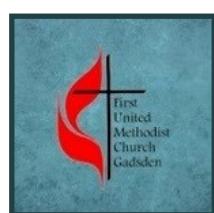


#WeAreFirst

*First UMC Gadsden  
is a registered charity and can receive  
donations through Venmo:  
@FirstUMCGadsden  
(Please search in Venmo under charities  
or follow the link in the QR Code.)*



Download our Church App  
Search FirstUMC-Gadsden  
In the App Store for Android or iPhone.



### Generosity: Ways to Give

In-person, at the offering time during worship.

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

Text to Give: 256-344-8464

Venmo @FirstUMCGadsden

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

### September 1 Sunday

**9:00 am-Celebration Worship, Sanctuary**

10:00 am-Sunday School for all ages

**10:00 am-HeBrews Coffee, Chestnut Street Foyer**

**11:00 am-Traditions Worship, Sanctuary**

### September 2 Monday

Church Closed for Labor Day Holiday



### September 3 Tuesday

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

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

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



### **NOTICE**

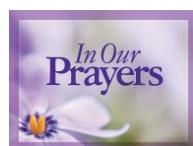
Due to construction on the Portico overhang that has started and will last 3 weeks or longer, we ask that no one park on Chestnut Street in parking spaces from 7:30 am until 2:30 pm, Monday-Thursday, and 9:00 am until 12:30 pm on Friday. This will be used as a car lane for the ELC and Ladle of Love. Thank you for your help in this matter. —Office Staff & Trustees

### Immediate Prayer Concerns

Albert Gibson, Jr.   Jane Jones   Stephe Wood  
Asher Mae Collins

### Continued Prayer Concerns

Judy Collins (Tripp Collins' mother)  
Amy Epperson



### **Birthdays**

**Sept 1** Louie Loveman  
**Sept 2** Sherry Bridges, Susan George, Frances Isbell, Sam Blackstock, Sarah Blackstock  
**Sept 4** Ottillie Wooten  
**Sept 5** Makayla Walker  
**Sept 6** Jonathan Blount  
**Sept 7** Carmen McKiven, Andrew Jackson

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



### **Week of August 25, 2024**

In Person Total-\*157   Worship Total-749

Online-592   Thursday Worship-\*17

Celebration Service-\*64/246

Traditional Service-\*76/346   Nursery-\*5

Sunday School Adult-\*29   Children \*6

Sr Hi \*1   Middle \*1   Bible Study Groups-\*34

Wed/Sun-Children\*37   Wed/Sun-Sr.Hi \*9

Middle Youth \*8   UWF \*20 \*in person

General Offering Budget   \$11,400.00

General Offering Received   \$5,982.00

YTD General Offering Budget \$387,600.00

YTD General Offering Rec'd \$439,980.17

### **Calendar for September 1-7, 2024**

#### September 4 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**

**5:15 pm-Wednesday Night Meal, Gathering Room**

**6:00 pm-Children's Activities, Room 108**

**Youth Activities, Gym & Room 211**

**6:00 pm-Bible Study w/Pastor Sherri, Rm 208**

**Bible Study w/Harriet Murray, Rm 110**

**6:00 pm-7:30 pm-Choir Practice, Choir Room**

#### September 5 Thursday

**7:00 am-Men at the Well Bible Group**

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

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

**5:30 pm-Thursday Worship**

#### September 6 Friday

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

*The ministers and congregation of First United Methodist Church of Gadsden extend Christian sympathy to Lance Watkins in the death of his mother and Patrick & Madison Watkins in the death of their grandmother, Rebecca Irene Watkins, August 23, 2024,*



### **Honorariums & Memorials**

#### General Budget Fund

In memory of Neita Taylor, given by Marian Ford.

#### Landscape Project

In memory of Jay Whitt, given by Mr. & Mrs. Steve Frederick.

In memory of Neita Taylor, given by Mr. & Mrs. Steve Frederick.

### **Important Deadlines**

Information for the weekly newsletter is due each Tuesday by noon.

*All requests for spoken announcements for Sunday morning must be turned in by Thursday @ noon, in writing, to Susan Swann.*

*All Meetings, Events and Activities must be scheduled in advance with the church secretary, by email or phone susan@fumcgadsden.org*