



# THE GAME HAS CHANGED

REV. SHERRI REYNOLDS

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

## Sermon Notes: Thursday, Sept. 19 & Sunday, Sept. 22, 2024

Many folks are lamenting all the changes in college football. NIL (Name Image and Likeness) and the transfer portal have had a gigantic impact on the game. This will be the first year of a new playoff structure, allowing for more teams in the playoffs. There has been a lot of shifting with the SEC and Big Ten. These are just some of the changes to college football. Just like with life, there is change. This is a constant in our ever-evolving world.

The church is not immune to change too! It is likely that the church of today is not the church that you once knew. Some of these changes are lamented and some are celebrated. While the church may encounter change, my prayer is that the fundamentals remain the same. The mission should remain to make disciples of Jesus. (Matthew 28: 16-20). No matter what comes our way, good or challenging, I pray that Christ's Church keeps her eyes on sharing with the world the love of God found in Jesus.

Go Team FUMCG!

Rev. Sherri

## Table of Contents:

- Page 1**-Sermon Notes; Tech Schedule; Acolyte Schedule
- Page 2**-Sunday School Classes; Small Groups
- Page 3**-ELC News; Student Ministries; Youth Fall Calendar of Events and Activities
- Page 4**—Children's Ministry News
- Page 5** – Fall Festival, October 9
- Page 6** – HeBrews; Pickleball; Do You Know?
- Page 7** – GFUMC Missions News; Clothes Closet; Ladle of Love; United Women in Faith
- Page 8** – Blessing of the Animals, October 6; NAC News: Bishop Holston
- Page 9**—Nominations for Leadership; Ways to Give, Online Giving; Venmo
- Page 10**-Calendar; Prayer Concerns; Memorials; Birthdays; Weekly Reports, Save the Dates

## 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)

on Facebook Live: @FUMCgadsden

## ACOLYTES

September 22: Marit Norris

September 29: Anna Kate Casey & Jade Collins

## Tech Team Schedule

**September 22**

Celebration: Eric Wright, Bill Haller, Carmen McKiven

Traditions: Mark Condra, Wayne Payton, Sheila Freeman

**September 29**

Celebration: Eric Wright, Bill Haller, Rob Reynolds

Traditions: Wayne Payton, Neil Mullin, Brad Norris

## Annual First UMC Gadsden Safe Sanctuary Training

**Sunday, September 22 @ 12:15 PM, Room 108**

**Safe Sanctuary Training is required for ALL staff and volunteers who work in Children and Youth Ministry and open to everyone to attend.**

### What is Safe Sanctuary?

**Safe Sanctuary** is a policy that protects children, youth and vulnerable adults. Everyone (staff and volunteers) working with youth, children and vulnerable adults is required to complete Safe Sanctuary Training and Screening. The GFUMC Safe Sanctuary Policy includes the “**2, 5, 6 rules**”: 2 unrelated adults leading all ministry activities; volunteer leaders must be 5 years older than the group that they are leading; and volunteer leaders must be active in the church for at least 6 months. It also includes additional guidelines for chaperones, field trips, and overnight camping trips, as well as ministry with vulnerable adults.



## 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 25
Sacraments	October 9	October 2
Sin and Salvation	October 16	October 16
Growing in God's Grace	October 23	October 23
Living a Christian Life	October 30	October 30
Responding to God's Grace	November 6	November 6
First United Methodist Church	November 13	November 13
	(No study on August 28 or September 11)	(No study September 18 or October 9)

**Advent Study** @11am and 6 pm —November 20, December 4, and December 11

**Wednesday Fellowship, Gathering Room/201**  
**Dinner September 25-Menu Sub Sandwiches, Chips, Dessert**  
**\$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

We continue to adjust our carline for drop off and pick up as necessary. We look forward to all repairs to be finished. ELC will have its first lunchbox revolt on Tuesday, September 24<sup>th</sup>. The Dog House is our vendor and cost is \$5.00 per combo. 4K will have its first Show and Tell of the Year. Scholastic Book Orders are due Tuesday, September 24<sup>th</sup>.

—Helene



## Youth Sundays

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

## September 25 @ Wonderful Wednesday

Dinner is served beginning at 5:15 pm. Menu: Sub Sandwiches, Chips, Dessert

Sr. High Youth-6 pm, Youth Room, Room 211

Middle School Youth-6 pm, Room 209

## Fall Festival

Coffee & Confections	Tickets on sale now \$5.00 each
Haunted Chicken House	October 9
Hockey Game	October 19
Community Thanksgiving at the Venue	November 1
Christmas Eve Live Nativity	November 27
Ice Skating in Chattanooga or Gadsden	December 24
	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 25: Sub Sandwiches, Chips, Dessert  
\$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 | 2024**

<b>AUG 14</b>	ICE CREAM SOCIAL WONDERFUL WED. RESUMES
<b>FALL FESTIVAL</b> 5:00-7:00 PM	
<b>NOV 20</b>	<b>FRIENDSGIVING</b> 6 PM
<b>SANTA BRUNCH</b> 10:00 AM	
<b>DEC 15</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS PROGRAM</b> 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

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

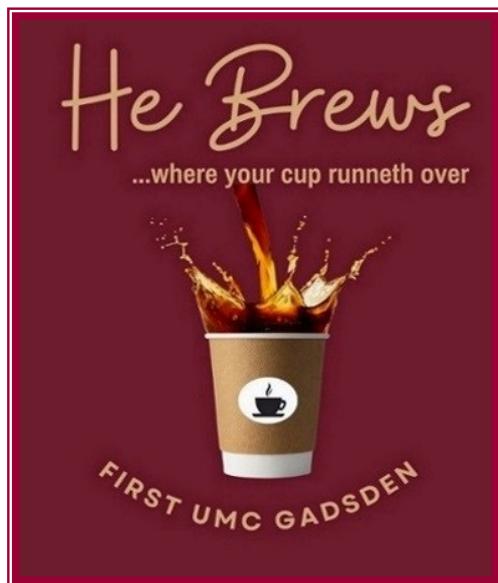
## We need your photo!



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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## JANE GARGUS



(l-r) Elizabeth & Jane Gargus

Jane grew up in Gadsden and graduated from Gadsden High School. She then attended Auburn University, where she received an undergraduate degree in Education, specializing in Family and Child Development. She went back to school to become a Certified Teacher and also did some graduate work in Education at UAB. Jane taught in the Etowah County School System—first for 3 years at West End Elementary School, then for 22 years at Southside Elementary—before retiring. She is a Choir Member in our Traditional Service

and part of the church's Exercise Group, which meets at 9 a.m. on Mondays and Thursdays in our gym. Her hobbies include travel and reading both biographies and fiction, although she says her "favorite hobby" is spending time with her daughter, Elizabeth. Elizabeth Gargus (32) is an Operations Specialist for the Institute for Humane Studies, which is located in Arlington, VA. Elizabeth works from her home in Montgomery, AL, helping to support event conferences for professors.

# 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 (You may also donate directly to the clinic any medicine you have been prescribed and are unable to take.)*

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.*



## United Women in Faith

The monthly luncheons are open to all. Please make a reservation by calling or texting Olivia Kendricks by the Friday prior to the meeting date. 205.454.4375

- ♦ October 14– Luncheon, 12 pm  
Gadsden State Community College A Capella Choir
- ♦ November 11-History of Gadsden & Etowah County, by Ms. Mollie Smith
- ♦ December 9-Christmas Luncheon, ELC Children singing

**Delores Abney, President**

**Olivia Kendrick, Vice-President**

## LuVerna Waid Circle News

We are making changes! In order to be the hands and feet of Christ, as we feel commissioned to do, our Circle is changing our meeting day. We will now meet on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 3:00 pm, in the Gathering Room. We will still share a devotion, but will be doing Hands-on-Mission Projects each month. On Sunday, October 13th, we will make fleece scarves to be distributed to selected agencies for winter weather. From now till October 13, we will be collecting fleece blankets or throws, to make the scarves. Please bring to the church. There will be a collection bin available to drop them.

The LuVerna Waid Circle is very excited about our new mission! Thanks in advance to all who help by bringing "fleece blankets for scarves" to provide warmth for those in need this winter!

We will look forward to these monthly mission projects with fun and fellowship. We hope to have many ladies join us!

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**

### Clients Served

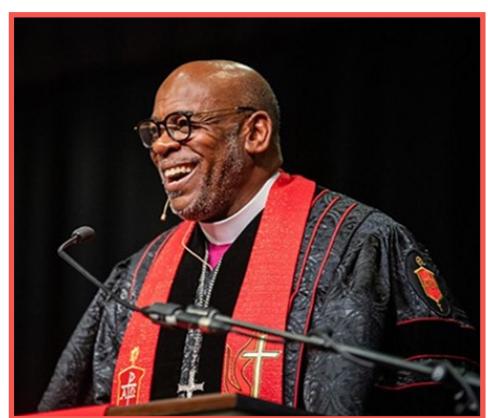
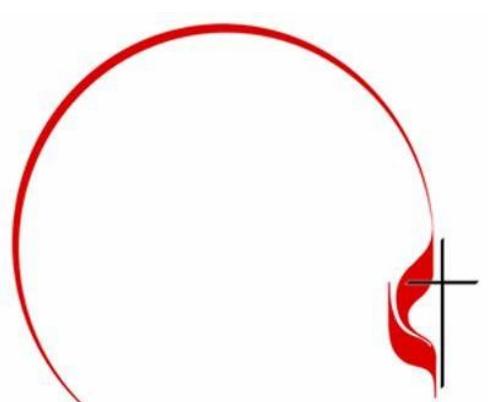
#### July 2024

Ladle of Love 300  
Clothes Closet 288

#### August 2024

Ladle of Love 500  
Clothes Closet 321

**Thanks to our  
Volunteers!**



## 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!



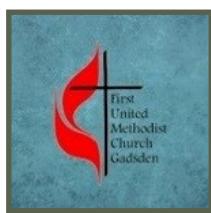
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*First UMC Gadsden  
is a registered charity and can receive  
donations through Venmo:  
@FirstUMCGadsden  
(Please search in Venmo under charities  
or follow the link in the QR Code.)*



**venmo**

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

## Calendar for September 22-28, 2024

**September 22 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**  
**12:15 pm, Safe Sanctuary Training**  
**September 23 Monday**  
 9:00 am-1:00 pm- ELC Fall Schedule  
 9:00 am-10:00 am Exercise Group, Gym  
 2:00 pm-4:00 pm-Pickleball, Gym  
**5:00 pm-Trustees Meeting, Parlor**  
**September 24 Tuesday**  
 9:00 am-1:00 pm- ELC Fall Schedule  
 5:00 pm-Yoga, Gym  
**5:00 pm-Finance Team meeting, Parlor**  
**6:00 pm-Board of Stewards meeting, Gathering room**

**September 25 Wednesday**  
 9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Fall Schedule  
 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, Room 208;**  
 Small Group w/Harriet in Room 110  
**6:00 pm-7:30 pm-Choir Practice, Choir Room**  
**September 26 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 27 Friday**  
 11:00 am-12:00 pm-Ladle of Love Portico

### Save the Dates:

**Sun- October 6, Blessing of the Animals,10:00 am, see page 8**  
**Wed- October 9, Fall Fest, 5:00 pm-7:00 pm, see page 5**

### Honorariums & Memorials

#### General Budget Fund

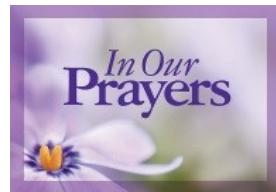
In memory of Bobby Kitchens, given by Mr. & Mrs. Terry Bishop.  
 In memory of Albert Gibson, given by Mr. & Mrs. Mark Condra.  
 In memory of Bobby Kitchens, given by Mr. & Mrs. Mark Condra.

#### Immediate Prayer Concerns

Rob Reynolds      Jane Jones      Michael Morris (Dawn Rains' father)  
 Olivia Kendrick    Stephie Wood

#### Continued Prayer Concerns

Judy Collins (Tripp Collins' mother)  
 Amy Epperson  
 Asher Mae Collins



### NOTICE

The Portico will be closed for painting from approximately Wednesday, 9/18 to Friday, 9/27.

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

#### Birthdays

**Sept 23** Joan Garry, Kathye Vance, Dr. Gordon Isbell, III, Rob Reynolds, Adam Sollie, Caiden Phillips  
**Sept 24** Susan Wright, T.J. Gardner, Dr. Lowndes Harrison  
**Sept 25** Barbara Mosley, John McNair, Caroline Harrison, Kaia Hosey  
**Sept 27** Julia Keenum, Judge Wayne Owen, Savannah Jones  
**Sept 28** Valerie Pennington, Kara Livesay, Jake Malone, Judd Malone  
**Sept 29** Trisha Croy

#### Week of September 15, 2024

In Person Total-\*136      Worship Total-657  
 Online-657      Thursday Worship-\*0  
 Celebration Service-\*56/210  
 Traditional Service-\*80/311  
 Sunday School Adult-\*36/1      Children \*4  
 Sr Hi & Middle \*5      Bible Study Groups-\*24  
 Wed/Sun-Children\*33      Wed/Sun-Sr.Hi \*10  
 Middle Youth \*8      Wed/Sun-Nursery \*4  
 General Offering Budget      \$11,400.00  
 General Offering Received      \$8,861.00  
 YTD General Offering Budget \$421,800.00  
 YTD General Offering Rec'd      \$477,324.00



There will be an Emmaus Cluster Meeting on October 15 at First UMC Gadsden. If you have completed an Emmaus Walk, please contact Susan in the church office, 256-543-8200.