

# New and Renewed

Rev. Sherri Reynolds



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

### Sermon Notes: Thursday January 11 & Sunday January 14

#### “New and Renewed”

When preachers talk about a vision for the church, a preacher often talks about specifics. The specifics could be starting a new program, investing in a specific ministry, revamping a current worship service, embarking on a city-wide evangelism outreach or a building campaign. The vision is lived out in the details. But what if it was not? What if the vision was to be made new or renewed in Jesus? Isn't that the promise of the Gospel? In Jesus we can be born again and transformed. Not only can we be transformed, but out of transformation we can share God's grace with others. In our transformation, God transforms the environment around us.

The prophet Isaiah proclaimed a word of hope from God to his people. This was a vision that God would make a new way for them, “I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth do you not perceive it?” Return to this verse from Isaiah 43 this week and consider what Jesus is making all things new, in you, through you, and through the life of First United Methodist. (Isaiah 43:14-21). For those of you who were at First United Methodist in October, return to the commitment of a New Beginnings and rest in how God is using this new beginning in you.

In Christ,  
Rev. Sherri

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### Worship Opportunities

5:30 pm Thursday Worship

### Sunday Mornings:

Celebration 9 am\* Traditions 11 am\*

\*In Person (Sanctuary) and Online

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

### ACOLYTES

January 14 Luke Barnes

January 21 Mikko Norris & Marit Norris

### Security for Thursday Worship

January 18 Mark Casey

January 25 Kirk Mabeus

### Tech Team Schedule

January 14

Celebration: Eric Wright, Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman

Traditions: Neil Mullin, Mark Condra

January 21

Celebration: Eric Wright, Parker Casey, Sheila Freeman

Traditions: Davis Varner, Wayne Payton, Brad Barnes

### Beginning January 17 *The Chosen Bible Study*

Rev. Sherri will be leading a Bible study based on *The Chosen*, Season 1. This popular Christian historical drama focuses on people who encountered Jesus, and how Jesus may have been viewed through their eyes. The study will include episodes from the show, examination of relevant scriptures, separation of scripture from dramatization within the episodes, theological reflection, and personal application. The study held will be at 11am and 6pm on Wednesdays, starting January 17 in room 208. No books are required. Classes will last until March 20 (skipping February 14 for Ash Wednesday). Room 208.



# Sunday SCHOOL

**Classes for All Ages!**

**Children's Sunday School Rooms 108 and 104  
Youth Sunday School Room 211**

**New Young Adult Sunday School Room 209  
Pathfinder/Seekers Room 208  
Living Water Room 116**

**(Nursery provided for Children under 3)**

***Wednesday morning Bible study w/Pastor Sherri  
will resume on Jan. 17***

**The Chosen Bible Study 11 am, Room 208**



## **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.

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

**Wonderful  
Wednesday  
Fellowship Dinner  
5:15 pm  
\$7 Adults, \$ 3 11 & U**

**January 17  
Barbecue**

## **Adult Small Groups @ Wonderful Wednesdays**

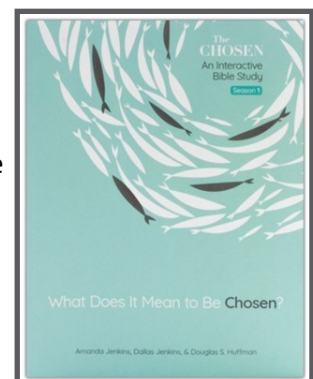
**Will resume on Wednesday, January 10.**

**6 pm Small Group with Harriet Murray, Room 110**

**"I Guess I Haven't Learned that Yet"**

### **Beginning January 17**

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## ELC News

The ELC will be closed Monday January 15 for Martin Luther King Jr Holiday. Normal hours will resume Tuesday, November 16. This is the last week to order King Cakes. Get your orders and money in soon. We are quickly approaching our 500 cake limit.

—Helene Haller



## Youth Ministry News



### "The Chosen Bible Study"

Jan 7- Pastor Sherri  
Jan 14- Sheila Freeman  
Jan 21- Sheila Freeman  
Jan 28- Barbara Condra

### Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Dinner

5:15 pm, January 17 —Barbecue

\$7 Per Person \$3 Age 11 & Under

Please make a reservation:

Text: 256-490-5018

More Fun Stuff Coming  
WW resumes on January 10.

Youth Counselor  
Carmen McKiven

## GFUMC CHILDREN'S CALENDAR JANUARY 2023

Children's Church, Sunday's 9:00 & 11:00

Wonderful Wednesdays @6:00

**MEASURE UP: JESUS' EARLY LIFE**

January 10: God guides us to safety

January 17: Love God with our actions

January 24: We can follow Jesus

January 31: We are ready at the right time

January 24 🤪

National Belly Laugh Day

Bring a joke this Wednesday!

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

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January 3, 2024

Dear ELC Families, Faculty and Friends,

It's time to put in your King Cake orders for 2024. Once again, we are selling King Cakes from Randazzo's bakery in Slidell, LA. There are several flavors and two sizes in each option. Last year, we hoped to sell at least 100 cakes but due to your generosity and campaigning we sold 409. The bakery has a maximum order of 500 cakes per fundraiser.

***This sale, we will be collecting orders through an online method only. We feel that this will be the best way to manage the orders and not exceed the maximum number allowed.*** We have an order link on the church website: [www.fumcgadsden.org/elc](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/elc). Payment will be collected through PayPal or cash or check dropped off to the church within 24 hours of ordering. **PayPal Link: PayPal.me@FELC115**

The fundraiser is currently open, and all orders and money are due by Friday, January 19. This will give plenty of time to review all the orders and count the money before giving a grand total per item to the bakery. Sheila Freeman and I will be driving to Slidell to pick them up on Thursday, February 1.

**Flavors, Sizes and Pricing:**

Small Traditional: \$25

Medium Traditional: \$30

Small Filled (Choice of Apple, Strawberry, or Cream Cheese): \$30

Medium Filled (Same choices above): \$35

**Dates to Note:**

Due date for orders and money is Friday, January 19th.

Pickup/Delivery date will be Saturday, February 3rd

*We were so blessed by this sale last year that we had to do it again. Monies raised this year will be set aside for updating the third floor play area.*

*Thank you all for your love and support.*

—Friends of the ELC Committee

# January 2024 Mission

January Mission Focus- UMCOR US Disaster Relief & Supplies for UMCNA UMCOR Disaster Relief Warehouse:

Your Mission Team will be leading the way to once again fill Tornado Buckets for the UMCOR Disaster Relief Warehouse in Decatur! This year, we will be collecting donations of items for the cleaning supplies and buckets so that those can then be divided up and packed!

**You can help by donating multiple quantities of the same item, providing cleaning supplies, or by sponsoring a tornado bucket.** *The estimated cost of the items for one tornado bucket is \$120. We hope to have lots of supplies and buckets ready to take to our Disaster Relief Warehouse*

## Specific Items Needed to Complete a Tornado Bucket

- 1 Standard Size Claw Hammer (No Stubby hammers, framing hammers or hammers lighter than 16 Oz, please!)
- 4-4 oz Insect Repellant Spray Can
- 1 pair Safety Glasses
- 9-12 Tampons or Pads in a Zip Loc Bag
- Flashlight with batteries

## Cleaning Bucket Supply List

- Liquid Laundry Soap Awesome brand. 42 oz (Dollar Tree)
- Dish Washing Soap (14-30 oz)
- 5 Scrub Buddies square scrub pads (5 Individual pads per bucket)  
(No round scrubbers, no steel/copper scrubbers, and no Brillo pads please.)
- Reusable Wipes— Brillo Basics are great. 2 packs of 9 per bucket. (No cloth wipes, no disinfectant wipes, no cloth rags, or wash cloths and no shop rags etc., please.)

**Note: The cleaning bucket supplies listed above can be found at Dollar Tree.**

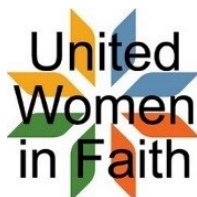
Thank you in advance for your continued support of all of our GFUMC Missions. —GFUMC Missions Team

## United Women in Faith

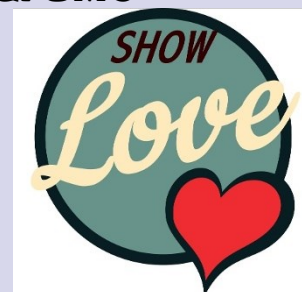
LuVerna Waid Circle meeting January 16, 2024 at 6:00 pm. We are starting a new study called "30 Days to Taming Your Tongue".

BYOBrown Bag for supper. Cookies and drinks will be provided.

*Don't forget January is time to turn in your pledges for 2024.*



## 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**

**January open dates are**

**1/3 and 1/17**

**9:00 am to 11:00 am**

**516 Broad Street Gadsden**

**Find out more about mission and service opportunities @**

**www.fumcgadsden.org/serve**

**Phone: 256-543-8200**

**Email:**

**fumc@fumcgadsden.org**

**#gfumcreconnect2023**

## Clients Served

### November 2023

Ladle of Love 294

Clothes Closet 248

Thanks to our Volunteers!

*“I’m about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” Isaiah 42:19*

I wanted to follow up on Generosity: New Beginnings. In this emphasis you were invited to consider how God is calling you to a new beginning and how you are committing to a new beginning. Through the spiritual disciplines of prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness God transforms us and makes us new. God may have called you to a new prayer emphasis, or a renewed commitment to worship. The Lord might have invited you to tithe or a new avenue of service. God could have nudged you to invite someone to church or share your faith in another way. I am so excited about all the ways First United Methodist has stepped up and responded. Many of you have answered the call to follow God into a new discipline in the coming year. This new commitment includes an increased commitment to giving, with a greater amount pledged for 2024 and being just three commitments shy of surpassing last year’s number of pledges.

If you have not made a commitment to your new beginning and completed your estimate of giving card, I encourage you to do so. Your card may be turned into the church office, in the offering plate, or electronically on the church website/app. If you have lost your card, blank estimates of giving cards are available at the information table in the Chestnut Street lobby. Your commitment is not a binding contract but helps the leadership plan for 2024 and to be good stewards of resources. The information is kept confidential by the financial secretary. In addition to the logistical aspect of stewardship, this year’s card includes a space for you to indicate and commit to how God might be calling you to step up in 2024. If you are planning on carrying your 2023 commitment to the coming year, please let our financial secretary, Sheila Witherspoon, know even if the amount remains the same. All of this allows you to be a part of new beginnings which are happening here.

I am so excited about the year ahead. By the power of the Holy Spirit, I can feel that God is doing a new thing at First United Methodist Church, and I am blessed to be on this journey with you!

In Christ,

*Rev. Shu Reynolds*



**Sixty-three (63)  
"New Beginnings  
Estimate of Giving" Cards  
have been returned  
as of 12.20.23  
Thank You!**

### 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

Mail your tithe or gift: 115 S. 5th Street,  
Gadsden, AL 35901



Strength for Today  
Bright Hope for Tomorrow

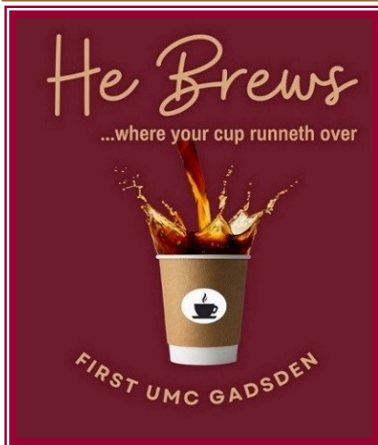
### Secure Online Giving



Scan the QR Code or  
Text to Give: 256-344-8464  
First United Methodist Church of Gadsden



# Inviting Ministries



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!!!*

## Do You Know?

A weekly interview column by Anna Mullin & Inviting Ministries to help our church family get to know one another. Anna may be calling you soon, so we can get to know you too!

### GENE & DANNA DEAN



Gene was adopted at the age of 7 by Maurice and Ruth Dean, owners of C&J Auto Parts in Gadsden. Gene graduated from Gadsden High School in the Class of 1968, then attended Livingston University (now the University of West Alabama) before becoming a Draftsman at CECO Steel Corp. Subsequently, he joined the family business, from which he retired in 2001. Having established the first martial arts school in Gadsden, Gene taught martial arts for 52 years. Currently, he runs a computer repair business, called "Computech," out of their home. Danna

grew up in Stonewall, MS, and attended Jones County Junior College in Ellisville, MS, before taking a job at American National Bank in Gadsden. She then worked at Lancaster Management for the next 32 years. Now she is a vital part of our church's Early Learning Center (ELC) and in her spare time "loves to cook." They have 2 children—Amy Epperson, who works for Inteva, and David Dean, who works for AT&T. Grandson Kaden Epperson (23), graduated from Jacksonville State in Electrical Engineering; and granddaughter Riley Epperson (18) is currently attending Jacksonville State, preparing to be a Physician's Assistant.

# Calendar for January 14-January 20, 2024

## Jan 14 Sunday

**9:00 am- Celebration Worship, Sanctuary**  
**10:00- am Sunday School for all ages**  
**HeBrews Coffee, Chestnut Street Foyer**  
**11:00 am- Traditions Worship, Sanctuary**

## Jan 15 Monday

ELC Closed  
 9:00 am-10:00 am- Exercise Group, Gym  
 6:00 pm-8:00 pm- Basketball Practice, Gym

## Jan 16 Tuesday

9:00 am-11:00 am- Clothes Closet workday  
 5:00 pm-6:00 pm- Yoga, Gym  
 6:00 pm-8:00 pm- Basketball Practice, Gym

## Jan 17 Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm- ELC Spring Schedule  
 9:00 am-11:00 am- Clothes Closet open  
 11:00 am-12:00 pm- Wednesday Morning Bible Study  
 5:15 pm- Wednesday night meal, Gathering Room  
 6:00 pm- Children & Youth activities  
 Gym & Rooms 108 & 211  
 6:00 pm- Small Group Study, Room 110 & 208  
 6:00 pm- Choir practice Choir room

## Jan 18 Thursday

9:00 am-1:00 pm- ELC Spring Schedule  
 9:00 am-10:00 am- Exercise Group, Gym  
**5:30 pm- Thursday Worship**  
 6:00 pm-8:00 pm- Basketball Practice, Gym

## Jan 19 Friday

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

***New! First UMC Gadsden is now 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**

*The ministers and congregation of First United Methodist Church of Gadsden extend Christian sympathy to Kara Roberts in the death of her brother, Terrell "Barr" Linton on January 3, 2024*



## **Honorariums & Memorials**

### General Budget Fund

In memory of George Varner, given by Diana Rampey.  
 In memory of Bill Campbell, given by Dr. & Mrs. Seth Spotnitz.  
 In memory of George Varner, given by Ann C. Powell & Richard Powell.

### Prayer Ministry Fund

In memory of George Varner, given by Dotty Ivey.

### Immediate Prayer Concerns

Family of Terrell "Barr" Linton  
 Jan Humphrey Evelyn Pierson  
 Rodney Thompson  
 Regina Holloway



### Continued Prayer Concerns

Lisa Dobbins Asher Mae Collins  
 Bessie Crow Janie Gray

### **Birthdays**

**Jan 14** Alexis McCollum  
**Jan 15** Joan Bigelow, Ralph Whitfield  
**Jan 16** Dr. Bill Haller  
**Jan 17** Stephen Kirk,  
 Mary Claire Owen  
**Jan 18** Frank Dressman, Jan Andrew,  
 Lindsay Winters  
**Jan 19** Janie Gray, William Edwards  
**Jan 20** Sharon Morris



### **Week of January 7, 2023**

In Person Total \*136 Worship Total 546  
 Online 410 Thursday Worship \*6  
 Celebration Service \*50/280  
 Traditional Service \*80/130  
 Sunday School-Adult \*44/1 Children \*6  
 Sunday School-Youth \*2 Nursery \*0  
 Bible Study Groups 0 Children \*17  
 Youth \*5 \*in person

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General Offering Budget \$11,400.00  
 General Offering Received \$33,579.30  
 YTD General Offering Budget \$11,400.00  
 YTD General Offering Rec'd \$33,579.30

### Update Your Contact Information

**Please help us update the membership records in the church office with your current mailing address, phone number, email address and birthdays for all family members.**

**Updates may be sent to [susan@fumcgadsden.org](mailto:susan@fumcgadsden.org) or call Susan in the church office @ 256-543-8200.**