

Calendar of Events

- 2/1 Prayer Quilt Ministry at 10am in S-51
- 2/1 Caregiver Support Group 2 pm Connect Café
- 2/2 Active Adult Exercise 10 am Exercise Room
- 2/4 Sounds of Faith - Atlanta Vocal Project 4 pm Sanctuary
- 2/6 Prayer Shawl Ministry at 1:30 pm in Bride’s Room
- 2/6 Mexican Train Dominoes 1pm Exercise Room
- 2/6 Grief Support Group 3 pm S-29
- 2/7 Active Adult Exercise 10 am Exercise Room
- 2/7 Gadabouts 11 am Reception Hall
- 2/7 Bridge 3 pm Exercise Room with partner
- 2/8 Caregiver Support Group 2 pm Connect Café
- 2/13 Beyond Words Book Club—Gainesville Library 4 pm
- 2/14 Active Adult Exercise 10 am Exercise Room
- 2/14 Ash Wednesday Worship 12 noon and 6 pm
- 2/14 Bridge 3 pm Exercise Room with partner
- 2/15 Caregiver Support Group 2 pm Connect Café
- 2/16 Active Adult Exercise 10 am Exercise Room
- 2/18 Labyrinth classes begin this week
- 2/20 Mexican Train Dominoes 1pm Exercise Room
- 2/20 Grief Support Group 3 pm S-29
- 2/21 Active Adult Exercise 10 am Exercise Room
- 2/21 Gadabouts 11 am Reception Hall
- 2/21 Bridge 3 pm Exercise Room with partner
- 2/21 Lent Prayer class begins 6 pm S-49
- 2/22 Caregiver Support Group 2 pm Connect Café
- 2/23 Active Adult Exercise 10 am Exercise Room
- 2/25 Believer’s Band Concert 4 pm Great Room
- 2/28 Active Adult Exercise 10 am Exercise Room
- 2/28 Gadabouts 11 am Reception Hall
- 2/28 Bridge 3 pm Exercise Room with partner
- 2/29 Caregiver Support Group 2 pm Connect Café



Songs to Warm Your Heart
Sunday, February 25
4:00 pm ~ Great Room

Come in from the cold for a concert of romantic music to warm your heart. This performance features vocals by Lisa Phifer and Paul Lynch as well as dancers from the Gainesville Ballet Company. Admission to the concert is free. Bring a friend to this heart and soul stirring event!



Gainesville First
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Return Service Requested

Generations

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Spirals, Mazes and Labyrinths

In the beginning God created spirals. We see them in the intricacies of our DNA double helix to the magnitudes of galaxies. Spirals are found in animal shells and horns, in fingerprints, in leaf patterns, in whirlpools and weather patterns. And so spirals in the form of a labyrinth found their way into human drawings as far back as the early Bronze age around 2000 BC. All of these early labyrinths have essentially the same design of 7 concentric circles leading to a center.



The idea of a spiral in the form of a maze perhaps first develops in Greek mythology with the story of Daedalus creating a maze to hold the Minotaur, a creature that was half beast and half human. The hero, Theseus, is able to find his way through the maze to kill the creature but only with the help of Ariadne’s string is he able to find his way out as the pathways of the maze are so complex. The popularity of this story helps to spread the image throughout the Greek and Roman empire.

So maze or labyrinth? These words are often used interchangeably. In modern parlance, however, they are distinctly different. A maze offers many choices including dead ends and wrong turns as the walker seeks to find the center. A labyrinth, too, has many turns and the walker may feel lost on the journey to the middle, but there is only one path and it always leads to the center. The first labyrinth in a Christian context is in a church in Algeria from around 324 AD. Labyrinths were particularly important for Christians during the Middle Ages when it was unsafe to make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem during the Crusades. Pilgrims would instead end their journeys at the center of a labyrinth in a cathedral such as the one in Chartres, France.



These images of maze and labyrinth continue to be useful in modern times. This month we begin with a sermon series called “Complicated Love” using the graphic of a maze to represent the complexities of relationships. Then during Lent we will have a sermon series on prayer and the opportunity to experience walking meditation using a labyrinth as we journey towards our celebration of Easter. Information on labyrinth classes and open walks is available on the website or by contacting the church office. If you would like a paper finger labyrinth to use at home, please let me know!

Grace and peace,
Rev. Carolyn Clifton

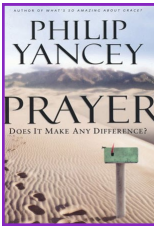




Sounds of Faith Concert
Sunday, February 4
4 pm ~ Sanctuary
Admission is Free

The GFUMC Sounds of Faith 2024 concert series kicks off with an exciting performance by the Atlanta Vocal Project. This award-winning men’s a cappella chorus specializes in the barbershop style of singing and recently earned 3rd place in the 2023 International Barbershop Harmony Society competition. This fun and high-energy performance is perfect for the whole family. Invite a friend!

Lenten Prayer Study:
“Prayer, Does It Make Any Difference?”
Wednesdays, February 21 - March 20
6—7 pm in Room S-49



In conjunction with our Lenten sermon series, Rev. Sandy Skinner will lead this 5 week study using a book and video series by Philip Yancey. The class will explore answers to questions such as: Does prayer work? Does prayer change us or God? What can we really expect from prayer? Register for the class online or by calling the church office.



Spring Fling Tour!
Saturday, May 4 - Friday, May 10
Now is the time to plan for a trip to see the tulips bloom in Holland, MI!

GFUMC member JoAnne Spruill-Head has arranged for interested GFUMC folks to join with others on a Daniel’s Discovery Tour. The adventure begins with an exploration of Dutch heritage in

Holland Michigan from Tulip Gardens to Klompen Dancers and a tour of a wooden shoe and Delft factory. Then the group will visit Lake Michigan for a dune buggy ride across the sand dunes before heading to Indiana for 2 nights in Amish country. The trip finishes in Kentucky with a tour of Churchill Downs to learn all about the Kentucky Derby. A \$300 deposit reserves your spot with a final payment of \$1695 (double occupancy) due on March 22. Register by contacting Daniel Discovery tours at 678-864-0073 and say that you are from GFUMC.

Gadabouts

Gadabouts meets most Wednesdays at 11 am in the Reception Hall for an entertaining or informational program. A hot, catered lunch following the program is \$5. Newcomers and guests are always welcome!

February 7 **Music for Valentine’s**
Roger Terrell has played tunes for the Gadabouts at our cookouts, and we are excited to welcome him into the Reception Hall to play familiar favorites to warm our hearts and get our toes tapping. Menu: Chicken with alfredo sauce, pasta, green peas and carrots, and chocolate cake.



February 14 **Ash Wednesday**
Gadabouts will not meet. Please join us for worship at 12 noon in the chapel followed by lunch. See below for more information.

February 21 **Chair Yoga**
GFUMC member and certified yoga instructor Kay Walker will explain what yoga is, why it is a beneficial form of exercise, and guide us in practicing some exercises that we can do at home in a chair. Menu: Meat loaf, scalloped potatoes, Lima beans, and apple cobbler.



February 28
Straight Line. Four corners. Window Pane. Which Bingo game is your favorite? Join us for some fun rounds with friendly competition and simple prizes. Menu: Fried & baked chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, and banana pudding.



Wednesday, February 14
12 Noon in the Chapel*
6 pm in the Sanctuary and Livestream*

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday 40 days (not counting Sundays) before the first Sunday after the full moon that occurs on or after the spring equinox. That is, 40 days (not counting Sundays) before Easter. On Ash Wednesday we receive a mark of ashes and are invited to reflect on our mortality as we enter into a season of repentance to prepare our hearts to celebrate Easter. Even as we receive this stark mark of ash, we are encouraged because it is made in the shape of a cross reminding us of the love and grace that God offers to each of us.
**Lunch after worship and dinner before worship feature a choice of tomato basil or broccoli cheddar soup, a turkey & Swiss cheese sandwich, chips and cookies in the Reception Hall. Lunch is \$5. Dinner is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children with a family maximum of \$30.*

NORTH SHORE HONDURAS COLLECTION

- How can I help?
- * Donate supplies
 - * Donate money
 - * Pray for all involved

Through our partnership with the Rev. Esther Hanners, GFUMC supports a Methodist school and medical clinic in Utila, Honduras. To contribute to this mission work, contact the church office for an Amazon wish list to purchase requested supplies or mark your financial donation “North Shore Honduras Mission.” Items will be collected until February 25 as we build bridges to Jesus.

Financial Report

Annual Budget for 2024	\$ 2,920,000
YTD Given as of 1/21	\$ 329,497
January Giving Goal	\$ 321,200
January Amount Given as of 1/21	\$ 329,497

With thanksgiving we report that our Christmas Eve offering raised \$110,000 towards the capital campaign of Love Your Story. This agency, established by GFUMC members Abby and Ryan Burle, offers free housing and community to families traveling to Gainesville for therapeutic treatment for their children with disabilities. In addition, Angel Tree donations of \$2,435 will support the work of Murphy Harpst with some of the most vulnerable children in the state of Georgia. Please contact Jessica McKee in the church office with questions regarding your tithe or church finances.

Membership Care

In Memoriam:		
Diane Barrett	Betty Edwards	Jim Ewing
In Sympathy:		
Anthony Barrett on the death of his wife		
Suzanne Eigel on the death of her sister		
Jamey Prickett on the death of his grandmother		
Nola Bricker on the death of her father		
Recent Hospitalizations:		
Teresa Bodine	John Fleming	Jean Hawkins
Bob Hamrick, Sr.	Frankie Nagel	Billie Thompson

After Hours Emergency Contact
If you need a pastor in the evening or on the weekend, call the church at 770-536-2341. Press 5 and leave a message. A pastor will return your call.

