

# ANCHOR

Celebrating God's work at and through Gainesville First UMC.

Church Attendance | Stay In The Know  
Upcoming Sermon Series | Adult Studies This Fall  
Happenings

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**AUG + SEP 2018**





# CHURCH ATTENDANCE

**A:WORD:FROM**  
Rev. Scott Hearn

A pastor friend in Ohio recently tweeted:  
*“Summer worship attendance is an oxymoron.”*

What’s true around the nation is definitely true at GFUMC. Our worship attendance numbers have been noticeably down. But according to statistics it isn’t limited to summer. Mainline denomination church attendance numbers are trending down. Average worship attendance is now considered 1.4 Sundays a month.

### Several thoughts about Sunday mornings:

With average worship attendance being 1.4 Sundays a month, we have to view every Sunday as our single opportunity for the month. Every Sunday has to be excellent, from greeters to ushers, teachers, hospitality, music, worship leaders, and preachers. **And you.** People make up their mind in the first five minutes of being on a church campus as to whether this may be a spiritual home for them or not. Pray before you come, that the Holy Spirit might fill our church, and fill you.

Jamey shared with me something he’d gleaned from a Netflix executive’s podcast. We live in an On Demand culture. People don’t want to wait. They want what they want when they want it. The best preachers and worship music are now a click away. 42 million people listen to podcasts weekly. Google sees around 30,000 searches every month related to online church services. Our weekly worship livestreaming of Lakeside and Chapel receive an average of 475 views per week.

What if we leveraged the time we have with people on Sundays to equip them to be disciple-makers when they are not here? Instead of making children pick between church and an activity, what if we taught them how to be a compelling witness for Christ on their team? A friend in children’s ministry shared this with me: *“As the church, we need to be the most flexible (even though we know we are so much more important than sports). If we create irresistible spaces then when they do have the margin to attend they will be first in line. Plus...we can be super intentional about providing them opportunities to grow in faith and share their faith while outside of our building!”*

I still believe church attendance is important. The Hebrew writer says this in 10:23-25: *“Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”*

And I still believe one of the most effective ways to grow Sunday morning attendance is for church folks to invite folks to church. I’ve actually cracked the code on how to double Sunday morning attendance! One family brings one family.

I look forward to experiencing the risen Christ with you on Sunday.

Pastor Scott

## HOW TO STAY IN THE KNOW ON THE GO

### GFUMC.COM WEBSITE

Everything is here. Find info on current and upcoming sermon series, contact our staff, learn about our ministries and upcoming events, catch up on recent sermons, and give online.

### EMAIL LISTS KIDS, STUDENTS, CHURCH UPDATES, & MEMBER UPDATES

Prefer email? We’ve got you covered! Visit [gfumc.com/email](http://gfumc.com/email) to make your selections and receive weekly emails about Kids Ministry, Student Ministry, Church Updates, Member Updates, and Death Notifications.

### SOCIAL MEDIA FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, TWITTER, & YOUTUBE

We know you spend time using these social media outlets, so we’re all over them! Like, follow, or subscribe to any or all of our church and ministry pages. Find all these links at [gfumc.com/socialmedia](http://gfumc.com/socialmedia).

# UPCOMING SERMON SERIES

## LAKESIDE & CLASSIC WORSHIP SERMON SERIES

*begins August 5*

We can talk ourselves into anything. We all have chapters in our lives that vouch for it. We've all been tempted and we think we alone can talk ourselves out of a bad choice.

In this series, we'll watch and learn how Jesus dealt with temptation. And we'll find there's always a way out, if we will listen for a voice other than our own.



## CHAPEL & MODERN WORSHIP SERMON SERIES

*begins August 5*

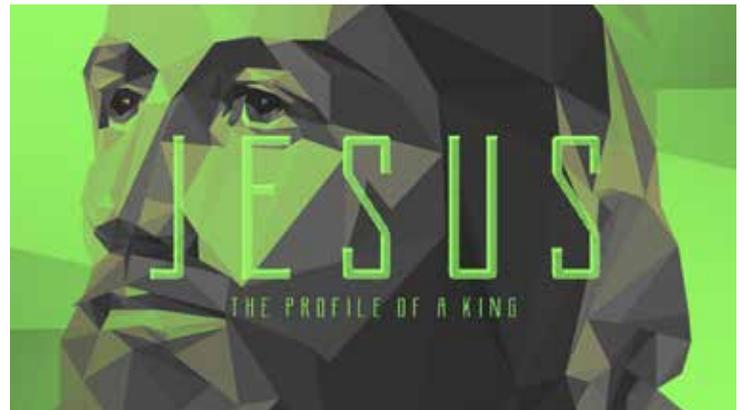
As Summer comes to an end and children head back to school, we want to reflect on how to live out our faith in our day-to-day experiences. Join us for this 4-part series, where we'll discover how to resist temptation, gain wisdom, share our faith, and grow in our friendships. There will be life lessons for everyone to learn.



## CHURCHWIDE SERMON SERIES

*begins September 9*

In this 4-part series, we'll explore the life of Jesus. We'll discover He is not the domesticated Jesus a lot of us were introduced to in Sunday School, but instead He is loving, wildly passionate, radically merciful, and always surprising. An encounter with this Jesus will transform us from the inside out and radically change our lives.



# MODERN *worship* LIVE

*Even when you can't be here, you can still be here!*

Livestream Modern Worship every Sunday morning at 11am, beginning Sunday, September 9.

[GFUMC.COM/LIVE](http://GFUMC.COM/LIVE)



# ADULT STUDIES THIS FALL

Register now at [gfumc.com/studies](http://gfumc.com/studies).



Wednesday, August 15 / 6:00pm

As we look ahead to the Fall Discipleship season, please join us for a **Wednesday Supper, August 15**. We'll enjoy a time of fellowship with good friends and meet some new friends. There will also be information on all of our Discipleship ministries for children, students and adults. Games will be available for the kids. Parents, you'll have plenty of time to explore the many ways for your entire family to connect on Sunday mornings, weekday ministries, and even retreats. Mark your calendars and join us for a great evening. We will have a basket for donations for dinner.

## Sundays

**Living As United Methodist:  
Our Story, Beliefs and Lives**  
Led by Rev. Liz Millar.

Sept. 9 - 30. 9:45 - 10:45am  
Reception Hall. No cost.

Whether you are new to Gainesville First, or have been with us for years, we invite you to join us for a 5-week discussion of who we are as United Methodists. We will discover our Methodist history, examine our beliefs, look at what we have in common with other Christians and what sets us apart, and spend time exploring how we live our faith in our day to day lives. This is also a great time to meet other people at Gainesville First.

## Mondays

**Lunch Bible Study**  
Led by Rev. Carolyn Clifton.

Aug. 20 & 27. Lakeside Conference Room.  
Sept. 9 - Nov. 20. Noon - 1pm.  
HoneyBaked Ham, 1237 Thompson  
Bridge Road. No cost.

How would you hear the sermon differently if you prepared your heart in advance? Join us as we discuss the scripture texts for the upcoming Sunday sermon.

## Tuesdays

**Men's Bible Study**  
Led by Rev. Scott Hearn.  
Sept. 4 - Nov. 20. 7 - 8am.  
Reception Hall. No cost.

Every Tuesday morning from 7 to 8, men gather together in the Reception Hall for a time of biscuits, table fellowship and study. If you are looking for a great place to connect with other men, you are invited to the Men's Bible Study. The Men's Bible Study resumes September 4, with a study of the Book of Philippians. Bring your Bible as we walk through this rich letter of Paul. Paul is writing from a Roman prison and expressing his gratitude to a Gentile house church he began in Philippi, a colony of retired Roman soldiers. In addition to expressing his thanks, Paul instructs them how to respond to hardship with joy.

**Ladies' Bible Study: Amazing Collection**  
Led by Sheri Duke.

Sept. 4 - Nov. 20. 10am - noon.  
Room S-02. Book cost \$10.

The Amazing Collection is a very unique Bible Study. The material allows women who are new to God's Word to comfortably begin their journey while a seasoned Bible student experiences 'a-ha moments' as she sees the pieces of God's Word fit together. We will begin the series in Genesis and journey through the books of the Bible.

**Where Two or More Are Gathered:**  
A Women's Group

Aug. 14 - Nov. 13 (2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month). 11:30am - 12:30pm.  
Gathering Room. Cost \$7 (for lunch only).

Join women of all stages of life for support, prayer and uplifting conversation, every second and fourth Tuesday of each month. We will continue discussing the book, Present Over Perfect. Childcare is provided. Let us know you are coming each week. Order lunch and/or childcare at [gfumc.com/events](http://gfumc.com/events).

## Wednesdays

### Life Without Lack

Led by Dick Baxter, Lee Highsmith, Kay Walker.

Aug. 22 - Nov. 14. 6 - 7:15pm.

Room S-01. Book cost \$16.

This unique study revolutionizes our understanding of Psalm 23 by taking this comfortably familiar passage and revealing its extraordinary promises: "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want... I will fear no evil." The psalmist claims to live without any need and without any fear. How is that possible? Life Without Lack reveals the secret to enjoying God's presence and becoming utterly caught up in his abundant generosity. The more we practice living in his presence, the more we experience the peace and freedom from worry that is promised in the psalm.

Jesus, the Profile of a King  
Led by Rev. Jamey Prickett.  
Aug. 22 - Nov. 14. 6 - 7:15pm.  
Room S-49. No cost.

### Jesus, the Profile of a King

Led by Rev. Jamey Prickett.

Aug. 22 - Nov. 14. 6 - 7:15pm.

Room S-49. No cost.

Two thousand years ago, an itinerant Jewish preacher walked across Galilee, gathering followers to establish what he called the "Kingdom of God." No figure in history has received more attention, and been less understood, than Jesus of Nazareth. In this twelve week study, we explore the historical Jesus and discover what is it that makes Him so compelling we would want to surrender our lives to Him. If you thought you knew everything there was to know about Jesus of Nazareth, then you might be in for some surprises during this study.

### Beautiful Outlaw

Led by Rev. Scott Hearn.

Aug. 22 - Nov. 14. 6 - 7:15pm.

Room S-51. Book cost \$10.

It's one thing to read the Bible, which is absolutely necessary for growing in our relationship with God. It's something different to read one of the gospels in order to get to know the person, Jesus, better. John Eldredge says, "Reading the Gospels without knowing the personality of Jesus is like watching television with the sound turned off. The result is a dry, two dimensional person doing strange, undecipherable things." Jesus was fully God, but He was also fully human.

The Beautiful Outlaw gives us a glimpse of what it may have looked like to actually do life with Jesus. Join Pastor Scott for this 12-week study and become more familiar with the person, Jesus.

### Acts

Led by Rev. Liz Millar.

Aug. 22 - Nov. 14. 6 - 7:15pm.

Room S-03/04. Book cost: \$9.

Acts is the story of God's grace flooding out to the world. Nothing is more prominent in Acts than the spread of the gospel. Jesus promises a geographic expansion at the outset, and Acts follows the news of his death and resurrection as it spreads from a small group of disciples in Jerusalem to Judea, Samaria, and the faraway capital of Rome. Through the repeated preaching of the gospel - to different people groups, the gospel of grace draws them in, constitutes them as the church centered on the grace of Jesus, and then sends them out in mission - to the world. Acts is a historical account of how the resurrection of Jesus changes everything through the birth of the early church.

### Reading Through The Bible

Led by Ron & Betty Winkowski.

Aug. 22 - Nov. 14. 6 - 7:15pm.

Room S-02. No cost.

Join us as we travel through the Old Testament starting with the study of the Major Prophets. It will be a combination of videos, study guides, reading the scripture and most importantly discussion! The first Major Prophet will be Isaiah. We look forward to you joining us on our journey through the Prophets.

## Thursdays

Faith Café: Everybody, Always:  
Becoming Love in a World Full of  
Setbacks and Difficult People

Led by Pam Katz & Nancy Evans.

Aug. 30 - Nov. 15. 10am.

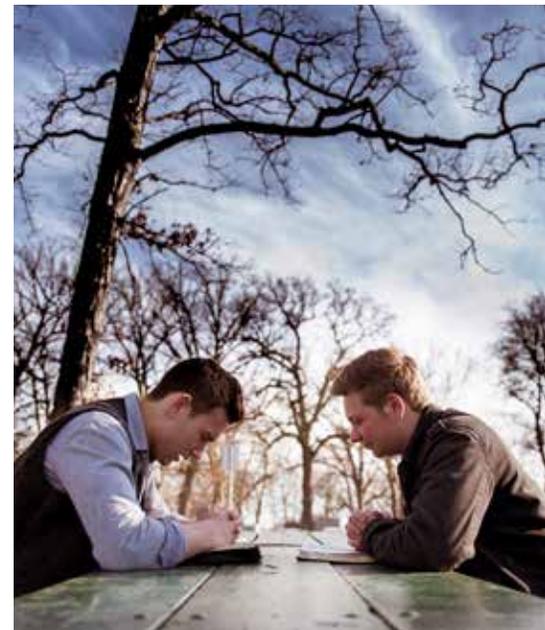
Panera Bread Co., 625 Dawsonville  
Hwy. Book cost \$8.

What happens when we stop avoiding difficult people and simply love everyone? This study takes participants on a life-altering journey into the secret of living

without fear, care, constraint, or worry. The path toward the outsized, unfettered, liberated existence we all long for is found in a truth as simple to say as it is hard to do: love people, even the difficult ones, without distinction and without limits.

### Accountability Groups:

Do you want more out of your spiritual journey? Take the next step forward by joining an accountability group. Groups are available for all. Contact Rebecca Damon at [rdamon@gfumc.com](mailto:rdamon@gfumc.com).



## ADULT STUDIES THIS FALL

Register now at [gfumc.com/studies](http://gfumc.com/studies)



# Happenings in August & September

See more at [GFUMC.COM/EVENTS](http://GFUMC.COM/EVENTS).



## **Leonard Bernstein: Celebrating 100 Years**

Saturday, August 4 / 5pm / on campus

Join us for an afternoon of music celebrating the 100th birthday of American composer and conductor Leonard Bernstein. This unique concert will feature a cast of young artists from Capitol City Opera, who will dance and sing some of the best loved songs from several of Bernstein's most well-known shows. Tickets are just \$10 per person. Learn more about this event and a special ticket package at [gfumc.com/events](http://gfumc.com/events).



## **Kids Back To School Block Party**

Sunday, August 5 / 9:30am-Noon / Children's Area

All kids, rising K-5th grade, are invited to join us for a Back-to-School Block Party. Don't miss out on games, Kona Ice and lots of fun! All children need to be checked in at the Children's check-in desk on either floor before attending the party! We can't wait to see you there! Learn more at [gfumc.com/kids](http://gfumc.com/kids).



## **Student Spotlight Kickoff**

Wednesday, August 15 / 6:15 - 7:30pm / Student Area

All students are invited to join us for a snack supper and a Bible study designed to go deeper and shine a brighter light into scripture. Come for spiritual growth through great teaching and conversation. Come in straight from your after school activity. We've got you covered. Learn more at [gfumc.com/students](http://gfumc.com/students).



## **Connecting Point Lunch**

Sunday, August 19 / Noon / Reception Hall

Interested in learning more about Gainesville First? Join us after the 10:55am worship services for lunch to meet church staff and hear more about who we are and how we are building bridges for Jesus Christ. Let us know you are coming at [gfumc.com/connectingpoint](http://gfumc.com/connectingpoint).



## **Tuesday Lunch Club**

Tuesday, August 21 / Noon / Reception Hall

Join us for great home-cooking, fellowship, and an entertaining program. Bring a friend, your best dish to share, and join us! No reservation required. Cost: \$2. Learn more at [gfumc.com/events](http://gfumc.com/events).

Tuesday, September 18 / 6pm / Reception Hall

Join us for BBQ and the Fowl Play Band. Cost \$7. Info at [gfumc.com/events](http://gfumc.com/events).



## **Kids SPLASH Kickoff**

Wednesday, August 22 / 6 - 7:30pm / Children's Area

SPLASH is back! Your kids (ages 3-5th grade) will love our Wednesday evening children's program, as they Sing, Play, Learn, And Serve Him! Make sure to meet us at the lower Children's Welcome Desk to check-in. Bring \$2 for a sandwich, chips, and drink. Learn more at [gfumc.com/splash](http://gfumc.com/splash).

# Happenings in August & September

See more at [GFUMC.COM/EVENTS](http://GFUMC.COM/EVENTS).



## **Orphanage Emmanuel Mission Trip Informational Meeting** Sunday, August 26 / 12:15pm / Lakeside Conference Room

Interested in going on a mission trip? Do you have a heart for children and youth? Join us for an informational meeting on how you can serve at Orphanage Emmanuel. Come to learn more about the incredible work God is doing in Honduras. Questions? Contact Misty Leach at [mleach@gfumc.com](mailto:mleach@gfumc.com).



## **Family Promise Week** August 26 - September 2 / on campus

We are blessed with the opportunity to host Family Promise each of these evenings at Gainesville First. Volunteers are needed to help set up, provide dinners, enjoy fellowship, and stay as overnight hosts. We also need donations of breakfast, lunch and snack items for the week. To volunteer, find details at [gfumc.com/events](http://gfumc.com/events).



## **Labor Day Picnic** Sunday, September 2 / Noon / MAC Parking Lot

In town for Labor Day? Celebrate the holiday with your church family! We'll enjoy games and activities for all ages and a picnic lunch after the 10:55am worship services. Come fellowship together over a meal!



## **Babysitting Training Class** Saturday, September 15 / 9am - Noon / Reception Hall

This class is designed to provide information and skill training for participants ages 11-15, so they meet the challenges of babysitting by building the necessary confidence and skill levels that pertain to child and infant care. Participants will receive an ASHI certification card upon course completion. Cost \$20 at the door. Space is limited, contact Mildred Smith at [msmith@gfumc.com](mailto:msmith@gfumc.com) to register.



## **United Methodist Women Third Annual Conference** Saturday, September 22 / 10am / Reception Hall

Join us to hear Sam Haupt's update on the progress at Sacred Roots Farm. Sam gave us special insight to the Farm's beginning last Spring, and he's eager to share what's happening now that he has guests. Come listen and enjoy fellowship over a covered dish luncheon. Learn more at [gfumc.com/events](http://gfumc.com/events).

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## GIVING UPDATE

JUNE 2018

GOAL \$206,902

ACTUAL \$262,996

YEARTODATE

GOAL \$1,545,917

ACTUAL \$1,562,258

Your gifts are building bridges to Jesus Christ. Find more information on giving at [gfumc.com/give](http://gfumc.com/give).



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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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# AUGUST SEPTEMBER

**FEATURE EVENTS CALENDAR** For more info on all events, visit [GFUMC.COM/EVENTS](http://GFUMC.COM/EVENTS).

- |        |   |    |   |
|--------|---|----|---|
| 4      | Leonard Bernstein Concert   | 2  | Sunday Services<br>Labor Day Picnic                       |
| 5      | Sunday Services<br>Kids Back To School Block Party<br>Move Up Sunday              | 5  | Wednesday Night Activities                                |
| 12     | Sunday Services   | 9  | Sunday Services<br>First Bible Sunday                     |
| 15     | Discipleship Family Kickoff<br>Student Spotlight Kickoff                          | 12 | Wednesday Night Activities                                |
| 19     | Sunday Services<br>Connecing Point Lunch  | 15 | Babysitting Training Class<br>Chancel Choir Fall Workshop |
| 21     | Preschool Open House<br>Tuesday Lunch Club  | 16 | Sunday Services   |
| 22     | Wednesday Night Activities<br>Kids SPLASH Kickoff<br>Adult Studies & Groups begin | 18 | Tuesday Lunch Club  |
| 26     | Sunday Services<br>Connecing Point Sunday   | 19 | Wednesday Night Activities                                |
| 26-9/2 | Family Promise Week   | 20 | Healing Service   |
| 29     | Wednesday Night Activities  | 22 | UMW Conference  |
|        |   | 23 | Sunday Services   |
|        |   | 26 | Wednesday Night Activities                                |
|        |   | 30 | Sunday Services   |