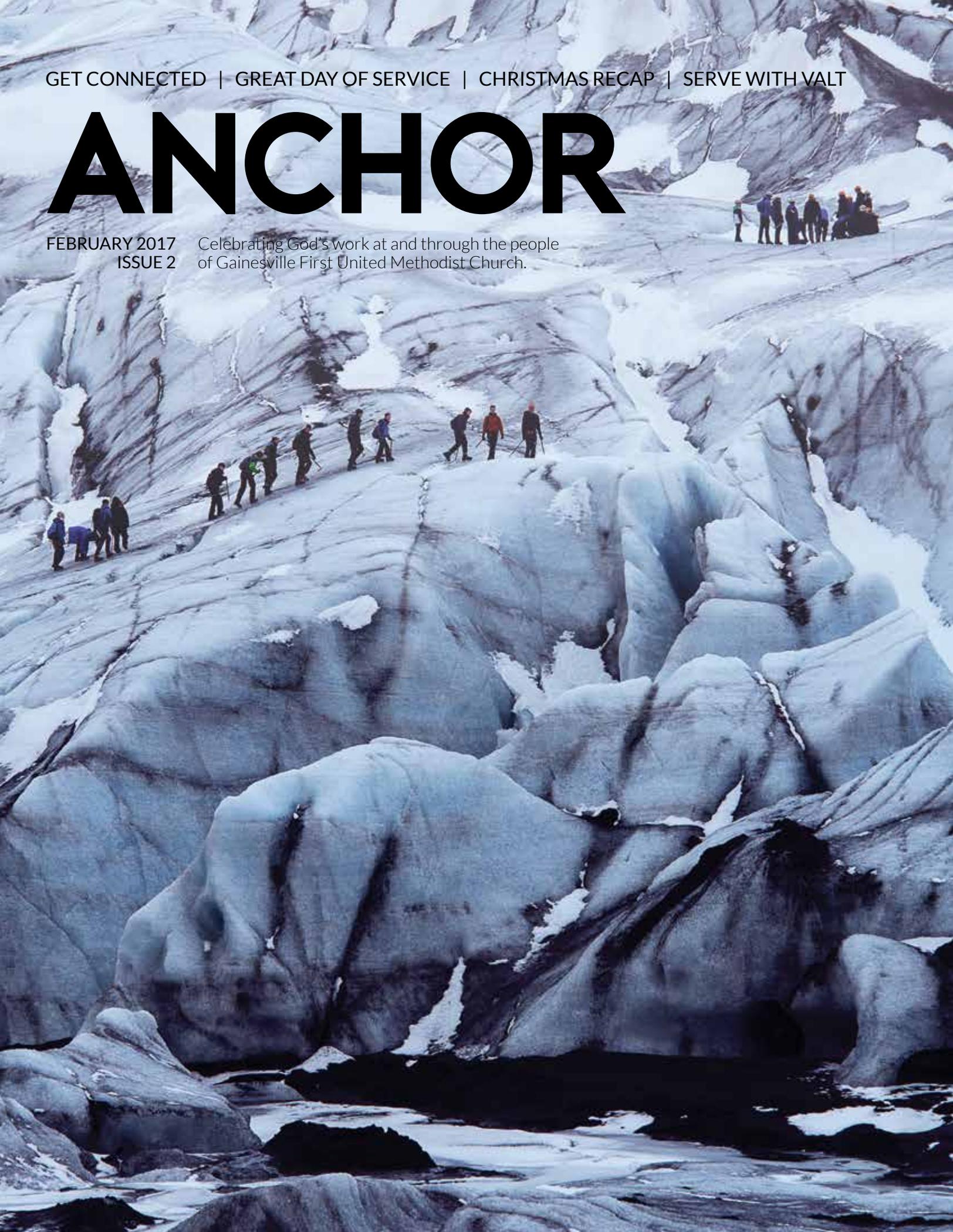


GET CONNECTED | GREAT DAY OF SERVICE | CHRISTMAS RECAP | SERVE WITH VALT

# ANCHOR

FEBRUARY 2017  
ISSUE 2

Celebrating God's work at and through the people  
of Gainesville First United Methodist Church.





## A:WORD:FROM

Pastor Scott Hearn

I want to share a couple Bible passages God has used to really speak to my heart recently. I'll start with one then end with the second.

### Psalm 139:7-10:

*"Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast."*

Now, like most of you, I've read those words many times. What an incredible promise! We can't get away from God's presence. God is with us always, everywhere and in everything. During the celebrative and joyful times, as well as, those dark times, He is with us.

But He is more than just a presence! Always, everywhere and in everything, He promises to guide us, lead us, direct us and show us the way we should go. And always, everywhere and in everything, He will hold us, comfort us, and be our source of peace and protection.

I "know" all of that, but how often do I live daily, in those real moments of my life, like I know that? I can read Psalm 139 first thing in the morning and then be completely unaware of its promises when something blows up in my life at 10am. It's so easy for my circumstances (or my interpretation of them) to dictate the status of my soul and where God is. I look at the ebbs and flows of my day for cues of how things are going, instead of looking to an unchanging God, a God who is the same yesterday, today and forever.

To remain aware of the Psalm 139 promises, I've been trying to keep the phrase: *"I trust You, Jesus"* in the forefront of my mind. So when a car breaks down, my first thought would be: *"I trust You, Jesus."* When a phone call changes the rest of the day: *"I trust You, Jesus."* When my mind gets totally consumed with a chronic issue I'm dealing with, to pause and say: *"I trust You, Jesus."* In the real moments of where I live my life, it's moving the focus from temporary circumstance to an eternal God.

The second passage was shared in one of our staff meetings.

### Habakkuk 3:17 & 18:

*"Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior."*

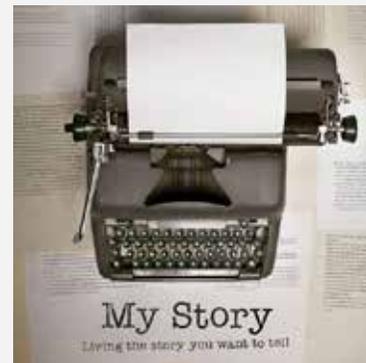
It really is true, our joy isn't found in our surroundings, but rather in a God from whom we can never move out of the presence of. A God who is not only with us but will guide, lead and direct us, and show us the way we should go.

It's one thing to trust God, but a completely different thing to trust God in the moment, regardless of what the moment might be. I hope you are experiencing that type of trust. It changes everything.

Trusting,

Pastor Scott

## February Sermon Series



The decisions we make today will determine the story we'll tell tomorrow.

This series will teach us to start, stop, stay, and go according to God's will. Join us in February for "My Story" and learn to live a story worth telling.

*Classic Worship with  
Pastor Scott Hearn*

*Chapel@9:30 and  
Modern Worship with  
Pastor Jamey Prickett*

OUR MISSION  
*Make Disciples*  
of JESUS CHRIST for the  
*Transformation*  
of the world.

### Sunday Services:

8:30am Classic Worship  
9:30am Chapel@9:30  
9:45am Sunday School  
10:55am Classic Worship  
10:55am Modern Worship

### Wednesday Activities:

6:00pm All Areas

Learn about our services, ministries, and events at [gfumc.com](http://gfumc.com).

Listen to our most recent sermons at [gfumc.com/sermons](http://gfumc.com/sermons).



I'M SO THANKFUL GFUMC'S CHILDRENS MINISTRY HELD SUCH FANTASTIC CHRISTMAS EVENTS FOR FAMILIES THIS YEAR! WE HAD FUN CELEBRATING BREAKFAST WITH SANTA, THE SPLASH CHRISTMAS PARTY, SERVING IN THE CHURCH FAMILY CHRISTMAS PLAY AND THE KID-FOCUSED CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP! - Ashlie Hogan



### Get Connected Weekend

February 24-26 / Cost \$50

Students, Get Connected Weekend is almost here, and trust us, you don't want to miss it! Get Connected is our Disciple Now weekend where students' lives are transformed, their relationship with Jesus is deepened, and their faith grows. Register by February 14 at [gfumcyouth.com](http://gfumcyouth.com).



Does anyone know what the number one selling recliner in America is called? Yes, it's the La-Z-Boy! I wonder why they didn't call it the Risk-A-Boy? Or why not a Challenge-Me-Boy? I guess it's because those names don't sound too comfortable, and when it comes to chairs that's what we want. Just like in life, we seek out comfort, but growth doesn't happen in comfort!

((( Our lives only make sense when  
lived for the sake of others. )))

I believe you have a purpose and that purpose is not to wear out a dozen La-Z-Boy recliners before you die.

“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, **serve one another** with whatever gift each of you has received” (I Peter 4:10). Bringing in the language of stewards, the apostle Peter is implying that our gifts, talents, and abilities are given to us by God. To be a steward of those gifts is to use them in the most efficient way as to bring glory to God. Sitting in a comfortable chair week after week is not being a good steward of the gifts God has given you. - Pastor Jamey Prickett



*On Saturday, March 25, we challenge you to get out of your chair and serve! Use the gifts of your time and talents at the 11th annual Great Day of Service.*

Last year the love of Christ was shown as 493 volunteers completed 41 unique service projects in the Gainesville / Hall County Area. We are praying for even more impact in 2017, and we need you to make that happen!

Mark your calendars now and do not miss your opportunity to serve at 2017's Great Day of Service. Registration begins February 26 at [gfumc.com/gds](http://gfumc.com/gds).

# Advent

AT GFUMC

Dear GFUMC friends,

I want to share a wonderful story with you. Just before Christmas, here at the United Methodist Children's Home (UMCH), we were setting up for our annual Christmas Shopping Party. The Dining Hall was full of donations with staff members and volunteers busy sorting and organizing. The next day, UMCH foster parents and parents from Family Housing would come and "shop" free of charge to provide Christmas for their children.

That morning a large church van from GFUMC arrived with 3 gentlemen. The van was packed with 14 bikes, 12 Big Wheels, 76 bike helmets, 6 scooters, 4 Ride-Ons, and bags of clothes and toys. The Aldersgate Sunday School Class of 110 people spent around \$3,000 on donations for UMCH Christmas gifts!

The gentlemen who delivered the gifts were Bob Hancock, Ted Dittman, and Ricky Smith. They came eager to learn more about the UMCH and our Christmas event. I had the honor of sharing some of our history books and information packets with them. Denise Peacock, our lead Foster Care Recruiter, filled them in about specific ways to support both the Gainesville and the Decatur office with financial and material donations.

I encouraged the men to invite us to speak to the Aldersgate Class and told them about the Gainesville Coalition and the Foster Care Information Session coming up in 2017. They are now aware of the scope of our ministries, and they're going home with ideas about how to do even more.

What a privilege it is to serve in ministry together with our friends at Gainesville First UMC. We are deeply grateful for your hearts of service. God bless us, everyone!

Sharon Brewer, Volunteer Manager  
The United Methodist Children's Home



## Christmas Eve Offering Update

We are happy to share that GFUMC had a huge hand in raising the funds to help Family Promise of Hall County build a new transitional home for their program. During the Christmas season, community churches joined together to raise over \$120,000 for the agency, \$70,000 of that total came from Gainesville First UMC! Initially, Family Promise's goal was to build two new homes, but because of unforeseen cost, they were only able to construct one home at this time. Still, they were very thankful and humbled by the gifts of everyone who supported them. Thank you so much for helping make the dream of a home a reality for a deserving family and please be in prayer for Family Promise as they continue their work in 2017.





**Bishop Sue Hauptert Johnson**

Make plans now to join us for Worship Sunday, March 5 as our new Episcopal Leader of the North Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church, Bishop Sue Hauptert Johnson will be leading us in worship. Bishop Sue will also be sharing her story and vision for our conference with the laity of the Gainesville District here at GFUMC that afternoon from 2:30 - 5:30pm.



**The VALT Team needs you!**

GFUMC's Audio/Visual Ministry is evolving and looking to grow. VALT needs volunteers who have a passion for, or would like to learn to use, technology to enhance and usher people into worship. Please join us to learn how you can be a part of VALT. For any questions or to RSVP, contact Rhodes Farrell at rfarrell@gfumc.com.



*Bloody, beaten, and nailed to a cross, a dying Jesus looked at those around Him and spoke His final words as a man. What did he say? Join us in worship, Sundays this Lent (March 5 - April 2), as we relive Jesus' final hours, and celebrate His ultimate victory on this Red Letter Day.*



**FREE PHOTO CLASS**  
 Saturday, Feb. 18  
 10am / Library  
 learn more at [gfumc.com/valt](http://gfumc.com/valt)



**Ash**  
 WEDNESDAY  
 MARCH 1

**Noon: Pastor Kathy Lamon**  
**6pm: Pastor Scott Hearn**

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, a season of 40 days, not counting Sundays, ending Holy Saturday. It marks the beginning of a period of reflection and penance. In the Bible, sprinkling oneself with ashes was a sign of sorrow for having committed sins. In the Christian tradition, Ash Wednesday also marks the beginning of preparing to understand the death and resurrection of Christ.

\*Childcare will be available for children, preschool and younger, during both Ash Wednesday worship services.

**GIVING UPDATE**

DECEMBER 2016  
**GOAL** \$506,345  
**ACTUAL** \$651,081

YEARTO DATE  
**GOAL** \$3,407,434  
**ACTUAL** \$3,434,628

Your gifts share the message of Christ by supporting local and global ministries. Find more information on giving at [gfumc.com/give](http://gfumc.com/give).



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# FEBRUARY 2017 FEATURE EVENTS CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

- 1 Wednesday Night Activities
- 5 Sunday Services
- 8 Wednesday Night Activities
- 10 Sentimental Journey Jazz Band Valentines Dance
- 12 Sunday Services  
Believers Concert Band  
Cowboy Concert
- 15 Wednesday Night Activities
- 19 Sunday Services
- 21 50+ Event
- 22 Wednesday Night Activities
- 24-26 Student Get Connected Weekend
- 26 Sunday Services

For more info on all events, visit [gfumc.com/calendar](http://gfumc.com/calendar).