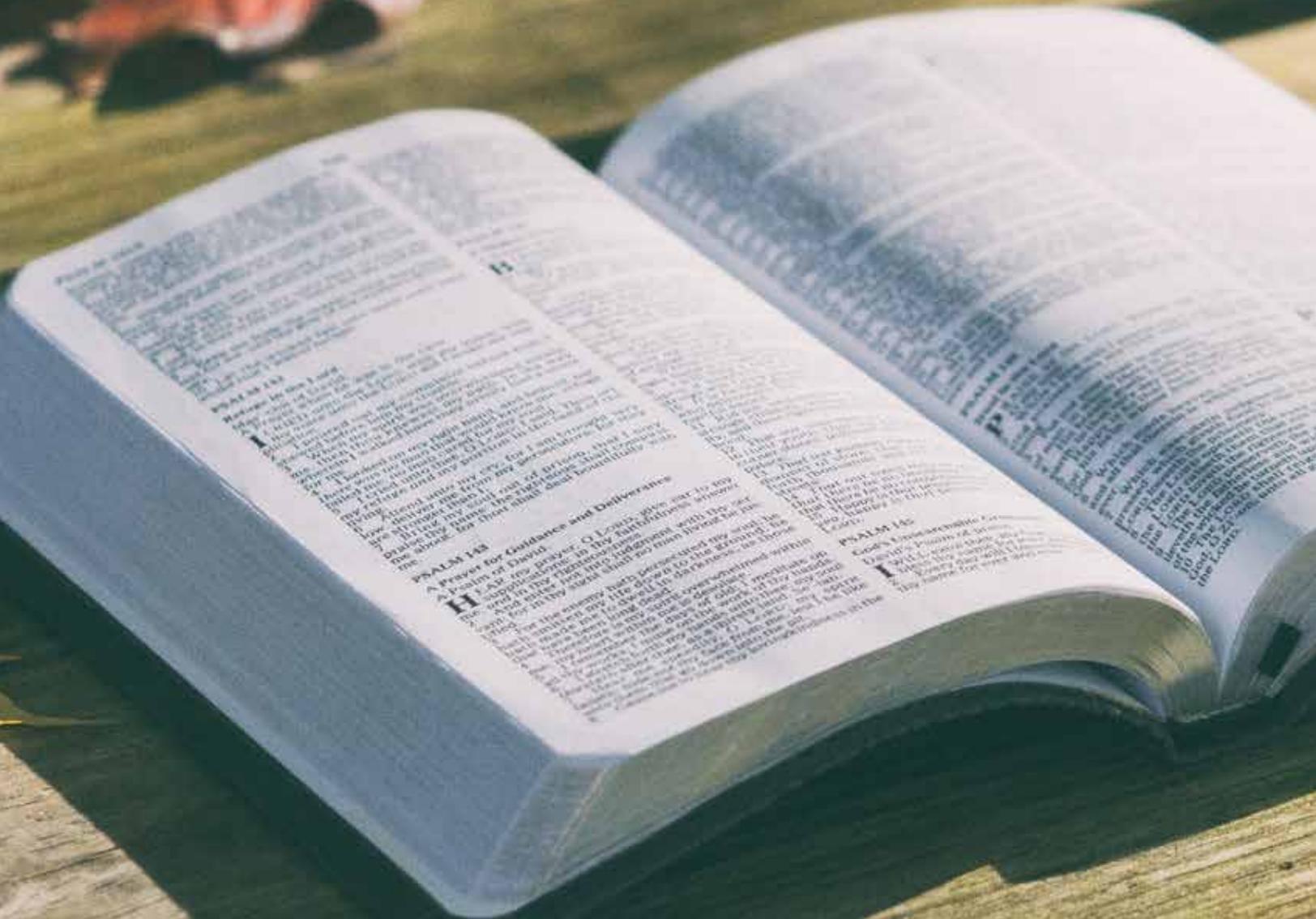


CLUB 345 RETREAT | GIVE HOPE SUNDAY | ADVENT SCHEDULE | STAFF THANKFUL LIST

ANCHOR

NOVEMBER 2017
ISSUE 11

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





A:WORD:FROM

Rev. Scott Hearn

One Sunday last month, I proposed being a church that is an agent of life and community transformation requires risk, pain and loss. I talked about how Jesus issued an invitation to some fishermen to follow him. Scripture says they left everything and followed him.

Later, at the back door, a man with such a sincere and genuine look in his eyes asked me, "How do you let go of everything?" What a great question! When you really get down to the business of living your life daily, how do you truly entrust your life to God?

I read a passage of scripture found in 2 Chronicles, chapter 20. We're told that the Moabites and Ammonites with some of the Meunites came to make war on King Jehoshaphat and the children of Israel. Jehoshaphat was even warned, "A vast army is coming against you from Edom, from the other side of the Sea." Jehoshaphat prays an incredible prayer in verses 6 - 12, which ends with, "For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you."

God responds to the people in verses 15 - 17 with:

"Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's. Tomorrow march down against them. They will be climbing up by the Pass of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the gorge in the Desert of Jeruel. You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the LORD will give you, O Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the LORD will be with you."

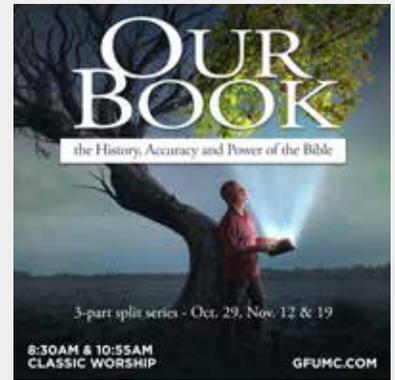
And in this response, I think we see how to truly entrust our lives to God. We must realize that neither the battle, nor our lives are ours. Our responsibility is to take up our position of faith and stand firm. God instructs us to **not be afraid** and **not be discouraged**. When we do, we'll see God move in miraculous ways.

So, in your life right now, what vast army is coming against you? Admit you have no power to face it, that you do not know what to do, and put your eyes upon God. Know that the battle is not yours, but God's and stand firm! And God says above all, do not be afraid and do not be discouraged, I am with you and for you.

Trusting,

Pastor Scott

NOVEMBER SERMON SERIES



Oct. 29, Nov. 12 & 19 with Rev. Scott Hearn

Psalm 119:105 describes the Bible in this way: *Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.* God's Word can become a fixture on our nightstand or a forgotten app on our phone, but our lives would be so much richer if we fully embraced the history, accuracy, and power of the Bible. After this series, we hope you'll see your Bible in a different way, you'll cherish, trust and apply it.



Nov. 12 & 19 with Rev. Jamey Prickett

God made us to be known and loved, He made us for relationships. We all desire connection, but most of us don't know how to overcome the pains of our past, broken marriages and failed friendships. Walk with us as we discuss the journey of Hosea, a story of love, forgiveness, and restoration that can help us understand what healthy relationships look like.

SUNDAY SERVICES:

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

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES:

6:00pm All Areas



27 kids and adults enjoyed the Club 345 Retreat at Camp Glisson in September. Kids experienced an awesome weekend of worship, small group time with God, creek hiking, rock climbing, zip-lining and swimming in the lake!

If your child is in 3rd, 4th, or 5th grade, we'd love to have them join us on our next adventure. Learn more about Club 345 at GFUMC.COM/CLUB345



It's Full Speed Ahead!

Ignite Student Ministries has filled its open staff position. On Sunday, September 17, Sandee Clark came on staff as our Assistant Director of Student Ministries.

Sandee brings over 17 years of experience in multiple facets of Student Ministry to include teaching, small group leadership, missional outreach and programming development. Most importantly, she brings a deep love for Jesus Christ, the Gospel, and a unique love for students. The students in Ignite Student Ministry will experience a joy and peace in Sandee that is truly contagious. Along with our amazing volunteer leaders, Sandee will be a connecting point for students as we create and continue to build an environment where students can experience the Word of God and see true reflections of Jesus Christ each week.

We're excited for Sandee to begin her ministry here at Gainesville First. When you see her around, take a moment to welcome her into the life of this wonderful church body.



Ministry Update

Student Ministry life is strong at Gainesville First. Over the past months, students have participated in several church-wide functions. Students were the leading group as we cooked for and fed 300+ line men working through the hurricane. Students also served tables during the Celebration Sunday lunch in September.

Attendance continues to grow at our Tuesday morning breakfast and in each of our weekly ministry programs. Our flagship ministry program; Life Groups, is currently averaging over 80 students weekly.

We covet your continued prayer for students, their families and the volunteer leaders in this vital ministry.



Got Hope - Give Hope!

Give Hope Sunday is coming November 12. This year we are excited to offer a one-of-a-kind painting unique to Gainesville First, as well as a breakfast surprise. You don't want to miss either!

This special day will also feature delicious culinary items including Brad McLister's smoked salmon, Danny Askew's cheese straws, Ron Winkowski's Philly cheese steak sandwiches, and much more. Shop for your Thanksgiving meal!

We are excited to welcome artist Debra Hewitt back with her beautiful angel art, as well as having Karama Jewelry from Africa, and various colored glass nativities to share.

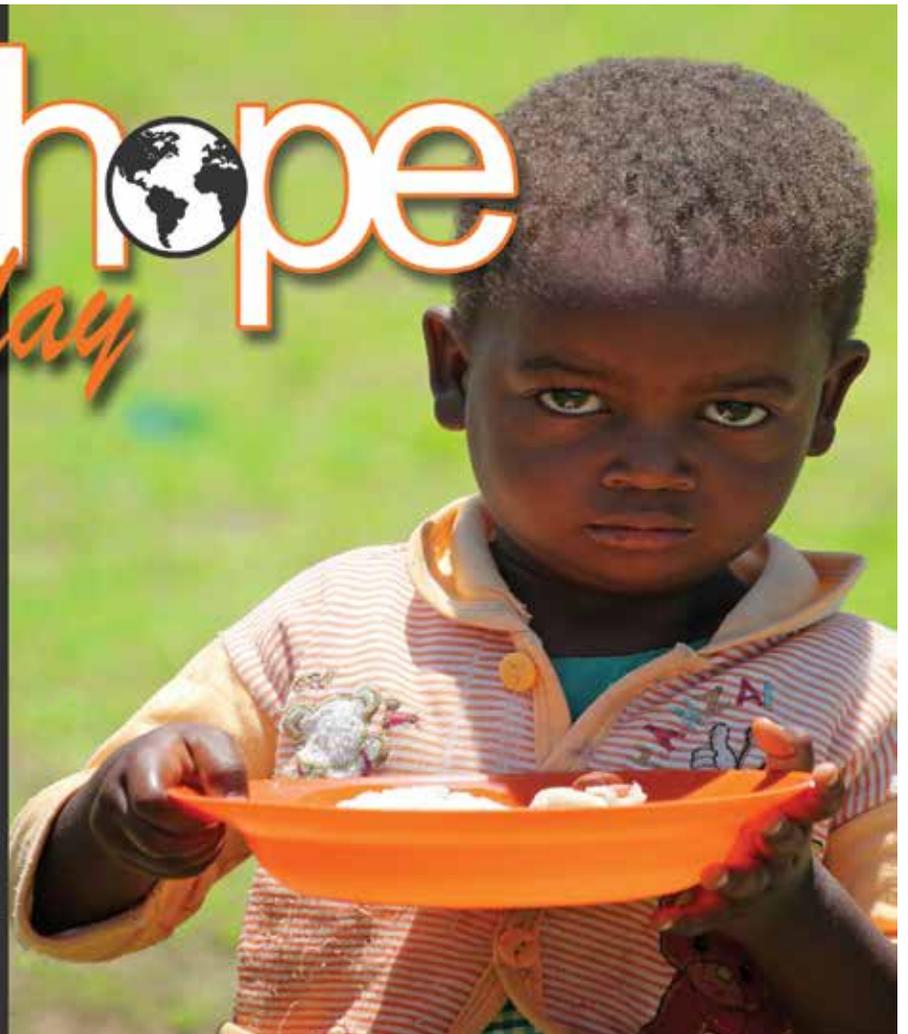
Give Hope Cards, our most popular item, representing needs from our seven global mission partners will be back. Prices at \$10, \$25, and \$50 will be available. What a great way to honor loved ones while giving hope across the globe!

give hope Sunday

Sunday, November 12
9am - 1pm
Gainesville First UMC
Reception Hall

*Culinary Delights,
Give Hope Gift Cards,
GFUMC Chrismon
Christmas Ornaments,
Cross charms, and limited
missions merchandise*

GFUMC.COM/EVENTS



THE Wonder OF IT ALL



THE LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

Thursday, December 14 • 6pm • Chapel

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL CONCERTS

Sunday, December 17 • 4 & 6:30pm • Sanctuary

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Sunday, December 24

11am Family Worship

**Service in the Sanctuary featuring Children's music.*

5pm Modern Worship

**Candlelight service in the Great Room.*

5, 7, 11pm Classic Worship

**Candlelight services in the Sanctuary. Communion at 11pm.*

CHRISTMAS DAY

Monday, December 25

**Church and Church Office closed.*

ADVENT SERIES

Don't you wish you could experience Christmas with a child-like wonder again? This time of year we're all so consumed by our checklist, the shopping, decorating, and traveling, that by the time Christmas gets here, we're worn out! Still, every now and then, we get a glimpse of the wonder of Christmas, and it often comes through the eyes of a child. You see, the pregnant teenage virgin, the donkey ride to Bethlehem, the cattle stall, the shepherds, the angels, the royal visitors, the birth of the Son of God recapture the wonder of it all. Join us this Advent season to experience the wonder of a God who is with you and for you.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

Advent is a season of preparation for our hearts as we anticipate the wondrous coming of our Savior. This Advent season, we are publishing a series of Advent devotions written by our congregation that will lead us through the Christmas story through the lens of Wonder. The awe and wonder of God who loves us so, the wonder we witness as we see God working in our lives and the lives of those closest to us, and the wonder we experience as we share the Good News of Jesus Christ with the world.

For more information on all the Advent events at Gainesville First, visit GFUMC.COM/EVENTS.

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Gainesville Veterinary Hospital (Alan Scott)
Andrew & Kristen Green
AJ & Sara Kiker
Lee Dempsey, State Farm
The Little Ladybug
McGarity's Business Products
Harriett McNeal
Milton Martin Toyota

Emmanuel Sunday School Class
John & Beverly Filson
Rick's Smokin' Pig BBQ
Rob Robinson & Walter's Management
Russ & Lila Francis
Ferrell & Linda Singleton
Dancy & Charlie Wynne
Iron Rose
Tommy Gay
Memorial Park Funeral Homes
Jerry & Sue Ward



THANKSGIVING...

a time to give thanks and praise to our Lord. Hear the words of Psalm 146.

"Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord, my soul. I will praise the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live. Do not put your trust in princes, in human beings, who cannot save. When their spirit departs, they return to the ground; on that very day their plans come to nothing. Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God. He is the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them - he remains faithful forever. He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets prisoners free, the Lord gives sight to the blind, the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down, the Lord loves the righteous. The Lord watches over the foreigner and sustains the fatherless and the widow, but he frustrates the ways of the wicked. The Lord reigns forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord."

This Thanksgiving season, before we immerse ourselves in all our traditions, let's begin a new one, a tradition of taking time each day to write down what we are thankful for and offer God praise for His blessings. Gather as a family to share God's rich blessings. Text your friends. Post them on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or any other way that works for you. Share your thankfulness with others, and be a witness of God's goodness! Yet most importantly, take time to lift them up to our Lord in prayer.

Blessing upon you and yours this Thanksgiving season!
- devotion by Rev. Liz Millar

SUBMIT A DEVOTION

Do you love to write or blog devotions? If so, feel free to submit one to Rebecca Damon at rdamon@gfumc.com for consideration to be printed in a future Anchor.

I'm thankful...

(Staff edition)

...for family memories. - Joanna Cauller

...the tree took out the fence and not the house!
- Rev. Carolyn Clifton

...for a great piece of fried chicken! My favorite all-time food. - Jackie Powers

...for the volunteers who serve God and others with a sense of joy and purpose. - John LaForge

...for my three wonderful boys. - Julie Norwood

...for home cooked meals! - Anna Whitehead

...for my family. - Rev. Jamey Prickett

...God led us to Gainesville First and we can see His hand all over our journey. - Jim Reavis

...for Georgia Bulldogs football. - Misty Leach



...for my husband, Sean. - Becca McConnell

...for God's blessings on the church I attend.
- Mildred Smith

...for the family and friends who have stuck beside me through illness and beyond. - Julie Julian

...for cars with tops that go down! - Rev. Liz Millar

...for my stress ball. - Aaron King

...for a church that loves Jesus, each other and the community in which we serve. - Sandee Clark

...for the Christ-loving spirit of Gainesville First.
- Keith Jefcoat

...getting to know this awesome church family. - Betsy Eubanks

...for Snapchat. It enables me to keep up with my daughters daily. - Rev. Scott Hearn

...for sweet grandson smiles. - Joyce Jones

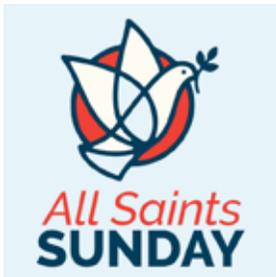
Happenings in November

There's always something going on at Gainesville First! See below and find more details and events at GFUMC.COM/EVENTS.



Sunday, November 5

Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday, November 5. Don't forget to adjust your clocks on Saturday night, "fall back" to get an extra hour of sleep, and join us for worship!



Sunday, November 5

During each of the worship services Sunday, November 5, a roll call of the Gainesville First UMC members who have passed away since October 10, 2016 will be read. Make plans to join your church family as we remember those who made a significant difference to our families, church and community.



Sunday, November 5

Join us for the Believers Concert Band's annual tribute to veterans. Musical tribute to the veterans of all branches of service - not only the men and women in our military, but also the family members they leave behind during their service. This is a free event, all are invited to attend.



Sunday, November 12

Gainesville First will join with other churches for a Community Thanksgiving service (5pm) and dinner (6pm) at First Baptist Gainesville (751 Green Street). We will meet for a wonderful message followed by a meal and fellowship. Mark your calendars now! Cost for the meal is \$9 per person with a \$25 family maximum.



November 19 - November 26

We are blessed with the opportunity to host Family Promise each evening, from November 19-26, 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. We're gladly accepting Walmart gift cards. These gift cards allow us to purchase needed items for our families.

We need you! Volunteer to serve at gfumc.com/events.

GIVING UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 2017

GOAL \$236,244

ACTUAL \$180,277

YEARTO DATE

GOAL \$2,165,194

ACTUAL \$2,380,819

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



Gainesville First
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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NOVEMBER 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	29	30		

- 1 Wednesday Night activities
- 5 [Sunday Services](#)
[All Saints Sunday](#)
- 8 Wednesday Night activities
- 12 [Sunday Services](#)
- 15 Wednesday Night activities
- 19 [Sunday Services](#)
- 19-26 Family Promise Week
- 22 Wednesday Night activities
- 23 Thanksgiving Day
(Church Office closed, 23-24)
- 26 [Sunday Services](#)
- 29 Wednesday Night activities

For more info on all events, visit GFUMC.COM/EVENTS.