



# Harvest Sunday Celebration

Sponsored By  
The Women's Fellowship

*"Giving Thanks to  
God for His Bountiful Blessings"*

**Sunday, October 22, 2023  
3:00 P. M.**

Rev. Rodtric Robinson, Transitional Pastor  
First Congregational Christian Church, UCC  
638 High Street at Union, Montgomery, 36104

*"The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few."  
Matthew 9:37*

# *Annual Harvest Celebration Guest Speaker*

## **Pastor Courtney D. Meadows**

**Pastor Courtney D. Meadows** is an emerging twenty-first-century leader, gifted gospel preacher, empowerment speaker, and "flame igniter." Although anointed by God while in his mother's womb, Pastor Meadows affirmed his call to ministry at age six and has since devoted his life to empowering humanity. He is widely known as an "Old Soul" for his powerful presentation of wisdom and hope, appealing to the young and old. The grace of God upon Pastor Meadows's life has allowed him to travel throughout the United States and Africa.

With over a decade of pastoral experience, he previously served as Senior Pastor of the First Missionary Baptist Church of Whitehall, Alabama, and the historic Hutchinson Missionary Baptist Church of Montgomery, Alabama. Pastor Meadows uses those experiences to foster intentional intergenerational ministry at the Grace Baptist Church of Atlanta, Georgia, as the Generational Pastor and preaching/teaching partner to Senior Pastor Rev. Clinton McFarland. He is the Founder and Chief Igniting Officer of Igniting the Flame Ministries, a ministry established to encourage, equip, and empower believers to creatively reach the least, last, and lost with their talents, testimonies, and technology.

Pastor Meadows believes in ministry "beyond the four walls" and has championed civic engagement, community development, and youth empowerment. He has served in critical leadership roles with the Southern Youth Leadership Development Institute and Hope Inspired Ministries of Montgomery, Alabama. Additionally, Pastor Meadows served as Chaplain and Faith Coach to the Alabama State University Football team and coaching staff. He is a member of the Board of Directors for Leadership Montgomery and is a graduate of its Torchbearers Class XI.

A servant of all mankind, he is a proud member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated. He has received honors and awards of distinction for his work in leadership development, nonprofit administration, community outreach, and progressive ministry.

He is a graduate of Talladega College and is pursuing a Master of Divinity degree at the prestigious Candler School of Theology at Emory University of Atlanta, Georgia. Most of all, he is the proud husband of Roneshia Meadows and dog-dad to "bishop."







# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH, UCC

638 High Street at Union Montgomery, AL 36106

## *Women' & Fellowship Annual Harvest Sunday Program*

October 22, 2023

**President Patricia French, Presiding**

Prelude

Belinda Stanley

Carolyn Olivari

Ministry In Song

Park Crossing High School Choir

Darrian Stovall, Director

### **Introit:**

**Leader:** Welcome to this service of worship

**People:** We celebrate with thanksgiving and praise. As we rejoice, we also rededicate ourselves to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior

**All:** Praise be to God! Hallelujah! Amen.

Opening Hymn

Count Your Blessings

Welcome

Ms. Sibyl St. Clair

Scripture and Prayer

Mrs. Velora Ford

Responsive Reading

#48 (African American Hymnal) **Thanksgiving**

Ms. Evelyn Lyle

Acknowledgements

Ms. Iris Gibb

Offering

Musical Selection

Park Crossing High School Choir

Darrian Stovall, Director

Introduction of Speaker

Mrs. Corliss Robinson

Guest Speaker

Pastor Courtney D. Meadows

Musical Selection

Park Crossing High School Choir

Darrian Stovall, Director

Daring to Make a Difference Awards

Mrs. Beatrice M. Forniss

Remarks and \*Benediction

Rev. Rodtric Robinson, Pastor

• **(Standing)**

**A reception will be held in the Fellowship Hall immediately following service**

# *2023 Daring To Make A Difference Honoree*

## **The Honorable Mayor Steven L. Reed**



In November 2019, Steven L. Reed made history by receiving more than 67 percent of the popular vote to become the first Black Mayor of Montgomery in the city's 200-year history. This marked another turning point for Alabama's Capital City, which is known globally as The Birthplace of the Civil Rights Movement.

As a native of Montgomery and product of its public schools, Mayor Reed is committed to realizing his vision of a more equitable, innovative and compassionate city. To that end, he is advancing an agenda that puts Montgomery on track to become a leader in the New South.

Now entering his second term in office following a decisive victory during his reelection campaign on August 22, 2023, Mayor Reed continues cultivating a climate where entrepreneurs can not only survive – but thrive. In the past two years, Mayor Reed and partners attracted more than one billion dollars in new capital investment and announced over 2,000 new jobs. During his tenure, Mayor Reed successfully led a transformational ballot initiative to increase investment in Montgomery's school system for the first time in over 40 years. Amid the height of the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects on the public and private sectors, Mayor Reed restructured city government to increase efficiency and effectiveness, increased municipal reserves to record levels and avoided employee furloughs and layoffs – all while maintaining a balanced budget and paying off millions of dollars in debt. As a result, bond agencies awarded Montgomery its best credit ratings since the Great Recession. In the aftermath of George Floyd's murder Mayor Reed steered the city through peaceful protests while strengthening relations between police officers and the communities they serve.

Mayor Reed is a lifelong public servant and leader who previously served as Montgomery County, Alabama's first Black and youngest elected Probate Judge. During his tenure as Montgomery's Chief Election Official, he implemented progressive solutions that ranged from ensuring election integrity and expanding mental health services to increasing voter access and being the first probate judge in the state to issue same-sex marriage licenses. For his work, Mayor Reed was selected as a member of the Department of Homeland Security's Election Integrity Commission.

Mayor Reed is a recipient of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Award for Governmental Service and is a member of the New Deal Leaders network, the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative and the UNUM Fellows cohort. He was selected for the Aspen Institute Socrates Program, is a member of the National League of Cities Public Safety Committee and is the First Vice President for the African American Mayors Association. He is also. As an active member of US Conference of Mayors, he was elected to serve as a Trustee and sits on the Transportation Committee and the Tourism, Arts, Parks, Entertainment and Sports Committee. Additionally, Mayor Reed is a member of USCM's Center for Compassionate and Equitable Cities Task Force, Mayors Water Council Task Force and the Hunger and Homelessness Task Force.

Beyond his civic engagements, Mayor Reed is an accomplished author, with his highly anticipated book "FIRST, BEST: Lessons in Leadership and Legacy from Today's Civil Rights Movement" released last month. The book is a powerful memoir that reflects on his story of forging a new path and carrying on his legacy as the son of a civil rights leader.

Mayor Reed graduated from Morehouse College cum laude and has a Master of Business Administration from Vanderbilt University's Owen Graduate School of Management. He and his wife Tamika are the proud parents of three children.



# *2023 Daring To Make A Difference Honoree*

## Central Alabama CrimeStoppers



**Central Alabama CrimeStoppers** is a nonprofit organization that brings together law enforcement, media, and the community to **stop, solve, and prevent crime.**

Central Alabama CrimeStoppers has stayed on a path of success since its inception in 1997. Beginning with a simple mission to place Montgomery area fugitives behind bars and help identify suspects involved in unsolved felony investigations, to now reach **32** counties and is partnered with **91** law enforcement agencies across the state of Alabama. This steady growth has allowed CrimeStoppers to partner with more law enforcement agencies while engaging and reaching many more residents, helping solve felony cases, and placing more wanted criminals behind bars.

2023 has been an exceptional year for Central Alabama CrimeStoppers, from being nominated and receiving the **2022 Southeastern CrimeStoppers Association Productivity Award** and receiving a proclamation from Montgomery Mayor, Steven Reed, declaring June 6, as **Central Alabama CrimeStoppers Day.**

CrimeStoppers depends on its many partners from the media to law enforcement to help get the word out about wanted fugitives and unsolved criminal investigations. Most importantly the public's quick response to our press releases results in a number of tips that help law enforcement find fugitives and solve cases. This year alone, CrimeStoppers reached over **twelve million social media followers** on over **1,000** posts, CrimeStoppers has received over **1,000** anonymous tips, cleared over **300** cases, paid a cash reward of **\$39,870.00** on **50** solved cases, assisted with **160** fugitive apprehensions, and over **550** criminal charges, recovered **192** firearms, assisted with solving **20** homicide investigations and helped locate **44** missing people.

### **Since 1997 – Total Program Statistics**

<b>Charges Filed</b>	<b>10,400</b>
<b>Fugitives Apprehended</b>	<b>3,060</b>
<b>Total Rewards Offered</b>	<b>260,964</b>
<b>Total Tips Received</b>	<b>14,800</b>

## *Responsive Reading*

### **#48 Thanksgiving**

**Old Testament: Ps. 92:1-4; Ezra 3 :10-11; 1 Chr. 29:10-13**

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High: to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night, to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre.

**For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy.**

When the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, the priests in their vestments were stationed to praise the LORD with trumpets,

**And the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, according to the directions of King David of Israel;**

And they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the LORD, "For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever toward Israel."

**And all the people responded with a great shout when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid.**

Then David blessed the LORD in the presence of all the assembly; David said: "Blessed are you, O LORD, the God of our ancestor Israel, forever and ever.

**Yours, O LORD, are the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty; for all that is in the heavens and on the earth is yours;**

Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all. Riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might;

**And it is in your hand to make great and to give strength to all. And now, our God, we give thanks to you and praise your glorious name.**

### **Count Your Blessings**

When upon life's billows you are tempest-tossed, When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost, Count your many blessings; name them one by one, And it will surprise you what the Lord has done.

#### **Chorus**

Count your blessings;  
Name them one by one.  
Count your blessings;  
See what God hath done.  
Count your blessings;  
Name them one by one.  
Count your many blessings;  
See what God hath done.

*Text: Johnson Oatman Jr., 1856–1922  
Music: Edwin O. Excell, 1851–1921*



## *Past Daring to Make a Difference Honorees*



Centennial Hill Gardening Project

The John F. Knight, Sr. Family

Montgomery Habitat for Humanity

Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church

Troy State University Montgomery

Mayor Bobby Bright

Fathers Active in Children's Education

Madison Park Neighborhood Assn.

Mr. and Mrs. John (Jimmie) Felder

King Hill Community Improvement Coalition

Mr. and Mrs. Theodore (Elizabeth) Sankey

Mr. Ken Upchurch, III

Dr. Hagalyn Seay Wilson

Dr. Carl Marbury

The Men of FCCC

Mr. Walter L. Bush

Mr. Thomas R. "Buddy" Morgan

Mrs. Johnnie R. Carr

The Honorable Quinton Ross

Mrs. Aundria Jackson

Mr. Wayne Sabel

Mrs. Maricia Woodham

Mr. Reginald McKenzie Miller

Ms. Timikel Blakely Sharpe

Mrs. Sheyann Webb Christburg

Mrs. Katie Grimes Franklin

Mrs. Eudora

Ms. Barbara Williams Thompson

Team Morris

Mr. Jerome Gray

Mr. David Bukette

Dr. Gwendolyn E. Boyd

Mr. Darryl Sinkfield

Mrs. Lela French Hamilton

Valiant Cross Academy

Ms. Diana S. Gray

Mr. Charles Lee

Mr. Terrence Baldwin

Dr. James B. Oliver

First Congregational Christian Church  
United Church Of Christ

## *Women's Fellowship Members*

Patricia French, <b>President</b>	Kenyetta Miller
Jacqueline Grimes, <b>Vice - President</b>	Antionette Moten
Velora Ford, <b>Chaplain</b>	Carolyn Olivari
Theresa Crum, <b>Secretary</b>	Helen Payne
Evelyn Lyle, <b>Financial Secretary</b>	Veda Porterfield
JoEtta Andrews, <b>Treasurer</b>	Corliss Robinson
Juanita Duncombe	LaTonya Sanders
Beatrice Forniss	Alisa Sinkfield
Felicia Gamble	Sibyl St. Clair
Iris Gibbs	Belinda Stanley
Sharilyn Harding	Cecilia Thomas
Eudora Lee	Patricia White
Brenda Martin	



### *Visitors*

Florette Sinkfield  
Dorothy Clayton  
Kim Gillis  
Gladys Harrison  
Latonya Sanders  
Alisa Sinkfield

### *Logistic Coordinators*

Felicia Gamble  
Sharilyn Harding



## *Notices & Announcements*

First Congregational Christian Church and members of the Women's Fellowship welcome you to this special Harvest Sunday Service. We thank you for sharing this program of thanksgiving for God's bountiful blessing, and we are delighted by your presence. Please join us immediately following service in the Fellowship Hall for a reception as we honor our special guest.

