



Life on the Vine

Rev. Ken Casey

Changing Lives by Sharing Christ, Making Disciples, Serving and Giving Hope

Sermon Notes: Thursday, April 25 & Sunday, April 28, 2024

The flowers are blooming, the trees are putting on leaves, the temperatures are rising, and people are suffering with allergies. It must be spring! It is time to plan, buy seeds, and begin planting gardens. In February I pruned my grape and muscadine vines and fertilized them in preparation for the development of their fruits. I will carefully monitor them and wait for their crops. As I monitor them, I will watch as branches develop and grow. The little buds will grow into branches and the branches will produce the leaves and fruit. Jesus said, "I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15: 5) The question for this Sunday is: What does life on the vine look like for us? See you Sunday.

Ken Casey**Pictures for High School Graduation Recognition****Sunday must be turned in by Sunday, April 28.****Contact Sheila Freeman for more information.**

**Tithes and Gifts to the
2024 Alleluia Offering
as of 4/21/24:**

\$31,571.00

**Thank you for your generosity.
Gifts for the Alleluia Offering will
continue to be received
throughout the Easter Season.**

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Worship Opportunities

5:30 pm Thursday Worship

Sunday Mornings: Celebration 9 am***Traditions 11 am******In Person (Sanctuary) and Online**www.fumcgadsden.org/media

on Facebook Live: @FUMCgadsden

ACOLYTES

April 28: Rhett and Clementine Hilburn

May 5: Luke Barnes

Tech Team Schedule**April 28**

Celebration: Eric Wright, Jacob and Carmen McKiven

Traditions: Mark Condra, Wayne Payton, Brad Barnes

May 5

Celebration: Eric Wright, Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman

Traditions: Neil Mullin, Sheila Freeman, Brad Barnes

Sunday SCHOOL

Classes for All Ages!

**Children's Sunday School Rooms 108 and 104
Youth Sunday School Room 211**

**New Young Adult Sunday School Room 209
Pathfinder/Seekers Room 208
Living Water Room 116**

(Nursery provided for Children under 3)

Wednesday Mornings Bible Study with Rev. Sherri

April 17 was the last class for Spring.

Watch for more information, coming soon!

Men at the Well Thursday Mornings, 7:00 am

You are invited to join the weekly Bible study with the Men at the Well small group.

The study is "100 Day Bible Study-The Torah". Temporarily meeting at "Union Jack" Café.

Contact Todd Rains, Mark Condra, Mark Casey, or any of the Men at the Well for more information.

**Wednesday
Fellowship Dinner
May 1
Menu: Chicken
Fingers
\$7 Adults**

Adult Small Groups @ Wonderful Wednesdays

Small Group with Harriet Murray, Room 110

"How Happiness Happens" by Max Lucado

Take the Spiritual Gifts Inventory @ Spiritual Gifts UMC.org

Every child of God is filled with [the power of the Holy Spirit](#), specially gifted to play a unique and valued role in the body of Christ. No one is without gift or purpose.

Spiritual gifts are not our talents or skills. They are the grace of God at work within us, empowering us to match our deep passions with the world's deep need. The gifts are given to individuals, but they are given to build and strengthen community and to meet the needs of those around us.

Begin the journey. Discover your gifts. Talk about your gifts with others. Strive together to understand your gifts and how you can use them to serve God, neighbor, and world. You have been gifted. You have been given a purpose.



ELC News

We had a blast with our last lunchbox revolt. Thank you to the Reyes family for sponsoring this event. Our End of Year program and parties will be Wednesday May 8th. The roses sale benefitting the scholarship fund continues. Thank you to those who have already purchased a rose this year.

—Helene

STUDENT MINISTRY

Youth Ministry News



"The Chosen Bible Study"
Apr 21 Sheila Freeman
Apr 28 Sheila Freeman

Youth Group Meets
Wednesdays at 6 pm each
week!

Youth Counselor
Carmen McKiven

Wednesday Fellowship Dinner
May 1: \$7-Adults \$3-11 & Under
Chicken Fingers, Mac n Cheese

Children's Ministry

Sunday Mornings @ 9 am and 11 am, Children's Church & 10 am Sunday School

Wednesdays at 6 pm, Small Groups for Children

May 12-2nd Grade Bibles

May 19-Confirmation Sunday

THIS SUMMER, JOIN US FOR

GFUMC's

Vacation Bible School

JUNE 3-6

KNIGHTS OF NORTH CASTLE

COKEBURY'S VBS

REGISTER ONLINE

A QR code with a colorful background.

"Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His power." Ephesians 6:10

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GADSDEN
115 S. 5th St. Gadsden, AL 35901

An illustration of a castle with a flag and a dragon flying in front of it.

SARA RABUN JOHNSON
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Mother's Day Roses Sale

With your donation of \$20 or more, a rose is placed on the altar on Mother's Day, in honor or in memory of your loved one.

All donations provide direct support for ELC families whose children would not otherwise be able to afford the program.

MAKE YOUR DONATION PAYABLE TO GFUMC AND
MARK IT "SRJ SCHOLARSHIP FUND".
ADDITIONAL DONATIONS TO THE FUND MAY BE GIVEN
THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.



Thank you for your donations!



Gadsden State
Community College
A Cappella Choir Concert

3:00 pm
Sunday, April 28
Sanctuary
First UMC Gadsden

Gadsden State Community College A Cappella Choir Embarks on 58th Annual Tour

Gadsden, AL - [April 24-28] - The Gadsden State Community College A Cappella Choir, under the direction of JT Harrell, is proud to announce its 58th annual tour, showcasing a repertoire of traditional choral literature, spirituals, and popular music.

The tour will feature performances in various cities and venues, offering audiences a captivating musical experience. The choir's rich harmonies and dynamic performances are sure to delight audiences of all ages.

"We are thrilled to embark on our 58th season tour," said JT Harrell, Conductor of the A Cappella Choir.

"This tour is a wonderful opportunity for our talented singers to share their passion for music with audiences across the region."

The Gadsden State Community College A Cappella Choir has a long-standing tradition of excellence, earning acclaim for its outstanding performances and dedication to musical artistry. The choir's commitment to musical excellence and passion for performance make them a must-see ensemble.

Don't miss your chance to experience the magic of the Gadsden State Community College A Cappella Choir.

April Mission Focus

Tornado Bucket

During the month of April, we will be filling Tornado Buckets and collecting needed items. Tornado Buckets are located at the entrances, if you would like to take a bucket to fill with the requested items. If you would prefer to donate any of the items below, there is also a Red Bucket for donations of individual items. All of the Tornado Buckets and additional items will be delivered to the NACUMC Disaster Relief Warehouse in Decatur! Thank you for your support of missions. -First UMC Gadsden Mission Team

1 Standard Size Claw Hammer

1 each: Shirt pocket notebook, permanent marker, pencil and sharpeners.
(Place in a small Ziploc bag.) For "To Do" lists and marking packing boxes.

1 Flashlight with batteries

12 Black Trash Bags, 30-45 Gallon recommended (bundled) *for trash removal*

1 Roll of Toilet Paper in a Ziploc Bag

1 Pr. Leather Palm/Cloth back or All Leather Work Gloves

1 50 count #8 Nails

10 White 13 Gallon Kitchen Trash Bags with Draw Strings (bundled)

1 Cellophane packing Tape

10 One-Gallon Ziploc Bags (bundled) (For jewelry, and valuables)

1 Box Cutter

1 Liquid Hand Sanitizer 4 oz –12 oz

1 Insect Repellant Spray Bottle/Can, Wipes or Combination

1 Pr. Safety Glasses. *For hammering tarps, wood strips on roof*

6 Clear Large Plastic Bags, 40-55 Gallon recommended (bundled)

3 Tampons or Pads in a small Ziploc Bag

-Add all items on the above list to the bucket. Secure the lid, if any of the items aren't available just label the top of the bucket "Needs... (the missing item(s))" and the warehouse will add the item(s).

Please return filled buckets to the church by Sunday, April 28. Additional donations of loose items may be placed in the Red Bucket in the Chestnut Foyer.

GFUMC



"By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:35

Ladle of Love

Fridays, 11:00am-12:00pm,
at the Portico entrance.

Donations may be made to the Ladle of Love Fund in honor or in memory of a loved one.

Clothes Closet Workdays
are Tuesdays before open
days from 9:00-11:00 am.

Open to Public

1st & 3rd Wednesdays

**May open dates are
5/1 and 5/15**

9:00 am to 11:00 am

516 Broad Street Gadsden

Find out more about mission
and service opportunities @
www.fumcgadsden.org/serve

Phone: 256-543-8200

Email:

fumc@fumcgadsden.org

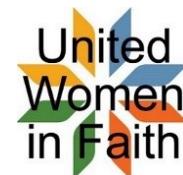
#gfumcreconnect2023

United Women in Faith

May Luncheon

Monday, May 13 at 12:00 noon.

Speaker is Benny McNair, who will share with us "Jewels of the Bible". Please phone or text your lunch reservation by noon on Sunday, May 12, to Olivia Kendrick at 205-454-4375



Delores Abney, President

Olivia Kendrick, Vice-President

**Clients Served
March 2024**

**Ladle of Love 474
Clothes Closet 216**

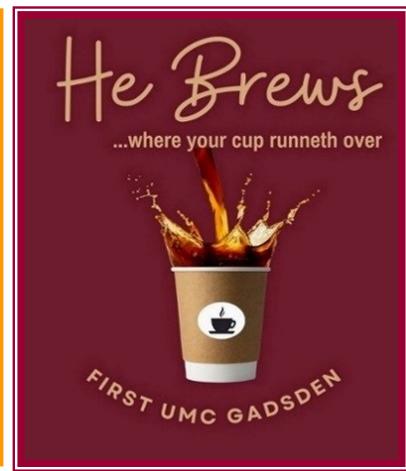
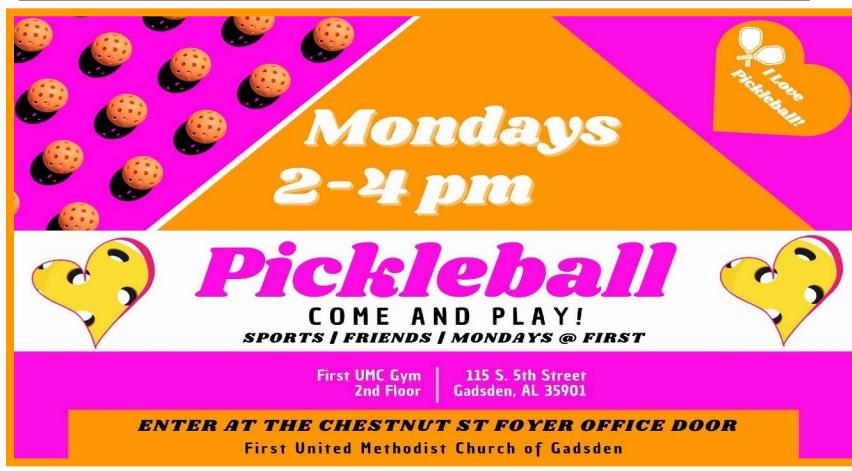
**Thanks to our
Volunteers!**



Please join us for HeBrews
Coffee Café between the regular
Sunday morning worship
services, from 10 am to 11 am.
We can't wait to see you there!!!



*The Inviting Ministries Team
wishes to say a special "Thank
You" to Sheri and Paul DeJong
for their service on the team and
for being our fourth Sunday
coffee baristas! Many thanks
and a fond farewell!!*



United Women in Faith Boston Butts Sale Benefiting Local Missions \$40 Each

Featuring Boston Butt's from Robertson's Barbecue (Tuscaloosa, AL)



Place your order by June 10. Prepayment is required.

All order must be picked up* between 3 pm and 6 pm on

Wednesday, June 19th

at First UMC Gadsden's Portico entrance facing 6th Street.

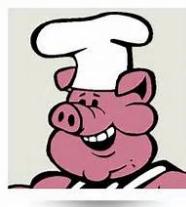
(Orders not picked up will be donated to Ladle of Love.)



Name _____

Phone Number _____ Email _____

Number of Boston Butt's _____ X 40.00 = Order Total _____



Note: Order Early—Quantities are Limited!



We welcomed New
Babies to these families at
“The Sprinkle” on 4/21



**Join Us for Fellowship
at the Back Forty
Thursday, May 2 @ 6 pm
following**

Thursday
WORSHIP

A SERVICE OF PRAYER AND WORD

5:30 pm to 6:00 pm In the Sanctuary
First United Methodist Church of Gadsden

Join us following Thursday Worship for a Church Social on May 2nd
at the Back Forty @ 6 pm.

On June 20, we will meet at the Stone Market and after that monthly on the
third Thursday of each month with the location to be announced!

We hope that you will join us!



Update Your Contact Information

*Please help us update the membership records in the church office
with your current mailing address, phone number, email address and
birthdays for all family members.*

*Updates may be sent to susan@fumcgadsden.org or call Susan in the
church office @
256-543-8200.*



Follow us on Facebook
and Instagram..



First Family,

Each day, I am overwhelmed by God's abundant blessings, especially the blessings at First United Methodist Church. Several months ago, I challenged the leadership to add three simple prayers for the church each day: reaching 200 in average worship attendance, financial provision, and blessings and direction for student ministry. I have seen the work of God in these areas, especially in the area financial provision.

Over the past month, we have received two substantial grants, and the giving has exceeded expenses and budget. To top it all, I celebrate a 2024 Alleluia Offering of \$31,571.00. The money from this offering will fund the 2024 Confirmation Retreat, allow enhancements in worship, and fund new ministry. This offering exceeded last year's gift and is the second largest Alleluia offering received.

Thank you for your generosity and being an instrument through which, God is blessing the ministry of First United Methodist Church. Your giving is an answer to the prayers lifted daily on your behalf and on behalf of this church. I especially thank you for going above and beyond in the Alleluia Offering. As your you are a part of God's abundant blessings in my life and our church.

In Gratitude,

Rev. Sherri Reynolds
Rev. Sherri Reynolds

Bob Blount
Bob Blount

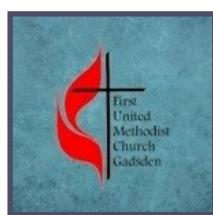


First UMC Gadsden
is a registered charity and can receive
donations through Venmo:
@FirstUMCGadsden
(Please search in Venmo under charities
or follow the link in the QR Code.)



venmo

Search @FirstUMCGadsden
in Venmo, under charities or follow the
link in the QR Code.



Generosity: Ways to Give

In-person, at the offering time during worship.

Online: www.fumcgadsden.org/give

Text to Give: 256-344-8464

Venmo @FirstUMCGadsden

Mail your tithe or gift: 115 S. 5th Street, Gadsden, AL 35901



Secure Online Giving



Scan the QR Code or
Text to Give: 256-344-8464
First United Methodist Church of Gadsden

Calendar for April 28-May 4, 2024

Apr 28 Sunday
9:00 am-Celebration Worship, Sanctuary
10:00-am Sunday School for all ages;
HeBrews Coffee, Chestnut Street Foyer
11:00 am-Traditions Worship, Sanctuary
3:00 pm GSCC Choir Concert, Sanctuary

Apr 29 Monday
9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Spring Schedule
9:00 am-10:00 am- Exercise Group, Gym
2:00 pm-4:00 pm-Pickleball, Gym

Apr 30 Tuesday
9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Spring Schedule
9:00 am-11:00 am-Clothes Closet workday
5:00 pm-6:00 pm-Yoga, Gym

May 1 Wednesday
9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Spring Schedule
9:00 am-11:00 am-Clothes Closet open
NO 11:00 am Bible Study
5:15 pm-Wednesday night meal, Gathering Room
6:00 pm-Children & Youth activities, Gym & Rooms 108 & 211
6:00 pm-Small Group Study, Room 110
6:00 pm-Choir practice Choir room

May 2 Thursday
9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Spring Schedule
9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym

May 3 Friday
11:00 am-12:00 pm-Ladle of Love

Mark Your Calendars

Sunday, May 5-High School Senior Recognition Sunday

(9 pictures must be turned in by Sunday, April 28.)

Sunday, May 12-Mother's Day, 2nd Grade Bibles

May 15-5 pm, Church Picnic, Kiwanis Pavilion, Noccalula Falls

Sunday, May 19-Confirmation Sunday

**Gadsden State
Community College
A Cappella Choir Concert**

3:00 pm

Sunday, April 28

Sanctuary

First UMC Gadsden

Immediate Prayer Concerns

John Floyd Louie Loveman Brent Styles (June Styles' husband)

Johnny Gunnels (Gail McNair's brother)

Chris Gunnels (Gail McNair's nephew)

Elizabeth Page & Pam James (Jan Humphrey's sisters)

Continued Prayer Concerns

Martha Bullock Marian Ford Amy Epperson

Asher Mae Collins Judy Collins (Tripp Collins' mother)

**WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS**

April 21, 2024

Julie Gage

Birthdays

Apr 28 Adair Arthur

Apr 29 Pat Walker,

Becky Thompson, Benny McNair,
Lane Echols

Apr 30 Crystal Cornett,
Dr. Charlie Newman, Gin Durham

May 1 Suzy Haney, Julia Calcote,
George Hightower, Jr.,
Charles Newman

May 2 Alvin Ferguson,
John Owen Hollingsworth

May 4 Mike Self, Ralls Pennington,
Rabon Pennington, Trevor Martin

Week of April 21, 2024

In Person Total-*164 Worship Total-564

Online-400 Thursday Worship-*7

Celebration Service-*66/183

Traditional Service-*91/217

Sunday School Adult-*40 Children *5 Youth *2

Nursery *3 Bible Study Groups-*26

Wed/Sun-Children*24 Wed/Sun-Youth *12

Misc. *12 Adult Volunteers *in person

General Offering Budget \$11,400.00

General Offering Received \$7,127.00

YTD General Offering Budget \$182,400.00

YTD General Offering Rec'd \$208,280.00

Important Deadlines

**Information for the weekly
newsletter is due each
Tuesday by noon.**

**All Meetings, Events and
Activities must be scheduled in
advance with the church
secretary, Susan Swann by
email or phone,
susan@fumcgadsden.org
or 256.543.8200.**