



# Matthew

LUKE 5:27-39



## Rev. Sherri Reynolds

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

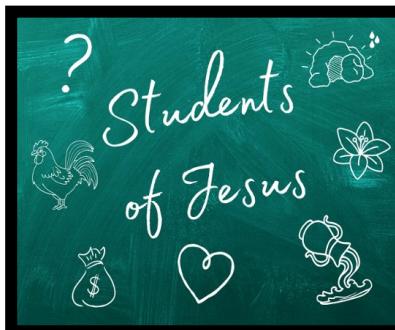
### Sermon Notes: Thursday, August 7 and Sunday, August 10

It is the third week of the series: *Student*. Today, we look at Matthew. What do we know about Matthew? Scripture reveals very little about Matthew. Other than the gospel, which is created to him, there is not a lot of information.

Matthew is also known as Levi. He collected taxes for the Roman Empire. Matthew was collecting tolls when Jesus invited him to follow. After he began his journey as a student of Jesus, Matthew threw a feast or party for his friends, so that they could meet Jesus. Matthew and his fellow tax collectors were judged and outcasts from Jewish society, so Jesus was criticized for attending the party with people that the religious leaders considered unholy.

Matthew causes us to consider how we invite our friends to meet Jesus. Maybe they feel uncomfortable in a religious setting too. Could this mean that our friends meet Jesus through us in other ways, maybe even parties? Our conversations, prayers, service, and acts of mercy may be opportunities to show people the Risen Christ. As part of the Body of Christ, we may never recognize how we can be Christ to others, introducing Jesus to those who long for his love and grace. Pause to consider this week how you are introducing people to Jesus.

A Student of Jesus, Rev. Sherri



### Students of Jesus

Think back to March. It may seem like a lifetime ago. As a congregation, we embarked on our own March Madness. Not the kind that has to do with NCAA basketball, but the kind that has to do with our favorites. This year, we voted the brackets for the favorite students of Jesus. The top six vote getters were Thomas, Peter,

Matthew, John, Mary of Bethany and Mary Magdalene. These students are the basis for the summer sermon series: *Student*. As students and teachers get ready to go back to school, we get schooled by some of Jesus' closest followers. Additionally, there is a little fun along the way. There will be opportunities for extra credit, teaching toward different learning styles, and bonus material for extracurricular subjects. *Join us for worship July 24-August 31, covering a six-week term of learning from faithful disciples.*

### Table of Contents:

- Page 1-** Sermon Notes; Tech schedule; Acolytes; Upcoming sermons for July 24-Aug 31, Students of Jesus (Disciples)
- Page 2-** New Bible Studies; Small Groups; Adult Studies for Sunday School Classes, *Ice Cream Social*
- Page 3-** ELC News; Student Ministries; Youth Calendar of Activities; Children's Ministry
- Page 4-** GFUMC Missions News; Clothes Closet; Ladle of Love; United Women in Faith
- Page 5-** HeBrews; Pickleball; *Ice Cream Social 8/13*
- Page 6-** Thursday Worship; Generosity 2025; Ways to Give; Online Giving; Venmo
- Page 7-** GFUMC Community Connection in the APP; NAC Connection News
- Page 8-** Calendar; Prayer Concerns; Memorials; Birthdays; Weekly Reports; Births; Deaths

### Worship Opportunities

**Thursday: Worship, 5:30 pm**

**Sunday Morning: Celebration, 9 am  
Traditions, 11 am**

\*In-Person and Livestream or On Demand  
[www.fumcgadsden.org/media](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/media)

### ACOLYTES

August 10: Anna Kate Casey, Jade Collins, & Layne Godfrey  
August 17: Luke Barnes

### Tech Team Schedule

**August 10**  
**Celebration:** Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman, Brad Barnes  
**Traditions:** Wayne Payton, Sheila Freeman, Rob Reynolds

**August 17**  
**Celebration:** Sheila Freeman, Bill Haller  
**Traditions:** Mark Condra, Davis Varner, Sheila Freeman

**Wonderful Wednesday returns on Wednesday August 13!  
Come and Celebrate @ the Annual Ice Cream Social  
6:30 pm, Portico and Greenspace  
New Bible Studies Begin 8/13:**

— Many study *Revelation* for what it reveals about the past or future, but what does it have to reveal about today? Using Greg Robbin's *Revelation Simplified: A Commonsense Approach to the Bible's Most Mysterious Book* as a guide, see how *Revelation* provides hope-filled promises for today. Bring your Bible and join Rev. Sherri in Room 208 at 11am or 6 pm on Wednesday starting on August 13. The study will continue through November 19.

—**The Belonging Project: Finding Your Tribe and Learning to Thrive** Are you hungry for true community, deeper connection with God, and friendships that are greater than just "likes" on social media? This is a study of the "One Another" Sayings of the New Testament. Join Harriet Murray and friends for this exciting new study. [Room 110, Wednesdays at 6 pm, beginning August 13.](#)

**New Bible Studies begin Aug 13!  
Wednesdays @ 11 am and 6 pm**

**Wonderful Wednesday Dinner: 5:15 pm — Chick-fil-A, Chips, Fruit  
\$3 Children under 11      \$7 per Person  
Ice Cream Social in the Greenspace, 6:30 pm Aug 13!**

## **Sunday School: New Adult Series**

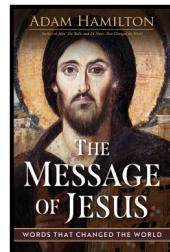
Transitions 10 am, Room 209

### **Pathfinders/Seekers 10 am, Room 208**

**Bob Goff's Undistracted** ends this Sunday, August 10.

**The Message of Jesus— Words that Changed the World** by Adam Hamilton begins August 17.

Adam Hamilton's "The Message of Jesus" explores six key themes in Jesus's teachings, emphasizing their relevance today. The study includes insights on the Kingdom of God, the Sermon on the Mount, and Jesus's parables, highlighting how his words can be life-changing and world-changing.

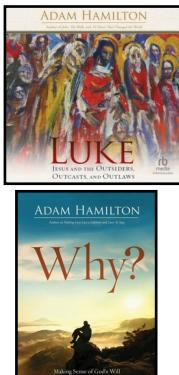


### **Living Water 10 am, Room 116**

**Current Study: Luke-Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws.**

**Beginning August 24th:** Join us, as we try to answer some tough, age-old questions concerning our faith. Questions like: "where is God when tragedy and suffering strikes? Why do the innocent suffer? Why do my prayers go unanswered? Why can't I see God's will for my life?" If God is all powerful, and If each one of us is a beloved child of God, then Why? How do we understand the will of God?

Let's Talk About it! This new study begins 8/24: [Why? Making Sense of God's Will](#) by Adam Hamilton. Weekly discussions led by Dawson Harmon and Ken Casey.



### **"Men at the Well" Thursday Mornings, 7:00 am**

You are invited to join the weekly Bible study with the "Men at the Well" at the 278 Restaurant. Contact Todd Rains, Mark Condra, Mark Casey, or any of the Men at the Well for more information.



## ELC NEWS

ELC faculty will return August 11th for annual room cleaning and lesson planning. Fall Open House is August 14th from 10 am to 11 am. Monday, August 18th, will be our first day back with everyone.

—Helene Haller



## Youth

Sunday School  
10 am, Room 211

## Wonderful Wednesday

### Returns

August 13

Dinner, 5:15 pm  
Youth Group, 6:00 pm

*"Let's Build a Solid Foundation!"*

Matthew 7:24

Ice Cream Social

6:30 pm

Greenspace

## Wonderful Wednesday Kickoff-Ice Cream Social August 13!

# Children's Ministry

### GFUMC Children's August Calendar

- Sunday, August 3 Blessing of the Backpacks (bring backpacks to church)
- Wednesday, August 6 no church
- Sunday, August 10 Move UP Sunday! 10:00am
- Wednesday, August 13 Wonderful Wednesday's Resume  
Ice Cream Social 6:00pm



### GFUMC CHILDREN'S AUGUST UNIT



WEDNESDAY'S  
AT 6:00

WEEK 1

WEEK 2

WEEK 3

WEEK 4

WEEK 5

God gives us directions to

God listens to our

God is worthy of our

God gives us true

God helps us do

**FOLLOW. REQUESTS. WORSHIP. WISDOM. BIG THINGS.**

If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

James 1:5 (NIV)

### Wonderful Wednesday

Small Groups and Activities  
resume @ 6 pm, August 13.

### Fellowship Dinner, 5:15 pm

Chick-fil-A, Chips, Fruit

\$7 -per person, \$3 -11 & Under  
RSVP: Text 256.490.5018

Join us for the annual  
Ice Cream Celebration

@ 6:30 pm

On the Portico &  
Greenspace

### Sunday Mornings

Children's Church  
during worship, 9 am & 11 am  
Sunday school @ 10 am

Need more info?

Katharine@fumcgadsden.org

Ms. Katharine Barnes  
Children's Director

# August Mission Focus

## Striplin Elementary School, Our Adopted School

Pray for teachers, staff, students, and families as the new school year begins! Special donations may be made to GFUMC's Striplin Adopted School Fund and are used for special projects throughout the school year, including A/B Honor Roll Parties, Teacher of the Month and Year Certificates and Gift Cards, and Teacher Appreciation Lunch. More exciting mission news and events for Striplin Elementary School will be announced soon!



The date to return filled stockings to the church has been extended to August 10th. You can fill a stocking and bring joy this Christmas! This year's Christmas in July features new instructions and guidelines for filling stockings. This year, stockings can be filled for the following age groups: Infants and Toddlers; 3-9 year olds; 10-12 year olds; Seniors 62 and above. You can pick up a stocking and a copy of the suggested items for filling stockings for each age group in the

Chestnut Foyer or look for the Salvation Army's suggested list on the GFUMC Church App! Also be sure to include a slip of paper tucked inside the stocking with gender and an approximated age for the recipient. Thank you for your participation in this year's Christmas in July Mission! —The Mission Team

## United Women in Faith

### Summer Suppers

Summer Suppers are lots of fun during the summer months for all ladies of our church! Join us for...

UWF Summer Supper #3  
Tuesday, August 19 at 6 pm  
Gadsden Country Club  
1884 Country Club Dr  
Gadsden, AL 35901

*We have a private room to really visit & talk!  
Come and have fun and fellowship with friends!*

## 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  
July open dates are  
8/6 and 8/20

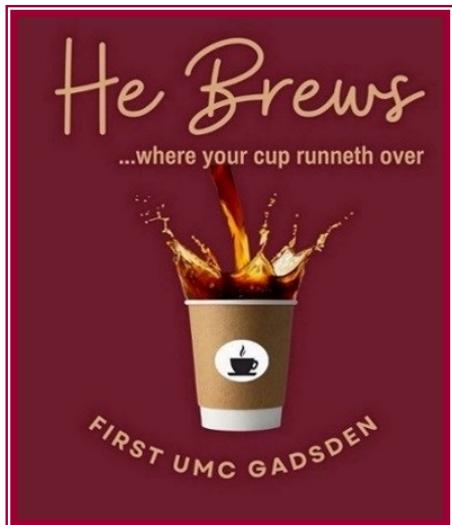
9:00 am to 11:00 am  
516 Broad Street Gadsden  
Find out more about mission and service opportunities @ [www.fumcgadsden.org/serve](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/serve)  
Phone: 256-543-8200  
Email: [fumc@fumcgadsden.org](mailto:fumc@fumcgadsden.org)

#gfumcreconnect2025

Ladle of Love  
Clothes Closet

	June
LOL	390
Clothes Closet	253

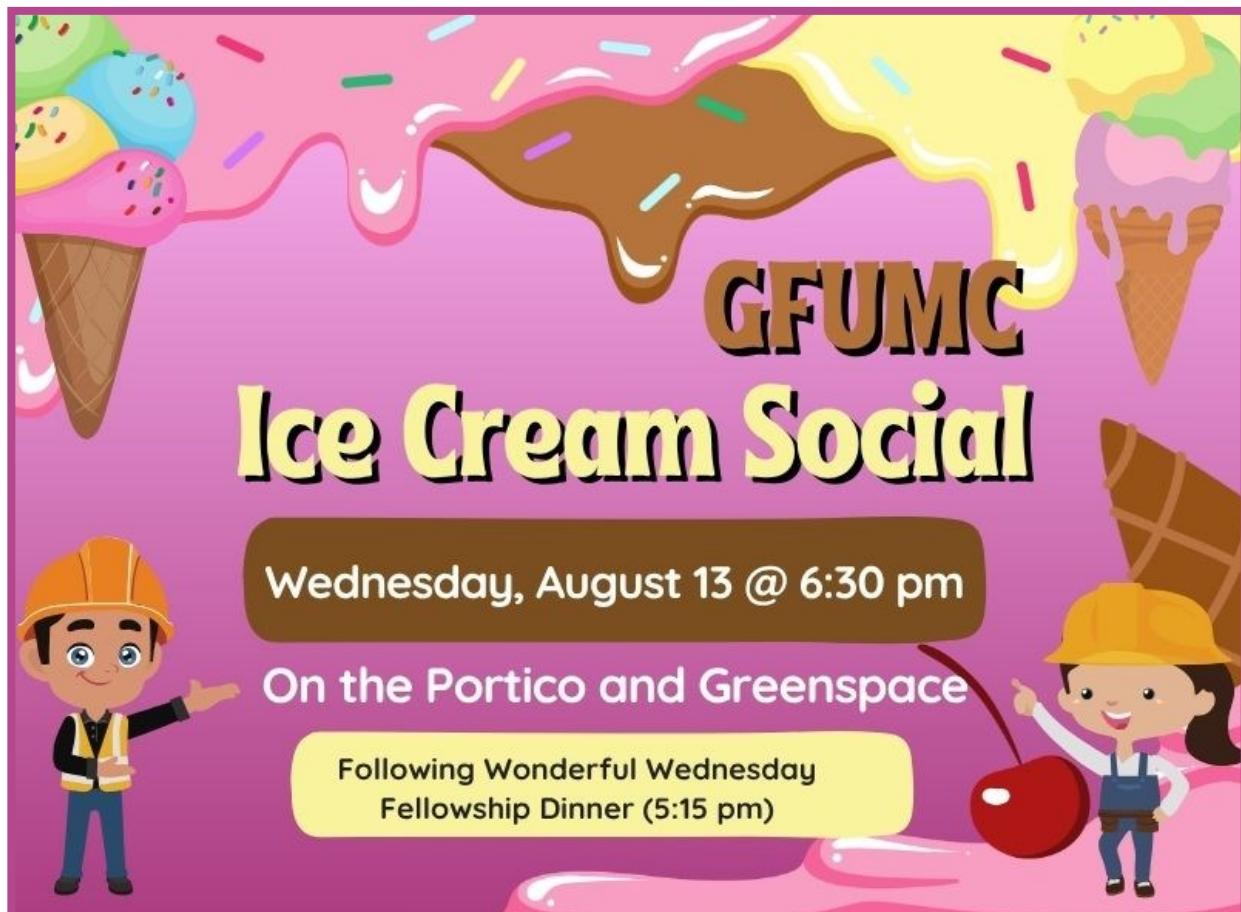
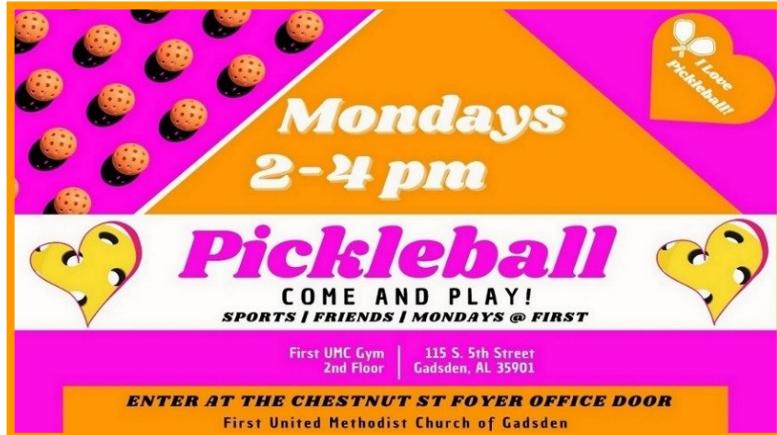
Thanks to our  
Volunteers!



Follow us on  
Facebook and Instagram.



HeBrews Coffee Café 10 am, Chestnut Street Foyer  
We Can't Wait to See You There!





**Thursday  
WORSHIP**

A SERVICE OF PRAYER AND WORD  
5:30 pm to 6:00 pm      In the Sanctuary  
First United Methodist Church of Gadsden

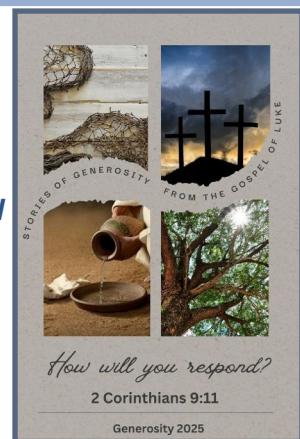
**Out of town or working on weekends?**  
Thursday Worship could be just right for you! Join us in the sanctuary for a peaceful, in-person gathering where we reflect on the upcoming Sunday's scripture and sermon, and spend time in prayer together. It's a meaningful way to deepen your faith and stay connected with God and your GFUMC family in a warm, welcoming setting.



## Generosity 2025 “How will you Respond?”

**You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us**  
2 Corinthians 9:11

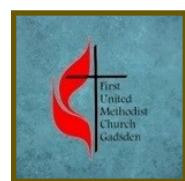
The 2025 “Estimate of Giving” Card can be filled out at any time during the year online @ [www.fumcgadsden.org/give](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/give)



**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.)



Download our Church App  
Search First UMC-Gadsden  
In the App Store for Android or iPhone.



### Generosity: Ways to Give

In-person, at the offering time during worship.

Online: [www.fumcgadsden.org/give](http://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

You are invited to connect with the GFUMC Family in a new and exciting way. Connect through the church app today by scanning the QR code above. You will now be able to find groups and connect with Teams, Leadership Groups, Sunday school classes, UWF Circles and more within the App.

**Follow these steps to connect:**

- Scan the QR Code and Click the link.
- “Join” by creating your profile with a password in the app (use “continue with email”).
- Discover your connections to the GFUMC church community, a smaller community (like UWF, choir, or Children’s Ministry, etc.) or a small group (like a Sunday school class or small group) or a church leadership team. There are so many ways to connect!
- Request to join or accept an invitation to join.
- You are now ready to send and receive notifications, messages, notices, reminders, prayer requests, and more within your GFUMC connections.
- Thank you for joining GFUMC Community Connection today!

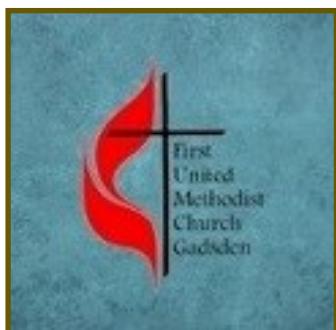


**Connect  
with us**



Scan here to  
connect with the  
community now.

First United Methodist  
Church of Gadsden



Download our  
Church App  
**FUMC-Gadsden**  
On the App Store or Google Play  
Create a profile and join the conversation  
connection!

**Bishop Holston will be preaching at First United Methodist Church on September 7 at the Traditions service. There will be a reception in the Chestnut Street Lobby at Hebrews to welcome him and Felicia from 10am-10:45am, that day. Mark your calendar and make plans to attend.**



**Celebration Worship, Sunday, September 7, All-Request Sunday**



Get ready for a powerful and uplifting **All-Request Sunday** during Celebration on Sunday, September 7! This special worship opportunity puts *you* in charge of the setlist, every song we sing will be chosen by *you*, our church family.

We’re inviting everyone to vote in advance from a list of Praise Band songs, including old favorites, as well as newer, spirit-filled worship songs that speak to the heart. Whether you’ve been moved by a classic worship song or recently discovered a song that draws you closer to God, now’s your chance to make sure it’s part of this memorable service.

**Follow the QR code to cast votes for your favorite worship songs.**



# First UMC Gadsden Aug 10-16, 2025

## Aug 10, Sunday

**9:00 am-Celebration Worship, Sanctuary**

**10:00 am Sunday School: Move Up Sunday**

10:00 am- HeBrews Coffee;

**11:00 am-Traditions Worship, Sanctuary**

## Aug 11, Monday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Teachers Work Week

9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym

2:00 pm-4:00 pm-Pickleball, Gym

## Aug 12, Tuesday

1:15 pm-Staff Meeting

5:00 pm-Yoga, Gym



*The flowers on the altar are in loving memory of Elisabeth Hardin, given by Benny Campbell, June Campbell Styles and Michael, Alie, and Ren Causey.*

*Celebration of Life for Elisabeth Hardin*

*4 to 6 pm, Sunday, August 10*

*Center for Cultural Arts*

## **Save the Date**

**August 10-Move Up Sunday School-Children & Youth**

**August 13-Return of Wednesday Night Dinner, Activities, and Ice Cream Social**



**5:15 pm-Wed Night Meal**

**6:00 pm- Adult Bible Study Groups; Children & Youth**

**6:30 pm-Ice Cream Social, Portico & Green Space**

**Aug 14-10:00 am-11:00 am-ELC Open House**

**Aug 18-9:00 am-ELC Fall Schedule begins**

**Aug 24-7:00 pm-College Ministry with Pastor Andy Yarnell**

**Aug 25-5:00 pm-Trustees Meeting**

**Aug 26-5:00 pm-Finance-6:00 pm-Board of Stewards**

## Aug 13, Wednesday

11:00 am-Morning Bible Study

5:15 pm-Wed Night Meal, Gathering Room

6:00 pm-Children's Activities, Room 208

Youth Activities, Room 211 & gym

Bible Study Groups, Room 110 & 208

6:00 pm-Choir Practice

**6:30 pm Ice Cream Social, Portico**

## Aug 14, Thursday

9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym

10:00 am-11:00 am, ELC Open House

**5:30 pm-Thursday Worship service**

## Aug 15, Friday

11:00 am-12:00 pm- Ladle of Love

12:00 pm-Office Closed



*There is still time to fill a stocking and bring joy this Christmas! See page 4. The date to return filled stockings to the church has been extended to August 10th.*

## Immediate Prayer Concerns

Gloria Rives

Belinda Tackaberry

Family & Friends of Elisabeth Hardin

## Continued Prayer Concerns

Fred Chase

Dottie Rogers

Martha Bullock

Amy Epperson

Mary Tom Hale

Emily Carroll (Adam Carroll's wife)

Grayson Phillips (Leigh & Dathan Phillips' son)

Ricky Couvillion (Joey Couvillion's brother)



## **Birthdays**



**Aug 10** Tracie Wooten,  
Jacob McKiven, Presley Autrey

**Aug 12** Claire Hedgpeth

**Aug 14** Kelly Roach

**Aug 15** Kirk Mabeus, Trish Harrell,  
Ashley Hornik, Cody Myers,  
Madeline Mills, Griffin Bone

**Aug 16** Dave Cummans,  
Dr. Bitsy Dorsett, Charles Trotter,  
Grady Leach

*Please update your family's record in the church office to include all dates of birth.  
Thank you!*

*—Susan Swann*

## **Attendance Week of Aug 3, 2025**

In Person Total \*177 On Line Total 596

Worship Total 773 Thursday Worship \*5

Celebration \*84/233 Traditions \*88/363

Adult Sunday School \*38 Children SS \*5

Middle School & Senior Hi SS \*4 UWF 0

Bible Study Groups \*5 Children Wed/Sun \*32

Middle & Sen Hi Wed/Sun \*4 Nursery \*7

Gift to Gadsden: 196

## **Year 2025 Week of Aug 3, 2025**

General Offering Budget \$12,400.00

General Offering Received \$16,994.00

YTD Gen. Offering Budget \$384,400.00

YTD Gen. Offering Rec'd \$404,479.00

## **Important Deadlines**

**Deadline for the newsletter is noon on Tuesday of each week.**

*All requests for spoken announcements for Sunday mornings must be turned in by Thursday @ noon, in writing to Susan Swann in the office.*

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