

*This is Our Story
This is Our Song*



"Blessed Assurance"

Rev. Sherri Reynolds

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

Sermon Notes: Thursday, August 8 and August 11, 2024

It is the last week of, "This is Our Story. This is Our Song." If you worshipped in-person during March, you know that we voted the brackets for our favorite hymns in the FUMC version of March Madness. This summer, the winners of the brackets will be the focus for the upcoming sermon series. As part of the series, I am writing a prayer inspired by the words of the focus hymn. This week's hymn is "Blessed Assurance" As you prepare for worship, sing the focus hymn in your heart, keep the prayer on your lips, and renew your mind with the Scripture for this Sunday. If you are unfamiliar with the hymn, you can find the words online or in the United Methodist Hymnal on page 369.

Scripture: I Thessalonians 5:16-18

Prayer: Jesus you are mine. You give me a glimpse of your glory. I am your child, born of your Spirit and washed in your blood. I can only imagine the day when you will come again. I am happy and blessed in you. Oh, to be filled with your mercy and grace. This is my story, and this is my song! I will praise you all day long!

Blessings,
Rev. Sherri



Confirmation for Adults - Beginning August 14

Everyone is welcome!

*Ever wonder what students learn
in confirmation class?*

Want to learn more about the United Methodist Church or Wesleyan Theology? Need a refresher on the basics of faith? Then this class is for you. Based on the We Believe curriculum, the class is an overview of the basics. Be a part of all the classes or drop in for one. The class will meet for one hour on Wednesdays at 11 am in the Gathering Room or Wednesday nights at 6 pm in classroom 208. See the schedule on page 2 for the topics of classes, dates, and times.

—Rev. Sherri Reynolds

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Worship Opportunities

Thursdays: 5:30 pm

**Sunday Mornings: Celebration 9 am*
Traditions 11 am***

*In Person (Sanctuary) and Online

www.fumcgadsden.org/media

ACOLYTES

August 11: Luke Barnes

August 18: Anna Kate Casey & Jade Collins

Tech Team Schedule

August 11

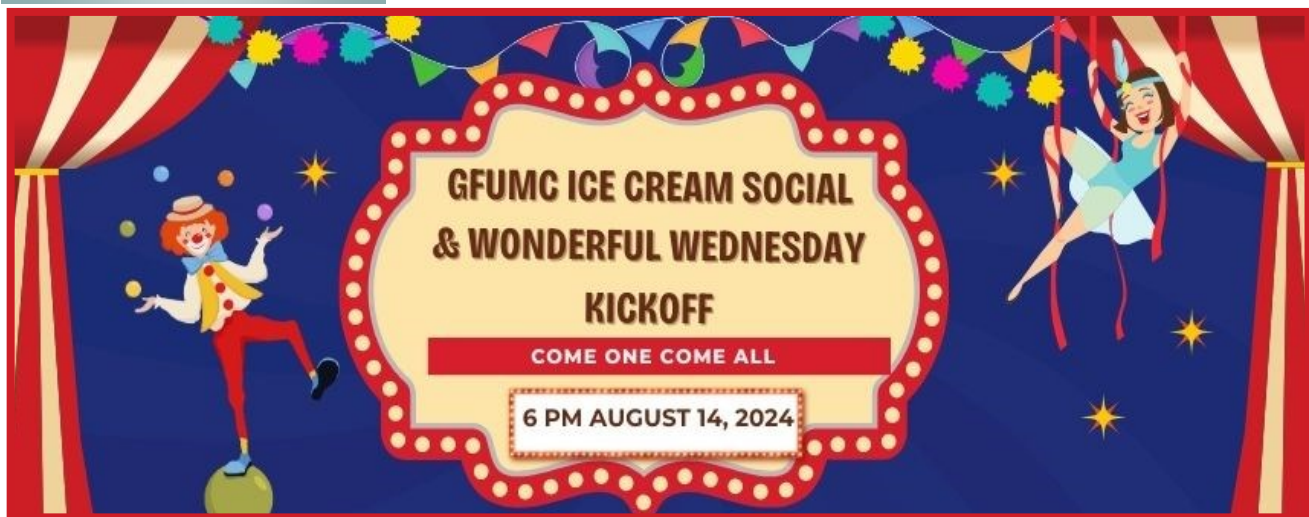
Celebration: Eric Wright, Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman,

Traditions: Rob Reynolds, Wayne Payton, Sheila Freeman

August 18

Celebration: Eric Wright, Bill Haller, Carmen McKiven

Traditions: Mark Condra, Neil Mullin, Brad Barnes



**Wednesday Fellowship
Dinner/Resumes 8/14**

\$7 Per Person

\$3 Children 11 & Under

**Wednesday Morning Bible Study &
Adult Small Groups @
Wonderful Wednesdays
will Resume in August 14**

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Getting Started- 11 am and 6 pm on August 14

The Bible- 11 am and 6 pm on August 21

God the Father- 11 am and 6 pm on August 28

God the Son - 11 am and 6 pm on September 4

God the Holy Spirit- 6 pm on September 11 and 11 am on September 18 (No 11 am on September 11)

Church History- 6 pm on September 18 and 11 am on September 25

Sacraments- 6 pm on September 25 and 11 am on October 2

Sin and Salvation -- 6 pm on October 2 and 11 am on October 9 (No 6 pm on October 9 due to fall festival)

Growing in God's Grace- 11 am and 6 pm on October 16

Living a Christian Life - 11 am and 6 pm on October 23

Responding to God's Grace- 11 am and 6 pm on October 30

First United Methodist Church- 11 am and 6 pm on November 6

#WeAreFirst

**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)

"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.

Currently meeting at 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 to the classrooms this week to plan and prepare for the 2024-2025 school year. Fall Open House will be Thursday, August 15th, from 10:00 am to 11:00 am.

—Helene



#WeAreFirst



Youth Sundays

August 11

Join us at the Meet & Greet for Becca Echols!

@ HeBrews at 10 am

August 18

Youth Sundays w/ Becca begins!

Youth Calendar

August 14: Wonderful Wednesday Begins

Youth Meet at 6 pm, Youth Room, Room 211
followed by the Ice Cream Social on the Portico.



**Added
notes...**

Thank you for
helping the
youth!
-Carmen

**Look for the Fall Calendar of Activities—
Coming Soon!**

EACH ACTIVITY WILL REQUIRE 1-2 ADULT
CHAPERONES, NOT INCLUDING CARMEN.
CONTACT CARMEN IF YOU CAN VOLUNTEER

TWO VOLUNTEER CHAPERONES ARE NEEDED FOR
THE ANIMAL SHELTER ON JULY 18, THIS EVENT
WILL REQUIRE PARENTS TO TAKE THE YOUTH.

For more
Information for
Sr. High Youth Activities
Contact
Sr. High Youth Counselor,
Carmen McKiven
256.458.3375
cmckiven@hotmail.com

Children's Ministry

Sunday Mornings @ 9 am and 11 am, Children's Church & 10 am Sunday School
Take a look at all the Fall Calendar of Events & Activities for Children.



GFUMC KIDS FALL CALENDAR | 2024

AUG 14	ICE CREAM SOCIAL WONDERFUL WED. RESUMES
FALL FESTIVAL 5:00-7:00 PM	
OCT 09	
NOV 20	FRIENDSGIVING 6 PM
SANTA BRUNCH 10:00 AM	DEC 8
DEC 15	CHRISTMAS PROGRAM 5:00 PM

Wonderful Wednesdays, every Wed. @6:00

- August Dreaming: From Genesis to Joseph
- September Lead the Way: Series on Moses
- October Are We There Yet? In the Wilderness
- November Right Track: Series on Joshua
- December Christmas Vacation: Series on Christmas

f FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.FUMCGADSDEN.ORG/CHILDREN

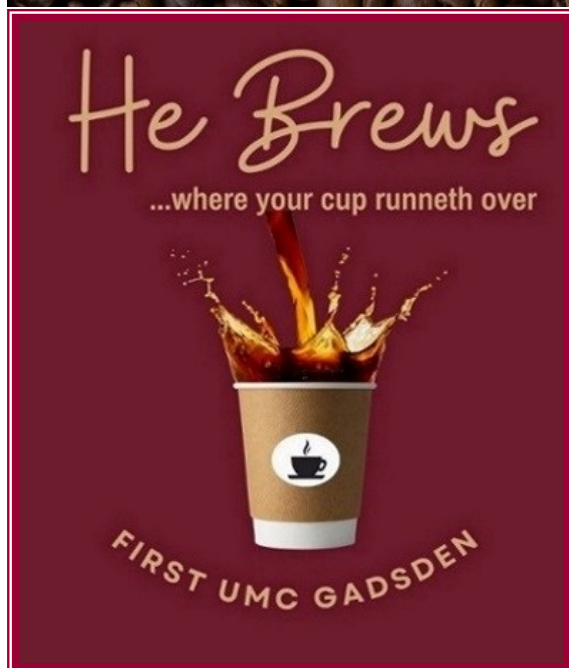
#WeAreFirst

We need your photo!



We are creating a prayer wall in the Kid's Worship Room, and we need photos of our kids! If you would like for your child to be included, bring a current photo, selfie, or portrait!

Philippians 1:3



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!!!

Thank you to our Coffee Baristas:

Jana and Mack Downs

Stacy and Zach Hilburn

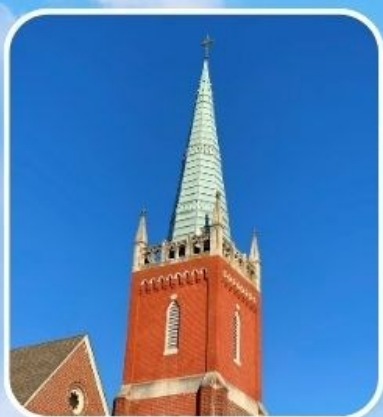
Beth and Gary Dial

Jeanne and Kirk Mabeus

Sherri and Steve Watson



This is Our Story This is Our Song Sermon Series



July 21 What a Friend We Have in Jesus
July 28 Here I Am, Lord
August 4 How Great Thou Art
August 11 Blessed Assurance

Rev. Sherri Reynolds



Welcome Reception

HONORING NEW MID-CENTRAL DISTRICT
SUPERINTENDENT

Rev. Alan Head

JOIN US AS WE HEAR THE VISION FOR THE NEW DISTRICT
AND GET TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER

AUGUST 18, 2024

3:00 - 5:00PM

ARAB FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1058 NORTH MAIN STREET, ARAB

August Mission Focus

Striplin Adopted School!

Our mission focus for August is Striplin Elementary School, our adopted school. As school begins, we had a "Welcome Back Breakfast" for the teachers on Thursday, August 1st. During this 2024-2025 school year we will continue our A/B Honor Roll parties for the children. We also support the teachers through the Teacher of the Month and Teacher of the year certificates and gift cards and a Teacher Appreciation Luncheon for the entire staff (around 65 staff members). Your gifts support the teachers and make a difference in the lives of children in our community! Don't miss church on Sunday, August 11th! Principal Anthony Ash will join us at both worship services to share more about our adopted school!



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

August open dates are

8/7 and 8/21

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

UWF Sunday will be August 25. The officers will be inducted during the service. The ladies will be in charge of all parts of the service during both Celebration and Traditions except to bring the message. The monthly luncheons will resume in September.

All Ladies...Come one, Come all, to our last Summer Supper! Tuesday, August 20th, 5:30 pm at Gadsden Country Club in the Camellia Room. (Various price ranges available) We can thank Marian Ford for setting this up so we can have a very special evening together before returning to our monthly luncheons in September. We hope to see everyone there!

Delores Abney, President

Olivia Kendrick, Vice-President



Clients Served June 2024

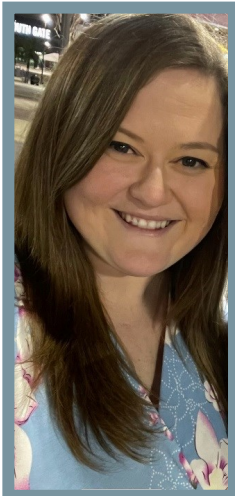
Ladle of Love 388

Clothes Closet 232

**Thanks to our
Volunteers!**



Welcome, Becca Echols to First UMC Gadsden



First UMC Gadsden is pleased to announce that Becca Rhea Echols will be serving as the Student Ministry Director for the middle school age group that we are calling "Lift!" Becca graduated from Birmingham-Southern in 2017 with a B.S. in Psychology and from Jacksonville State University in 2022 with a M.S. in Special Education. She is currently pursuing a behavior analyst certification to continue working at Coosa Behavioral Services where they serve children with different abilities. Becca has always loved teaching (and learning from) kids and cannot wait to continue that through Lift! Becca grew up in Gadsden, coming to Gadsden FUMC from early childhood all the way through high school. Becca says, "I am so excited to give back to the church that gave me so much!"

Becca is married to Mark and they have 2 kids; Sarah is 10 and Lane is 15 months. They love "being outside, bike rides and walks, swimming, watching movies together, and just hanging out as a family."

There will be a "Meet and Greet" at HeBrews on August 11.

Out of Town On the Weekend?

What to Know Before You Go!

- We are going to miss you! (Come to Thursday Worship before you go.)
- Download the FUMC-Gadsden church app and turn on notifications!
 - Join First UMC Gadsden live online via the the church website: www.fumcgadsden.org/media, facebook, or youtube.
- Worship services are also available on-demand on the church website or church App!
- Don't forget to share where you are watching from in the comments if you are joining on Facebook!
- Attending a Church out of area? Let us know! Bring us a bulletin or brochure! We'd love to learn more!
 - Before you go...Set up recurring giving through the First UMC Gadsden's eGiving platform.
- Give via Venmo @FirstUMCGadsden (Search in Venmo under charities or follow the link in the QR Code below.)

#WeAreFirst

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

Download our Church App
Search FirstUMC-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

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 August 11-17, 2024

August 11 Sunday

9:00 am Celebration Worship, Sanctuary
 10:00 am Sunday School for all ages
 10:00 am "Meet & Greet" for Becca Echols
 HeBrews Coffee, Chestnut Street Foyer
 11:00 am Traditions Worship, Sanctuary

August 12 Monday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Teachers, Classrooms
 9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym
 2:00 pm-4:00 pm-Pickleball, Gym

August 13 Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, ELC Teachers, Classrooms
 5:00 pm-Yoga, Gym

August 14 Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Teachers, Classrooms
 11:00 am-12:00 pm-Wednesday Bible Study, Rm 208
 5:15 pm-Wednesday Night Meal, Gathering Room
 6:00 pm-Children's Activities, Room 108
 Youth Activities, Gym & Room 211
 6:00 pm-Bible Study w/Pastor Sherri, Rm 208
 6:00 pm-7:30 pm-Choir Practice, Choir Room
 6:15 pm-Ice Cream Social, Portico

August 15 Thursday

9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym
 10:00 am-11:00 am-ELC Open House
 5:30 pm-Thursday Worship

August 16 Friday

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

**Everyone is Invited to the Ice Cream Social!
 Wednesday, August 14 @ 6:15 pm in the Portico!**

Join us in Worship this week for...

Striplin School

**Principal Anthony Ash will join us at both
 worship services to share more about our
 adopted school! See page 7 of the newsletter
 to read more about GFUMC's mission work at
 Striplin Elementary School.**

Honorariums & Memorials

General Budget Fund

In memory of George Varner, given by
 Leslie & Kevin Cooke.
 In memory of Jay Whitt, given by Mr. & Mrs. Keith Murray.

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Family of Mike Watson Family of Jay Whitt
 Bobby Kitchens (Grover Kitchens' father)
 Judy Collins (Tripp Collins' mother) Jane Jones

Continued Prayer Concerns

Nancy Smith Louie Loveman
 Amy Epperson Albert Gibson, Jr.

*The ministers and congregation of First United
 Methodist Church of Gadsden extend Christian
 sympathy to Steve and Sherri Watson,
 in the death of his brother,
 James Michael Watson
 August 2, 2024*

Birthdays

Aug 12 Claire Hedgspeth
Aug 13 Quinn Darden
Aug 14 Kelly Roach
Aug 15 Kirk Mabeus, Trish Harrell,
 Ashley Hornik, Madeline Mills,
 Griffin Bone
Aug 16 Dave Cummans,
 Bitsy Dorsett, Charles Trotter,
 Grady Leach, IV
Aug 17 Chip Edwards,
 Hayden Caldwell, Henry Darden,
 Josie Darden



Week of August 4, 2024

In Person Total-*155 Worship Total-811
 Online- 656 Thursday Worship-*9
 Celebration Service-*62/210
 Traditional Service-*84/446
 Sunday School Adult-*32 Children *4 Youth *0
 Nursery *2 Bible Study Groups-*5
 Wed/Sun-Children*39 Wed/Sun-Youth *0
 *in person
 General Offering Budget \$11,400.00
 General Offering Received \$12,146.00
 YTD General Offering Budget \$353,400.00
 YTD General Offering Rec'd \$395,001.00

Important Deadlines

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

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

**All Meetings, Events and
 Activities must be scheduled in
 advance with the church
 secretary, Susan Swann, by
 email or phone**