



John  
John 19:23-30



Rev. Sherri Reynolds

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

### Sermon Notes: Thursday, August 14 and Sunday, August 17

It is the fourth week of the series: *Student*, and we are exploring John. What do we know about John? John was a fisherman, son of Zebedee and brother to James. He was a leader among the disciples and part of Jesus' "inner three." Most scholars believe that he is the "beloved disciple" in the gospel which is credited to his writing. He is also given credit for writing three New Testament Letters and *Revelation*. He remained at the cross, when Jesus was crucified, rather than abandoning him like some other disciples. As John watched Jesus die, a new relationship was forged at the cross. Jesus connected John with his mother and Mary with John (John 19:23-30).

Jesus continues to forge relationship at the foot of the cross. Like with John, our relationship network expands through Jesus. In Jesus, we are heirs to God's promise and children and God. Our fellow believers become our "brothers and sisters" in Christ. This is a network not created by DNA, but a network of support in the love of Christ, which may even become closer than a family. These relationships bless us, help us grow as followers of Jesus, and provide for us. Count your blessing if you too can count connections forged at the foot of the cross.

A Fellow Student of Jesus,

Rev. Sherri

**Bishop Holston will be preaching in  
Traditional Worship  
at 11 am on September 7.**

**Please Join Us for a Welcome Reception**

honoring

*Bishop Jonathan Holston & Felicia Holston*

**10 am**

**Sunday | 07 | September  
Chestnut Foyer**

First United Methodist  
Church of Gadsden

### Table of Contents:

**Page 1-** Sermon Notes; Tech schedule; Acolytes;

Sept 7, Bishop Holston Preaching & Reception

**Page 2-** New Bible Studies; Small Groups; Adult Studies for Sunday School Classes

**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, Reception

**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 17: Luke Barnes

August 24: Sara Kate, Jake & Carter Thornburg

### Tech Team Schedule

**August 17**

**Celebration:** Sheila Freeman, Bill Haller

**Traditions:** Mark Condra, Wayne Payton, Sheila Freeman

**August 24**

**Celebration:** Sheila Freeman, Bill Haller,

**Traditions:** Rob Reynolds, Davis Varner, Brad Barnes

## New Bible Studies Begin

— 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.](#)

— **Loving on Purpose by Danny and Sheri Silk** starts **September 3**, and brings a fresh perspective on the age-old role of parenting. It will give you tools to:

- ◊ Protect your connection with your children.
- ◊ Teach your children to manage increasing levels of freedom.
- ◊ Replace the tools of intimidation and control.
- ◊ Create a safe place for children to build confidence and personal responsibility.

*This series includes a video live audience recordings of age specific Q&A sessions with wisdom that will work for your toddler all the way through your adult child. Our group facilitator will be Dawson Harmon, but the real teachers will be each of you as you share your stories and learn from one another.*

**Wonderful Wednesday Dinner: 5:15 pm —**  
**Menu: August 20, Italian Night**  
**Wednesday, \$3 Children under 11      \$7 per Person**

## Sunday School: New Adult Series

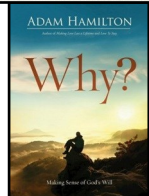
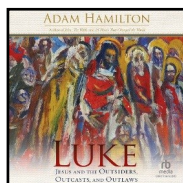
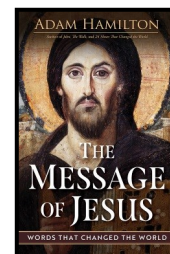
**Transitions 10 am, Room 209**

**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

We started strong this past week with Open House on Thursday, August 14. Thank you to all our families who attended. We look forward to a great first week and building firm foundations.

—Helene Haller



### Youth

Sunday School  
10 am, Room 211

### Wonderful Wednesday

August 20  
Dinner, 5:15 pm  
Italian  
Youth Group, 6:00 pm  
*"Let's Build a Solid Foundation!"*  
Matthew 7:24

### Wonderful Wednesday Dinner: August 20-Italian Night

# Children's Ministry

**GFUMC Kids Fall Calendar '25**

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS @ 6:00 CHILDREN'S CHOIR	SUNDAY MORNINGS @ 9:00&11:00 SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00	FAMILY EVENTS!
<b>August</b> Under Construction James 1:5	<b>August</b> The Holy Spirit makes us better	<b>October 22</b> Fall Festival 5-7
<b>September</b> Game Plan! Psalm 33:11	<b>September</b> Creativity: God Creates	<b>November 2</b> Rake & Run! 12-2
<b>October</b> Along the Way Psalm 121:8	<b>October</b> Faith: God's Promise	<b>November 19</b> Friendsgiving 6-7
<b>November</b> Unsung Heroes Zeph. 3:4-7a	<b>November</b> Blessing: God's Blessings	<b>November 26</b> Community Thanksgiving

Follow us on Facebook for more info!

### Wonderful Wednesday

Small Groups and Activities  
@ 6 pm

Fellowship Dinner, 5:15 pm  
**Aug 20, Italian Night**  
\$7 -per person, \$3 -11 & Under  
RSVP: Text 256.490.5018

### 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

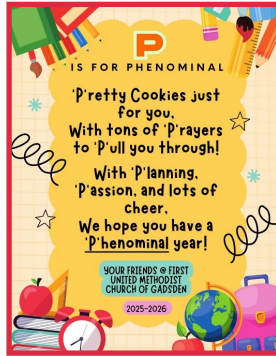
**GFUMC CHILDREN'S AUGUST UNIT**

**WEDNESDAY'S AT 6:00**

WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4	WEEK 5
God gives us directions to <b>FOLLOW.</b>	God listens to our <b>REQUESTS.</b>	God is worthy of our <b>WORSHIP.</b>	God gives us true <b>WISDOM.</b>	God helps us do <b>BIG THINGS.</b>

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)**

# 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. *This week, cookie treat bags were delivered to every staff member with prayer and best wishes for a Phenomenal Year!* More exciting mission news and events for Striplin Elementary School will be announced soon!



## Gift to Gadsden 2025

On behalf of the Mission Team, our community sponsors and many volunteers; I would like to thank everyone who participated in the 32nd Gift to Gadsden of 2025.

This year, with tremendous effort, we surpassed our goals. Our participants were very grateful about the knowledge, new friendships and love we shared. Thank you!

Best of all, our First UMC members re-ignited the dreams of many people.

This, my friends, is the true Gift to Gadsden...selfless behavior that is indeed priceless. In Christ, Ray Macon



Filled stockings were delivered to the Salvation Army this week and will bring lots of joy this Christmas! Thank you for your participation in this year's Christmas in July Mission! — The Mission Team

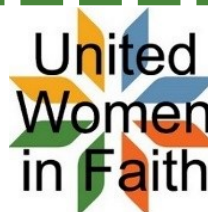
## United Women in Faith

### 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

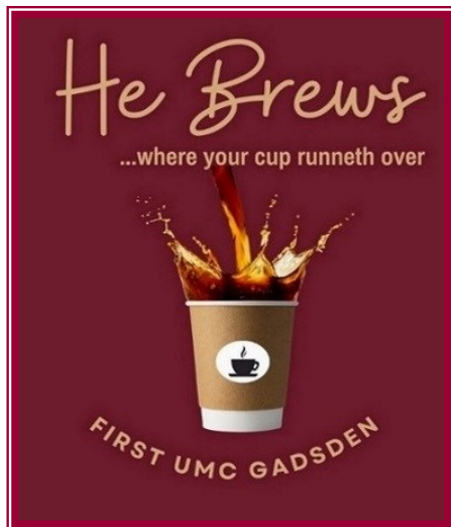
## Ladle of Love Clothes Closet

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!



**Bishop Holston will be preaching in  
Traditional Worship  
at 11 am on September 7.**

**Please Join Us for a Welcome Reception**

honoring

*Bishop Jonathan Holston & Felicia Holston*

**10 am**

**Sunday | 07 | September  
Chestnut Foyer**

First United Methodist  
Church of Gadsden

# Thursday WORSHIP

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

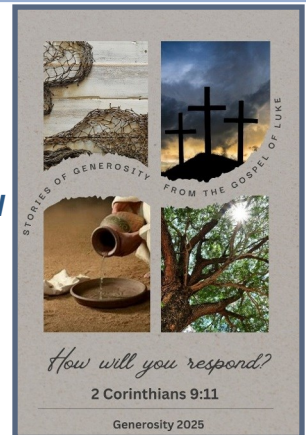
**Out of town or working on weekends?**  
Thursday Worship could be just right for you! Join us in the sanctuary for a peaceful, in-person gathering where we reflect on the upcoming Sunday's scripture and sermon, and spend time in prayer together. It's a meaningful way to deepen your faith and stay connected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



**venmo**

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

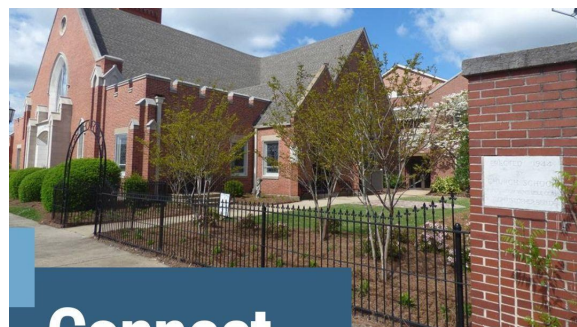


Scan the QR Code or  
Text to Give: 256-344-8464  
First United Methodist Church of Gadsden

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**

**First United Methodist  
Church of Gadsden**



Scan here to  
connect with the  
community now.



**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 17-23, 2025

## Aug 17, Sunday

9:00 am-Celebration Worship, Sanctuary  
**10:00 am Sunday School**  
 10:00 am- HeBrews Coffee;  
 11:00 am-Traditions Worship, Sanctuary

## Aug 18, Monday

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

## Aug 19, Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Fall Schedule  
 9:00 am-11:00 am-Clothes Closet Workday  
 1:15 pm-Staff Meeting  
 5:00 pm-Yoga, Gym  
 6:00 pm-UWF Summer Supper, Gadsden Country Club

## Aug 20, Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Fall Schedule  
 9:00 am-11:00 am-Clothes Closet open  
**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  
**6:00 pm-Bible Study Groups, Room 110 & 208**  
**6:00 pm**-Choir Practice

## Aug 21, Thursday

9:00 am-11:00 am-ELC Fall Schedule  
 9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym  
**5:30 pm-Thursday Worship Service**

## Aug 22, Friday

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

## *Save the Date*

**Aug 18-9:00 am**-ELC Fall Schedule begins  
**Aug 24-6:00 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  
**Sept 7-9:00 am**-Celebration Service "All Request Sunday"  
**10:00 am-10:45 am-Reception in the Chestnut Street Foyer for Bishop Holston and Felicia.**  
**11:00 am-Bishop Holston preaching.**  
**Sept 14-9:00 am and 11:00 am**-UWF Sunday  
**Sept 28-10:00 am-10:45 am**-Blessing of Animals Service

*In Memory of her Life*

*Mary Tom Hale*

*August 11, 2025*



## Immediate Prayer Concerns

Gloria Rives Family of Mary Tom Hale  
 Jay Morgan (Friend of Bobby Robinson)

## Continued Prayer Concerns

Belinda Tackaberry  
 Fred Chase  
 Dottie Rogers  
 Martha Bullock  
 Amy Epperson  
 Emily Carroll (Adam Carroll's wife)  
 Grayson Phillips (Leigh & Dathan Phillips' son)  
 Ricky Couvillion (Joey Couvillion's brother)



## **Honorariums & Memorials**

### General Budget Fund

In memory of Pat Martin, given by Mr. & Mrs. Pat Sherrill.

## **Birthdays**

**Aug 17** Chip Edwards, Linda Harwell, Hayden Caldwell, Peighton Myers  
**Aug 18** Georgia Eugenas  
**Aug 19** Briggs Megois  
**Aug 20** Brad Norris, Joyce Noojin  
**Aug 22** Maria Swinford, Donny Gray, Lisa Dobbins  
**Aug 23** Jud Dawson, Carey Malone, Morgan Frances Kennedy

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

## **Attendance Week of Aug 10, 2025**

In Person Total \*152 On Line Total 406  
 Worship Total 152 Thursday Worship \*12  
 Celebration \*60/190 Traditions \*80/216  
 Adult Sunday School \*47 Children SS \*5  
 Middle School & Senior Hi SS \*2 UWF 0  
 Bible Study Groups \*6 Children Wed/Sun \*7  
 Middle & Sen Hi Wed/Sun \*2 Nursery \*3

## **Year 2025 Week of Aug 10, 2025**

General Offering Budget	\$12,400.00
General Offering Received	\$ 9,744.00
YTD Gen. Offering Budget	\$396,800.00
YTD Gen. Offering Rec'd	\$414,223.00

## **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](mailto:susan@fumcgadsden.org) or call the church office.***