



# Mary of Bethany

John 11:1-3, 17-44



Rev. Sherri Reynolds

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

## Sermon Notes: Thursday, August 21 and Sunday, August 24

The next student in the series, Student, is Mary of Bethany. Keeping track of all the Marys of scripture can be complex. There are up to seven different Marys of the Bible. Mary of Bethany is sister to Martha and Lazarus. She sat at Jesus' feet while her sister worked in the kitchen and anointed Jesus before his crucifixion. Mary was present when her brother was raised from the dead, pointing out to Jesus that if he had arrived earlier then Lazarus would not have died. (John 11:1-3, 17-44).

Likely, we have had our moments of wrestling like Mary of Bethany. We want to know why Jesus did not show up earlier, why bad things happen, and if God cares. Scripture tells us that Jesus was delayed, so God's glory would be revealed. I am sure that with this answer, Mary may have still asked, "Could Jesus not have arrived earlier, and God's glory still be revealed?" There are times when we wrestle and wish that faith would be nice, with simple answers. In these times, we remember that Jesus cried with Mary of Bethany. Unfortunately, suffering is part of the human condition in this broken world, but also part of the human condition is the presence of a loving God, who is with us in our darkest moments.

A Fellow Student,  
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

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## 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 24: Sara Kate, Jake & Carter Thornburg  
August 31: Volunteer

## Tech Team Schedule

**August 24**

**Celebration:** Sheila Freeman, Bill Haller

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

**August 31**

**Celebration:** Sheila Freeman, Brad Barnes

**Traditions:** Neil Mullin, Rob Reynolds, Sheila Freeman

## 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 27: Chicken Fingers, Mac & Cheese  
Wednesday, \$3 Children under 11 \$7 per Person**

## Sunday School: New Adult Series

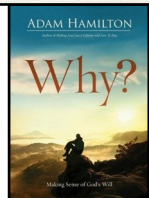
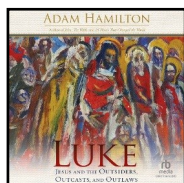
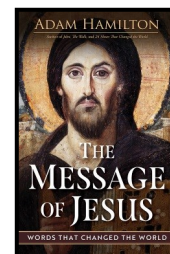
**Transitions 10 am, Room 209**

**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.

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**“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 have had the best first full week. Our families are working hard to arrive on time to give us the best daily foundation we can have. Be on the watch for our Fall Fundraiser starting September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

—Helene Haller



### Youth

Sunday School  
10 am, Room 211

### Wonderful Wednesday

August 27  
Dinner- 5:15 pm

Youth Group, 6:00 pm  
"Let's Build a Solid  
Foundation!"  
Matthew 7:24

Wonderful Wednesday Dinner: August 27-Chicken Fingers, Mac & Cheese

# 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!
August: Under Construction James 1:5	August: The Holy Spirit makes us better	October 22: Fall Festival 5-7
September: Game Plan! Psalm 33:11	September: Creativity: God Creates	November 2: Rake & Run! 12-2
October: Along the Way Psalm 121:8	October: Faith: God's Promise	November 19: Friendsgiving 6-7
November: Unsung Heroes Zeph. 3:4-7a	November: Blessing: God's Blessings	November 26: Community Thanksgiving

Follow us on Facebook for more info!

Wonderful Wednesday  
Small Groups and Activities  
@ 6 pm

Fellowship Dinner, 5:15 pm  
Aug 27-Chicken Fingers,  
Mac & Cheese  
\$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. *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!

### Clothes Closet Needs

As the season changes, our clothes closet is empty. Time to clean out closets and contact friends and neighbors to help replenish our store! We need everything : children, men, women's and plus sizes. Please help with this wonderful mission that helps so many! Thanks for your continued generosity.  
Your Clothes Closet Team



### 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

## United Women in Faith

### UWF Luncheon

**September 8**, Monday at 12:00 noon.

Speaker will be Nanda Patel.

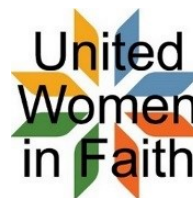
Executive Board will meet at 10:30 am.

Make your luncheon reservation by Sunday, September 7.

Contact Olivia Kendrick by text at 205-454-4375.

### UWF Sunday

**September 14**, Sunday is UWF Sunday for both services at 9:00 am and 11:00 am. All ladies are encouraged to volunteer and help with a task during the service. Please contact Delores Abney or Olivia Kendrick.



## 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

**September open dates are**

**9/3 and 9/17**

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**

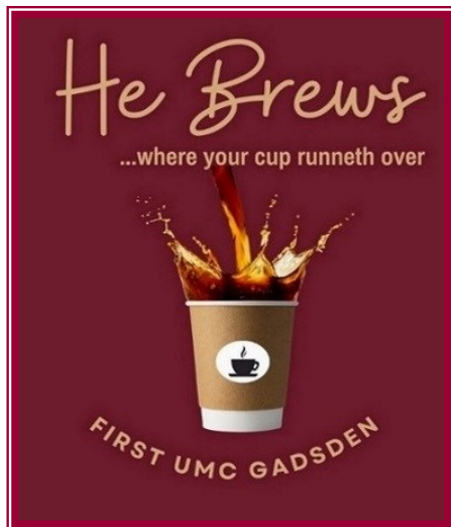
**Ladle of Love  
Clothes Closet**

**July**

LOL	297
Clothes Closet	266

**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!



A NEW Church Directory is coming! Watch for important dates for your opportunity to have a portrait made and be included in the GFUMC Church Directory.

**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

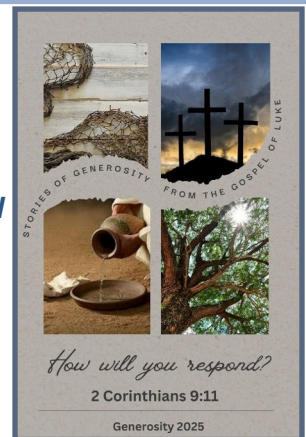
**Out of town or working on weekends?**  
Thursday Worship could be just right for you! Join us in the sanctuary for a peaceful, in-person gathering where we reflect on the upcoming Sunday's scripture and sermon, and spend time in prayer together. It's a meaningful way to deepen your faith and stay connected 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 24-30, 2025

## Aug 24, Sunday

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

## Aug 25, 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  
 5:00 pm-Trustees Meeting

## Aug 26, Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Fall Schedule  
 1:15 pm-Staff Meeting  
 5:00 pm-Yoga, Gym

5:00 pm-Finance Meeting; 6:00 pm-Board of Stewards

## Aug 27, Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Fall Schedule  
 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 28, 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 29, Friday

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

12:00 pm-Office Closed

## *Save the Date*

**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**

## Immediate Prayer Concerns

Ruthie Hester

Gloria Rives

## Continued Prayer Concerns

Belinda Tackaberry

Fred Chase

Dottie Rogers

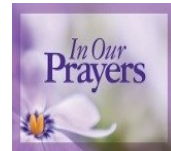
Martha Bullock

Amy Epperson

Jay Morgan (Friend of

Bobby Robinson)

Ricky Couvillion (Joey Couvillion's brother)



## **Honorariums & Memorials**

**Ladle of Love Fund** In memory of Mary Tom Hale, given by Shannon Skipper Campbell.

**Clothes Closet Fund** In memory of Mary Tom Hale, given by Mr. & Mrs. Richard McCoy.

In memory of Mary Tom Hale, given by Shannon Skipper Campbell.

**Striplin School Fund** In memory of our August Angels, Winnie, Barry, & Geri, given by Bob & Becky Oltman.

## **Birthdays**

**Aug 24** Sally Whitt

**Aug 25** Tracy Jones, Daniel Sizemore,  
Hadley Freeman

**Aug 26** Mike Dawson, Connor Moran

**Aug 28** Pam Dawson

**Aug 29** Janet Edwards, Erin DeLucca,  
Afton Yarnell, Henry Hopper

**Aug 30** Snooky Weaver, Tommy Hood,  
Marie Johnson, Jenn Yarnell,  
Warren Vallejo, Zander Calcote

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



## **Attendance Week of Aug 17, 2025**

In Person Total *142	On Line Total 622
Worship Total 764	Thursday Worship *7
Celebration *53/278	Traditions *82/344
Adult Sunday School *40	Children SS *4
Middle School & Senior Hi SS *2	UWF 0
Bible Study Groups *41	Children Wed/Sun *16
Middle & Sen Hi Wed/Sun *14	Nursery *2

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

General Offering Budget	\$12,400.00
General Offering Received	\$ 9,352.30
YTD Gen. Offering Budget	\$409,200.00
YTD Gen. Offering Rec'd	\$423,575.30

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

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

