



# peter

Matthew 16:13-23



Rev. Sherri Reynolds

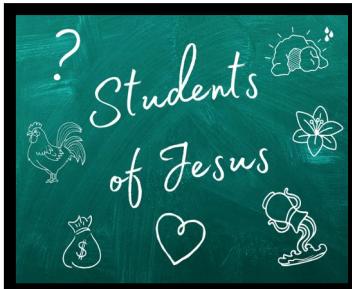
Changing Lives by Sharing Christ, Making Disciples, Serving and Giving Hope

## Sermon Notes: Thursday, July 31 and Sunday, August 3

This Sunday we focus on Peter (Matthew 16:13-23). What can we learn from Peter? Scripture reveals more about Peter than any other student in the series. While Peter is most well-known for the ways he messed up, the scripture for this week highlights a pinnacle in his leadership. Peter professed that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of the Living God. To this, Jesus affirmed that Peter was the rock and upon the rock, the church would be built, and the gates of hell would not prevail against it. Also, Peter would receive the keys to heaven, and whatever he loosed on earth would be loosed in heaven. Peter preached the sermon at Pentecost in which 3000 people came to believe. He led the church in its uncertain beginnings. Peter loved the church, even dying for the news of Jesus which would be spread through the church.

Peter was not perfect. The church which was born through the Holy Spirit is not perfect. We are not perfect either. Yet, in all of this, Jesus gives the promise that the gates of hell will not prevail against His church. Jesus invites us to love his church, as He and Peter loved the church. As we love the church and lead in Christ's church, people are transformed and know forgiveness; just like with Peter. 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.***

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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 3: Sara Echols & Luke Barnes  
 August 10: Anna Kate Casey, Jade Collins, & Layne Godfrey

## Tech Team Schedule

- August 3**  
**Celebration:** Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman, Brad Barnes  
**Traditions:** Wayne Payton, Sheila Freeman
- August 10**  
**Celebration:** Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman, Brad Barnes  
**Traditions:** Wayne Payton, Sheila Freeman, Rob Reynolds

**Wonderful Wednesday returns on Wednesday August 13!**  
**Come and Celebrate @ the Annual Ice Cream Social**  
**Portico and Greenspace**  
**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 6pm 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.

**Wednesday Morning Bible Study begins Aug 13!**

**Wonderful Wednesday Kickoff  
Ice Cream Social, 6 pm Aug 13!**

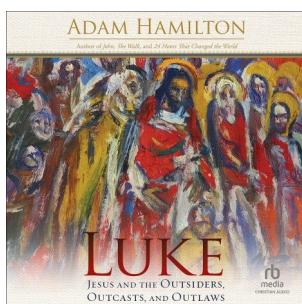
## **Sunday School: New Adult Series**

**Transitions 10 am, Room 209**

Transitions Sunday School is on summer break during the month of July. This class will resume meeting in August.

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

The series comprises five sessions. Each one tells the story of the hymn writer, how the hymn came to be, and the Christian message behind it. Hymns include: *How Great Thou Art, Rock of Ages, Amazing Grace, The Lord's My Shepherd, & And Can It Be?* Across the five sessions, ***Hymns We Love*** will help bring the core truths of the Christian story alive in a way that is gentle, warm, and clear.



**Living Water 10 am, Room 116**

In Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws, pastor and bestselling author Adam Hamilton explores the life, teachings, death, and resurrection of Jesus as told in the Gospel of Luke. Through Luke's stories we find Jesus' care and compassion for all as he welcomes sinners and outcasts. As we study Luke and see Jesus' concern for those who were considered unimportant, we hear a hopeful and inspiring word for our lives today.

**"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

Summer break continues. ELC faculty will return August 11th for annual room cleaning and lesson planning. Fall Open House is August 14 from 10 am to 11 am.

—Helene Haller



## Youth Group

### Summer Schedule

Room 211

Sunday School

10 am, Room 211

## Save the Date

August 3

Move Up Sunday

Blessing of the Backpacks

August 13

Ice Cream Social,  
Greenspace

Youth Group, 6 pm

## 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



Let's build a solid  
foundation!  
Matthew 7:24



Wonderful Wednesday  
Children's Small Groups and  
Activities will resume  
August 13.

Wonderful Wednesday  
Fellowship Dinner, 5:15 pm  
Chick-fil-A, Chips, Fruit  
& Join us for the Annual Ice  
Cream Social @ 6:30 pm,  
On the Portico &  
Greenspace

Sunday Mornings:  
Children's Church  
during worship,  
Sunday school @ 10 am

### 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)

BLESSING  
OF THE  
BACKPACKS  
SUN. AUG 3  
9 & 11



# August Mission Focus

## Striplin Elementary School, Our Adopted School

The Men at the Well will be welcoming students at Striplin Elementary

**School on the first day of school.** Mr. Ash, Principal, invites men from the community to come at 7 am to give high-fives, smile and encourage the students on their first day. Many of these students do not have a male influence in their lives. School doors open at 7:20. The event will last 30 minutes maximum.



The event is Thursday, August 7 2025. Striplin Elementary School is located at 600 Cleveland Ave, Gadsden.

***The Men at the Well invite men from all denominations and churches to join them.***

***More exciting Mission News and Events for Striplin Elementary School will be announced soon!***



**Return filled stockings to the church by August 5th.**  
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**

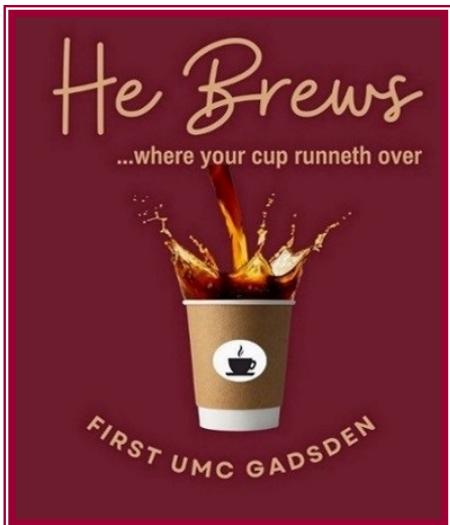
**9:00 am to 11:00 am**  
**516 Broad Street Gadsden**  
Find out more about mission and service opportunities @ [www.fumcgadsden.org/serve](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/serve)  
Phone: 256-543-8200  
Email: [fumc@fumcgadsden.org](mailto:fumc@fumcgadsden.org)

#gfumcreconnect2025

**Ladle of Love**  
**Clothes Closet**

	June
LOL	390
Clothes Closet	253

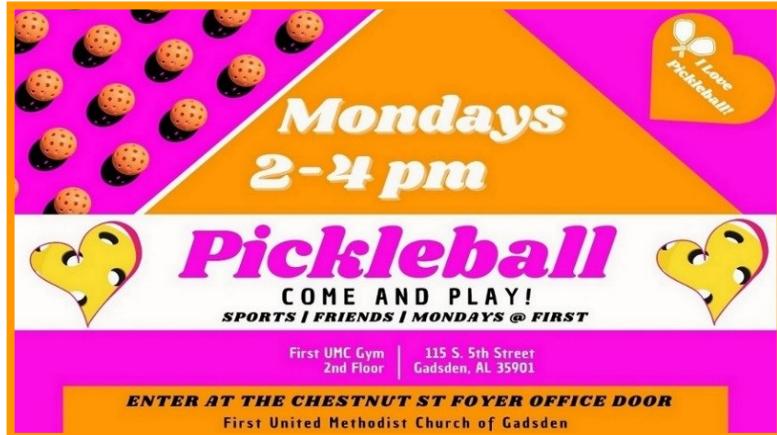
**Thanks to our**  
**Volunteers!**

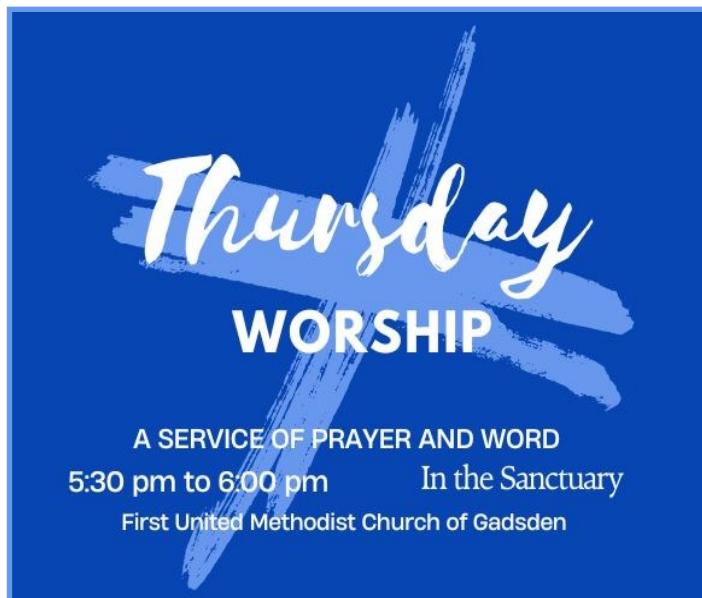


Follow us on  
Facebook and Instagram.



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

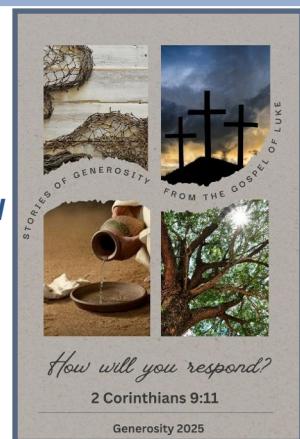
**Out of town or working on weekends?**  
Thursday Worship could be just right for you! Join us in the sanctuary for a peaceful, in-person gathering where we reflect on the upcoming Sunday's scripture and sermon, and spend time in prayer together. It's a meaningful way to deepen your faith and stay connected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

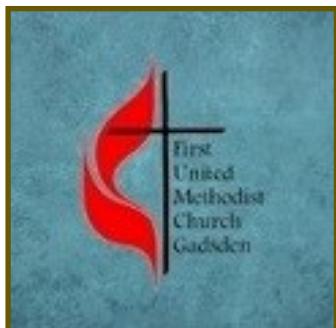


**Connect  
with us**



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!**



## North Alabama Connection News

There will be a Mid-Central District night of worship at Cullman First on August 5 at 6pm. Bishop Jonathan Holston will be preaching. **Transportation is provided if you would like to attend, leaving from First United Methodist Parking lot at 4:40pm.**

**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.

# First UMC Gadsden Aug 3-9, 2025

## Aug 3, Sunday

### Blessing of Backpacks & Prayers for Teachers

9:00 am-Celebration Worship, Sanctuary

10:00 am- HeBrews Coffee;

11:00 am-Traditions Worship, Sanctuary

## Aug 4, Monday

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

2:00 pm-4:00 pm-

Pickleball, Gym



*The rose on the altar is in honor of the birth of Reagan Miles McFarland July 30, 2025  
 Parents: Rhys & Lindsey  
 Big Brother: Asher  
 Grandparents: Robin Wilson & Rex Wilson  
 Given by GFUMC Children's Ministry*

## *Save the Date*

**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

## Immediate Prayer Concerns

Belinda Tackaberry Family of Gary Atkins

## 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)



## *In Memory of his Life*

**Gary M. Atkins**

*July 30, 2025*



## Birthdays

**Aug 2** Patsy Blankenship

**Aug 4** Jane Patton, Patricia Probyn, Lori Walker, Kaden Epperson

**Aug 5** Katie Wilson

**Aug 6** Karen Blackstock, David Freeman, Jade Collins

**Aug 7** Ruthie Hester, Ray Smith, Carol Roberts, Madison Beckett, Sellers Kirk

**Aug 8** Jennifer Jackson

**Aug 9** Peggy Burnett, Diana Rampey, Judy Tillman, Lewis Hill, Emily Copeland, Madeline Miller

## Attendance Week of July 27, 2025

In Person Total \*130 On Line Total 603

Worship Total 733 Thursday Worship \*6

Celebration \*44/305 Traditions \*80/298

Adult Sunday School \*43 Children SS \*4

Middle School & Senior Hi SS \*3 UWF 0

Bible Study Groups \*7 Children Wed/Sun \*27

Middle & Sen Hi Wed/Sun \*3 Nursery \*5

## Year 2025 Week of July 27, 2025

General Offering Budget \$ 12,400.00

General Offering Received \$ 22,976.00

YTD Gen. Offering Budget \$372,000.00

YTD Gen. Offering Rec'd \$387,485.00

## Honorariums & Memorials

### General Budget Fund

In memory of Pat Martin, given by Evelyn Pierson.

### Benevolence Fund

In memory of Greg Carroll, given by Mr. & Mrs. Dick McCoy.

In memory of Lou Ellen Phillips, given by Mr. & Mrs. Dick McCoy.