

*This is Our Story
This is Our Song*



“How Great Thou Art”

Rev. Sherri Reynolds

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

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

We continue the sermon series, “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 “How Great Thou, Art.” 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 the Sunday. If you are unfamiliar with the hymn, you can find the words online or in the United Methodist Hymnal on page 77.

Scripture: Psalm 104

Prayer: Gracious God, when I consider everything, you have made, I see the stars and hear the thunder. The universe displays your glory. When I wander in the woods and meadows, I can hear the birds sing in the trees and I praise you. When I look down from the mountains, hear the brook, or feel the gentle breeze, I praise you. You did not spare your son and I can’t believe it. On the cross, Jesus bore my burden and my sin. When you take me to heaven, I shall rejoice. I will adore you and proclaim your greatness! How great you are! I praise you, my Savior. How Great you are!

Blessings,
Rev. Sherri



Gift to Gadsden

Have you ever received a gift that was the perfect size, the perfect color and exactly what you wanted & needed at the time? Well, that's exactly what you have given to our community. Maybe you taught a class, brought cookies, volunteered your time or lifted Gift to Gadsden up in prayer, but whatever your contribution, you helped make this Gift to Gadsden a blessing and the perfect gift. Heart felt thanks to all who helped make this Gift to Gadsden a success.

—First UMC Gadsden Mission Team

Gift to Gadsden by the numbers.

26 Classes offered. 201 individuals registered. 235 Class spots registered for.

65% of registrants indicated they had NOT attended Gift to Gadsden previously!

22 classes formed. Attendance MT: 180 Attendance WTH: 65

Thank you goes to the GFUMC Mission Team for a wonderful Gift to Gadsden!

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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 4: Sarah Kate & Jake Thornburg

August 11: Luke Barnes

Tech Team Schedule

August 4

Celebration: Eric Wright, Sheila Freeman, Carmen McKiven

Traditions: Wayne Payton, Sheila Freeman, Brad Barnes

August 11

Celebration: Eric Wright, Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman,

Traditions: Rob Reynolds, Wayne Payton, Sheila Freeman



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

Confirmation for Adults - Beginning August 14

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 in the Gathering Room on Wednesdays at 11 am or Wednesday nights in classroom 208 at 6 pm. See the schedule below for the topics of classes, dates, and times. —Rev. Sherri Reynolds

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



**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

The ELC is on a small break to rest and recuperate before starting our 2024-2025 school year.

Fall Open House will be Thursday, August 15th from 10:00 am to 11:00 am.

—Helene



STUDENT MINISTRY



Youth Sundays

August 4

“The Chosen Bible Study”

Meet in the Youth Room (211) @ 10 am

August 11

Join us at the Meet & Greet for Beeca Echols!
@ HeBrews at 10 am

August 18

Youth Sundays w/ Becca begins!

Youth Calendar

Sunday, August 4, Blessing of the Backpacks, Worship @ 9 am & 11 am

August 14: Wonderful Wednesday Begins,

Youth Meet at 6 pm, Youth Room, Room 211

followed by the Ice Cream Social on the Portico.



Look for the Fall Calendar of Activities—
Coming Soon!

Added
notes...

Thank you for
helping the
youth!
-Carmen

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

 FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.FUMCGADSDEN.ORG/CHILDREN

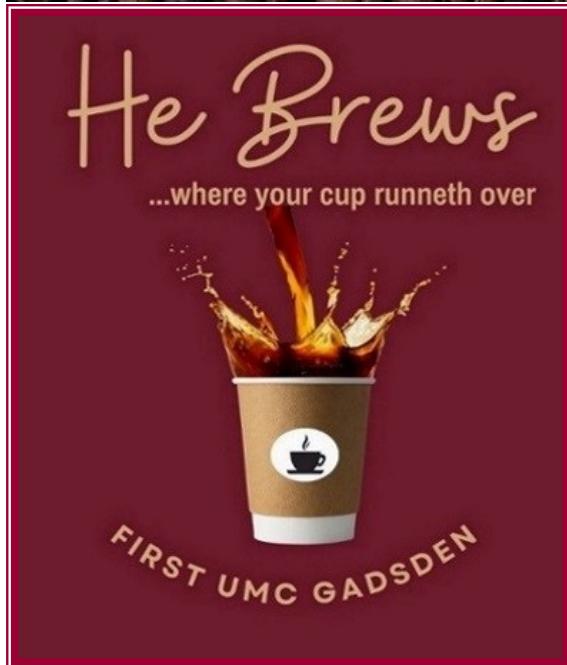
#WeAreFirst

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



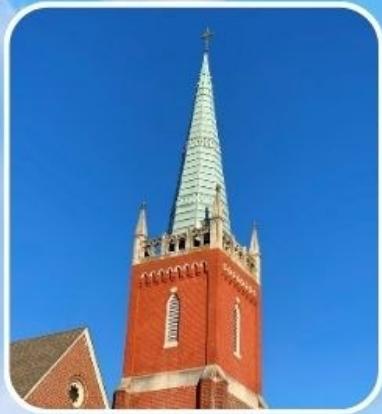
Please join us for HeBrews Coffee
Café between the regular Sunday
morning worship services,
from 10 am to 11 am.

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!



It's Christmas in July! You can fill a stocking and bring joy this Christmas! *Return filled stockings to the church by August 5th.*

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

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

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



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 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:

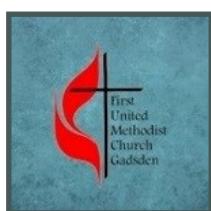
@FirstUMCGadsden

(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 4-10, 2024

August 4 Sunday

9:00 am Celebration Worship, Sanctuary
 10:00 am Sunday School for all ages
 HeBrews Coffee, Chestnut Street Foyer
 11:00 am Traditions Worship, Sanctuary

August 5 Monday

9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym
 2:00 pm-4:00 pm-Pickleball, Gym

August 6 Tuesday

5:00 pm-Yoga, Gym

Join us in Worship this week for...



The ministers and congregation of First United Methodist Church of Gadsden extend Christian sympathy to Kim and Cynthia Whitt, in the death of his brother, Lester Jay Whitt Jr.
July 28, 2024

Honorariums & Memorials

Children's Ministry

In memory of Dr. Clay Rowe, given by Marian Ford.

August 7 Wednesday

6:00 pm-7:00 pm- Choir Practice

August 8 Thursday

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

5:30 pm-Thursday Worship

August 9 Friday

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

Welcome!

Mrs. Becca Rhea Echols.



New to our
Ministry Staff

Becca will be joining the First UMC Gadsden Ministry Staff, as Director of Student Ministry for Middle School, beginning August 5. There will be a Meet & Greet on Sunday, August 11, during HeBrews.



Holy Baptism 7/20/24

Haley Goodwin

Emleigh Ridens

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Nancy Smith Mike Watson (Steve Watson's brother)
 Bobby Kitchens (Grover Kitchens' father)
 Judy Collins (Tripp Collins' mother)

Continued Prayer Concerns

Wayne Payton	Jane Jones	Karen Owen
Leslie Johnson	Patsy Blankenship	
Louie Loveman	Amy Epperson	Albert Gibson, Jr.

Birthdays

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
Aug 10 Tracie Wooten, Jacob McKiven, Presley Autrey

Week of July 28, 2024

In Person Total-*159	Worship Total-774
Online- 615	Thursday Worship-11
Celebration Service-*48/202	
Traditional Service-*100/413	
Sunday School Adult-*29	Children *6 Youth *0
Nursery *3	Bible Study Groups-*7
Wed/Sun-Children*19	Wed/Sun-Youth *0
*in person	Camp Lee *24 kids/5 adults
General Offering Budget \$11,400.00	
General Offering Received \$9,353.00	
YTD General Offering Budget \$342,000.00	
YTD General Offering Rec'd \$382,855.00	

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