



Lessons of the Chrismons

Rev. Sherri Reynolds

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

Sermon Notes: Sunday, December 1, 2024
No Thursday Worship November 28

It is a busy week at First United Methodist Church. In addition to the regular duties fit into a short week, there is also a lot of preparation taking place. We are working to get ready for the Advent season. At the center of the plans is our Chrismon tree which adorns the sanctuary. The Chrismon Tree is more than a typical Christmas tree, but a special tree which is decorated in gold and white ornaments which are the “monograms” or symbols of Jesus. On the tree you will find crosses, crowns, doves, mangers, sandals, and more. It is a beautiful reminder of Christ this Advent season. The Chrismon gives us the opportunity to consider afresh what Jesus means to us this Advent.

In Isaiah 5:9, we read a prophecy of Jesus, which reads, “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Jesus is all these names and more. What does Jesus mean to you? Savior? Friend? Healer? Bread of Life? Resurrection and Life? A Baby born in Bethlehem?

Advent Blessings,
 Rev. Sherri

New Adult Studies for Advent

“Prepare the Way for the Lord”

Living Water/Martin Fellowship, Room 116

“On the Way to Bethlehem”

Transitions, Room 209

“God Came Near”

Pathfinders/Seekers Room 208

Table of Contents:

- Page 1**-Sermon Notes; Tech Schedule; Acolyte Schedule; Advent Studies
- Page 2**-Sunday School Classes; Small Groups
- Page 3**-ELC News; Student Ministries; Youth Fall Calendar of Activities; Children’s Ministry
- Page 4**-GFUMC Missions News; Clothes Closet; Ladle of Love; United Women in Faith News
- Page 5**– Generosity 2025: How Will You Respond?; Ways to Give; Online Giving; Venmo
- Page 6**- HeBrews; Pickleball; Do You Know?
- Page 7**– UWF Christmas Boutique; **GSCC Choral Concert**; Grief Support Group; We Are First T-shirts
- Page 8**—Christmas Unplugged; Chancel Choir Christmas Music, Sermon Series for Advent & Christmas; Ways to Serve
- Page 9** –Advent & Christmas Calendar
- Page 10**-Calendar; Prayer Concerns; Memorials; Birthdays; Weekly Reports; Save the Dates

Worship Opportunities

Thursdays: 5:30 pm Sunday Mornings:

Celebration 9 am* Traditions 11 am*

*In-Person and Livestream or On Demand

www.fumcgadsden.org/media

ACOLYTES

December 1: Marit Norris

Thursday Worship Security

Dec. 5 Kirk Mabeus

Dec. 12 Paid Security

Tech Team Schedule

December 1

Celebration: Sheila Freeman, Bill Haller, Brad Barnes

Traditions: Sheila Freeman, Neil Mullin, Rob Reynolds

December 8

Celebration: Sheila Freeman, Bill Haller, Carmen McKiven

Traditions: Mark Condra, Neil Mullin, Sheila Freeman



Advent Study

Prepare for the season of Advent with a small group study which focuses on the symbols, history, and traditions of Advent led by Rev. Sherri. This short-term study will meet November 20 (Room 116) December 4 (Sanctuary) and December 11 (Sanctuary) at 11am and 6pm. Topics include: The meaning behind our Chrismons, The Christian Year, Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, The Christian connection with popular decorations, Christmas around the world, and the stories behind your favorite hymns. *Rev. Sherri Reynolds*

Wednesday Fellowship, Room 208

December 4 Menu: Chili & Hotdogs
\$7 Youth & Adults \$3 Children 11 & Under
Dinner is served beginning at 5:15 PM

Wednesday Morning Bible Study @ 11 am, Gathering Room

Advent Study w/ Rev. Sherri Reynolds

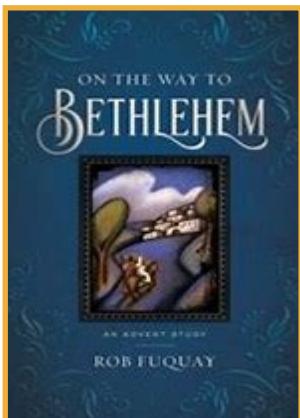
Adult Small Groups @ Wonderful Wednesdays

No Small Group Study on Wednesday, November 27

New Adult Studies on Sunday Mornings

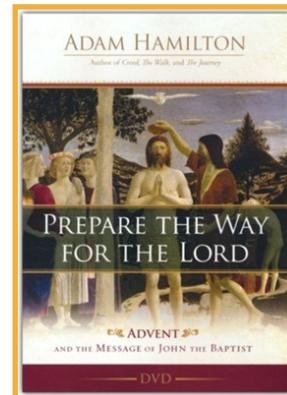
“Prepare the Way for the Lord”

Living Water/Martin Fellowship Room 116



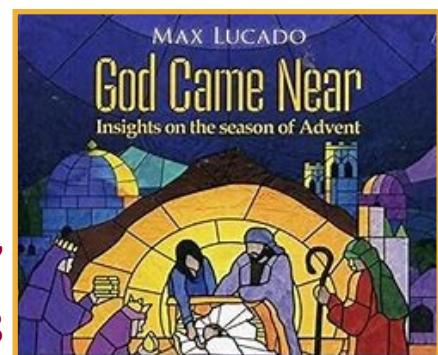
“On the Way to Bethlehem”

Transitions, Room 209



“God Came Near”

Pathfinders/Seekers, Room 208



“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

ELC will resume normal hours on Monday, December 2nd. Thursday, December 5th will be our annual Christmas PJ Day. We cannot wait to see everyone's cute Christmas pajamas.

—Helene Haller



STUDENT MINISTRY

Upcoming Events for Youth

Christmas Eve Live Nativity, 5 pm December 24
Ice Skating- December 29 (Chattanooga or Gadsden)

Youth Wednesdays, 6 pm
Senior High, Rm 211/Middle, Rm 209

Youth Sundays, 10 am

Youth Sundays w/ Becca
Sunday mornings, Room 211
Middle School and Senior High

Wonderful Wednesday Meal, December 4

Menu: Chili and Hotdogs \$7, \$3 Age 11 & Under

Children's Ministry

Sunday Mornings @ 9 am and 11 am, Children's Church & 10 am Sunday School



GFUMC KIDS
DECEMBER
CALENDAR
**20
24**

NOV
27 COMMUNITY
THANKSGIVING 10-12

SANTA BRUNCH
10:00 AM DEC
08

DEC
15 ACOLYTE PARTY
4-6 PM

KID'S CHRISTMAS
PARTY DEC
18

DEC
22 Christmas program 5:00
Happy Birthday, Jesus party



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.FUMCGADSDEN.ORG/CHILDREN

December Mission Focus

The Angel Tree

The Angel Tree is located in the Sanctuary. You can select an angel from the tree with a child's name and wish list to purchase gifts for this Christmas.



- Select an Angel from the Angel Tree and sign the Angel Tree List with your name & the Angel Tag #.
- Take the wish list tag only and leave the Angel on the tree.
- Angel Tree Gifts, clearly marked with the Angel # and unwrapped, must be returned to the church no later than Wednesday, December 11 at noon.

Thank you for your generosity for GFUMC November Missions!



This Thanksgiving, your donation of 73 sacks of food will help feed families in our community!

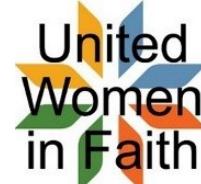
Through your gifts, First United Methodist Church of Gadsden provided desserts and additional financial support for the CommUnity Thanksgiving meal.



United Women in Faith

The monthly luncheons are open to all. Please make a reservation by calling or texting Olivia Kendrick by the Friday prior to the meeting date. 205.454.4375

- ♦ December 9-Christmas Luncheon, ELC Children singing



The UWF Bake Sale and Christmas Boutique

Thank you to all who donated baked goods or other items and to all who supported UWF missions through your donations at the UWF Bake Sale! We raised \$1570.00 for UWF Missions! We appreciate all of you! We hope that you will also visit the Christmas Boutique in the Chestnut Foyer on Sunday mornings between the worship services during the month of December.

—Delores Abney, President —Olivia Kendrick, Vice-President

LuVerna Waid Circle

The Christmas Party will be at Jill Vincent's home on Tuesday, December 17th at 5:30 pm. More details to come. Mark your calendar!

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

December open dates are 12/4 and 12/18

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

#gfumcreconnect2024

Ladle of Love
Clothes Closet

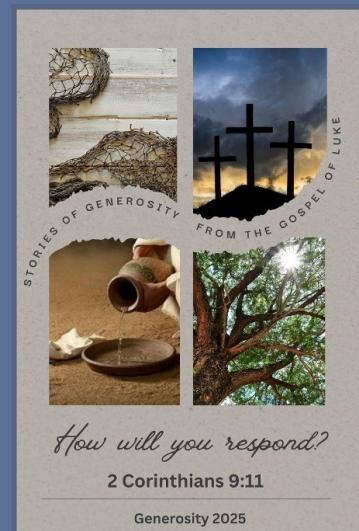
Thanks to our
Volunteers!

Stories of Generosity from the Luke How will you respond?

We are near the end of our 2025 Generosity Emphasis. During the month of October, we looked at response to Jesus, as found in the gospel of Luke.

The characters who we met along the way caused us to pause and wonder,
“How would I respond?”

If you have not received information about the emphasis in the mail, contact the church office. In the information was a 2025 estimate of giving card. On the card you will not only find a space to share your estimate of giving for the coming year, but also a space to faithfully renew your commitment to support the church with your prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. Why do we have a Generosity Emphasis with estimate of giving cards? Like other nonprofits or agencies, we estimate how we will fund our budget. It gives the leadership the ability to plan for the year ahead. Please know that the estimate of giving cards are not legally binding and are kept confidentially within the church office. There is also an online version which can be found on our church website. You may turn in your card directly to the plate, or complete the online version throughout this month.



As of Tuesday, November 26, we have \$454,096.00 committed to our 2025 General Budget Fund.. Thank you for your generosity and for those of you who have already submitted your card.

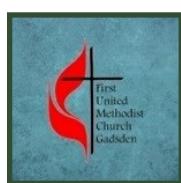
How will you respond?

Rev. Sherri Bob Blount
Senior Pastor Generosity Chairman

**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

Text to Give: 256-344-8464

Venmo @FirstUMCGadsden

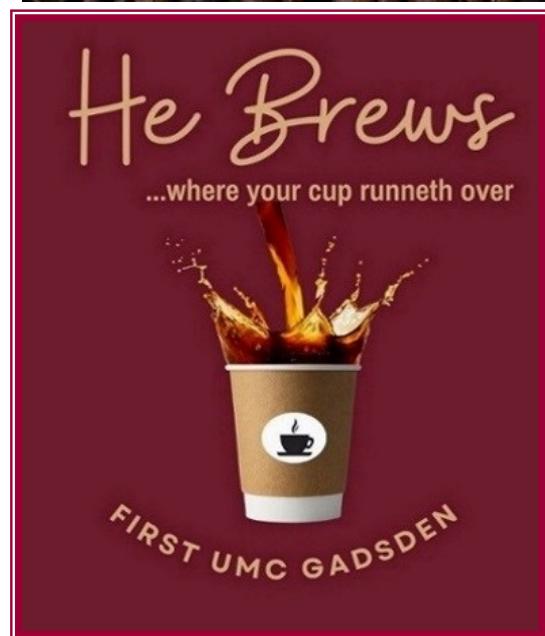
Mail your tithe or gift: 115 S. 5th Street, Gadsden, AL 35901



Secure Online Giving



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



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!!!



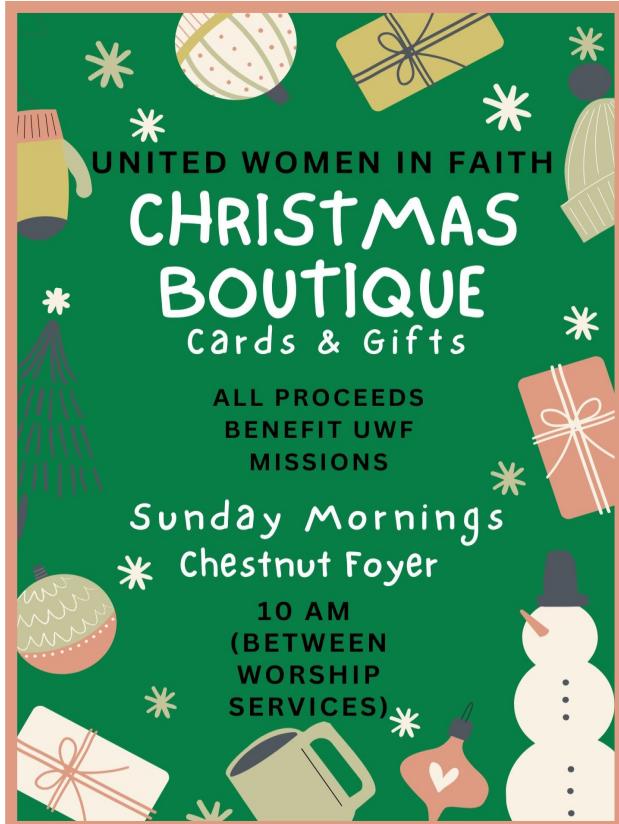
D
O
Y
O
U
K
n
o
w
?

DON & DOTTIE ROGERS



Dottie grew up in Gadsden and graduated from Gadsden High. She attended Gadsden State Junior College, then worked in the area located "under the clock" at Goodyear Tire and Rubber as the plant receptionist and telephone operator for 35 years before retirement. Her hobbies include upholstering furniture for family and friends, and she upholstered most of the sofas and chairs in both her living room and den. Don, who passed away in 2007, owned Rogers' Wrecker and Crane Services, located on Malone Street just behind the McDonald's on 12th Street in West Gadsden. He grew up in Boston, MA, but after being stationed at Camp Sibert during World War II, decided he

wanted to live in Gadsden. For 20 years, Dottie assisted him part of each day at Rogers' Wrecker and Crane. Their son, Jonathan, lives in Gadsden and lovingly checks on his mother two times each day.



Grief Support Group @ Gadsden First UMC

Tuesdays @ 11 am Room 119 Facilitator: Julia Lopez

Coping with grief and loss can indeed be incredibly challenging. A grief support group offers a safe, welcoming environment for individuals to connect with others who understand their experiences. In this 10-week small group, you'll have the opportunity to explore new ways to cope with grief, gain valuable insights into the stages of grief, and discover helpful resources. Together, participants will share their journeys and support one another, fostering a sense of community. By joining this small group, you'll gain new friends, practical tools, and a deeper understanding of your feelings, making the difficult path of

grief a bit more manageable. If you're considering joining, remember that you don't have to navigate this journey alone—support is here for you.

Our facilitator is Julia Lopez. Originally from Merrill, Wisconsin, Julia is a member of First UMC Gadsden and is retired after working 33 years as a Registered Nurse. Julia has been certified in Grief Support and has experience with leading grief support groups in a variety of different settings.

You may sign up for the class by contacting the church office @ 256-543-8200 or on the sign up form on the Church App or the church website @ www.fumcgadsden.org/journey-groups.



More T-shirts are in Stock!

"We Are First" T-shirts are available in a variety of sizes in the Chestnut Foyer. The cost is \$15. Please make your check payable to FUMC Gadsden and turn it in to the church office. Thank you!



Ways to Serve

Thursday Worship Security

Volunteers are needed to serve at Thursday worship from 5:15 pm to 6:15 pm. This includes assistance with opening and locking the building and being present for the worship service. Contact the church office.

Advent and Christmas

If you are willing to serve Communion or light candles for Advent and Christmas worship in Celebration or Traditions, please contact the church office.





Songs of the Season

Rev. Sherri Reynolds

Thursday Worship

5:30 pm

Thursday, December 5
"A Father's Song"

Thursday, December 12
Hymns of Christmas
Meet in the Chapel

Thursday, December 19
"A Long Awaited Song"

Thursday, December 26
No Thursday Worship

Celebration

9 am

Sunday, December 1
"Lessons of the Chrismons"

Sunday, December 8
"A Father's Song"

Sunday, December 15
Christmas Unplugged
Meet in the Chapel

Sunday, December 22
"A Long Awaited Song"

Traditions

11 am

Sunday, December 1
"Lessons of the Chrismons"

Sunday, December 8
"A Father's Song"

Sunday, December 15
Chancel Choir & Orchestra
Songs of the Season

Sunday, December 22
"A Long Awaited Song"

Evening Worship, Sunday, December 22
Children's Christmas Musical –Everyone Welcome

Tuesday, December 24
Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship, 4 pm & 6 pm
"The Angels' Song"

Live Nativity presented by the GFUMC Youth, 5 pm

Sunday, December 29
One United Worship Service, 10 am



Order a Poinsettia to be placed in the Advent and Christmas Worship Services



Cost: \$25 each _____ of Poinsettias _____ Total Amount Paid

_____ December 15 _____ December 22 _____ December 24

(Select Date: Poinsettias will be placed in both Services)

_____ in Honor of _____ in memory of

Name(s) _____

Given by _____

Calendar for Dec 1-7, 2024

December 1 Sunday

9:00 am-Celebration Worship, Sanctuary
UWF Christmas Boutique, Chestnut Street Lobby

10:00 am-Sunday School for all ages
 10:00 am-HeBrews Coffee, Chestnut Street Foyer

11:00 am-Traditions Worship, Sanctuary

December 2 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

December 3 Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Fall Schedule
 9:00 am-11:00 am-Clothes Closet workday

11:00 am-Grief Support Group, Room 119
 1:15 pm-Staff Meeting, Parlor

5:00 pm-Yoga, Gym

6:00 pm-8:00 pm, Basketball practice, Gym

December 4 Wednesday

December 4 Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Fall Schedule

9:00 am-11:00 am-Clothes Closet open

11:00 am-12:00 pm- Wednesday Morning Bible Study

5:15 pm- Wednesday night meal, Gathering Room

6:00 pm- Children & Youth activities
 Gym & Rooms 108 & 211

6:00 pm- Small Group Study, Room 110 & 208

6:00 pm- Choir Practice, Choir room

December 5 Thursday

9:00 am-1:00pm-ELC Fall Schedule

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

5:30 pm, Thursday Worship, Sanctuary

6:00 pm-8:00 pm, Basketball practice, Gym

December 6 Friday

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

12:00 pm-4:00 pm-Office Closed



Honorariums & Memorials

Caring Angels

In memory of Neita Taylor, given by Dotty Ivey.

In memory of Michael Morris, given by Dotty Ivey.

In memory of Mickey Langstaff, given by Dotty Ivey.

Benevolence

In memory of all Saints who have gone on before us, by anonymous giver.

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Ada Blount (Bob & Trish Blount's granddaughter)

Shep Vincent (Jill Vincent's grandson)

Glen Pierson

Continued Prayer

Concerns

Terry Bishop

Asher Mae Collins



Birthdays

Dec 2 Elizabeth Hyatt

Dec 3 Andrew Blount

Dec 4 Ginger Ross, John McCord, Richard McCoy, Victoria Ogletree, Hayden Winters

Dec 5 Shannon Campbell, Matthew Vance

Dec 6 Anna Katherine Hollingsworth, Erica Shumate, Will Calcote, John Waid

Dec 7 Margie Freeman, Olivia Kendrick, Austin Waits



Week of November 24, 2024

In Person Total-*142 Worship Total-731

Online-589 Thursday Worship-*14

Celebration Service-*53/278 *in person

Traditions Service-*75/311 UWF *0

Bible Study *26 Sunday School Adult-*37/1

Children SS- *3 Sr Hi & Middle SS- *1

Wed/Sun-Children* Wed/Sun-Nursery *2

Wed/Sun-Sr.Hi *4 Middle Youth *4

General Offering Budget \$11,400.00

General Offering Received \$4,235.00

YTD General Offering Budget \$535,800.00

YTD General Offering Rec'd \$582,947.00

Important Deadlines

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

All requests for spoken announcements for Sunday mornings 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, by email susan@fumcgadsden.org or call the church office.