

2ND SUNDAY  
OF ADVENTREV. SHERRI  
REYNOLDSHARMONY  
ISAIAH 11:6-10

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

### Sermon Notes: Thursday, Dec 11 and Sunday, Dec 14

The prophet Isaiah proclaims, "The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea." (Isaiah 11:6-10) This is Isaiah's vision of harmony and the theme from the Jesse Tree for December 14. His definition of harmony is related to peace, but there are additional definitions.

Harmony can also mean the simultaneous combination of tones, especially blended into chords which are pleasing to the ear. My prayer is that both definitions will be found in your life and at First United Methodist Church over the next week. Whether that be with the Gadsden State Choir on Thursday Night at 6pm, Christmas Unplugged at 9am on Sunday in the Chapel, Worshipping God through music of the Season at Traditions at 11am or with our children and their annual program at 5pm on Sunday night, may the harmony of the season ring true with peace and with sound this Advent and beyond. *Waiting for Christmas*, —Rev. Sherri

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### Worship Opportunities

**Thursday: Worship, 5:30 pm**  
**Sunday Morning: Celebration\* - 9 am Chapel**  
**Traditions\* - 11 am Sanctuary**

### Security for Thursday Worship

December 11: Paid Security December 18: Bob Oltman

### ACOLYTES

December 14: Anna Kate Casey, Jade Collins, & Layne Godfrey  
 December 21: Volunteer

### Tech Team Schedule

**December 14 Celebration:** Christmas Unplugged (none)  
**Traditions:** Davis Varner, Wayne Payton, Sheila Freeman  
**December 21**  
**Celebration:** Mark Condra, Sheila Freeman, Rob Reynolds  
**Traditions:** Mark Condra, Neil Mullin, Sheila Freeman

*Images of*  
**CHRISTMAS**  
 ARR OVID YOUNG

**First United Methodist  
 Chancel Choir with  
 String Ensemble  
 & Guest Soloist**

## Bible Studies & Small Groups for Adults

<sup>Je</sup> There are Jesse Tree Devotion Books available for the Advent season. We hope you will join us on a journey through Advent using this devotion. You can read the devotion book or follow the Jesse Tree Devotions by email. Need to subscribe to the daily devotional or church news? Send your email to [fumc@fumcgadsden.org](mailto:fumc@fumcgadsden.org) and request to be added.

**What is a Jesse Tree?**

A Jesse Tree is a symbolic representation of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, named after Jesse, the father of King David. It is used during the Advent season to illustrate the people, prophecies, and leading up to the birth of Jesus. Each day of Advent, a Bible story about someone from Jesus's family tree is read, and an ornament symbolizing that story is hung on the tree, linking the Old Testament to the coming of Christ.

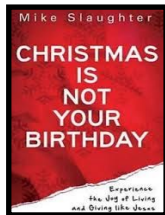
**Wednesday Morning Bible Study and Wonderful Wednesday Small Groups will not meet on December 17, 24, or 31. Wonderful Wednesday Small Groups will resume on Wednesday, January 7.**

### Wonderful Wednesday Dinner Will resume on January 7

**\$7 Per Person, \$3 age 11 & Under**

**Please text 256.490.5018 to make or change a reservation.**

## Sunday School: New Advent Series

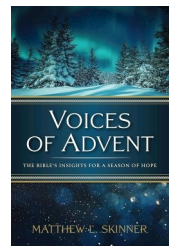


**Transitions 10 am, Room 209**

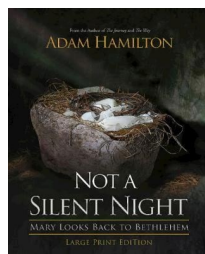
**Advent Study: Christmas is Not Your Birthday by Mike Slaughter**

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

**Starts Sunday, November 23: Voices of Advent—The Bible's Insights for a Season of Hope by Matthew L. Skinner**



**Living Waters 10 am, Room 116**



**Not a Silent Night Mary Looks Back to Bethlehem— by Adam**

Hamilton Imagine Jesus from Mary's point-of-view—proud of her son, in awe of his gifts and mission, guided by love for him as a person and so much more. Adam Hamilton begins at the end, with Mary at the crucifixion and resurrection; travels back in time as she witnesses his life and ministry; and ends at the beginning, with the Christ child born in a stable, Mary's beautiful baby. This year, experience Advent and Christmas with Mary.

### **“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

Thank you to all our families and friends that attended the annual Christmas program. What a fun joyous time! The ELC is now on Christmas Break and will return to normal hours on Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>.

Helene Haller



## Youth

Sunday School  
10 am, Room 211

## Wonderful Wednesday

Youth Group, 6:00 pm  
Will resume on Jan 7.

Live Nativity, December 24,  
5:00 pm

*"Let's Build a Solid  
Foundation!"*

Matthew 7:24

**Wonderful Wednesday Dinner: will resume on January 7**

**\$7 per person \$3 Age 11 & Under**

*Please text 256.490.5018 to make or change a reservation.*

# Children's Ministry

GFUMC CHILDREN'S November Unit

## UNSUNG HEROES

Wednesday's @6:00

WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4
GOD GIVES US <b>COMPANIONS.</b>	GOD GIVES US <b>OPPORTUNITIES.</b>	GOD GIVES US <b>BOLDNESS.</b>	GOD GIVES US <b>HOPE.</b>

**"THE LORD YOUR GOD IS WITH YOU, THE MIGHTY WARRIOR WHO SAVES!"**  
ZEPHANIAH 3:17A (NIV)

## Wonderful Wednesday

Small Groups and Activities  
@ 6 pm

Fellowship Dinner, 5:15 pm  
Will resume on January 7.

## Sunday Mornings

Children's Church  
during worship, 9 am & 11 am  
Sunday school @ 10 am

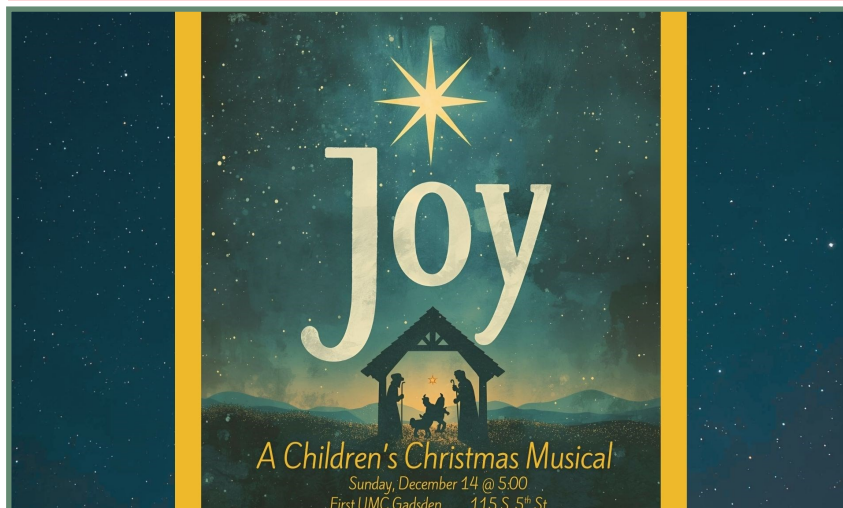
Need more info?

Katharine@fumcgadsden.org

Mrs. Katharine Barnes

Children's Director

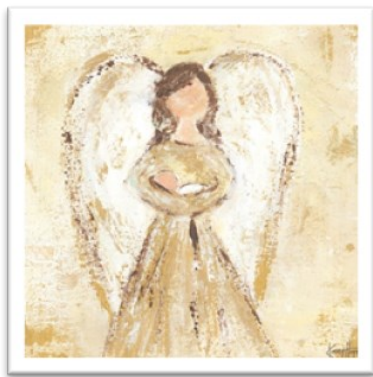
Children's Christmas  
Musical & Happy Birthday,  
Jesus Party  
5 pm, December 14



*A Children's Christmas Musical*

Sunday, December 14 @ 5:00  
First UMC Gadsden 115 S. 5<sup>th</sup> St

## December Mission Focus



The Angel Tree

***You provided gifts for 35 children this Christmas. Thank you for your generous gifts this Christmas season!***

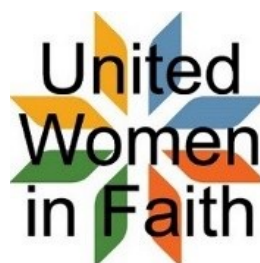
***The Mission Team***

### United Women in Faith

**December 14th, & 21st, 3rd & 4th**

**Sundays in Advent**

Shop at the UWF Christmas Boutique in Chestnut Street Lobby, between the worship services.



***Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!***



**Christmas Boutique:**

**Don't miss out ! The**

**Christmas Boutique is only open Dec 14th and Dec 21st.**

**Something for Everyone on your list or spoil yourself !**

**Goodies; quick fix dips,**

**soups cookie mix. Perhaps**

**you would like tea, jams or**

**Suzi's chutney? There is**

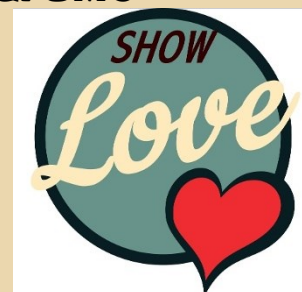
**also jewelry, stocking**

**stuffers, and so much more.**

**There is a beautiful hand**

**carved cane that is being auctioned and the bids close at 12 on this Sunday ! Don't miss it !**

### 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.

***Volunteers are needed to serve on Ladle of Love Teams. Contact the church office for more information on how you can serve.***

**Clothes Closet Workdays are Tuesdays before open days from 9:00-11:00 am.**

**Open to Public**

**1st & 3rd Wednesdays**

**December open dates are 12/3 and 12/17**

**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)**

**Ladle of Love  
Clothes Closet  
September**

**LOL 412**

**Clothes Closet 280**

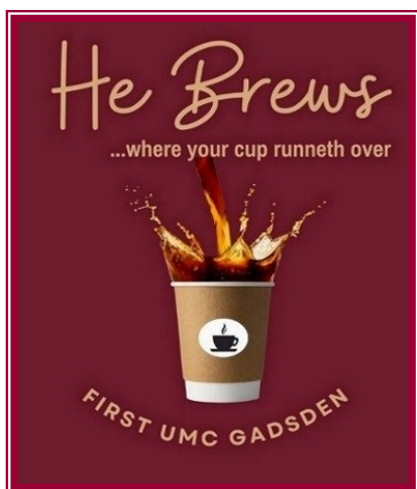
**October**

**LOL**

**Clothes Closet**

**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!**



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.



## Greeters & Ushers for Worship

**Sunday, December 14**

**Celebration: Karen & Wayne Owen**

**Traditions: Judy & Mandel Tillman; Margie & John Freeman**


**Sunday, December 21**

**Celebration: Steve & Sherri Watson**

**Traditions: Leslie & Phillip Johnson, Lori Varner, Gail McNair, Grover Kitchens**



*If you would like to serve as an Greeter/Usher, please contact Susan Swann in the church office, email: [susan@fumcgadsden.org](mailto:susan@fumcgadsden.org) or phone: 256.543.8200.*



*Images of*  
**CHRISTMAS**  
ARR OVID YOUNG

First United Methodist  
Chancel Choir with  
String Ensemble  
& Guest Soloist

First United Methodist Church  
115 S. 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Gadsden, AL 35901

11 AM - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025



CELEBRATION WORSHIP

*Christmas*  
*Unplugged*

Join us as we sing our familiar & favorite  
Christmas carols!

14 December 2025  
9 am  
in the Chapel

Following worship,  
enjoy Cookies & Hot Cocoa @ Hebrews

Join us for worship.



**Joy**

*A Children's Christmas Musical*  
Sunday, December 14 @ 5:00  
First UMC Gadsden 115 S. 5<sup>th</sup> St





**UWF Christmas Boutique**  
**Don't miss out ! The Christmas Boutique is only open Dec 14th and Dec 21st. Something for Everyone on your list or spoil yourself !**  
**Goodies; quick fix dips, soups cookie mix. Perhaps you would like tea, jams or Suzi's chutney?**  
**There is also jewelry, stocking stuffers, and so much more. There is a beautiful hand carved cane that is being auctioned and the bids close at 12 on this Sunday !**  
**Don't miss it !**  
**All proceeds benefit Local Missions.**



**Wednesday, December 24**  
**Candlelight Worship**  
**4 pm and 6 pm**

**Live Nativity**  
**5 pm**

**Presented by**  
**FUMC Gadsden Student Ministry**

**“Building Upon a Solid Foundation,”** our 2026 Generosity Emphasis, concluded on



November 16. This was a great celebration of generosity with estimate of giving cards being turned in and wonderful church-wide brunch. Thanks to all who made this special emphasis a success. *As of December 7, 68 estimate of giving cards have been returned with a commitment of \$474,528.00.* There was also a great commitment to continue to support First United Methodist Church of Gadsden with prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

If you have not had an opportunity to turn in your estimate of giving card you may do so by placing your card in the offering plate, returning it to the church office, mailing it to the church office, or completing an online card (via the church app or website). The finance department will continue to receive those until the end of the year. Remember that your estimate of giving is held confidentially in the church finance office and is not legally binding. This is a commitment between God and you and helps the church plan for the coming year's budget. You should have received your *2025 Impact Report* in the mail. If not, please contact the church office. Hold on to this report and remember the impact that your prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness have on the church, Gadsden, and beyond. We are making a difference by changing lives in the name of Christ!

Building a Firm Foundation,

*Rev. Sherri Reynolds*  
Rev. Sherri Reynolds

**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



## 2025 Advent & Christmas @ First UMC Gadsden

Thursday, December 11 - 9:30 am - Early Learning Center Christmas Program

**5:30 pm - Thursday Worship Service, Chapel**

6:00 pm - GSCC A Capella Christmas Choir Concert

**Sunday, December 14 - 3rd Sunday of Advent**

**9:00 am - Celebration - Christmas Unplugged, Chapel**

**10:00 am - Sunday School; HeBrews, Chestnut Foyer**

**11:00 am - Traditions-Choir Presents Christmas Music**

**5:00 pm - Children's Christmas Musical, Sanctuary**

**Followed by the "Happy Birthday Jesus Party", Gym**



**Thursday, December 18 5:30 pm - Thursday Worship Service**

**Sunday, December 21 - 4th Sunday of Advent**

**9:00 am - Celebration Worship**

**10:00 am - Sunday School; HeBrews, Chestnut Foyer**

**11:00 am - Traditions Worship**



**Wednesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve, Church Office Closed**

**4:00 pm - Candlelight Worship**

**5:00 pm - Live Nativity**

**6:00 pm - Candlelight Worship**



**Thursday, December 25 Christmas Day**

Church Office closed; No Thursday Worship

Friday, December 26 Church Office closed; No Ladle of Love



**Sunday, December 28 1st Sunday of Christmas**

**10:00 am - One United Church Service**

No Sunday School

Wednesday, December 31 New Year's Eve - Church Office closed at Noon

Thursday, January 1 New Year's Day - Church Office closed; No Thursday Worship

Friday, January 2 Church Office closed

### Order Poinsettias for Advent and Christmas Worship Services



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

Select Date: \_\_\_\_\_ December 21 \_\_\_\_\_ December 24

*(Poinsettias will be placed in both Services)*

Select One: \_\_\_\_\_ in Honor of \_\_\_\_\_ in memory of

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# First UMC Gadsden Dec 14-Dec 20, 2025

## Dec 14, Sunday

**3rd Sunday of Advent**

**9:00 am-Christmas Unplugged, Chapel**

**10:00 am-UWF Christmas Boutique, Chestnut Foyer**

**10:00 am-HeBrews Coffee; Sunday School**

**11:00 am-Traditions, Images of Christmas, Sanctuary**

**5:00 pm-Children's Christmas Musical, Sanctuary**

**Followed by Happy Birthday Jesus Party, Gym**

## Dec 15, Monday

ELC closed

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

2:00 pm-4:00 pm-Pickle Ball, Gym

## Dec 16, Tuesday

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

5:00 pm-Yoga, Gym

## Dec 17, Wednesday

ELC Closed

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

**No Wednesday Morning Bible Study;**

Wednesday night meal; Children's Activities;

Youth Activities, and Bible Study Groups

## Dec 18 Thursday

ELC Closed

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

**5:30 pm-Thursday Worship Service, Chapel**

## Dec 19, Friday

11:00 am-Ladle of Love, Portico

12:00 pm noon- Office closed

### Immediate Prayer Concerns

Jay & Taylor Dial &  
newborn infant James  
Jackie Herlong Julia Lopez  
Andrew Swann  
(grandson of Danny Swann)

### Continued Prayer Concerns

Sonya Nesbitt Dawn Rains  
Phillip Johnson  
Amy Epperson  
(Gene & Danna Dean's daughter)

*The flowers on the altar today are in honor of Laura Condra in celebration of her birthday on Saturday, December 20, 2025. They are given by her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.*

*The flowers on the altar are placed  
in honor of the birth of*



*James Russell Dial &  
Tex Lane Dial  
Born: 12/2/2025*

*Proud Parents; Taylor & Jay Dial  
Proud Grandparents:  
Gary & Beth Dial*

*The flower on the altar is placed  
in honor of the birth of*



*Beaux Paxton Badgett  
Born: 12/9/2025*

*Proud Parents:  
Hannah & Blake Badgett  
Proud Grandparents:  
Harriet & Keith Murray*

*The ministers and congregation of First United  
Methodist Church of Gadsden extend Christian  
sympathy to*

*Jay & Taylor Dial in the death of their son,*

*Tex Lane Dial*

*December 4, 2025*



### **Honorariums & Memorials**

#### Ladle of Love Fund

In memory of Pat Martin, given by Louise Ferguson.

#### Youth Ministry

In memory of Elizabeth Barnes, given by Louise Ferguson.

#### Children's Ministry

In Honor of Katharine Barnes, given by Louise Ferguson.

#### Clothes Closet

In memory of Mary Tom Hale, given by Louise Ferguson.

### **Birthdays**

**Dec 14** Neil Mullin, Gloria Rives, Michael Haney,  
Rev. David Holmes, Tommy Hiltz

**Dec 15** Danna Dean, Helene Haller

**Dec 16** Martha Crowe, Cindy Norris, Kaci Pritchard, Jen Hester

**Dec 17** Leone Norris, Lenora Arnold, Genevieve Corley,  
Silas Norris

**Dec 18** Mary Ann McElroy, Jim Moss, Delores Abney,  
Brandy Berry, Dylan Skipper

**Dec 19** Grover Kitchens, Nancy Beane, Heather Mullin,  
Jesse Norris, Drew McNair

**Dec 20** Laura Condra, Cheryle Midgley, Sara Kate Thornburg



### **Attendance Week of Dec 7 2025**

In Person Total \*176 On Line Total 524  
Worship Total 700 Thursday Worship \*11  
Celebration \*68/277 Traditions \*97/274  
Bible Study Groups \*28 Children Sun/Wed \*30  
Middle & Senior Hi Wed/Sun \*23  
Nursery Wed/Sun \*13 Santa Brunch \*70

### **Year 2025 Week of Dec 7, 2025**

General Offering Budget	\$ 12,400.00
General Offering Received	\$ 18,673.83
YTD Gen. Offering Budget	\$607,600.00
YTD Gen. Offering Rec'd	\$650,719.83