



The
**JESSE
TREE**
REV. SHERRI
REYNOLDS



HARMONY
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

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 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.

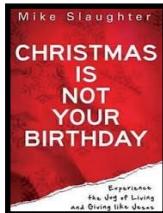
Wednesday Morning Bible Study and Wonderful Wednesday Small Groups will not meet on December 17, 24, or 31. Wonderful Wednesday Small Groups will resume on Wednesday, January 7.

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

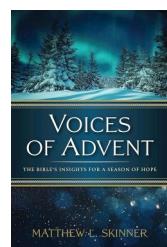


Transitions 10 am, Room 209

Advent Study: Christmas is Not Your Birthday by Mike Slaughter

Pathfinders/Seekers 10 am, Room 208

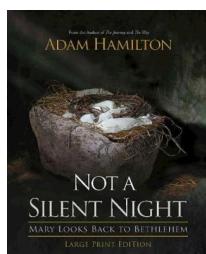
Starts Sunday, November 23: Voices of Advent— The Bible's Insights for a Season of Hope by Matthew L. Skinner



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 7th.

Helene Haller



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.

**Youth
Sunday School
10 am, Room 211**

Wonderful Wednesday

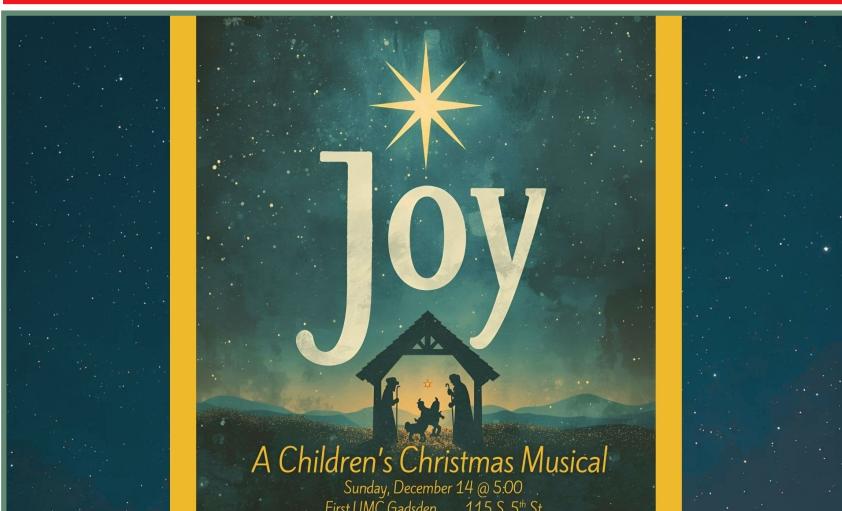
Youth Group, 6:00 pm

Will resume on Jan 7.

**Live Nativity, December 24,
5:00 pm**

**"Let's Build a Solid
Foundation!"
Matthew 7:24**

Children's Ministry



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**

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

GFUMC



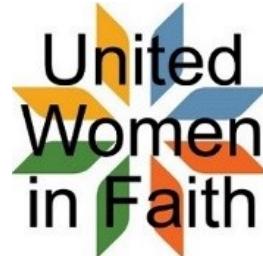
"By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:35

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 !

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

Phone: 256-543-8200

Email:

fumc@fumcgadsden.org

Ladle of Love
Clothes Closet
September

LOL 412

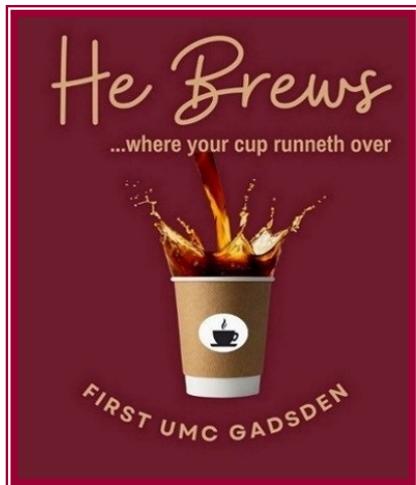
Clothes Closet 280

October

LOL 412

Clothes Closet 280

**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

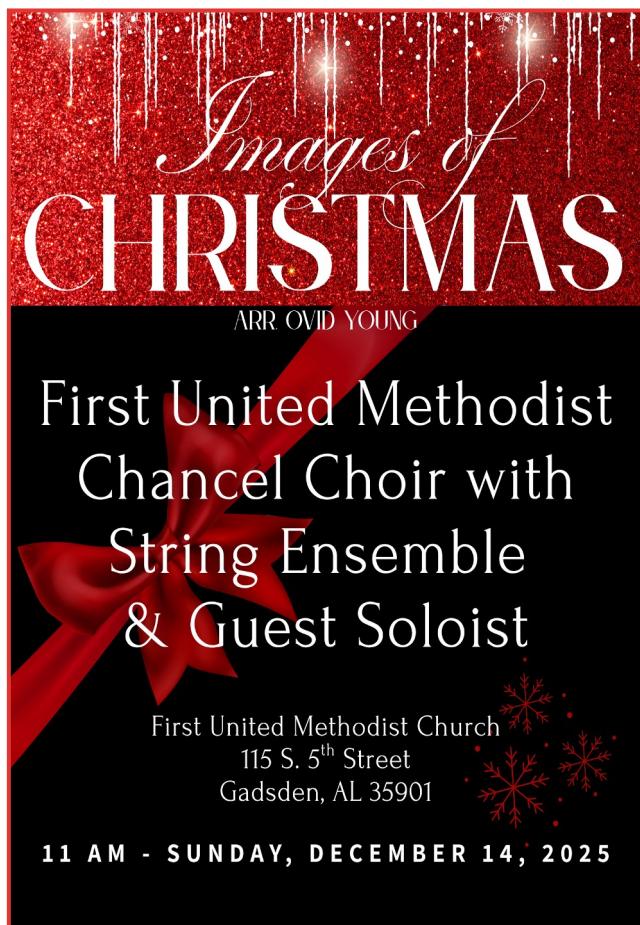
Sunday, December 21

Celebration: Steve & Sherri Watson

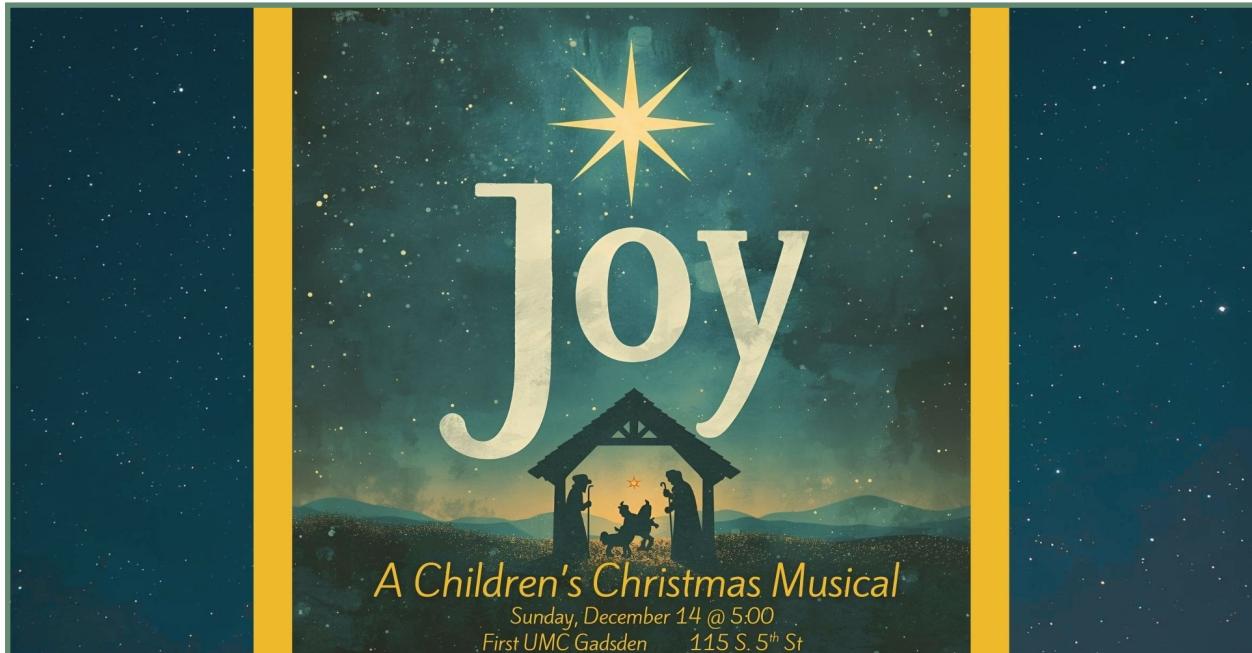
Traditions: Leslie & Phillip Johnson, Lori Varner, Gail McNair, Grover Kitchens



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



Join us for worship.





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

**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

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 - GSAC 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*



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

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.

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