



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

Sermon Notes: Thursday, December 12 and Sunday, December 15, 2024

In the *United Methodist Hymnal* on page 249, you will find *There's A Song in the Air*. This hymn begins with those words, "There's a song in the air!" and the last verse proclaims, "we rejoice in the light, and we echo the song." This week at First United Methodist Church, there is a song in the air, and we echo the song. It is a time of musical delight and hearing the story of our faith through music. Thursday Night Worship in the chapel will bring the history of your favorite hymns. Celebration Worship will be in the chapel at 9am with "Christmas Unplugged," a time of jamming and caroling. Traditions worship will highlight our sanctuary choir and musicians with the songs of the season. All of these are great worship opportunities, which you will not want to miss.

What song are you singing this Advent? Psalm 149:1 reminds us, "Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise the assembly of the faithful!" This week, may we praise the Lord with song. May the familiar lyrics become a prayer for us all.

Happy Advent!

Rev. Sherri

Adult Studies for Advent

"Prepare the Way for the Lord"

Living Waters/Martin Fellowship, Room 116

"On the Way to Bethlehem"

Transitions, Room 209

"God Came Near"

Pathfinders/Seekers Room 208

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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 15: Sara Kate, Jake, & Carter Thornburg
December 22: Volunteer

Thursday Worship Security

December 12 Paid Security (Meet in Chapel)
December 19 Mark Condra

Tech Team Schedule

December 15

Celebration: No Tech Team-Christmas Unplugged, Chapel

Traditions: Davis Varner, Wayne Payton, Sheila Freeman

December 22

Celebration: Sheila Freeman, Bill Haller, Carmen McKiven

Traditions: Mark Condra, Wayne Payton, Rob Reynolds

The Chosen Season 2 Bible Study



Rev. Sherri will be leading a Bible Study of Season 2 of the Chosen starting January 8. Each week will focus on a particular episode, reviewing the corresponding scriptures while engaging both with thought provoking questions. The class will be offered at 11am and 6pm on Wednesdays in room 208. The class will last until April 9 (with the night session skipping March 26 for spring break.)

Wednesday Fellowship

Wednesday night meal will return January 8, 2025.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study @ 11 am, Gathering Room

w/ Rev. Sherri Reynolds

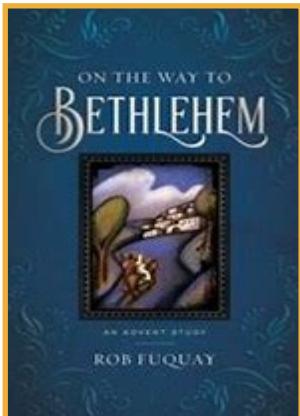
Adult Small Groups @ Wonderful Wednesdays

Will resume on January 8, 2025.

Adult Studies on Sunday Mornings

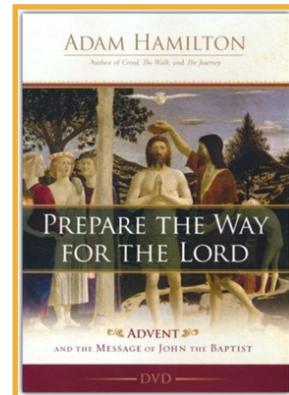
“Prepare the Way for the Lord”

Living Waters/Martin Fellowship, Room 116



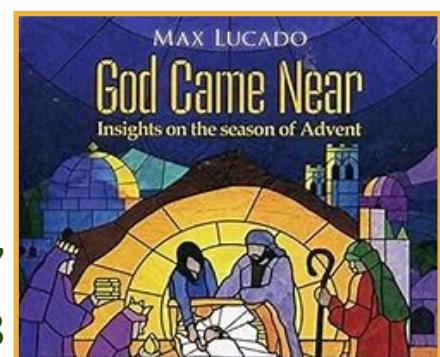
“On the Way to Bethlehem”

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

We shared so much joy this last week. First we sang for the ladies of UWF. Then on Tuesday evening, we sang for the Delta Kappa Gamma ladies at the Christmas meeting at our church. We finished our week by performing for family and friends on Thursday in the church sanctuary and enjoyed class Christmas parties.

—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

Wednesday Fellowship

Wednesday night meal will return January 8, 2025.

Children's Ministry

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

ACOLYTES, LET'S GO BOWLING!

MEET AT THE ALLEY IN
THE GADSDEN MALL ON
DECEMBER 15 @ 2:00

Rehearsal:
Wed. 12/18
5:30 pm

Let's
Celebrate!

Children's Christmas Musical
December 22nd @ 5pm, Sanctuary

Join us as we celebrate the birth of our Savior!
Happy Birthday, Jesus party to follow in the gym upstairs!

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 and 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.**

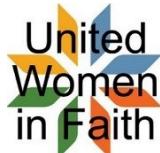


Embrace Kids (formerly the United Methodist Children's Home) Since 1890, we've stood in the gap for the most vulnerable of children. More than 130 years later, our commitment has only strengthened. We provide homes, healing and hope to children coming from families in crisis, no longer able to live with families due to possible neglect, abuse or abandonment.

While children are our first priority, we also work with families to address harmful behavior, giving them a second chance at restoration and a glimpse of God's unconditional love. As a result, we're often able to help both children and families thrive despite the arduous challenges they face.

United Women in Faith

The Christmas Boutique is open each Sunday morning during Advent, December 15 and December 22. We will be in the Chestnut Foyer between the 9:00 am and 11:00 am worship services. (see page 7)



The LuVerna Waid Circle- We are getting close... Our Christmas party will be at the home of Jill Vincent on Tuesday, December 17th at 5:30 pm. The address is 2104 Harbor Lane, Southside 35907. Bring your favorite hors d'vours to share, a dirty Santa gift and your World Thank Offering. The church bus will be taking all that want a ride. The pick up spot is the Winn Dixie parking lot near Rainbow Drive. The bus will leave at 5:15 pm. Don't be late! Others will meet us at Jill's. Come and enjoy this Christmas season with fun and fellowship with friends. Susan Copeland

Save the Date: Our next UWF Luncheon is Jan. 13, 2025 at 12:00 noon.

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
October**

LOL 379

Clothes Closet 315

November

LOL 404

Clothes Closet 310

**Thanks to our
Volunteers!**

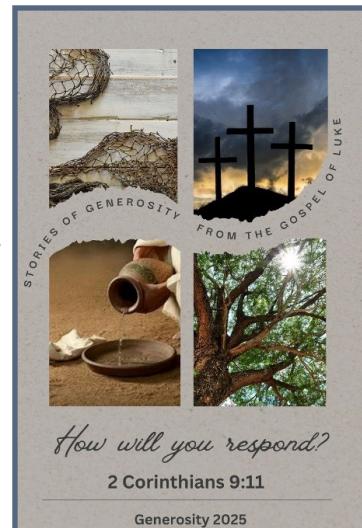
Stories of Generosity from Luke

One of my continuing prayers over the past year has been for God's financial provision for First United Methodist Church. I am so thankful for that prayer being answered and people like you who helped answer it. As of December 1, 64 commitments were made for Generosity 2025 for a total of \$455,396 toward our general budget fund. We are continuing to receive cards, so it is not too late to participate in your commitment for the coming year. You may return your card through the offering plate, at the church office, or online (www.fumcgadsden.org/give). If you need more information or a printed card, contact the church office. Your estimate helps us plan for our 2025 budget. Please know that the estimate of giving cards are not legally binding and are kept confidentially within the church office.

Also, remember that our financial staff is here to assist you with end of year giving. If you need an update on your 2024 giving you can contact the church office. Someone will be in the office in the morning on December 27 and 30, if you have money to be turned in and credited for 2024. The office will be closed on the 31st, but if your contribution is postmarked on the 31st or given online/venmo on the 31st then you will receive credit for 2024. The financial staff can also direct you for assistance with stock gifts or IRA distributions.

In gratitude, Rev. Sherri

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.)



Download our Church App
Search First UMC-Gadsden
In the App Store for Android or iPhone.



Generosity: Ways to Give

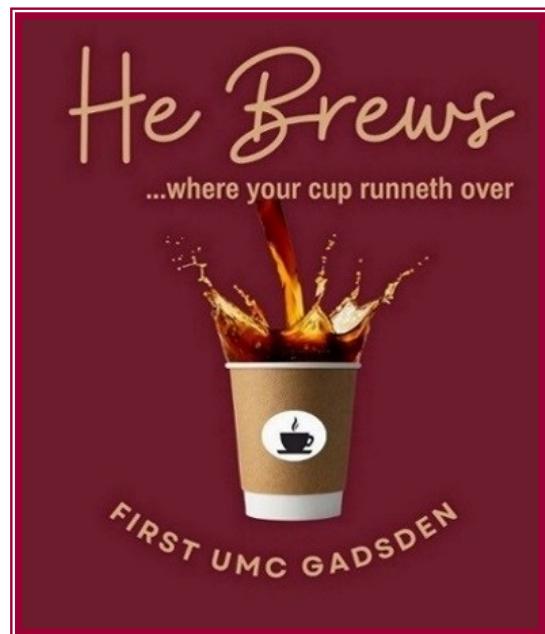
In-person, at the offering time during worship.
Online: www.fumcgadsden.org/give
Text to Give: 256-344-8464
Venmo @FirstUMCGadsden
Mail your tithe or gift: 115 S. 5th Street, Gadsden, AL 35901



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!!!

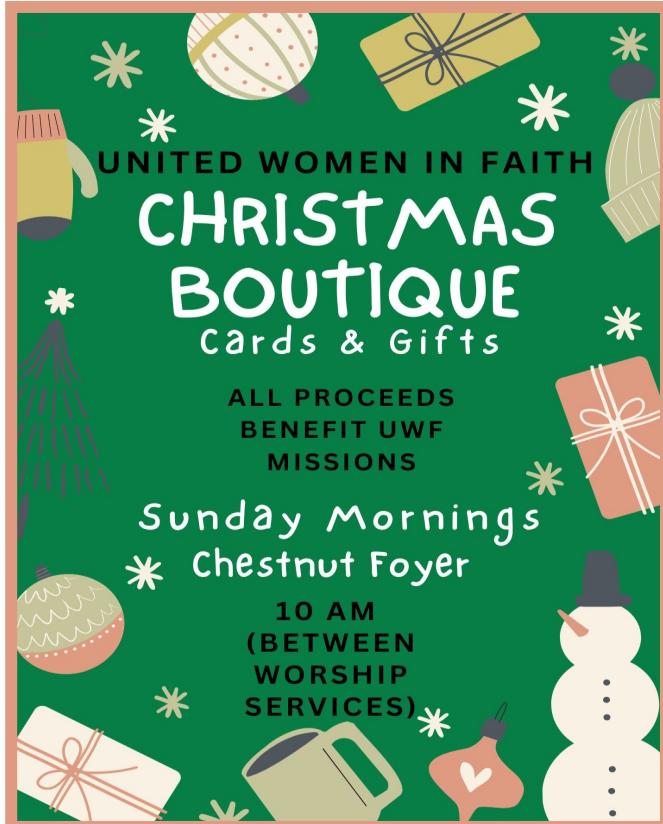


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PATSY BLANKENSHIP

Patsy grew up in East Gadsden and attended Gadsden High School. When she was 18 years old, she developed an interest in Rodeo and took part in barrel-racing competitions for many years. After high school, she attended Gadsden State Community College and received an Associate degree in Chemistry. Patsy is the granddaughter of Dr. Alfred Carraway, who was the "company doctor" at Dwight Cotton Mill in Alabama City for many years. She has a caring nature and took care of both her mother and her godmother, Mary Jo Gramlin Cleveland, till the end of their lives. Patsy's son, Henry Charles Koehler, Jr., lives in New Brockton, AL, and is the father of Patsy's three teenage granddaughters—Cheyenne, Heidi, and Evie.



UWF Christmas Boutique for Missions

We want to add something new for you to the Christmas Boutique! We will have Christmas cookies and goodies to brighten up your Christmas. Come & support our United Women in Faith Missions for the next two Sundays.



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 _____



First UMC Gadsden Calendar for Dec 15-21, 2024

December 15, Sunday

9:00 am-Celebration Worship, Chapel

Enjoy Cookies and Cocoa @ HeBrews

10:00 am-HeBrews Coffee, Chestnut Street Foyer

10:00 am-Sunday School for all ages

UWF Christmas Boutique, Chestnut Street Lobby

11:00 am-Traditions Worship, Sanctuary

12:00-2:00 pm-Children's Play Practice

December 16, Monday

ELC closed until January 6, 2025

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

2:00 pm-4:00 pm-Pickleball, Gym

December 17, Tuesday

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

11:00 am-Grief Support Group, Rm 119

5:00 pm-Yoga, Gym

December 18, Wednesday

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

No Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Wednesday night meal and other activities

will return on January 8, 2025

December 19, Thursday

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

5:30 pm- Thursday Worship, Sanctuary

December 20, Friday– 11:00 am Ladle of Love

Christmas bulletin covers are given today to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Charlie Nell and Robert G. Johnson by their family.

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Bill Leach Mary Tom Hale



Continued Prayer Concerns

Asher Mae Collins Amy Epperson
Ada Blount (Bob & Trish Blount's granddaughter)
Shep Vincent (Jill Vincent's grandson)

Enjoy Cookies, Cocoa, & Coffee between the worship services @ HeBrews at 10 am. There will be special music in both worship Services.

Celebration Worship: Christmas Unplugged is in the Chapel @ 9 am.

Traditions: "The Songs of Christmas" presented by the Chancel Choir and String Ensemble @ 11 am

Honorariums & Memorials

General Budget

In memory of Glen Pierson, given by Mike & Sheila Witherspoon.

Birthdays

Dec 15 Helene Haller, Danna Dean
Dec 16 Cindy Norris, Kaci Pritchard, Jennifer Hester Grant
Dec 17 Leone Norris, Lenora Arnold, Genevieve Corley, Josie Durham
Dec 18 Delores Abney, Mary Ann McElroy, Brandy Berry, Dylan Skipper **Dec 19** Grover Kitchens, Nancy Beane, Jesse Norris, Drew McNair **Dec 20** Laura Condra, Cheryl Midgley, Sara Kate Thornburg
Dec 21 Robert Branch, Mikeal Martin, Matt Ross; Davis Varner

Week of December 8, 2024

In Person Total-*153 Worship Total-649
Online-496 Thursday Worship-*14
Celebration Service-*63/222 *in person
Traditions Service-*76/274 UWF *0
Bible Study *25 Sunday School Adult-*29/1
Children SS- *17 Sr Hi & Middle SS- *8
Wed/Sun-Children*31 Wed/Sun-Nursery *5
Wed/Sun-Sr.Hi *8 & Middle Youth *10

General Offering Budget	\$11,400.00
General Offering Received	\$20,626.00
YTD General Offering Budget	\$558,600.00
YTD General Offering Rec'd	\$628,064.00

Important Deadlines

Deadline for newsletters
Dec 22 & 30 is by noon on
Monday, Dec 16.

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.