



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

Sermon Notes: Sunday, December 28 John 1:1-5

A new year is right around the corner. It is a year filled with new beginnings and new possibilities...but for some reason, it does not feel as if "all is well with my soul." Memories of Christmas celebrations still dance in my head. The Light has come. God in flesh has walked among us and in Spirit is still in our midst. But something is out of sync. Let's talk about it. What do we need to tweak in our lives so that 2026 will be a year of promise and hope, peace and joy. Jesus said, the abundant life is there for the taking. Let's grab it.

Rev. Dawson Harmon

A new adventure begins at 10 am, January 11th, in Room 209! You are invited!

Practicing the Way

by John Mark Comer

We are constantly being formed by the world around us. To be formed by Jesus will require us to become his apprentice. To live by what the first Christian disciples called a Rule of Life—a set of practices and relational rhythms that slow us down and open up space in our daily lives for God to do what only God can do—transforms the deepest parts of us to become like him.

This introduction to spiritual formation is full of John Mark Comer's trademark mix of theological substance and cultural insight as well as practical wisdom on developing your own Rule of Life.

These ancient practices have much to offer us. By learning to rearrange our days, we can follow the Way of Jesus. We can be with him. Become like him. And do as he did.

Join Dawson Harmon for eight weeks of Spiritual Formation. Everyone is welcome!

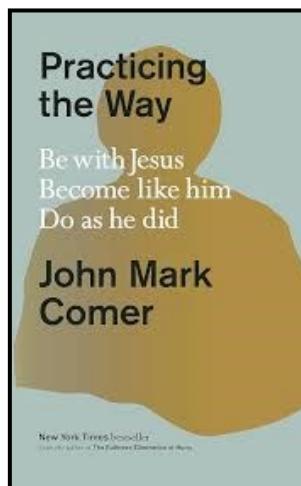


Table of Contents:

Page 1- Sermon Notes; Practicing the Way w/Dawson Harmon; Tech Schedule; Acolytes, Thursday Worship Security

Page 2- New Bible Studies & Small Groups; Adult Studies for Sunday School Classes

Page 3- ELC News; Student Ministries; Youth Calendar of Activities; Children's Ministry

Page 4- GFUMC Missions News; Clothes Closet; Ladle of Love; United Women in Faith

Page 5- HeBrews; Pickleball; Usher/Greeter Schedule

Page 6- "Building a Solid Foundation" Generosity 2026; Ways to Give; Online Giving

Page 7- GFUMC Advent & Christmas Calendar; Merry Christmas from the GFUMC Staff

Page 8- Calendar; White Christmas Offering; Prayer Concerns; Births; Deaths; Memorials; Birthdays; Weekly Reports; Year-end Giving Reminder

Worship Opportunities

Thursday: No Worship service December 25

Sunday Morning*: One service December 28, 10 am

No HeBrews or Sunday School

*In-Person and Livestream or On Demand

Security for Thursday Worship

December 25: No Service January 1: No Service

ACOLYTES

December 28: Luke Barnes and Brooks Bone

January 4: Volunteer

Tech Team Schedule

December 24

4 PM Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman

6 PM Sheila Freeman, Rob Reynolds

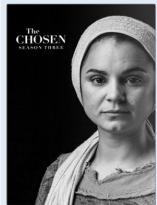
December 28

One Service at 10:00 am: Mark Condra, Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman

Bible Studies & Small Groups for Adults

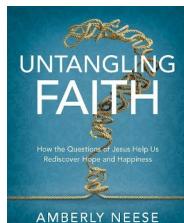
There are Jesse Tree Devotion Books available for the Advent season. We hope you will join us on a journey through Advent using this devotion. You can read the devotion book or follow the Jesse Tree Devotions by email. Need to subscribe to the daily devotional or church news? Send your email to fumc@fumcgadsden.org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

Wonderful Wednesday Small Groups will resume on Wednesday, January 7.



Join Rev. Sherri for a Bible Study based on *The Chosen (Season 3)* starting January 7. Each week will focus on a different episode with a Bible Study of the scripture behind the scenes and each week will stand alone, so you can plug in as your schedule permits. Classes will be at 11 am and 6 pm in Room 208. (Skipping February 18 for Ash Wednesday and April 1 for Spring Break/Holy Week). The classes will end at the church picnic in May.

Untangling Faith by Amberly Neese, Wednesdays, 6 pm —Your questions can lead to a deeper faith and trust in God. Have you ever felt you struggled to find your faith footing? Join Amberly Neese in she explores the questions Jesus asked as a way to reclaim that faith. Chapters explore our own questions like Can God Be Trusted? and How Can I Grow in Faith. We look forward to seeing you on January 7—Harriet Murray

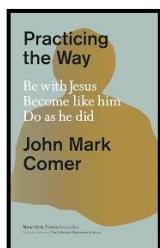


Wonderful Wednesday Dinner will resume on January 7.

\$7 Per Person, \$3 age 11 & Under
Please text 256.490.5018 to make or change a reservation.

Sunday School: New Adult Studies

Transitions 10 am, Room 209



A new adventure begins January 11th in Room 209! You are Invited!

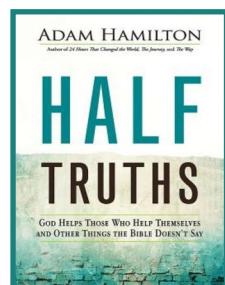
Practicing the Way by John Mark Comer—The disciples spent 3 years being apprentices to Jesus. They watched His every move and hung on every word. They were with Him 24/7. As a result, they, over time, became more and more like Him and began to do many of the things He did. With the Spirit's help, with John Mark Comer as our guide, and with each other as encouragers, we too can learn to walk in Jesus' steps.

Join Dawson Harmon for this new small group study! Everyone is welcome!

Pathfinders/Seekers 10 am, Room 208

Half Truths by Adam Hamilton—Beginning in January 2026

They are simple phrases. They sound Christian—like something you might find in the Bible. We've all heard these words. Maybe we've said them. They capture some element of truth, yet they miss the point in important ways.



Living Waters 10 am, Room 116

“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

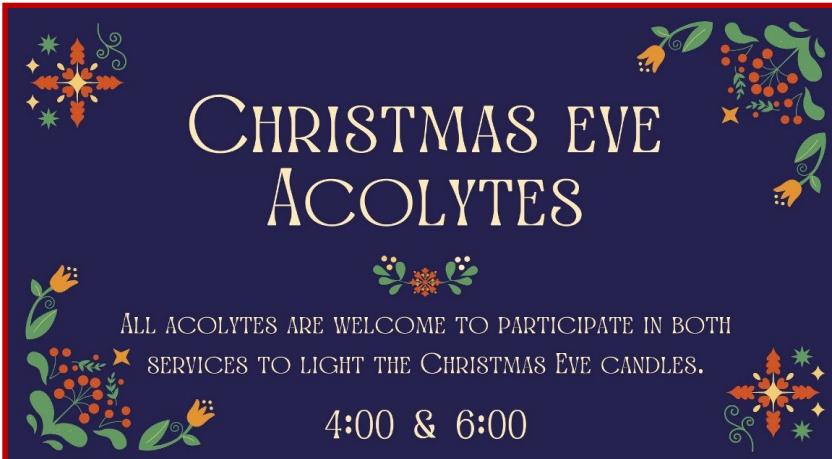
Will resume on Jan 7.

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

December Mission Focus



The Angel Tree

You provided gifts for 38 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

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
January open dates are
1/7 and 1/21

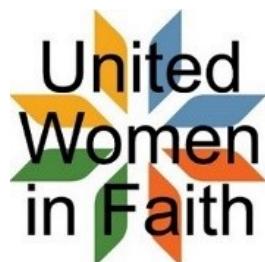
9:00 am to 11:00 am
516 Broad Street Gadsden
Find out more about mission and service opportunities @ www.fumcgadsden.org/serve
Phone: 256-543-8200
Email: fumc@fumcgadsden.org

United Women in Faith

The next Luncheon will be Monday, January 12, 2026 at 12:00 noon.

The LuVerna Waid Circle will meet Tuesday, January 6 at 6:00 pm at the church in room 208.

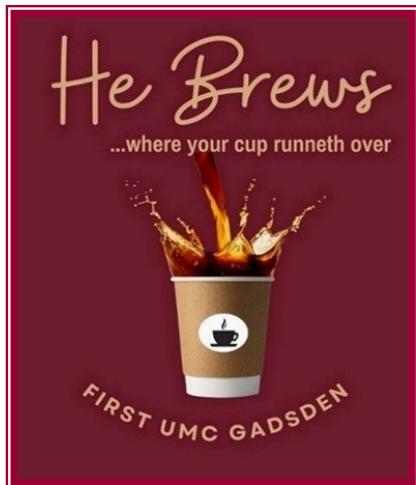
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Ladle of Love Clothes Closet

November
LOL 502
Clothes Closet 378

**Thanks to our
Volunteers!**

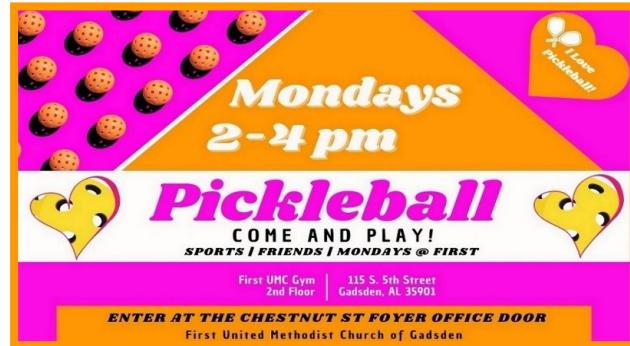


Follow us on
Facebook and Instagram.



HeBrews Coffee Café will be closed on December 28!

We look forward to seeing you on January 4, 2026.



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 28

One United Service: Vickie Handy and Helene Haller

Sunday, January 4

Celebration: Julie Gage & Kyle Horton

Traditions: Sheila & Terry Bishop, Bob & Becky Oltman



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.

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



This has been 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 3 estimate of giving cards have been returned with a commitment of \$497,728.00

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

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; No HeBrews



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



First UMC Gadsden Dec 28-Jan 3, 2026

Dec 28, Sunday

10:00 am-One United Service, Sanctuary

Dec 29, Monday

ELC closed

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

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

Dec 30, Tuesday

ELC Closed

Dec 31, Wednesday

Office and Church Closing at 12:00 noon

Jan 1 Thursday

Office and Church Closed

No Thursday Worship

Jan 2, Friday

Office and Church Closed

No Ladle of Love

Wednesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve, Church Office Closed

4:00 pm - Candlelight Worship 5:00 pm - Live Nativity 6:00 pm - Candlelight Worship

Presented by GFUMC Student Ministries, The Live Nativity is sponsored by Lucy and Chip Edwards, in memory of their mothers, Dora Clark Payne and Mary Joyce Edwards.

Year-End Giving Reminder

- ◊ The church office will be open until 12:00 noon on December 31st for anyone wishing to submit tithes or gifts to be credited for 2025.
- ◊ Contributions may also be made through online giving or sent by U.S. Mail and must be postmarked by December 31st to receive credit for 2025.

The "White Christmas Offering"

is received each year in United Methodist Churches (UMC) for Embrace Alabama Kids (formerly the UMC Children's Home) to provide care, homes, and hope for vulnerable children and families.

Please mark your gift "White Christmas".

More information is available at the entrances to the Sanctuary or you may go online to [Home - Embrace Alabama Kids](#) to find out more.



Immediate Prayer Concerns

Taylor & Jay Dial & newborn son, James Maitland Adams

Andrew Swann (grandson of Danny Swann)

Continued Prayer Concerns

Jackie Herlong Julia Lopez

Dawn Rains Phillip Johnson

Amy Epperson (Gene & Danna Dean's daughter)



Birthdays

Dec 28 Will Edwards

Dec 30 Sheila Freeman

Dec 31 Bill Leach

Jan 1 Deanna Everett

Jan 3 Paula Wilson, Scott Adams, Molly Page



Please update your family's record in the church office to include all dates of birth. Thank you! Susan Swann

Attendance Week of Dec 21 2025

In Person Total *161	On Line Total 471
Worship Total 632	Thursday Worship *13
Celebration *61/258	Traditions *87/213
Adult Sunday School *32	Children SS *1
Youth SS *4	Bible Study Groups *9
Children Sun/Wed *23	Adult Volunteers *12
Youth Wed/Sun *4	Nursery Wed/Sun *4
UWF 0	

Year 2025 Week of Dec 21, 2025

General Offering Budget	\$ 12,400.00
General Offering Received	\$ 7,300.00
YTD Gen. Offering Budget	\$632,400.00
YTD Gen. Offering Rec'd	\$665,400.00

Please excuse our progress!

 Improvements are being made by the City of Gadsden to 6th St including sidewalks and the entrance/exit for our parking area near the portico/greenspace. The use of the exit on 6th St will be closed for approximately one week. Please remember, for those needing assistance, entrances at the ramp on Chestnut or the Courtyard doors are available.