



2ND SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

The JESSE TREE

REV. SHERRI
REYNOLDS



JOSEPH
GENESIS 50:18-21

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

Sermon Notes: Thursday, Dec 4 and Sunday, Dec 7

Joseph is a complex character from the Old Testament. He is a favorite child and shows arrogance as he brags about his dreams. Joseph acts with dependability and character, when he is a slave and in prison. He demonstrates wisdom. Joseph forgives his brothers for the wrong that they did to him. He models an ability to recognize God's provision even in the most difficult times (Genesis 50:18-21). Joseph could identify that while his brothers planned to harm him by selling him to slavery, God's goodness was greater than the harm. Joseph declared, "What you intended for harm, God intended for good in order to preserve a numerous people, such as he is doing today."

This Advent season, pause and recognize where God is working for good. It may be in the difficult seasons, or it could be in times that the blessings are easy to count. In times of hustle and bustle, we easily miss the presence of God. In times of busyness, we fail to see God's intentions for good. Take a moment as you countdown to Christmas, to count your blessings and recognize God's gifts in your life.

Waiting for Christmas,
Rev. Sherri



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

At the October 28th Finance Team and Board of Stewards meetings, the leadership unanimously voted for First United Methodist Church to resume our support of the United Methodist Church with 10% in connectional giving. This means that the church tithes (10%) from general fund receipts to the larger United Methodist Church. Not only is this a Biblical model, but it is considered our fair share support for the larger connectional structure. This means 10% of your giving supports United Methodist Ministry in North Alabama (such as administration, annual conference gatherings, educational events, direct missions, new church starts), United Methodist Global Missions, Global Administration for United Methodist Boards and Agencies, Educational Opportunities and Seminaries of the United Methodist Church, and Promotion of Interdenominational Cooperation. The result is that our witness goes well beyond the corner of 5th Street and Chestnut to have a far-reaching impact. Just as we can do more together as First United Methodist Church of Gadsden, so we can do more to impact global needs as a denomination.

Thank you for your support of First United Church of Gadsden. If you want to learn more about connectional giving, go to umc.org and explore *apportioned funds*. On that website, you will find specific ways that 10% of your giving is making a difference through the United Methodist Church.

Table of Contents:

- Page 1-** Sermon Notes; Tech schedule; Acolytes; NAC Connectional Giving
- 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; Directory Photography
- Page 6-** **December 14: Christmas Unplugged, 9 am, Celebration in the Chapel; Images of Christmas, 11 am, in the Sanctuary; "Joy" Children's Musical, 5 pm**
- Page 7-** **UWF Christmas Boutique, Dec 7, 14, & 21**
- Page 8-** "Building a Solid Foundation" Generosity 2026; Ways to Give; Online Giving
- Page 9-** **GFUMC Advent & Christmas Calendar**
- Page 10-** Calendar; Prayer Concerns; Memorials; Birthdays; Reports; Births; Deaths

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

ACOLYTES

December 7: Sarah Echols & Luke Barnes
December 14: Anna Kate Casey, Jade Collins, & Layne Godfrey

Tech Team Schedule

December 7

Celebration: Mark Condra, Bill Haller, Rob Reynolds

Traditions: Wayne Payton, Rob Reynolds

December 14

Celebration: Christmas Unplugged

Traditions: Davis Varner, Wayne Payton, Sheila Freeman

Bible Studies & Small Groups for Adults

This Advent on Wednesdays:

Join Rev. Sherri for an Advent Bible Study based on the scripture of the Jesse Tree on December 3 and 10. This study will complement the church wide focus for Advent 2025. *Morning classes will be on Wednesdays at 11am in the Gathering Room and Evening Classes will meet at 6 pm in room 208.* The study will be a survey in the events leading up to the coming of Christ.

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.

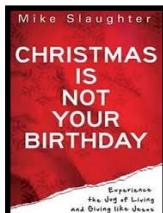
Wednesday Morning Bible Study and Wonderful Wednesday Small Groups will not meet on December 17, 24, or 31. Wonderful Wednesday Small Groups will resume on Wednesday, January 7.

Wonderful Wednesday Dinner Menu for 12/10: Chicken Fingers

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

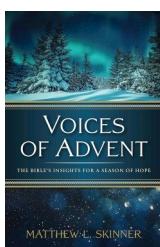
Please text 256.490.5018 to make or change a reservation.

Sunday School: New Advent Series



Transitions 10 am, Room 209

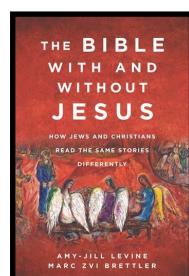
Advent Study: Christmas is Not Your Birthday by Mike Slaughter



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
The Bible With and Without Jesus-How Jews and Christians Read the Same Story Differently— by Amy Jill Levine & Marc Zvi Brettler



“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

Our annual PJ Day was a hit. Such cute pajamas and the kids' pajamas were cute too. This week will wrap up our Fall 2025 semester. On Monday, we sing for both the UWF ladies and the Etowah County Courthouse employees. We invite you to join us Thursday, Dec 11 at 9:30 in the sanctuary for this year's Christmas program. You don't want to miss this annual tradition.

Helene



Youth
Sunday School
10 am, Room 211

Wonderful Wednesday

Youth Group, 6:00 pm

Live Nativity, December 24,
5:00 pm

"Let's Build a Solid Foundation!"

Matthew 7:24

Wonderful Wednesday Dinner: December 10.
Chicken Fingers, \$7 per person \$3 Age 11 & Under
Please text 256.490.5018 to make or change a reservation.

Children's Ministry



Wonderful Wednesday

Small Groups and Activities
@ 6 pm

Fellowship Dinner, 5:15 pm
December 10

Menu: Chicken Fingers

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

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

- Select an Angel from the Angel Tree: Scan the QR Code and sign the Angel Tree List with your name & information and record the Angel Tag Code.
- Tear off the wish list at the perforation and take the wish list tag only and leave the Angel on the tree.
- Angel Tree Gifts, clearly marked with the Angel Tag Code and unwrapped, should be returned to the church no later than Wednesday, December 10 at noon. (Please attach the wish list to your gifts and keep the lower portion for your tax records.)

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

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

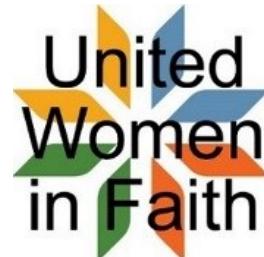


United Women in Faith

December 8 UWF Luncheon at 11:30 am with ELC children singing. Call or text Olivia Kendrick for a lunch reservation 205.454.4375.

December 7th, 14th, & 21st, 2nd, 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!

Ladle of Love
Clothes Closet
September

LOL 412

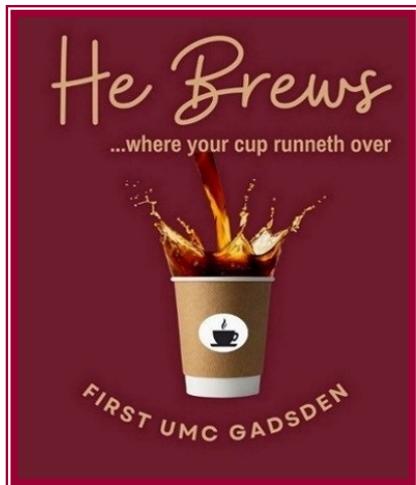
Clothes Closet 280

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 7

Celebration: Julie Gage & Kyle Horton

Traditions: Delores & Charles Abney; Jennifer Jackson

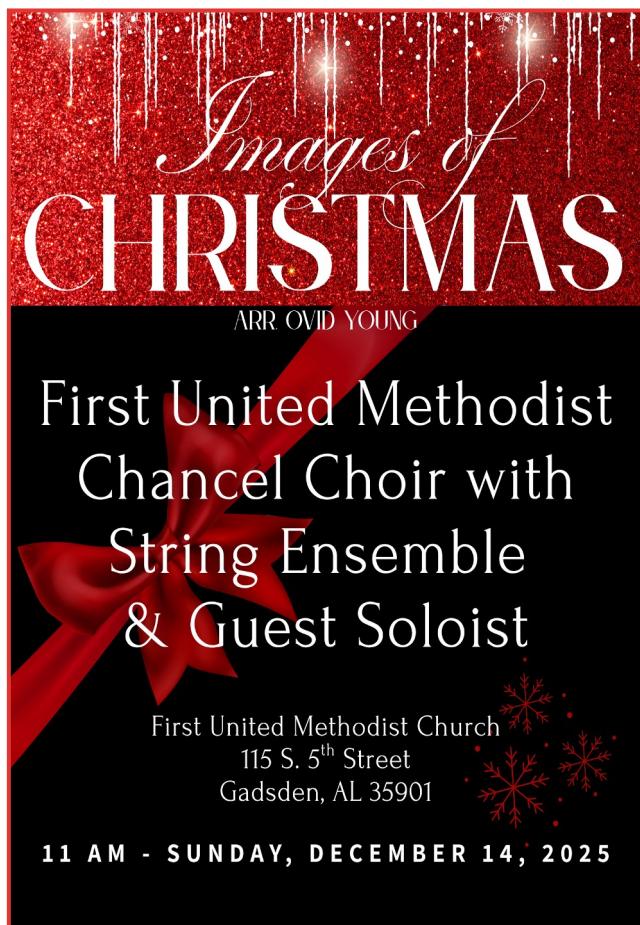
Sunday, December 14

Celebration: Karen & Wayne Owen

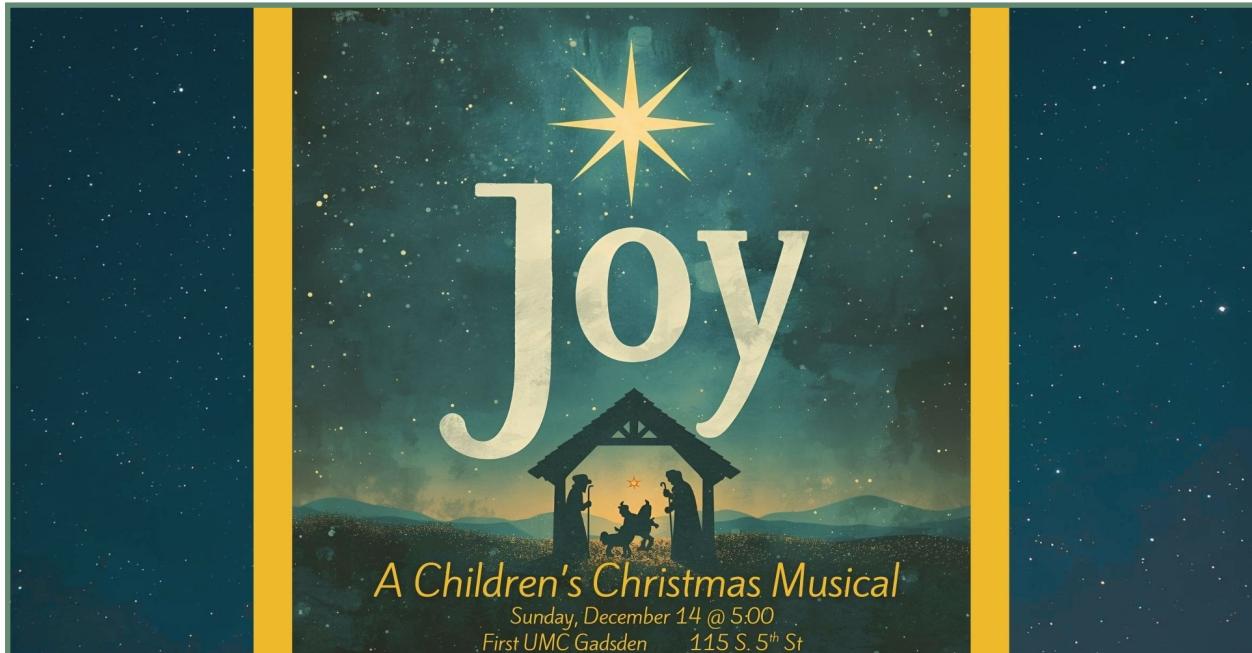
Traditions: Judy & Mandel Tillman; Margie & John Freeman



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.



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH
CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE
cards & Gifts

10 AM
(BETWEEN WORSHIP SERVICES)

Sunday Mornings

Dec 7, 14, & 21

Chestnut Foyer

ALL PROCEEDS
BENEFIT UWF
MISSIONS

“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 3, 63 estimate of giving cards have been returned with a commitment of \$467,228.00.**

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

Sunday, November 30 -1st Sunday of Advent, "The Jesse Tree", Rev. Sherri Reynolds
9:00 am - Celebration Worship, Chapel
10:00 am - Sunday School; HeBrews, Chestnut Foyer
11:00 am - Hanging of the Greens, Sanctuary



Tuesday, December 2 - 6:00 pm - LuVerna Waid Circle, Room 208

Thursday, December 4 - 5:30 pm - Thursday Worship Service

Sunday, December 7 - 2nd Sunday of Advent
9:00 am - Celebration Worship
10:00 am - Sunday School; HeBrews, Chestnut Foyer
10:00 am - Children's Ministry Santa Brunch
11:00 am - Traditions Worship



Monday, December 8 -11:30 am - UWF Luncheon; ELC Children Singing

Wednesday, December -10 5:15 pm - Last Wednesday Night Supper & Bible Study Groups

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

First UMC Gadsden Dec 7-Dec 13, 2025

Dec 7, Sunday

1st Sunday of Advent

9:00 am-Celebration Worship

10:00 am-UWF Christmas Boutique, Chestnut Foyer

10:00 am-Santa Brunch, Gathering Room

10:00 am-HeBrews Coffee; Sunday School

11:00 am-Traditions

Dec 8, Monday

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

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

10:30 am-UWF Executive Board meeting

11:30 am-UWF Luncheon

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

Dec 9, Tuesday

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

11:30 am-Staff Lunch & Christmas Party

Dec 10, Wednesday

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

11:00 am-Wednesday Morning Bible Study

5:15 pm-Wednesday night meal, Gathering Room

6:00 pm-Children's Activities, Room 208

Youth Activities, Room 211 & Gym

6:00 pm-Bible Study Groups, Room 110, 208, & 209

6:00 pm-Choir Practice

Dec 11, Thursday

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

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

5:30 pm-Thursday Worship Service, Chapel

6:00 pm-GSCC A Cappello Choir Christmas Tour

Dec 12, Friday

11:00 am-Ladle of Love, Portico

12:00 pm noon- Office closed

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Jackie Herlong Andrew Swann (grandson of Danny Swann)
Julia Lopez

Continued Prayer Concerns

Sonya Nesbitt Bobby Robinson Jane Gargus
Dotty Ivey Ruthie Hester Dawn Rains
Amy Epperson (Gene & Danna Dean's daughter)

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



*John Hunter "Hank" Hayes II
Born: 11/25/2025*

*Proud Parents; Paige and Hunter Hayes
Proud Big Sisters: Helen and Mary Hunter*

Birthdays

Dec 7 Margie Freeman, Jim Fleeman,
Olivia Kendrick, Austin Waits



Dec 8 Silas Tankersley

Dec 9 Caroline Culp, Kailie Jackson

Dec 10 Debbie Hiltz, Debbie Leach, Jamie Bowers, Bo Hayes

Dec 11 Douglas Grizzell, Kimberly Hayes, Misun Leach,
Emma Smith

Dec 12 Jessica Hopper, Sara Catheryne Freeman

Dec 13 Dick Abel, Danny Jackson, Jon Ford, Miaya Myers

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

Attendance Week of Nov 30, 2025

In Person Total *218	On Line Total 264
Worship Total 482	Thursday Worship *0
Celebration *41	Traditions *177/264
Bible Study Groups *0	Children Sun/Wed *25
Middle & Senior Hi Wed/Sun *3	
Nursery Wed/Sun *4	

Year 2025 Week of Nov 30, 2025

General Offering Budget	\$ 12,400.00
General Offering Received	\$ 18,943.52
YTD Gen. Offering Budget	\$595,200.00
YTD Gen. Offering Rec'd	\$632,046.00



Order Poinsettias for Advent and Christmas Worship Services

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

Select Date: _____ December 14 _____ December 21 _____ December 24

(Poinsettias will be placed in both Services)

Select One: _____ in Honor of _____ in memory of

Name(s) _____

Given by _____
