



*A Father's Song*  
Rev. Sherri Reynolds

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

**Sermon Notes: Thursday, December 5 and Sunday, December 8, 2024**

Music is an important part of our Advent Season. Songs connect us with precious memories and enhance our celebrations. Hymns and sacred tunes link us anew with the birth of Jesus. We are blessed with the melodies of the season. For sermons this Advent, we return to the original poems surrounding Jesus' birth. Some of these may not have been set to music, but they all put a song in our heart and are a gift to us this Advent. For the second Sunday, we focus upon Zechariah and a father's song. This "Song of the Season" teaches us a lesson about answered prayers and being an answer to prayer.

Luke 1:57-80 are words of praise from Zechariah. This righteous priest's prayer had been heard and the prayers of his people had been heard too! He and Elizabeth would have a son, who would usher in the Messiah in the spirit of Elijah. Zechariah's song encourages us to keep praying and have hope. What are you praying for this Advent? How might you be a hope-bearer or an answered prayer for others?

May the sound of hope be yours this Advent season!

Prayers for a blessed Advent,  
Rev. Sherri

## Adult Studies for Advent

### “Prepare the Way for the Lord”

Living Water/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](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/media)

## ACOLYTES

December 8: Anna Kate Casey & Jade Collins  
December 15: Sara Kate, Jake, & Carter Thornburg

## Thursday Worship Security

**December 5** Kirk Mabeus

**December 12** Paid Security (Meet in Chapel)

## Tech Team Schedule

**December 8**

Celebration: Sheila Freeman, Bill Haller, Carmen McKiven  
Traditions: Mark Condra, Neil Mullin, Sheila Freeman

**December 15**

Celebration: No Tech Team-Christmas Unplugged, Chapel  
Traditions: Davis Varner, Wayne Payton, Sheila Freeman



*Advent Study*

Prepare for the season of Advent with a small group study which focuses on the symbols, history, and traditions of Advent led by Rev. Sherri. This short-term study will meet November 20 (Room 116) December 4 (Sanctuary) and December 11 (Sanctuary) at 11am and 6pm. Topics include: The meaning behind our Chrismons, The Christian Year, Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, The Christian connection with popular decorations, Christmas around the world, and the stories behind your favorite hymns. *Rev. Sherri Reynolds*

## Wednesday Fellowship, Room 208

**December 11-Chick-Fil-A**

**\$7 Youth & Adults    \$3 Children 11 & Under**  
**Dinner is served beginning at 5:15 PM**

**Wednesday Morning Bible Study @ 11 am, Gathering Room**

**Advent Study w/ Rev. Sherri Reynolds**

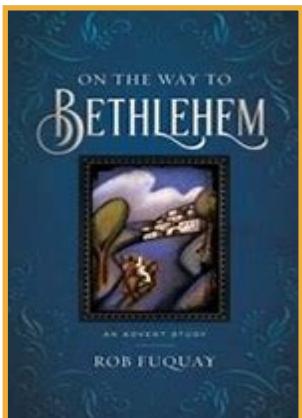
**Adult Small Groups @ Wonderful Wednesdays**

**No Small Group Study on Wednesday, November 27**

## New Adult Studies on Sunday Mornings

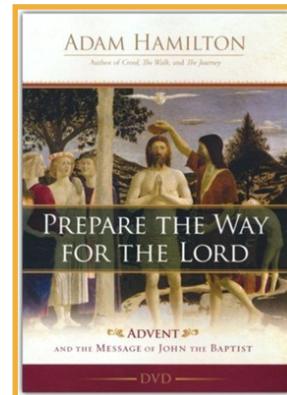
**“Prepare the Way for the Lord”**

**Living Water/Martin Fellowship, Room 116**



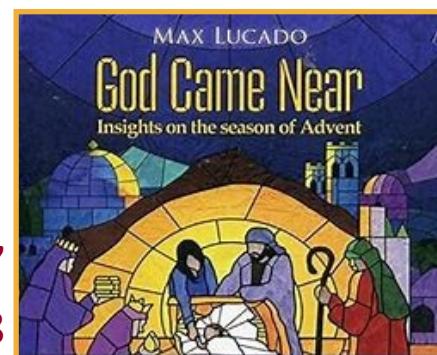
**“On the Way to Bethlehem”**

**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 were excited to be back from Thanksgiving break. Everyone's Christmas PJ's were so cute. We love this tradition. This week we will have lots of Christmas singing. On Monday our 3k and 4k students will sing for UWF. Then Tuesday evening, 2k, 3k and 4k students will entertain the ladies of Delta Kappa Gamma here at the church. We will finish our fall semester with our annual Christmas Program and Parties Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am in the sanctuary. We invite all to come and relax for just a few moments during this hectic time.

—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

Wonderful Wednesday Meal, December 11

Menu: Chick-Fil-A, \$7 Adults, \$3 Age 11 & Under

# Children's Ministry

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



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](http://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.**

**Thank you for your generosity for GFUMC November Missions!**



This Thanksgiving, your donation of 73 sacks of food will help feed families in our community!

Through your gifts, First United Methodist Church of Gadsden provided desserts and additional financial support for the CommUnity Thanksgiving meal.

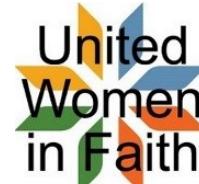


### United Women in Faith

The monthly luncheons are open to all. Please make a reservation by calling or texting Olivia Kendrick by the Friday prior to the meeting date. 205.454.4375

♦ December 9 at 12:00 noon; Christmas Luncheon, ELC Children singing

Following the luncheon this week, we will be delivering poinsettias to the home bound.



### Christmas Boutique

We hope that you will also visit the Christmas Boutique in the Chestnut Foyer on Sunday mornings between the worship services during the month of December. (see page 7)

—Delores Abney, President

—Olivia Kendrick, Vice-President

### LuVerna Waid Circle

The Christmas Party will be at Jill Vincent's home on Tuesday, December 17th at 5:30 pm. More details to come. Mark your calendar!

—Susan Copeland

### 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](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/serve)

Phone: 256-543-8200

Email:

[fumc@fumcgadsden.org](mailto: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 the Luke How will you respond?

We are near the end of our 2025 Generosity Emphasis. During the month of October, we looked at response to Jesus, as found in the gospel of Luke.

The characters who we met along the way caused us to pause and wonder,  
“How would I respond?”

If you have not received information about the emphasis in the mail, contact the church office. In the information was a 2025 estimate of giving card. On the card you will not only find a space to share your estimate of giving for the coming year, but also a space to faithfully renew your commitment to support the church with your prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. Why do we have a Generosity Emphasis with estimate of giving cards? Like other nonprofits or agencies, we estimate how we will fund our budget. It gives the leadership the ability to plan for the year ahead. Please know that the estimate of giving cards are not legally binding and are kept confidentially within the church office. There is also an online version which can be found on our church website. You may turn in your card directly to the plate, or complete the online version throughout this month.

As of Tuesday, November 26, we have \$455,396.00 committed to our 2025 General Budget Fund.. Thank you for your generosity and for those of you who have already submitted your card.

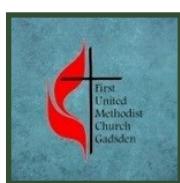
## ***How will you respond?***

Rev. Sherri Bob Blount  
Senior Pastor Generosity Chairman



**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](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/give)

**Text to Give: 256-344-8464**

Venmo @FirstUMCGadsden

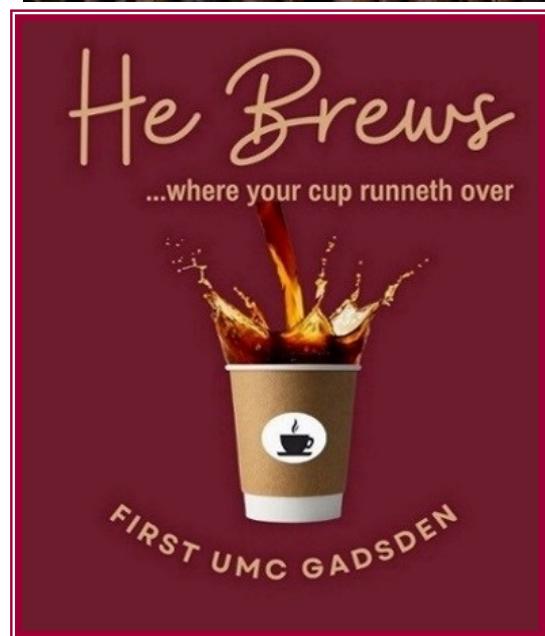
**Mail your tithe or gift:** 115 S. 5th Street, Gadsden, AL 35901



## Secure Online Giving



Scan the QR Code or  
Text to Give: 256-344-8464  
First United Methodist Church of Gadsden



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!!!*

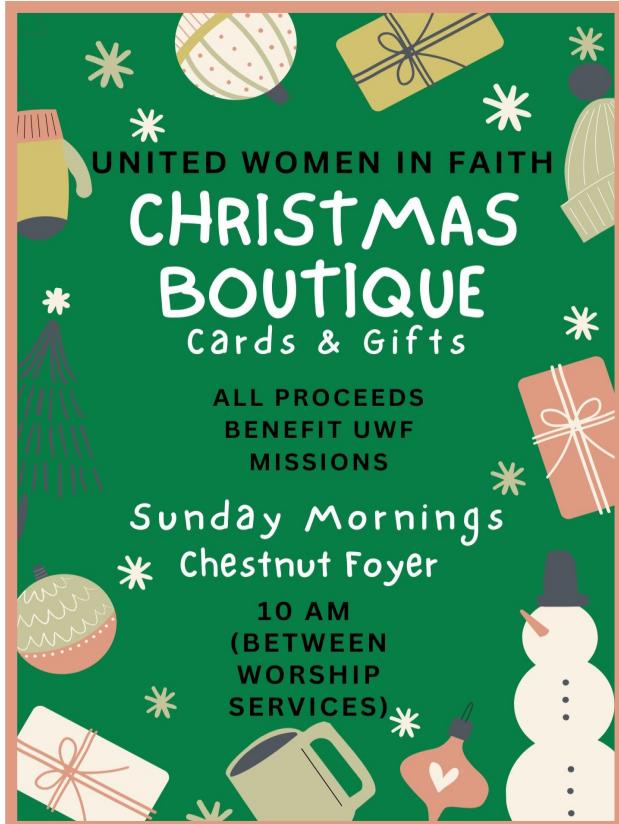


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**PATSY BLANKENSHIP**

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.



## Grief Support Group @ Gadsden First UMC

**Tuesdays @ 11 am Room 119 Facilitator: Julia Lopez**

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](http://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!*

CELEBRATION WORSHIP

# Christmas Unplugged

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

15 December 2024  
9 am  
In the Chapel  
Following worship,  
enjoy Cookies & Hot Cocoa @ Hebrews



Traditions Worship

# The Songs of Christmas

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CHANCEL CHOIR WITH STRING ENSEMBLE

DECEMBER 15, 2024  
11 AM | SANCTUARY

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
115 S. 5TH STREET  
GADSDEN, AL 35901

# Songs of the Season

A Sermon Series for Advent and Christmas

Nov. 24 - "A Mother's Song"  
 Dec. 1 - Lessons of the Chrismons  
 Dec. 8 - "A Father's Song"  
 Dec. 15 - Special Music in both Services  
 Dec. 22 - "A Long-Awaited Song"  
 Dec. 24 - "The Angels' Song"

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

## Calendar for Dec 8-14, 2024

### December 8, Sunday

**9:00 am-Celebration Worship, Sanctuary**  
**UWF Christmas Boutique, Chestnut Street Lobby**

10:00 am-Sunday School for all ages  
 10:00 am-HeBrews Coffee, Chestnut Street Foyer

### 11:00 am-Traditions Worship, Sanctuary

### December 9, Monday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC

9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym  
 10:00 am- UWF Executive Board, Rm 208

### 12:00 pm-UWF Luncheon, Gathering Rm

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

### December 10, Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC  
 11:00 am-Grief Support Group, Rm 119; 5:00 pm-Yoga  
 6:00 pm-8:00 pm, Basketball practice, Gym

### December 11, Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC  
 11:00 am-12:00 pm- Wednesday Morning Bible Study  
 5:15 pm- Wednesday night meal, Gathering Room

6:00 pm- Children & Youth activities, Gym & Rms 108 &  
 211; 6:00 pm- Small Group Study, Room 110 & 208

6:00 pm- Choir Practice, Choir room

### December 12, Thursday

9:00 am-1:00pm-ELC  
 9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym  
 9:30 am- ELC Christmas Program, Sanctuary

5:30 pm- Thursday Worship, Chapel

### 6:00 pm-GSCC Christmas Concert, Choir & Singers

6:00 pm-8:00 pm, Basketball practice, Gym

### December 13, Friday

11:00 am-12:00 pm-Ladle of Love

### *In Memory of His Life*

*Charles Shepherd (Shep) Midgley*  
*November 30, 2024*



*The rose on the altar is in honor of the birth of*  
**Tucker Matthew Catanzaro**  
*November 25, 2024*  
**Parents: William & Jessy**  
**Siblings: Ann Frances & Whitman**  
*Given by GFUMC Children's Ministry & Early Learning Center*

*The rose on the altar is in honor of the birth of*  
**Louis William Propes**  
*November 26, 2024*  
**Parents: Elliott & Tori**  
*Given by GFUMC Children's Ministry & Early Learning Center*

### *In Memory of His Life*

*Glenwood (Glen) Marian Pierson*  
*December 5, 2024*



## Honorariums & Memorials

### General Budget

In memory of Stephe Wood, given by Mr. & Mrs. Keith Murray.

In memory of Michael Morris, given by Mr. & Mrs. Richard McCoy.

In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Isbell, Jr., given by Dr. & Mrs. Gordon Isbell III. In Honor of Rose Isbell and Wells Isbell, given by

Dr. & Mrs. Gordon Isbell III. In Honor of Dr. & Mrs. Ross Isbell IV, given by Dr. & Mrs. Gordon Isbell III. In Honor of the Thursday Worship Family, given by Dr. & Mrs. Gordon Isbell III.

### Landscape Fund

In memory of Dr. James Condra, given by Dr. & Mrs. Gordon R. Isbell III.

In Honor of Laura Condra, given by Dr. & Mrs. Gordon Isbell III. In Honor of Mark & Barbara Condra, given by Dr. & Mrs. Gordon Isbell III.

### Birthdays

**Dec 8** Benilda Kelley, Silas Tankersley  
**Dec 9** Caroline Culp, Kailie Jackson  
**Dec 10** Debbie Hiltz, Debbie Leach, Jamie Bowers, Bo Hayes  
**Dec 11** Bonda Vance, Bryant Grizzell, Kimberly Hayes, Misun Leach, Allison Hayes, Emma Smith  
**Dec 12** Jessica Hopper, Sara Catheryne Freeman  
**Dec 13** Dick Abel, Danny Jackson, Jon Ford, Jackson Skelton  
**Dec 14** Neil Mullin, Gloria Rives, Furman Haney, Tommy Hiltz

### Week of December 1, 2024

In Person Total-\*129 Worship Total-680  
 Online-551 Thursday Worship-\*0  
 Celebration Service-\*55/276 \*in person  
 Traditions Service-\*74/275 UWF \*0  
 Bible Study \*0 Sunday School Adult-\*32/1  
 Children SS- \*5 Sr Hi & Middle SS- \*2  
 Wed/Sun-Children\*14 Wed/Sun-Nursery \*2  
 Wed/Sun-Sr.Hi & Middle Youth \*11

General Offering Budget \$11,400.00

General Offering Received \$24,491.00

YTD General Offering Budget \$547,200.00

YTD General Offering Rec'd \$607,438.00

### Immediate Prayer Concerns

Family of Shep Midgley

Family of Glen Pierson

Shep Vincent

(Jill Vincent's grandson)

### Continued Prayer Concerns

Terry Bishop Jan Humphrey  
 Asher Mae Collins Amy Epperson  
 Ada Blount (Bob & Trish Blount's  
 granddaughter)

