

#WeAreFirst



Serving People

Mark 10:41-45
Rev. Sherri Reynolds

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

Sermon Notes: Thursday, Jan 29 & Sunday, Feb 1, 2026

We are First United Methodist Church of Gadsden, and we are called to share Christ, make disciples, serve people, and give hope. We do this so that lives may be changed in the name of Christ. One of the clearest ways in which we live out our mission is through serving people. I see it every day in your lives. Whether it be in the church (for example a ministry area or worship), an opportunity to serve our community (the ladle of love or the clothes closet), or in the way you live each day, you are people who serve. This is not only who you are, but service is also following the example of Jesus.

Jesus told the disciples that whoever wants to be great, must first serve. (Mark 10:41-45) Jesus set the example of setting aside selfish ambition, to do for others. His life is an example of service. Let Jesus' example be a tangible reminder of our call to serve. Seek a way to aid others this week. In being there for others and considering the needs of others, we will find that we not only live out our calling but are following in the footsteps of Jesus.

We Are First, Rev. Sherri

Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2026**Imposition of Ashes, 12 pm-1 pm, Sanctuary****Ash Wednesday Worship, 6 pm****Feb 18 Fellowship Dinner @ 5 pm****(We will begin serving 15 minutes early.)****Everyone is Welcome!****RSVP: Text 256-490-5018**

(If you have a standing Wednesday night reservation, you do not need to rsvp, unless you want to modify your reservation.)

\$7 per person, \$3 under 11, \$20 Family Max**Muffalettes, Red Beans & Rice, & Jambalaya****King Cake****Kids Menu: Chicken Fingers****Table of Contents:****Page 1-** Sermon Notes; Ash Wednesday, Feb 18; 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- Do You Know?****Page 5-** GFUMC Missions News; Clothes Closet; Ladle of Love; United Women in Faith**Page 6-** HeBrews; Pickleball; Usher/Greeter Schedule**Page 7-** "We Are First" T-Shirts; "Building a Solid Foundation" Generosity 2026; Ways to Give; Online Giving**Page 8-** Calendar; UWF Luncheon, 12 pm, January 12; Prayer Concerns; Births; Deaths; Memorials; Birthdays; Weekly Reports; **Year-end Giving Report****Worship Opportunities****Thursday Worship 5:30 pm****Sunday Morning* Celebration, 9 am****Traditions 11 am** *In-Person and Livestream or On Demand www.fumcgadsden.org/media**Security for Thursday Worship**

February 5: Mark Casey

ACOLYTES

Feb 1: Anna Kate Casey, Jade Collins, Layne Godfrey

Feb 8: Sara Echols, Luke Barnes, Brooks Bone

Tech Team Schedule**February 1**

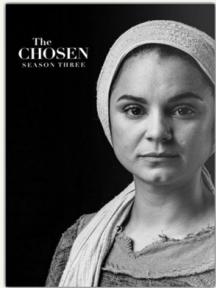
Celebration: Sheila Freeman, Bill Haller

Traditions: Neil Mullin, Sheila Freeman

February 8

Celebration: Mark Condra, Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman

Traditions: Mark Condra, Wayne Payton, Sheila Freeman

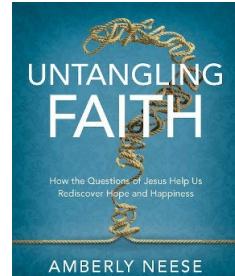


Bible Studies & Small Groups for Adults

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 as 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**

Amberly's unique humor and wit help the whole group find their way through deep and rich issues of personal faith, doubt, and growth.

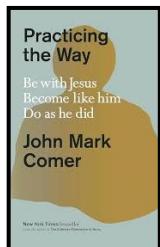


Wonderful Wednesday Dinner

February 4, Italian Night, \$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!

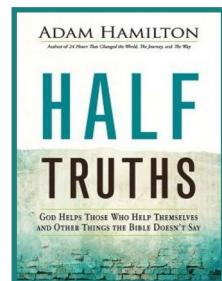
Practicing the Way by John Mark Comer—The disciples spent 3 years being apprentices to Jesus. They watched His every move and hung on every word. They were with Him 24/7. As a result, they, over time, became more and more like Him and began to do many of the things He did. With the Spirit's help, with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

Join Rev. 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 Rev. Ken Casey

Questions You Always Wanted to Ask About the Christian Faith and the Bible

“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 will be rescheduling the meet and greets for 2K and 4K. Our 3K and 4K students enjoyed a field trip to the Imagination Place and Snow Exhibit.

Reminder that King Cakes will be ready for pick up Saturday February 7th from 9 am to 11 am. Thank you all for supporting this fundraiser.

—Helene Haller



Youth

Sunday School
10 am, Room 211

Wonderful Wednesday

Youth Group, 6:00 pm
Room 211 & Gym
Packing RAK bags on
Wednesday Jan 21
*"Let's Build a Solid
Foundation!"*
Matthew 7:24

Wonderful Wednesday Dinner February 4—Italian Night

\$7 per person \$3 Age 11 & Under

Please text 256.490.5018 to make or change a reservation.

Children's Ministry

GFUMC children january & february

january Unit

WE HAVE COME TO BELIEVE
AND TO KNOW THAT YOU ARE
THE HOLY ONE OF GOD.
JOHN 6:47 NIV

Camp Believe It!

february Unit

YOU ARE THE GOD WHO PERFORMS
MIRACLES; YOU DISPLAY YOUR POWER
AMONG THE PEOPLES."
PSALM 77:14 (NIV)

Miraculous

Sunday morning
Children's Church
9:00am&11:00am

Sunday School
10:00am

Wonderful
Wednesday's
6:00pm

Wonderful Wednesday

Small Groups and Activities
@ 6 pm
Fellowship Dinner, 5:15 pm
February 4
Italian Night
\$7 per person
\$3 ages under 11

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



Do You Know?

NEIL & AMANDA SUMMERS



Neil grew up in Murphreesboro, TN, and graduated from The Webb School, a college-preparatory school in Bell Buckle, TN. He then attended Auburn University, where he received a degree in Agronomy and Soils with a concentration in Turfgrass. He is the owner of Neil Summers Outdoors, an irrigation, landscape lighting, and lawn treatment company.

Amanda grew up in Gadsden and graduated from Gadsden City High School. She attended UAB on a golf scholarship and received a degree in Sports Economics, followed by a degree in Civil Engineering. Amanda currently works as a Distribution Engineer for Alabama Power Company.

She and Neil have two young boys: Charlie (age 3) and Conley (age 1). In their free time, Neil and Amanda enjoy playing golf, and Neil also likes to hunt.

HAL RHEA



Hal grew up in Gadsden and was in the first graduating class from Gadsden City High School. He attended the University of Alabama, where he received an undergraduate degree in Finance. He then received a Masters of Business Administration from Auburn University. He currently serves as a technology consultant for the National Center for State Courts.

Hal has a three-year-old daughter, Lilly, and says that his hobbies and interests include Alabama football and music. He plays both the piano and guitar.

Mission Focus



JOIN THE MISSION TEAM & YOUTH IN JANUARY FOR
**RANDOM ACTS OF
KINDNESS
"KINDNESS KITS"**

GFUMC YOUTH & THE MISSION TEAM HAVE
PREPARED "KINDNESS KITS" FOR YOU TO TAKE &
SHARE WITH OTHERS IN OUR COMMUNITY TO
INTRODUCE CHRIST AND RENDER HOPE!

"KINDNESS KITS" ARE AVAILABLE IN WORSHIP ON 1/25



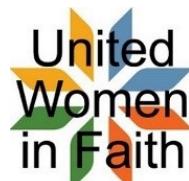
FIRST UMC GADSDEN

United Women in Faith

The LuVerna Waid Circle will meet Tuesday, February 3, at 6:00 pm at the church in room 208. We will be starting our New Year with a special meeting. We will decide who will be leading us into 2026, focusing on our vision. We will sign up a leader, someone to keep the money, a program/project leader, and someone to communicate information to members. Come join us and be part of this circle. Help us make a difference in the ministries of our church!

February Luncheon 12:00 noon, Monday, February 9

"Looking Toward the Future" Rev. Sherri Reynolds



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.

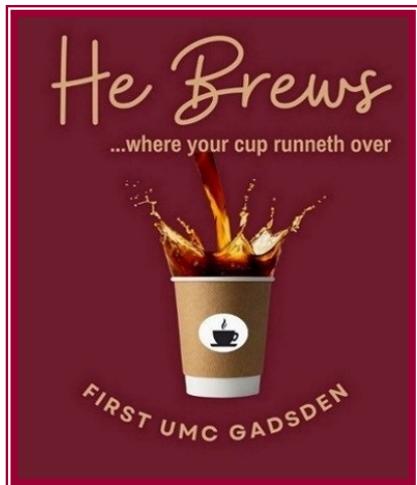
Open to Public
1st & 3rd Wednesdays
February open dates are
2/4 and 2/18

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

Ladle of Love Clothes Closet

YTD 2025	
LOL	4831
Clothes Closet	3215

Thanks to our
Volunteers!



Follow us on
Facebook and Instagram.



HeBrews Coffee Café, Chestnut Foyer, Sundays, 10 am
We look forward to seeing you on Sunday Morning!



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, February 1

Celebration: Helene Haller, Elizabeth Gilbert

Traditions: Terry & Sheila Bishop; Bob & Becky Oltman

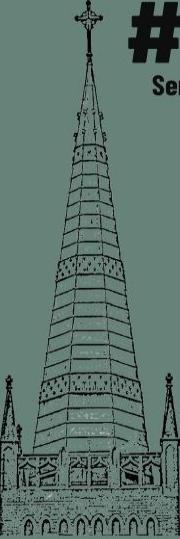
Sunday, February 8

Celebration: Kirk & Jeanne Mabeus

Traditions: Judy & Mandell 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.



#WeAreFirst

Sermon Series January 8 - February 8
Rev. Sherri Reynolds

Forging Disciples Introducing Christ Rendering Hope Serving People Transformation

"We Are First"
T-Shirts

\$20.00

A limited supply of "We Are First, "Light Green" long sleeve t-shirts are now available.

Pick one up in the church office or email:
sheila@fumcgadsden.org



"Building Upon a Solid Foundation,"
our 2026 Generosity Emphasis

As of December 73 estimate of giving cards have been returned with a commitment of \$501,328.00

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

First UMC Gadsden Feb 1-Feb 7, 2026

Feb 1, Sunday

9:00 am-Celebration Worship

10:00 am-HeBrews Coffee; Sunday School

11:00 am-Traditions

Feb 2, Monday

ELC Winter Schedule

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

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

5:30 pm-7:30 pm-Basketball practice, Gym

Feb 3, Tuesday

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

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

1:15 pm-Staff Meeting, Adult Library

5:00 pm-6:00 pm-Yoga, Gym

6:00 pm-LuVerna Waid Circle, Room 208

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

Feb 4, Wednesday

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

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

11:00 am-Wednesday Morning Bible Study

5:15 pm-Wednesday night meal, Gathering Room

6:00 pm-Children's Activities, Room 108

Youth Activities, Room 211 & Gym

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

6:00 pm-Choir Practice

Feb 5, Thursday

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

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

5:30 pm—Thursday Worship

5:30 pm-7:30 pm-Basketball Practice, Gym

Feb 6, Friday

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

12:00 pm-Office Closed

“Light Green” long sleeve “We Are First “t-shirts are now available for \$20 .

Sizes Adult Sm-3X. Supplies are limited.

Pick one up in the church office or email: sheila@fumcgadsden.org

Weekly Newsletter

Subscribe to the weekly newsletter by submitting your email address to the church secretary, Susan Swann:

susan@fumcgadsden.org

You will receive the weekly newsletter by email on Friday mornings. The Newsletter is also available in the GFUMC Church App and on the Church Website.

Update your contact info!

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Georgia Reese Moran (infant daughter of Dallas & Shannon-grandparents Jill & Rick)

Olivia Kendrick Marionette Bishop

James Dial (Taylor & Jay Dial's newborn son)

Continued Prayer Concerns

Trish Blount Maitland Adams

Dawn Rains

Amy Epperson (dtr of Gene & Danna Dean)

Andrew Swann (grandson of Danny Swann)

Ash Wednesday

February 18

Imposition of Ashes,

12 pm-1 pm

Sanctuary

Ash Wednesday

Worship Service,

6 pm, Sanctuary

Birthdays

Feb 1 Lee Trotter, Sherri Watson, Kelly Whisenant, Sarah Grace Whitt, Jane Sohor

Feb 2 Templeton Bryson, Benjamin Hester

Feb 3 David Gray, Jeanne Mabeus, Mikko Norris

Feb 4 Janet Page, Barb Lee, Connie Brown, Christine Green

Feb 5 Dottie Rogers, Anna Inzer

Feb 6 Dee McCoy, Kathy Trotter

Feb 7 Grayson Kelley

Attendance Week of Jan 25, 2026

In Person Total *132 On Line Total 427

Worship Total 559 Thursday Worship *11

Celebration *46/221 Traditions *75/206

Nursery Sun/Wed *4 Youth SS *5

Adult Sunday School *40 Children's SS *4

Bible Study *29 Children Sun/Wed *26

Youth Sun/Wed *18 UWF *0

Year 2026 Week of January 25, 2026

General Offering Budget \$13,040.00

General Offering Received \$21,662.00

YTD Gen. Offering Budget \$52,160.00

YTD Gen. Offering Rec'd \$87,502.00

Year End Giving

2025

General Offering Received
\$21,211.00

YTD Gen. Offering Budget
\$644,800.00

YTD Gen. Offering Rec'd
\$699,344.00

Thank you for your generosity.