



### Sermon Notes: Thursday, January 30, and Sunday, February 2

Have you ever had an experience of the holiness of God that was so profound that it changed you? Moses did. Moses met God in a burning bush and received an invitation from God to lead his people to freedom. In fact, the holiness of God was so powerful, that God instructed Moses to take his shoes off because he was standing on holy ground. (Exodus 3:1-12).

As we encounter God, we are changed just like Moses. The agent of change may not be meeting God in a burning bush, but there are many ways in which we can encounter God. Through Bible Study, prayer, generosity, worship, the sacraments, accountability, sharing Christ, and serving others, we are shaped to be more like Jesus (and this is a limited list). We are made into disciples of Jesus. Are you seeking to encounter God? Practice some holy practices and you may find holy ground. As James reminds us, "draw near to God and he will draw near to you."

Adventuring with you,  
Rev. Sherri

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### Worship Opportunities

- Thursday: Worship, 5:30 pm**
- Sunday Morning:**
- Celebration, 9 am**
- Traditions, 11 am**

\*In-Person and Livestream or On Demand

### ACOLYTES

- February 2: Sylvia Harbin & Becca Echols
- February 9: Anna Kate Casey & Jade Collins

### Thursday Worship Security

- January 30: Rob Reynolds
- February 6: Mark Condra

### Tech Team Schedule

- February 2**
- Celebration:** Sheila Freeman, Carmen McKiven
- Traditions:** Mark Condra, Wayne Payton, Sheila Freeman
- Feb 9**
- Celebration:** Sheila Freeman, Rob Reynolds, Brad Barnes
- Traditions:** Davis Varner, Sheila Freeman



## 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, Room 208

**February 5– Assorted Sandwiches, Salad, Chips, Fruit, Dessert**  
**\$7 Youth & Adults    \$3 Children 11 & Under**  
**Dinner is served beginning at 5:15 PM**

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

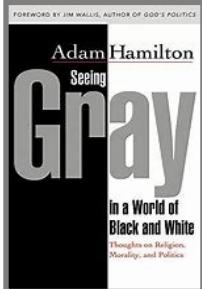
**“The Chosen” w/ Rev. Sherri Reynolds**

### Adult Small Groups @ Wonderful Wednesdays, 6 pm

**Rev. Sherri, “The Chosen”, Room 208**

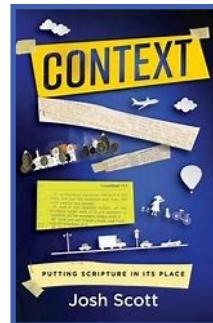
**Harriet Murray, “Destinations”, Room 110**

## Adventure into Sunday School with New Adult Studies



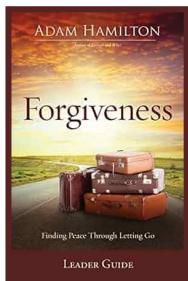
### Transitions 10 am, Room 209

This study encourages thinking persons of faith to model for the rest of the country a richer, more thoughtful conversation on the political, moral, and religious issues that divide us. Hamilton rejects the easy assumptions and sloppy analysis of black and white thinking, seeking instead the truth that resides on all sides of the issues, and offering a faithful and compassionate way forward.



### Pathfinders/Seekers 10 am, Room 208

Join us. Everyone welcome! Context looks at verses we know by heart but may not know the people, places, and times that give them meaning. Josh Scott delves into these well-known Scripture verses, exploring their true meanings by examining them in their original biblical context.



### Living Waters 10 am, Room 116

A new study will begin our new study January 12th on the book *Forgiveness - Finding Peace Through Letting Go* by Adam Hamilton. The book is available on Amazon for \$9.99 (newer version with suitcases.)

## “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 Meet and Greets went well and we look forward to a successful registration season. 3K and 4K enjoyed a great time on our field trip to the Mary Hardin Cultural Arts Center. Registration for currently enrolled church member families will be Monday, February 10<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup>.

**King Cake:** A quick reminder that King Cake distribution will be Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup> from 9 am to noon, at the portico entrance. Thank you again for your generous support of our King Cake Sale. We will clear \$2,400 toward new graduation robes and monies toward updating the third floor play area.

—Helene Haller



## Youth Wednesdays, 6 pm

Senior High, Rm 211

Middle, Rm 209

## Youth Sundays, 10 am

Youth Sundays w/ Becca  
Sunday mornings, Room 211

## Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Dinner, 5:15 pm, Gathering Room

**Wed., February 5: Assorted Sandwiches, Salad, Chips, Fruit, Dessert**  
\$7 Youth & Adults    \$3 Children 11 & Under

**Activities and Small Groups for All Ages begin at 6 pm.**

# Children's Ministry



## A Letter of Gratitude

I am thankful for your commitment and discipleship lived out through First United Methodist Church of Gadsden in 2024. The generosity emphasis, "How will you Respond?" resulted in 68 commitments returned for \$461,596 pledged to our 2025 budget, representing an increase in the number making a commitment and an increase in the amount over last year. We closed the 2024 General Fund with receipts exceeding the budget by more than \$90,000. We also saw an increase of 11 in attendance or 6.8% over the year before. There are incredible folks who were willing to step up to lead for the coming year. First United Methodist Church celebrated 13 professions of faith and 9 baptisms last year. This is data worth recognizing! While this is the year in metrics, it is also lives changed and lives growing deeper in relationship with Jesus.

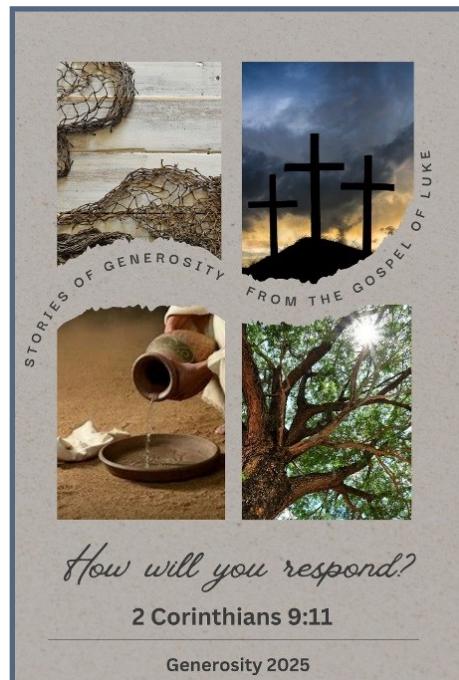
I am not sure what 2025 will bring, but I know that God will be with us. My prayer is that we continue to be a congregation that is changing lives, because we share Jesus, make disciples, serve people, and offer hope.

In gratitude,

*Rev Sherri Reynolds*

Rev. Sherri

## Generosity 2025



Generosity 2025

**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](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

## January Mission Focus

**LET'S GO TO THE DISASTER RELIEF WAREHOUSE IN DECATUR FOR A ONE DAY MISSION TRIP.**

**FRIDAY, FEB. 7, 7:15 AM TO 4:45 PM (INCLUDES TRAVEL TIME)  
CONTACT GINGER ROSS FOR MORE INFORMATION!**

**256-490-5805**

*Note: Wear work clothes including close-toed shoes (required.) Dress in layers, as the warehouse is not climate controlled. Be prepared to assist with sorting, lifting, and moving donated items.*

### **NAC UMC DISASTER RELIEF WAREHOUSE**

***The NAC Disaster Response Warehouse, located in Decatur, AL, is staffed by volunteers, and receives donations of disaster relief supplies based on UMCOR Standards.***

The North Alabama Conference Disaster Relief Warehouse's primary mission is to provide a secure, weather resistant storage facility to accumulate, account for, and ship relief supplies to victims of natural and man-made disasters worldwide in support of the humanitarian efforts of the United Methodist Church. The stewardship of the donated and purchased assets is the primary activity of the warehouse.

### **UMCOR: ALLEVIATING SUFFERING IN THE U.S. & ALL OVER THE WORLD**

The GFUMC Missions Team is collecting items for UMCOR that will be donated through the NAC Disaster Response Warehouse. Go to the app or pick up a list of needed items in the Chestnut Foyer. Donations may be placed in the Red Buckets at our entrances.

### **Striplin Elementary —Adopted School**

The A/B Honor Roll Party will be Tuesday, February 4. Volunteers are needed for this GFUMC Mission. Join us as well celebrate the children who have worked so hard to achieve A/B Honor Roll for the past 9 weeks. Contact Susan Copeland for more information.

### **United Women in Faith**

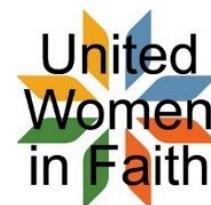
Our next Luncheon is February 10 at 12:00 noon.

The speaker will be Jennifer Spears, Director of Christian Hope, a home in Honduras which houses 10 girls who are orphaned or abused. Please call or text your reservation to Olivia Kendrick by Friday, February 7, at 205-454-4375.

—Delores Abney, President

### **LuVerna Waid Circle News**

At the last meeting, our members voted to start meeting the 1st Tuesday night of each month. Our next meeting is Tuesday, February 4th at 6:00 pm. Jeanne Mabeus will lead us in our first study of the UWF Program Book. See you there. —Susan Copeland, Circle Leader



**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**  
**February open dates are**  
**2/5 and 2/19**

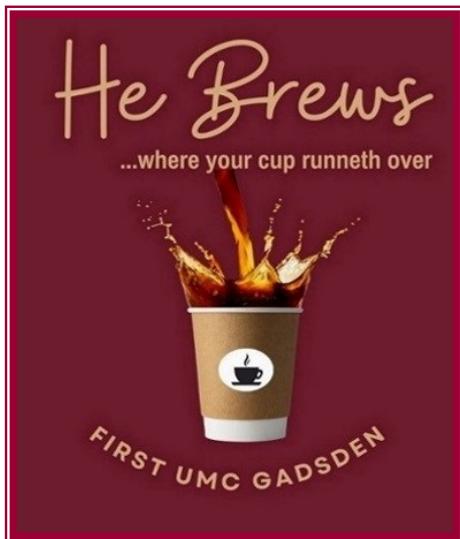
**9:00 am to 11:00 am**  
**516 Broad Street Gadsden**  
Find out more about mission  
and service opportunities @  
[www.fumcgadsden.org/serve](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/serve)  
**Phone: 256-543-8200**  
**Email:**  
[fumc@fumcgadsden.org](mailto:fumc@fumcgadsden.org)

**#gfumcreconnect2024**

**Ladle of Love**  
**Clothes Closet**

<b>December</b>	
<b>LOL</b>	<b>298</b>
<b>Clothes Closet</b>	<b>403</b>

**Thanks to our**  
**Volunteers!**

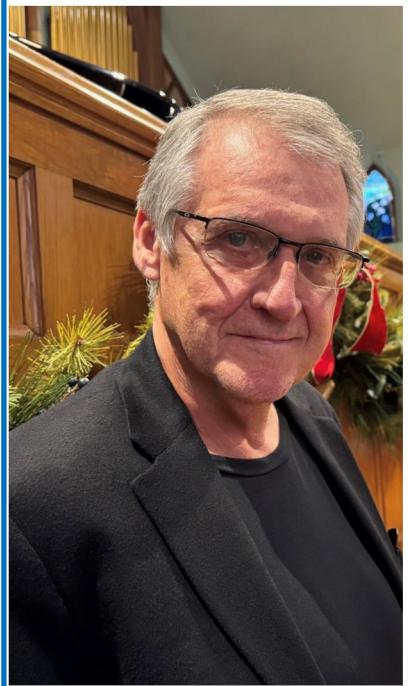


**HeBrews Coffee Café**  
**10 am, Chestnut Street Foyer**  
**We Can't Wait to See You There!**



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**BENNY CAMPBELL**



Benny grew up in Gallant, AL, where his father was the Postmaster. He graduated from Etowah High School, then attended Auburn University, majoring in Landscape Design and Ornamental Horticulture with an emphasis in Floral Culture. He worked for Green Thumb Nursery in Montgomery, AL, for two years, then bought Attalla Florist from a woman in her 90s who was retiring. He has owned the shop since 1977 and is still working regularly. Benny's sister, June Styles, also attends our church and helps out at Attalla Florist with computers, deliveries, arranging, etc. Benny has created floral arrangements for and given lectures at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens and Mobile's Bellingrath Gardens, just to name a couple of the many notable places at which he has appeared. Describing his work, he says, "It's what I call 'Southern high style.' I use a lot of native things such as twigs, pods, and berries, mixed with plants and cut flowers. It makes a nice mixture and gives you a nice feel." Benny's interests include "gardening, enjoying New York City, traveling, and people."

**January 19- February 23**  
**An Adventure Awaits Sermon Series**  
*Our journey of faith is a great adventure. With Moses as our guide, we will spend a season of looking at the great adventure of following Jesus and how that relates to us not only as individuals, but as First United Methodist Church of Gadsden.*  
**Join Rev. Sherri for the Adventure!**  
**Worship, Thursdays or Sundays!**

**Pancake Supper**  
 In the Gathering Room  
 5:15 pm  
 Wednesday, February 26  
 followed by "Burning of Palms"  
 in the Greenspace  
 @ 6 pm  
 Everyone is invited!  
 Please rsvp for the Pancake Supper by text 256.490.5018.

**Burning of the Palms**  
 Wednesday, February 26  
 6 pm, Greenspace

**Ash Wednesday Service**  
 Wednesday, March 5  
 6 pm, Sanctuary

# First UMC Gadsden Calendar for Feb 2-Feb 8, 2025

## February 2, Sunday

9:00 am-Celebration Worship, Sanctuary  
10:00 am-Sunday School classes for all ages  
10:00 am- HeBrews Coffee  
11:00 am-Traditions Worship, Sanctuary

## February 3, Monday

9:00 am-1:00 pm- ELC  
9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym  
2:00 to 4:00 pm- Pickleball, Gym

## February 4, Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm- ELC  
5:00 pm-Yoga, Gym

*In Memory of His Life*  
**Charles Anthony Cantrell**  
**January 7, 2025**



*The rose on the altar is in honor of the birth of  
Henry Robert Patrick Langston  
January 27, 2025  
Parents: Brad & Davis Ann  
Siblings: Madeline, Lucy, & John  
Given by GFUMC Children's Ministry  
& Early Learning Center*

## Honorariums & Memorials

### General Budget Fund

In memory of Glen Pierson, given  
by Elizabeth Frantz.

## Week of January 26, 2025

In Person Total.\*147 On Line Total-608  
Worship Total-755 Thursday service \*11  
Celebration \*39/215 Traditions \*95/393  
Adult Sunday School \*37/2 Children \*4  
Middle School \*1 Senior High \*1 UWF \*10  
Children Wed/Sun \*29 Nursery Wed/Sun \*6  
Middle Wed/Sun \*7 Senior Hi Wed/Sun \*7

## **Year 2025**

General Offering Budget	\$12,400.00
General Offering Received	\$ 7,547.00
YTD General Offering Budget	\$49,600.00
YTD General Offering Rec'd	\$43,178.00

## February 5, Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, ELC  
11:00 am-Bible Study-Pastor Sherri, Room 208  
5:15 pm-Fellowship Dinner, Gathering Room  
6:00 pm-Small Groups for Adults, Rooms 110 & 208  
Children, Room 108  
Middle Group, Room 209  
Youth Group, Room 211  
Choir Practice, Choir Room

## February 6, Thursday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, ELC  
9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym  
5:30 pm-Thursday Worship, Sanctuary

## February 7, Friday

**7:30 am-5:00 pm-Mission Team Trip**  
**UMCOR Warehouse, Decatur**  
11:00 am-12:00 pm- Ladle of Love  
Office closes at 12:00 pm

## January 26, 2025

**David & Amanda  
Fortenberry  
& Sylvia Harbin**

**WELCOME**  
NEW MEMBERS

## *Holy Baptism*

**Deanna Everett**  
**January 26, 2025**



**Thank you for your King Cake  
Orders for the ELC Fundraiser.**

**King Cakes will be available  
for pickup on Saturday,  
February 1, from 9 am to 12  
noon at the GFUMC Portico.**



## Birthdays

**Feb 2** Temple Bryson, Benjamin Hester  
**Feb 3** David Gray, Jeanne Mabeus,  
Mikko Norris  
**Feb 4** Janet Page, Connie Brown,  
Christine Green  
**Feb 5** Dottie Rogers, Anna Inzer  
**Feb 6** Dee McCoy, Kathy Trotter  
**Feb 7** Grayson Kelley  
**Feb 8** Rev. Ken Casey

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



## Immediate Prayer

### Concerns

Mary Tom Hale   Carla Watson  
Dr. Pat Herrera  
(Juanita Hammons' son-in-law)

## Continued Prayer

### Concerns

Amy Epperson

