



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

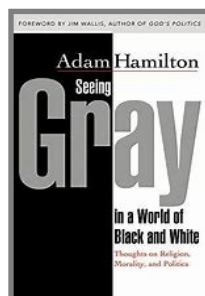
“The Chosen” w/ Rev. Sherri Reynolds

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

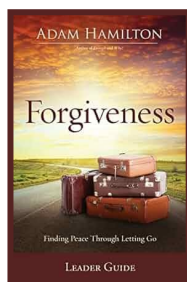


Transitions 10 am, Room 209

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 Greet 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 10th through Thursday, February 13th. **King Cake:** A quick reminder that King Cake distribution will be Saturday, February 1st 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

GADSDEN FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

INVITES YOU TO MAKE **VALENTINE'S CARDS** FOR OUR CHILDREN & YOUTH!

with **LOVE & PRAYER**

WE HAVE 40 CHILDREN AND 20 YOUTH.
Please sign and deliver your VALENTINE'S CARDS by Sunday, February 9.

"LOVE GOD, AND LOVE OTHERS"
MATTHEW 22:37-40

GFUMC CHILDREN'S FEBRUARY UNIT

WOW!

WEDNESDAY'S AT 6:00

WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4
Wow! Jesus has the power to heal .	Wow! Jesus has the power to calm our fears .	Wow! Jesus has the power to provide .	Wow! Jesus has the power to save .

"In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all."
1 Chronicles 29:12b (NIV)

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

**Sunday School
10:00am**

**Wonderful
Wednesday's
6:00pm**

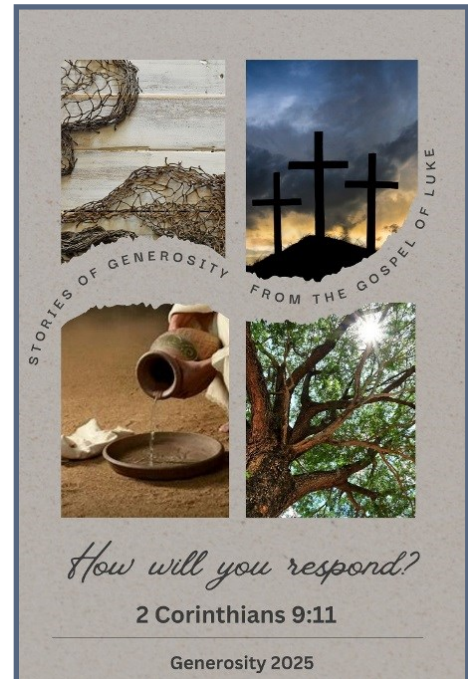
A Letter of Gratitude

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



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

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

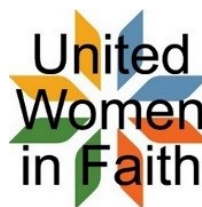
Our next Luncheon is February 10 at 12:00 noon. The speaker will be Jennifer Spears, Director of Christian Hope, a home in Honduras which houses 10 girls who are orphaned or abused. Please call or text your reservation to Olivia Kendrick by Friday, February 7, at 205-454-4375.

—Delores Abney, President

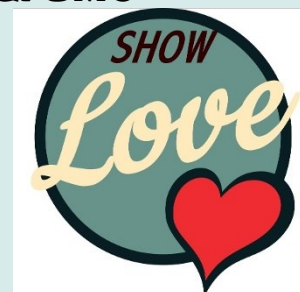
LuVerna Waid Circle News

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

Phone: 256-543-8200

Email:

fumc@fumcgadsden.org

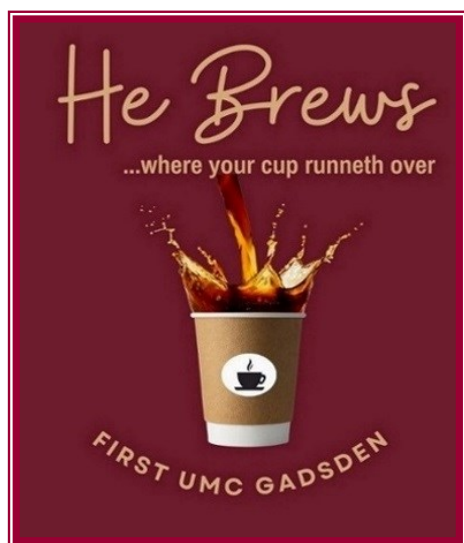
#gfumcreconnect2024

Ladle of Love Clothes Closet

December

LOL	298
Clothes Closet	403

Thanks to our Volunteers!




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



DO YOU KNOW?

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."

GADSDEN FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

INVITES YOU TO MAKE

VALENTINE'S
CARDS

FOR OUR CHILDREN
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with

LOVE

&

PRAYER

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MATTHEW 22:37-40

AN ADVENTURE AWAITS

AN ADVENTURE AWAITS JANUARY 19

SHARING CHRIST

JANUARY 26

MAKING DISCIPLES FEBRUARY 2

SERVING PEOPLE

FEBRUARY 9

GIVING HOPE FEBRUARY 16

THE RESULT OF A GRAND ADVENTURE

FEBRUARY 23

FIRST
UMC
GADSDEN

REV.
SHERRI
REYNOLDS

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 dventure 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

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

*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.

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.

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

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

