



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

## Sermon Notes: Thursday, February 6, and Sunday, February 9

In movies or media, we often see stereotypes of meddlesome in-laws. You know where a mother-in-law or father-in-law cross boundaries, and not for the good. Moses had the experience of a father-in-law who got into his business, but this time it was for the good. (Exodus 18:14-26). Moses' father-in-law, Jethro, told him that if he continued at such a demanding pace that he would soon burn out. Jethro suggested that Moses recruit capable leaders to help him share the load. The work of leadership and serving people should not be about one person doing all the work, but rather the responsibility being shared among many.

The church works best when we share responsibility too. There are many avenues of service and leadership within the church, but these avenues are not just for the pastor or staff, or one leader. This is all of us working and serving together to be the body of Christ. If we serve people in a way which changes lives, many are needed to serve to embody the mission of the church. A shared load of all empowered and equipped to serve is a greater witness for the love of God found in Jesus.

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 9: Anna Kate Casey & Jade Collins
- February 16: Volunteer

### Thursday Worship Security

- February 6: Mark Condra
- February 13: Mark Casey

### Tech Team Schedule

- Feb 9**
- Celebration: Sheila Freeman, Rob Reynolds, Brad Barnes
- Traditions: Davis Varner, Sheila Freeman
- Feb 16**
- Celebration: Sheila Freeman, Rob Reynolds, Carmen McKiven
- Traditions: Davis Varner, Neil Mullin, 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 30 (with the night session skipping March 26 for spring break.)

## Wednesday Fellowship, Room 208

February 12- Italian Trio

**\$7 Youth & Adults    \$3 Children 11 & Under**

Dinner is served beginning at 5:15 PM

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

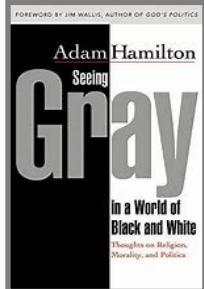
**"The Chosen" w/ Rev. Sherri Reynolds**

## Adult Small Groups @ Wonderful Wednesdays, 6 pm

**Rev. Sherri, "The Chosen", Room 208**

**Harriet Murray, "Common Ground", Room 110**

# Adventure into Sunday School with New Adult Studies

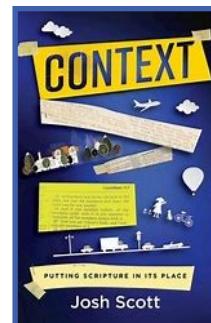


## Transitions 10 am, Room 209

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.

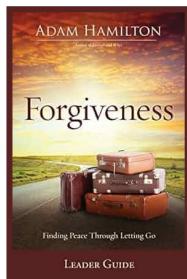
## Pathfinders/Seekers 10 am, Room 208

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

Registration time is here! Registration for currently enrolled church member families will be Monday, February 10<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup>. Registration for currently enrolled non-church member families will be Tuesday, February 18<sup>th</sup> through Monday, February 24<sup>th</sup>. ELC students and faculty will observe Valentine's Day on Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup>.  
— Helene Haller

## YOUTH CALENDAR

FEB BAKE AND DELIVER COOKIES  
9 2 PM

FEB VALENTINE PARTY  
12 BRING SNACKS & 12 VALENTINES TO SHARE  
6 PM

MAR COOK & DELIVER MEALS  
2 2 PM

MAY 4 SENIOR HIGH  
RECOGNITION SUNDAY IN  
WORSHIP  
& BRUNCH AT 10 AM

APR COLLECT FOOD [AT] HYMNS  
13 FOR HUNGER  
2:30 PM

MAY 18 BOWLING  
[AT] THE ALLEY  
5 PM

APR TOP GOLF  
13 5 PM

**GADSDEN FIRST UMC STUDENT MINISTRIES**  
FOR MORE INFO: FUMC@FUMCGADSDEN.ORG

**Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Dinner, 5:15 pm, Gathering Room**  
**Wed., February 12: Italian Trio**  
**\$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.

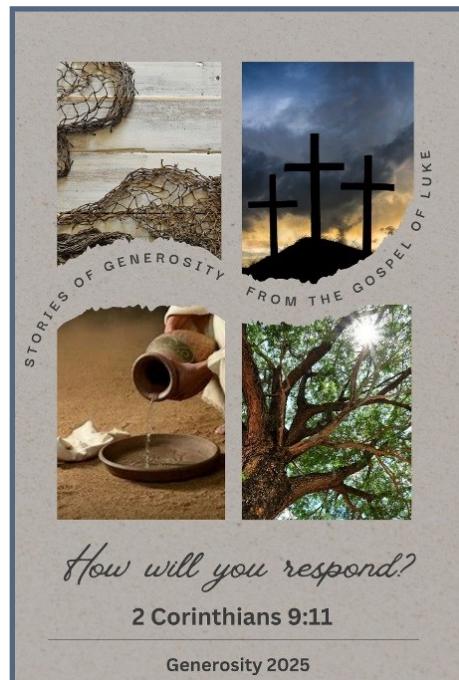
I am not sure what 2025 will bring, but I know that God will be with us. My prayer is that we continue to be a congregation that is changing lives, because we share Jesus, make disciples, serve people, and offer hope.

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

## February 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.

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

**The A/B Honor Roll Party was held Tuesday, February 4.**



#### **United Women in Faith**

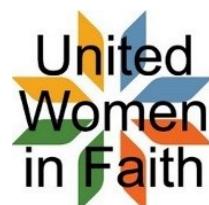
Our next Luncheon is February 10 at 12:00 noon. The speaker will be Jennifer Spears, Director of Christian Hope, a home in Honduras which houses 10 girls who are orphaned or abused. Please call or text your reservation to Olivia Kendrick by Friday, February 7, at 205-454-4375.

—Delores Abney, President

#### **LuVerna Waid Circle News**

**Next Meeting: March 4, Room 208**

—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**

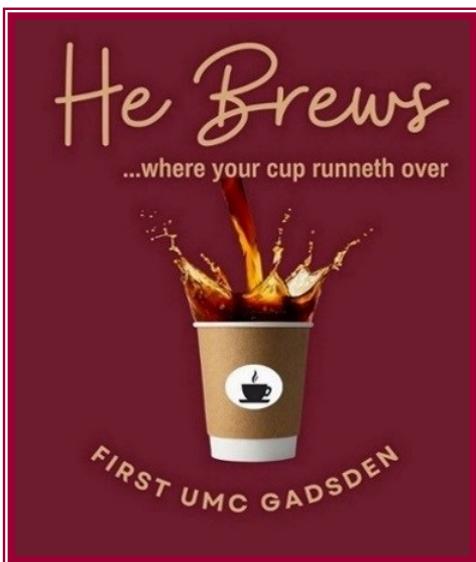
**#gfumcreconnect2024**

**Ladle of Love  
Clothes Closet**

**December**

<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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### JOEY & PHYLLIS COUVILLION



Both Joey and Phyllis grew up in Lake Charles, LA, graduated from LaGrange High School, and received degrees from McNeese University in Lake Charles. Joey's degree is in Engineering, while Phyllis' degree is in Education. Joey works for Zinpro, which makes and develops minerals for every animal species. These animal health products are included in feeds distributed to 70 countries. Phyllis' work involves managing rental properties—mainly residences in Florida. Joey and Phyllis lived in Ft. Payne for 20 years, and have lived in Southside on Lake Henry Neely for the past 10 years.

They have 2 grown children: Chris (43) who owns and operates the charter boat, "Seawinder," in Destin, FL; and Matt (40), who works for SAM Construction in Fort Payne, AL. They also have 4 grandchildren. Compatible in their interests, both Joey and Phyllis enjoy scuba diving, snorkeling, fishing, hunting, hiking, and cooking. They also enjoy their family members, their pets, LSU sports, Braves baseball, "exploring our great country," and cruising to various countries.

**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!**

# First UMC Gadsden Calendar for Feb 9-Feb 15, 2025

## February 9, 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  
2:00 pm-Youth Meeting, Baking & delivering Brownies

## February 10, Monday

9:00 am-1:00 pm- ELC  
9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym  
10:30 am-UWF Executive Board Meeting  
12:00 pm-UWF Luncheon, Gathering Room  
2:00 to 4:00 pm- Pickleball, Gym

## February 11, Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm- ELC  
1:15 pm-Staff Meeting  
5:00 pm-Yoga, Gym

## February 12, 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 13, Thursday

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

## February 14, Friday

11:00 am-12:00 pm- Ladle of Love  
Office closes at 12:00 pm

*The ministers and congregation of First United Methodist Church of Gadsden extend Christian sympathy to Mike & Pam Dawson in the death of her uncle, James (Jim) Howard Franklin*

February 2, 2025



## Immediate Prayer Concerns

Family of Barbara Ann Patton	Family of Carol Hiland
Family of Jim Franklin	Gwen Axtell
Bob Walden (Olivia Kendrick's father)	

## Continued Prayer Concerns

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



*The ministers and congregation of First United Methodist Church of Gadsden extend Christian sympathy to Doug & Sherry Frickey in the death of his sister, Carol Hiland*

January 28, 2025



*The ministers and congregation of First United Methodist Church of Gadsden extend Christian sympathy to Darryl & Jane Patton in the death of his mother, Barbara Ann Patton*

February 2, 2025



## Week of February 2, 2025

In Person Total.\*157 On Line Total-468  
Worship Total-625 Thursday service \*16  
Celebration \*57/226 Traditions \*84/242  
Adult Sunday School \*43 Children \*7  
Middle School \*1 Senior High \*2 UWF \*0  
Children Wed/Sun \*37 Nursery Wed/Sun \*3  
Middle Wed/Sun \*9 Senior Hi Wed/Sun \*11

## Year 2025

General Offering Budget	\$12,400.00
General Offering Received	\$11,058.00
YTD General Offering Budget	\$62,000.00
YTD General Offering Rec'd	\$54,236.00

## Birthdays

**Feb 8** Kyle Horton  
**Feb 9** Blakely Roberts  
**Feb 10** Jay Knowles  
**Feb 11** Stephen Leach  
**Feb 12** Leslie Johnson, Casey Wigley  
**Feb 13** Rhett Hilburn, Sherry McIntyre  
**Feb 14** Herman Cowart, Carol Vice, Elizabeth Haney, Sarah McClendon  
**Feb 15** Jace McDill, Libby Reynolds  
*Please update your family's record in the church office to include all dates of birth. Thank you!*  
*—Susan Swann*



## Important Deadlines

**Deadline for the newsletter is noon on Tuesday of each week.**

*All requests for spoken announcements for Sunday mornings must be turned in by Thursday @ noon, in writing to Susan Swann in the office.*

**All Meetings, Events and Activities must be scheduled in advance with the church secretary, by email [susan@fumcgadsden.org](mailto:susan@fumcgadsden.org)**