



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 meddling 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

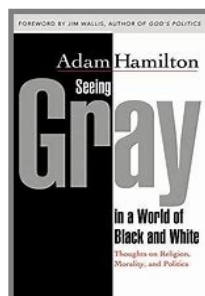
"The Chosen" w/ Rev. Sherri Reynolds

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

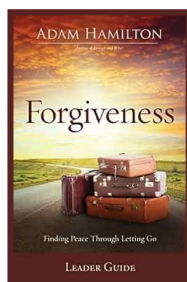


Transitions 10 am, Room 209

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

YOUTH CALENDAR

FEB 9 BAKE AND DELIVER COOKIES 2 PM

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

MAR 2 COOK & DELIVER MEALS 2 PM

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

APR 13 TOP GOLF 5 PM

SUNDAY SCHOOL
10 AM RM 211

WEDNESDAYS 6 PM
MIDDLE: ROOM 209
HIGH: RM 211

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

MAY 18 BOWLING [AT] THE ALLEY 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

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 2025 Kid's Spring Calendar

VALENTINE'S NIGHT 2/12

FAMILY NIGHT 3/19 (GYM)

SPRING BREAK 3/24-3/28

ASH WEDNESDAY 3/15

GFUMC EASTER EGG HUNT 4/12 (GFUMC)

PALM SUNDAY KIDS WILL SING 4/13

EASTER SUNDAY 4/20

FAMILY PICNIC NOCCALULA FALLS 5/7

Vacation Bible School 6/9-6/12

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

Sunday School
10:00am

Wonderful Wednesday's
6:00pm

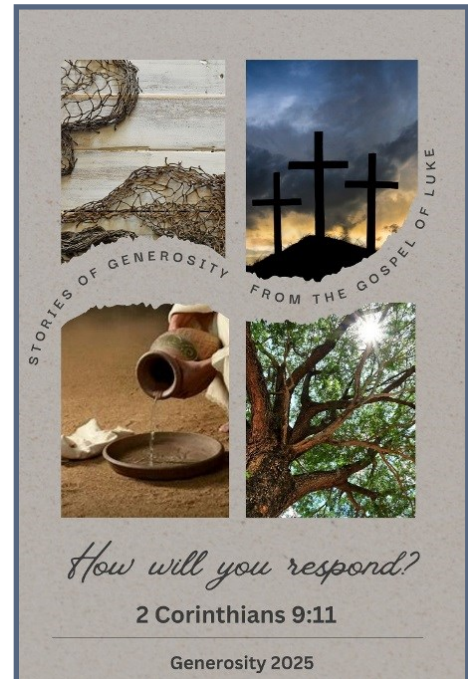
A Letter of Gratitude

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

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

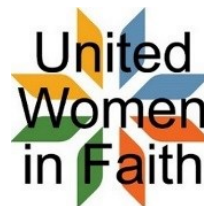
Our next Luncheon is February 10 at 12:00 noon. The speaker will be Jennifer Spears, Director of Christian Hope, a home in Honduras which houses 10 girls who are orphaned or abused. Please call or text your reservation to Olivia Kendrick by Friday, February 7, at 205-454-4375.

—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

Phone: 256-543-8200

Email:

fumc@fumcgadsden.org

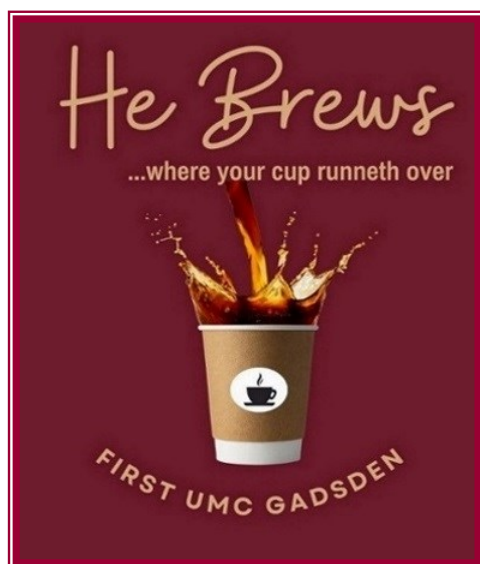
#gfumcreconnect2024

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?

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.



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

You are Loved



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 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*



*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*

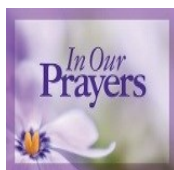


Immediate Prayer Concerns

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 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*