

EPIPHANY SUNDAY, JANUARY 4

ARISE SHINE

Isaiah 60:1-6

Rev. Sherri Reynolds

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

Sermon Notes: Sunday, January 4— Isaiah 60:1-6

Merry Christmas! Yes, it is still Christmas. The world may have moved on, but we are still in the season of Christmas and will be until Epiphany on January 6. Do you remember The 12 Days of Christmas? Merry Christmas continues to apply to us all and January 4 is known as Epiphany Sunday. It is a Sunday when we remember the visitation of the Wise Men. The Scriptures for this Sunday are Matthew 2:1-12 and Isaiah 60:1-6.

Isaiah 60:1-6 paints of restoration, celebration and renewal. The light of God's glory has once again come to Judah. While there may be darkness across the earth, God's glory and light will be upon his people, so much so that others will be drawn to the light. Outsiders are drawn to the light of God and the light of God's people.

Last Sunday, Rev. Dawson preached upon Jesus as the light and the darkness has not overcome the light. Epiphany and Isaiah 60:1-6 are a continuation of that message. Arise, Shine for your Light has Come! May the light of Christ radiate in our lives and may we be a beacon for others in 2026. —Rev. Sherri

A new adventure begins at 10 am, January 11th, in Room 209! You are invited!

Practicing the Way

by John Mark Comer

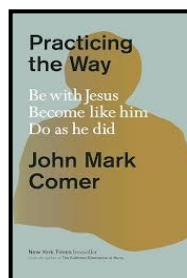
We are constantly being formed by the world around us. To be formed by Jesus will require us to become his apprentice.

To live by what the first Christian disciples called a Rule of Life—a set of practices and relational rhythms that slow us down and open up space in our daily lives for God to do what only God can do—transforms the deepest parts of us to become like him.

This introduction to spiritual formation is full of John Mark Comer's trademark mix of theological substance and cultural insight as well as practical wisdom on developing your own Rule of Life.

These ancient practices have much to offer us. By learning to rearrange our days, we can follow the Way of Jesus. We can be with him. Become like him. And do as he did.

Join Dawson Harmon for eight weeks of Spiritual Formation.

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#We Are First, January Sermon Series

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Worship Opportunities

Thursday: No Worship service January 1, 2026

Thursday Worship, 5:30 pm, January 8, 2026

Sunday Morning*: Celebration, 9 am

Traditions, 11 am

***In-Person and Livestream**

Security for Thursday Worship

January 8 : Steve Frederick

ACOLYTES

January 4: Volunteer

January 11: Luke Barnes & Brooks Bone

Tech Team Schedule**January 4**

Celebration: Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman

Traditions: Wayne Payton, Sheila Freeman

January 11

Celebration: Mark Condra, Brad Barnes

Traditions: Mark Condra, Wayne Payton, Rob Reynolds

Bible Studies & Small Groups for Adults

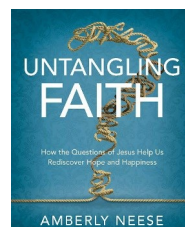
There are Jesse Tree Devotion Books available for the Advent season. We hope you will join us on a journey through Advent using this devotion. You can read the devotion book or follow the Jesse Tree Devotions by email. Need to subscribe to the daily devotional or church news? Send your email to fumc@fumcgadsden.org and request to be added.

Wonderful Wednesday Small Groups will resume on Wednesday, January 7.



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 in 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**



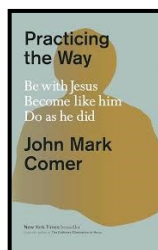
Wonderful Wednesday Dinner January 7– Pizza, Salad, Dessert

\$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!

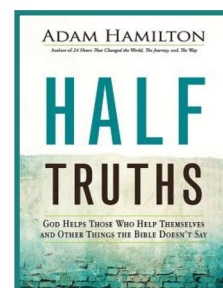
Practicing the Way by John Mark Comer—The disciples spent 3 years being apprentices to Jesus. They watched His every move and hung on every word. They were with Him 24/7. As a result, they, over time, became more and more like Him and began to do many of the things He did. With the Spirit's help, with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

Join 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

"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

Thank you to all our families and friends that attended the annual Christmas program. What a fun joyous time! The ELC is now on Christmas Break and will return to normal hours on Wednesday, January 7th.
Helene Haller



Youth

Sunday School
10 am, Room 211

Wonderful Wednesday

Youth Group, 6:00 pm
Will resume on Jan 7.

Live Nativity, December 24,
5:00 pm

*"Let's Build a Solid
Foundation!"*

Matthew 7:24

Wonderful Wednesday Dinner January 7– Pizza, Salad, Dessert

\$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

February Unit

WE HAVE COME TO BELIEVE
AND TO KNOW THAT YOU ARE
THE HOLY ONE OF GOD.
JOHN 6:69 (NIV)

Camp Believe It!

YOU ARE THE GOD WHO PERFORMS
MIRACLES; YOU DISPLAY YOUR POWER
AMONG THE PEOPLES!
PSALM 77:19 (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
January 7

Pizza, Salad, Dessert
\$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

GFUMC CHILDREN'S JANUARY UNIT **CAMP BELIEVE IT** **WEDNESDAY'S AT 6:00**

WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4
I BELIEVE GOD GIVES ME PURPOSE.	I BELIEVE GOD CAN SPEAK TO ME.	I BELIEVE GOD IS POWERFUL.	I BELIEVE GOD'S WORDS ARE TRUE.

**"WE HAVE COME TO BELIEVE AND TO KNOW THAT
YOU ARE THE HOLY ONE OF GOD."**
JOHN 6:69 (NIV)

December Mission Focus



The Angel Tree

You provided gifts for 38 children this Christmas. Thank you for your generous gifts this Christmas season!

The Mission Team



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

January open dates are
1/7 and 1/21

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:

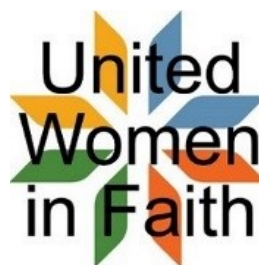
fumc@fumcgadsden.org

United Women in Faith

The next Luncheon will be Monday,
January 12, 2026 at 12:00 noon.

The LuVerna Waid Circle will meet
Tuesday, January 6 at 6:00 pm at the
church in room 208.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

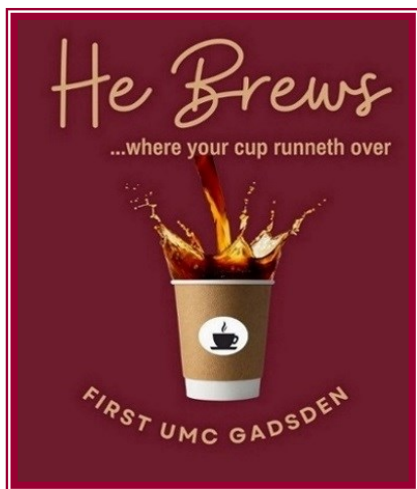


Ladle of Love Clothes Closet

November

LOL 502
Clothes Closet 378

**Thanks to our
Volunteers!**



Follow us on
Facebook and Instagram.



HeBrews Coffee Café will be closed on December 28!

We look forward to seeing you on January 4, 2026.



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, January 4

Celebration: Julie Gage & Kyle Horton

Traditions: Sheila & Terry Bishop, Bob & Becky Oltman

Sunday, January 11

Celebration: Nancy McCorkle & Vickie Handy

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.



“Building Upon a Solid Foundation,” our 2026 Generosity Emphasis



This has been a great celebration of generosity with estimate of giving cards being turned in and wonderful church-wide brunch. Thanks to all who made this special emphasis a success.

As of December 73 estimate of giving cards have been returned with a commitment of \$497,728.00

There was also a great commitment to continue to support First United Methodist Church of Gadsden with prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

If you have not had an opportunity to turn in your estimate of giving card you may do so by placing your card in the offering plate, returning it to the church office, mailing it to the church office, or completing an online card (via the church app or website). The finance department will continue to receive those until the end of the year. Remember that your estimate of giving is held confidentially in the church finance office and is not legally binding. This is a commitment between God and you and helps the church plan for the coming year's budget. You should have received your *2025 Impact Report* in the mail. If not, please contact the church office. Hold on to this report and remember the impact that your prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness have on the church, Gadsden, and beyond. We are making a difference by changing lives in the name of Christ!

Building a Firm Foundation,

Rev. Sherri Reynolds

***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

Ring in the New Year @ First UMC Gadsden

Wednesday, December 31 New Year's Eve - Church Office closed at Noon

Thursday, January 1 New Year's Day - Church Office closed; No Thursday Worship

Friday, January 2 Church Office closed

Sunday, January 4, 2026, Epiphany Sunday, Worship @ 9 am & 11 am

Wednesday, January 7, Wednesday Morning Bible Study, 11 am;

Wonderful Wednesday Returns, 5:15 Fellowship Dinner; 6:00 pm New Small Groups Begin

Thursday, January 8, 5:30 pm, Thursday Worship

Sunday, January 11, Worship @ 9 am & 11 am, "We Are First" Sermon Series Begins, 10 am, Sunday School



#WeAreFirst

New Sermon Series begins January 11
Rev. Sherri Reynolds

Forging Disciples Introducing Christ Rendering Hope Serving People Transformation

Forging Disciples—January 11, 2026

Introducing Christ—January 18, 2026

Rendering Hope—January 25, 2026

Serving People—February 1, 2026

Transformation—February 8, 2026

A limited supply of "ice Blue" long sleeve t-shirts will be available. Reserve yours now!

Email: sheila@fumcgadsden.org or turn this order form into the church office.

Name _____ Phone: _____

T-shirts Requested :

____ S ____ M ____ L ____ XL ____ 2XL ____ 3XL

First UMC Gadsden Jan 4-Jan 10, 2026

Jan 4, Sunday

9:00 am-Celebration Worship
10:00 am-HeBrews Coffee; Sunday School
11:00 am-Traditions

Jan, 5 Monday

ELC closed
9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym
2:00 pm-4:00 pm-Pickle Ball, Gym

Jan 6, Tuesday

ELC Closed
9:00 am-11:00 am—Clothes Closet Workday
5:00 pm—Yoga
6:00 pm—LuVerna Waid Circle Meeting

Jan 7, 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 208
Youth Activities, Room 211 & Gym
6:00 pm-Bible Study Groups, Room 110, 208, & 209
6:00 pm-Choir Practice

Jan 8 Thursday

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

Jan 9, Friday

11:00 am to 12:00 am —Ladle of Love

Year-End Giving Reminder

- ◇ The church office will be open until 12:00 noon on December 31st for anyone wishing to submit tithes or gifts to be credited for 2025.
- ◇ Contributions may also be made through online giving or sent by U.S. Mail and must be postmarked by December 31st to receive credit for 2025.



The "White Christmas Offering" is received each year in United Methodist Churches (UMC) for Embrace Alabama Kids (formerly the UMC Children's Home) to provide care, homes, and hope for vulnerable children and families.

Please mark your gift "White Christmas". More information is available at the entrances to the Sanctuary or you may go online to [Home - Embrace Alabama Kids](#) to find out more.



Immediate Prayer Concerns

Taylor & Jay Dial & newborn son, James Maitland Adams
Andrew Swann (grandson of Danny Swann)

Continued Prayer Concerns

Jackie Herlong
Julia Lopez
Dawn Rains
Amy Epperson (Gene & Danna Dean's (dtr))



Memorials & Gifts

White Christmas Fund, Embrace Alabama Kids

In honor of Belinda and Collins Tackaberry, given by Bob and Becky Oltman.

Birthdays

Jan 4 Steven Williams, Luke Barnes, Sadie Ross
Jan 5 Christie Knowles, David McCoy
Jan 6 Nancy Whitt, George Harrison, Harry Hager, Robert Hager, Thomas Lee Hiltz, III.
Jan 7 Jana Downs, Ross Hudak, Junior Kamassa, Tyler Ridens
Jan 8 Aspen Suttle
Jan 9 Anna Mullin, Bob Oltman, Elizabeth Gilbert, Timothy Isbell
Jan 10 Heather Staton

Attendance Week of Dec 21 2025

In Person Total *461 On Line Total 1043
Worship Total 1504 Thursday Worship *0
One United Sunday Service *132/*277
Christmas Eve 4 pm *190/473 6 pm *138/293
Nursery Sun/Other services *13
No Sunday School No Bible Study
No Wednesday activities for Children & Youth

Year 2025 Week of Dec 21, 2025

General Offering Budget	\$ 12,400.00
General Offering Received	\$ 12,723.00
YTD Gen. Offering Budget	\$644,800.00
YTD Gen. Offering Rec'd	\$678,123.00

Please excuse our progress!



Improvements are being made by the City of Gadsden to 6th St including sidewalks and the entrance/exit for our parking area near the portico/greenspace. The use of the exit on 6th St will be closed for approximately one week. Please remember, for those needing assistance, entrances at the ramp on Chestnut or the Courtyard doors are available.