

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

Sermon Notes: Thursday, July 10 and Sunday, July 13

The Parable of the Good Samaritan takes me back to my childhood Sunday School days. As a child I displayed an inclination toward feeling guilty and earning God's favor with good works, so of course, this parable impacted me. I was bothered that the priest and Levite passed by the injured man, ignoring him. How could the men do such a thing? They were religious after all. When Jesus told the questioning man to go and do like the Samaritan, I thought Jesus was telling me as a child, literally to stop for hitchhikers and panhandlers. Somewhere, along the way, I missed that the "go and do likewise" was about an overarching demonstration of mercy and compassion for others. (Luke 10:25-37). The Parable of the Good Samaritan challenges us all to consider where we need to show mercy. Are we liking the priest and Levite, so caught up in being perfect that we fail to model the perfect love of the Father? Do you extend mercy to strangers, but not our family, co-workers, or colleagues? Is it hard for you to be like the Samaritan extending mercy to someone who may not be like you? Scripture reminds us to be "merciful as our Father is merciful." May we be merciful witnesses for the love of Christ.

In Christ,
Rev. Sherri

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Worship Opportunities

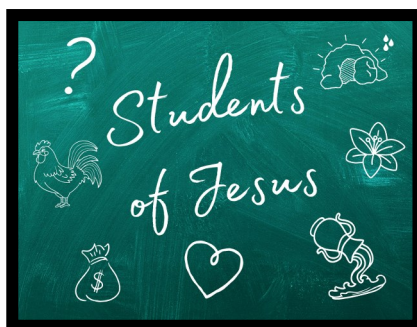
Thursday: Worship, 5:30 pm

Sunday Morning: Celebration, 9 am

Traditions, 11 am

***In-Person and Livestream or On Demand**

www.fumcgadsden.org/media



Think back to March. It may seem like a lifetime ago. As a congregation, we embarked on our own March Madness. Not the kind that has to do with NCAA basketball, but the kind that has to do with our favorites. This year, we voted the brackets for the favorite students of Jesus. The top six vote getters were Thomas, Peter, Matthew, John, Mary

of Bethany and Mary Magdalene. These students are the basis for the summer sermon series: *Student*. As students and teachers get ready to go back to school, we get schooled by some of Jesus' closest followers. Additionally, there is a little fun along the way. There will be opportunities for extra credit, teaching toward different learning styles, and bonus material for extracurricular subjects. **Join us for worship July 24- August 31, covering a six-week term of learning from faithful disciples.**

ACOLYTES

July 13: Luke Barnes

July 20: Sara Kate, Jake, & Carter Thornburg

Tech Team Schedule

July 13

Celebration: Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman

Traditions: Wayne Payton, Neil Mullin, Rob Reynolds

July 20

Celebration: Sheila Freeman, Bill Haller

Traditions: Mark Condra, Davis Varner, Sheila Freeman

Calling Cards for GFUMC



*God chose you to
experience salvation
through the Spirit who
makes you holy.*

2 Thessalonians 2:13 NLT

*Those who live to please
the Spirit will harvest
everlasting life from the
Spirit.*

Galatians 6:8 NLT

*You will receive power
when the Holy Spirit
comes upon you. And
you will be my witnesses,
telling people about me
everywhere.*

Acts 1:8

fumcgadsden.org

Cherie Cornelius has thoughtfully designed beautiful calling cards that feature images from our church windows alongside meaningful scripture. These cards are a heartfelt way to invite someone to worship, offer encouragement, or simply let them know you're keeping them in prayer. The latest design, created for Pentecost, showcases the "Descending Dove" from the large stained glass window in the gym. All current and previous designs are available in the Chestnut Foyer. Please feel free to take a card—or several—to share with others.

**Wednesday Morning Bible Study &
Wonderful Wednesday will resume August 13!**

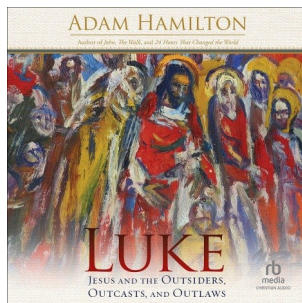
Sunday School: New Adult Series

Transitions 10 am, Room 209

Transitions Sunday School is on summer break during the month of July. This class will resume meeting in August.

Pathfinders/Seekers 10 am, Room 208

The series comprises five sessions. Each one tells the story of the hymn writer, how the hymn came to be, and the Christian message behind it. Hymns include: *How Great Thou Art*, *Rock of Ages*, *Amazing Grace*, *The Lord's My Shepherd*, & *And Can It Be?* Across the five sessions, ***Hymns We Love*** will help bring the core truths of the Christian story alive in a way that is gentle, warm, and clear.



Living Water 10 am, Room 116

In Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws, pastor and bestselling author Adam Hamilton explores the life, teachings, death, and resurrection of Jesus as told in the Gospel of Luke. Through Luke's stories we find Jesus' care and compassion for all as he welcomes sinners and outcasts. As we study Luke and see Jesus' concern for those who were considered unimportant, we hear a hopeful and inspiring word for our lives today.

"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

Summer fun continues every Tuesday and Wednesday at the ELC. Our last day for Summer 2025, is Wednesday July 23rd. We will have Papa John's Pizza and Kona Ice.

—Helene Haller



Youth Group
Summer Schedule
Room 211
Sunday School
10 am, Room 211

Ark Trip
The Trip to the Ark was amazing. A total of 23 youth, adults and children were able to go and enjoy this adventure.

Wonderful Wednesday will resume August 13!

Children's Ministry

Wonderful Wednesday Children's Small Groups and Activities will resume August 13.

Sunday Mornings: Children's Church during worship, Sunday school @ 10 am

**Watch for more exciting Summer Activities and Events
for Children's Ministry!**

KIDS' THEATER

@ Gift to Gadsden

INTRODUCTORY DRAMA CLASS FOR AGES
1ST THROUGH 5TH GRADES

with Katharine Barnes and Molly Page

Pre-Register

www.fumcgdsden.org/gifttogadsden

July 28-31 MTWTH

6:15 pm to 7:30 pm

**+LIGHTS
Camera
ACTION!**

www.fumcgdsden.org
115 S. 5th St, Gadsden, AL 35901

VBS
6/9-6/12

ROAD TRIP

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
ROAD TRIP!
JUNE 13

GFUMC SUMMER CALENDAR

Swimming @ The Gilbert's
Wednesday, June 25
101 Wilson Drive

KIDS LOCK-IN
@ GFUMC TBD

ACOLYTE LUNCH
BARONE'S PIZZA
JUNE 22

WATER GAMES
@GFUMC JULY 9

OLD GRUMPS VS YOUNG PUNKS
ULTIMATE VOLLEYBALL GAME
@GFUMC JULY 13

MAKE TREATS FOR ANIMAL SHELTER
@GFUMC JULY 23

GIFT TO GADSDEN
@GFUMC JULY 28

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS
@GFUMC AUG 3



LET'S MAKE DOG TREATS!

GFUMC
Children's Ministry



During VBS week, the children raised coins for our local animal shelter.

*On Wednesday, July 23, our children will meet and make homemade treats for that shelter, then donate both the coins **AND** the treats!*

There's still time to bring more coins!

Wednesday, July 23 @ 5:00 pm



July Mission Focus



It's Christmas in July! You can fill a stocking and bring joy this Christmas! This year's Christmas in July features new instructions and guidelines for filling stockings. This year, stockings can be filled for the following age groups: Infants and Toddlers; 3-9 year olds; 10-12 year olds; Seniors 62 and above. Return filled stockings to the church by August 5th. You can pick up a stocking and a copy of the suggested items for filling stockings for each age group in the Chestnut Foyer or look for the Salvation Army's suggested list on the GFUMC Church App! Also be sure to include a slip of paper tucked inside the stocking with gender and an approximated age for the recipient. Thank you for your participation in this year's Christmas in July Mission! —The Mission Team

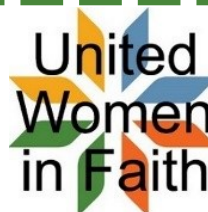
United Women in Faith

Summer Suppers Yippee!!! They are Back...

Summer Suppers are here—Lots of fun during the summer months for all ladies of our church! Join us for...

UWF Summer Supper #2
Tuesday, July 15 at 6 pm
GAMEDAY @ the Gadsden Mall
1001 Rainbow Dr. Suite D1
Gadsden, AL 35901

*We have a private room to really visit & talk!
Come and have fun and fellowship with friends!*



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

July open dates are

7/2 and 7/16

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

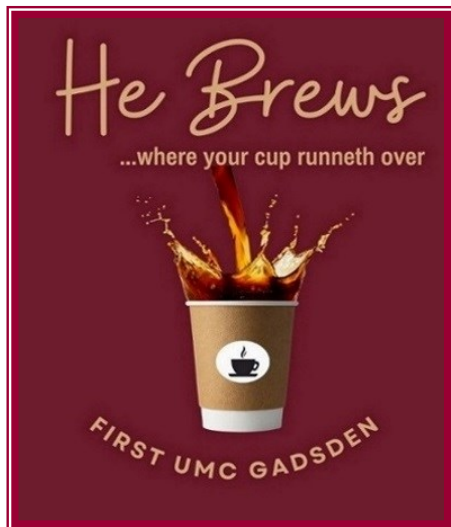
#gfumcreconnect2024

Ladle of Love Clothes Closet

June

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| LOL | 390 |
| Clothes Closet | 253 |

Thanks to our
Volunteers!



Follow us on
Facebook and Instagram.



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



Do
You
Know
?



"Do You Know?" is a weekly feature displayed on the sanctuary and lobby screens at Gadsden First UMC, as well as in our online church newsletter. Anna Mullin serves as our interviewer, reaching out to members by phone or connecting in person before or after worship services to gather biographical information. Her husband, Neil, captures casual photographs between the Contemporary and Traditional services each Sunday. You may be contacted to participate—our goal is to highlight each member of our church family through this engaging feature.



Gift to Gadsden 2025 July 28-31

Register @ fumcgadsden.org/gifttogadsden

Limited Class Sizes—Pre-Registration Required

Nursery provided by request with pre-registration only.

First Session: 6:15 pm—7:30 pm

First Session, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday (MTWTH)

*Acrylic Painting for Beginners

Ballroom Dancing

Cooking for Busy Schedules

Excel for Beginners

Flower Arranging

Film School

Genealogy

Kid's Theater (*ages 1st through 5th Grades*)

Tech Ease (Technology Tips for Phones and PC's)

Sharon Dasinger

Ginger and Alan Ross

Harriet Murray

Bob Blount

Benny Campbell & June Styles

Ray Macon

Craig Scott

Katharine Barnes & Molly Page

Becca Echols

First Session, Monday Only (M)

Stained Glass Windows of the Church

Olive Oil Benefits 101

Southern Herbal Remedies

Sherri Reynolds

Jeff Johnson

Darryl Patton

First Session, Monday, Tuesday Only (MT)

Investment & Finance

Wills, Power of Attorney's & Medical Directives

*Yoga for Beginners

Lucy Edwards/Jay Hedgspeth

Davis Varner

Barbara Hightower

First Session, Wednesday Only (W)

Stained Glass Windows of the Church

Sherri Reynolds

First Session, Wednesday, Thursday Only (WTH)

Chess

Fly Fishing

Medicare & You—Your Choices

Jim McGuire

George Fant

Jackie Brechin

Fellowship Time: 7:30—7:45 PM Chestnut Foyer

Second Session 7:45 to 9:00 pm

Second Session, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday (MTWTH)

Bucket List Your Life

Canva and Desktop Publishing

Making Money by Recycling

What Would You Do? Assertiveness Training

Ray Macon

Sheila Freeman

John Brown

Delores Abney

Both Sessions: 6:15—9:00 PM

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday (MTWTH)

Cake Decorating

Roleplaying Games and You

Michelle Cothran

Zack Hilburn

Monday, Tuesday Only (MT)

Beginning Pickleball

Jana & Mac Downs

Tuesday Only (T)

*Crochet for Beginners

Angela Horton

Wednesday, Thursday Only (WTH)

Beginning Pickleball

Jana & Mac Downs

Thursday Only (T)

*Knitting for Beginners

Angela Horton

**Supplies-you furnish supplies.*

***Supplies provided for a fee.*

Thursday WORSHIP

A SERVICE OF PRAYER AND WORD
5:30 pm to 6:00 pm In the Sanctuary
First United Methodist Church of Gadsden

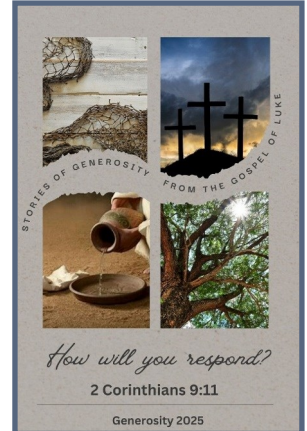
Out of town or working on weekends?
Thursday Worship could be just right for you! Join us in the sanctuary for a peaceful, in-person gathering where we reflect on the upcoming Sunday's scripture and sermon, and spend time in prayer together. It's a meaningful way to deepen your faith and stay connected with God and your GFUMC family in a warm, welcoming setting.



Generosity 2025 “How will you Respond?”

You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us
2 Corinthians 9:11

The 2025 “Estimate of Giving” Card can be filled out at any time during the year online @ www.fumcgadsden.org/give



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

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.
- Thank you for joining GFUMC Community Connection today!



**Connect
with us**

**First United Methodist
Church of Gadsden**



Scan here to
connect with the
community now.

Top 10 Things To Do on the Church APP

10. Meet the Pastors and Staff. (Home Tab-Meet the Pastors and Staff)
9. Fill out a Connect Card. (Home Tab-Connect)
8. Read the Church News. (Home Tab-News)
7. Check Out Upcoming Church Events. (Events Tab)
6. Read the Bible in a Year. (Bible Tab)
5. Look up Scripture. (Bible Tab)
4. Send a Prayer Request. (Home Tab-Prayer Request)
3. Give. (Home Tab-Give)
2. Receive notifications/messages from the church.
1. Watch or Listen to Worship Services and Sermons. (Media Tab)

**Download our
Church App
FUMC-Gadsden
On the App Store or
Google Play**



Weekly Newsletter

Subscribe to the weekly newsletter by submitting your email to the church secretary, Susan Swann:

susan@fumcgadsden.org

You will receive the weekly newsletter by email on Friday mornings.

The Newsletter is also available in the GFUMC Church App and on the Church Website.

First UMC Gadsden July 13-July 19, 2025

July 13, Sunday

9:00 am-Celebration Worship, Sanctuary

10:00 am- HeBrews Coffee

11:00 am-Traditions Worship, Sanctuary

5:00 pm-7:00 pm-Volleyball-

“Old Grumps vs Young Chumps”, Gym

July 14, Monday

9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym

2:00 pm-4:00 pm-Pickleball, Gym

July 15, Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Summer Schedule

9:00 am-11:00 am-Clothes Closet Workday

July 15, Tuesday cont'd

5:00 pm-Yoga, Gym

6:00 pm-UWF Summer Supper Group,

Gameday Restaurant

July 16, Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Summer Schedule

9:00 am-11:00 am-Clothes Closet open

July 17, Thursday

9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym

5:30 pm-Thursday Worship service

July 18, Friday

11:00 am-12:00 pm- Ladle of Love



Registration is Now Open for Gift to Gadsden July 28-31, 2025

See page 7 for a list of workshops and classes. You will find the link to registration in the church app or website: www.fumcgadsden.org/gifttogadsden

Lou Ellen Phillips, former member of GFUMC, died June 28, 2025. Graveside service will be at Forrest Cemetery on July 19 at 1:00 pm.

Honorariums & Memorials

Ladle of Love Fund

In memory of Pat Martin, given by Diana Rampey.

*The rose on the altar is in honor of the birth of
Darcy Joanne Hightower
July 2, 2025*



Parents: George & Brittany Hightower

Grandparents: George Hightower, Jr. &

the late Joanne Hightower

Given by GFUMC Children's Ministry & Early Learning Ctr

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Fred Chase Emily Carroll (Adam Carroll's wife)

Ricky Couvillion (Joey Couvillion's brother)

Camden Ventura (Infant great-nephew of Jeanne Mabeus)

Continued Prayer Concerns

Gary Atkins Dottie Rogers Mary Tom Hale

Martha Bullock Amy Epperson

Grayson Phillips (Dathan & Leigh Carroll Phillips' son)

Birthdays

July 13 Joanie Leach,

Deborah Masters

July 14 Keith Murray, Nancy Smith,

Dr. Ben Hester, Clint Copeland,

Camille Wigley

July 15 Esker Mosley, Amy Reaves,

Atticus Selsor

July 16 Monica Gilmer

July 17 Adria Connell,

Barbara Khajavi, Broasha Williams,

Kelly Muratta, Ryan Jackson

July 19 Judy Dawson, Rhodes Hill



Attendance Week of July 6, 2025

In Person Total *133 On Line Total 454

Worship Total 587 Thursday Worship *5

Celebration *57/333 Traditions *71/232

Adult Sunday School *27 Children SS *0

Middle School & Senior Hi SS *0

Bible Study Groups *0 Children Wed/Sun *19

Middle & Sen Hi Wed/Sun *9 Nursery *0

Lock-in: Children 15; Youth 4; Adults 7

Year 2025 Week of July 6, 2025

General Offering Budget \$ 12,400.00

General Offering Received \$ 13,181.00

YTD Gen. Offering Budget \$334,800.00

YTD Gen. Offering Rec'd \$342,981.00

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 or call the church office.