



# "It's Not My Story"

DEUTERONOMY 34  
REV. ALAN HEAD

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

## Sermon Notes: Thursday, July 11 and Sunday, July 14, 2024

*I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.* 1 Timothy 2:1-4

These are needed verses in the current political climate, with the upcoming political party national conventions and the presidential campaign in full force. We all could use this reminder from scripture from time to time, to pray for political leaders. We also need these verses as a reminder to pray for the leaders in the church.

July 9-12, I will be at Lake Junaluska in North Carolina as a delegate for Jurisdictional Conference. While we will not be electing new bishops, North Alabama will be assigned a new Bishop as Wallace-Padgett's tenure will end. Pray for Bishop Wallace-Padgett as she moves to a new episcopal area, our new Bishop, and our new District Superintendent, Rev. Alan Head. Leaders in the church are guiding the church in a very difficult and complex time. Let us support them with our prayers, petitions, intercessions and thanksgiving.

I'll be back with you Sunday for worship when we will welcome our new DS, Alan Head and his wife Missy. Alan comes to be our DS after pastoring Pleasant Hill UMC McCalla for seventeen years. He has also served as pastor at Trinity in Tuscaloosa, Reform, Anniston and Spring Garden-Union Grove. He is a graduate of the University of North Alabama and Candler School of Theology at Emory University.

With Prayers and Thanksgivings,  
Rev. Sherri



## Gift to Gadsden

First United Methodist Church of Gadsden  
Members Sharing Their Gifts & Talents  
Free Workshops & Introductory Classes

Monday through Thursday, July 22 to July 25

Session 1: 6:15 pm to 7:15 pm

Break: 7:15 pm to 7:30 pm

Session 2: 7:45 pm to 9:00 pm

Pick up flyers from the church to display at your office or in the community and share the event on social media! See page 7 for details!

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## Worship Opportunities

**Thursdays:** 5:30 pm

**Sunday Mornings:** Celebration 9 am\*

Traditions 11 am\*

\*In Person (Sanctuary) and Online

[www.fumcgadsden.org/media](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/media)

## ACOLYTES

July 14: Anna Kate Casey & Jade Collins

July 21: Luke Barnes

## Tech Team Schedule

**July 14**

Celebration: Eric Wright, Bill Haller, Carmen McKiven

Traditions: Mark Condra, Wayne Payton, Brad Barnes

**July 21**

Celebration: Eric Wright, Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman

Traditions: Sheila Freeman, Neil Mullin, Brad Barnes

## Take the Spiritual Gifts Inventory @ Spiritual Gifts UMC.org

Every child of God is filled with [the power of the Holy Spirit](#), specially gifted to play a unique and valued role in the body of Christ. No one is without gift or purpose.

Spiritual gifts are not our talents or skills. They are the grace of God at work within us, empowering us to match our deep passions with the world's deep need. The gifts are given to individuals, but they are given to build and strengthen community and to meet the needs of those around us.

Begin the journey. Discover your gifts. Talk about your gifts with others. Strive together to understand your gifts and how you can use them to serve God, neighbor, and world. You have been gifted. You have been given a purpose.



## Sunday School

**Classes for All Ages!**

**Children's Sunday School Rooms 108 and 104**  
**Youth Sunday School Room 211**

**New Young Adult Sunday School Room 209**  
**Pathfinder/Seekers Room 208**  
**Living Water Room 116**

**(Nursery provided for Children under 3)**

**#WeAreFirst**

## Men at the Well Thursday Mornings, 7:00 am

You are invited to join the weekly Bible study with the Men at the Well small group.

Currently meeting at 278 Restaurant.

Contact Todd Rains, Mark Condra, Mark Casey, or any of the Men at the Well for more information.

**#WeAreFirst**

**Wednesday Fellowship Dinner**

**Will resume August 14**

**Wednesday Morning Bible Study & Adult Small Groups @ Wonderful Wednesdays**

**Will Resume in August.**

**We hope you enjoy the summer! Please be sure to check out**

## ELC News

Summer session is well underway. We are having a great time exploring summer themes such as picnics, ocean life, gardening and bugs. Our summer will come to a close July 24<sup>th</sup>.

—Helene

#WeAreFirst

# STUDENT MINISTRY

## Youth Ministry News



**"The Chosen Bible Study"**  
Meet in the Youth Room  
@ 10 am

# July 2024

**Spring Valley Beach**  
**7/14**

Leave after Sunday School

**Bake Dog Treats**  
**7/17 6 pm**  
at the church

**Visit Animal Shelter**

**7/18**  
Time to be announced.

**TOP GOLF**  
**7/21**

Leave after Sunday School

**Camp Lee**  
(overnight camp)  
**7/26-7/27**

**Activate Birmingham**  
**7/31**  
Depart from Church  
at 5 pm.

## GFUMC Youth Summer 2024

**Added notes...**

Thank you for  
helping the  
youth!  
-Carmen

### Join us for exciting July Activities!

EACH ACTIVITY WILL REQUIRE 1-2 ADULT CHAPERONES, NOT INCLUDING CARMEN. CONTACT CARMEN IF YOU CAN VOLUNTEER

TWO VOLUNTEER CHAPERONES ARE NEEDED FOR THE ANIMAL SHELTER ON JULY 18, THIS EVENT WILL REQUIRE PARENTS TO TAKE THE YOUTH.

**Youth Group  
Summer Activities**

**Contact  
Youth Counselor,  
Carmen McKiven  
256.458.3375  
cmckiven@hotmail.com  
For more  
Information!**

# Children's Ministry

Sunday Mornings @ 9 am and 11 am, Children's Church & 10 am Sunday School  
Take a look at all the Summer Events & Activities for Children.



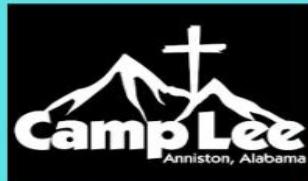
## GFUMC Confirmation Summer Events



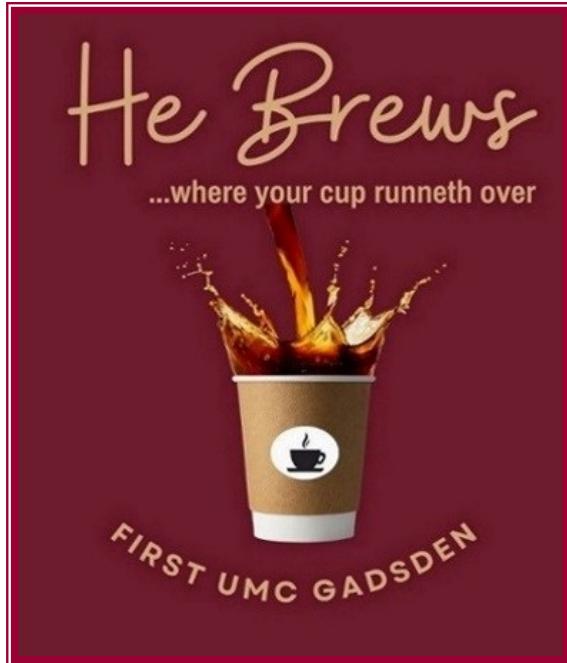
MAY 19 CONFIRMATION SUNDAY  
JUNE 3-6 VBS  
JUNE 14/21/28 SOUP KITCHEN  
JULY 10 LESSON FROM TWEENS  
JULY 14 LOCK-IN  
JULY 12/19/26 SOUP KITCHEN  
JULY 22-25 GIFT TO GADSDEN

#WeAreFirst

CAMP LEE  
JULY 26-27



For more info, text Katharine 256-393-3051



Please join us for HeBrews Coffee  
Café between the regular Sunday  
morning worship services,  
from 10 am to 11 am.

*We can't wait to see you there!!!*

Thank you to our Coffee Baristas:  
Jana and Mack Downs  
Stacy and Zach Hilburn  
Beth and Gary Dial  
Jeanne and Kirk Mabeus  
Sherri and Steve Watson



# DO YOU KNOW W?

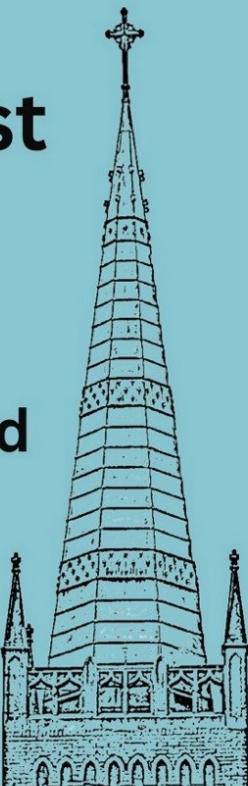
## MITCH DuPONT



Mitch grew up in Cleveland, OH, then attended Birmingham-Southern College, where she majored in Theater and minored in Voice. She also attended the University of Alabama, receiving a Master's degree in Counseling, followed by a Master's degree in Theater Arts. She initially was a Counselor at both Mt. Brook Jr. High and Mt. Brook High School in Birmingham before marrying and moving to Gadsden, where she taught Speech, Drama, Debate, and Art at Gadsden High. Mitch was then asked to head up the development of a full-time Theater Department at Gadsden State. Upon retirement from Gadsden State, she taught at Jacksonville State University for 7 more years. In total, Mitch taught Theater and directed plays for 26 years—62 productions in all! She enjoys meeting new people, attending OLLI classes, and being a member of the Gadabouts and the Antiquarian Society. She has been a member of our church since 1958 and has served as a receptionist at the front desk and a member of our choir. Mitch has one daughter, Deanna "Dee Dee" Duke (56) and two grandchildren: Alyssa Bennefield (36), who is a cheerleader/dancer for the New Orleans Saints; and Adam Duke (38), who lives in Georgia and works for a car parts manufacturing company.

## #wearefirst

- Diverse
- Investing
- Empowered
- Rooted



*Share your pictures  
of all things  
FIRST  
with #wearefirst  
on Social Media!*



[www.fumcgadsden.org](http://www.fumcgadsden.org)

## 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

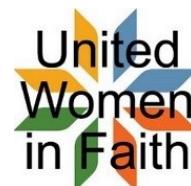
Our next Summer Supper will be on Tuesday, July 16 at 5:30 pm at the home of Jill Vincent with sub sandwiches (donations will be taken at the party). Jill has offered fun in and around the pool. So be ready to "Jump In" if you wish! 2104 Harbor Lane, Southside, AL 35907.

Dinner will be served inside away from the heat. Please come!

The monthly luncheons will resume in September.

Delores Abney, President

Olivia Kendrick, Vice-President



**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  
**7/3 and 7/17**

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](mailto:fumc@fumcgadsden.org)

#gfumcreconnect2023

### Clients Served

May 2024

Ladle of Love	484
Clothes Closet	259

Thanks to our  
Volunteers!



## *Gift to Gadsden*

First United Methodist Church of Gadsden

Members Sharing Their Gifts & Talents

**Free Workshops & Introductory Classes**

**July 22—July 25, 2024**

**First Session: 6:15—7:30 PM**

**Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday**

Cake Decorating MTWTH

Michelle Cothran

Casual Cooking MTWTH

Harriet Murray

Crafts with Katharine MTWTH (ages 1st through 5th Grades)

Katharine Barnes

Flower Arranging MTWTH

June Styles & Benny Campbell

Positive Parenting MTWTH

Sherri Reynolds

Making Money by Recycling MTWTH

John Brown

**Monday, Tuesday Only**

\*Calligraphy for Beginners MT

Robin Wilson

Coping with Grief "Over, Under, Around, Through" MT

Frances Hart

Getting into Film, TV or Modeling MT

Ray Macon

Investment & Finance MT

Jay Hedgpeth

iPhone Basics MT

Bob Blount

Medicare & You—Your Choices MT

Jackie Brechin

Olive Oil Benefits 101 M or T (Select One)

Jeff J, Tena King & Leslie Johnson

Southern Herbal Remedies MT

Darryl Patton

Wills, Power of Attorney's & Medical Directive MT

Davis Varner

\*Yoga for Beginners MT

Jane Patton

**Wednesday, Thursday Only**

How to Buy Your First Home WTH

Susan Morris/Sheila Freeman

Standing Up for Yourself-Assertiveness Training WTH

Delores Abney

**Fellowship Time: 7:30—7:45 PM**

**Extended Session: 6:15—9:00 PM**

\*\*Mahjong MTWTH

Gail Spotnitz

Roleplaying Games and You MTWTH

Zack Hilburn

\*Crochet for Beginners MT

Angela Whorton

\*Knitting for Beginners WTH

Angela Whorton

Redesigning Jewelry WTH

Benny McNair

Beginning Pickleball, 6:15 pm to 8:15 pm, MT

Jana & Mac Downs

Beginning Pickleball, 6:15 pm to 8:15 pm, WTH

Jana & Mac Downs

*Limited Class Sizes—Pre-Registration Required*

**Register @ 543-8200 or online @ <http://www.fumcgadsden.org/gift2gadsden2024>**

**\*Supplies-you furnish supplies.**

**\*\* Supplies provided for a fee.**

*Nursery provided by request with pre-registration only.*



115 South 5th Street

Gadsden, AL 35901

256-543-8200

# Are You Ready for Your Summer Vacation?

## What to Know Before You Go!

- We are going to miss you! (Come to Thursday Worship before you go.)
- Download the FUMC-Gadsden church app and turn on notifications!
  - Join First UMC Gadsden live online via the church website: [www.fumcgadsden.org/media](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/media), facebook, or youtube.
- Worship services are also available on-demand on the church website or church App!
- Don't forget to share where you are watching from in the comments if you are joining on Facebook!
- Attending a Church out of area? Let us know! Bring us a bulletin or brochure! We'd love to learn more!
  - Before you go...Set up recurring giving through the First UMC Gadsden's eGiving platform.
- Give via Venmo @FirstUMCGadsden (Search in Venmo under charities or follow the link in the QR Code below.)

#WeAreFirst

**First UMC Gadsden**  
is a registered charity and can receive  
donations through Venmo:

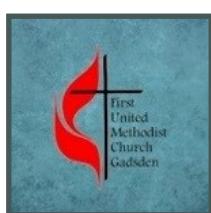
**@FirstUMCGadsden**

(Please search in Venmo under charities  
or follow the link in the QR Code.)



**venmo**

Download our Church App  
Search FirstUMC-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

### July 14 Sunday

9:00 am Celebration Worship, Sanctuary  
10:00 am Sunday School for all ages  
HeBrews Coffee, Chestnut Street Foyer  
11:00 am Traditions Worship, Sanctuary  
11:30 am Youth Trip  
7:00 pm Confirmation Lock-in

### July 15 Monday

9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym  
2:00 pm-4:00 pm-Pickleball, Gym

### July 16 Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Summer Schedule  
9:00 am-11:00 am-Clothes Closet workday  
5:00 pm-6:00 pm-Yoga, Gym

#WeAreFirst



## Gift to Gadsden Donate Cookies

Drop off cookies in the  
Chestnut St Foyer on  
Sunday July 21  
& Monday July 22



### Birthdays

**July 14** Keith Murray, Nancy Smith, Dr. Ben Hester, Clint Copeland, Camille Wigley  
**July 15** Esker Mosley, Amy Reaves, Holly Ostendorf, Jillian Sherrouse, Atticus Selsor  
**July 16** Monica Gilmer  
**July 17** Adria Connell, Broasha Williams, Kelly Muratta, Ryan Jackson  
**July 19** Judy Dawson, Shane Robinson, Rhodes Hill  
**July 20** Parker Casey, Clair Harrison

### Week of July 7, 2024

In Person Total-\*128      Worship Total-719  
Online- 591      Thursday Worship-0  
Celebration Service-\*55/259  
Traditional Service-\*73/332  
Sunday School Adult-\*22 Children \*0 Youth \*0  
Nursery \*2 Bible Study Groups-\*0  
Wed/Sun-Children\*8 Wed/Sun-Youth \*0  
\*in person  
  
General Offering Budget \$11,400.00  
General Offering Received \$18,088.00  
YTD General Offering Budget \$307,800.00  
YTD General Offering Rec'd \$357,126.00

### Important Deadlines

Information for the weekly newsletter is due each Tuesday by noon.

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

All Meetings, Events and Activities must be scheduled in advance with the church secretary, Susan Swann, by email or phone

### Calendar for July 14-July 20, 2024

#### July 17 Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Summer Schedule  
9:00 am-11:00 am-Clothes Closet open  
**No Choir Practice**

#### July 18 Thursday

9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym  
**5:30 pm-Thursday Worship**

#### July 19 Friday

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

*The ministers and congregation of First United Methodist Church of Gadsden extend Christian sympathy to Kevin & Lisa Thornburg in the death of his grandmother,*

*Louise Thornburg*

*June 30, 2024*



*The ministers and congregation of First United Methodist Church of Gadsden extend Christian sympathy to Rev. Ken & Peggy Casey in the death of his brother,*

*Jerry Wayne Casey*

*July 4, 2024*



### Immediate Prayer Concerns

Family of Lola Ralls Cross      Family of Jerry Casey  
Family of Louise Thornburg      Albert Gibson, Jr.

### Continued Prayer Concerns

Phil Owen      John Floyd      Louie Loveman  
Judy Collins (Tripp Collins mother)      Amy Epperson