



The Journey

Fear...Trust...Joy...

Nehemiah 8:9-12

Rev. Dawson Harmon

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

Sermon Notes: Thursday, July 17 and Sunday, July 20

How would you describe the God you worship? Does He bless the righteous and punish the sinner? Do you see Him as a punitive judge? Or do you see Him as a doting grandfather who finds everything acceptable. Do you believe that when you ask, if you pray hard enough, it will be given to you?

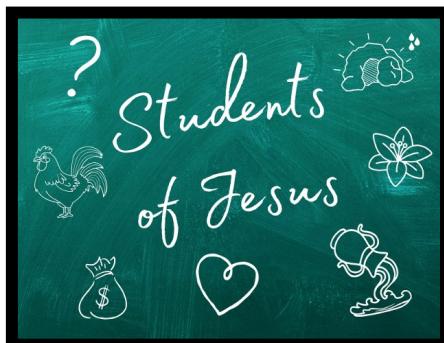
Who is this God you worship? Has your image of Him changed through the years? Do you fear Him or adore Him? Maybe a little bit of both? It matters what kind of God we worship, because we tend to become like Him..

Are you merciful or judgmental? More than likely, you resemble the God you worship. Is worship a duty or a heartfelt joy?

I will tell you, my story. Are you willing to reflect on yours?

Hope to see you on Sunday.

Rev. Dawson Harmon



Students of Jesus

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.***

Table of Contents:

Page 1- Sermon Notes; Tech schedule; Acolytes; Upcoming sermons for July 24-Aug 31, Students of Jesus (Disciples)

Page 2- Church Calling Cards; Small Groups; Adult Studies for Sunday School Classes

Page 3- ELC News; Student Ministries; Youth Calendar of Activities; Children's Ministry

Page 4- Children's Ministry Events

Page 5- GFUMC Missions News; Clothes Closet; Ladle of Love; United Women in Faith

Page 6- HeBrews; Pickleball; Do You Know?

Page 7- Gift to Gadsden classes and registration

Page 8- Thursday Worship; Generosity 2025; Ways to Give; Online Giving; Venmo

Page 9- GFUMC Community Connection in the APP

Page 10- Calendar; Prayer Concerns; Memorials; Birthdays; Weekly Reports; Births; Deaths

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

ACOLYTES

July 20: Sara Kate, Jake, & Carter Thornburg

July 27: Clementine & Rhett Hilburn

Tech Team Schedule

July 20

Celebration: Sheila Freeman, Bill Haller

Traditions: Mark Condra, Sheila Freeman

July 27

Celebration: Sheila Freeman, Bill Haller, Brad Barnes

Traditions: Sheila Freeman, Rob Reynolds

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!

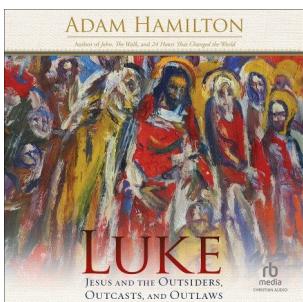
Sunday School: New Adult Series

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

This is our last week for Summer 2025. We will have Papa John's Pizza and Kona Ice on Wednesday July 23rd. We have had a great time and ready for a little break before starting the 2025-2026 school year.

—Helene Haller



Youth Group

Summer Schedule

Room 211

Sunday School

10 am, Room 211

Save the Date

August 3

Move Up Sunday

Blessing of the Backpacks

August 13

Youth Group, 6 pm

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.fumcgadsden.org/gifttogadsden

July 28-31 MTWTH

6:15 pm to 7:30 pm

LIGHTS!
Camera!
ACTION!



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

QR CODE VBS
6/9-6/12 CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
ROAD TRIP!
JUNE 13

GFUMC SUMMER CALENDAR

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

WATER GAMES
@GFUMC JULY 9

MAKE TREATS
FOR ANIMAL
SHELTER
@GFUMC JULY 23

KIDS
LOCK-IN
@GFUMC TBD
OLD GRUMPS VS YOUNG PUNKS
ULTIMATE VOLLYBALL GAME
@GFUMC JULY 13

ACOLYTE
LUNCH
BARONE'S
PIZZA
JUNE 22
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

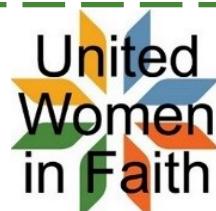
United Women in Faith

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, August 19 at 6 pm
Gadsden Country Club
1884 Country Club Dr
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

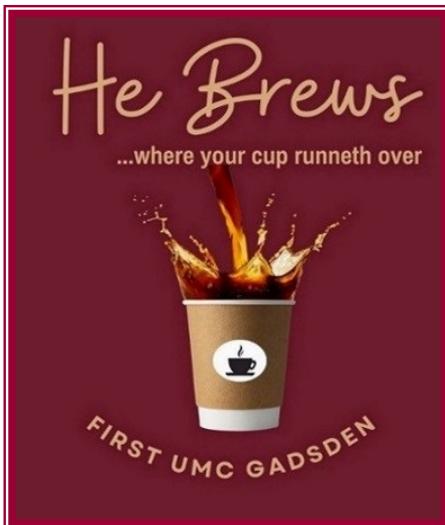
Phone: 256-543-8200
Email:
fumc@fumcgadsden.org

#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!



Inviting Ministry Needs You!

Everyone in our church family is a part of our Inviting Ministries Team! Here are some ideas that might make it easier for you to welcome others to our church. Feel free to come up with other ideas or adapt these on your own. These are just to get you thinking about welcoming as a personal ministry, right there in the pew, and a lifestyle for our church.



- ◊ **Don't select the closest park to the church entrances. If you are able to navigate the parking lots and cross the street, leave the on street parking and closest parks for those who need easier access or visitors.**
- ◊ **Circle of 10*: Greet anyone, member or guest, who comes within ten feet of you. Make a special effort to greet the people you don't already know within your Circle of 10.**
- ◊ **Rule of Three*: Please do not talk to other members for the first three minutes after the service. Talk only to those you don't know or people you know are guests. It takes guests about three minutes to exit the church after worship and we need to make sure someone has made contact with them before they leave.**
- ◊ **Don't be embarrassed if you're greeting a member and don't know that person's name—or be offended if someone doesn't remember yours. We need to offer grace to one another, just as we would to new people.**
- ◊ **Whether you drink coffee or not, take time to stop by HeBrews in the Chestnut Foyer. Be sure to greet people there whom you may not know and enjoy the opportunity for fellowship!**



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

Sharon Dasinger

Ballroom Dancing

Ginger and Alan Ross

Cooking for Busy Schedules

Harriet Murray

Excel for Beginners

Bob Blount

Flower Arranging

Benny Campbell & June Styles

Film School

Ray Macon

Genealogy

Craig Scott

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

Katharine Barnes & Molly Page

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

Becca Echols

First Session, Monday Only (M)

Stained Glass Windows of the Church

Sherri Reynolds

Olive Oil Benefits 101

Jeff Johnson

Southern Herbal Remedies

Darryl Patton

First Session, Monday, Tuesday Only (MT)

Investment & Finance

Lucy Edwards/Jay Hedgspeth

Wills, Power of Attorney's & Medical Directives

Davis Varner

*Yoga for Beginners

Barbara Hightower

First Session, Wednesday Only (W)

Stained Glass Windows of the Church

Sherri Reynolds

First Session, Wednesday, Thursday Only (WTH)

Chess

Jim McGuire

Fly Fishing

George Fant

Medicare & You—Your Choices

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

Ray Macon

Canva and Desktop Publishing

Sheila Freeman

Making Money by Recycling

John Brown

What Would You Do? Assertiveness Training

Delores Abney

Both Sessions: 6:15—9:00 PM

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday (MTWTH)

Cake Decorating

Michelle Cothran

Roleplaying Games and You

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

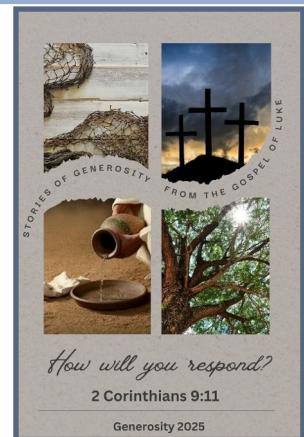
Out of town or working on weekends?
Thursday Worship could be just right for you! Join us in the sanctuary for a peaceful, in-person gathering where we reflect on the upcoming Sunday's scripture and sermon, and spend time in prayer together. It's a meaningful way to deepen your faith and stay connected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

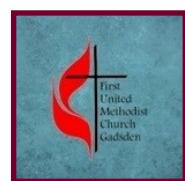


First UMC Gadsden
is a registered charity and can receive
donations through Venmo:
@FirstUMCGadsden
(Please search in Venmo under charities
or follow the link in the QR Code.)



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**

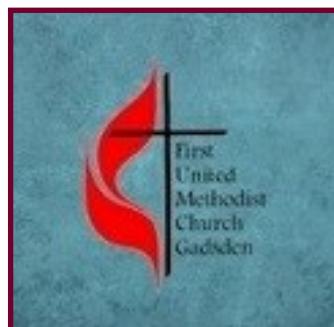


Scan here to
connect with the
community now.

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 20-July 26, 2025

| <u>July 20, Sunday</u> | <u>July 23, Wednesday</u> |
|---|---|
| 9:00 am-Celebration Worship, Sanctuary 10:00 am- HeBrews Coffee | 9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Summer Schedule 5:00 pm-6:30 pm-Children Making Dog Treats |
| 11:00 am-Traditions Worship, Sanctuary | July 24, Thursday |
| July 21, Monday | 9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym 5:30 pm-Thursday Worship service |
| 9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym 2:00 pm-4:00 pm-Pickleball, Gym | July 25, Friday |
| July 22, Tuesday | 11:00 am-12:00 pm- Ladle of Love 12:00 pm-Office Closed |
| 9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Summer Schedule 5:00 pm-Yoga, Gym | |



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

New Daytime Events for Gift to Gadsden 2025

Two Daytime Tours:

King's Olive Oil, 11 am, Monday

Gadsden Museum of Art, 11 am-1 pm, Wednesday

Lunch & Laugh w/ Forrest Hinton

First UMC Gadsden Room 201, Thursday @ 12 noon

"Combatting Ignorance in the Digital Age"

Honorariums & Memorials

Caring Angels Fund

In memory of Pat Martin, given by Dottie Ivey.
In memory of Lou Ellen Phillips, given by Dottie Ivey.

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Family of Greg Carroll
Fred Chase
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
Emily Carroll (Adam Carroll's wife)
Grayson Phillips (Dathan & Leigh Carroll Phillips' son)

Birthdays

July 20 Clair Harrison, Parker Casey
July 21 Whit Torbert, George Cox, Alexandria Cox, Ava Brooke Malone
July 22 Kathy Torbert
July 23 Louise Ferguson, Marsha Williams, Bob Sisson, Cameron Powell
July 24 Evelyn Pierson, Roger Kirby
Donna Leach, Mary Ryle
July 25 Audria Wood, Lauren Penn, Jake Edwards, Zane Kimbrough
Please update your family's record in the church office to include all dates of birth. Thank you!

Attendance Week of July 13, 2025

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| In Person Total *161 | On Line Total 499 |
| Worship Total 660 | Thursday Worship *11 |
| Celebration *60/209 | Traditions *90/290 |
| Adult Sunday School *45 | Children SS *6 |
| Middle School & Senior Hi SS *1 | |
| Bible Study Groups *7 | Children Wed/Sun *30 |
| Middle & Sen Hi Wed/Sun *1 | Nursery *2 |
| Volleyball game: Children *11/Adults *5 | |

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.