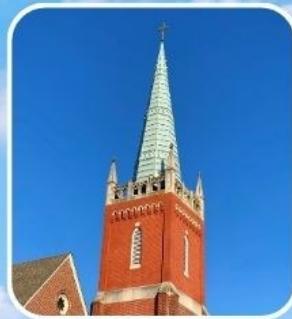


*This is Our Story  
This is Our Song*



**“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”**

Rev. Sherri Reynolds

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

### **Sermon Notes: Thursday, July 18 and Sunday, July 21, 2024**

This week, we begin a new sermon series, “This is Our Story. This is Our Song.” If you worshipped in-person during March, you know that we voted the brackets for our favorite hymns in the FUMC version of March Madness. This summer, the winners of the brackets will be the focus for the upcoming sermon series. As part of the series, I am writing a prayer inspired by the words of the focus hymn. This week’s hymn is “What a Friend we Have in Jesus.” As you prepare for worship, sing the focus hymn in your heart, keep the prayer on your lips, and renew your mind with the Scripture for the Sunday. If you are unfamiliar with the hymn, you can find the words online or in the United Methodist Hymnal on page 526.

Scripture: I Peter 5:7

Prayer: *Lord Jesus, you are a friend who bears all our sins and griefs. It is a privilege to carry everything to you. We often forgo peace and experience needless pain, because we do not carry everything to you in prayer. If we have trials, temptations or trouble, we should not grow discouraged because we can take it to you in prayer. You are a faithful friend who shares our sorrows and knows our weakness. You are a refuge, shield and solace, even as earthly friends forsake us. When we are weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care, you are there for us. Thank you, Jesus!*

Amen.

Blessings,  
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!**

### **Table of Contents:**

**Page 1**-Sermon Notes; Tech Schedule; Acolyte Schedule, June Sermon Series

**Page 2**-Sunday School Classes; Small Groups

**Page 3**-ELC News; Student Ministries. Youth Summer Events and Activities

**Page 4**-Children’s Ministry Summer Calendar; Confirmation Summer Events

**Page 5** – HeBrews; Pickleball

**Page 6** – “This is Our Story, This is Our Song” Sermon Series; Do You Know?

**Page 7** – GFUMC Missions News; Clothes Closet; Ladle of Love; United Women in Faith

**Page 8** – Gift to Gadsden-July 22-25

**Page 9** – Summer Planning; Ways to Give, Online Giving; Venmo

**Page 10**-Calendar; Prayer Concerns; Memorials; Birthdays; Weekly Reports, Save the Dates

### **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 21: Luke Barnes

July 28: Rhett and Clementine Hilburn

### **Tech Team Schedule**

**July 21**

Celebration: Eric Wright, Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman

Traditions: Sheila Freeman, Neil Mullin, Brad Barnes

**July 28**

Celebration: Eric Wright, Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman

Traditions: Davis Varner, Neil Mullin, Sheila Freeman

## 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

This is our last week for Summer 2024. On Wednesday, July 24<sup>th</sup> we will have Papa John's Pizza to celebrate the end of our summer session.

—Helene

# STUDENT MINISTRY

## Youth Ministry News



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

# #WeAreFirst

**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.



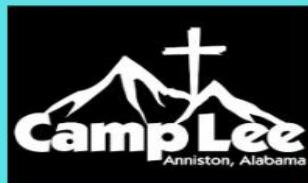
## GFUMC Confirmation Summer Events



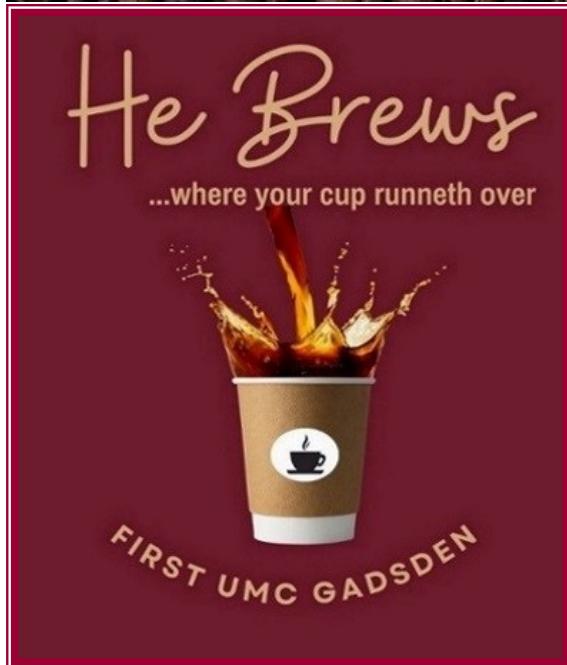
MAY 19 CONFIRMATION SUNDAY  
JUNE 3-6 VBS  
JUNE 14/21/28 SOUP KITCHEN  
JULY 10 LESSON FROM TWEENS  
JULY 14 LOCK-IN  
JULY 12/19/26 SOUP KITCHEN  
JULY 22-25 GIFT TO GADSDEN

#WeAreFirst

CAMP LEE  
JULY 26-27



For more info, text Katharine 256-393-3051



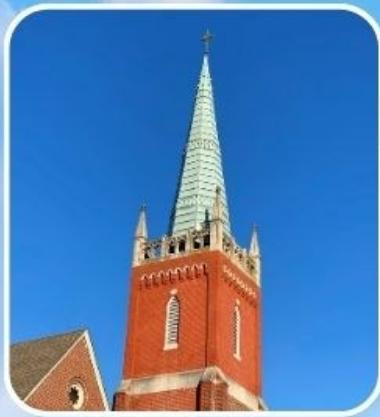
Please join us for HeBrews Coffee  
Café between the regular Sunday  
morning worship services,  
from 10 am to 11 am.

*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



*This is Our Story  
This is Our Song  
Sermon Series*



July 21 What a Friend We Have in Jesus  
 July 28 Here I Am, Lord  
 August 4 How Great Thou Art  
 August 11 Blessed Assurance

Rev. Sherri Reynolds

**KEN & JACKIE HERLONG**



Jackie grew up in Alabama City, graduated from Emma Sansom High School, then became a Legal Secretary for two law firms—Burns & Carr, then Lusk, Swann, Burns, & Stivender. Following that, she worked for her husband's family business, Fred Allen Florist, until it was sold. She then became the Office Manager for McCord Communications, a job she held until retirement. Her first husband, Albert Herndon, passed away, and 17 years later, she married Ken Herlong. Ken grew up in Gadsden and graduated from Gadsden High. He received a Bachelor of Science degree from Samford University, a Master of Science degree at Jacksonville State, and a PhD in Mathematics from The University of Alabama. He served in the Army, then was Principal at Elliott Grammar School and Litchfield

Middle School, before becoming a teacher at Gadsden State Community College. After retirement from Gadsden State, he passed away on July 16, 2016. Ken loved to read, attend plays, watch old movies, listen to "big band" music, and travel throughout the U.S. Jackie's interests include painting, traveling, studying Theology through Sewanee: The University of the South, and singing. With a lovely voice, she has done solo work and was a part of our church choir for many years.

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# 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

**Clothes Closet Request:** We are in need of all clothes in the Clothes Closet! Please clean out your closets and bring clothes to the church! We need clothing for men, women, children and infants! We are accepting clothes for all seasons!

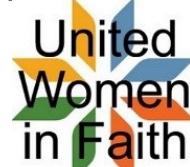
## United Women in Faith

UWF Sunday will be August 25. The officers will be inducted during the service. The ladies will be in charge of all parts of the service during both Celebration and Traditions except to bring the message.

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  
August open dates are  
8/7 and 8/21

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**  
June 2024

Ladle of Love 388  
Clothes Closet 232

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:

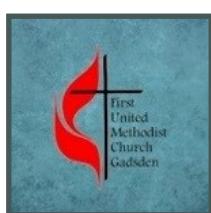
**@FirstUMCGadsden**

(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 21 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

**July 22 Monday**  
 9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym  
 2:00 pm-4:00 pm-Pickleball, Gym  
**6:00 pm-9:00 pm-Gift to Gadsden Classes**

**July 23 Tuesday**  
 9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Summer Schedule  
**6:00 pm-9:00 pm-Gift to Gadsden Classes**

#WeAreFirst



Gift to Gadsden  
**Donate Cookies**



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

**Birthdays**  
**July 21** Whit Torbert, Ava Brooke Malone, Alexandria Cox, George Cox  
**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** Zane Kimbrough, Audria Wood, Lauren Penn, Jake Edwards  
**July 27** Greta Payne, Chandler Lindsey, Mary Clare Bone

**Week of July 14, 2024**  
 In Person Total-\*157      Worship Total-692  
 Online- 535      Thursday Worship-8  
 Celebration Service-\*63/123  
 Traditional Service-\*86/412  
 Sunday School Adult-\*32 Children \*7 Youth \*0  
 Nursery \*2 Bible Study Groups-\*8  
 Wed/Sun-Children\*44 Wed/Sun-Youth \*16  
 \*in person      Misc. \*6 children/\*10 adults

General Offering Budget \$11,400.00  
 General Offering Received \$10,351.00  
 YTD General Offering Budget \$319,200.00  
 YTD General Offering Rec'd \$367,477.00

## Calendar for July 21-July 27, 2024

**July 24 Wednesday**  
 9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Summer Schedule  
**6:00 pm-9:00 pm-Gift to Gadsden Classes**  
**No Choir Practice**

**July 25 Thursday**  
 9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym  
**5:30 pm-Thursday Worship**  
**6:00 pm-9:00 pm-Gift to Gadsden Classes**

**July 26 Friday**  
**11:00 am-12:00 pm-Ladle of Love**



## Honorariums & Memorials

### General Budget Fund

In memory of Lola Ralls Johnson Cross, given by  
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Hart.

In memory of Lola Ralls Johnson Cross, given by  
 Mr. & Mrs. Lee Cross and Rev. and Mrs. Tom Cross.

### Landscape Funds

In memory of Jerry Casey, given by Mr. & Mrs. Dick McCoy.

## Immediate Prayer Concerns

Jane Jones      Karen Owen      Williamson Family

## Continued Prayer Concerns

Albert Gibson, Jr.      Louie Loveman  
 Judy Collins (Tripp Collins mother)      Amy Epperson

## 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*