

*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: 1 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



## Youth Ministry News



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

**#WeAreFirst**

# July 2024

**Spring  
Valley Beach  
7/14**

Leave after Sunday School

**Visit Animal  
Shelter**

**7/18**

Time to be announced.

**Camp Lee**  
(overnight camp)

**7/26-7/27**

**Bake Dog  
Treats**

**7/17 6 pm**  
at the church

**TOP GOLF  
7/21**

Leave after Sunday School

**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 CHILDREN'S Summer calendar 2024**

**NOCCALULA FALLS**  
LET'S GO HIKING  
**Hike**  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12 @5

**Let's go swimming**  
Wednesday, June 26  
101 Wilson Drive

**GIFT TO**  
July 22-July 25  
**GADSDEN**

**End of Summer MOVIE NIGHT**  
Wednesday, July 31 @5

**Make R.A.K. bags!**  
Wednesday, July 10 @5

**VBS JUNE 3-JUNE 6**  
Ephesians 6:10

**Kindness MATTERS**

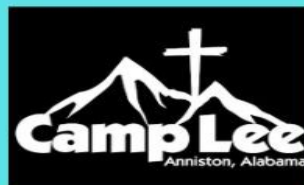
## GFUMC Confirmation Summer Events



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

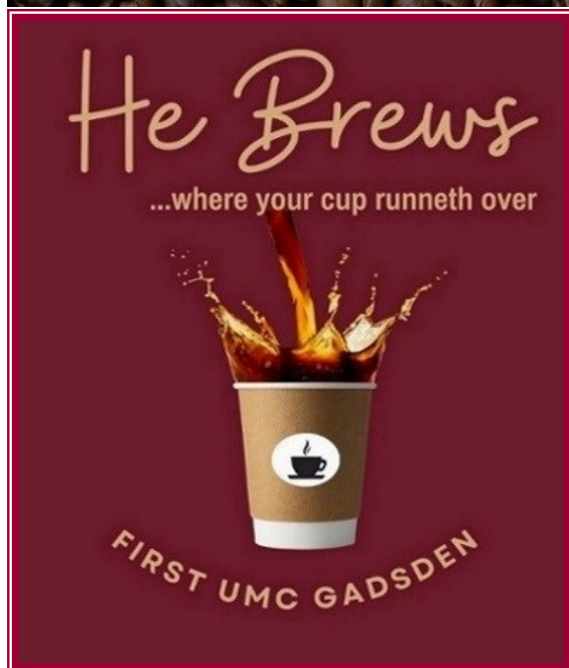
**#WeAreFirst**

**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

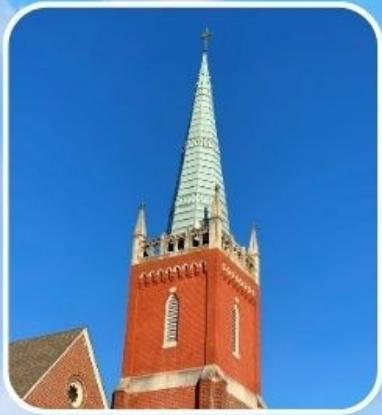
Beth and Gary Dial

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

DO  
YOU  
KNOW  
?

## 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.



## 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!

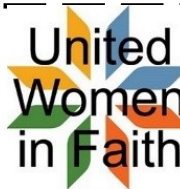
### United Women in Faith

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 Hedgspeth
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 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

## Calendar for July 21-July 27, 2024

### 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

### 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

### Welcome!

Please extend a warm welcome to

**Mrs. Becca Rhea Echols.**

Becca will be joining the

First UMC Gadsden Ministry Staff,  
as Director of Student Ministry for  
Middle School, beginning August 5.



### 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

### 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

### 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**