

# Thomas

John 20:24-29

## Rev. Sherri Reynolds

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

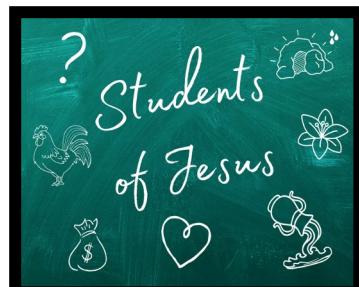
### Sermon Notes: Thursday, July 24 and Sunday, July 27

We are beginning a new sermon series: Student. Based on voting from this past March, we will be examining favorite students of Jesus over the next six weeks. We begin with Thomas. (John 20:24-29)

What can we learn from Thomas? Thomas is most famous because of doubt. He was not there when Jesus showed himself to the disciples, so he doubted. Later when Thomas was with the disciples, Jesus showed himself again. Thomas believed and made a strong statement of faith, identifying Jesus as "my Lord and my God." Thomas met the resurrected Christ in fellowship with the other disciples and believed.

We, like Thomas, meet the resurrected Christ through Christian community. Jesus offered the assurance that when two are three gather in his name, that he is present. I have found that to be true repeatedly. Jesus shows up as we come together as a Christian family. Thomas reminds us to look for Jesus in the company of believers. As I read recently, one of the best and surest ways which we experience Christ is in the gathering of believers.

A Student of Jesus,  
Rev. Sherri



### 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.*

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

### ACOLYTES

July 27: Clementine & Rhett Hilburn

August 3: Sara Echols & Luke Barnes

### Tech Team Schedule

**July 27**

**Celebration:** Sheila Freeman, Brad Barnes

**Traditions:** Davis Varner, Sheila Freeman, Rob Reynolds

**August 3**

**Celebration:** Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman, Brad Barnes

**Traditions:** Wayne Payton, Sheila Freeman

**Wonderful Wednesday returns on Wednesday August 13!**  
**Come and Celebrate @ the Annual Ice Cream Social**  
**Portico and Greenspace**  
**New Bible Studies Begin:**

— Many study *Revelation* for what it reveals about the past or future, but what does it have to reveal about today? Using Greg Robbin's *Revelation Simplified: A Commonsense Approach to the Bible's Most Mysterious Book* as a guide, see how *Revelation* provides hope-filled promises for today. [Bring your Bible and join Rev. Sherri in Room 208 at 11am or 6pm on Wednesday starting on August 13.](#) The study will continue through November 19.

—The Belonging Project: Finding Your Tribe and Learning to Thrive" Are you hungry for true community, deeper connection with God, and friendships that are greater than just "likes" on social media? This is a study of the "One Another" Sayings of the New Testament. Join Harriet Murray and friends for this exciting new study. Room 110, Wednesdays at 6 pm.

**Wednesday Morning Bible Study begins Aug 13!**

**Wonderful Wednesday Kickoff  
Ice Cream Social, 6 pm Aug 13!**

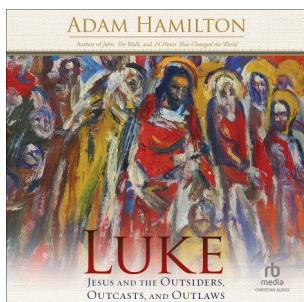
## **Sunday School: New Adult Series**

**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 23<sup>rd</sup>. 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

Ice Cream Social,  
Greenspace

Youth Group, 6 pm

## Wonderful Wednesday Kickoff-Ice Cream Social 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  
1<sup>ST</sup> THROUGH 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADES

with Katharine Barnes and Molly Page

Pre-Register

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

July 28-31 MTWTH  
6:15 pm to 7:30 pm

**LIGHTS! Camera ACTION!**

www.fumcgadsden.org  
115 S. 5<sup>th</sup> St, Gadsden, AL 35901

  **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

**KIDS LOCK-IN**  
@ GFUMC TBD

WATER GAMES @GFUMC JULY 9

MAKE TREATS FOR ANIMAL SHELTER @GFUMC JULY 23

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



Gadsden First UMC Children raised and donated \$238 for the Human Society Pet Rescue and Adoption Center and also gave them a tray of Homemade Dog Treats!

## 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

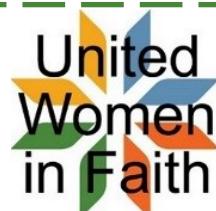
### United Women in Faith

#### 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 #3  
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  
8/6 and 8/20

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)

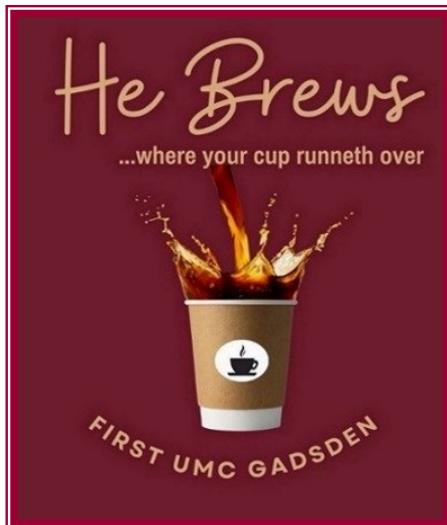
#gfumcreconnect2024

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!



## Gift to Gadsden Cookie Break

Donate cookies, bar cookies, or brownies for Gift to Gadsden!

Bring cookies on Sunday morning, July 27 or Monday, July 28 by 2 pm.

Look for the cart in the Chestnut Street Foyer—you can leave your donation on the cart!

This year, the Cookie Break at Gift to Gadsden will be in the Chestnut Foyer at 7:30 pm until...

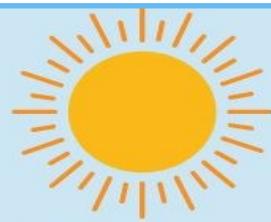
We look forward to seeing you there!  
Remember to register for your favorite class!

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



# GIFT TO GADSDEN

2025



## LAUNCH & PRAYER BREAKFAST FOR INSTRUCTORS & VOLUNTEERS 10 AM SUNDAY, JULY 27 GATHERING ROOM (201), GFUMC



### 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.

**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](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

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.

First United Methodist  
Church of Gadsden



**Download our  
Church App  
FUMC-Gadsden**  
**On the App Store or Google Play**  
**Create a profile and join the conversation  
connection!**



## North Alabama Connection News

There will be a Mid-Central District night of worship at Cullman First on August 5 at 6pm. Bishop Jonathan Holston will be preaching. **Transportation is provided if you would like to attend, leaving from First United Methodist Parking lot at 4:40pm.**

**Bishop Holston will be preaching at First United Methodist Church on September 7 at the Traditions service.** There will be a reception in the Chestnut Street Lobby at Hebrews to welcome him and Felicia from 10am-10:45am, that day. Mark your calendar and make plans to attend.

# First UMC Gadsden July 27-Aug 3, 2025

<u>July 27, Sunday</u>	<u>July 29, Tuesday</u>
<b>9:00 am-Celebration Worship, Sanctuary</b> 10:00 am- HeBrews Coffee; <b>Gift to Gadsden Thank You &amp; Prayer Brunch</b>	6:00 pm-9:00 pm, Gift to Gadsden Classes
<b>11:00 am-Traditions Worship, Sanctuary</b>	<b>July 30, Wednesday</b>
<b>July 28, Monday</b>	6:00 pm-9:00 pm, Gift to Gadsden Classes
9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym <b>11:00 am-King's Olive Oil Class, 534 Broad Street</b> 2:00 pm-4:00 pm-Pickleball, Gym 6:00 pm-9:00 pm, Gift to Gadsden Classes	<b>July 31, Thursday</b> 9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym <b>12:00 pm, Lunch &amp; Laugh w/Forrest Hinton</b> 6:00 pm-9:00 pm, Gift to Gadsden Classes <b>5:30 pm-Thursday Worship service</b>
	<b>Aug 1, Friday</b> 11:00 am-12:00 pm- Ladle of Love



## New for Gift to Gadsden 2025

*Launch and Prayer Brunch for Instructors & Volunteers,  
10:00 am , Sunday, 7/27, Gathering Room*

### Two Daytime Tours:

**King's Olive Oil, 11 am, Monday, July 28**  
Gadsden Museum of Art, 11 am-1 pm, Wednesday, 7/29  
**Lunch & Laugh w/ Forrest Hinton First UMC**  
Gadsden Room 201, Thursday, 7/31 @ 12 noon

## Donate Cookies for the Gift to Gadsden "Cookie Break"!

**Gift to Gadsden July 28-31, 2025**

See page 7 for a list of workshops and classes.  
Register through the link in the church app or  
website: [www.fumcgadsden.org/gifttoggadsden](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/gifttoggadsden)  
or by phone: 256-543-8200.

## Honorariums & Memorials

### General Budget Fund

In memory of Greg Carroll, given by Mr. & Mrs. Craig Marble.  
In memory of Billy Talbot, given by Mr. & Mrs. Craig Marble.

### Benevolence Fund

In memory of Elisabeth Hardin, given by Mr. & Mrs. Alan Ross.

### Senior Scholarship Fund

In memory of Pat Martin, given by Marian Ford.

*The rose on the altar is in honor of the birth of  
Collins Reese Hill  
July 22, 2025*



*Parents: Chris & Tabitha Hill*

*Big Brother: Rhodes*

*Grandparents: Lewis & Sandra Hill*

*Given by GFUMC Children's Ministry & Early Learning*

## Birthdays

**July 27** Mary Clare Bone,  
Chandler Lindsey  
**July 28** Billie Hackney, Linton Davis  
**July 29** Wayne Payton  
**July 30** Phillip Johnson, Angela Hood  
**July 31** Hunter Lowe  
**Aug 1** Jackie Herlong, Sharon Quinn,  
Karen Owen, Charles Abney,  
Keith Copeland, Jim Harwell  
**Aug 2** Gaynor Griffin  
**Aug 3** Gary Griffin, Jessie Timmons,  
Mac McIntyre



## Attendance Week of July 20, 2025

In Person Total *153	On Line Total 582
Worship Total 735	Thursday Worship *11
Celebration *50/245	Traditions *92/337
Adult Sunday School *36	Children SS *3
Middle School & Senior Hi SS *0	UWF *16
Bible Study Groups *7	Children Wed/Sun *6
Middle & Sen Hi Wed/Sun *0	Nursery *0

## Year 2025 Week of July 20, 2025

General Offering Budget	\$ 12,400.00
General Offering Received	\$ 9,704.00
YTD Gen. Offering Budget	\$359,600.00
YTD Gen. Offering Rec'd	\$364,509.00

## Immediate Prayer Concerns

People who are in treatment for cancer and those who have finished treatment and awaiting news.

## Continued Prayer Concerns

Fred Chase	Gary Atkins
Dottie Rogers	Mary Tom Hale
Martha Bullock	Amy Epperson
Emily Carroll (Adam Carroll's wife)	
Grayson Phillips (Leigh Carroll & Dathan Phillips's son)	
Ricky Couvillion (Joey Couvillion's brother)	