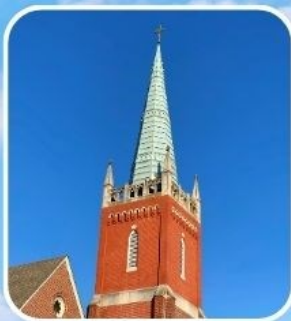


*This is Our Story  
This is Our Song*



**"Here I Am, Lord"**  
Rev. Sherri Reynolds

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

### Sermon Notes: Thursday, August 1 and Sunday, August 4, 2024

We continue the sermon series, "This is Our Story. This is Our Song." If you worshipped in-person during March, you know that we voted with 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 "Here I Am, Lord." 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 593.

### Scripture: Isaiah 6:1-8

**Prayer:** Lord of sea and sky. Lord who hears the people's cry. For those who dwell in dark and sin, God's hand will save. God who made stars and night. God who makes our darkness bright. Lord of snow and rain, who bears your people's pain. You weep for love of us and too often we turn away. You can transform our stone hearts and give us hearts for love. Speak a Word to Us. Lord of wind and flame, who tends the poor and lame. Set a feast for us providing us with the best bread, satisfying our hearts and giving us life. Here we are, Lord. We are yours, Lord. We heard you calling in the night. We will go for you Lord if you lead us. We will hold your people in our heart.

Blessings,  
Rev. Sherri



### Gift to Gadsden

Have you ever received a gift that was the perfect size, the perfect color and exactly what you wanted & needed at the time? Well, that's exactly what you have given to our community. Maybe you taught a class, brought cookies, volunteered your time or lifted Gift to Gadsden up in prayer, but whatever your contribution, you helped make this Gift to Gadsden a blessing and the perfect gift. Heart felt thanks to all who helped make this Gift to Gadsden a success.

—First UMC Gadsden Mission Team

### 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** — Welcome Becca Rhea; Bishop Halston  
**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 28: Rhett and Clementine Hilburn

August 4: Sarah Kate & Jake Thornburg

### Tech Team Schedule

**July 28**

**Celebration:** Eric Wright, Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman

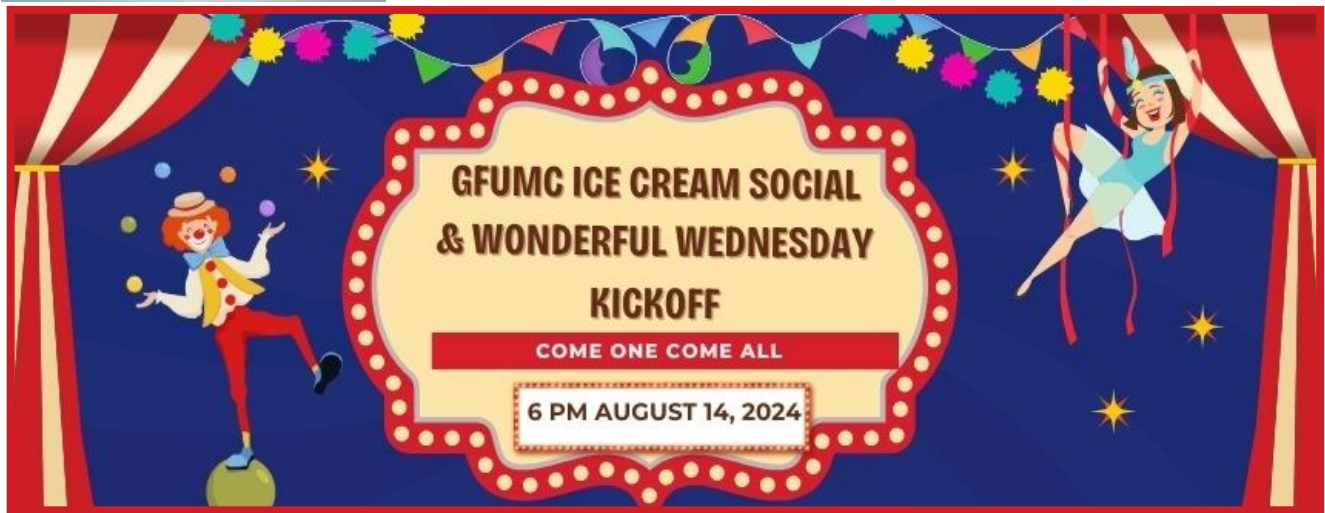
**Traditions:** Davis Varner, Neil Mullin, Sheila Freeman

**August 4**

**Celebration:** Eric Wright, Sheila Freeman,

Carmen McKiven

**Traditions:** Wayne Payton, Sheila Freeman, Brad Barnes



**Wednesday Fellowship  
Dinner/Resumes 8/14**

**\$7 Per Person**

**\$3 Children 11 & Under**

**Wednesday Morning Bible Study &  
Adult Small Groups @  
Wonderful Wednesdays  
will Resume in August 14**

### Confirmation for Adults - Beginning August 14

*Ever wonder what students learn in confirmation class?* Want to learn more about the United Methodist Church or Wesleyan Theology? Need a refresher on the basics of faith? Then this class is for you. Based on the We Believe curriculum, the class is an overview of the basics. Be a part of all the classes or drop in for one. The class will meet for one hour in the Gathering Room on Wednesdays at 11am or Wednesday nights in classroom 208 at 6pm. See the schedule below for the topics of classes, dates, and times. —Rev. Sherri Reynolds

**Getting Started-** 11am and 6 pm on August 14

**The Bible-** 11am and 6 pm on August 21

**God the Father-** 11am and 6 pm on August 28

**God the Son -**11am and 6 pm on September 4

**God the Holy Spirit-** 6 pm on September 11 and 11 am on September 18 (No 11 am on September 11)

**Church History-** - 6 pm on September 18 and 11 am on September 25

**Sacraments-** - 6 pm on September 25 and 11 am on October 2

**Sin and Salvation --** 6 pm on October 2 and 11 am on October 9 (No 6 pm on October 9 due to fall festival)

**Growing in God's Grace-** 11am and 6 pm on October 16

**Living a Christian Life -** 11am and 6 pm on October 23

**Responding to God's Grace-** 11am and 6 pm on October 30

**First United Methodist Church-** 11am and 6 pm on November 6

**#WeAreFirst**

**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)

### 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.



## ELC News

The ELC is on a small break to rest and recuperate before starting our 2024-2025 school year.

Fall Open house will be Thursday, August 15<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am to 11:00 am.

—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 Fall Calendar of Events & Activities for Children.

## GFUMC KIDS FALL CALENDAR | 2024

AUG  
14

ICE CREAM SOCIAL  
WONDERFUL WED. RESUMES

FALL FESTIVAL  
5:00-7:00 PM

OCT  
09

NOV  
20

FRIENDSGIVING  
6 PM

SANTA BRUNCH  
10:00 AM

DEC  
8

DEC  
15

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM  
5:00 PM

**Wonderful Wednesdays, every Wed. @6:00**

August Dreaming: From Genesis to Joseph  
September Lead the Way: Series on Moses  
October Are We There Yet? In the Wilderness  
November Right Track: Series on Joshua  
December Christmas Vacation: Series on Christmas

f FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT [WWW.FUMCGADSDEN.ORG/CHILDREN](http://WWW.FUMCGADSDEN.ORG/CHILDREN)

We need your photo!



We are creating a prayer wall in the Kid's Worship Room, and we need photos of our kids! If you would like for your child to be included, bring a current photo, selfie, or portrait!

**Philippians 1:3**

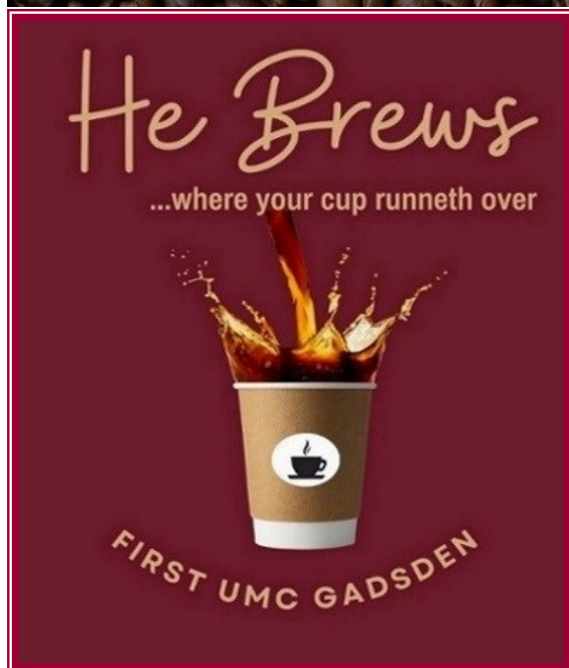
**#WeAreFirst**

**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

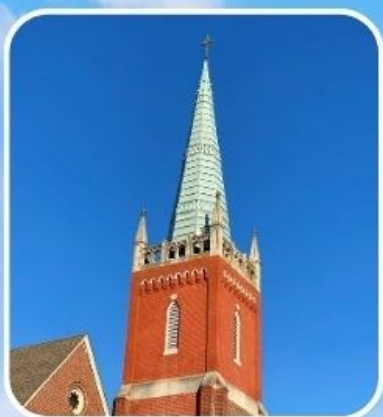
Beth and Gary Dial

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



## *Welcome Reception*

HONORING NEW MID-CENTRAL DISTRICT  
SUPERINTENDENT

*Rev. Alan Head*

JOIN US AS WE HEAR THE VISION FOR THE NEW DISTRICT  
AND GET TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER

AUGUST 18, 2024

3:00 - 5:00PM

ARAB FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1058 NORTH MAIN STREET, ARAB



## 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.

All Ladies...Come one, Come all, to our last Summer Supper! Tuesday, August 15th, 5:30 pm at Gadsden Country Club in the Camellia Room. (Various price ranges available) We can thank Marian Ford for setting this up so we can have a very special evening together before returning to our monthly luncheons in September. We hope to see everyone there!

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!

## Welcome, Becca Echols to First UMC Gadsden



First UMC Gadsden is pleased to announce that Becca Rhea Echols will be serving as the Student Ministry Director for the middle school age group that we are calling “Lift!” Becca graduated from Birmingham-Southern in 2017 with a B.S. in Psychology and from Jacksonville State University in 2022 with a M.S. in Special Education. She is currently pursuing a behavior analyst certification to continue working at Coosa Behavioral Services where they serve children with children with different abilities. Becca has always loved teaching (and learning from) kids and cannot wait to continue that through Lift! Becca grew up in Gadsden, coming to Gadsden FUMC from early childhood all the way through high school. Becca says, “ I am so excited to give back to the church that gave me so much!”

Becca is married to Mark and they have 2 kids; Sarah is 10 and Lane is 15 months. They love “being outside, bike rides and walks, swimming, watching movies together, and just hanging out as a family.”

There will be a Meet and Greet at HeBrews on August 11.

---

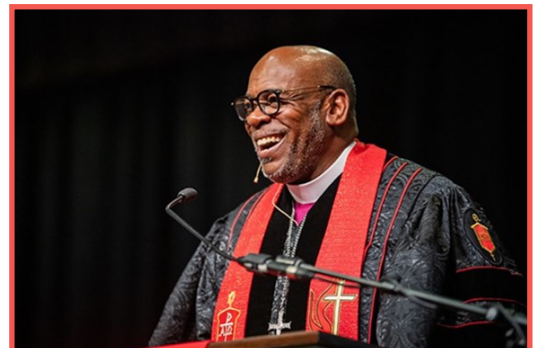
## Welcome Bishop Holston to the North Alabama Conference!

The 2024 Southeastern Jurisdiction has assigned Bishop L. Jonathan Holston as the resident bishop of the newly formed Alabama Panhandle Episcopal area beginning Sept. 1, 2024. This new Episcopal area includes the former Alabama-West Florida and Birmingham Episcopal areas. Its two annual conferences, Alabama-West Florida and North Alabama, will remain separate conferences sharing a bishop.

Bishop Holston has faithfully served the South Carolina Annual Conference (Columbia Episcopal area) for 12 years since he was elected a bishop in 2012. Prior to serving as a Bishop, he was a clergy member of the North Georgia Conference. He has a heart for mission, both at home and abroad, and an affinity for bringing people together in our shared mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

“It is an honor to serve these two areas,” stated Bishop Holston. “Our United Methodist itinerant system is designed to allow the Holy Spirit to guide the work of the Episcopacy Committee. I am grateful for their tireless work and faith in my abilities to lead these two conferences. These two conferences have been collaborating for quite some time in order to best prepare for this moment. I look forward to meeting many of you in the coming months. I welcome your prayers in this season of transition as we dream of the mission and vision God would give us together.”

Bishop Holston is married to Felecia Brown Holston. They have two adult children, son Karlton and daughter Brittany. Bishop Holston earned his Master of Divinity in biblical studies from the Interdenominational Theological Center at Gammon Theological Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1983. He also holds a Bachelor of Arts in religion from the University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia. During his ministry in North Georgia, Holston served as senior pastor of St. James UMC in Atlanta for seven years. Before that, he served as superintendent of the Atlanta-Decatur-Oxford District from 1997 to 2005. Other appointments include associate director of the North Georgia Conference Council on Ministries, senior pastor of Clifton UMC and pastor of Marietta Street UMC.





# 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 28-August 3, 2024

### July 28 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 29 Monday

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

### July 30 Tuesday

ELC closed

### July 31 Wednesday

5:00 pm-Youth Trip to Birmingham  
6:00 pm-Children- Movie Night

**No Choir Practice**

### August 1 Thursday

9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym

**5:30 pm-Thursday Worship**

### August 2 Friday

11:00 am-12:00 pm-Ladle of Love, Portico

#WeAreFirst



## Welcome!

**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. There will be a Meet & Greet on @ HeBrews, Sunday, August 11.



New to our Ministry Staff

#wearefirst

- Diverse
- Investing
- Empowered
- Rooted



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



www.fumcgadsden.org

## *In Memory of His Life*

*Aaron Andrews*

*July 7, 2024*

## Immediate Prayer Concerns

Jane Jones Karen Owen Leslie Johnson  
Patsy Blankenship

## Continued Prayer Concerns

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

## Honorariums & Memorials

### Children's Ministry

In memory of Louise Thornburg, given by Mr. & Mrs. Steve Frederick.

### Birthdays

**July 28** Billie Hackney, Linton Roberts  
**July 29** Wayne Payton, Will Brookshire  
**July 30** Phillip Johnson, Angela Hood  
**July 31** Jacob Kelley, Hunter Lowe  
**Aug 1** Jackie Herlong, Sharon Quinn, Karen Owen, Charles Abney, Keith Copeland  
**Aug 2** Gaynor Griffin  
**Aug 3** Gary Griffin, Jessica Timmons, Mac McIntyre



### Week of July 21, 2024

In Person Total-\*158 Worship Total-615  
Online- 615 Thursday Worship-11  
Celebration Service-\*46/293  
Traditional Service-\*101/322  
Sunday School Adult-\*28 Children \*6 Youth \*0  
Nursery \*1 Bible Study Groups-\*6 UWF-\*21  
Wed/Sun-Children\*30 Wed/Sun-Youth \*5 \*in person Misc. \*12 adults  
General Offering Budget \$11,400.00  
General Offering Received \$6,025.00  
YTD General Offering Budget \$330,600.00  
YTD General Offering Rec'd \$373,502.00

### 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**