

Foundations

Love God

Rev. Sherri Reynolds

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

Sermon Notes: Thursday, May 29 and Sunday, June 1

When you build a house, where do you start? After you develop your plan and prep the construction site, the first real phase of building is laying the foundation. Excavation, trenches, footings, and foundational walls are the important first steps for any building project. You must be careful to start right, because without a good foundation, what is built upon it might not stand. Foundation work is critical. Foundation work is also critical in our faith and in the life of this church. As followers of Jesus, building essential footings keeps us on the right track personally and as a congregation. Get the foundation right and other elements fall into place.

The foundation is Jesus, the cornerstone, and our relationship with God. If we pursue a life where we love God fully (Matthew 22:36-40), then all that is built upon that relationship falls into place. This is true for our personal life and First United Methodist Church. How can you love God fully? What are the barriers to loving God fully as First United Methodist Church of Gadsden?

For the Love of God,

Rev. Sherri

FOUNDATIONS Sermon Series: June 1-June 15

When you build a house, where do you start? After you develop your plan and prep the construction site, the first real phase of building is laying the foundation. Excavation, trenches, footings, and foundational walls are the important first steps for any building project. You must be careful to start right, because without a good foundation, what is built upon it might not stand. Foundation work is critical.

Foundation work is also critical in our faith and in the life of this church. As followers of Jesus, building essential footings keeps us on the right track personally

and as a congregation. Get the foundation right and other elements fall into place. This June, we are going to be examining the essential footing for us as individuals and for First United Methodist Church. This series will be unique in that it will explore one passage of scripture, with three key elements in the passage being the message focus.

— Rev. Sherri Reynolds



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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

ACOLYTES

June 1: Sara Kate, Jake, & Carter Thornburg
June 8: Clementine & Rhett Hillburn

Tech Team Schedule

June 1

Celebration: Sheila Freeman, Brad Barnes

Traditions: Davis Varner, Sheila Freeman, Rob Reynolds

June 8

Celebration: Sheila Freeman, Bill Haller Rob Reynolds

Traditions: Wayne Payton, Neil Mullin, Sheila Freeman



Save the Date: Gift to Gadsden 2025

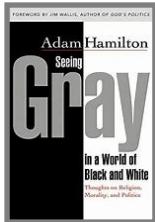
July 28-31

Wonderful Wednesday will resume in August!

Wednesday Morning Bible Study @ 11 am will resume in August

Adult Small Groups @ Wonderful Wednesdays, 6 pm will resume in August!

Sunday School: New Adult Series

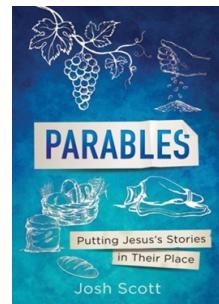


Transitions 10 am, Room 209

This study encourages thinking persons of faith to model for the rest of the country a richer, more thoughtful conversation on the political, moral, and religious issues that divide us. Hamilton rejects the easy assumptions and sloppy analysis of black and white thinking, seeking instead the truth that resides on all sides of the issues, and offering a faithful and compassionate way forward.

Pathfinders/Seekers 10 am, Room 208

Parables by Josh Scott. When Jesus taught in parables, he was doing more than telling simple morality tales. His stories were grounded in the world in which he lived and his vision of the Kingdom of God. This book explores six parables that give us a window into Jesus's message and movement, and, once they are heard in their own context, ask what they might mean for us today. Parables include: the New Wine and Wineskins, the Mustard Seed, the Leaven, the Wedding Party, the Workers in the Vineyard, and the Wicked Tenants.



Living Water 10 am, Room 116

The Living Water Class is doing a unique study for the next several weeks. We are looking at events, teachings, miracles, parables found in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Since these three gospels are very similar in many incidences special books have been written that compare these similar stories. So you may have a story in one, or two or all three Gospels. We are examining these events to see what we can learn from them.

“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

Welcome to our Summer 2025 session. Faculty and Students are back in action this week on Tuesday and Wednesday. We look forward to a fabulous summer session.

—Helene Haller



Youth Group

Summer Schedule
Room 211
Sunday School
10 am, Room 211

Breakfast Fundraiser

to support the Youth Summer Trip to the Ark. Breakfast items will be for sale in the Chestnut Foyer.

10 am to 11 am
June 1

Wonderful Wednesday will resume in August!

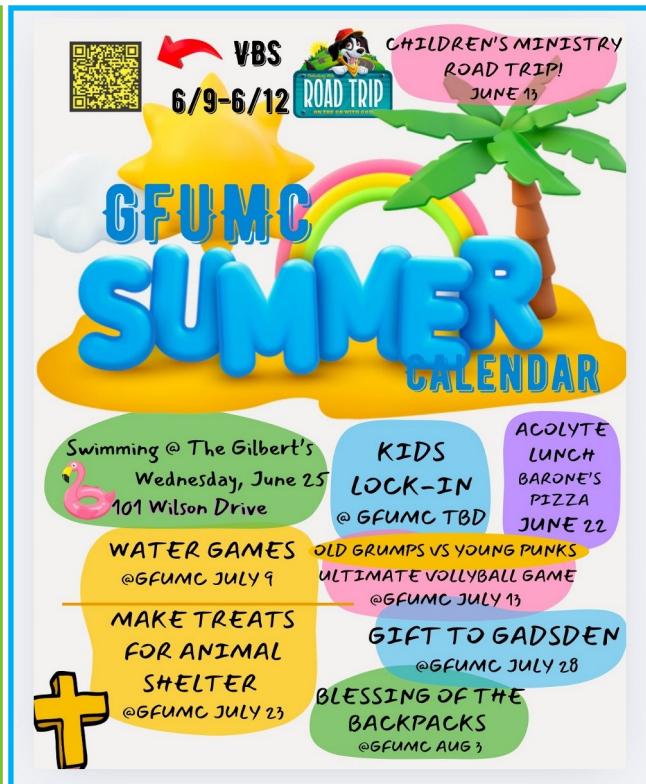
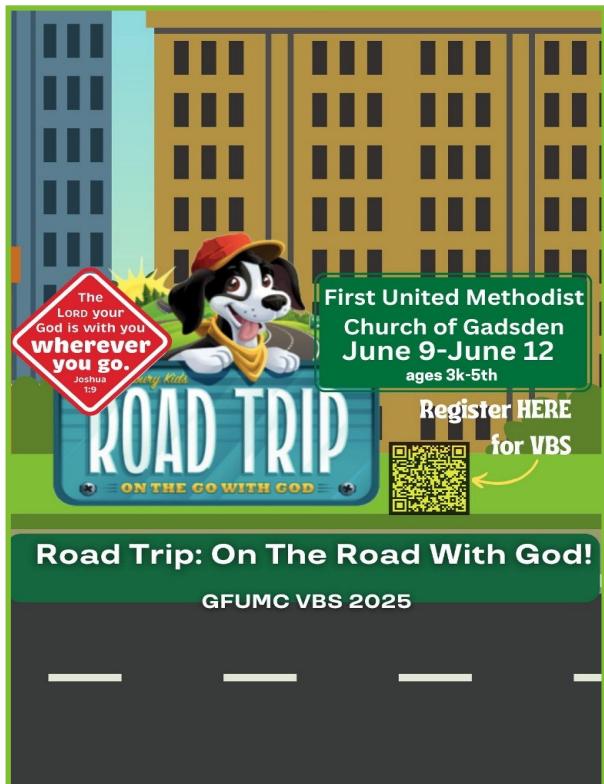
Children's Ministry

Wonderful Wednesday Children's Small Groups and Activities will resume in August

Sunday Mornings: Children's Church during worship, Sunday school @ 10 am

VBS Volunteer Workdays: Sundays, June 1 & 8, 12 pm to 2 pm

And Monday-Friday, June 2-6 during the day! Look for ongoing projects in the arts and craft room.



June Mission Focus

W. E. Striplin Elementary –Kindergarten Promotion hosted by Gadsden First UMC

On Monday, May 13, First UMC Gadsden Mission Team hosted the Striplin Kindergarten Promotion Ceremony. The sanctuary was filled with children's joyous voices, smiles, and celebrations!

—The Mission Team

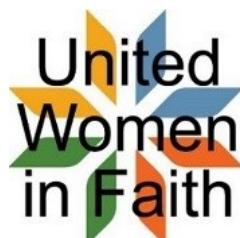


United Women in Faith

UWF Boston Butt and Ham Sale: LAST CHANCE!

Orders must be completed and paid for by June 1. Pickup date at First UMC Gadsden is June 11. To order online go to www.fumcgadsden.org/women or complete an order form in the Chestnut Foyer. Checks should be made payable to UWF (United Women in Faith).

Summer Suppers: Watch for dates and time and location for a monthly get together for fellowship in June, July, and August.



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
June open dates are 6/4 and 6/18

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

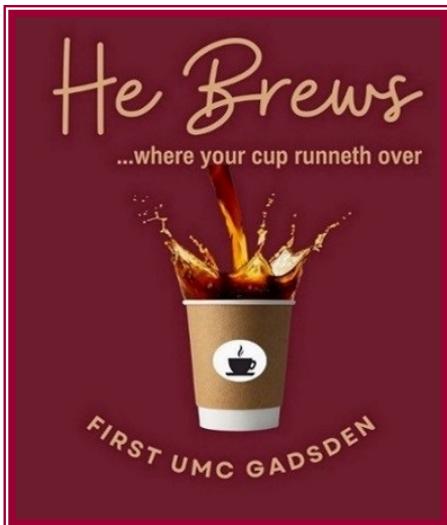
#gfumcreconnect2024

Ladle of Love Clothes Closet

May

LOL	407
Clothes Closet	258

**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!



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Becky grew up in Birmingham and graduated from Ensley High School. She attended Brenau College, then the University of Alabama, where she was a double major in Biology and English. She then received a JD degree at Cumberland School of Law and a Masters in Health Administration from UAB. Becky worked for a healthcare law firm, then did healthcare consulting before starting a family. She has two grown children: a son, John Robert Walker, who is in his early 40s and is an anesthesiologist at Gadsden Regional Medical Center; and Ellie Walker Sherman, who is in her late 30s and is a trained mental health counselor currently staying at home with her young children. While raising her family, Becky served on the Board of Hoover City Schools and was Chair of the parent-teacher organization for all schools in the Hoover City School System. She was also involved in city planning for Hoover and was a member of the Alabama Symphony Orchestra Chorus. Additionally, she is a Certified Lay Speaker and recently served as Director of Lay Servant Ministries for the North Alabama Conference. Becky likes to travel, lead small groups in scripture study, collect antiques, do needlework, and read. She divides her time between Gadsden and Wapakoneta, Ohio, where she lives in the summer to avoid the southern heat.



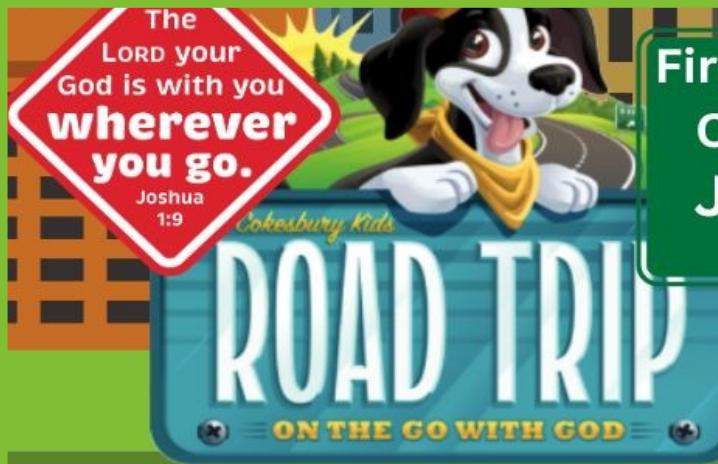
HELP US GET TO THE ARK!

JOIN US FOR BREAKFAST!

The youth will be providing biscuits, sausage, and breakfast goodies to raise money for our trip to The Ark Encounter in June. We will be in the Chestnut St. foyer!

MAY 11, 2025 10 A.M.- 11 A.M.
JUNE 1, 2025 10 A.M. - 11 A.M.

For any questions, reach out to
Becca Echols.
256-295-6176



The LORD your God is with you wherever you go.
Joshua 1:9

ROAD TRIP
ON THE GO WITH GOD

First United Methodist Church of Gadsden
June 9-June 12
ages 3k-5th

Register HERE for VBS



Road Trip: On The Road With God!
GFUMC VBS 2025

This past Easter, we invited you to tithe the week of Holy Week, above and beyond your general fund offering. I am pleased to share that you responded with deep generosity. As of the writing of this letter, so far **\$29,942.00 has been given as part of the 2025 Alleluia Offering.** Thank you for your ongoing generosity and support. Your giving has enabled us to fund ongoing organ maintenance, activities for our students this summer, and new media ministries.

As always, I am overwhelmed by the level of generosity within the congregation. What you are doing through First United Methodist Church of Gadsden is changing lives in the name of Jesus.

Thanks be to God!

Rev. Sherri Reynolds

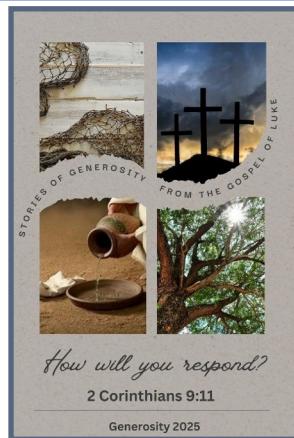
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Generosity 2025 “How will you Respond?”

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

First UMC Gadsden June 1-June 7, 2025

<u>Jun 1, Sunday</u> 9:00 am-Celebration Worship, Sanctuary 10:00 am- HeBrews Coffee 11:00 am-Traditions Worship, Sanctuary	<u>Jun 4, Wednesday</u> 6:00 pm-Choir Practice Jun 5, Thursday 9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym 5:30 pm-Thursday Worship service
Jun 2, Monday 9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym June 3, Tuesday 5:00 pm-Yoga, Gym	Jun 6, Friday 11:00 am-12:00 pm- Ladle of Love 12:00 pm-Office closed

VBS Workdays: Volunteer & Decorate: Sundays, June 1 & 8, 12 pm to 2:00 pm

UWF Boston Butt and Ham Sale:
Orders must be completed and paid for by June 1.
 Pickup date at First UMC Gadsden is June 11. To order online go to www.fumcgadsden.org/women or complete an order form in the Chestnut Foyer. Checks should be made payable to UWF (United Women in Faith) and left in the church office.



Immediate Prayer Concerns

Brent Styles
Ricky Couvillion (Joey Couvillion's brother)
Lois Couvillion (Joey Couvillion's mother) Nadine Shipp (Gail Spotnitz' mother)
Gary Atkins Mary Tom Hale Trish Harrell



Continued Prayer Concerns

Dottie Rogers Martha Bullock Amy Epperson
Emily Carroll (Adam Carroll's wife)
Grayson Phillips (Leigh & Dathan Phillips' son)

Birthdays

Jun 1 Rosa McNair,
Carter Thornburg, Clete McGwier
Jun 2 Sarah Garner,
Rebecca Horst. Carter Rains,
Bailey Womack, Carter Womack
Jun 3 Richard McCoy,
Greg Griffin, Jace Frickey
Amelia Hedgpeth
Jun 4 Tyler Roberts, Jack Kennedy
Jun 5 Blaise Jarecki, Wells Ford
Jun 6 Ola Head, Sally Sohor
Jun 7 Danny Long, Valerie Johnson,
Jay Hedgpeth, Alley Sizemore



Attendance Week of May 25, 2025

In Person Total *135 On Line Total 546
Worship Total 681 Thursday Worship *7
Celebration *55/239 Traditions *73/307
Adult Sunday School *34 Children SS *7
Middle School & Senior Hi SS *2 UWF
Bible Study Groups *7 Children Wed/Sun *7
Middle & Sen Hi Wed/Sun *2
Nursery Wed/Sun *4

Year 2025 Week of May 25, 2025
General Offering Budget \$ 12,400.00
General Offering Received \$ 23,166.00
YTD Gen. Offering Budget \$260,400.00
YTD Gen. Offering Rec'd \$276,004.00

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.