

Foundations

Love of Self

Rev. Sherri Reynolds

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

Sermon Notes: Thursday, June 12 and Sunday, June 15

When we think about the great command (Matthew 22:36-40), our mind typically goes to love of God and love of neighbor. Rarely do we consider “as yourself.” But we should because “loving our neighbor as yourself” is not only part of the great command, but one of those important foundational principals for our relationship with God. Individually, this is not about self-centeredness or putting ourselves ahead of God, instead it involves healthy boundaries and self-care, so that we may love our neighbor. As a foundational principle for the church it means how we love one another, inside of the church. As the body of Christ, we are called to love our neighbor outside of the church building and love one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. This means that we support First United Methodist Church by our prayers, attendance, resources, serving in the church, and caring for one another. I pray you count yourself blessed to be part of First United Methodist Church of Gadsden. I know that I do. Let’s show the church and our church relationships “the love” with our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

For the love of the church,

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 15: Sarah Echols and Luke Barnes

June 22: Anna Kate Casey, Jade Collins, Layne Godfrey

Tech Team Schedule

June 15

Celebration: Sheila Freeman, Bill Haller

Traditions: Neil Mullin, Sheila Freeman, Rob Reynolds

June 22

Celebration: Sheila Freeman, Bill Haller, Brad Barnes

Traditions: Wayne Payton, Neil Mullin, Sheila Freeman

Calling Cards for GFUMC



God chose you to experience salvation through the Spirit who makes you holy.
2 Thessalonians 2:13 NLT

Those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit.
Galatians 6:8 NLT

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere.
Acts 1:8

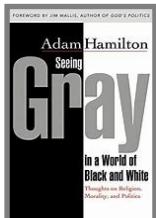
fumcgadsden.org

Cherie Cornelius has thoughtfully designed beautiful calling cards that feature images from our church windows alongside meaningful scripture. These cards are a heartfelt way to invite someone to worship, offer encouragement, or simply let them know you're keeping them in prayer. The latest design, created for Pentecost, showcases the "Descending Dove" from the large stained glass window in the gym. All current and previous designs are available in the Chestnut Foyer. Please feel free to take a card—or several—to share with others.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study & Wonderful Wednesday 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

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

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 back everyone!! The ELC will be in session this week on Tuesday and Wednesday, June 17th & 18th and will end on July 23rd. We are ready for a great summer!

—Helene Haller



Youth Group

Summer Schedule

Room 211
Sunday School
10 am, Room 211

Ark Trip

Youth Summer Trip to the Ark is June 20 & 21.

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

Watch for more exciting Summer Activities and Events

for Children's Ministry!

KIDS' THEATER

@ Gift to Gadsden

INTRODUCTORY DRAMA CLASS FOR AGES
1ST THROUGH 5TH GRADES

with Katharine Barnes and Molly Page

Pre-Register

www.fumcgadsden.org/gifttogadsden

July 28-31 MTWTH

6:15 pm to 7:30 pm

LIGHTS
Camera
ACTION!



www.fumcgadsden.org
115 S. 5th St, Gadsden, AL 35901



Swimming @ The Gilbert's
Wednesday, June 25
101 Wilson Drive

WATER GAMES
@GFUMC JULY 9

MAKE TREATS
FOR ANIMAL
SHELTER
@GFUMC JULY 23



KIDS
LOCK-IN
@ GFUMC TBD

OLD GRUMPS VS YOUNG PUNKS
ULTIMATE VOLLEYBALL GAME
@GFUMC JULY 13

GIFT TO GADSDEN
@GFUMC JULY 28

BLESSING OF THE
BACKPACKS
@GFUMC AUG 3

June Mission Focus



gfumc Clothes closet

June Mission

Donate New Socks & Underwear of All Sizes!
Drop off items to the Red Buckets located in the Chestnut Foyer and Sanctuary entrances.

Open to the public on the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 9 am to 11 am.
516 Broad St, Gadsden, AL 35901

FIRST UMC GADSDEN
www.fumcgadsden.org 256.543.8200

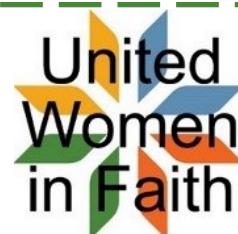
The **Big Red Buckets** are out!!! We are collecting donations of **NEW socks and underwear** for **Clothes Closet**. All sizes for men, women, and children are needed! Please help us fill these **Big Red Buckets** during the month of June! You will find them in the church in the Narthex, at the Hazel Oliver Entrance to the Sanctuary, and in the Chestnut Foyer. Thank you for always supporting one of the great missions of the church...Our **Clothes Closet**! And as always men's clothing and shoes are needed.

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...

Summer Supper #1
Old Mexico Cantina & Grille
93 Walker St, Gadsden, AL 35904
Tuesday, June 17 at 6:00 pm
We hope to see you there!



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.

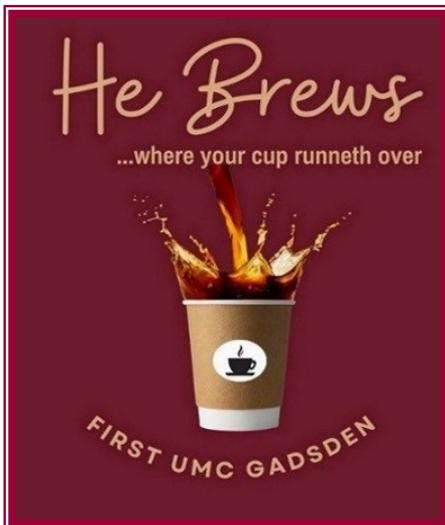
Open to Public
1st & 3rd Wednesdays
June open dates are
6/4 and 6/18
9:00 am to 11:00 am
516 Broad Street Gadsden
Find out more about mission and service opportunities @ www.fumcgadsden.org/serve
Phone: 256-543-8200
Email: fumc@fumcgadsden.org

#gfumcreconnect2024

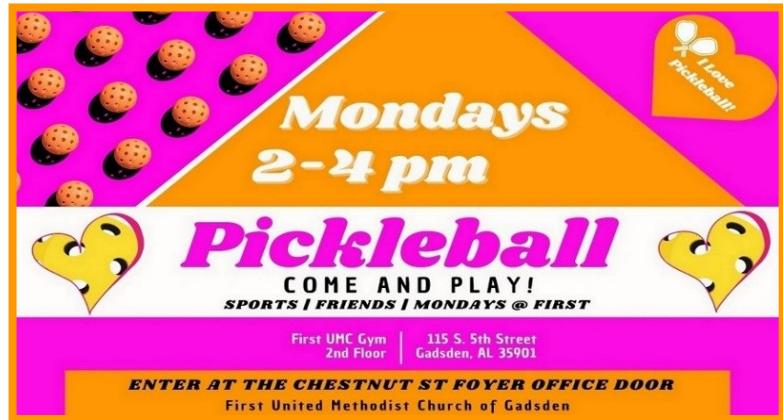
Ladle of Love
Clothes Closet

	May	
LOL	407	
Clothes Closet	258	

Thanks to our
Volunteers!



Follow us on
Facebook and Instagram.



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Do You Know...?

Interviewer
Anna Mullin

"Do You Know?" is a weekly feature displayed on the sanctuary and lobby screens at Gadsden First UMC, as well as in our online church newsletter. Anna Mullin serves as our interviewer, reaching out to members by phone or connecting in person before or after worship services to gather biographical information. Her husband, Neil, captures casual photographs between the Contemporary and Traditional services each Sunday. You may be contacted to participate—our goal is to highlight each member of our church family through this engaging feature.



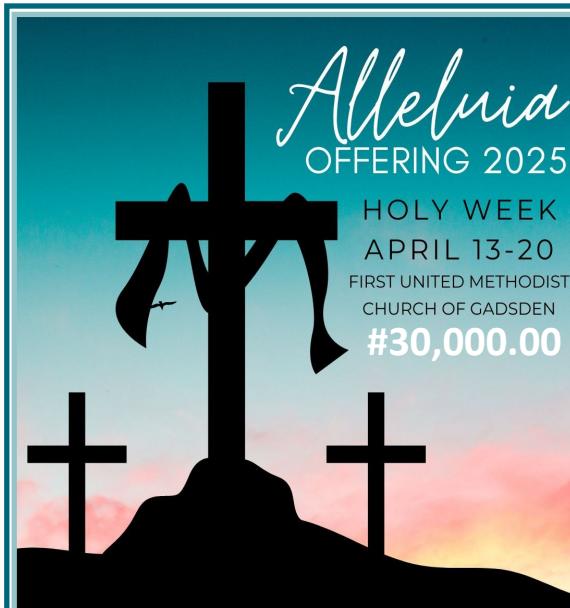
Save the Date: Gift to Gadsden 2025

Monday-Thursday, July 28-31

*Introductory Classes and Workshops presented by
members sharing their gifts and talents.*

Registration will open later in June!

***Watch for exciting news about all the new and returning
classes and workshops that will be shared this year!***



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 **\$30,000.00 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!

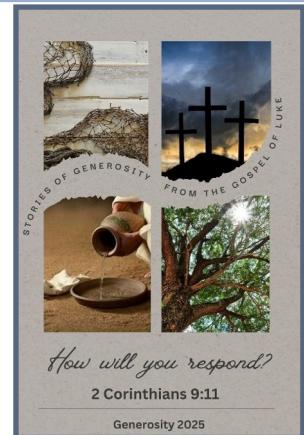
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Generosity 2025 “How will you Respond?”

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

Lights, Lights, Action! New LED Lighting Brightens Our Gym

This week, the lights in our gym received a much-needed upgrade as we transitioned to energy-efficient LED fixtures. This improvement not only promises to brighten our space but also marks a significant step toward both saving money and creating a more sustainable environment for our church community.

The idea for the lighting upgrade was sparked by a simple yet impactful request from Eric Wright, during his time as Chair of the Board of Stewards. Eric posed a challenge: "What are some ideas to save the church money?" The gym lights, which had become a major cost item, were not only expensive but also discouraged the use of the space. A suggestion was made with information found online about cost savings that could be realized by replacing the gym lights with LED lights. While the idea was being considered, Susan Swann, Church Secretary, discovered an article online detailing a similar project completed by another church, where they had successfully received a grant to upgrade their lighting system. Inspired by this example, Susan gathered information about the grant and its availability. As this opportunity was made known, the application process for the grant officially began. A huge thank you goes out to several key individuals who made this project possible: Mark Condra, our Church Treasurer, who played a pivotal role in managing and coordinating the financial aspects of the project, ensuring the process stayed on track; Mark Casey, who provided critical information about energy efficiency, cost savings, and the long-term return on investment of the project; Alan Ross, Trustees Chair

and Matthew Vance, Building Supervisor, who worked to gather the required multiple bids from contractors; and Eric Wright, whose grant writing experience was invaluable in crafting a strong proposal.

This process began with the vision and leadership of our 2024 church team, whose foresight and collaborative spirit set the foundation for the successful execution of the upgrade. The completion of this project and was made possible by our church's investment along with approval of the grant funding. *The new LED lights will significantly reduce energy consumption and costs, with an estimated annual savings of \$4000.00, while also providing better illumination for our gym space—making it a more inviting environment for everyone who uses it.*

A special thank you to everyone who played a role in bringing this "bright idea" to life. We look forward to seeing the positive impact this upgrade will have on our church activities and the broader community.

And, of course, let's enjoy the new lights!



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.

Top 10 Things To Do on the Church APP

10. Meet the Pastors and Staff. (Home Tab-Meet the Pastors and Staff)
9. Fill out a Connect Card. (Home Tab-Connect)
8. Read the Church News. (Home Tab-News)
7. Check Out Upcoming Church Events. (Events Tab)
6. Read the Bible in a Year. (Bible Tab)
5. Look up Scripture. (Bible Tab)
4. Send a Prayer Request. (Home Tab-Prayer Request)
3. Give. (Home Tab-Give)
2. Receive notifications/messages from the church.
1. Watch or Listen to Worship Services and Sermons. (Media Tab)

Download our
Church App
FUMC-Gadsden
On the App Store or
Google Play



Weekly Newsletter

Subscribe to the weekly newsletter by submitting your email to the church secretary, Susan Swann:

susan@fumcgadsden.org

You will receive the weekly newsletter by email on Friday mornings.

The Newsletter is also available in the GFUMC Church App and on the Church Website.

First UMC Gadsden June 15-June 21, 2025



Jun 15, Sunday
9:00 am-Celebration Worship, Sanctuary

10:00 am- HeBrews Coffee

11:00 am-Traditions Worship, Sanctuary

Jun 16, Monday

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

2:00 pm-4:00 pm-Pickleball, Gym

June 17, Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Summer Schedule

9:00 am-11:00 am-Clothes Closet workday

5:00 pm-Yoga, Gym



Save the Date: Gift to Gadsden July 28-31, 2025

VBS Road To The Home of Ross and Stephanie Isbell

Let's go on a Road Trip!

THINGS TO KNOW

- Meet at church, ride church bus for a Road Trip experience! (24 available seats)
- We'll play/swim in the river
- Feel free to bring river toys (paddle board, float, etc.)
- Fishing is acceptable away from swimmers. must bring own gear
- Dinner is provided. *see 'Things to Bring'
- Pool is not in use
- Parent attendance is encouraged

THINGS TO BRING

- Towel
- Water shoes
- Bathing suit
- Personal chair
- Personal life jacket (if you have one)

A GFUMC Children's Ministry Event

311 Lakepoint Drive

Friday, June 13, 12:00-2:00

Birthdays

Jun 15 Janice Dreyer
Jun 16 Beth Dial
Jun 17 Tammy Grizzell, Josh Reeves
Jun 18 Carter Murray, Cole Murray
Jun 19 David Woodall
Jun 20 Brenda Copeland, Will Estis, Sara Kate Edmondson
Jun 21 Alice Johns, Linda Cleveland, Bentley McClendon

Please update your family's record in the church office to include all dates of birth. Thank you!

—Susan Swann

Attendance Week of June 8, 2025

In Person Total *150 On Line Total 494
Worship Total 644 Thursday Worship *13
Celebration *55/178 Traditions *82/316
Adult Sunday School *44 Children SS *5
Middle School & Senior Hi SS *4
Bible Study Groups *4 Children Wed/Sun *12
Middle & Sen Hi Wed/Sun *4
Nursery Wed/Sun *6

Year 2025 Week of June 8, 2025

General Offering Budget	\$ 12,400.00
General Offering Received	\$ 9,127.00
YTD Gen. Offering Budget	\$285,200.00
YTD Gen. Offering Rec'd	\$300,759.00

Jun 18, Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Summer Schedule

9:00 am-11:00 am-Clothes Closet open

6:00 pm-Choir Practice

Jun 19, Thursday

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

5:30 pm-Thursday Worship service

Jun 20, Friday

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

12:00 pm-Office closed

Honorariums & Memorials

Mission Fund

In honor of the GFUMC Family, given by Lori Varner.

The ministers and congregation of First United Methodist Church of Gadsden extend Christian sympathy to Joey & Phyllis Couvillion in the death of his mother, Lois Lemoine Couvillion

May 26, 2025



Immediate Prayer Concerns

Family of Lois Couvillion
Jane Jones Brent Styles
Gary Atkins
Sadie Brown (Rhonda Robinson's mother)
Ricky Couvillion (Joey Couvillion's brother)
Diane Mayer (Lori Varner's sister)
Kim Ventura (Infant great-nephew of Jeanne Mabeus)

Continued Prayer Concerns

Dottie Rogers Mary Tom Hale
Martha Bullock Trish Harrell
Amy Epperson
Nadine Shipp (Gail Spotnitz's mother)
Emily Carroll (Adam Carroll's wife)
Grayson Phillips (Dathan and Leigh Carroll Phillips' son)