

#WeAreFirst



"We are Empowered"

Rev. Sherri Reynolds

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

Sermon Notes: Thursday, June 13 & Sunday, June 16, 2024

One of my spiritual disciplines is to "pray" my way down the road. I use what I see out the window to prompt me to pray for a particular situation or need. Often, when I drive by a church where women can't serve or lead, I pray for the girls in that congregation, that feel called to ministry, leadership or service within the church, to find mentors in their lives so that they may find a place to serve God. I am so thankful that I don't have to offer such a prayer when I pull into the parking lot of First United Methodist Church.

Paul writes in Ephesians that God gave us Gifts of the Spirit for the equipping of God's people for the work of serving and building up the body of Christ. God gave all people gifts, so that we might use them for the glory of God and these gifts are not for a select few but for all who follow Jesus. (Ephesians 4:1-16)

During my first year of ministry at FUMC, I have come to appreciate how God has gifted you for ministry and how many of you use those gifts within the church. The use of gifts is not limited by gender, age, marital status, a pristine past, sainthood, or a checklist from the church. We are a place where all are empowered and equipped to use their gifts for ministry. This is wonderful, because I don't think that God created you the way which you are and blessed you with the gifts that you have been given by the Holy Spirit, so that you or the Church could squander those gifts. At FUMC, we believe and practice the priesthood of ALL believers, and that is beautiful for the Body of Christ.

#WeAreFirst Sherri Reynolds

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, Boston Butts Sale, Thursday Worship Social, Pickleball
- Page 6**-GFUMC Missions News; Clothes Closet; Ladle of Love; United Women in Faith
- Page 7**– Do You Know?
- Page 8**-June Sermon Series: #wearefirst
- Page 9**-Summer Planning; Ways to Give, Online Giving; Venmo
- Page 10**-Calendar; Prayer Concerns; Memorials; Birthdays; Weekly Reports, Save the Dates

Worship Opportunities

5:30 pm Thursday Worship

Sunday Mornings: Celebration 9 am*

Traditions 11 am*

*In Person (Sanctuary) and Online

www.fumcgadsden.org/media

on Facebook Live: @FUMCgadsden

ACOLYTES

June 16: Sara Kate and Jake Thornburg

June 23: Rhett and Clementine Hilburn

Tech Team Schedule

June 16

Celebration: Sheila Freeman, Bill Haller

Traditions: Wayne Payton, Neil Mullin, Sheila Freeman

June 23

Celebration: Eric Wright, Bill Haller, Carmen McKiven

Traditions: Mark Condra, Wayne Payton, Brad Barnes

#wearefirst

- Diverse
- Investing
- Empowered
- Rooted

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



www.fumcgadsden.org

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.



#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.

#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

The ELC will return Tuesday, June 11th for the Summer Session. We will be here Tuesday and Wednesday from 9:00 am-1:00 pm for 7 weeks. Summer teachers will be in and out on Monday, June 10th to prepare classrooms.

—Helene

STUDENT MINISTRY

Youth Ministry News



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

June 2024

Help with VBS

8:45 am to 11:45 am

M, T, W, TH

6/3-6/6

(Check in and out w/Ms. Katharine)

Bake Brownies & Deliver to Downtown Merchants.

Meet @ Church

10 am to 2 pm
6/22

Service Day

&
Lock-In
6/8

Pick up Litter/
Noccalula Falls
Black Creek Trails

Meet @ Jack's
6:00 pm on
6/19

Service Day & Lock-In 6/8

Schedule

10 am - 1 pm Service Projects

- Clean Youth Room
- Clean Gym
- Pick Up Litter in Alley

Break (on your own)

7 pm - Return to Church for Lock-in

- Nerf Gun Games
- Movie
- More Fun & Games

Plan to go to Celebration and Sunday School & Depart by 10:45 am!

GFUMC Youth June 2024

Added
notes...

Thank you for
helping the
youth!
-Carmen

More Dates Coming For July!

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.



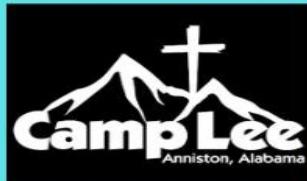
GFUMC Confirmation Summer Events



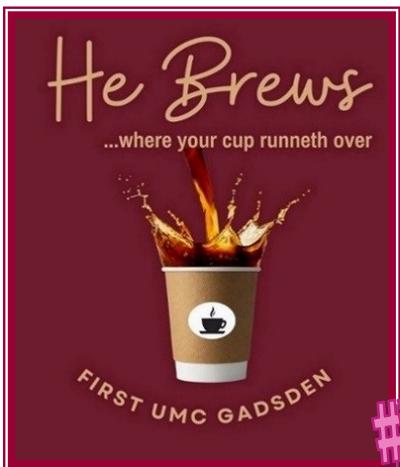
MAY 19 CONFIRMATION SUNDAY
JUNE 3-6 VBS
JUNE 14/21/28 SOUP KITCHEN
JULY 10 LESSON FROM TWEENS
JULY 14 LOCK-IN
JULY 12/19/26 SOUP KITCHEN
JULY 22-25 GIFT TO GADSDEN

#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!!!*

Congratulations and Best Wishes to Kaelyn Harris and Graham Hester on their marriage on May 11, 2024.

Please join us on Sunday, June 23 @ Hebrews for a "Wedding Sprinkle" & help shower them with Cards or Gift Cards.



Thursday Worship Social
@ 6 pm, June 20

after
Thursday
Worship



The Stone Market
120 Chestnut Street

Everyone Welcome!

United Women in Faith-Boston Butts Sale Benefiting Local Missions \$40 Each

Featuring Boston Butts from Robertson's Barbecue (Tuscaloosa, AL)



Place your order by June 10. Prepayment is required.

All orders must be picked up* between 3 pm and 6 pm on
Wednesday, June 19th

at First UMC Gadsden's Portico entrance facing 6th Street.

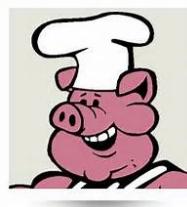
(*Orders not picked up will be donated to Ladle of Love.)



Name _____

Phone Number _____ Email _____

Number of Boston Butt's _____ X 40.00 = Order Total _____



Note: Order Early—Quantities are Limited!

Turn forms in to the church office and place in the UWF Box.

Mission Focus

First UMC Gadsden Clothes Closet

"Providing Gently Used Clothing to Our Community"



Thank you to all who joined us for the Open House on June 9 to learn more about the ministry and mission that is the **First UMC Gadsden Clothes Closet**.

The Clothes Closet is restocked by numerous donations from our church members and our community. Volunteers work on the first and third Tuesday to sort and arrange clothing to stock the Clothes Closet. In addition to being open to the public on the First and Third Wednesday of each month, the FUMCG Clothes Closet assists individuals and families who need

clothing due to a natural disaster such as tornadoes or loss of home due to fire.

Community Agencies also call upon the FUMCG Clothes Closet when assistance is needed for individuals who need clothing for job interviews or other special needs. Come see this wonderful ministry and learn more about the First UMC Clothes Closet.

Tornado Buckets

If you still have a Tornado Bucket or items to donate for the Tornado Buckets, please return them to the church as soon as possible. Thank you for your support!

United Women in Faith

Our first Summer Supper will be on Tuesday, June 18 at The Clover Café (formerly Harp & Clover). Come at 5:30 pm to visit and we will order dinner at 6:00 pm. Hope all United Women in Faith will join us for fun and fellowship!

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

June open dates are 6/5 and 6/19

9:00 am to 11:00 am

516 Broad Street Gadsden

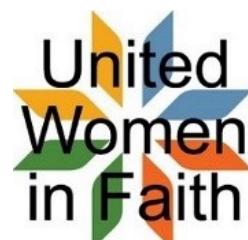
Find out more about mission and service opportunities @ www.fumcgadsden.org/serve

Phone: 256-543-8200

Email:

fumc@fumcgadsden.org

#gfumcreconnect2023



Clients Served

April 2024

Ladle of Love 368

Clothes Closet 227

May 2024

Ladle of Love 484

Clothes Closet 259

**Thanks to our
Volunteers!**

KIM & CYNTHIA WHITT



Kim grew up in Gadsden, then went to the University of Alabama, where he majored in Biology and minored in Chemistry. He graduated from the University of Alabama School of Dentistry and practiced in Gadsden for 42 years before retiring. His hobbies include golf, water skiing, snow skiing, hiking, and spending time at their lake house. Kim has been Chair of our Staff-Parish Relations Committee and Administrative Board and has served on the Board of Trustees. He has also been a rotating Sunday School teacher for Pathfinders and Sr. High. Cynthia grew up in Gadsden, then received her undergraduate and Master's degrees in Social Work from the University of Alabama. She has worked for DPS in Birmingham, Holy Name of Jesus Hospital in Gadsden, and as an Office Manager at Kim's dental office. In her free time, she enjoys spending time at the lake, walking outdoors, snow skiing, water skiing, and playing Mahjong. Cynthia has been the Director of Mother's Day Out, and she taught Sunday School to 3 & 4 year olds for 8 years. Both she and Kim have also served on the Nominating Committee. Kim and Cynthia have twin girls, age 37: Paige Whitt, an orthodontist in Birmingham; and Susan Whitt, an orthodontist in Tuscaloosa.

WHIT & KATHY TORBERT



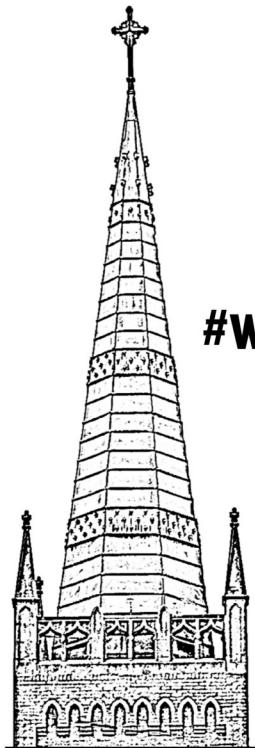
Whit grew up in Gadsden, then received a B.S. degree in Business/Pre-Law from the University of Alabama, followed by a law degree from the University of Alabama Law School. His firm, Torbert & Torbert, P.A., is a general law firm on Forrest Avenue. Whit was both Chairman of Capital Funds and of the Building Committee for the addition of our current building from behind the Sanctuary to the Portico. He has also been Chairman of the Board of Trustees, the Administrative Board, and the Staff-Parish Relations Committee, as well as a Sunday School teacher for the Pathfinders class. Kathy grew up in Lincoln and met Whit at the University of

Alabama, where she received a BS in Special Education. She taught at Childersburg Elementary, Striplin Elementary, Cory Middle School, and East Elementary before retiring to raise their child, Hannah. Kathy worked with our Ladle of Love program for 7 years and has assisted with Bible School, the Clothes Closet, Children's Choir, and Handbells. She and Whit enjoy watching University of Alabama sports, and Kathy also enjoys Mahjong. Their daughter, Hannah Torbert Kennedy (36), is a Birmingham attorney and has a son, Jack Kennedy (3), who is pictured on his christening day.

Sermon Series for June: #wearefirst

It is hard to believe that I have been appointed to First United Methodist Church for almost a year now. During this past year, I have grown to know you and love you, as the church. The unique qualities that you bring as a congregation enrich my life, one another's lives, and Gadsden. It is my joy to serve you.

During the month of June, First United Methodist Church embarks on a sermon series to celebrate the strength and beauty of the congregation: #wearefirst. Join us each Sunday as we examine the gifts of our diversity, our generosity, the theology of all empowered for ministry and our roots in tradition which come together to be First United Methodist Church of Gadsden. In addition to this series, there will be a themed logo showcasing our beautiful steeple, which will be available on coffee mugs, t-shirts, and yard signs. For the course of the series, you can celebrate and share your photos of all things FUMC with #wearefirst on your social media accounts. This will be a season of celebrating what makes us First United Methodist Church. — Rev. Sherri



#wearefirst

*Thank you to Anna Mullin
for the steeple graphic.*

First UMC Gadsden #wearefirst T-Shirts \$15.00 Each

T-Shirt Order Form



# of t-shirts	Size	Name _____
_____	X-Small	Address _____ _____
_____	Small	_____
_____	Medium	_____
_____	Large	Phone Number _____
_____	X-Large	Total # Shirts: _____
_____	2XL	Total Amount Paid: _____
_____	3XL	



#wearefirst
First UMC Gadsden
Hot/Cold Tumblers
\$10
Available in the
Chestnut Lobby.



Stickers
\$1

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 church website: 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:

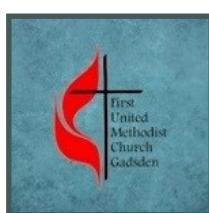
@FirstUMCGadsden

(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

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 June 16-June 22, 2024

June 16 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

June 17 Monday
 9:00 am-10:00 am Exercise Group, Gym
 2:00 pm-4:00 pm-Pickleball, Gym

June 18 Tuesday
 9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Summer Schedule
 9:00 am-11:00 am-Clothes Closet workday
 5:00 pm-6:00 pm Yoga, Gym
 5:30 pm-UWF Summer Social, Clover Cafe

June 19 Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Summer Schedule
 3:00 pm-6:00 pm-Pick up Boston Butts, Portico
 6:00 pm Choir Practice, Choir Room

June 20 Thursday

9:00 am-10:00 am Exercise Group, Gym
 5:30 pm Thursday Worship, Sanctuary
 6:00 pm Thursday Worship Social, Stone Market

June 21 Friday 11:00 am-12:00 Ladle of Love

HAPPY
FATHER'S
DAY

#WeAreFirst



Honorariums & Memorials

General Budget Fund

In memory of Ruth Chandler, given by Mr. & Mrs. Richard McCoy.

Ladle of Love

In memory of Ruth Chandler, given by Louise Ferguson.

Howell Erwin Medical Fund

In memory of Ruth Chandler, given by Sonya Nesbitt.

Music Fund

In memory of Ruth Chandler, given by Debbie Hiltz.

Mark Your Calendars

June Sermon Series

#WeAreFirst

May 30 through June 23

Gift to Gadsden

July 22-25

Thank
You

"Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?" John 11: 25-26.

The family of Chris Gunnels would like to express their thanks for all the support and kindness shown during the course of his illness.

—Gail McNair and Family



Holy Baptism
Rhodes Logan Hill
June 9, 2024

Birthdays

June 16 Beth Dial
June 17 Tammy Grizzell,
 Josh Reeves
June 18 Carter Murray, Cole Murray
June 19 David Woodall
June 20 Brenda Copeland,
 Will Estis, Sarah Edmondson
June 21 Alice Walton Johns,
 Linda Cleveland

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

Week of June 9, 2024

In Person Total-*172	Worship Total-680
Online-508	Thursday Worship-*2
Celebration Service-*68/193	
Traditional Service-*102/315	
Sunday School Adult-*30	Children *8 Youth *0
Nursery *2	Bible Study Groups-*6
Wed/Sun-Children*26	Wed/Sun-Youth *10
VBS *42	Volunteers *in person

General Offering Budget \$11,400.00
 General Offering Received \$16,503.00
 YTD General Offering Budget \$262,200.00
 YTD General Offering Rec'd \$306,655.00

Immediate Prayer

Concerns

Albert Gibson, Jr. Greg Roberts
 Louie Loveman John Floyd

Continued Prayer

Concerns

Judy Collins (Tripp Collins mother)
 Amy Epperson

