

## #WeAreFirst



*"We are Diverse"*  
Rev. Sherri Reynolds

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

### Sermon Notes: Thursday, May 30 & Sunday, June 2, 2024

If you look at those gathered with Jesus on his last night with his disciples (Luke 22:14-23), you will find a diverse bunch. There was a man who worked closely with Rome and a man who despised Roman occupation. There were men from Galilee and a man from Judah. You would find headstrong leaders and those who blended into the surroundings. They came from differing backgrounds and occupations, even arguing from time to time. Jesus called them all to follow him.

During my first year at First United Methodist Church of Gadsden, I have come to appreciate that we are a diverse group. Look around and you will find people of differing political views, just like the disciples. You will find people from differing places, just like the disciples. You will also find those headstrong leaders and people who blend into the background. We are the beautiful mosaic which is First United Methodist Church of Gadsden.

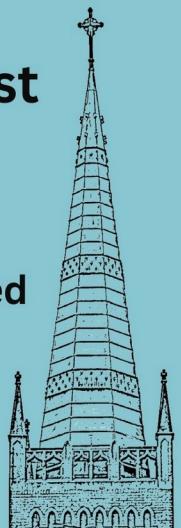
#Wearefirst.

The next time you gather with your church family, I encourage you to notice the beauty of the Body of Christ. The richness of our differences makes that beauty even richer. And while we are not the same in all ways, we are connected by what is important: the love of God found in Jesus Christ.

#Wearefirst,  
Rev. Sherri

### #wearefirst

- Diverse
- Investing
- Empowered
- Rooted



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



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

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### Worship Opportunities

5:30 pm Thursday Worship

**Sunday Mornings:** Celebration 9 am\*  
Traditions 11 am\*

\*In Person (Sanctuary) and Online

[www.fumcgadsden.org/media](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/media)  
on Facebook Live: @FUMCgadsden

### ACOLYTES

June 2: Luke Barnes

June 9: Brooks Bone

### Tech Team Schedule

June 2

Celebration: Eric Wright, Sheila Freeman

Traditions: Mark Condra, Neil Mullin, Sheila Freeman

June 9

Celebration: Eric Wright, Bill Haller, Carmen McKiven

Traditions: Davis Varner, Neil Mullin, Brad Barnes

## 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.

Meeting location may vary.

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 be closed for a small break until Tuesday, June 11<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you to all that participated in the rose sale. Donations received totaled \$8,440. After the cost of the roses, the program will have \$8,155 to distribute to future ELC students in need.

—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!  
Vacation Bible School is June 3-June 6 from 9:00 am to 11:30 am

## Calling ALL Knight volunteers!

### VBS work days!

May 19 12:00-2:00

June 2 12:00-finished

All volunteers register [HERE](#)



## Calling ALL Knights!

We're on a quest for the King's armor!

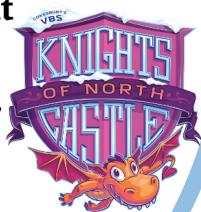
June 3-June 6

Join us this Summer at

Gadsden First UMC

VBS as we search for  
the Armor of God!

Ephesians 6:10



All children register [HERE](#)



#WeAreFirst

GFUMC CHILDREN'S Summer calendar 2024

NOCCALULA FALLS +  
LET'S GO HIKING  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12 @5

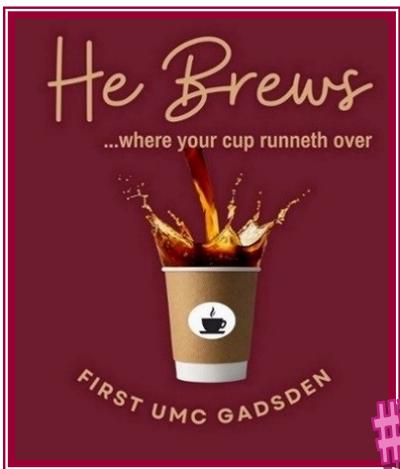
KNIGHTS OF NORTH CASTLE VBS JUNE 3-JUNE 6  
Ephesians 6:10

Let's go Swimming pool  
Wednesday, June 26  
101 Wilson Drive

Make R.A.K. bags!  
Wednesday, July 10 @5  
Kindness MATTERS

GIFT TO GADSDEN  
July 22-July 25

End of Summer MOVIE NIGHT  
Wednesday, July 31 @5



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

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

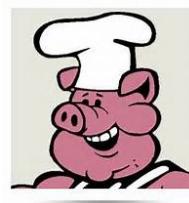
(\*Orders not picked up will be donated to Ladle of Love.)



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

Open House 10 AM

Sunday, June 9, 2024



You are invited to come to an Open House on Sunday, June 9, during the Sunday school hour or following Traditions worship 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

Remember to order your Boston Butt.

The deadline to receive an order is June 10.

Prepayment is required. You can order online or there is an order form on page 6. All proceeds go to UWF Missions.

The monthly luncheons will resume in September. Our first Summer Supper will be on Tuesday, June 18 at the 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!

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**

**May open dates are 5/1 and 5/15**

**9:00 am to 11:00 am**

**516 Broad Street Gadsden**

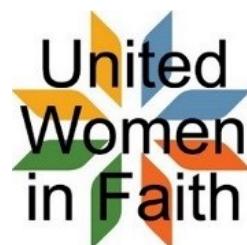
**Find out more about mission and service opportunities @ [www.fumcgadsden.org/serve](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/serve)**

**Phone: 256-543-8200**

**Email:**

**fumc@fumcgadsden.org**

**#gfumcreconnect2023**



**Clients Served March 2024**

Ladle of Love 474

Clothes Closet 216

**Thanks to our Volunteers!**

# DO YOU KNOW?



## JERRY & JAN FRASIER

Jan grew up in Gadsden and graduated from Gadsden High before attending Gadsden State Jr. College. She then went to Jacksonville State University, where she majored in Spanish and minored in History. Jan taught Spanish and History courses at General Forrest Jr. High School, then at Emma Sansom High School for a total of 28 years, before retiring from teaching in the year 2000. Her hobbies include reading, decorating for seasonal events, gardening, travel, golf, and attending concerts and local theater productions. Jan is one of our newest members, having joined our church on May 19, 2024. Jerry grew up in Fyffe (in Dekalb County) and attended Gadsden State, where he met his future wife. He then graduated from Jacksonville State University and had a long career as a basketball coach, first at Disque Jr. High, then at

Gadsden High School. The photo depicts Jan and Jerry while he was still coaching. Now retired, he enjoys traveling and is an avid golfer.



## BOB & TRICIA BLOUNT

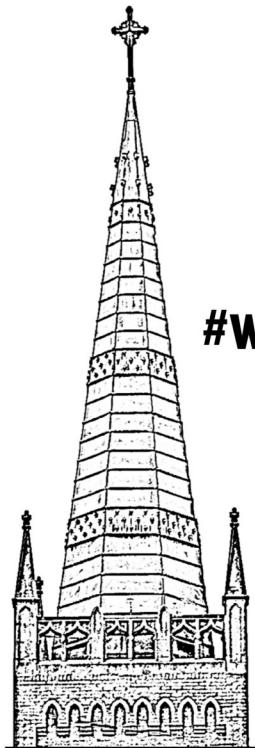
Bob grew up in Savannah, TN, and graduated from Hardin County Central High School. He then attended the University of Tennessee at Martin, where he received an undergraduate degree in Business Administration with an emphasis on Accounting. He became a controller for construction companies before starting his own company, Cambridge Services LLC, which provides accounting and bookkeeping services. Tricia grew up in Bradford, TN, and attended Bradford High School. She received a degree in Health Services Management from the University of Tennessee at Martin, where she met Bob. She has served as an Insurance Claims Specialist, first in Nashville, then in Gadsden. Bob and

Tricia have 3 children: Jennifer (43), who is a salesperson for a major Steel Company and was recently married on May 18, 2024; Jason (40), who is a CFO for an investment company; and Jonathan (37), who is the general manager of a recycling company. All three children grew up in our church. Tricia enjoys reading and history, while Bob enjoys boating; and they both love spending time with their 5 grandchildren.

## 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	

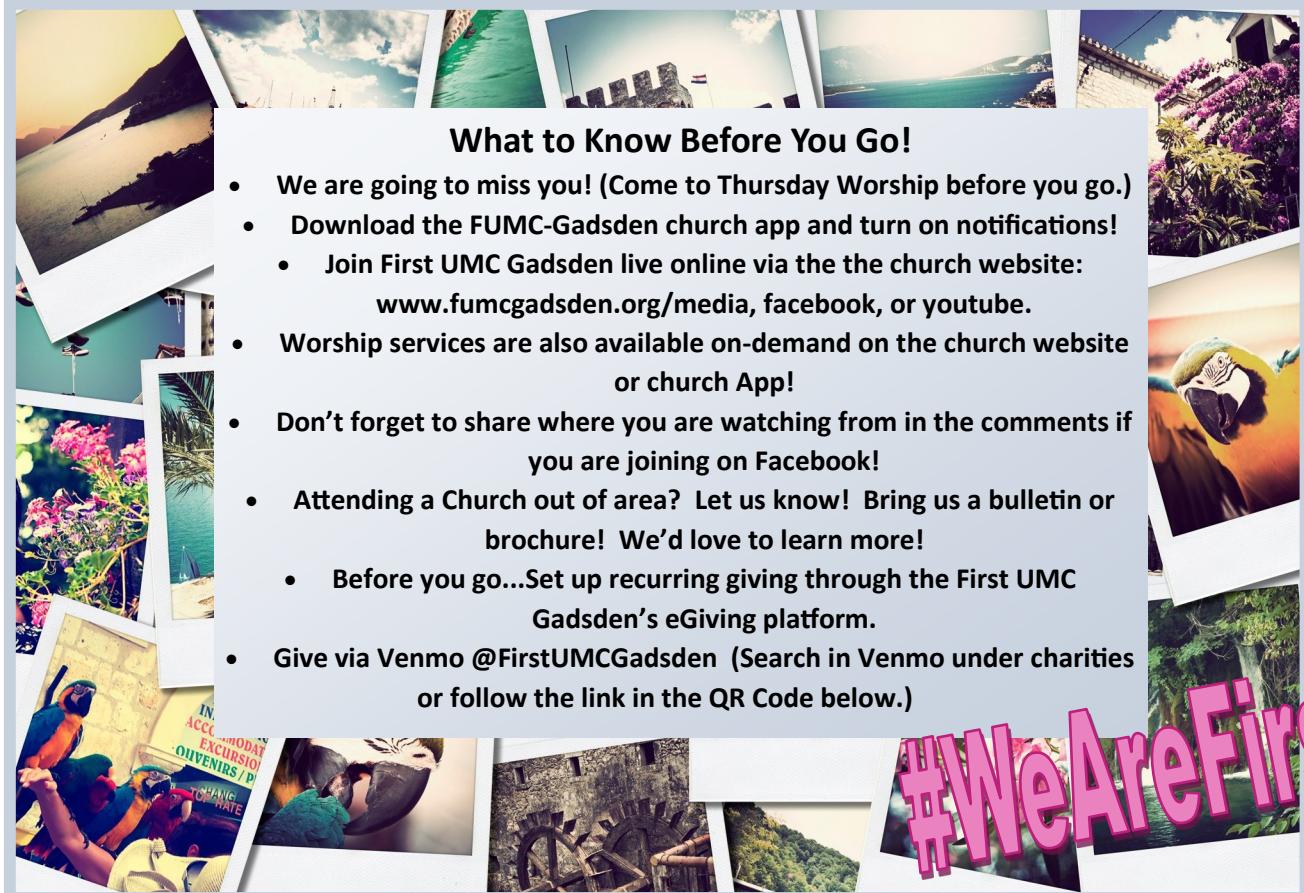


**#wearefirst**  
**First UMC Gadsden**  
**Hot/Cold Tumblers**  
**\$10**  
**Available in the**  
**Chestnut Lobby.**



**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](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:

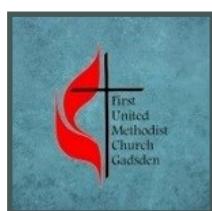
**@FirstUMCGadsden**

(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

June 2 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  
 12:00 pm VBS Workday following Worship

June 3 Monday  
 9:00 am to 11:30 am Knights of Northcastle VBS

June 4 Tuesday  
 9:00 am to 11:30 am Knights of Northcastle VBS  
 9:00 am-11:00 am-Clothes Closet workday  
 5:00 pm-6:00 pm Yoga, Gym

#WeAreFirst



*Holy Baptism*  
*Jane Catherine Sohor*  
*May 26, 2024*



#### Immediate Prayer Concerns

Louie Loveman  
 Chris Gunnels (Gail McNair's nephew)

#### Continued Prayer Concerns

Judy Collins (Tripp Collins mother)  
 Leigh Carroll John Floyd  
 Eileen Graham Martha Bullock Marian Ford  
 Amy Epperson Brent Styles Asher Mae Collins  
 Johnny Gunnels (Gail McNair's brother)



## Calendar for June 2-June 8, 2024

June 5 Wednesday  
 9:00 am to 11:30 am Knights of Northcastle VBS  
 9:00 am-11:00 am-Clothes Closet open  
 6:00 pm Choir Practice, Choir Room

June 6 Thursday  
 9:00 am to 11:30 am Knights of Northcastle VBS  
 9:00 am-10:00 am Exercise Group, Gym  
 5:30 pm Thursday Worship Sanctuary

June 7 Friday  
 11:00 am-12:00 pm Ladle of Love

### Mark Your Calendars

#### June Sermon Series

#WeAreFirst

*Thursdays and Sundays*

*May 30 through June 23*

VBS June 3-6

Knights of North Castle

See page 4

June 9

VBS Kids Sing in Worship



Do you have a college  
 graduate in your  
 family this year?

First UMC Gadsden would like to  
 recognize our college graduates! Please  
 submit their full name, degree/program,  
 and college name to the church office @  
 susan@fumcgadsden.org Thank you!

#### Birthdays

**June 1** Clete McGwier, Carter Thornburg  
**June 2** Rebecca Horst, Carter Rains,  
 Bailey Womack, Carter Womack  
**June 3** Dick McCoy, Greg Griffin,  
 Jace Frickey, Amelia Hedgpeth  
**June 4** Mary Cowart, Tyler Roberts,  
 Jack Kennedy  
**June 5** Blaise Jarecki, Wells Ford  
**June 6** Sally Page  
**June 7** Danny Long, Valerie Johnson,  
 Jay Hedgpeth, Alley Mc Sizemore  
**June 8** Mark Whitt, Charles Trotter  
*Please update your family's record in the  
 church office to include all dates of birth.  
 Thank you!*  
*—Susan Swann*

#### Week of May 26, 2024

In Person Total-*156	Worship Total-911
Online-755	Thursday Worship-*8
Celebration Service-*38/376	
Traditional Service-*110/379	
Sunday School Adult-*31	Children *7 Youth *0
Nursery *2	Bible Study Groups-*4
Wed/Sun-Children*13	Wed/Sun-Youth *0
*in person	

General Offering Budget \$11,400.00  
 General Offering Received \$12,325.00  
 YTD General Offering Budget \$239,400.00  
 YTD General Offering Rec'd \$274,448.00

#### 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*