

#WeAreFirst

"We are Rooted"

Rev. Sherri Reynolds



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

**Sermon Notes: Thursday, June 29 & Sunday, June 23, 2024**

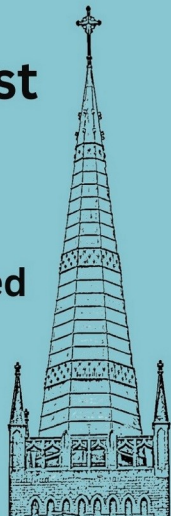
Last year, I visited Epworth by The Sea on Saint Simon's Island, Georgia. While I was there, I explored the massive oaks which adorn the property, many hundreds of years old and draped with Spanish Moss. I stood in awe of these massive trees, considering the history which occurred in their lifetimes. Were they seedlings when John Wesley made his missionary journey to the region? What occurred under their branches during the Revolutionary War or Civil War? What did the trees witness as generations of campers and conference goers rested in their shadows? Then my mind went to the storms which they endured. To have grown that big they had to have endured drought, floods, storms, and tremendous hurricanes. Yet the trees stand strong. It is likely that they stand strong and endure because of their root system. The root system holds them in place through all seasons, and because of the root system they can grow strong. I believe that we as a congregation can say the same.

Paul writes in Colossians that we are to be rooted and built up in Christ, established in faith (Colossians 2:6-15). We are a congregation deeply rooted in Christ and out of that deep connection we are also "rooted" in tradition, liturgy, and Wesleyan theology. This is not an attachment to the past which keeps us stuck or looking back, but a firm foundation which anchors us so that we can grow in Christ. During my first year of service at the church, I have come to appreciate just how deep those roots go and what a beautiful strength they are for this congregation.

#WeAreFirst  
Rev. Sherri

#wearefirst

- Diverse
- Investing
- Empowered
- Rooted



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



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

**ACOLYTES**

June 23: Rhett and Clementine Hilburn

June 30: Marit Norris

**Tech Team Schedule**

June 23

**Celebration:** Eric Wright, Bill Haller, Carmen McKiven**Traditions:** Mark Condra, Wayne Payton, Brad Barnes

June 30

**Celebration:** Eric Wright, Brad Barnes**Traditions:** Wayne Payton, 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.

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

Summer session is well underway. We are having a great time exploring summer themes such as picnics, ocean life, gardening and bugs. Our summer will come to a close July 24<sup>th</sup>.

—Helene



## Youth Ministry News



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

**#WeAreFirst**

## 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 CHILDREN'S Summer calendar 2024**

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

**Let's go swimming**  
Wednesday, June 26  
101 Wilson Drive

**GIFT TO**  
July 22-July 25  
**GADSDEN**

**End of Summer MOVIE NIGHT**  
Wednesday, July 31 @5

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

**VBS JUNE 3-JUNE 6**  
Ephesians 6:10

**Kindness MATTERS**

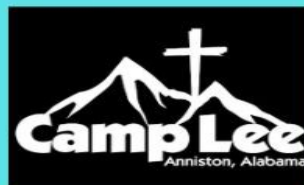
## GFUMC Confirmation Summer Events



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

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

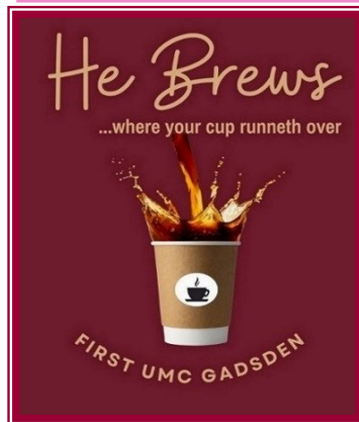
*Please join us on Sunday, June 23 @ HeBrews*

*for a*

*"Wedding Sprinkle"*

*& help shower Kaelyn & Graham*



*with Cards or Gift Cards.*




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!!!*


**#WeAreFirst**



# **Mondays 2-4 pm**



# **Pickleball**



## **COME AND PLAY!**

**SPORTS / FRIENDS / MONDAYS @ FIRST**

First UMC Gym | 115 S. 5th Street  
2nd Floor | Gadsden, AL 35901

**ENTER AT THE CHESTNUT ST FOYER OFFICE DOOR**  
First United Methodist Church of Gadsden



## Mission Focus

### First UMC Gadsden Clothes Closet

*"Providing Gently Used Clothing to Our Community"*



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 Delivered! Thank you to all who supported this First UMC Mission Project for the NAC Disaster Relief Warehouse!



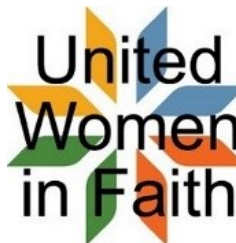
### United Women in Faith

Our next Summer Supper will be on Tuesday, July 16, at the home of Jill Vincent at 5:30 pm with sub sandwiches. Her address is 2104 Harbor Lane, Southside, AL 35907. 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

**July open dates are**

**7/3 and 7/17**

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](https://twitter.com/gfumcreconnect2023)

### Clients Served May 2024

Ladle of Love	484
Clothes Closet	259

Thanks to our  
Volunteers!



## *Gift to Gadsden*

First United Methodist Church of Gadsden  
Members Sharing Their Gifts & Talents

### **Free Workshops & Introductory Classes**

Monday through Thursday, July 22 to July 25

Session 1: 6:15 pm to 7:15 pm

Break: 7:15 pm to 7:30 pm

Session 2: 7:45 pm to 9:00 pm

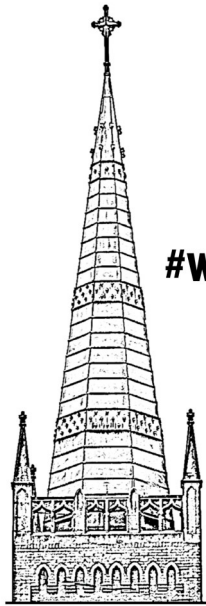
A variety of classes will be offered this year including Beginning Mahjong, Beginning Pickleball, Beginning Yoga, Cake Decorating, Calligraphy, Casual Cooking, Coping with Grief, Crafts with Kids, Crochet & Knitting, Flower Arranging, How to Get into the Movies or Modeling, iPhone Basics, Investment and Finance, Medicare & You: Your Choices, Olive Oil Benefits, Positive Parenting, Recycling Electronics & More, Redesigning Jewelry, Roleplaying Games, Southern Herbal Remedies, Wills & POA & Advance Directives, and more!

*Watch for the complete schedule in next week's news!*

Pick up **flyers** in the church office to share throughout our community!

*Registration for classes will open on July 1, 2024.*

## Sermon Series for June: #wearefirst



#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 celebrating 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

Pick up a #WeAreFirst Yard Sign this Sunday, in the Chestnut Street Foyer to display in your yard, all summer long as we continue to celebrate and share our church and its mission in our communities! (Yard signs are free!)

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

T-Shirt Order Form



**#WeAreFirst T-Shirts** are available in the Chestnut Foyer for \$15. Sizes available are XS, S, 2XL, 3XL, and 4XL and you can pick your t-shirt up this week. Additional, M, L and XL t-shirts have been ordered and will be here soon!

If you would like a size that is not available, please contact Sheila Freeman this week. 256-490-5018 to be sure to reserve a t-shirt.

**#WeAreFirst Stickers and Tumblers** are also still available in the Chestnut Foyer.



#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 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 June 23-June 29, 2024

### June 23 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 24 Monday

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

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

### June 25 Tuesday

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

**5:00 pm-6:00 pm-Yoga, Gym**

**5:00 pm-Finance Team Meeting, Parlor**

**6:00 pm-Board of Stewards Meeting, Gathering Rm.**

### June 26 Wednesday

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

**6:00 pm-Choir Practice, Choir Room**

### June 27 Thursday

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

**5:30 pm Thursday Worship, Sanctuary**

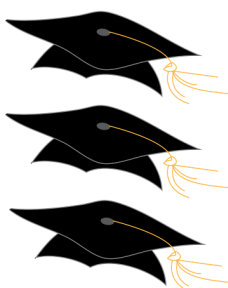
### June 28 Friday

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

**#WeAreFirst**



## **Congratulation to our College Graduates! We are proud of You!**



**Hunter Lowe**, JSU, Bachelor of Science, Social Work. Hunter graduate Cum Laude and with Special Honors in his major.

**Todd McKiven**, GSCC, LPN Nursing Degree. Todd will be working at Encompass and will be pursuing his RN Degree.

**Linton Roberts**, Yale, Bachelor of Science, Economics. Linton will be working in Houston, Texas for the Musket Corporation on the Crude Oil Desk, trading crude oil and performing risk reports.

## **Honorariums & Memorials**

### General Budget Fund

In memory of George Varner, given by Betty Torbert, John Varner, Molly Elrod, and Thomas Varner.

### Landscape Fund

In memory of Gordon R. Isbell, Jr. and James Condra on Father's Day, given by Dr. Gordon Isbell, III and Cindy Isbell.

In honor of Dr. Ross Isbell, IV and Mark Condra on Father's Day, given by Dr. Gordon Isbell, III and Cindy Isbell.



***Holy Baptism  
Carson Joy Thorpe  
June 16, 2024***

### **Birthdays**

**June 23** Meg Fleeman, Eric Wright, Joe Pritchard, Leland Ware Trotter

**June 25** Carolyn Howren, Sophia Hornik, Wells Isbell

**June 26** Peggy Casey, Raymond Lane, Cortland Phillips, Taylor Smith

**June 27** Ciara Caldwell, John Freeman

**June 28** Albert Gibson, Carol Pruett, Grace Walton

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

### **Week of June 16, 2024**

In Person Total-\*182      Worship Total-460  
Online-278      Thursday Worship-\*11

Celebration Service-\*62/124

Traditional Service-\*109/154

Sunday School Adult-\*30      Children \*6      Youth \*0

Nursery \*2      Bible Study Groups-\*5

Wed/Sun-Children\*27      Wed/Sun-Youth \*0  
\*in person

General Offering Budget      \$11,400.00

General Offering Received \$11,203.00

YTD General Offering Budget \$273,600.00

YTD General Offering Rec'd \$317,858.00

### Immediate Prayer

#### Concerns

Albert Gibson, Jr.      Greg Roberts  
Patsy Blankenship      John Floyd

### Continued Prayer

#### Concerns

Judy Collins (Tripp Collins mother)  
Amy Epperson      Louie Loveman

