

# How Will You Celebrate?

Rev. Sherri Reynolds

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

**Sermon Notes: Sunday, June 30, 2024**

How will you celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> of July? Many of you will travel. Some of you will BBQ, watch fireworks, eat melon, or spend time in the water. Some will mark the birth of our nation with a patriotic observance or with family tradition. Let me suggest another way to celebrate: Thanksgiving. We may not think of Thanksgiving on the 4th of July, but just listen to my case. Paul writes in 1 Thessalonians 5:18 and reminds us to give thanks in all circumstances. We may typically think of Paul's advice to give thanks in situations applying to when we may not feel like giving thanks, but I think this could be applied to holidays as well. Giving thanks in all circumstances could mean spending time in gratitude during all your days, including holidays. Let a little gratitude be sprinkled in your July 4<sup>th</sup> fun. After all Paul does write that giving thanks in all circumstances is God's will for us (1 Thessalonians 5:12-28).

So, count your blessings this July 4<sup>th</sup>. Thanksgiving not only has its place in November, but in everything, especially Independence Day. See how many reasons to give thanks that you can come up with this Thursday, and you just might find an abundance of blessings in freedom and celebration.

In gratitude,  
Rev. Sherri

**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** –Wedding Sprinkle for Kaelyn & Graham; HeBrews, Thursday Worship Social, Pickleball
- Page 6**-GFUMC Missions News; Clothes Closet; Ladle of Love; United Women in Faith
- Page 7**– Patriotic Music in Traditions, June 30; Gift to Gadsden, July 22-25
- 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**

No Thursday Worship on July 4

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

Traditions 11 am\*

\*In Person (Sanctuary) and Online

[www.fumcgadsden.org/media](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/media)**ACOLYTES**

June 30: Marit Norris

July 7: Volunteer

**Tech Team Schedule**

June 30

Celebration: Eric Wright, Brad Barnes

Traditions: Wayne Payton, Neil Mullin, Brad Barnes

July 7

Celebration: Eric Wright, Sheila Freeman

Traditions: Wayne Payton, Sheila Freeman



*In Praise and Thanksgiving*

**Patriotic Music**  
presented by  
**Chancel Choir & Musicians**

**11:00 am Traditions Worship**  
**Sunday, June 30**

**Thursday Worship will  
not meet on July 4.**

## 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

# 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](mailto: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.



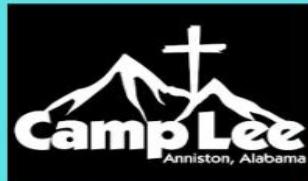
## GFUMC Confirmation Summer Events



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

## GEORGE & LORI VARNER



Lori grew up in New Orleans and received a B.A. in Psychology from Louisiana State University (LSU). She works as an Administrative Assistant to the Dean of Finance at Gadsden State. Members of our church for 26 years, both she and George have served on our Board of Trustees and Board of Stewards. Lori has also served on the Staff-Parish Relations Committee and is a member of the LuVerna Waid Circle and United Women of Faith. She is active in both the Living Waters and Pathfinders/Seekers Sunday School classes. George, who passed away in December 2023 after a five-year health struggle, was a Sunday School teacher in previous years for Seekers and most recently, for the Living Waters class. He grew up in Tuskegee, AL, and graduated from Auburn with a B.S. degree in Building Construction, then worked in the area of

Hospital Facilities Management. George was a member of the United Methodist men's group, "Men at the Well" and was a devoted church volunteer. He loved fishing, hunting, spending time with family and friends, and doing just about anything outdoors. Lori and George have two children: Davis (38), a Gadsden attorney, and Collin (36), an IT Consultant in Denver, CO.

**Mondays**  
**2-4 pm**

**Pickleball**  
COME AND PLAY!  
SPORTS | FRIENDS | MONDAYS @ FIRST

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

**ENTER AT THE CHESTNUT ST FOYER OFFICE DOOR**

First United Methodist Church of Gadsden

#WeAreFirst

## Mission Focus



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



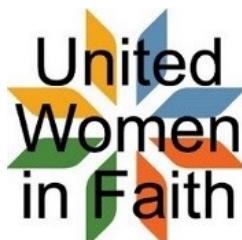
### United Women in Faith

Our next Summer Supper will be on Tuesday, July 16 at 5:30 pm at the home of Jill Vincent 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

**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 Pickleball, Beginning Yoga, Cake Decorating, Beginning 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!

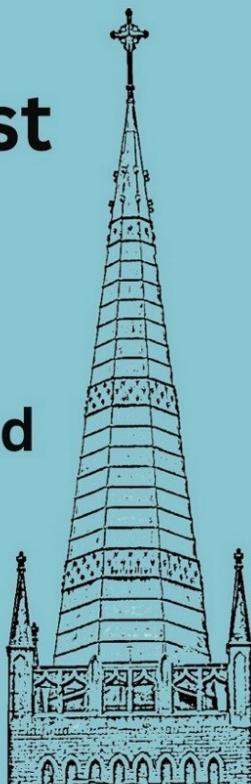
*Watch for the complete schedule in next week's news!*

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

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

# #wearefirst

- Diverse
- Investing
- Empowered
- Rooted



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



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

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

T-Shirt Order Form



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



**Stickers**  
**\$1**

**#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.

# 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:

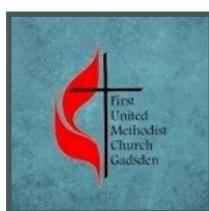
**@FirstUMCGadsden**

(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

## Calendar for June 30-July 6, 2024

### June 30 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

### July 1 Monday

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

### July 2 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

#WeAreFirst



### July 3 Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Summer Schedule  
 9:00 am-11:00 am-Clothes Closet open

**No Choir Practice**

### July 4 Thursday

Office Closed

**No Thursday Worship**

### July 5 Friday

Office Closed

**No Ladle of Love**

The ministers and congregation of First United Methodist Church of Gadsden extend Christian sympathy to Barbara Cook and her family, in the death of her husband, Bryan Sylvester Cook on June 22, 2024.



**The church will be closed on July 4th and 5th in observance of the 4th of July holiday. Thursday Worship will not meet on 7/4.**

### **Honorariums & Memorials**

#### **General Budget Fund**

In memory of Ruth Chandler, given by Diana Rampey.

#### **Ladle of Love**

In memory of Ruth Chandler, given by Mr. & Mrs. Mark Condra.

### **Immediate Prayer Concerns**

Phil Owen      Albert Gibson, Jr.      John Floyd

### **Continued Prayer Concerns**

Judy Collins (Tripp Collins mother)

Amy Epperson      Louie Loveman

### **Birthdays**

**July 1** Carma Rayburn,  
 Lauren Blackstock, Lilly Ostendorf,  
 Sarah Kate Brookshire  
**July 2** Susan McCord, Gene Dean,  
 Gavin Martin  
**July 3** Todd Rains, Jody Sizemore  
**July 4** Mitch Dupont, Joyce Culp,  
 Dr. Kim Whitt, Jackson Camp,  
 Natalie Blevins, Sadie Ann Smith  
**July 5** Rhonda Robinson, Clay Smith,  
 Emmanuel Vallejo  
**July 6** Dr. Ted Jones, Mark Echols,  
 Tate Sizemore

### **Week of June 23, 2024**

In Person Total-\*149      Worship Total-457

Online-457      Thursday Worship-\*10

Celebration Service-\*56/186

Traditional Service-\*83/271

Sunday School Adult-\*35      Children \*6      Youth \*1

Nursery \*1      Bible Study Groups-\*4      UWF \*20

Wed/Sun-Children\*13      Wed/Sun-Youth \*4  
 \*in person

General Offering Budget \$11,400.00

General Offering Received \$9,742.00

YTD General Offering Budget \$285,000.00

YTD General Offering Rec'd \$327,600.00

### **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**