

#WeAreFirst



"We are Investing"
Rev. Sherri Reynolds

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

Sermon Notes: Thursday, June 6 & Sunday, June 9, 2024

I grew up on a farm. My grandfather and my parents always had a garden. Every year they did the same time and went by the same routine for planting. However, every crop did not yield the same results. There were times when the garden did not produce enough to fill our table and there were seasons when our table overflowed and there was enough to share with neighbors. Every year they planted, despite the results of the year before, trusting that this year would be the bumper crop. Jesus said that our sharing about God's kingdom was like a farmer planting seed. There would be times when the kingdom would grow greatly and there would be times when the message would not produce growth. Despite the results, we are called to continue to plant (or invest), trusting God for the increase. (Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23)

During my first year at First United Methodist Church of Gadsden, I have come to appreciate that you are a generous congregation who invests your resources, time, prayers, service, and witness in this congregation. Through your generosity we are changing lives and creating a firm foundation to make disciples of Jesus for the transformation of the world. It is truly beautiful to see how you come together investing to be the church. #WeAreFirst

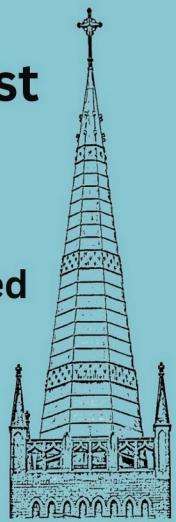
The next time you gather with your church family, I encourage you to notice the generosity evident in the Body of Christ. Give thanks to God for the opportunities of investment and look for new avenues to live into your membership vows.

#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

on Facebook Live: @FUMCgadsden

ACOLYTES

June 9: Brooks Bone

June 16: Sara Kate and Jake Thornburg

Tech Team Schedule

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 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.



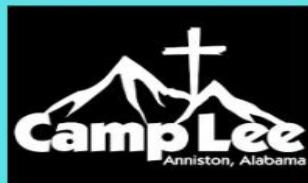
GFUMC Confirmation Summer Events



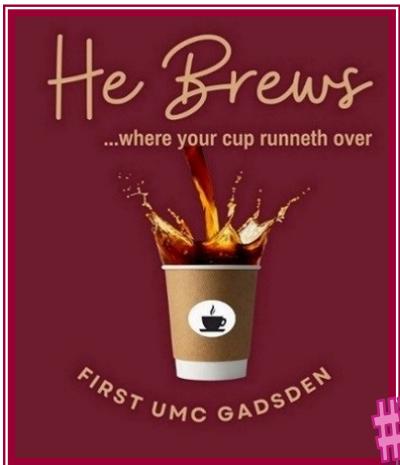
MAY 19 CONFIRMATION SUNDAY
JUNE 3-6 VBS
JUNE 14/21/28 SOUP KITCHEN
JULY 10 LESSON FROM TWEENS
JULY 14 LOCK-IN
JULY 12/19/26 SOUP KITCHEN
JULY 22-25 GIFT TO GADSDEN

#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 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.

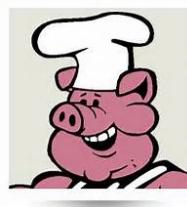
(*Orders not picked up will be donated to Ladle of Love.)



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 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

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!**

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

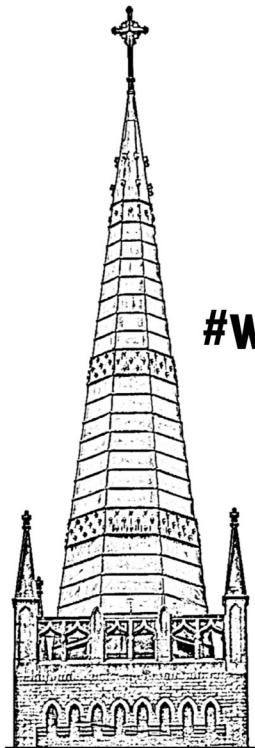
Bob grew up in Savannah, TN, and graduated from Hardin County Central High School. He then attended the University of Tennessee at Martin, where he received an undergraduate degree in Business Administration with an emphasis on Accounting. He became a controller for construction companies before starting 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, 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:

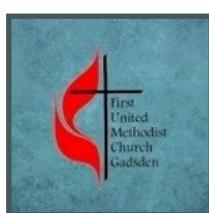
@FirstUMCGadsden

(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

June 9 Sunday
 9:00 am Celebration Worship, Sanctuary
 10:00 am Sunday School for all ages;
 HeBrews Coffee Chestnut Street Foyer
Clothes Closet Open House
11:00 am Traditions Worship, Sanctuary

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

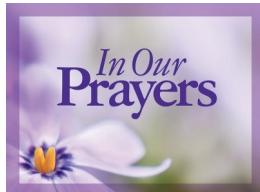
June 11 Tuesday
 9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Summer Schedule
 5:00 pm-6:00 pm Yoga, Gym

The flowers on the altar today are in memory of George Varner on his birthday, June 8 given by his loving family.

The flowers on the altar today are in honor of the baptism of Rhodes Logan Hill given by his grandparents, Lewis & Sandra Hill.

Immediate Prayer Concerns

The family of Chris Gunnels
 The family of Howard Malone
 Louie Loveman John Floyd



Continued Prayer Concerns

Judy Collins (Tripp Collins mother)
 Amy Epperson
 Johnny Gunnels (Gail McNair's brother)

Birthdays

June 9 Dr. Alejandro Hornik,
 Jud Burford, Patrick Watkins
June 10 Allison Casey
June 11 Tammy Hayes, Ruthie Hornik
June 12 Connor Jarecki
June 13 Dr. Gary Dial, Gail Spotnitz,
 Steve Roach
June 14 Kelly Page, Jackson Page
June 15 Janice Dreyer

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

Week of June 2, 2024

In Person Total-*138	Worship Total-787
Online-649	Thursday Worship-*6
Celebration Service-*54/330	
Traditional Service-*78/319	
Sunday School Adult-*42	Children *5
Nursery *1	Youth *2
Wed/Sun-Children*24	Wed/Sun-Youth *2
*in person	
General Offering Budget \$11,400.00	
General Offering Received \$14,704.00	
YTD General Offering Budget \$250,800.00	
YTD General Offering Rec'd \$290,152.00	



Calendar for June 9-June 15

June 12 Wednesday
 9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Summer Schedule
 6:00 pm Choir Practice, Choir Room

June 13 Thursday
 9:00 am-10:00 am Exercise Group, Gym
5:30 pm Thursday Worship Sanctuary

June 14 Friday
 11:00 am-12:00 pm Ladle of Love

Mark Your Calendars

June Sermon Series

#WeAreFirst

May 30 through June 23

June 9 VBS Kids Sing in Worship

10 am Clothes Closet Open House

June 2, 2024
Kodjoui Kamassa (Junior)



Honorariums & Memorials

General Budget Fund

**In memory of Ruth Chandler,
 given by Harriett &
 Keith Murray.**

**In memory of Ruth Chandler,
 Given by Louise Ferguson.**