

The Good News of a Good Shepherd

Rev. Sherri Reynolds

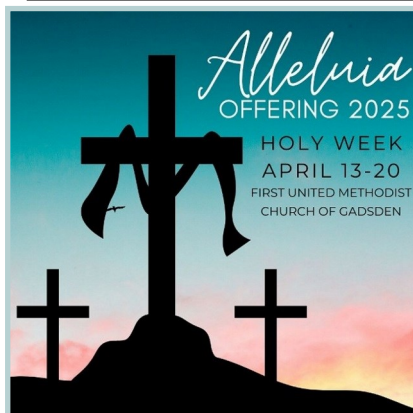
Changing Lives by Sharing Christ, Making Disciples, Serving and Giving Hope

Sermon Notes: Thursday, May 8 and Sunday, May 11

Do you have a favorite comfort food? This is a food that feeds our emotions when we are distressed. It may be a treat that does not make the foundation for a healthy diet but helps us feel much better. My comfort foods include ice cream (particularly Brown Cows), Boom Chicka Pop, and Reese Pieces. These can bring me joy on an otherwise joyless day. Do you have comfort clothes? This is a favorite sweatshirt, T-shirt or stretchy pants that make you feel relaxed no matter what your mood. The clothing becomes your “go to” when you need care on a bad day. Do you have a comfort scripture? This is a passage which gives you strength and solace when you need hope. It is likely a scripture which you have memorized and comes to mind easily as life gets hard. For many that would be the 23rd Psalm. This Psalm has brought comfort and peace to generations. It offers solace and promises that guide us even in the most difficult times.

If you find yourself needing comfort this week (especially as we approach Mother’s Day), rest in the 23rd Psalm. The Psalm is a promise that the Lord is our Good Shepherd who provides, protects and guides. In the Psalmist reflections, there is assurance for a weary soul and care when we may need it the most.

In the Name of the Good Shepherd,
Rev. Sherri



The Alleluia Offering is a special offering, received at Easter, to fund specific, special ministries within the church. It is a challenge to tithe your income during Holy Week, above and beyond your regular giving to the church. This year’s gifts will fund organ restoration, student ministry and media ministry. Gifts for the 2025 Alleluia Offering are still being received. Information and Alleluia Offering cards and envelopes are available in the

Chestnut St Foyer. See page 7 for the latest update on this year’s Alleluia Offering.

Table of Contents:

Page 1- Sermon Notes; Tech Schedule; Acolyte Schedule; Alleluia Offering
Page 2- Small Groups; Adult Studies for Sunday School Classes; Wonderful Wednesday
Page 3- ELC News; Student Ministries; Youth Calendar of Activities; Children’s Ministry
Page 4- GFUMC Missions News, Ladle of Love; United Women in Faith; UWF Boston Butt & Ham Sale for Missions
Page 5- HeBrews; Pickleball; Do You Know?
Page 6- Youth Breakfast Fundraiser; Road Trip VBS
Page 7 Alleluia Offering 2025; Ways to Give; Online Giving; Venmo
Page 8- Dates to Remember; Calendar; Prayer Concerns; Memorials; Birthdays; Weekly Reports

Worship Opportunities

Thursday: Worship, 5:30 pm

**Sunday Morning: Celebration, 9 am
Traditions, 11 am**

*In-Person and Livestream or On Demand
www.fumcgadsden.org/media

ACOLYTES

May 11: Anna Kate Casey and Jade Collins
 May 18: Luke Barnes

Tech Team Schedule

May 11
Celebration: Bill Haller, Rob Reynolds
Traditions: Mark Condra, Neil Mullin, Brad Barnes
May 18
Celebration: Sheila Freeman, Bill Haller, Brad Barnes
Traditions: Davis Varner, Wayne Payton, Sheila Freeman



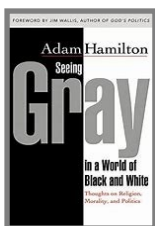
Save the Date: Gift to Gadsden 2025 July 28-31

Wonderful Wednesday will resume in August!

Wednesday Morning Bible Study @ 11 am will resume in August

Adult Small Groups @ Wonderful Wednesdays, 6 pm will resume in August!

Sunday School: New Adult Series

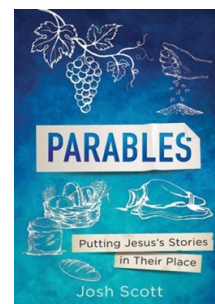


Transitions 10 am, Room 209

This study encourages thinking persons of faith to model for the rest of the country a richer, more thoughtful conversation on the political, moral, and religious issues that divide us. Hamilton rejects the easy assumptions and sloppy analysis of black and white thinking, seeking instead the truth that resides on all sides of the issues, and offering a faithful and compassionate way forward.

Pathfinders/Seekers 10 am, Room 208

Parables by Josh Scott. When Jesus taught in parables, he was doing more than telling simple morality tales. His stories were grounded in the world in which he lived and his vision of the Kingdom of God. This book explores six parables that give us a window into Jesus's message and movement, and, once they are heard in their own context, ask what they might mean for us today. Parables include: the New Wine and Wineskins, the Mustard Seed, the Leaven, the Wedding Party, the Workers in the Vineyard, and the Wicked Tenants.



Living Water 10 am, Room 116

The Living Water Class is doing a unique study for the next several weeks. We are looking at events, teachings, miracles, parables found in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Since these three gospels are very similar in many incidences special books have been written that compare these similar stories. So you may have a story in one, or two or all three Gospels. We are examining these events to see what we can learn from them.

“Men at the Well” Thursday Mornings, 7:00 am

You are invited to join the weekly Bible study with the “Men at the Well” at the 278 Restaurant.

Contact Todd Rains, Mark Condra, Mark Casey, or any of the Men at the Well for more information.

ELC NEWS



Thank you to everyone who supported the roses sale. This year's gross proceeds totaled: \$5,870. What a true blessing this congregation is to support this program. We had a great time at Donuts for Divas. This Thursday, May 15th is our End of Year Programs and Parties as well as 4K graduation and family reception. Program starts at 9:30 in the sanctuary.

—Helene Haller



Youth Group

Summer Schedule

Room 211

Sunday School

10 am, Room 211

Breakfast

Fundraiser

to support the Youth Summer Trip to the Ark. Breakfast items will be for sale in the Chestnut Foyer.

10 am to 11 am

May 11 & June 1

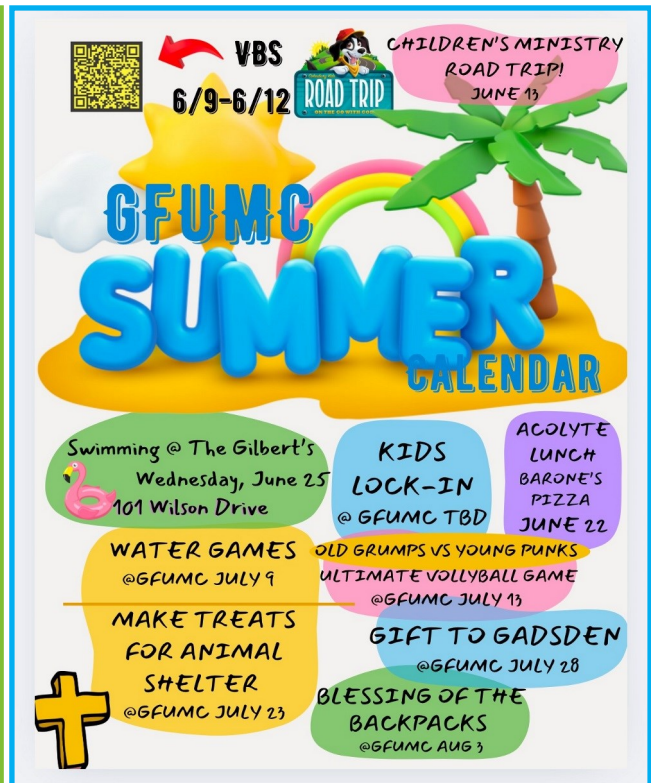
Wonderful Wednesday will resume in August!

Children's Ministry

Wonderful Wednesday Children's Small Groups and Activities will resume in August

Watch for all the Summer Activities and Special Events!

Sunday Mornings: Children's Church during worship, Sunday school @ 10 am



May Mission Focus



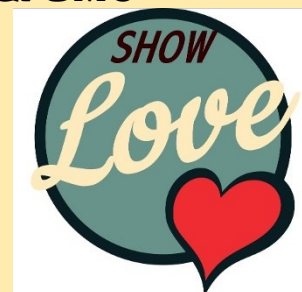
W. E. Striplin Elementary –Our Adopted School

On Monday, May 5, First UMC Gadsden Mission Team hosted the annual Teacher and Staff Appreciation Luncheon with box lunches from Chicken Salad Chick for Teachers, Staff and Administrators at Striplin Elementary School! In addition, Teacher of the Month and Teacher of the Year certificates and gift cards were awarded.

—The Mission Team



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

5/7 and 5/21

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:

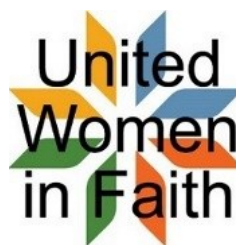
fumc@fumcgadsden.org

#gfumcreconnect2024

United Women in Faith

UWF May Luncheon Monday, May 12 at noon. Guest speaker is Leah Sanderson, Director of the Well House which provides a safe place for women to escape human trafficking. Please call or text your reservation for lunch to Delores Abney at 256-458-0376.

UWF Boston Butt and Ham Sale: Orders must be completed and paid for by June 1. Pickup date at First UMC Gadsden is June 11. To order online go to www.fumcgadsden.org/women or complete an order form in the Chestnut Foyer. Checks should be made payable to UWF (United Women in Faith).

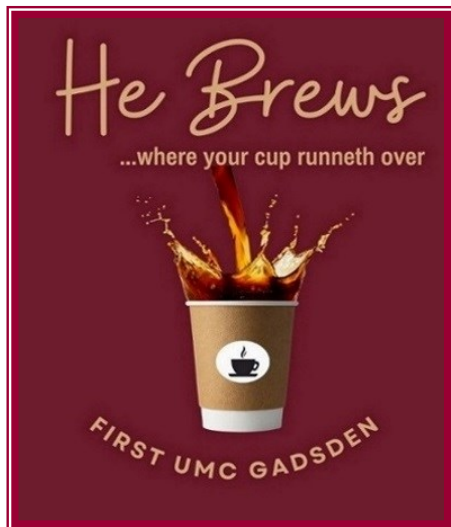


Ladle of Love Clothes Closet

March

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| LOL | 400 |
| Clothes Closet | 326 |

Thanks to our Volunteers!



Follow us on
Facebook and Instagram.



HeBrews Coffee Café 10 am, Chestnut Street Foyer
We Can't Wait to See You There!



Do You Know?



Deanna grew up in Gadsden and graduated from Litchfield High School. She then attended Jacksonville State University, where she received a Bachelor's degree in Education. She continued her studies at the University of Alabama, receiving a Master's degree in Secondary Education with an emphasis in Biology. She is now retired after 25 years of teaching Science at General Forrest Middle School. Now Deanna enjoys a part-time job of daytime pet sitting. She'll feed and walk animals or just check on them during the day—whatever the client would like. Her main hobby is Pickleball. She also enjoys working at our church's Clothes Closet, which is open the first and third Wednesday of each month. Deanna joined our church in March 2025, and we are delighted to have her!



HELP US GET TO THE ARK!

JOIN US FOR BREAKFAST!

The youth will be providing biscuits, sausage, and breakfast goodies to raise money for our trip to The Ark Encounter in June. We will be in the Chestnut St. foyer!

MAY 11, 2025 10 A.M.- 11 A.M.

JUNE 1, 2025 10 A.M. - 11 A.M.

For any questions, reach out to
Becca Echols.
256-295-6176



The
LORD your
God is with you
**wherever
you go.**

Joshua
1:9

Cokesbury Kids

ROAD TRIP

ON THE GO WITH GOD

First United Methodist
Church of Gadsden
June 9-June 12
ages 3k-5th

Register **HERE**



for VBS

Road Trip: On The Road With God!

GFUMC VBS 2025

This past Easter, we invited you to tithe the week of Holy Week, above and beyond your general fund offering. I am pleased to share that you responded with deep generosity. As of the writing of this letter, approximately \$28,000 has been given as part of the 2025 Alleluia Offering. Thank you for your ongoing generosity and support. Your giving has enabled us to fund ongoing organ maintenance, activities for our students this summer, and new media ministries.

As always, I am overwhelmed by the level of generosity within the congregation. What you are doing through First United Methodist Church of Gadsden is changing lives in the name of Jesus.

Thanks be to God!

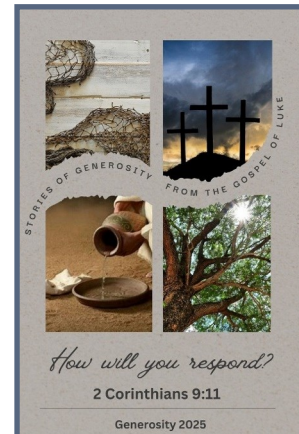
Rev. Sherri Reynolds
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Generosity 2025 “How will you Respond?”

You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us
2 Corinthians 9:11

The 2025 “Estimate of Giving” Card can be filled out at any time during the year online @ www.fumcgadsden.org/give



First UMC Gadsden
is a registered charity and can receive donations through Venmo:

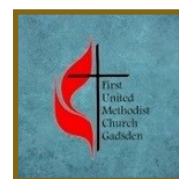
@FirstUMCGadsden

(Please search in Venmo under charities or follow the link in the QR Code.)



venmo

Download our Church App
Search First UMC-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

First UMC Gadsden May 11-May 17, 2025



May 11, Sunday

9:00 am-Celebration Worship, Sanctuary
10:00 am- HeBrews Coffee
11:00 am-Traditions Worship, Sanctuary

May 12, Monday

9:00 am-1:00 pm- ELC
9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym
12:00 pm-UWF Luncheon, Gathering Room
2:00 to 4:00 pm- Pickleball, Gym

May 13, Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC; 5:00 pm-Yoga, Gym

May 14, Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC
6:00 pm-Choir Practice

May 15, Thursday

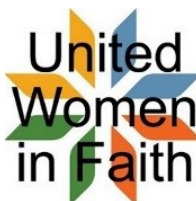
9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym
9:30 am-ELC 4K Graduation and reception;
ELC End of Year Parties
5:30 pm-Thursday Worship service

May 16, Friday

11:00 am-12:00 pm- Ladle of Love
12:00 pm-Office closed

UWF Boston Butt and Ham Sale:

Orders must be completed and paid for by June 1. Pickup date at First UMC Gadsden is June 11. To order online go to www.fumcgadsden.org/women or complete an order form in the Chestnut Foyer. Checks should be made payable to UWF (United Women in Faith) and left in the church office.



Rise and Shine Fundraiser!

Grab some breakfast/snack items at the Youth Fundraiser in the Chestnut Foyer @ 10 AM, 5/11 & 6/1! All monies raised support the Youth Summer Trip to the Ark!



Save the Dates:

Monday-Thursday, June 9-12, 9 am to 11:30 am-Road Trip VBS
Monday-Thursday, July 28-31 -Gift to Gadsden
We can't wait to see you there!

The ministers and congregation of First United Methodist Church of Gadsden extend Christian sympathy to Laura Condra in the death of her sister, Julia "Kate" Catherine Houston Condra
April 30, 2025



The rose on the altar is in honor of the birth of



Wilder Mae Smith
April 29, 2025

Parents: Brett & Alissa
Siblings: Oscar & Tyler
Given by GFUMC Children's Ministry & Early Learning Center

The rose on the altar is in honor of the birth of



Clifford "Ford" Maddox Shadix
May 5, 2025

Parents: David & Mary Lynn
Siblings: Ann Caroline, Thomas & George
Given by GFUMC Children's Ministry & Early Learning Center

WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS

Becky Walker

Birthdays

May 6 Betty Chamboredon
May 11 Anita Waid
May 12 George Hightower, Jeanne Clare Leach
May 13 Dr. Bill Haller, Jr., Paul DeJong, Connor Rice
May 14 Lynne Frederick, Alta Whitfield, Greyson Robinson
May 15 Ann Martin, Cathy Freeman, Matthew Skelton, Margaret Walton
May 16 Bonnie Yarnell
May 17 Asher English



Attendance Week of May 4, 2025

In Person Total-*144 On Line Total-303
Worship Total-447
Celebration *56/130 Traditions *82/173
Adult Sunday School *42 Children SS *3
Middle School & Senior Hi SS *2 UWF *8
Bible Study Groups *30 Children Wed/Sun *23
Middle & Sen Hi Wed/Sun *10
Nursery Wed/Sun *8 Senior Hi Brunch *16

Year 2025 Week of May 4, 2025

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| General Offering Budget | \$12,400.00 |
| General Offering Received | 19,568.00 |
| YTD Gen. Offering Budget | 223,200.00 |
| YTD Gen. Offering Rec'd | 237,541.00 |

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Gary Atkins Mary Tom Hale
Trish Harrell
Grayson Phillips (Parents Leigh Carroll & Dathan Phillips)
Emily Carroll (Adam Carroll's wife)

Continued Prayer Concerns

Dottie Rogers Martha Bullock
Amy Epperson
Bob Walden
(Olivia Kendrick's father)