

# *A Letter to the Graduates*

## **A MESSAGE FOR US ALL**

Rev. Sherri Reynolds

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

### **Sermon Notes: Thursday, May 1 and Sunday, May 4**

If you could write a letter to yourself upon your high school graduation, what would you say? Would you give yourself advice and tell yourself not to sweat the small stuff? Would you tell you what the next years will bring? Would you remind you to give yourself a little bit more grace, just as Jesus gives us grace?

After all, Jesus' ministry was all about grace. From those who showed up at his birth until he breathed his last breath on the cross, Jesus' ministry was gracious. One example of grace was his exchange with Peter after the Resurrection. Although Peter denied him, even after he said that he would not, Jesus invited Peter to continue the ministry which he had begun. In this exchange we see forgiveness and empowerment despite Peter's failure. (John 21:1-19).

We all need to be reminded of God's grace and to give ourselves grace from time to time. We needed that reminder at age 18 and we still do today.

In Service of a Grace-filled Savior,  
Rev. Sherri



Chestnut St Foyer. Contact the church office for assistance.

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

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

### **ACOLYTES**

May 4: Sylvia Harbin and Sarah Echols  
May 11: Anna Kate Casey and Jade Collins

### **Tech Team Schedule**

**May 4**

**Celebration:** Sheila Freeman, Rob Reynolds

**Traditions:** Mark Condra, Neil Mullin, Sheila Freeman

**May 11**

**Celebration:** Bill Haller, Rob Reynolds

**Traditions:** Davis Varner, Neil Mullin, Brad Barnes



## Save the Date: Gift to Gadsden 2025

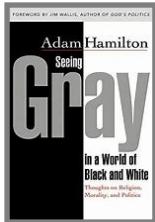
**Join us at the church picnic on May 7, 2025.**

**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

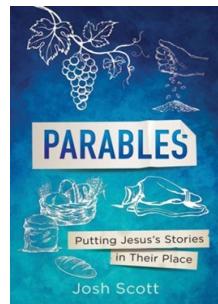


### Transitions 10 am, Room 209

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

All flower orders are due this Sunday



May 4<sup>th</sup>. See flyer for additional details. Thank you to Brittany Megois and all our ELC families for a fabulous teacher appreciation breakfast. Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup> is our annual Donuts for Divas celebration. We look forward to seeing our moms, aunts and grandmoms. Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup> 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

Wednesdays at 6 pm  
Room 211  
Sunday School  
10 am, Room 211

## Senior High Graduation Recognition Sunday

May 4  
Brunch @ 10 am

Join us at the  
Annual Church Picnic  
Wednesday, May 7  
5 pm

Breakfast Fundraiser  
Chestnut Foyer  
10 am to 11 am  
May 11 & June 1

**Join us at the church picnic on May 7, 2025.**

**Wonderful Wednesday will resume in August!**

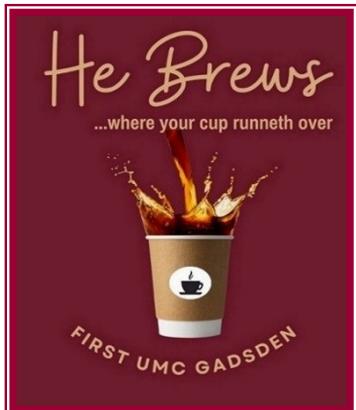
# Children's Ministry

Wonderful Wednesday Children's Small Groups and Activities, Wednesdays at 6 pm

(Don't forget dinner is at 5:15 pm in the Gathering Room)

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





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



A teal poster with a colorful geometric border. The text "HELP US GET TO THE ARK!" is in white. Below it, "JOIN US FOR BREAKFAST!" is in yellow. The text "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!" is in white. Below that, "MAY 11, 2025 10 A.M.- 11 A.M." and "JUNE 1, 2025 10 A.M. - 11 A.M." are in white. At the bottom, "For any questions, reach out to Becca Echols. 256-295-6176" is in white. To the right is a drawing of biscuits.

### Weekly Newsletter

Subscribe to the weekly newsletter by submitting your email to the church secretary, Susan Swann: [susan@fumcgadsden.org](mailto:susan@fumcgadsden.org)

You will receive the weekly newsletter by email on Friday mornings.

The Newsletter is also available in the GFUMC Church App and on the Church Website.

A green poster for "ROAD TRIP ON THE GO WITH GOD" VBS. It features a cartoon dog and a sign that says "The LORD your God is with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9". The text "First United Methodist Church of Gadsden June 9-June 12 ages 3k-5th" is in white. Below it, "Register HERE" and a QR code are in white. At the bottom, "Road Trip: On The Road With God! GFUMC VBS 2025" is in white.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram.



# May Mission Focus

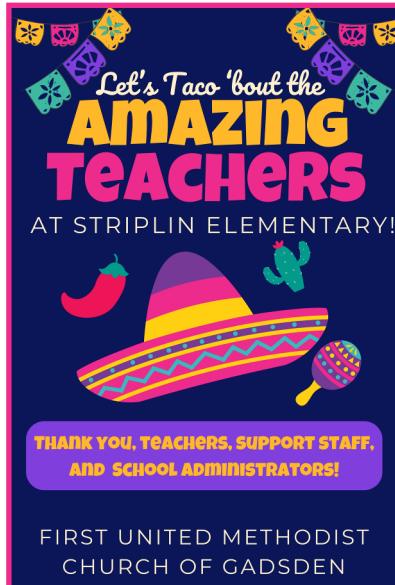
## W. E. Striplin Elementary –Our Adopted School



This week, First UMC Gadsden hosted the A/B Honor Roll party with special entertainment by the Drumline from Gadsden Middle School! Students were treated to cookies and juice boxes and awarded a special bookmark and sticker!



On Monday, May 5, First UMC Gadsden Mission Team will host 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 will also be awarded.



## United Women in Faith

**"Refresh and Retreat"** is May 3 beginning at 10:00 am at Camp Sumatanga sponsored by North Alabama Conference. If you haven't registered, you still may attend.

**LuVerna Waid Circle** will meet Tuesday, May 6 at 6:00 pm, at the Baja California Cantina & Grill in place of our May salad supper. Please come and bring a friend.

**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](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/women) or complete an order form in the Chestnut Foyer. Checks should be made payable to UWF (United Women in Faith).

**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](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/serve)  
Phone: 256-543-8200  
Email: [fumc@fumcgadsden.org](mailto:fumc@fumcgadsden.org)

#gfumcreconnect2024



SARA RABUN JOHNSON  
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

## Mother's Day Roses Sale

With your donation of \$20 or more, a rose will be placed on the altar on Mother's Day, in honor or in memory of your loved one. All donations provide direct support for ELC families whose children would not otherwise be able to afford the program.

MAKE YOUR DONATION PAYABLE TO GFUMC AND MARK IT "SRJ SCHOLARSHIP FUND". ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY SUNDAY, MAY 4.

ADDITIONAL DONATIONS TO THE FUND MAY BE GIVEN THROUGOUT THE YEAR.



 Save the Date

## Church Picnic @ the Kiwanis Pavilion Nocalula Falls

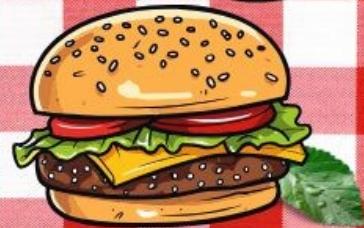


WEDNESDAY  
**7 MAY, 2025**



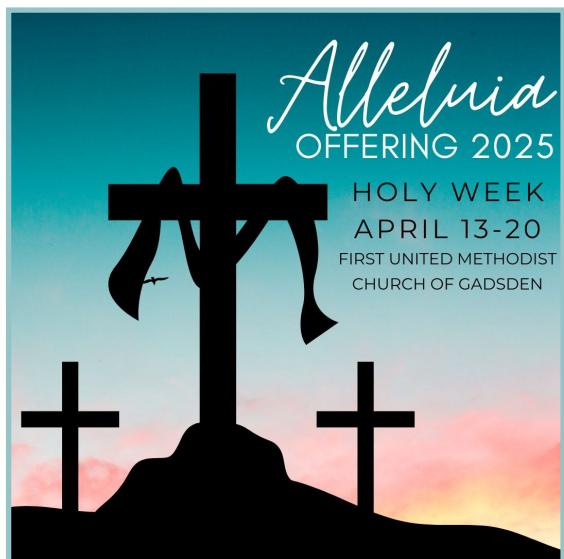
**5:00 PM**

**FIRST UMC GADSDEN**



Dogwood trees are blooming, and tulips are making their debut. Signs of spring are all around us, with Easter coming quickly. This means the 2025 Alleluia offering is soon approaching. 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. Contact the church office for assistance.

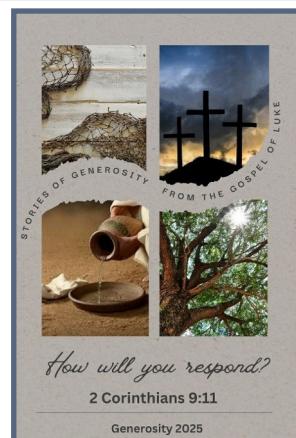
—Blessings, Rev. Sherri



## 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](http://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](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

# First UMC Gadsden May 4-May 10, 2025

## May 4, Sunday

### **9:00 am-Celebration Worship, Sanctuary**

10:00 am-Senior High Brunch, Gathering Room, Sunday  
School classes, all ages

10:00 am- HeBrews Coffee

### **11:00 am-Traditions Worship, Sanctuary**

## May 5, Monday

9:00 am-1:00 pm- ELC

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

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

## May 6, Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm- ELC

9:00 am-11:00 am-Clothes Closet workday

5:00 pm-Yoga, Gym

**Watch for exciting news about group messaging and communications within the First UMC-Gadsden**

**Church App Available in the App Store or Google Play Store for iPhone & Android. Download the App today.**



## **Save the Dates:**

**Wednesday, May 7 @ 5 pm —Annual Church Picnic, Kiwanis Pavilion, Noccalula Falls. Everyone invited!**

**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!**

## **Immediate Prayer Concerns**

Grayson Phillips (Parents Leigh Carroll & Dathan Phillips)

Martha Bullock    Emily Carroll (Adam Carroll's wife)    Gary Atkins

## **Continued Prayer Concerns**

Dottie Rogers    Mary Tom Hale    Amy Epperson

Bob Walden (Olivia Kendrick's father)

Matt Medders (deployed to the border)



## **Birthdays**

**May 4** Mike Self, Ralls Pennington, Allie Pennington Wilson, Trevor Martin

**May 5** Mollie Horton

**May 6** Bethany Phillips, Ava Ray Kelley    **May 7** John Ryle, David Whisenant, Judge Shaun Malone, Charlie Hollingsworth

**May 8** Lindy Newman, Michael Freeman

**May 9** Collins Tackaberry, Logan McClendon

**May 10** Dr. Ed Lindsey, Felix Russell

## **Attendance Week of April 27, 2025**

In Person Total-\*146    On Line Total-445

Worship Total-591

Celebration \*57/221    Traditions \*79/224

Adult Sunday School \*39    Children SS \*1

Middle School & Senior Hi SS \*0

Bible Study Groups \*15    Children Wed/Sun \*25

Middle & Sen Hi Wed/Sun \*15

Nursery Wed/Sun \*5

## **Year 2025 Week of April 27, 2025**

General Offering Budget    \$12,400.00

General Offering Received    6,982.00

YTD Gen. Offering Budget    210,800.00

YTD Gen. Offering Rec'd    217,973.00

## May 7, Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC

9:00 am-11:00 am-Clothes Closet open

5:00 pm-Church Picnic, Noccalula Falls,

Kiwanis Pavillion

## May 8, Thursday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, ELC

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

## **5:30 pm-Thursday Worship service**

## May 9, Friday

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

12:00 pm-Office closed

*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*

## **Honorariums & Memorials**

### **General Budget Fund**

In honor of the wonderful Staff Team at GFUMC who make our Church special for all members and guests, given by Gordon & Cindy Isbell.

### **Landscape Fund**

In honor of Rose Isbell's first birthday, April 28, given by Gordon & Cindy Isbell

### **Thursday Worship Fund**

In honor of Laura Condra, for all she has done for our church, given by Gordon & Cindy Isbell.

## **Important Deadlines**

**Deadline for the newsletter is noon on Tuesday of each week.**

*All requests for spoken announcements for Sunday mornings must be turned in by Thursday @ noon, in writing to Susan Swann in the office.*

*All Meetings, Events and Activities must be scheduled in advance with the church secretary, by email susan@fumcgadsden.org or call the church office.*