



FRIENDS

Rev. Ken Casey

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

Sermon Notes: Thursday, May 2 & Sunday, May 5, 2024

"Friends" John 15:12-15

Friends was an extremely popular American television sitcom, which aired on NBC from September 22, 1994, to May 6, 2004. With an ensemble cast starring Jennifer Aniston, Courteney Cox, Lisa Kudrow, Matt LeBlanc, Matthew Perry, and David Schwimmer, the show revolved around six friends in their 20s and early 30s who lived in Manhattan. It followed the eventful day-to-day lives of the group of friends as they lived and worked in the city. Someone has described a friend as "someone who knows you very well and loves you anyway."

"Lean on me, when you're not strong, and I'll be your friend, I'll help you carry on, for it won't be long, 'til I'm going to need somebody to lean on." ~ "Lean On Me" lyrics by Bill Withers (1972)

"In good times, in bad times I'll be on your side forever more, that's what friends are for." ~ "That's What Friends Are For" lyrics by Carole Bayer Sager (1982)

"I get by with a little help from my friends." ~ "With a Little Help from My Friends," John Lennon and Paul McCartney, 1967

See you Sunday, my friends!

Rev. Ken Casey

Join with UMCOR —Our Friends in Missions

Donate items or fill a tornado bucket. See page 5 for details.

In response to recent tornadoes in central Alabama and central Georgia and flooding in California, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) approved early relief grants to meet immediate needs in three annual conferences.

On Jan. 12, multiple tornadoes slammed the southeastern United States, killing at least seven and destroying numerous communities. Assessing needs in hard-hit Selma, Alabama, a leadership team from the Alabama-West Florida Conference noted that approximately 600 households were affected by more than a dozen tornadoes. "It would not surprise me," said the Rev. Chris Ackerman, conference disaster response coordinator, "if the total number of houses affected is over 1,000." "From the moment the warning was activated in Dallas County," recalled the Rev. Diane Everette, Church Street United Methodist Church, Selma, "our UMC connection stayed in touch with me to ensure that I was personally safe as well as our church members.

While Thursday was, perhaps, one of the most terrifying days of my life, I was never alone, thanks to my brothers and sisters in Christ in this conference. It will be a long road ahead for Selma, but our conference disaster response team will walk with us every step of the way."

All GFUMC donations will be sent to the NAC Disaster Relief Warehouse in Decatur!

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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

May 5: Luke Barnes

May 12: Anna Kate Casey

Tech Team Schedule

May 5

Celebration: Eric Wright, Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman

Traditions: Neil Mullin, Sheila Freeman, Brad Barnes

May 12

Celebration: Eric Wright, Bill Haller, Carmen McKiven

Traditions: Davis Varner, Neil Mullin, Brad Barnes

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)

**Wednesday Mornings Bible Study with Rev. Sherri
April 17 was the last class for Spring.
Watch for more information, coming soon!**

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. The study is "100 Day Bible Study-The Torah". Temporarily meeting at "Union Jack" Café. Contact Todd Rains, Mark Condra, Mark Casey, or any of the Men at the Well for more information.

**Wednesday
Fellowship Dinner
May 8
Menu: Lasagna
\$7 Adults
\$3 Children 11&U**

Adult Small Groups @ Wonderful Wednesdays

**Small Group with Harriet Murray, Room 110
"How Happiness Happens" by Max Lucado**

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.



ELC News

Our school year is quickly coming to a close. On Tuesday, May 7th we will honor our moms with our annual Donuts for Divas event. Refreshments will be set up in the portico entrance and we are ready to shower our moms with some love. On Wednesday, May 8th, the ELC will host its annual End of Year Program and 4K graduation. We will start our morning in the sanctuary at 9:30 followed by class parties and 4K graduation reception. On Thursday May 9th, the ELC will be open regular hours.

—Helene

STUDENT MINISTRY

Youth Ministry News

“The Chosen Bible Study”
May 5 Sheila Freeman
May 12 Sherri Reynolds
May 19 Barbara Condra
May 26 Sheila Freeman



Youth Group Meets

Wednesdays at 6 pm each week!

Youth Counselor
Carmen McKiven

Wednesday Fellowship Dinner
May 8: \$7-Adults \$3-11 & Under
Lasagna & Salad

Children's Ministry

Sunday Mornings @ 9 am and 11 am, Children's Church & 10 am Sunday School

Wednesdays at 6 pm, Small Groups for Children

May 12-2nd Grade Bibles

May 19-Confirmation Sunday

THIS SUMMER, JOIN US FOR

GFUMC's

Vacation Bible School

JUNE 3-6

KNIGHTS OF NORTH CASTLE

COKEBURY'S VBS

REGISTER ONLINE

A QR code with a colorful, abstract background.

"Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His power." Ephesians 6:10

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GADSDEN
115 S. 5th St. Gadsden, AL 35901

An illustration of a medieval castle with a flag flying from its top, and a friendly-looking orange dragon flying in front of it.



ELC 4K Class of 2024 ◇ Graduation, May 8, 2024, 9:30 am

**SARA RABUN JOHNSON
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Mother's Day Roses Sale

With your donation of \$20 or more, a rose is 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".**

**ADDITIONAL DONATIONS TO THE FUND MAY BE GIVEN
THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.**



Thank you for your donations!

Mission Focus

Opportunities to Serve!

- Please join the mission team on Thursday, May 9 @ 10 am at the church, in room 116—We will pack goody bags for the A/B Honor Roll Parties.
- Volunteers are needed on Friday, May 10 @ Striplin Elementary to help with set up and greeting at the Striplin Teacher Appreciation Luncheon sponsored by FUMCG Mission Team. Please let Ginger Ross or Susan Copeland know if you can serve!

Tornado Bucket

Help the GFUMC Mission Team fill Tornado Buckets and collect needed items. Tornado Buckets are located at the entrances, if you would like to take a bucket to fill with the requested items. If you would prefer to donate any of the items below, there is also a Red Bucket for donations of individual items. All of the Tornado Buckets and additional items will be delivered to the NACUMC Disaster Relief Warehouse in Decatur! Thank you for your support of missions. -First UMC Gadsden Mission Team

1 Standard Size Claw Hammer

1 each: Shirt pocket notebook, permanent marker, pencil and sharpeners. (Place in a small Ziploc bag.) For "To Do" lists and marking packing boxes.

1 Flashlight with batteries

12 Black Trash Bags, 30-45 Gallon recommended (bundled) *for trash removal*

1 Roll of Toilet Paper in a Ziploc Bag

1 Pr. Leather Palm/Cloth back or All Leather Work Gloves

1 50 count #8 Nails

10 White 13 Gallon Kitchen Trash Bags with Draw Strings (bundled)

1 Cellophane packing Tape

10 One-Gallon Ziploc Bags (bundled) (For jewelry, and valuables)

1 Box Cutter

1 Liquid Hand Sanitizer 4 oz –12 oz

1 Insect Repellant Spray Bottle/Can, Wipes or Combination

1 Pr. Safety Glasses. *For hammering tarps, wood strips on roof*

6 Clear Large Plastic Bags, 40-55 Gallon recommended (bundled)

3 Tampons or Pads in a small Ziploc Bag

-Add all items on the above list to the bucket. Secure the lid, if any of the items aren't available just label the top of the bucket "Needs... (the missing item(s)) and the warehouse will add the item(s).

Please return filled buckets to the church by Sunday, May 19. Additional donations of loose items may be placed in the Red Buckets in the Foyers.

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
5/1 and 5/15*

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
March 2024**

Ladle of Love 474
Clothes Closet 216

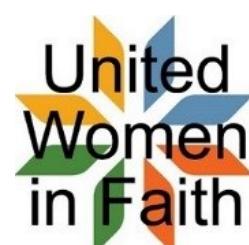
Thanks to our
Volunteers!

United Women in Faith

May Luncheon

Monday, May 13 at 12:00 noon.

Speaker is Benny McNair, who will share with us "Jewels of the Bible". Please phone or text your lunch reservation by noon on Sunday, May 12, to Olivia Kendrick at 205-454-4375



Salad Supper, LuVerna Waid Circle, Tuesday, May 21, 5:30 pm,
Jana Downs' Home, 105 Carolwood Cove, Gadsden, AL 35901

Delores Abney, President

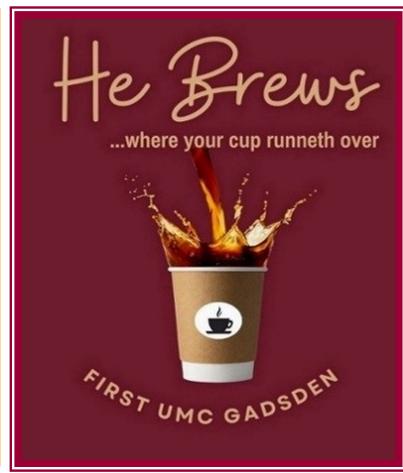
Olivia Kendrick, Vice-President



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!!!



*The Inviting Ministries Team
wishes to say a special "Thank
You" to Sheri and Paul DeJong
for their service on the team and
for being our fourth Sunday
coffee baristas! Many thanks
and a fond farewell!!*



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.)



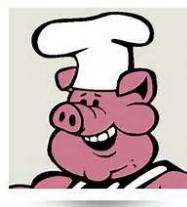
Name _____

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.



**Join Us for Fellowship
at the Back Forty
Thursday, May 2 @ 6 pm
following**

Thursday
WORSHIP

A SERVICE OF PRAYER AND WORD

5:30 pm to 6:00 pm In the Sanctuary
First United Methodist Church of Gadsden

Join us following Thursday Worship for a Church Social on May 2nd at the Back Forty @ 6 pm. On June 20, we will meet at the Stone Market and after that monthly on the third Thursday of each month with the location to be announced! We hope that you will join us!





Have questions about General Conference 2024 and what it means for FUMCG?

Rev. Sherri was a delegate to General Conference 2024 and has information to share with you. She will host two updates for the congregation **on Wednesday, May 8 at 6pm and Thursday, May 9 at 3pm in the Chapel.** If you can't attend either of these sessions, but have questions, please contact her by email: sherri@fumcgadsden.org.

Volunteer Opportunity

A big part of our in-person Sunday morning worship experience is having greeters & ushers welcome guests into the space. This job is an essential part of making sure we provide a safe and welcoming environment for everyone who comes into our church.

If you would like to help please call the church office—**256-543-8200.**



Follow us on Facebook
and Instagram..



Update Your Contact Information
Please help us update the membership records in the church office with your current mailing address, phone number, email address and birthdays for all family members. Updates may be sent to susan@fumcgadsden.org or call Susan in the church office @ 256-543-8200. **Sign up to receive emails from the church including the Weekly News, Devotionals, Ministry and Mission Notes, and Sermon Notes.** Go to: <http://www.fumcgadsden.org/sign-up-to-receive-emails>

First Family,

Each day, I am overwhelmed by God's abundant blessings, especially the blessings at First United Methodist Church. Several months ago, I challenged the leadership to add three simple prayers for the church each day: reaching 200 in average worship attendance, financial provision, and blessings and direction for student ministry. I have seen the work of God in these areas, especially in the area financial provision.

Over the past month, we have received two substantial grants, and the giving has exceeded expenses and budget. To top it all, I celebrate a 2024 Alleluia Offering of \$31,571.00. The money from this offering will fund the 2024 Confirmation Retreat, allow enhancements in worship, and fund new ministry. This offering exceeded last year's gift and is the second largest Alleluia offering received.

Thank you for your generosity and being an instrument through which, God is blessing the ministry of First United Methodist Church. Your giving is an answer to the prayers lifted daily on your behalf and on behalf of this church. I especially thank you for going above and beyond in the Alleluia Offering. As your you are a part of God's abundant blessings in my life and our church.

In Gratitude,

Rev. Sherri Reynolds
Rev. Sherri Reynolds

Bob Blount
Bob Blount



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

Search @FirstUMCGadsden
in Venmo, under charities or follow the
link in the QR Code.



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

Calendar for May 5-May 11, 2024

May 5 Sunday

9:00 am-Celebration Worship, Sanctuary
10:00-am Sunday School for all ages;
Senior High Graduate Brunch, Gathering Room

HeBrews Coffee, Chestnut Street Foyer

11:00 am-Traditions Worship, Sanctuary

May 6 Monday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Spring Schedule
9:00 am-10:00 am- Exercise Group, Gym

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

May 7 Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Spring Schedule
5:00 pm-6:00 pm-Yoga, Gym

May 8 Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Spring Schedule
9:30 am ELC 4K Graduation, Sanctuary
5:15 pm-Fellowship Meal, Gathering Room
6:00 pm-Children & Youth activities, Gym & Rooms 108 & 211
6:00 pm-Small Group Study, Room 110
6:00 PM GC 2024 Update w/Rev. Sherri, Chapel
6:00 pm-Choir practice Choir room

May 9 Thursday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Spring Schedule
9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym
3:00 PM GC 2024 Update w/Rev. Sherri, Chapel
6:00 pm Thursday Worship, Sanctuary

May 10 Friday

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



Mark Your Calendars

Sunday, May 5-High School Senior Recognition

Wednesday, May 8, 9:30 am, ELC Graduation

Sunday, May 12-Mother's Day, 2nd Grade Bibles

Monday, May 13, UWF Luncheon, 12 noon

Wednesday, May 15-5 pm, Church Picnic

Kiwanis Pavilion, Noccalula Falls

Sunday, May 19-Confirmation Sunday

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Eileen Graham John Floyd Judy Collins (Tripp Collins' mother)
Pam James (Jan Humphrey's sister)

Continued Prayer Concerns

Louie Loveman Martha Bullock Marian Ford
Amy Epperson Brent Styles Asher Mae Collins
Johnny Gunnels (Gail McNair's brother)
Chris Gunnels (Gail McNair's nephew)

The flower on the altar is in honor of

Rose Eliana Isbell
born April 28, 2024
Parents: Ross & Stephanie
Brother: Wells
Grandparents: Gordon & Cindy Isbell
Given by The GFUMC Children's Ministry
and The Early Learning Center.

Birthdays

May 5 Mollie Horton
May 6 Bethany Phillips,
Ava Ray Kelley
May 7 John Ryle, Shaun Malone,
David Whisenant,
Charles Harwell Hollingsworth
May 8 Lindy Newman,
Michael Freeman
May 9 Collins Tackaberry,
Logan McClendon
May 10 Dr. Ed Lindsey,
Felix Russell
May 11 Anita Waid



Week of April 28, 2024

In Person Total-*160 Worship Total-590
Online-430 Thursday Worship-*11
Celebration Service-*57/234
Traditional Service-*92/196
Sunday School Adult-*41 Children *6 Youth *2
Nursery *1 Bible Study Groups-*11
Wed/Sun-Children*16 Wed/Sun-Youth *10
Board Mtg. *17 Confirmation *11 *in person
General Offering Budget \$11,400.00
General Offering Received \$5,444.00
YTD General Offering Budget \$193,800.00
YTD General Offering Rec'd \$213,724.00

Honorariums & Memorials

General Budget Fund

In memory of Rodney
Thompson, given by
Kenneth & Judith Sexton.