

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

CORINTHIANS 8:1-7
REV. SHERRI REYNOLDS

“Building a Solid Foundation”
GENEROSITY 2026

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

Sermon Notes: Thursday, Nov 13 and Sunday, Nov 16

When constructing a good foundation, every element is important. Miss a critical block and the entire structure could fail. Leave one ingredient out of your concrete mix and you may find that the base is crumbling. Go wrong with the cornerstone and the rest is out of alignment. Every step of the process is crucial to make sure you start well for building.

The church at Macedonia was an important component for the early church (2 Corinthians 8:1-7). Their sacrifice, while they struggled, made a difference for the needs of others. They were not the only ones who gave and supported. Christians through generations have given prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness to make a difference in the name of Christ. In fact, we continue in the legacy of generosity so others will know Jesus. Each person who acts in generosity is an important part of the foundation of faith. From congregations in Paul's time until today, we each are a critical element of the foundation for building Christ's Church.

Building a Firm Foundation,
Rev. Sherri



North Alabama Conference Connectional Giving

At the October 28th Finance Team and Board of Stewards meetings, the leadership unanimously voted for First United Methodist Church to resume our support of the United Methodist Church with 10% in connectional giving. This means that the church tithes (10%) of general fund receipts to the larger United Methodist Church. Not only is this a Biblical model, but it is considered our fair share of support for the larger connectional structure. Thank you for your continual, faithful support which makes supporting mission and ministry beyond our local church possible.

—Rev. Sherri Reynolds

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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

Security for Thursday Worship

November 13: George Fant

November 20: Mark Condra

ACOLYTES

November 16: Luke Barnes and Brooks Bone

November 23: Volunteer

Tech Team Schedule

November 16

Celebration: Sheila Freeman, Bill Haller, Rob Reynolds

Traditions: Neil Mullin, Davis Varner, Sheila Freeman

November 23

Celebration: Mark Condra, Sheila Freeman, Rob Reynolds

Traditions: Mark Condra, Neil Mullin, Sheila Freeman

Bible Studies & Small Groups for Adults

You are invited to Friendsgiving Bingo w/Rev. Sherri @ 6 pm in Room 208, on Wednesday, November 19.

Coming this Advent on Wednesdays.

- Join Harriet Murray for ADVENTures in Room 110 at 6 pm on December 3 & 10.
- Join Rev. Sherri for an Advent Bible Study based on the scripture of the Jesse Tree on December 3 and 10. This study will complement the church wide focus for Advent 2025. *Morning classes will be on Wednesdays at 11am in the Gathering Room and Evening Classes will meet at 6 pm in room 208.* The study will be a survey in the events leading up to the coming of Christ.

What is a Jesse Tree?

A Jesse Tree is a symbolic representation of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, named after Jesse, the father of King David. It is used during the Advent season to illustrate the people, prophecies, and leading up to the birth of Jesus. Each day of Advent, a Bible story about someone from Jesus's family tree is read, and an ornament symbolizing that story is hung on the tree, linking the Old Testament to the coming of Christ.

Wonderful Wednesday Dinner

November 19: Assorted Soups & Sandwiches and More!

Followed by Friendsgiving Bingo: Everyone Invited!

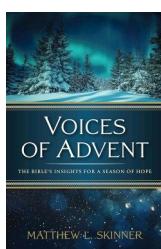
\$3 Children under 11 Special Price: \$5 per Person

Sunday School: New Advent Series



Transitions 10 am, Room 209

Advent Study: Christmas is Not Your Birthday by Mike

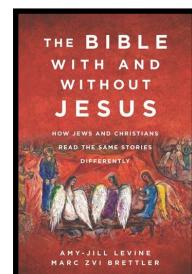


Pathfinders/Seekers 10 am, Room 208

Starts Sunday, November 23: Voices of Advent– The Bible's Insights for a Season of Hope by Matthew L.

Living Water 10 am, Room 116

The Bible With and Without Jesus-How Jews and Christians Read the Same Story Differently– by Amy Jill Levine & Marc Zvi Brettler



“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

This week we will have Chik-Fil-A on Tuesday, Nov 18. 4K will host another great round of show and tell. Wednesday Nov 19th, ELC teachers will meet for their annual Thanksgiving Breakfast and end of the semester planning. Thursday, Nov 20th is Team Spirit Day.

Helene Haller



Youth

Sunday School
10 am, Room 211

Wonderful Wednesday

Dinner- 5:15 pm
Youth Group, 6:00 pm

"Let's Build a Solid Foundation!"

Matthew 7:24

Save the Date:
11/19/25
Friendsgiving
6:00 pm

**Wonderful Wednesday Dinner: November 19—Special Night-Dinner \$5 per person!
Soups, Sandwiches and More! Everyone Welcome!**

Children's Ministry



Wonderful Wednesday

Small Groups and Activities
@ 6 pm

Fellowship Dinner, 5:15 pm
Nov 19

\$5 -per person-Special Price!
\$3 -11 & Under

RSVP: Text 256.490.5018 by
Tuesday of each week to make or
change a standing reservation.

Sunday Mornings

Children's Church
during worship, 9 am & 11 am
Sunday school @ 10 am

Need more info?

Katharine@fumcgadsden.org
Ms. Katharine Barnes
Children's Director

November Mission Focus



DONATE A FILLED GROCERY SACK

THANKSGIVING

food drive

Donations should be brought to the church by Thursday, November 20. THE BAGS ARE OUT AND READY FOR YOU TO FILL WITH GROCERIES SO A FAMILY CAN ENJOY A GOOD THANKSGIVING MEAL. THESE ARE IN THE CHESTNUT LOBBY ON A TABLE READY TO BE PICKED UP. REMEMBER THE ITEMS NEED TO BE NON-PERISHABLE AND A SUGGESTED LIST IS ON THE SACK. THESE BAGS WILL NEED TO BE BACK TO THE CHURCH BY THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH. THE SALVATION ARMY WILL PICK THEM UP AND DISTRIBUTE TO THE FAMILIES WHO HAVE SIGNED UP TO RECEIVE THEM! THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY.

— 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.

Volunteers are needed to serve on Ladle of Love Teams. Contact the church office for more information on how you can serve.

Clothes Closet Workdays are Tuesdays before open days from 9:00-11:00 am.

Open to Public
1st & 3rd Wednesdays

November open dates are
11/5 and 11/19

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



Donate

GIFT WRAP, BOWS, & TAPE

during the month of November in the Big Red Buckets at church entrances.

In Memory of Elizabeth Barnes

GFUMC will be donating all of the gift wrapping supplies for the gifts given by Eura Brown Students that will be distributed by the Dream Center this Christmas Season.

United Women in Faith

December Luncheon

will be December 8 at 11:30.

The ELC children (3K4K) will be presenting Christmas music for everyone to enjoy.

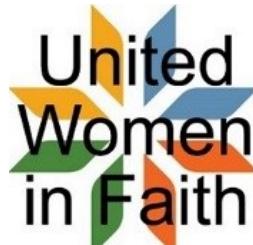
Please call your reservation in to or text Olivia Kendrick at 205-454-4375.

November 17, 18, and 20— Pie Classes, see page 7 for details.

Call or Text Karen Owen for questions.

November 23— UWF Bake Sale—Chestnut Street Lobby

—Delores Abney, President —Olivia Kendrick, Vice-President



Ladle of Love
Clothes Closet
August

LOL 407

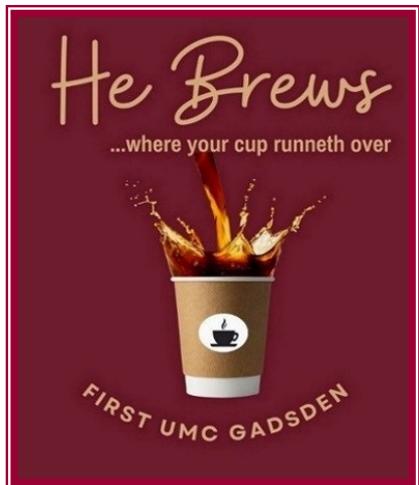
Clothes Closet 255

September

LOL 412

Clothes Closet 280

Thanks to our
Volunteers!



Follow us on
Facebook and Instagram.



HeBrews Coffee will be upstairs at the Church-wide Brunch, this Sunday, November 16.



NO Excuses . . .



NEW GFUMC Church Directory!
Photography Make-up Date
Thursday, Dec. 4
 Make your
 Photograph
 appointment* online
www.ucdir.com
 Code: al217
 Password: photos

*Receive a free 8X10 and a church directory!

A NEW Church Directory is coming!

Photography Make-Up Date:

Thursday, December 4
1:00 pm to 7:30 pm

(We must have a minimum number of appointments scheduled for this date, so schedule your appointment early!)

Signup online for your photography session

@ www.ucdir.com.
Church Code: al217
Password: photos

Greeters & Ushers for Worship

Sunday November 16

Celebration: Nancy McCorkle & Vickie Handy

Traditions: Leslie and Philip Johnson, Lori Varner, Gail McNair, & Grover Kitchens

Sunday, November 23

Celebration: Julie Gage & Kyle Horton

Traditions: Delores & Charles Abney; Jennifer Jackson; Bobby Robinson

If you would like to serve as an Greeter/Usher, please contact Susan Swann in the church office, email: susan@fumcgadsden.org or phone: 256.543.8200.



GFUMC CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

FRIENDSGIVING



WEDNESDAY, NOV. 19 • 6:00 PM

LET'S HAVE THE LONGEST TABLE OF FRIENDS AND FOOD!
BRING A FRIEND AND A SNACK TO SHARE!

"WHEN YOU HAVE MORE THAN YOU NEED, BUILD A LONGER TABLE" -UNKNOWN





November 16
“Making a Difference”
Corinthians 8:1-7
Churchwide Brunch
Everyone Invited!

Return your “Building a Solid Foundation” Generosity 2026 Estimate of Giving Cards on Sunday, November 16 in worship.



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



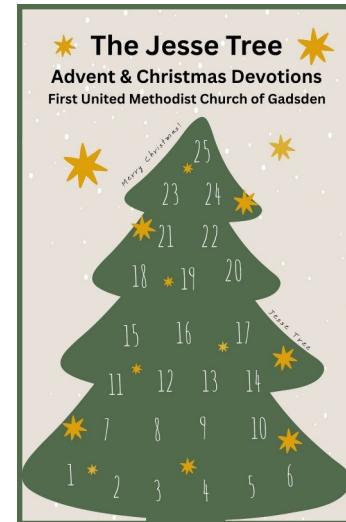
Scan the QR Code or
 Text to Give: 256-344-8464
 First United Methodist Church of Gadsden



Celebration Worship, in the Chapel, 9 am, November 30 "The Jesse Tree" Rev. Sherri Reynolds

While Advent calendars are all the rage these days, First United Methodist Church is counting down this season with something ancient: The Jesse Tree. This historical way of marking off the days until Christmas, incorporates the biblical narrative, tradition, and decorating your tree. You begin with Creation on December 1 and end with the birth of Jesus on December 25. Each day of the countdown is represented by an ornament, a theme, a scripture reading, and a symbol. There are 25 themes which create a timeline leading up to celebrating Jesus' birth. To enhance this sacred time, the church has developed a devotional written by church members. The Jesse Tree will be our emphasis this Advent season including sermon series, participation by our children's department, a Bible Study, emails and the devotion guide. It will be another beautiful season at First United Methodist Church of Gadsden as we explore the Jesse Tree.

Want to learn more? Rev. Sherri will be offering a more in-depth explanation in her sermon on November 30 at Celebrations in the Chapel. There will also be an accompanying Bible Study on December 3 and 10 at 11am (Gathering Room) and 6pm (208). Participants will get their own set of ornaments to decorate.





UWF Lessons in Pies

Lessons in pies will be the week before Thanksgiving. You can sign up to bake a pie or side by side coaching by contacting Karen Owen @ 256.393.8552. When signing up, you will receive a recipe card listing all the ingredients and items you bring to make two pies. All classes will be held in the FUMC Kitchen.

Pies will be sold along with other baked goods on Sunday, November 23. All proceeds go to local missions making our community stronger.

SWEET POTATO CASSEROLE

Tuesday, November 18

Ham & Cheese Quiche	11:00 am
Peanut Butter Pie	6:00 pm

Monday, November 17

Sweet Potato Casserole	11:00 am
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DUTCH APPLE OR FUDGE PIE

Thursday, November 20

DUTCH APPLE PIE	11:00 AM
FUDGE PIE	6:00 PM

United Women in Faith First UMC Gadsden, AL

Come for Pie Making and Fellowship!
There are a few spots remaining in the “Lessons in Pies” Pie Making Sessions!
The signup sheets and ingredient lists are available in the Chestnut Foyer.

Questions? Contact Karen Owen @ 256.393.8552

Looking for home baked goods for the holidays?
Shop at the UWF Bake Sale on November 23.

First UMC Gadsden Nov 16-Nov 22, 2025

Nov 16, Sunday

9:00 am-Celebration Worship
10:00 am-Churchwide Brunch, Gym

11:00 am-Traditions Worship

Nov 17, Monday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Fall Schedule

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

2:00 pm-4:00 pm-Pickle Ball, Gym

Nov 18, Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Fall Schedule

5:00 pm-Yoga, Gym

**Thank you to all our shoppers at the
 Robbie's of Fayette Trunk Show!**

The sale benefits the FUMCG Children's Ministry Program.

Nov 19, Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Fall Schedule

11:00 am-Wed Morning Bible Study

5:15-Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Meal,
 \$5 per person (\$3-11 & Under), \$20 per family max
 6:00 pm-7:00 pm-Friendsgiving for Children &

Youth, Gathering Room, 201
 Friendsgiving Bingo Night for Adults, Room 208

6:00 pm-Choir Practice

Nov 20, Thursday

9:00 am-11:00 am-ELC Fall Schedule

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

5:30 pm-Thursday Worship Service

Nov 21, Friday

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

Save the Dates

Nov. 16– Churchwide Brunch, 10 am

Nov. 19– Children's Ministry

Friendsgiving, 6 pm, Gathering Room

Friendsgiving Bingo for Adults, 6 pm, 208

Nov. 23– UMW Bake Sale

Nov 30– 9 am-Celebration (Chapel)

11 am-Traditions: Hanging of the Greens

1st Sunday in Advent

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Sonya Nesbitt Dotty Ivey

Continued Prayer Concerns

Jackie Herlong Ruthie Hester

Bobby Robinson Dawn Rains

Amy Epperson (Gene & Danna Dean's daughter)

Melinda Hare (Barbara Khajavi's sister)

“Building a Solid Foundation”

Church-wide Brunch

IN THE GYM 10 AM

Sunday, November 16, 2025

WELCOME
 NEW MEMBERS

Neil and Amanda

Summers

Keith Southers

November 9, 2025

**Holy
 Baptism
 11.9.2025**



**Amanda Summers
 Charlie Summers
 Conley Summers**

Birthdays

Nov 17 Zane Lindsey, Will Roach

**Nov 19 Connie McEwen, Adam Walton,
 Malone Johnson**

**Nov 21 Tommy Lowe, Jamie Kelley,
 Rev. Sherri Reynolds**



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

—Susan Swann

Attendance Week of Nov 9, 2025

In Person Total *170	On Line Total 351
Worship Total 521	Thursday Worship *13
Celebration *43/189	Traditions *114/162
Adult Sunday School *46	Children SS *3
Middle School & Senior Hi SS *3	
Bible Study Groups *42	Children Sun/Wed *27
Middle & Sen Hi Wed/Sun *9	
Nursery Wed/Sun *12	Wed Nite Meal-*35

Year 2025 Week of Nov 9, 2025

General Offering Budget	\$12,400.00
General Offering Received	\$ 9,126.00
YTD Gen. Offering Budget	\$558,000.00
YTD Gen. Offering Rec'd	\$575,802.48

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.**