



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

Sermon Notes: Thursday, Nov 20 and Sunday, Nov 23

The author of Ecclesiastes writes that there is a season for every purpose under heaven (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8). He then goes on to list many contrasting seasons of life. What season do you find yourself in this week? Are you firmly in Thanksgiving or are you already in a Christmas mindset? Have you got football season on the brain or family gathering season on your heart? Does it feel that you are drifting along, not ready for seasons which may be ahead or are you not looking forward to holidays because you are in a season of grief or melancholy? We may find ourselves in multiple seasons this Thanksgiving. While every season may not be ordained by God, every season is filled with God's presence. God is with us in all circumstances, and he invites us to draw closer to Him in all circumstances. He invites us to practice the spiritual discipline of gratitude in all seasons. This week focus on God's presence in this period in your life, and you will find that our Lord journeys with us.

In gratitude,
Rev. Sherri

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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

Security for Thursday Worship

November 20: Mark Condra

December 4: Todd Rains

ACOLYTES

November 23: Volunteer

November 30: Clementine and Rhett Hilburn

Tech Team Schedule

November 23

Celebration: Mark Condra, Sheila Freeman, Rob Reynolds

Traditions: Mark Condra, Neil Mullin, Sheila Freeman

November 30

Celebration: Chapel, No Tech Support

Traditions: Sheila Freeman, Davis Varner, Rob Reynolds



Bible Studies & Small Groups for Adults

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.

There will be Wednesday morning Bible study on November 19 and Friendsgiving Bingo for adults that evening at 6 pm. No Bible Study (am or pm) on November 26th.

Wonderful Wednesday Dinner Resumes December 3.

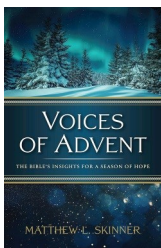
Please text 256.490.5018 to make or change a reservation.

Sunday School: New Advent Series



Transitions 10 am, Room 209

Advent Study: Christmas is Not Your Birthday by Mike Slaughter

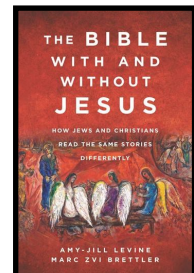


Pathfinders/Seekers 10 am, Room 208

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

Living Waters 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

The ELC is closed this week for Thanksgiving Break. We return Monday, December 1st to our normal schedule. Make plans now to attend the annual ELC Christmas Program on Thursday, December 11th at 9:30 am in the sanctuary.

Helene Haller



Youth

Sunday School
10 am, Room 211

Wonderful Wednesday

Resumes, December 3
Dinner- 5:15 pm
Youth Group, 6:00 pm

"Let's Build a Solid Foundation!"

Matthew 7:24

Wonderful Wednesday Dinner: Resumes December 3.

Children's Ministry



Wonderful Wednesday

Small Groups and Activities
@ 6 pm
Fellowship Dinner, 5:15 pm
Resumes December 3

Sunday Mornings

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

Need more info?

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

Hanging of the Greens

11 am
November 30
Children are singing
in worship.

GFUMC Children's Ministry invites you to

*Brunch
with Santa
Sunday, December 7
10:00am
Gathering Room*



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



Donate

GIFT WRAP, BOWS, & TAPE

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

In Memory of Elizabeth Barnes

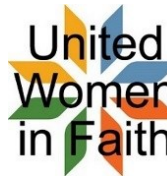
GFUMC will be donating all of the gift wrapping supplies for the gifts given by Eura Brown Students that will be distributed by the Dream Center this Christmas Season.

United Women in Faith

November 23— UWF Bake Sale-Chestnut Street Lobby from 8:30 am until 12:30 pm.

November 24-Monday at 10:00 am the UWF ladies will decorate our beautiful Chrismon Tree. Please join us if you can to help prepare our beautiful tree for the Advent season. Text Susan Copeland at 256.441.8600

December 2, The LuVerna Waid Circle will celebrate our annual Christmas Party. Jill Vincent will host us again at her home, 2104 Harbor Lane, Southside, AL 35907. The bus will be taking all that want a ride. It will leave the church parking lot at 5:00 pm. Bring your favorite Hors d'vours and a dirty Santa gift. Text Susan Copeland if you want to ride the bus at 256.441.8600.



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

December open dates are 12/3 and 12/17

9:00 am to 11:00 am

516 Broad Street Gadsden

Find out more about mission and service opportunities @

Phone: 256-543-8200

Email:

fumc@fumcgadsden.org

Ladle of Love Clothes Closet August

LOL 407

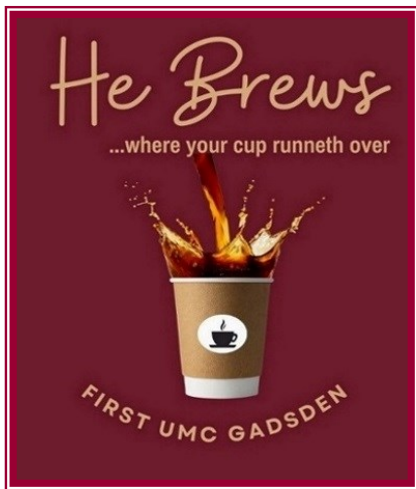
Clothes Closet 255

September

LOL 412

Clothes Closet 280

**Thanks to our
Volunteers!**



Follow us on
Facebook and Instagram.



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



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 23

Celebration: Julie Gage & Kyle Horton

Traditions: Delores & Charles Abney; Jennifer Jackson

Sunday, November 30

Celebration: David & Brenda Holmes

Traditions: Lee, Kathy, & Charles Trotter; Paula Wilson; Eileen Graham



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.



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

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%) from general fund receipts to the larger United Methodist Church. Not only is this a Biblical model, but it is considered our fair share support for the larger connectional structure. This means 10% of your giving supports United Methodist Ministry in North Alabama (such as administration, annual conference gatherings, educational events, direct missions, new church starts), United Methodist Global Missions, Global Administration for United Methodist Boards and Agencies, Educational Opportunities and Seminaries of the United Methodist Church, and Promotion of Interdenominational Cooperation. The result is that our witness goes well beyond the corner of 5th Street and Chestnut to have a far-reaching impact. Just as we can do more together as First United Methodist Church of Gadsden, so we can do more to impact global needs as a denomination.

Thank you for your support of First United Church of Gadsden. If you want to learn more about connectional giving, go to umc.org and explore *apportioned funds*. On that website, you will find specific ways that 10% of your giving is making a difference through the United Methodist Church.

“Building Upon a Solid Foundation,” our 2026 Generosity Emphasis, concluded on



November 16. This was a great celebration of generosity with commitments being turned in and wonderful church-wide brunch. Thanks to all who made this special emphasis a success. As of November 18, 50 commitment cards had been returned with a commitment of \$408,456.00. There was also a great commitment to continue to support First United Methodist Church of Gadsden with prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

If you have not had an opportunity to turn in your estimate of giving card you may do so by placing your card in the offering plate, returning it to the church office, mailing it to the church office, or completing an online card (via the church app or website). The finance department will continue to receive those until the end of the year. Remember that your estimate of giving is held confidentially in the church finance office and is not legally binding. This is a commitment between God and you and helps the church plan for the coming year's budget. You should have received your *2025 Impact Report* in the mail. If not, please contact the church office. Hold on to this report and remember the impact that your prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness have on the church, Gadsden, and beyond. We are making a difference by changing lives in the name of Christ!

Building a Firm Foundation,

Rev. Sherri Reynolds

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

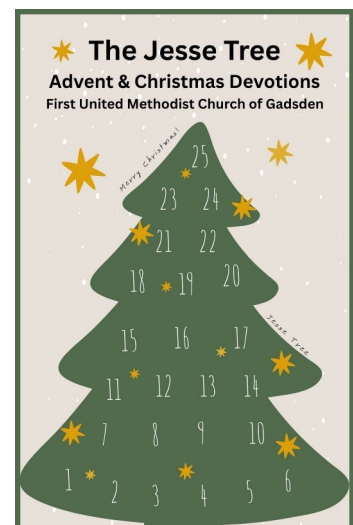


Celebration Worship, in the Chapel, 9 am, November 30

“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.



2025 Advent & Christmas @ First UMC Gadsden

Sunday, November 30 -1st Sunday of Advent, "The Jesse Tree", Rev. Sherri Reynolds

9:00 am - Celebration Worship, Chapel

10:00 am - Sunday School; HeBrews, Chestnut Foyer

11:00 am - Hanging of the Greens, Sanctuary



Tuesday, December 2 - 6:00 pm - LuVerna Waid Circle, Room 208

Thursday, December 4 - 5:30 pm - Thursday Worship Service

Sunday, December 7 - 2nd Sunday of Advent

9:00 am - Celebration Worship

10:00 am - Sunday School; HeBrews, Chestnut Foyer

10:00 am - Children's Ministry Santa Brunch

11:00 am - Traditions Worship



Monday, December 8 -11:30 am - UWF Luncheon; ELC Children Singing

Wednesday, December -10 5:15 pm - Last Wednesday Night Supper & Bible Study Groups

Thursday, December 11 - 9:30 am - Early Learning Center Christmas Program

5:30 pm - Thursday Worship Service, Chapel

6:00 pm - GSCC A Capella Christmas Choir Concert

Sunday, December 14 - 3rd Sunday of Advent

9:00 am - Celebration - Christmas Unplugged, Chapel

10:00 am - Sunday School; HeBrews, Chestnut Foyer

11:00 am - Traditions-Choir Presents Christmas Music

5:00 pm - Children's Christmas Musical, Sanctuary

Followed by the "Happy Birthday Jesus Party", Gym



Thursday, December 18 5:30 pm - Thursday Worship Service

Sunday, December 21 - 4th Sunday of Advent

9:00 am - Celebration Worship

10:00 am - Sunday School; HeBrews, Chestnut Foyer

11:00 am - Traditions Worship



Wednesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve, Church Office Closed ✨

4:00 pm - Candlelight Worship

5:00 pm - Live Nativity

6:00 pm - Candlelight Worship



Thursday, December 25 Christmas Day

Church Office closed; No Thursday Worship

Friday, December 26 Church Office closed; No Ladle of Love



Sunday, December 28 1st Sunday of Christmas

10:00 am - One United Church Service

No Sunday School

First UMC Gadsden Nov 23-Nov 29, 2025

Nov 23, Sunday
 9:00 am-Celebration Worship
 10:00 am-HeBrews Coffee; Sunday School
 11:00 am-Traditions Worship
Nov 24, Monday
 9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC closed
 9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym
 2:00 pm-4:00 pm-Pickle Ball, Gym
Nov 25, Tuesday
 9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC closed
 5:00 pm-Yoga, Gym

Nov 26, Wednesday
 9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC closed
 Office Closed at Noon
Nov 27, Thursday
 Office Closed for Holiday
 No Thursday Worship Service
Nov 28, Friday
 Office Closed
 No Ladle of Love

Save the Dates:

Nov. 23- Christ the King Sunday; Give Thanks

9:00 am, Celebration, Sanctuary
 UWF Bake Sale; HeBrews, Chestnut Foyer

11:00 am, Traditions, Sanctuary

Nov. 30- 1st Sunday in Advent

9:00 am, "The Jesse Tree", Celebration, Chapel
 10:00 am, Sunday School, HeBrews
 11:00 am, "Hanging of the Greens", Traditions

Dec. 7- 2nd Sunday in Advent

9:00 am, Celebration Worship
 10:00 am, Sunday School; HeBrews;
 Children's Santa Brunch, Gathering
 11:00 am, Traditions Worship

*Give thanks unto the Lord: for he
 is good; for his mercy endureth
 forever.
 1 Chronicles 16:34*

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Sonya Nesbitt Bobby Robinson Jane Gargus
 Family of Betty Elliott (Cindy Archer's mother)

Continued Prayer Concerns

Dotty Ivey Jackie Herlong
 Ruthie Hester Dawn Rains
 Amy Epperson (Gene & Danna Dean's daughter)
 Melinda Hare (Barbara Khajavi's sister)

Honorariums & Memorials

General Budget Fund

In Honor of Rev. Sherri Reynolds, given by Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Harwell.

Elizabeth Barnes Birthday Memorial

In memory of Elizabeth Barnes, given by Sara Edge.
 In memory of Elizabeth Barnes, given by Kelli Cornelius.

Birthdays

Nov 23 Jane Norris, Lisa Thornburg
Nov 24 Dele Cannon, Lori Varner
Nov 25 Tim Staton
Nov 26 Butch Herb
Nov 27 Jane Jones, Annette Jones
Nov 28 Sally Moss, Lucy Edwards,
 Kim Reed
Nov 29 Susan Hand, Sandra Hill,
 Karen Winters

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

Thank you!

—Susan Swann



Attendance Week of Nov 16, 2025

In Person Total *183 On Line Total 601
 Worship Total 784 Thursday Worship *13
 Celebration *67/261 Traditions *103/340
 Churchwide Brunch *104 UWF *29
 Bible Study Groups *40 Children Sun/Wed *35
 Middle & Senior Hi Wed/Sun *8
 Nursery Wed/Sun *13 Wed Night Meal-*41

Year 2025 Week of Nov 16, 2025

General Offering Budget \$12,400.00
 General Offering Received \$15,833.00
 YTD Gen. Offering Budget \$570,400.00
 YTD Gen. Offering Rec'd \$591,635.48

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.*