

THE JESSE TREE



CELEBRATION, 9 AM
IN THE CHAPEL

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

WORSHIP

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30



HANGING OF THE GREEN

TRADITIONS, 11 AM
IN THE SANCTUARY

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

Sermon Notes: Sunday, November 30

This season, First United Methodist Church of Gadsden is numbering our days with the Jesse Tree. The Jesse Tree counts down the month of December. It begins where the Bible begins, with Creation and ends on December 25 with Jesus' birth. I encourage you to follow along with the printed devotional written by FUMC folks or with the daily emails. With the countdown beginning next week, we are focusing upon the first scripture Genesis 1:26-31.

Genesis 1:26-31 tells the story of the creation of humanity. It reminds us that we were made in the image of God and that God saw His creation as very good. Too often, we fail to see humanity as very good and made in the image of God. We see the worst in each other, judge one another, see faults, and lose patience. How might our perspective change if we saw others in the light of Genesis 1:26-31? How would we change if we saw ourselves as very good and made in the image of God? This week meditate on the first scripture of the Jesse Tree countdown and let it guide you over the coming weeks. Over the Advent season, we could use more grace, love, peace, and patience and so could everyone else.

Waiting for Christmas,

Rev. Sherri



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.

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Worship Opportunities

Thursday: Worship, 5:30 pm

Sunday Morning: Celebration* - 9 am Chapel

Traditions* - 11 am Sanctuary

*In-Person and Livestream or On Demand

Security for Thursday Worship

Nov. 27, No Thursday Worship

December 4: Todd Rains

ACOLYTES

November 30: Clementine and Rhett Hilburn

Tech Team Schedule

November 30

Celebration: Chapel, No Tech Support

Traditions: Sheila Freeman, Davis Varner, Rob Reynolds

December 7

Celebration: Mark Condra, Bill Haller, Rob Reynolds

Traditions: Mark Condra, Wayne Payton, 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 no Wednesday Bible Study (am or pm) on November 26th.

Wonderful Wednesday Dinner Menu for 12/3: Italian Trio, Salad, Dessert

\$7 Per Person, \$3 age 11 & Under

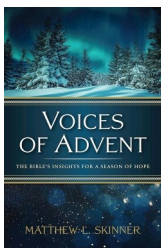
Please text 256.490.5018 to make or change a reservation.

Sunday School: New Advent Series



Transitions 10 am, Room 209

Advent Study: Christmas is Not Your Birthday by Mike Slaughter

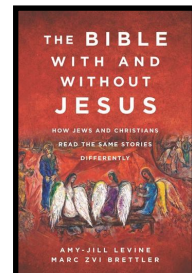


Pathfinders/Seekers 10 am, Room 208

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

December 3

Dinner- 5:15 pm

Italian Night

Youth Group, 6:00 pm

"Let's Build a Solid Foundation!"

Matthew 7:24

Wonderful Wednesday Dinner: Resumes December 3.
Italian Night, \$7 per person \$3 Age 11 & Under
Please text 256.490.5018 to make or change a reservation.

Children's Ministry



Wonderful Wednesday

Small Groups and Activities
@ 6 pm

Fellowship Dinner, 5:15 pm

Resumes December 3

Menu: Italian Night

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 Green

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



THANKSGIVING

food drive

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS OF FOOD THIS HOLIDAY SEASON! THERE WERE 66 SACKS OF GROCERIES DONATED FOR THOSE IN NEED THAT WILL BE DISTRIBUTED BY THE SALVATION ARMY. YOUR GENEROSITY IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE.

— 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

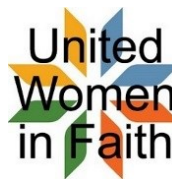
December 2, The LuVerna Waid Circle will celebrate our annual Christmas Party at the home of Jill Vincent who will host us again, 2104 Harbor Lane, Southside, AL 35907.

The bus will be taking all that want a ride. It will leave the church parking lot at 5:00 pm. Bring you favorite Hors d'oeuvre and a dirty Santa gift. Text Susan Copeland if you want to ride the bus 256.441.8600.

December 8 UWF Luncheon at 11:30 am with ELC children singing.

December 14 & 21, 3rd & 4th Sundays in Advent

UWF Christmas Boutique in Chestnut Street Lobby 8:30 am-12:15 pm.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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 @

www.fumcgadsden.org/serve

Phone: 256-543-8200

Email:

fumc@fumcgadsden.org

Ladle of Love Clothes Closet August

LOL 407

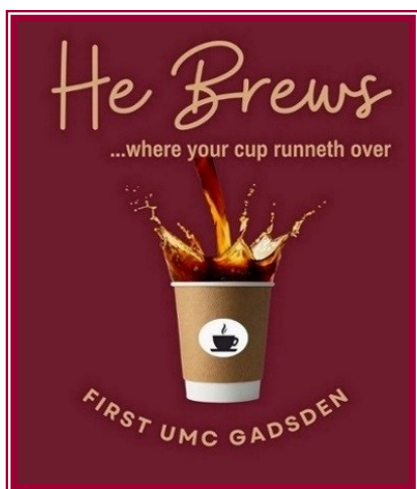
Clothes Closet 255

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 30
Celebration: David & Brenda Holmes
Traditions: Lee, Kathy, & Charles Trotter; Paula Wilson; Eileen Graham

Sunday, December 7
Celebration: Julie Gage & Kyle Horton
Traditions: Delores & Charles Abney; Jennifer Jackson



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.



Images of
CHRISTMAS
ARR OVID YOUNG

First United Methodist
Chancel Choir with
String Ensemble
& Guest Soloist

First United Methodist Church
115 S. 5th Street
Gadsden, AL 35901

11 AM - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025



CELEBRATION WORSHIP

Christmas
Unplugged

Join us as we sing our familiar & favorite
Christmas carols!

14 December 2025
9 am
in the Chapel

Following worship,
enjoy Cookies & Hot Cocoa @ Hebrews

Join us for worship.



Joy

A Children's Christmas Musical
Sunday, December 14 @ 5:00
First UMC Gadsden 115 S. 5th St

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



November 16. This was a great celebration of generosity with estimate of giving cards being turned in and wonderful church-wide brunch. Thanks to all who made this special emphasis a success. ***As of November 25, 58 commitment cards have been returned with a commitment of \$447,028.00.*** 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
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

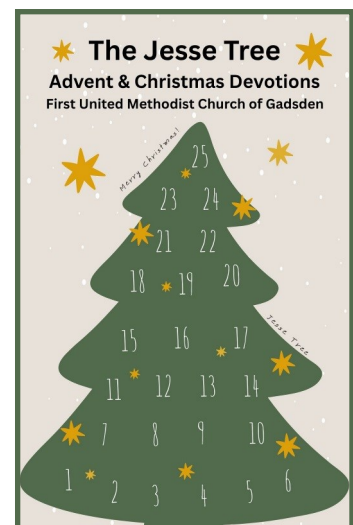


Celebration Worship, in the Chapel, 9 am, November 30

“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 30-Dec 6, 2025

Nov 30, Sunday

1st Sunday of Advent

9:00 am-Celebration Worship, Chapel

10:00 am-HeBrews Coffee; Sunday School

11:00 am-Traditions "Hanging of the Green"

Dec 1, 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

Dec 2, Tuesday

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

9:00 am-11:00 am-Clothes Closet work day

5:00 pm-Yoga, Gym

6:00 pm-LuVerna Waid Circle Christmas Party

Dec 3, Wednesday

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

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

11:00 am-Wednesday Morning Bible Study

5:15 pm-Wednesday night meal, Gathering Room

6:00 pm-Children's Activities, Room 208

Youth Activities, Room 211 & Gym

6:00 pm-Bible Study Groups, Room 110, 208, & 209

6:00 pm-Choir Practice

Dec 4, Thursday

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

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

1:00 pm-7:30 pm-Directory Photo Sessions

5:30 pm-Thursday Worship Service

Dec 5, Friday

11:00 am-Ladle of Love, Portico

Sign Up for Directory Photos: www.ucdir.com User ID: al217 password: photos
See the full calendar for Advent and Christmas on page 9.

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Sonya Nesbitt Bobby Robinson Jane Gargus
Family of Judy Dawson Crain

Continued Prayer Concerns

Dotty Ivey Jackie Herlong Ruthie Hester
Dawn Rains
Amy Epperson (Gene & Danna Dean's daughter)

The ministers and congregation of First United Methodist Church of Gadsden extend Christian sympathy to Mike & Pam Dawson in the death of his sister, Judy Dawson Crain November 19, 2025



Birthdays

Nov 30 Michelle Morgan, Kevin Thornburg, Jake Thornburg
Dec 2 Elizabeth Hyatt
Dec 3 Andrew Blount
Dec 4 John McCord, Ginger Ross, Richard McCoy, Victoria Ogletree, Hayden Winters
Dec 5 Shannon Campbell, Matthew Vance
Dec 6 Anna Katherine Hollingsworth, Erica Shumate, William Calcote, John Waid



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

Thank you! —Susan Swann

Attendance Week of Nov 23, 2025

In Person Total *154 On Line Total 546
Worship Total 700 Thursday Worship *13 Celebration *64/267 Traditions *77/279
Bible Study Groups *11 Children Sun/Wed *24
Middle & Senior Hi Wed/Sun *14
Nursery Wed/Sun *10
Friendsgiving Meal & Bingo *66

Year 2025 Week of Nov 23, 2025

General Offering Budget	\$ 12,400.00
General Offering Received	\$ 21,567.00
YTD Gen. Offering Budget	\$582,800.00
YTD Gen. Offering Rec'd	\$613,104.48



Order Poinsettias for Advent and Christmas Worship Services

Cost: \$25 each _____ of Poinsettias _____ Total Amount Paid
Select Date: _____ December 14 _____ December 21 _____ December 24
(Poinsettias will be placed in both Services)
Select One: _____ in Honor of _____ in memory of

Name(s) _____

Given by _____
