

Bishop Jonathan Holston

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

Sermon Notes: Thursday, Sept 4 and Sunday, Sept 7

One of the challenges of life is that we easily forget. Some things from our task list or schedule may easily slip our mind if we don't keep up with it. We are likely to all have senior moments, even for some who aren't so senior. We even tend to forget the most important things in life. Maybe you have forgotten a birthday or anniversary. Have you forgotten to pick up a child from practice or school? You may have even forgotten to pay an important bill or keep an important appointment. All these are certainly worth remembering. They are priorities, but somehow, we don't remember. So, we are left to use devices to keep us on track.

One means of remembrance which we have in our faith journey is holy communion. When we break the bread and share the cup, Jesus invites us to remember a body given for a broken world and blood shed for the forgiveness of sin (Luke 22:7-23). Holy Communion is an important, powerful sacrament in which we recall God's grace and Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf. Let us not take communion for granted but allow it to be a sacred moment of God's mercy speaking into our lives. Through His Grace, Rev. Sherri

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Worship Opportunities

Thursday: Worship, 5:30 pm

Sunday Morning: Celebration, 9 am

Traditions, 11 am

**Bishop Holston will be preaching in
Traditional Worship
at 11 am on September 7.**

Please Join Us for a Welcome Reception

honoring

Bishop Jonathan Holston & Felicia Holston

10 am

Sunday | 07 | September

Chestnut Foyer

First United Methodist
Church of Gadsden

ACOLYTES

September 7: Volunteer

Tech Team Schedule

September 7

Celebration: Sheila Freeman, Bill Haller, Brad Barnes

Traditions: Wayne Payton, Neil Mullin, Rob Reynolds

September 14

Celebration: Sheila Freeman, Bill Haller

Traditions: Mark Condra, Wayne Payton, Sheila Freeman

New Bible Studies Begin

— Many study *Revelation* for what it reveals about the past or future, but what does it have to reveal about today? Using Greg Robbin's ***Revelation Simplified: A Commonsense Approach to the Bible's Most Mysterious Book*** as a guide, see how *Revelation* provides hope-filled promises for today. [Bring your Bible and join Rev. Sherri in Room 208 at 11am or 6 pm on Wednesday starting on August 13.](#) The study will continue through November 19.

— **The Belonging Project: Finding Your Tribe and Learning to Thrive** Are you hungry for true community, deeper connection with God, and friendships that are greater than just “likes” on social media? This is a study of the “One Another” Sayings of the New Testament. Join Harriet Murray and friends for this exciting new study.

[Room 110, Wednesdays at 6 pm, beginning August 13.](#)

— **Loving on Purpose** by Danny and Sheri Silk **starts September 3**, and brings a fresh perspective on the age-old role of parenting. It will give you tools to:

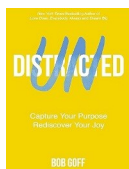
- ◊ Protect your connection with your children.
- ◊ Teach your children to manage increasing levels of freedom.
- ◊ Replace the tools of intimidation and control.
- ◊ Create a safe place for children to build confidence and personal responsibility.

This series includes a video live audience recordings of age specific Q&A sessions with wisdom that will work for your toddler all the way through your adult child. Our group facilitator will be Dawson Harmon, but the real teachers will be each of you as you share your stories and learn from one another.

Wonderful Wednesday Dinner: 5:15 pm —
Menu: September 10: Italian Night
Wednesday, \$3 Children under 11 \$7 per Person

Sunday School: New Adult Series

Transitions 10 am, Room 209 Undistracted w/ Bob Goff

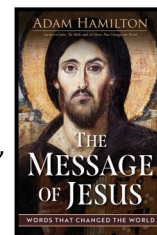


Distractions cause more harm than you might think. And they're all around us, all the time. They can disrupt our focus on what really matters, interfere with our true priorities, and divert our attention from the God who created us for his good purpose. **Identify the distractions in your life. Eliminate them so that you can recharge and refocus on your God-given purpose. Start living a less-distracted and more joy-filled and love-oriented life.**

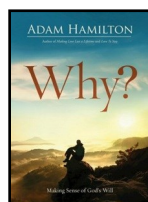
Pathfinders/Seekers 10 am, Room 208

The Message of Jesus— Words that Changed the World by Adam Hamilton

Adam Hamilton's "The Message of Jesus" explores six key themes in Jesus's teachings, emphasizing their relevance today. The study includes insights on the Kingdom of God, the Sermon on the Mount, and Jesus's parables, highlighting how his words can be life-changing and world-changing.



Living Water 10 am, Room 116



Join us, as we try to answer some tough, age-old questions concerning our faith. Questions like: “where is God when tragedy and suffering strikes? Why do the innocent suffer? Why do my prayers go unanswered? Why can’t I see God’s will for my life?” If God is all powerful, and If each one of us is a beloved child of God, then Why? How do we understand the will of God?

Let’s Talk About it! **Why? Making Sense of God’s Will** by Adam Hamilton. Weekly discussions led by Dawson Harmon and Ken Casey.

“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 had one of our new babies start in the nursery class. She is doing so well. Our fall fundraiser is underway. Please support the ELC by purchasing an "Apples Gone Wild" apple of your choice. All flavors are \$14. All orders and money are due by Monday, September 15th.

—Helene Haller



Youth

Sunday School
10 am, Room 211

Wonderful Wednesday

September 10
Dinner- 5:15 pm

Youth Group, 6:00 pm

"Let's Build a Solid Foundation!"

Matthew 7:24

Save the Date:

Wonderful Wednesday Dinner: September 10: Italian Night

Children's Ministry

GFUMC Kids Fall Calendar '25

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS @ 6:00 CHILDREN'S CHOIR	SUNDAY MORNINGS @ 9:00&11:00 SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00	FAMILY EVENTS!
August: Under Construction James 1:5	August: The Holy Spirit makes us better	October 22: Fall Festival 5-7
September: Game Plan! Psalm 33:11	September: Creativity: God Creates	November 2: Rake & Run! 12-2
October: Along the Way Psalm 121:8	October: Faith: God's Promise	November 19: Friendsgiving 6-7
November: Unsung Heroes Zeph. 3:4-7a	November: Blessing: God's Blessings	November 26: Community Thanksgiving

Follow us on Facebook for more info!

Wonderful Wednesday

Small Groups and Activities
@ 6 pm

Fellowship Dinner, 5:15 pm

Sept 10

Italian Night

\$7 -per person, \$3 -11 & Under
RSVP: Text 256.490.5018

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

GFUMC CHILDREN'S GAME PLAN

Wednesday's at 6:00

September Unit

WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4
MAKING PEACE IS PART OF GOD'S GAME PLAN.	FOLLOWING GOD IS THE BEST GAME PLAN.	SHOWING KINDNESS IS IN GOD'S GAME PLAN.	FORGIVENESS IS ALWAYS GOD'S GAME PLAN.

BUT THE PLANS OF THE LORD STAND FIRM FOREVER, THE PURPOSES OF HIS HEART THROUGH ALL GENERATIONS.
PSALMS 33:11 (NIV)

Fall ELC Apple Sale!

Order by September 15. Apples will be delivered starting September 26th.

Six Flavors to choose from!

Apple Strudel

Creamy homemade caramel covering a fresh granny smith apple and then dipped in a sweet white chocolate and tossed with our cinnamon- sugar topping - most popular.

Strawberry Cheesecake

Granny smith apple covered in soft creamy caramel and dipped into white chocolate and covered in a delicious strawberry cheesecake and graham cracker crumbles.

Triple Chocolate

Fresh granny smith apple smothered in our homemade caramel and dipped into milk chocolate and then drizzled with dark and white chocolate.

Dark Sea Salt

Made from scratch caramel coated granny smith apple dipped in a sweet dark chocolate and sprinkled with grey sea salt.

Peanut Butter Swirl

Crisp granny smith apple coated in golden caramel and dipped in white chocolate blended with peanut butter then topped with milk chocolate drizzle.

Classic With Nuts

Granny smith apple coated in creamy sweet caramel and rolled in nuts.



Order Online Now!

ELC Fall Apple Sale- \$14.00 Each

Name _____ Email _____

Phone _____



Order by September 15.

Apples will be delivered starting September 26.

STRUDEL	STRAW BERRY	Triple Choco- late	Dark Sea Salt	Peanut Butter Swirl	Classic With Nuts	Quantity Ordered	Donated Amount
							\$

New College-Age Pastor for Mid-Central District

Andy Yarnell is now serving as the College-Age Pastor for several locations in the Mid-Central District.

Our goal is to remind college-age young adults that they are deeply loved by God. We also want to help them get connected with local United Methodist Churches—places where they can find community, talk to a minister, access resources, serve others, and maybe even show up on a Sunday morning.

Many of these young adults are new to the United Methodist Church, and some haven't been connected to any church in years. Others grew up in United Methodist youth groups, and we want to help them stay connected as they enter this next chapter of life.

This ministry is for all college-age young adults—whether they're attending classes in person, studying online, working full-time, or taking a gap year. Everyone is welcome.

Open Door college-age groups are currently meeting in Gadsden, Cullman, Boaz, and Centre. Recently, the group met at First UMC Gadsden.

From Pastor Andy (you know him!)

(A bunch of young adults with connections to Gadsden FUMC and Southside UMC.)

Pictured above are:

Jacob McKiven (you know this one)

Bella Gray (Donnie Gray's granddaughter)

Sophia Norris - (you know her) going to JSU

Ramel Roffin - Goes to JSU

Kirby (helps with the college choir)

Phoenix Rich (in the college choir)

Afton (you know her, lol)

Dale Layton (was in the college choir last year)

And our District Deacon Beth Johnson came.



Meetings at First UMC Gadsden will be approximately once per quarter. GFUMC will provide refreshments for the group and from time to time, Andy may need another adult to be present. Volunteers who are interested in helping with this college-age, young adult ministry may contact the church office @ 256.543.8200.

Sept. Mission Focus



The Etowah Free Community Clinic provides uninsured patients of Etowah County with access to physicians, nurses, support staff, prescription medication and a variety of holistic care services, at no cost. The clinic has had a dramatic impact, not just in the lives of those served, but also in the community in which they live, work and play. The clinic is located at 423 South 3rd Street · Gadsden, AL 35901 · (256) 546-3456 .

During the month of September, the mission team will be receiving donations for the Etowah Free Community Clinic. Look for a list of needed items and the red buckets at the entrances to the church building. Thank you for your support for local missions.

—The GFUMC Mission Team

Donation Items

- 13 gallon garbage bags
- reams of white paper
- Kleenex
- paper towels
- toilet paper

Clothes Closet Needs

As the season changes, our clothes closet is empty. Time to clean out closets and contact friends and neighbors to help replenish our store!



We need everything : children, men, women's and plus sizes. Please help with this wonderful mission that helps so many! Thanks for your continued generosity.

Your Clothes Closet Team

United Women in Faith

UWF Luncheon

September 8, Monday at 12:00 noon.

Speaker will be Nanda Patel.

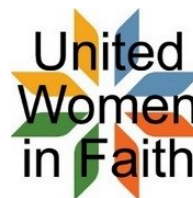
Executive Board will meet at 10:30 am.

Make your luncheon reservation by Sunday, September 7.

Contact Olivia Kendrick by text at 205-454-4375.

UWF Sunday

September 14, Sunday is UWF Sunday for both services at 9:00 am and 11:00 am. All ladies are encouraged to volunteer and help with a task during the service. Please contact Delores Abney or Olivia Kendrick.



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

September open dates are 9/3 and 9/17

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

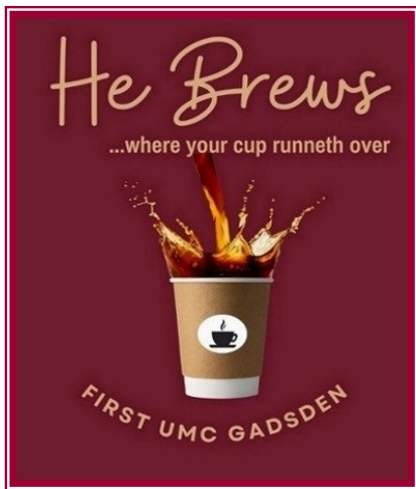
#gfumcreconnect2025

**Ladle of Love
Clothes Closet**

July

LOL	297
Clothes Closet	266

**Thanks to our
Volunteers!**



Follow us on
Facebook and Instagram.

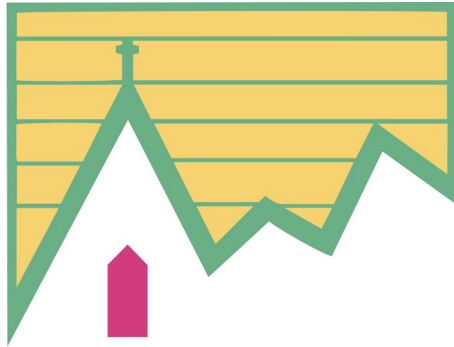


HeBrews Coffee Café 10 am, Chestnut Street Foyer
We Can't Wait to See You There!



A NEW Church Directory is coming! Watch for important dates for your opportunity to have a portrait made and be included in the GFUMC Church Directory. Photography dates are Tuesday, October 7 and Wednesday, October 8. Signup online for your photography session @ www.ucdir.com Church Code: **al217** Password: **photos**





Church FINANCES

A Note from the GFUMC Finance Committee:

If anyone has questions about our budget and spending you can contact the finance office at the church. If you want a specific area or in general, it is open to anyone. It can be printed or emailed to you.

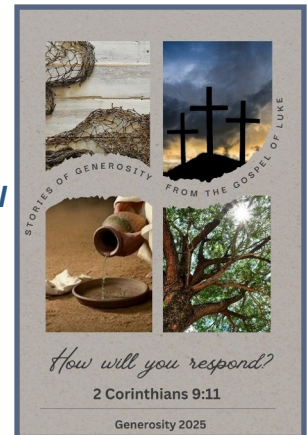
—Jill Vincent, Finance Chair

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



First UMC Gadsden
is a registered charity and can receive
donations through Venmo:

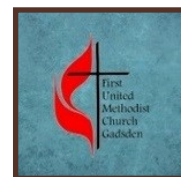
@FirstUMCGadsden

(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

You are invited to connect with the GFUMC Family in a new and exciting way. Connect through the church app today by scanning the QR code above. You will now be able to find groups and connect with Teams, Leadership Groups, Sunday school classes, UWF Circles and more within the App.

Follow these steps to connect:

- Scan the QR Code and Click the link.
- "Join" by creating your profile with a password in the app (use "continue with email").
- Discover your connections to the GFUMC church community, a smaller community (like UWF, choir, or Children's Ministry, etc.) or a small group (like a Sunday school class or small group) or a church leadership team. There are so many ways to connect!
- Request to join or accept an invitation to join.
- You are now ready to send and receive notifications, messages, notices, reminders, prayer requests, and more within your GFUMC connections.
- Thank you for joining GFUMC Community Connection today!



**Connect
with us**

First United Methodist
Church of Gadsden



Scan here to
connect with the
community now.



Download our
Church App

FUMC-Gadsden

On the App Store or Google Play
Create a profile and join the conversation
connection!

Bishop Holston will be preaching at First United Methodist Church on September 7 at the Traditions service. *There will be a reception in the Chestnut Street Lobby at Hebrews to welcome him and Felicia from 10am-10:45am, that day. Mark your calendar and make plans to attend.*



Celebration Worship, Sunday, September 7, All-Request Sunday

Get ready for a powerful and uplifting **All-Request Sunday** during Celebration on Sunday, September 7! This special worship opportunity puts *you* in charge of the setlist, every song we sing will be chosen by **you**, our church family.



We have invited everyone to vote in advance from a list of Praise Band songs, including old favorites, as well as newer, spirit-filled worship songs that speak to the heart. **The votes are in for the favorite praise and worship songs! Come and worship with us this Sunday!**



First UMC Gadsden Sept 7-Sept 13, 2025

Sept 7, Sunday

9:00 am-Celebration Worship, Sanctuary
10:00 am Sunday School
10:00 am- Reception for Bishop Holston & Felicia
11:00 am-Traditions Worship, Sanctuary

Sept 8, Monday

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

Sept 9, Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Fall Schedule
1:15 pm-Staff Meeting;
5:00 pm-Yoga, Gym

Sept 10, Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Fall Schedule
11:00 am-Morning Bible Study
4:00 pm -Lay Leadership Team Meeting, Room 118
5:15 pm-Wed 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

Sept 11, 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

Sept 12, Friday

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

Save the Date

Sept 7-9:00 am-Celebration Service "All Request Sunday"
10:00 am-10:45 am-Reception in the Chestnut Street Foyer for Bishop Holston and Felicia.
11:00 am-Bishop Holston preaching.
Sept 14-9:00 am and 11:00 am-UWF Sunday
Sept 21-10:00 am to 10:45 am-Open House & Shower for Youth Room, 211
Sept 28-10:00 am-10:30 am-Blessing of Animals-West Lawn (Green Space) See page 7 for details.

A new church directory is coming! Photography Sessions will be Oct. 7 & 8.
Sign up online:
www.ucdir.com
Church Code: **a1217**
Password: **photos**



- Rachel Sims
- Danny Swann

August 31, 2025

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Jackie Herlong Ruthie Hester
Beth Kimball Amy Epperson
Betty Elliott (Cindy Archer's mother)
Family of Barbara Ann Pactor (Susan Swann's sister)

Continued Prayer Concerns

Gloria Rives Dottie Rogers
Martha Bullock
Jay Morgan (Friend of Bobby Robinson)
Ricky Couvillion (Joey Couvillion's brother)



Birthdays

Sept 7 Carmen McKiven,
Andrew Jackson
Sept 8 Mark Condra, Michael McKiven,
Lydia Horton
Sept 9 Roberta Clonts, Mallory White,
Anderson Roberts
Sept 12 Chris Hill, Makenzie Staton
Sept 13 Betty Ballard, Linda Marble



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

Attendance Week of Aug 31, 2025

In Person Total *156 On Line Total 449
Worship Total 605 Thursday Worship *13
Celebration *69/236 Traditions *74/213
Adult Sunday School *41 Children SS *7
Middle School & Senior Hi SS *3 UWF *0
Bible Study Groups *40 Children Wed/Sun *34
Middle & Sen Hi Wed/Sun *16 Nursery *2

Year 2025 Week of Aug 31, 2025

General Offering Budget	\$12,400.00
General Offering Received	\$18,135.50
YTD Gen. Offering Budget	\$434,000.00
YTD Gen. Offering Rec'd	\$446,597.00

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.