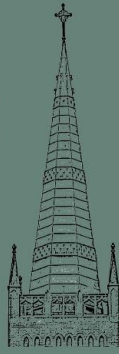


# #WeAreFirst



# Introducing Christ

Mark 16:9-20

Rev. Sherri Reynolds

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

## Sermon Notes: Thursday, January 15 & Sunday, January 18

We are First United Methodist Church of Gadsden, and we are called to share Christ, make disciples, serve people, and give hope. We do this so that lives may be changed in the name of Christ. Sharing Christ means that we introduce people to Christ. Jesus told the disciples to go into the world and proclaim the Good News to every creature. (Mark 16:9-20). Isn't that what we do when we introduce Christ? It is not that complicated to share, but is simply a move to proclaim with our words and actions.

Proclaiming the Good News invites us to introduce people to the Jesus whom we know. We share because we love Jesus and we hope that others will love Jesus too. We might share because Jesus has made such a difference in our life, and we believe that Jesus can make a difference in the lives of others. We share to make Christ known. How might you make Christ known today?

We are first.

Rev. Sherri

## Table of Contents:

**Page 1-** Sermon Notes; Practicing the Way w/Dawson Harmon; Tech Schedule; Acolytes, Thursday Worship Security

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**Page 7-** HeBrews; Pickleball; Usher/Greeter Schedule

**Page 8-** **"Building a Solid Foundation" Generosity 2026; Ways to Give; Online Giving**

**Page 9-** **#We Are First, January Sermon Series**

**Page 10-** Calendar; UWF Luncheon, 12 pm, January 12; Prayer Concerns; Births; Deaths; Memorials;

Birthdays; Weekly Reports; **Year-end Giving Report**

## 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](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/media)

**A new adventure begins at 10 am, January 11th, in Room 209! You are invited!**

## Practicing the Way

by John Mark Comer

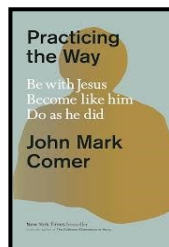
We are constantly being formed by the world around us. To be formed by Jesus will require us to become his apprentice.

To live by what the first Christian disciples called a Rule of Life—a set of practices and relational rhythms that slow us down and open up space in our daily lives for God to do what only God can do—transforms the deepest parts of us to become like him.

This introduction to spiritual formation is full of John Mark Comer's trademark mix of theological substance and cultural insight as well as practical wisdom on developing your own Rule of Life.

These ancient practices have much to offer us. By learning to rearrange our days, we can follow the Way of Jesus. We can be with him. Become like him. And do as he did.

**Join Dawson Harmon for eight weeks of Spiritual Formation.**



## Security for Thursday Worship

January 22: Todd Rains

## ACOLYTES

January 18: Clementine & Rhett Hilburn

January 25: Sara Kate, Jake, & Carter Thornburg

## Tech Team Schedule

### January 18

**Celebration:** Sheila Freeman, Bill Haller

**Traditions:** Neil Mullin, Sheila Freeman

### January 25

**Celebration:** Rob Reynolds, Bill Haller, Brad Barnes

**Traditions:** Davis Varner, Neil Mullin, Rob Reynolds

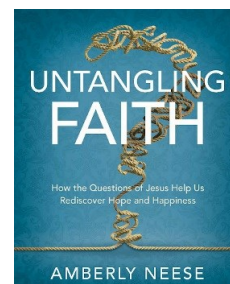


## Bible Studies & Small Groups for Adults

Join Rev. Sherri for a Bible Study based on *The Chosen* (Season 3) starting **January 7**. Each week will focus on a different episode with a Bible Study of the scripture behind the scenes and each week will stand alone, so you can plug in as your schedule permits. **Classes will be at 11 am and 6 pm in Room 208**. (Skipping February 18 for Ash Wednesday and April 1 for Spring Break/Holy Week). The classes will end at the church picnic in May.

**Untangling Faith by Amberly Neese, Wednesdays, 6 pm** —Your questions can lead to a deeper faith and trust in God. Have you ever felt you struggled to find your faith footing? Join Amberly Neese in she explores the questions Jesus asked as a way to reclaim that faith. Chapters explore our own questions like Can God Be Trusted? and How Can I Grow in Faith. **We look forward to seeing you on January 7—Harriet Murray**

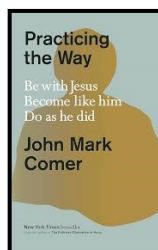
Amberly’s unique humor and wit help the whole group find their way through deep and rich issues of personal faith, doubt, and growth.



**Wonderful Wednesday Dinner**  
**January 21 Menu– Barbecue**  
**\$7 Per Person, \$3 age 11 & Under**  
*Please text 256.490.5018 to make or change a reservation.*

## Sunday School: New Adult Studies

**Transitions 10 am, Room 209**



***A new adventure begins January 11th in Room 209! You are Invited!***

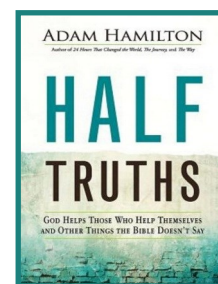
**Practicing the Way** by John Mark Comer—The disciples spent 3 years being apprentices to Jesus. They watched His every move and hung on every word. They were with Him 24/7. As a result, they, over time, became more and more like Him and began to do many of the things He did. With the Spirit’s help, with John Mark Comer as our guide, and with each other as encouragers, we too can learn to walk in Jesus’ steps.

**Join Rev. Dawson Harmon for this new small group study! Everyone is welcome!**

**Pathfinders/Seekers 10 am, Room 208**

**Half Truths** by Adam Hamilton—Beginning in January 2026

They are simple phrases. They sound Christian—like something you might find in the Bible. We’ve all heard these words. Maybe we’ve said them. They capture some element of truth, yet they miss the point in important ways.



**Living Waters 10 am, Room 116 Rev. Ken Casey**

**Questions You Always Wanted to Ask About the Christian Faith and the Bible**

**“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 will be closed Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup> in observance of Martin Luther King Jr day. Our next lunchbox revolt will be Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup> and we will have Burger King. Tuesday, January 27<sup>th</sup> is our annual teacher Meet and Greets for those going into 2K, 3K and 4K. Don't forget the King Cake Sale! Order deadline is 1/21!  
—Helene Haller



## Youth

Sunday School  
10 am, Room 211

## Wonderful Wednesday

Youth Group, 6:00 pm  
Will resume on Jan 7.

*"Let's Build a Solid Foundation!"*  
Matthew 7:24

**Wonderful Wednesday Dinner January 21– Barbecue**  
\$7 per person \$3 Age 11 & Under  
Please text 256.490.5018 to make or change a reservation.

# Children's Ministry

## GFUMC children

## january & february

January Unit

February Unit



Camp Believe It!



Miraculous



Sunday morning  
Children's Church  
9:00am & 11:00am

Sunday School  
10:00am

Wonderful  
Wednesday's  
6:00pm



## Wonderful Wednesday

Small Groups and Activities  
@ 6 pm

Fellowship Dinner, 5:15 pm  
January 21

Barbecue

\$7 per person  
\$3 ages under 11

## 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

GFUMC CHILDREN'S  
JANUARY UNIT

CAMP  
BELIEVE IT

WEDNESDAY'S  
AT 6:00

WEEK 1

WEEK 2

WEEK 3

WEEK 4

I BELIEVE GOD GIVES ME  
**PURPOSE.**

I BELIEVE GOD CAN  
**SPEAK TO ME.**

I BELIEVE GOD IS  
**POWERFUL.**

I BELIEVE GOD'S WORDS ARE  
**TRUE.**

"WE HAVE COME TO BELIEVE AND TO KNOW THAT  
YOU ARE THE HOLY ONE OF GOD."

JOHN 6:69 (NIV)



The Friends of the ELC  
**KING CAKE SALE**

**Order Tuesday, Jan 6 through  
Wednesday, Jan 21**

**Order Early!**  
Complete a handwritten form or order online!  
Estimated Pickup for King Cake Orders is February 7



Follow the  
QR  
Code  
for the  
Online  
Order  
Form

## ELC Authentic Louisiana King Cakes Order Form (2026)

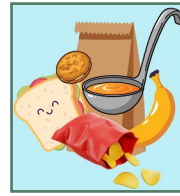
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
email: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Cake	Quantity	Price	Total
<b>Small Traditional 12" Circle, Feeds approx. 10</b>		\$ 30.00	
<b>Small Cream Cheese Filled* 12"</b>		\$ 35.00	
<b>Small Apple Filled 12"</b>		\$ 35.00	
<b>Small Strawberry Filled 12"</b>		\$ 35.00	
<b>Medium 12"x16" Oval, Feeds approx. 25</b>		\$ 35.00	
<b>Medium Traditional</b>		\$ 40.00	
<b>Medium Cream Cheese</b>		\$ 40.00	
<b>Medium Strawberry</b>		\$ 40.00	
<b>Total Quantity and Total Amount Due</b>			

## Mission Focus

### Ladle of Love—Volunteer Opportunity

The **GFUMC Ladle of Love Ministry** is a weekly outreach dedicated to sharing nourishment, dignity, and hospitality with our community. Each week, a **team of volunteers** comes together to prepare and pack approximately **100 take-out lunches**, offering a simple but thoughtfully prepared meal to anyone who comes. A typical lunch includes a **sandwich, chips, fruit, and a dessert**—often an individually wrapped Little Debbie. At times, the menu may vary and include options such as **barbecue sandwiches, soup and sandwiches, burritos**, or other hearty meals.



Lunches are distributed **every Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon** at the **covered portico facing 6th Street**. There is **no request for names, identification, or proof of eligibility**—all are welcome. To ensure fairness and availability, **one lunch is given per person present**. Through this ministry, GFuMC seeks to meet immediate needs while extending Christ’s love through compassion, generosity, and respectful service.

**Volunteers are essential to this ministry’s success.** We are currently seeking a **team leader and volunteers for the third Friday of each month**, and **additional volunteers are also needed for other weekly teams**. If you would like to volunteer or learn more about the Ladle of Love Ministry, please contact the church secretary, **Susan Swann**, at **256-543-8200**.

### GFUMC Clothes Closet Ministry

The **GFUMC Clothes Closet Ministry** is a welcoming outreach that provides free clothing to anyone in the community who has a need. **Donations of clothing are received throughout the year**, helping ensure that the Closet remains well stocked for all seasons. At present, **seasonal winter items** are especially needed, including **jackets, sweaters, hats, gloves, scarves, and socks**. Simply call the church office to schedule a time to drop off items.



A dedicated group of volunteers works behind the scenes to make this ministry possible. Volunteers gather from **9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on the Tuesday preceding each open day** to **sort, organize, and prepare donated clothing**. The Clothes Closet is thoughtfully arranged **like a retail store**, allowing guests to enjoy a dignified shopping experience. Some volunteers even use their creativity to design **attractive window displays**, adding a warm and inviting touch.

The Clothes Closet is **open to the public on the first and third Wednesday of each month from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** All clothing items are **provided at no cost**, and there is **no requirement for names, identification, or proof of need**. Guests are simply invited to come in, browse, and select the **clothing styles and sizes that best meet their needs**. Through this ministry, GFUMC offers care, respect, and generosity to the community. **New Volunteers are always welcome!** Contact Susan Swann, 256.543.8200 for more information.

## 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**

**January open dates are 1/7 and 1/21**

**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**

## United Women in Faith

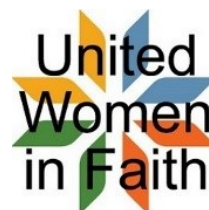
### Circle Meetings

The LuVerna Waid Circle will meet Tuesday, February 3, at 6:00 pm at the church in room 208.

### February Luncheon

12:00 noon, Monday, February 9

“Looking Toward the Future” Rev. Sherri Reynolds



### Ladle of Love Clothes Closet November

LOL	502
Clothes Closet	378
December	
LOL	208
Clothes Closet	321
Thanks to our Volunteers!	



JOIN THE MISSION TEAM & YOUTH IN JANUARY FOR

# A MYSTERY MISSION

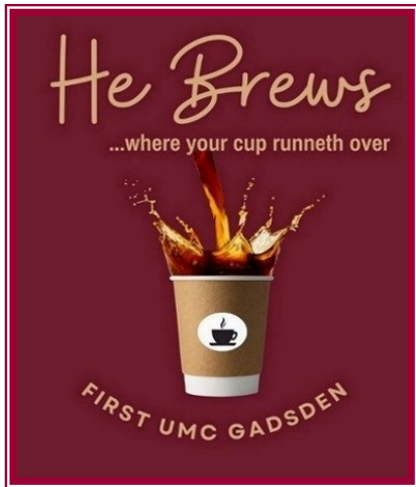
EVERYONE IS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE!

DETAILS COMING SOON!



FIRST UMC GADSDEN





Follow us on  
Facebook and Instagram.



HeBrews Coffee Café, Chestnut Foyer, Sundays, 10 am  
We look forward to seeing you on Sunday Morning!



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.



## Greeters & Ushers for Worship

Sunday, January 18

Celebration: David & Brenda Holmes

Traditions: Leslie & Phillip Johnson; Lori Varner; Gail McNair; Grover Kitchens

Sunday, January 25

Celebration: Kim & Cynthia Whitt

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




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



This has been 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 December 73 estimate of giving cards have been returned with a commitment of \$501,328.00* 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.)



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](http://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



Thursday Worship 5:30 pm Sunday Worship @ 9 am & 11 am  
"We Are First" Sermon Series Begins



# #WeAreFirst

Sermon Series January 8 - February 8  
Rev. Sherri Reynolds

**Forging Disciples  
Introducing Christ  
Rendering Hope  
Serving People  
Transformation**

Forging Disciples—Jan 8 & 11  
Introducing Christ—Jan 15 & 18  
Rendering Hope—Jan 22 & 25

Serving People—Jan 29 & Feb 1  
Transformation—Feb 5 & 8

A limited supply of "Light Green" long sleeve t-shirts will be available.  
Reserve yours now!

Email: [sheila@fumcgadsden.org](mailto:sheila@fumcgadsden.org) or turn this order form into the church office.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

T-shirts Requested :

\_\_\_\_\_ S \_\_\_\_\_ M \_\_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_\_ XL \_\_\_\_\_ 2XL \_\_\_\_\_ 3XL

# First UMC Gadsden Jan 18-Jan 24, 2026

## Jan 18, Sunday

9:00 am-Celebration Worship  
10:00 am-HeBrews Coffee; Sunday School  
11:00 am-Traditions

## Jan 19, Monday

ELC closed  
9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym  
2:00 pm-4:00 pm-Pickle Ball, Gym  
5:30 pm-7:30 pm-Basketball practice, Gym

## Jan 20, Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Winter Schedule  
9:00 am-11:00 am-Clothes Closet workday  
1:15 pm-Staff Meeting, Adult Library  
5:00 pm-6:00 pm-Yoga, Gym  
6:00 pm-8:00 pm-Basketball practice, Gym

## Jan 21, Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Winter 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 108  
Youth Activities, Room 211 & Gym  
6:00 pm-Bible Study Groups, Room 110 & 208  
6:00 pm-Choir Practice

## Jan 22 Thursday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Winter Schedule  
9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym  
5:30 pm—Thursday Worship  
5:30 pm -SPRC Meeting  
5:30 pm-7:30 pm-Basketball Practice, Gym

## Jan 23, Friday

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

### Honorariums & Memorials

#### Howell Erwin Fund

In memory of Lynn King, given by Mr. & Mrs. Bob Sisson.

#### Benevolence Fund

In memory of Lynn King, given by Mr. & Mrs. Alan Ross.

Friends of the ELC King Cake Sale  
Go to: order form on page 4 or use  
the QR Code to order online.  
Deadline for Order is this  
Wednesday, Jan 21.



*The flower on the altar is placed  
in honor of the birth of*

**James Frederick Reeves**  
**Born: 1/6/2026**

*Proud Parents:*

*Josh & Leslie Reeves*

*Proud Grandparents:*

*Benny & Gail McNair*



### Immediate Prayer Concerns

Olivia Kendrick Trish Blount Clay Hix  
Marionette Bishop Fred Chase  
James Dial (Taylor & Jay Dial's newborn son)  
Annette Jones (Rev. Sherri's mother)

### Continued Prayer Concerns

Maitland Adams Donnie Gray  
Linda Harwell Dawn Rains  
Amy Epperson (dtr of Gene & Danna Dean)  
Andrew Swann (grandson of Danny Swann)

### Please excuse our progress!

Improvements are being made by  
the City of  
Gadsden to 6th  
St including  
sidewalks and  
the entrance/exit  
for our parking area near the  
portico/greenspace. The use of the  
exit on 6th St will be closed  
intermittently for improvements.  
Please remember, for those  
needing assistance, entrances at  
the ramp on Chestnut or the  
Courtyard doors are available.



### Birthdays

Jan 18 Frank Dressman, Jan Andrew  
Jan 19 Janie Gray, William Edwards  
Jan 20 Sharon Morris  
Jan 21 Harrison Blount  
Jan 22 Ragan Godfrey, Nathan Whitt  
Jan 23 Dr. Steve Frederick, Amy Kelley  
Jan 24 Adam Carroll, Riley Epperson

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



### Attendance Week of Jan 11, 2026

In Person Total *167	On Line Total 462
Worship Total 629	Thursday Worship *8
Celebration *53/221	Traditions *106/241
Nursery Sun/Wed *5	Youth SS *3
Adult Sunday School *52	Children's SS *6
Bible Study *30	Children Sun/Wed *32
Youth Sun/Wed *12	

### Year 2026 Week of January 11, 2026

General Offering Budget	\$12,955.00
General Offering Received	\$ 9,644.00
YTD Gen. Offering Budget	\$25,910.00
YTD Gen. Offering Rec'd	\$19,814.00

### Year End Giving 2025

General Offering Received  
\$21,211.00  
YTD Gen. Offering Budget  
\$644,800.00  
YTD Gen. Offering Rec'd  
\$699,344.00

*Thank you for your generosity.*