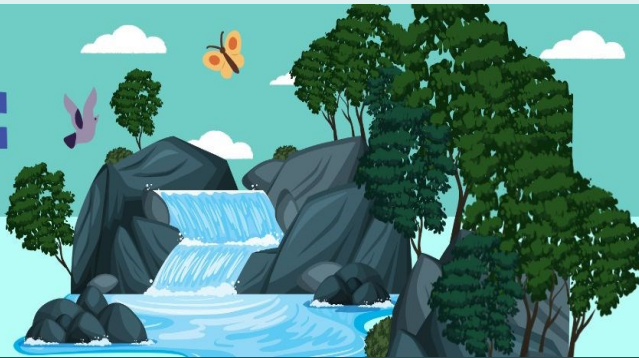


ADVENTURE:

MISSION & VISION FOR 2025



SHARING CHRIST

REV. SHERRI REYNOLDS

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

Sermon Notes: Thursday, January 23, and Sunday, January 26

What is your typical reaction when something great happens? We smile, celebrate, or tell others. Telling others might involve social media, a phone call, or conversation. Have you ever had such great news that you burst into song? Moses did (Exodus 15:1-19). Like *Cats*, *The Sound of Music*, or *Wicked*. Moses expressed his emotion with poetic praise. We know this through what is recorded in Exodus 15. This is how he and his people shared with the world God’s activity and goodness. How do you share with others the goodness of God? Is it through words, song, activities, and spiritual disciplines? Likely the ways that we share are as varied as we are. After all, it would not be appealing if my tone deaf me launched into a tune about God.

We are on a great adventure with God. One in which we are being transformed and so are others around us. Why not share with others this week about our Lord who transforms. Your avenue may not be with song, but I am sure that God has a song of sharing Christ that you can communicate with others. If not by tune, then by word and action.

Adventuring with you,
Rev. Sherri

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- Page 2**-Small Groups; Adult Studies for Sunday School Classes
- Page 3-ELC News; Student Ministries; Youth Calendar of Activities; Children’s Ministry
- Page 4**-GFUMC Missions News; Clothes Closet; Ladle of Love; United Women in Faith News
- Page 5**-Generosity 2025; Ways to Give; Online Giving; Venmo
- Page 6**-HeBrews; Pickleball; Do You Know?
- Page 7**-Adventure Sermon Series for Jan & Feb; District Workshop
- Page 8**-Calendar; Prayer Concerns; Memorials; Birthdays; Weekly Reports; Save the Dates

Worship Opportunities

Thursday: Worship, 5:30 pm

Sunday Morning:

Celebration, 9 am

Traditions, 11 am

*In-Person and Livestream or On Demand

ACOLYTES

January 26: Clementine and Rhett Hilburn
February 2: Sylvia Harbin & Becca Echols

Thursday Worship Security

January 23: Steve Frederick
January 30: Rob Reynolds

Tech Team Schedule

January 26

Celebration: Sheila Freeman, Bill Haller, Carmen McKiven
Traditions: Neil Mullin, Sheila Freeman, Brad Barnes

February 2

Celebration: Sheila Freeman, Carmen McKiven
Traditions: Mark Condra, Wayne Payton, Sheila Freeman

AN ADVENTURE AWAITS	JANUARY 19	SHARING CHRIST	JANUARY 26
MAKING DISCIPLES	FEBRUARY 2	SERVING PEOPLE	FEBRUARY 9
GIVING HOPE	FEBRUARY 16	THE RESULT OF A GRAND ADVENTURE	FEBRUARY 23

FIRST UMC GADSDEN

REV. SHERRI REYNOLDS

The Chosen Season 2 Bible Study



Rev. Sherri will be leading a Bible Study of Season 2 of the Chosen starting January 8. Each week will focus on a particular episode, reviewing the corresponding scriptures while engaging both with thought provoking questions. The class will be offered at 11am and 6pm on Wednesdays in room 208. The class will last until April 9 (with the night session skipping March 26 for spring break.)

Wednesday Fellowship, Room 208

January 29- Barbecue

\$7 Youth & Adults \$3 Children 11 & Under

Dinner is served beginning at 5:15 PM

Wednesday Morning Bible Study @ 11 am, Gathering Room

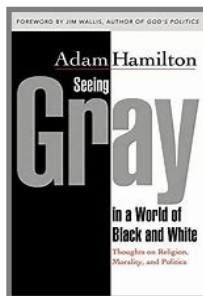
"The Chosen" w/ Rev. Sherri Reynolds

Adult Small Groups @ Wonderful Wednesdays, 6 pm

Rev. Sherri, "The Chosen", Room 208

Harriet Murray, "Destinations", Room 110

Adventure Into Sunday School with New Adult Studies

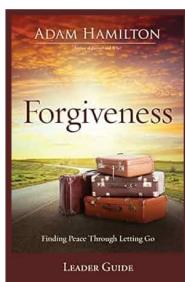
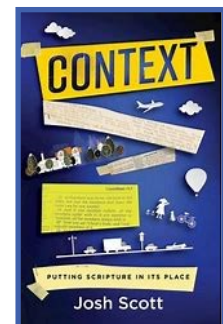


Transitions 10 am, Room 209

This study encourages thinking persons of faith to model for the rest of the country a richer, more thoughtful conversation on the political, moral, and religious issues that divide us. Hamilton rejects the easy assumptions and sloppy analysis of black and white thinking, seeking instead the truth that resides on all sides of the issues, and offering a faithful and compassionate way forward.

Pathfinders/Seekers 10 am, Room 208

Join us. Everyone welcome! Context looks at verses we know by heart but may not know the people, places, and times that give them meaning. Josh Scott delves into these well-known Scripture verses, exploring their true meanings by examining them in their original biblical context.



Living Waters 10 am, Room 116

A new study will begin our new study January 12th on the book *Forgiveness - Finding Peace Through Letting Go* by Adam Hamilton. The book is available on Amazon for \$9.99 (newer version with suitcases.)

"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

Thank you to everyone who purchased a king cake or made a donation to our cause this year. It was another success!! We enjoyed Burger King this week and were glad not to be closed for snow. Tuesday, January 28th ELC faculty will host meet and greets for those going into 2k, 3k and 4k. Then on Thursday, January 30th, 3k and 4k students will field trip to the cultural arts center and imagination place.

—Helene Haller



Youth Wednesdays, 6 pm

Senior High, Rm 211
Middle, Rm 209

Youth Sundays, 10 am

Youth Sundays w/ Becca
Sunday mornings, Room 211

Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Dinner, 5:15 pm, Gathering Room

Wednesday, January 29– Barbecue
\$7 Youth & Adults \$3 Children 11 & Under

Activities and Small Groups for All Ages begin at 6 pm.

Children's Ministry

GFUMC children
january & february

January Unit



I can do all things through
Christ who gives me strength.
Philippians 4:13

february Unit



In your hands are strength and
power to exalt and give
strength to all.
1 Chronicles 29:12



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

Sunday School
10:00am

Wonderful
Wednesday's
6:00pm



January Mission Focus

UMCOR: ALLEVIATING SUFFERING IN THE U.S. & ALL OVER THE WORLD

Update: Wildfires in California On January 7, strong Santa Ana winds in Los Angeles caused wildfires to spread rapidly in multiple communities. Thousands of homes and businesses have been destroyed, as well as multiple local United Methodist Churches. Preliminary assessments of the damage is underway. UMCOR has awarded two solidarity grants to the California-Pacific Annual Conference to undergird their immediate relief efforts. This includes evacuee support like food and essential supplies as well as support for volunteer efforts and other relief activities.

As the humanitarian relief and development arm of The United Methodist Church, the **United Methodist Committee on Relief – UMCOR** – assists United Methodists and churches to become involved globally in direct ministry to persons in need. UMCOR comes alongside those who suffer from natural or human-caused disasters – famine, hurricane, war, flood, fire or other events—to alleviate suffering and serve as a source of help and hope for the vulnerable. UMCOR provides relief, response and long-term recovery grants when events overwhelm a community’s ability to recover on their own. UMCOR provides technical support and training for partners to address emerging and ongoing issues related to disaster relief, recovery, and long-term health and development. Additionally, UMCOR supports migrants through legal and humanitarian support, as well as through global advocacy.

- **Pray:** UMCOR’s work is undergirded by the power of prayer – both in the hours after a disaster strikes and through recovery.
- **Donate:** Gadsden First UMC is receiving donations for UMCOR during the month of January.
- **Volunteer:** U.S. volunteer efforts are arranged through annual conferences; reach out to your conference disaster relief coordinator to learn more.

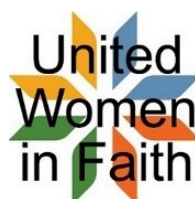
The NAC Disaster Response Warehouse, located in Decatur, AL, is staffed by volunteers, and receives donations of disaster relief supplies based on UMCOR Standards.

During the month of January, the GFUMC Missions Team will be collecting items for UMCOR that will be donated through the NAC Disaster Response Warehouse. Go to the app or pick up a list of needed items in the Chestnut Foyer. Donations may be placed in the Red Buckets at our entrances.

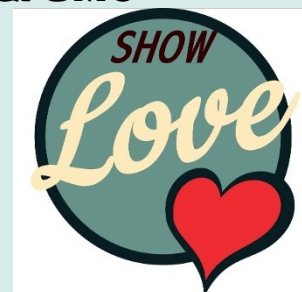
United Women in Faith

The next Luncheon is February 10 at 12:00 noon. The speaker is Jennifer Spears, Director of Christian Hope, a home in Honduras which houses 10 girls who are orphaned or abused. Please call or text your reservation to Olivia Kendrick by Friday, February 7, at 205-454-4375.

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



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

February open dates are 2/5 and 2/19

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

#gfumcreconnect2024

**Ladle of Love
Clothes Closet**

December

LOL	298
Clothes Closet	403

**Thanks to our
Volunteers!**

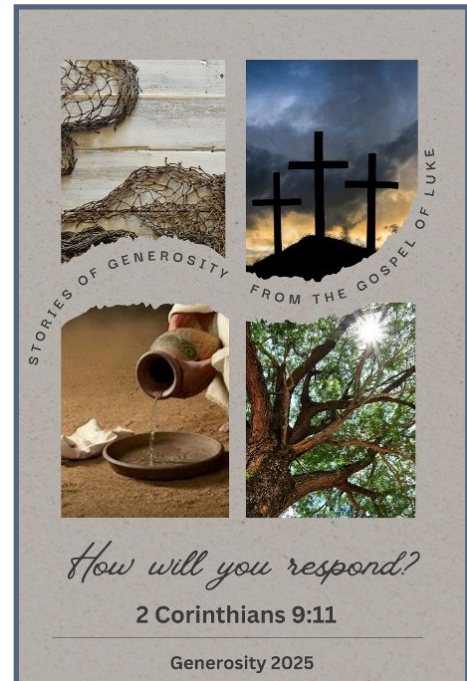
A Letter of Gratitude

I am thankful for your commitment and discipleship lived out through First United Methodist Church of Gadsden in 2024. The generosity emphasis, “How will you Respond?” resulted in 68 commitments returned for \$461,596 pledged to our 2025 budget, representing an increase in the number making a commitment and an increase in the amount over last year. We closed the 2024 General Fund with receipts exceeding the budget by more than \$90,000. We also saw an increase of 11 in attendance or 6.8% over the year before. There are incredible folks who were willing to step up to lead for the coming year. First United Methodist Church celebrated 13 professions of faith and 9 baptisms last year. This is data worth recognizing! While this is the year in metrics, it is also lives changed and lives growing deeper in relationship with Jesus.

I am not sure what 2025 will bring, but I know that God will be with us. My prayer is that we continue to be a congregation that is changing lives, because we share Jesus, make disciples, serve people, and offer hope.

In gratitude,
Rev. Sherri Reynolds
Rev. Sherri

Generosity 2025



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**

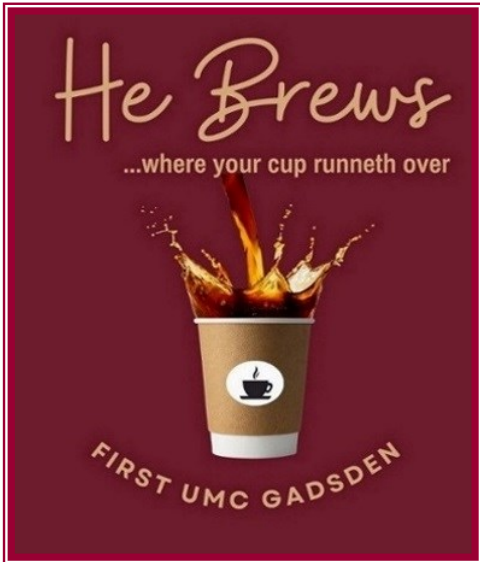
Mail your tithe or gift: 115 S. 5th Street, Gadsden, AL 35901



Secure Online Giving



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



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



**DO
 YOU
 KNOW
 ?**

SAM & MARY FLEMING



Sam grew up in Greenville, MS, and graduated from Westpoint Military Academy in 1973. He served in the Army and National Guard, then received a Master's degree in Psychology and PhD in Clinical Psychology from the University of Mississippi ("Ole Miss"). He did his residency at John McClellan Veterans' Hospital in Little Rock, AR, and has been in private practice since 1985. His office, "Samuel E. Fleming III—Neuropsychologist," is located at 112 Court Street in Gadsden. Mary grew up in Gadsden and graduated from Gaston High. She is retired from Family Savings Credit Union and now volunteers as Manager of Sam's practice. Mary and Sam enjoy music, sports, concerts, and spending time with friends and family, especially their 13 grandchildren as they participate in various sporting events and other activities. Sam and Mary have 5 grown children: Laura Lee, who works for the CED Mental Health Center; Melissa, who is an administrator for Aveanna Healthcare; Jason, who owns a tile business; Lisa Thornburg, who is a veterinarian for the USDA and is a member of our church; and Kristen, who is a paralegal with Regions Bank in Birmingham, AL.



January 19- February 23 An Adventure Awaits Sermon Series

Our journey of faith is a great adventure. With Moses as our guide, we will spend a season of looking at the great dventure of following Jesus and how that relates to us not only as individuals, but as First United Methodist Church of Gadsden.

Join Rev. Sherri for the Adventure! Worship, Thursdays or Sundays!

Mid-Central District Lay Speaking Class

Feb. 1, 2025 Basic Class - Tony Campbell

Deadline to Register - January 27, 2025

Leading Worship-Carol Gullatt

Greetings to all who are interested. I am Barbara Russell chair-person of the Mid-Central District of Lay Servant Ministries of the North Alabama Conference United Methodist Church.

Please register with me by phone 334-863-1142 or email barbrussell@tds.net. I will be in contact with you within 24 hrs. If you register for a class and cannot attend, please notify me as I plan the food by the number attending. Cost is \$40.00 for the classes and each person is responsible for ordering their own book. You can order your book from the Upper Room 1-800-972-0433 or upper-room.org/store.

The \$40.00 includes breakfast, lunch, and a snack on Saturday. Registration begins at 7:30 am. Class begins at 8:00 am with a break mid-morning and lunch at noon. The class will end at 3:00 pm.

The classes will be held at Centre 1st United Methodist Church. Address is 341 West Main Street, Centre, AL 35960. Everyone will receive a certificate for taking the class. If you have any questions, please contact me. I look forward to seeing you.

Barbara Russell
Chairperson of Lay Servants Ministry
Mid-Central District
334-863-1142 or barbrussell@tds.net

First UMC Gadsden Calendar for Jan 26-Feb 1, 2025

January 26, Sunday

9:00 am-Celebration Worship, Sanctuary
 10:00 am-Sunday School classes for all ages
 10:00 am- HeBrews Coffee
 11:00 am-Traditions Worship, Sanctuary
 12:00 pm-Children's Ministry Team Meeting, Rm. 108

January 27, Monday

9:00 am-1:00 pm- ELC
 9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym
 2:00 to 4:00 pm- Pickleball, Gym

January 28, Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm- ELC

January 29, Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, ELC
 11:00 am-Bible Study-Pastor Sherri, Room 208
 5:15 pm-Fellowship Dinner, Gathering Room
 6:00 pm-Small Groups for Adults, Rooms 110 & 208
 Children, Room 108
 Middle Group, Room 209
 Youth Group, Room 211
 Choir Practice, Choir Room

January 30, Thursday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, ELC
 9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym
 5:30 pm-Thursday Worship, Sanctuary

January 31, Friday

11:00 am-12:00 pm- Ladle of Love
 Office closes at 12:00 pm



**Thursday
WORSHIP**

A SERVICE OF PRAYER AND WORD
 5:30 pm to 6:00 pm In the Sanctuary
 First United Methodist Church of Gadsden

*The flowers on the altar today are in
 Celebration of
 Charlotte Rutland
 on her birthday, January 26, given by her
 daughters, son-in-laws, and 10 grandchildren.*

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Mary Tom Hale Carla Watson
 Dr. Pat Herrera
 (Juanita Hammons' son-in-law)



Continued Prayer Concerns

Amy Epperson



**Thank you for your King Cake
 Orders for the ELC Fundraiser.
 King Cakes will be available
 for pickup on Saturday,
 February 1. More details will
 be announced soon.**

Week of January 19, 2025

In Person Total-*148 On Line Total-537
 Worship Total-685 Thursday service *15
 Celebration *54/314 Traditions *79/223
 Adult Sunday School *39/2 Children *7
 Middle School *1 Senior High *1 UWF *20
 Children Wed/Sun *37 Nursery Wed/Sun *3
 Middle Wed/Sun *7 Senior Hi Wed/Sun *7

Year 2025

General Offering Budget	\$12,400.00
General Offering Received	\$6,808.00
YTD General Offering Budget	\$37,200.00
YTD General Offering Rec'd	\$35,631.00

Birthdays

Jan 26 June Longshore,
 Charlotte Rutland
Jan 27 Brad Barnes
Jan 28 Marian Ford, Caroline Thornburg
Jan 29 Eldred Davis, Michael Blevins,
 Sara Katherine McCord, Cora Kotlerov
Feb 1 Lee Trotter, Sherri Watson,
 Kelly Whisenant, Sarah Grace Whitt,
 Jane Catherine Sohor

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

—Susan Swann



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.*