



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

Sermon Notes: Sunday, July 7, 2024 “The Strongest Among Us”

Have you ever faced obstacles in your life? Likely yes. We all have faced some challenges. Paul did too. He called his obstacle a “thorn in the flesh.” There has been much speculation as to what the challenge could have been. Scholars have not reached agreement on the ailment. We do know that Paul asked God three times to remove the obstacle, only to hear back from God, “My grace is sufficient, my power is revealed in weakness.” (2 Corinthians 12:1-10).

God’s power revealed in weakness seems like a counterintuitive statement. How can power be revealed in weakness? It could be that during this thorn in the flesh season that Paul could not rely on himself but had to trust God. Paul knew that with the struggle, he could not be strong, but he had to rely upon the Lord to be strong for him. This was an act of faith and trust, believing that what he could not, God could. This was a case that Paul’s strength decreased, so that God’s strength might be evident in him. Peace and strength come from faith and trust. Paul found the depth of God’s strength in a life challenging time.

My prayer for you this week is that whatever challenge you are facing that you find God’s strength and power. May God’s grace be sufficient, and His power be revealed in your weakness.

In Christ, Rev. Sherri



Gift to Gadsden

First United Methodist Church of Gadsden
Members Sharing Their Gifts & Talents
Free Workshops & Introductory Classes

Monday through Thursday, July 22 to July 25

Session 1: 6:15 pm to 7:15 pm

Break: 7:15 pm to 7:30 pm

Session 2: 7:45 pm to 9:00 pm

A variety of classes will be offered this year—see page 7 for the full list of classes! **Pick up flyers from the church to display at your office or in the community and share the event on social media!**

Registration for classes is now open online @ www.fumcgadsden.org/2024gifttogadsden or call 256-543-8200.

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Worship Opportunities

No Thursday Worship on July 4

Sunday Mornings: Celebration 9 am*

Traditions 11 am*

*In Person (Sanctuary) and Online

ACOLYTES

July 7: Volunteer

July 14: Anna Kate Casey & Jade Collins

Tech Team Schedule

July 7

Celebration: Sheila Freeman

Traditions: Wayne Payton, Sheila Freeman

July 14

Celebration: Sheila Freeman, Bill Haller, Carmen McKiven

Traditions: Mark Condra, Wayne Payton, Brad Barnes

Take the Spiritual Gifts Inventory @ Spiritual Gifts UMC.org

Every child of God is filled with [the power of the Holy Spirit](#), specially gifted to play a unique and valued role in the body of Christ. No one is without gift or purpose.

Spiritual gifts are not our talents or skills. They are the grace of God at work within us, empowering us to match our deep passions with the world's deep need. The gifts are given to individuals, but they are given to build and strengthen community and to meet the needs of those around us.

Begin the journey. Discover your gifts. Talk about your gifts with others. Strive together to understand your gifts and how you can use them to serve God, neighbor, and world. You have been gifted. You have been given a purpose.



Sunday SCHOOL

Classes for All Ages!

Children's Sunday School Rooms 108 and 104
Youth Sunday School Room 211

New Young Adult Sunday School Room 209
Pathfinder/Seekers Room 208
Living Water Room 116

(Nursery provided for Children under 3)

#WeAreFirst

Men at the Well Thursday Mornings, 7:00 am

You are invited to join the weekly Bible study with the Men at the Well small group.

Currently meeting at 278 Restaurant.

Contact Todd Rains, Mark Condra, Mark Casey, or any of the Men at the Well for more information.

#WeAreFirst

**Wednesday
Fellowship
Dinner**

**Will resume
August 14**

**Wednesday Morning Bible Study &
Adult Small Groups @ Wonderful Wednesdays**

Will Resume in August.

We hope you enjoy the summer! Please be sure to check out

ELC News

Summer session is well underway. We are having a great time exploring summer themes such as picnics, ocean life, gardening and bugs. Our summer will come to a close July 24th.

—Helene



Youth Ministry News



"The Chosen Bible Study"
Meet in the Youth Room
@ 10 am

#WeAreFirst

July 2024

**Spring
Valley Beach**

7/14

Leave after Sunday School

**Visit Animal
Shelter**

7/18

Time to be announced.

Camp Lee

(overnight camp)

7/26-7/27

**Bake Dog
Treats**

7/17 6 pm

at the church

TOP GOLF

7/21

Leave after Sunday School

**Activate
Birmingham**

7/31

Depart from Church
at 5 pm.

GFUMC Youth Summer 2024

**Added
notes...**

Join us for exciting July Activities!

Thank you for
helping the
youth!
-Carmen

EACH ACTIVITY WILL REQUIRE 1-2 ADULT
CHAPERONES, NOT INCLUDING CARMEN.
CONTACT CARMEN IF YOU CAN VOLUNTEER

TWO VOLUNTEER CHAPERONES ARE NEEDED FOR
THE ANIMAL SHELTER ON JULY 18, THIS EVENT
WILL REQUIRE PARENTS TO TAKE THE YOUTH.

**Youth Group
Summer Activities**

**Contact
Youth Counselor,
Carmen McKiven
256.458.3375
cmckiven@hotmail.com
For more
Information!**

Children's Ministry

Sunday Mornings @ 9 am and 11 am, Children's Church & 10 am Sunday School
Take a look at all the Summer Events & Activities for Children.

GFUMC CHILDREN'S Summer calendar 2024

NOCCALULA FALLS HIKE
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12 @ 5

Let's go swimming
Wednesday, June 26
101 Wilson Drive

GIFT TO GADSDEN
July 22-July 25

End of Summer MOVIE NIGHT
Wednesday, July 31 @ 5

Make R.A.K. bags!
Wednesday, July 10 @ 5

VBS JUNE 3-JUNE 6
Ephesians 6:10

Kindness MATTERS

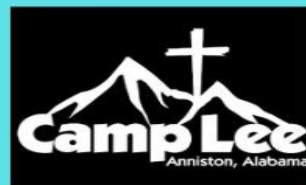
GFUMC Confirmation Summer Events



MAY 19 CONFIRMATION SUNDAY
JUNE 3-6 VBS
JUNE 14/21/28 SOUP KITCHEN
JULY 10 LESSON FROM TWEENS
JULY 14 LOCK-IN
JULY 12/19/26 SOUP KITCHEN
JULY 22-25 GIFT TO GADSDEN

#WeAreFirst

CAMP LEE
JULY 26-27



For more info, text Katharine 256-393-3051

DONNY & JANIE GRAY



Janie grew up in Rainbow City and attended Etowah High School, then Gadsden State Jr. College. She started working in her family's business, Majors Iron Company, in the early 70s, and Donny came to work there in 1977. They kept the family company until they retired in 2022 and sold Majors Iron in December of that year. They also owned the printing and shipping company, PostNet, for 25 years. Janie says that in their free time, they enjoy traveling and riding their trike motorcycle. Donny grew up in Glencoe and attended Glencoe High School, then Gadsden State, where he studied Accounting. He worked at Goodyear for 10 years before joining Majors Iron Company in Rainbow City, which had been started by Janie's father, Walter Majors, Jr., in 1946. (Mr. Majors was also the second

Mayor of Rainbow City and a "life member" of United Methodist Men.) Donny says, "My passion would be Mission trips. I was fortunate to have traveled to Belarus on 4 different trips, and to Bolivia, Tanzania in East Africa, and with our church to the Philippines. I was happy to include 2 of my granddaughters, MaraJade and Ashton on this trip." Donny and Janie have 2 sons, Jeff (wife Connie) and Tony (wife Nicole), 6 grandchildren, and 1 great grandson.



**Mondays
2-4 pm**

Pickleball
COME AND PLAY!
SPORTS | FRIENDS | MONDAYS @ FIRST

First UMC Gym | 115 S. 5th Street
2nd Floor | Gadsden, AL 35901

ENTER AT THE CHESTNUT ST FOYER OFFICE DOOR
First United Methodist Church of Gadsden

#WeAreFirst

I Love Pickleball!

Mission Focus



It's Christmas in July! You can fill a stocking and bring joy this Christmas! This year's Christmas in July features new instructions and guidelines for filling stockings. This year, stockings can be filled for the following age groups: Infants and Toddlers; 3-9 year olds; 10-12 year olds; Seniors 62 and above. *Return filled stockings to the church by August 5th.* You can pick up a stocking and a copy of the suggested items for filling stockings for each age group in the Chestnut Foyer or look for the Salvation Army's suggested list on the GFUMC Church App! Also be sure to include a slip of paper tucked inside the stocking with gender and an approximated age for the recipient. Thank you for your participation in this year's Christmas in July Mission! —The Mission Team

United Women in Faith

Exceptional Persons Summer Party given by UWF is July 10, 3 pm-4 pm.

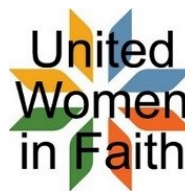
Contact Sharon Morris for more information.

Our next Summer Supper will be on Tuesday, July 16 at 5:30 pm at the home of Jill Vincent with sub sandwiches (donations will be taken at the party). Jill has offered fun in and around the pool. So be ready to "Jump In" if you wish! 2104 Harbor Lane, Southside, AL 35907. Dinner will be served inside away from the heat. Please come!

The monthly luncheons will resume in September.

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

July open dates are

7/3 and 7/17

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

#gfumcreconnect2023

Clients Served

May 2024

Ladle of Love 484

Clothes Closet 259

Thanks to our
Volunteers!



Gift to Gadsden

First United Methodist Church of Gadsden

Members Sharing Their Gifts & Talents

Free Workshops & Introductory Classes

July 22—July 25, 2024

First Session: 6:15—7:30 PM

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

Cake Decorating MTWTH	Michelle Cothran
Casual Cooking MTWTH	Harriet Murray
Crafts with Katharine MTWTH (ages 1st through 5th Grades)	Katharine Barnes
Flower Arranging MTWTH	June Styles & Benny Campbell
Positive Parenting MTWTH	Sherri Reynolds
Making Money by Recycling MTWTH	John Brown

Monday, Tuesday Only

*Calligraphy for Beginners MT	Robin Wilson
Coping with Grief "Over, Under, Around, Through" MT	Frances Hart
Getting into Film, TV or Modeling MT	Ray Macon
Investment & Finance MT	Jay Hedgspeth
iPhone Basics MT	Bob Blount
Medicare & You—Your Choices MT	Jackie Brechin
Olive Oil Benefits 101 M or T (Select One)	Jeff J, Tena King & Leslie Johnson
Southern Herbal Remedies MT	Darryl Patton
Wills, Power of Attorney's & Medical Directive MT	Davis Varner
*Yoga for Beginners MT	Jane Patton

Wednesday, Thursday Only

How to Buy Your First Home WTH	Susan Morris/Sheila Freeman
Standing Up for Yourself-Assertiveness Training WTH	Delores Abney

Fellowship Time: 7:30—7:45 PM

Extended Session: 6:15—9:00 PM

**Mahjong MTWTH	Gail Spotnitz
Roleplaying Games and You MTWTH	Zack Hilburn
*Crochet for Beginners MT	Angela Whorton
*Knitting for Beginners WTH	Angela Whorton
Redesigning Jewelry WTH	Benny McNair
Beginning Pickleball, 6:15 pm to 8:15 pm, MT	Jana & Mac Downs
Beginning Pickleball, 6:15 pm to 8:15 pm, WTH	Jana & Mac Downs

Limited Class Sizes—Pre-Registration Required

Register @ 543-8200 or online @ <http://www.fumcgadsden.org/gift2gadsden2024>

***Supplies-you furnish supplies.**

**** Supplies provided for a fee.**

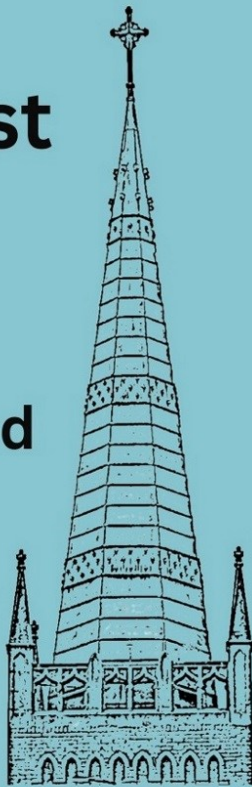
Nursery provided by request with pre-registration only.



**115 South 5th Street
Gadsden, AL 35901
256-543-8200**

#wearefirst

- Diverse
- Investing
- Empowered
- Rooted



Share your pictures
of all things
FIRST
with #wearefirst
on Social Media!



www.fumcgadsden.org

First UMC Gadsden #wearefirst T-Shirts \$15.00 Each

T-Shirt Order Form



#WeAreFirst T-Shirts are available in the Chestnut Foyer for \$15. Sizes available are XS, S, 2XL, 3XL, and 4XL and you can pick your t-shirt up this week. Additional, M, L and XL t-shirts have been ordered and will be here soon!

If you would like a size that is not available, please contact Sheila Freeman this week. 256-490-5018 to be sure to reserve a t-shirt.

#WeAreFirst Stickers and Tumblers are also still available in the Chestnut Foyer.



#wearefirst
First UMC Gadsden
Hot/Cold Tumblers
\$10
Available in the
Chestnut Lobby.



Stickers
\$1

Are You Ready for Your Summer Vacation?

What to Know Before You Go!

- We are going to miss you! (Come to Thursday Worship before you go.)
- Download the FUMC-Gadsden church app and turn on notifications!
 - Join First UMC Gadsden live online via the the church website: www.fumcgadsden.org/media, facebook, or youtube.
- Worship services are also available on-demand on the church website or church App!
- Don't forget to share where you are watching from in the comments if you are joining on Facebook!
- Attending a Church out of area? Let us know! Bring us a bulletin or brochure! We'd love to learn more!
 - Before you go...Set up recurring giving through the First UMC Gadsden's eGiving platform.
- Give via Venmo @FirstUMCGadsden (Search in Venmo under charities or follow the link in the QR Code below.)

#WeAreFirst

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 FirstUMC-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

Calendar for July 7-July 13, 2024

July 7 Sunday

9:00 am Celebration Worship, Sanctuary
 10:00 am Sunday School for all ages
 HeBrews Coffee, Chestnut Street Foyer
 11:00 am Traditions Worship, Sanctuary

July 8 Monday

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

July 9 Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Summer Schedule
 5:00 pm-6:00 pm-Yoga, Gym

July 10 Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Summer Schedule
3:00 pm-4:00 pm-Exceptional Persons Party
 5:00 pm-Children & Tweens Activity, Room 106
 No Choir Practice

July 11 Thursday

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

July 12 Friday

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



**Bring Cookies or Brownies for
 Gift to Gadsden**
 Your donation may be dropped off in
 the Chestnut St Foyer on
 Sunday, July 21 or Monday, July 22.
 Thank you for your support!
 —the Mission Team

Exceptional Persons Summer Party



Wednesday,
 July 10
 3 pm to 4 pm
 Gathering Room
*Hosted by
 United Women
 in Faith*

Honorariums & Memorials
General Budget Fund
 In memory of Harry Butler, given by Marian Ford.

Immediate Prayer Concerns
 Phil Owen Albert Gibson, Jr. John Floyd

Continued Prayer Concerns
 Judy Collins (Tripp Collins mother)
 Amy Epperson Louie Loveman

Birthdays

July 7 Jennifer Blount Riddle,
 Lillie Skipper
July 8 Beau Bone, Alex Freeman
July 9 Ann Sims
July 10 Charles Wells,
 Denise Lindsey, David Wooten
July 11 Jane Hughes, Ray Macon,
 Dustin Turnipseed, Ethan Powell,
 Lindsey McFarland, Silas Hosey
July 12 Tate Ogletree
July 13 Joanie Leach,
 Deborah Masters



Week of June 30, 2024

In Person Total-*169	Worship Total-1016
Online-847	Thursday Worship-*10
Celebration Service-*50/334	
Traditional Service-*109/513	
Sunday School Adult-*37	Children *5 Youth *1
Nursery *1	Bible Study Groups-*5
Wed/Sun-Children*35	Wed/Sun-Youth *1
*in person	

General Offering Budget \$11,400.00
 General Offering Received \$11,438.00
 YTD General Offering Budget \$296,400.00
 YTD General Offering Rec'd \$339,038.00

Important Deadlines
 Information for the weekly
 newsletter **is due each
 Tuesday by noon.**

*All requests for **spoken
 announcements for Sunday
 morning must be turned in by
 Thursday @ noon, in writing,
 to Susan Swann.***

*All Meetings, Events and Activities
 must be scheduled in advance
 with the church secretary, Susan
 Swann, by email or phone*