

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

Sermon Notes: Sunday, June 30, 2024

How will you celebrate the 4th of July? Many of you will travel. Some of you will BBQ, watch fireworks, eat melon, or spend time in the water. Some will mark the birth of our nation with a patriotic observance or with family tradition. Let me suggest another way to celebrate: Thanksgiving. We may not think of Thanksgiving on the 4th of July, but just listen to my case. Paul writes in 1 Thessalonians 5:18 and reminds us to give thanks in all circumstances. We may typically think of Paul's advice to give thanks in situations applying to when we may not feel like giving thanks, but I think this could be applied to holidays as well. Giving thanks in all circumstances could mean spending time in gratitude during all your days, including holidays. Let a little gratitude be sprinkled in your July 4th fun. After all Paul does write that giving thanks in all circumstances is God's will for us (1 Thessalonians 5:12-28).

So, count your blessings this July 4th. Thanksgiving not only has its place in November, but in everything, especially Independence Day. See how many reasons to give thanks that you can come up with this Thursday, and you just might find an abundance of blessings in freedom and celebration.

In gratitude,
Rev. Sherri

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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

www.fumcgadsden.org/media



ACOLYTES
June 30: Marit Norris
July 7: Volunteer

Tech Team Schedule
June 30
Celebration: Eric Wright, Brad Barnes
Traditions: Wayne Payton, Neil Mullin, Brad Barnes
July 7
Celebration: Eric Wright, Sheila Freeman
Traditions: Wayne Payton, Sheila Freeman

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.



#WeAreFirst

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)

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

June 2024

Help with VBS
8:45 am to 11:45 am
M, T, W, TH
6/3-6/6

(Check in and out w/Ms. Katharine)

Bake Brownies & Deliver to Downtown Merchants.
Meet @ Church
10 am to 2 pm
6/22

Service Day & Lock-In
6/8

Pick up Litter/
Noccalula Falls
Black Creek Trails
Meet @ Jack's
6:00 pm on
6/19

Service Day & Lock-In 6/8
Schedule

10 am - 1 pm Service Projects

- Clean Youth Room
- Clean Gym
- Pick Up Litter in Alley

Break (on your own)

7 pm - Return to Church for Lock-in

- Nerf Gun Games
- Movie
- More Fun & Games

Plan to go to Celebration and Sunday School & Depart by 10:45 am!

GFUMC Youth June 2024

Added notes...

Thank you for helping the youth!
-Carmen

More Dates Coming For July!

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**
LET'S GO HIKING
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12 @ 5

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

GIFT TO
July 22-July 25
GADSDEN

VBS JUNE 3-JUNE 6
Ephesians 6:10

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

End of Summer MOVIE NIGHT
Wednesday, July 31 @ 5

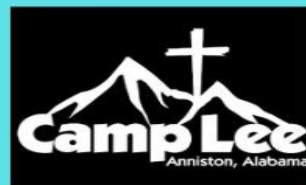
GFUMC Confirmation Summer Events



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

GEORGE & LORI VARNER



Lori grew up in New Orleans and received a B.A. in Psychology from Louisiana State University (LSU). She works as an Administrative Assistant to the Dean of Finance at Gadsden State. Members of our church for 26 years, both she and George have served on our Board of Trustees and Board of Stewards. Lori has also served on the Staff-Parish Relations Committee and is a member of the LuVerna Waid Circle and United Women of Faith. She is active in both the Living Waters and Pathfinders/Seekers Sunday School classes. George, who passed away in December 2023 after a five-year health struggle, was a Sunday School teacher in previous years for Seekers and most recently, for the Living Waters class. He grew up in Tuskegee, AL, and graduated from Auburn with a B.S. degree in Building Construction, then worked in the area of Hospital Facilities Management. George was a member of the United Methodist men's group, "Men at the Well" and was a devoted church volunteer. He loved fishing, hunting, spending time with family and friends, and doing just about anything outdoors. Lori and George have two children: Davis (38), a Gadsden attorney, and Collin (36), an IT Consultant in Denver, CO.

**Mondays
2-4 pm**

I Love Pickleball!

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

Mission Focus



Tornado Buckets Delivered! Thank you to all who supported this First UMC Mission Project for the NAC Disaster Relief Warehouse!



United Women in Faith

Our next Summer Supper will be on Tuesday, July 16 at 5:30 pm at the home of Jill Vincent with sub sandwiches. Her address is 2104 Harbor Lane, Southside, AL 35907. Hope all United Women in Faith will join us for fun and fellowship!

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!

In Praise and Thanksgiving

**Patriotic Music
presented by
Chancel Choir & Musicians**

**11:00 am Traditions Worship
Sunday, June 30**

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



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 including Beginning Pickleball, Beginning Yoga, Cake Decorating, Beginning Calligraphy, Casual Cooking, Coping with Grief, Crafts with Kids, Crochet & Knitting, Flower Arranging, How to Get into the Movies or Modeling, iPhone Basics, Investment and Finance, Medicare & You: Your Choices, Olive Oil Benefits, Positive Parenting, Recycling Electronics & More, Redesigning Jewelry, Roleplaying Games, Southern Herbal Remedies, Wills & POA & Advance Directives, and more!

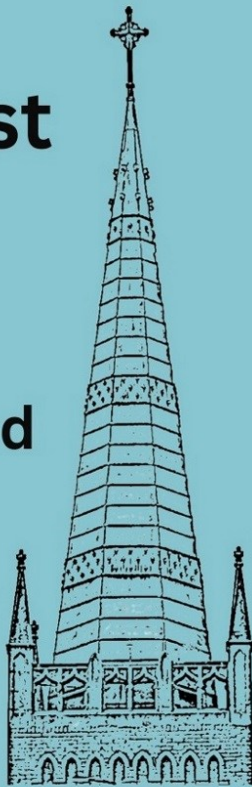
Watch for the complete schedule in next week's news!

Pick up **flyers** in the church office to share throughout our community!

Registration for classes will open on July 1, 2024.

#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 June 30-July 6, 2024

June 30 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 1 Monday

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

July 2 Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Summer Schedule
 9:00 am-11:00 am-Clothes Closet workday
 5:00 pm-6:00 pm-Yoga, Gym

July 3 Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Summer Schedule
 9:00 am-11:00 am-Clothes Closet open

No Choir Practice

July 4 Thursday

Office Closed

No Thursday Worship

July 5 Friday

Office Closed

No Ladle of Love

#WeAreFirst



The ministers and congregation of First United Methodist Church of Gadsden extend Christian sympathy to Barbara Cook and her family, in the death of her husband, Bryan Sylvester Cook on June 22, 2024.



The church will be closed on July 4th and 5th in observance of the 4th of July holiday.

Thursday Worship will not meet on 7/4.

Honorariums & Memorials

General Budget Fund

In memory of Ruth Chandler, given by Diana Rampey.

Ladle of Love

In memory of Ruth Chandler, given by Mr. & Mrs. Mark Condra.

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Phil Owen Albert Gibson, Jr. John Floyd

Continued Prayer Concerns

Judy Collins (Tripp Collins mother)
 Amy Epperson Louie Loveman

Birthdays

July 1 Carma Rayburn,
 Lauren Blackstock, Lilly Ostendorf,
 Sarah Kate Brookshire

July 2 Susan McCord, Gene Dean,
 Gavin Martin

July 3 Todd Rains, Jody Sizemore

July 4 Mitch Dupont, Joyce Culp,
 Dr. Kim Whitt, Jackson Camp,
 Natalie Blevins, Sadie Ann Smith

July 5 Rhonda Robinson, Clay Smith,
 Emmuel Vallejo

July 6 Dr. Ted Jones, Mark Echols,
 Tate Sizemore

Week of June 23, 2024

In Person Total-*149	Worship Total-457
Online-457	Thursday Worship-*10
Celebration Service-*56/186	
Traditional Service-*83/271	
Sunday School Adult-*35	Children *6
Youth *1	Nursery *1
Bible Study Groups-*4	UWF *20
Wed/Sun-Children*13	Wed/Sun-Youth *4
*in person	

General Offering Budget	\$11,400.00
General Offering Received	\$9,742.00
YTD General Offering Budget	\$285,000.00
YTD General Offering Rec'd	\$327,600.00

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