

# Foundations

# Love Neighbor

*Rev. Sherri Reynolds*

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

### Sermon Notes: Thursday, June 5 and Sunday, June 8

This Sunday is Pentecost Sunday. A day when we celebrate the birth of the church and remember the coming of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit with the sound of wind came upon those gathered in the Upper Room and tongues of fire rested upon them. The activity of the Spirit spilled into the street where Peter preached and three thousand were added to their number (Acts 2).



The Holy Spirit continues to send us into the streets. To live out the call to love our neighbor, we need to go into the street to be with our neighbor. This could be those around us individually, but especially our neighbors around our church. The Church is not simply what happens at 115 S 5<sup>th</sup> Street in Gadsden, but the church is wherever we bring the love of Christ. The church is present when as love our neighbor (Matthew 22:36-40).

*For the Love of Neighbor, —Rev. Sherri*

### FOUNDATIONS Sermon Series: June 1-June 15

When you build a house, where do you start? After you develop your plan and prep the construction site, the first real phase of building is laying the foundation. Excavation, trenches, footings, and foundational walls are the important first steps for any building project. You must be careful to start right, because without a good foundation, what is built upon it might not stand. Foundation work is critical.

Foundation work is also critical in our faith and in the life of this church. As followers of Jesus, building essential footings keeps us on the right track personally and as a congregation. Get the foundation right and other elements fall into place. This June, we are going to be examining the essential footing for us as individuals and for First United Methodist Church. This series will be unique in that it will explore one passage of scripture, with three key elements in the passage being the message focus.

— Rev. Sherri Reynolds



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### 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)

### ACOLYTES

June 8: Clementine & Rhett Hillburn

June 15: Sarah Echols and Luke Barnes

### Tech Team Schedule

**June 8**

**Celebration:** Sheila Freeman, Bill Haller, Rob Reynolds  
**Traditions:** Davis Varner, Mark Condra, Sheila Freeman

**June 15**

**Celebration:** Sheila Freeman, Bill Haller  
**Traditions:** Neil Mullin, Sheila Freeman, Rob Reynolds

## Calling Cards for Pentecost



*God chose you to experience salvation through the Spirit who makes you holy.*

2 Thessalonians 2:13 NLT

*Those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit.*

Galatians 6:8 NLT

*You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere.*

Acts 1:8

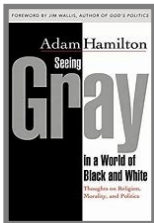
[fumcgadsden.org](http://fumcgadsden.org)

Cherie Cornelius has thoughtfully designed beautiful calling cards that feature images from our church windows alongside meaningful scripture. These cards are a heartfelt way to invite someone to worship, offer encouragement, or simply let them know you're keeping them in prayer. The latest design, created for Pentecost, showcases the “Descending Dove” from the large stained glass window in the gym. All current and previous designs are available in the Chestnut Foyer. Please feel free to take a card—or several—to share with others.

**Wednesday Morning Bible Study & Wonderful Wednesday will resume in August!**

## Sunday School: New Adult Series

### 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

The series comprises five sessions. Each one tells the story of the hymn writer, how the hymn came to be, and the Christian message behind it. Hymns include: *How Great Thou Art*, *Rock of Ages*, *Amazing Grace*, *The Lord's My Shepherd*, & *And Can It Be?* Across the five sessions, ***Hymns We Love*** will help bring the core truths of the Christian story alive in a way that is gentle, warm, and clear.



### Living Water 10 am, Room 116

The Living Water Class is doing a unique study for the next several weeks. We are looking at events, teachings, miracles, parables found in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Since these three gospels are very similar in many incidences special books have been written that compare these similar stories. So you may have a story in one, or two or all three Gospels. We are examining these events to see what we can learn from them.

### “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 had a great first week of our summer session. We enjoyed seeing our old friends and welcoming a few new faces. This week we take a short break for FUMC Children's Ministry to host VBS. See everyone Tuesday, June 17<sup>th</sup>.

—Helene Haller



### Youth Group

Summer Schedule  
Room 211  
Sunday School  
10 am, Room 211

### VBS Youth Volunteers

VBS, June 9-12  
9 am to 11:30 am

### Ark Trip

Youth Summer Trip to the Ark is June 20 & 21.

**Wonderful Wednesday will resume in August!**

# Children's Ministry

Wonderful Wednesday Children's Small Groups and Activities will resume in August

Sunday Mornings: Children's Church during worship, Sunday school @ 10 am

**VBS Volunteer Workdays: Sundays, June 1 & 8, 12 pm to 2 pm**

And Monday-Friday, June 2-6 during the day! Look for ongoing projects in the arts and craft room.

The LORD your God is with you **wherever you go.**  
Joshua 1:9

First United Methodist Church of Gadsden  
June 9-June 12  
ages 3k-5th

Register HERE for VBS

Road Trip: On The Road With God!  
GFUMC VBS 2025

VBS 6/9-6/12

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY ROAD TRIP! JUNE 13

GFUMC SUMMER CALENDAR

- Swimming @ The Gilbert's Wednesday, June 25 101 Wilson Drive
- WATER GAMES @GFUMC JULY 9
- MAKE TREATS FOR ANIMAL SHELTER @GFUMC JULY 23
- KIDS LOCK-IN @GFUMC TBD
- OLD GRUMPS VS YOUNG PUNKS ULTIMATE VOLLYBALL GAME @GFUMC JULY 13
- GIFT TO GADSDEN @GFUMC JULY 28
- ACOLYTE LUNCH BARONE'S PIZZA JUNE 22
- BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS @GFUMC AUG 3

# June Mission Focus

**gfumc Clothes closet**

**June Mission**  
**Donate New Socks & Underwear of All Sizes!**  
*Drop off items to the Red Buckets located in the Chestnut Foyer and Sanctuary entrances.*

Open to the public on the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 9 am to 11 am.  
 516 Broad St, Gadsden, AL 35901

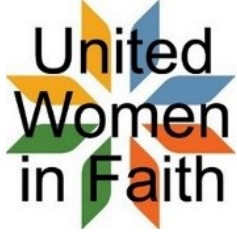
**FIRST UMC GADSDEN**  
 www.fumcgadsden.org 256.543.8200

The **Big Red Buckets** are out!!! We are collecting donations of **NEW socks and underwear** for **Clothes Closet**. All sizes for men, women, and children are needed! Please help us fill these **Big Red Buckets** during the month of June! You will find them in the church in the Narthex, at the Hazel Oliver Entrance to the Sanctuary, and in the Chestnut Foyer. Thank you for always supporting one of the great missions of the church...Our **Clothes Closet!** And as always men's clothing and shoes are needed.

**United Women in Faith**  
 Reminder: **Pickup for your Boston Butt/Ham orders is Wednesday, June 11.**

**Summer Suppers Yippee!!! They are Back...**  
 Summer Suppers are here—Lots of fun during the summer months for all ladies of our church! Join us for...

**Summer Supper #1**  
**Old Mexico Cantina & Grille**  
 93 Walker St, Gadsden, AL 35904  
 Tuesday, June 17 at 6:00 pm



## 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

**June open dates are**

**6/4 and 6/18**

9:00 am to 11:00 am

516 Broad Street Gadsden

Find out more about mission and service opportunities @

[www.fumcgadsden.org/serve](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/serve)

Phone: 256-543-8200

Email:

[fumc@fumcgadsden.org](mailto:fumc@fumcgadsden.org)

#gfumcreconnect2024

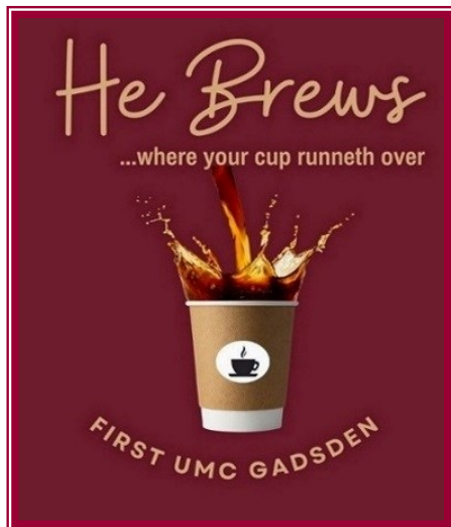
Ladle of Love  
Clothes Closet

May

LOL	407
Clothes Closet	258

Thanks to our  
Volunteers!





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

Follow us on  
Facebook and Instagram.



Do  
You  
Know  
?



"Do You Know?" is a weekly feature displayed on the sanctuary and lobby screens at Gadsden First UMC, as well as in our online church newsletter. Anna Mullin serves as our interviewer, reaching out to members by phone or connecting in person before or after worship services to gather biographical information. Her husband, Neil, captures casual photographs between the Contemporary and Traditional services each Sunday. You may be contacted to participate—our goal is to highlight each member of our church family through this engaging feature.

The LORD your God is with you **wherever you go.**  
Joshua 1:9

Cokesbury Kids

**ROAD TRIP**  
ON THE GO WITH GOD

First United Methodist Church of Gadsden  
June 9-June 12  
ages 3k-5th

Register **HERE** for VBS

**Road Trip: On The Road With God!**  
GFUMC VBS 2025



## Save the Date: Gift to Gadsden 2025

### Monday-Thursday, July 28-31

*Introductory Classes and Workshops presented by members sharing their gifts and talents.*

***Registration will open later in June!***

*Watch for exciting news about all the new and returning classes and workshops that will be shared this year!*

*We look forward to seeing you at Gift to Gadsden!*





This past Easter, we invited you to tithe the week of Holy Week, above and beyond your general fund offering. I am pleased to share that you responded with deep generosity. As of the writing of this letter, so far **\$29,942.00 has been given as part of the 2025 Alleluia Offering.** Thank you for your ongoing generosity and support. Your giving has enabled us to fund ongoing organ maintenance, activities for our students this summer, and new media ministries.

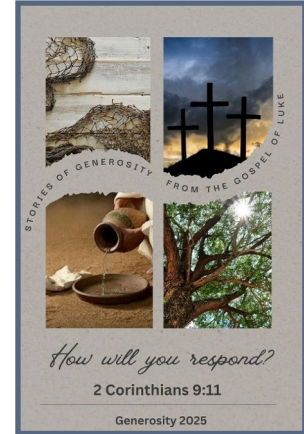
As always, I am overwhelmed by the level of generosity within the congregation. What you are doing through First United Methodist Church of Gadsden is changing lives in the name of Jesus.

Thanks be to God!  
*Rev. Sherri Reynolds*  
 Rev. Sherri Reynolds

## 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](http://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](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

## Lights, Lights, Action! New LED Lighting Brightens Our Gym

This week, the lights in our gym received a much-needed upgrade as we transitioned to energy-efficient LED fixtures. This improvement not only promises to brighten our space but also marks a significant step toward both saving money and creating a more sustainable environment for our church community.

The idea for the lighting upgrade was sparked by a simple yet impactful request from Eric Wright, during his time as Chair of the Board of Stewards. Eric posed a challenge: “What are some ideas to save the church money?” The gym lights, which had become a major cost item, were not only expensive



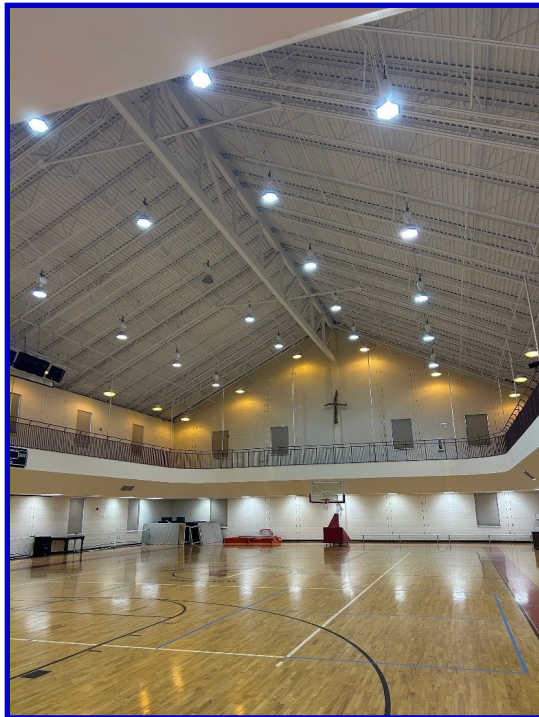
but also discouraged the use of the space. A suggestion was made with information found online about cost savings that could be realized by replacing the gym lights with LED lights. While the idea was being considered, Susan Swann, Church Secretary, discovered an article online detailing a similar project completed by another church, where they had successfully received a grant to upgrade their lighting system. Inspired by this example, Susan gathered information about the grant and its availability. As this opportunity was made known, the application process for the grant officially began. A huge thank you goes out to several key individuals who made this project possible: Mark Condra, our Church Treasurer, who played a pivotal role in managing and coordinating the financial aspects of the project, ensuring the process stayed on track; Mark Casey, who provided critical information about energy efficiency, cost savings, and the long-term return on investment of the project; Alan Ross, Trustees Chair

and Matthew Vance, Building Supervisor, who worked to gather the required multiple bids from contractors; and Eric Wright, whose grant writing experience was invaluable in crafting a strong proposal.

This process began with the vision and leadership of our 2024 church team, whose foresight and collaborative spirit set the foundation for the successful execution of the upgrade. The completion of this project and was made possible by our church’s investment along with approval of the grant funding. *The new LED lights will significantly reduce energy consumption and costs, with an estimated annual savings of \$4000.00, while also providing better illumination for our gym space—making it a more inviting environment for everyone who uses it.*

A special thank you to everyone who played a role in bringing this “bright idea” to life. We look forward to seeing the positive impact this upgrade will have on our church activities and the broader community.

*And, of course, let’s enjoy the new lights!*





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.

## Top 10 Things To Do on the Church APP

10. Meet the Pastors and Staff. (Home Tab-Meet the Pastors and Staff)
9. Fill out a Connect Card. (Home Tab-Connect)
8. Read the Church News. (Home Tab-News)
7. Check Out Upcoming Church Events. (Events Tab)
6. Read the Bible in a Year. (Bible Tab)
5. Look up Scripture. (Bible Tab)
4. Send a Prayer Request. (Home Tab-Prayer Request)
3. Give. (Home Tab-Give)
2. Receive notifications/messages from the church.
1. Watch or Listen to Worship Services and Sermons. (Media Tab)

**Download our Church App FUMC-Gadsden On the App Store or Google Play**



### Weekly Newsletter

Subscribe to the weekly newsletter by submitting your email to the church secretary, Susan Swann: [susan@fumcgadsden.org](mailto:susan@fumcgadsden.org) You will receive the weekly newsletter by email on Friday mornings.

The Newsletter is also available in the GFUMC Church App and on the Church Website.

# First UMC Gadsden June 8-June 14, 2025

## Jun 8, Sunday

9:00 am-Celebration Worship, Sanctuary  
 10:00 am- HeBrews Coffee  
 11:00 am-Traditions Worship, Sanctuary  
 12:00 pm-2:00 pm-VBS Volunteer Workday

## Jun 9, Monday

9:00 am-11:30 am-VBS  
 2:00 pm-4:00 pm-Pickleball, Gym

## June 10, Tuesday

9:00 am-11:30 am-VBS  
 5:00 pm-Yoga, Gym

## Jun 11, Wednesday

9:00 am-11:30 am-VBS  
 6:00 pm-Choir Practice

## Jun 12, Thursday

9:00 am-11:30 am-VBS  
 5:30 pm-Thursday Worship service

## Jun 13, Friday

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

**VBS Road To The Home of Ross and Stephanie Isbell**

**THINGS TO KNOW**

- Meet at church, ride church bus for a Road Trip experience! (24 available seats)
- We'll play/swim in the river
- Feel free to bring river toys (paddle board, float, etc.)
- Fishing is acceptable away from swimmers, must bring own gear
- Dinner is provided, \*see 'Things to Bring'
- Pool is not in use
- Parent attendance is encouraged

**THINGS TO BRING**

- Towel
- Water shoes
- Bathing suit
- Personal chair
- Personal life jacket (if you have one)

A GFUMC Children's Ministry Event

**311 Lakepoint Drive**  
**Friday, June 13, 12:00-2:00**

**VBS Workdays: Volunteer & Decorate**  
**Sunday, June 8 from 12 pm to 2:00 pm**

### Immediate Prayer Concerns

Brent Styles  
 Gary Atkins  
 Ted Jones  
 Jane Jones  
 Sadie Brown (Rhonda Robinson's mother)  
 Ricky Couvillion (Joey Couvillion's brother)  
 Lois Couvillion (Joey Couvillion's mother)

### Continued Prayer Concerns

Dottie Rogers  
 Martha Bullock  
 Amy Epperson  
 Mary Tom Hale  
 Trish Harrell  
 Nadine Shipp (Gail Spotnitz's mother)  
 Emily Carroll (Adam Carroll's wife)  
 Grayson Phillips (Dathan and Leigh Carroll Phillips' son)



**Birthdays**

**Jun 8** Mark Whitt, Owen Trotter  
**Jun 9** Dr. Alejandro Hornik, Jud Burford, Patrick Watkins  
**Jun 10** Allison Casey  
**Jun 11** Tammy Hayes, Ruthie Hornik  
**Jun 12** Tyler Darden, Connor Jarecki  
**Jun 13** Dr. Gary Dial, Gail Spotnitz, Steve Roach  
**Jun 14** Cindy Kasper, Kelly Page, Jackson Page, Shannon Muratta

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

**Attendance Week of June 1, 2025**

In Person Total *160	On Line Total 542
Worship Total 702	Thursday Worship *14
Celebration *60/276	Traditions *86/266
Adult Sunday School *36	Children SS *2
Middle School & Senior Hi SS *5	
Bible Study Groups *7	Children Wed/Sun *9
Middle & Sen Hi Wed/Sun *5	
Nursery Wed/Sun *3	

**Year 2025 Week of June 1, 2025**

General Offering Budget	\$ 12,400.00
General Offering Received	\$ 15,628.00
YTD Gen. Offering Budget	\$272,800.00
YTD Gen. Offering Rec'd	\$291,632.00

### 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](mailto:susan@fumcgadsden.org) or call the church office.***