

3rd Sunday of Advent.



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

Peace Will Come
CONDUCTED BY J.T. HARRELL

CHANCEL CHOIR CHRISTMAS MUSIC
WITH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA, CHOIR, AND SOLOISTS

Sunday
DEC | 11 | 11 AM

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GADSDEN
115 S. 5TH STREET
GADSDEN, AL 35901

Sing We Now of Christmas
Still, Still, Still—Austrian Carol
From Heav'n Above to Earth I Come
Peace Will Come
Candlelight Carol
Silent Night
Joyful and Triumphant

arr. Leavitt
Luboff
Nagy
arr. Schwoebel
Rutter
arr. Schram
arr. Hayes

Benediction *Hallelujah Chorus from Messiah*

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Worship Opportunities

Thursday Worship: 5:30 pm, Sanctuary

Sunday Mornings:

Celebration 9 am* Traditions 11 am*

*In Person (Sanctuary) and Online
www.fumcgadsden.org/media or
on Facebook Live: @FUMCGadsden

ACOLYTES

December 11: Anna Kate Casey &
Clementine Hilburn
December 18: Marit Norris &
Hadley Hedgspeth

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE DEDICATION
OF THE CHILDREN'S WORSHIP ROOM

In Memory of Joanne Hightower

SUNDAY | DECEMBER 11 | 10 AM

First United Methodist Church of Gadsden
Room 108 and Portico Foyer
115 S. 5th Street

Reception to Follow
Portico Foyer

Tech Team Schedule

(Please arrive 45 minutes
prior to the start of the service)
December 11 (One Service)

Traditions: Eric Wright, Sheila Freeman,
Carmen McKiven and Jacob McKiven

December 18

Celebration: Will Brookshire, Sheila Freeman,
Brad Barnes

Traditions: Mike Self, Sheila Freeman

Jesus Is...

"Get Ready"	Sun. 11/27	9 am & 11 am
"Jesus is...Emmanuel"	Sun. 12/4	9 am & 11 am
Choir Christmas Music	Sun. 12/11	11 am-One Service
"Jesus is...Son of Man"	Sun. 12/18	9 am & 11 am
"Jesus is...Lord"	Sat. 12/24	4 pm & 6 pm
"Jesus is...Savior"	Sun. 12/25	10 am-One Service

P A S T O R S A M H A Y E S

SERMON SERIES FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GADSDEN

Christmas in Gadsden

Sunday, Dec. 11- One Worship Service, 11 am, Chancel Choir Christmas Music
10 am *Dedication of the Children's Worship Room*
in memory of Joanne Hightower

Sunday, Dec. 18 - Worship at 9 am and 11 am
Sunday School at 10 am

Thursday, Dec. 22- "Christmas in Gadsden—Cookies and Carols", 5:30 pm
In the Chestnut, Street Lobby and the Sanctuary

Saturday, Dec. 24- Christmas Eve
4 pm, Candlelight Worship and Holy Communion
5 pm, *Live Nativity presented by UMYF*
6 pm, Candlelight Worship and Holy Communion

Sunday, December 25-Christmas Day Worship, One Service, 10 am
Sunday, January 1- New Year's Day Worship, One Service, 10 am

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GADSDEN

Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Meal

Will resume in January!

We will see you in the New Year!

Out of Town on the Weekend?

Come to Thursday Worship!

5:30 to 6:00 pm each week

In the Sanctuary

Bible Study with Pastor Sam

Wednesday Mornings

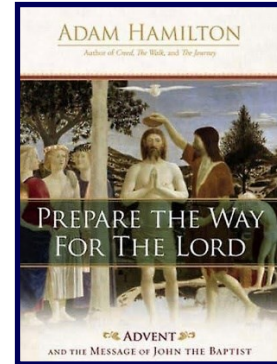
11 am In Person Bible Study

Room 208, Prepare the Way for the Lord

**Facebook Live @ 6 pm or on demand-via
the FUMC APP or website**

Small Groups at Wonderful Wednesday, 6 pm

Will resume in January!



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. They are currently meeting at the Choice Restaurant.

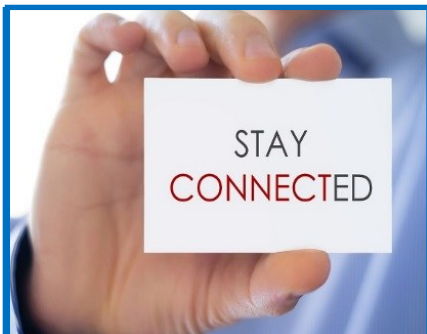
Study for Advent:

The Journey by Adam Hamilton.

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

RECONNECT with the Sunday School Class of Your Choice!

- Living Waters Sunday School Class, The “Angels of Christmas-Hearing God’s Voice in Advent” by Susan Robb, **Room 112, In person and online.** **Contact a member of the class for the link to join online!**
- Martin Fellowship Class, International Bible Studies, **Room 116**
- Multi-Age Sunday School, with Eric Wright and Harriet Murray, Why Christmas Matters **Room 208**
- Pathfinders and Seekers Classes are currently meeting with the Multi-Age Sunday School Class, **Room 208**



Sign Up to Receive Emails from the Church

Sign up to receive emails from the church including the Weekly News, Devotionals, Ministry and Mission Notes, and Sermon Notes.

Go to: <http://www.fumcgadsden.org/sign-up-to-receive-emails>

Need Help: Contact Sheila Freeman @ 256-490-5018

ELC News

**Friday, December 9th through
Wednesday, January 3rd: Christmas
Break!!** Prepare for the birth of Jesus
and ring in the New Year!!!

**Wednesday, January 4th: Welcome to
Spring Semester 2023!!!** Normal times
and activities resume at the ELC.

—*Helene Haller*



Youth Ministry News

Wonderful Wednesdays are back!
Dinner at 5:15, please make a reservation!

**Sunday School is back for Youth! Room 210
10 am on Sunday mornings.**

December 24 The youth will participate in the "Live Nativity"
at 5:00 pm between the Candlelight services.

December 31st-New Year's Eve- Lock-in at the church.

—*Pastor Andy*

**Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Dinner—Will Resume in January
See you in the New Year!**

Children's Ministry

Children's Church, Sundays during Celebration and Traditions Worship
Wonderful Wednesday Children's Group, Wednesdays at 6 pm

The poster has a dark green background with festive holiday decorations. At the top, it says "GFUMC Children's Ministry" in white. The main title "Ugly Christmas Sweater Party" is written in large, stylized letters, with "Ugly Christmas" in green and "Sweater Party" in red. Below the title, it says "Kid's Worship Room, 108• Starts 6PM" in white. The date "Wednesday, December 14" is also in white. At the bottom, it says "UGLIEST CHRISTMAS SWEATER GETS A PRIZE!" in white. There are two illustrations of ugly Christmas sweaters: one on the left with a yellow star and one on the right with a Christmas tree. The poster is decorated with white stars, a red cloud, and a green starburst.

December Mission Focus



Angel Tree Gifts

Please return your gifts for the Angel Tree by this Sunday, December 11. Gifts should be unwrapped and tagged with the Angel Tree # for the Angel Selected. Thank you for your gifts to make this Christmas special for a child through our Angel Tree.

—The Mission Team

UMW Christmas Boutique

Christmas
Cards

Sunday Mornings
Chestnut Foyer
December 11, & 18



All Proceeds Benefit UMW Missions

UMW News

- Christmas Boutique, Dec. 11 & 18 in the Chestnut Foyer!
- LuVerna Waid Circle Christmas Party and Ornament Exchange, December 20 at 6 pm, Susan Copeland's home.

UMW Luncheon Monday, January 9, 2023



Poinsettias Cost \$21.00 each*
Select the Date (It will be in both services)

___ December 18 ___ December 25

Donated by _____

___ In Honor of ___ In Memory of

Name _____

*subject to change

Orders must be placed Monday at noon prior to the date you are requesting.

GFUMC



"By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:35

Clothes Closet

Workdays

1st & 3rd Tuesdays

Open to Public

1st & 3rd Wednesdays

December dates are
12/7 and 12/21

9:00 am to 11:00 am

516 Broad Street Gadsden

Ladle of Love

Fridays, 11:00am-12:00pm,
at the Portico entrance.

Clients served in
October 2022

Ladle of Love 372

Clothes Closet 237

*Thank you to all our
volunteers for their time and
service to these missions!*

The Ladle of Love will be
closed December 23

Find out more about mission
and service opportunities @
www.fumcgadsden.org/serve

Phone: 256-543-8200

Email:

fumc@fumcgadsden.org

[#gfumcreconnect2022](https://twitter.com/gfumcreconnect2022)

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GADSDEN

Generosity 2023

Strength for today, bright hope for tomorrow!



Your church needs more than just your financial giving in 2023... we need everyone to be “engaged” with church. We all promised to support our church with our PRAYERS, PRESENCE, GIFTS, SERVICE, and WITNESS. In other words, we all promised to be plugged into every part of the church and to do it faithfully.

There is a line in the hymn, *Great is Thy Faithfulness*, that is so appropriate for where we are right now: “Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow...” That is what our Faithful God provides to us. That’s what we want you to be a part of. Your giving of tithes, offerings, time, talents, and service will help

strengthen FUMC Gadsden today, and will help ensure bright hope for tomorrow. Your church needs YOU at this critical time in its history!

Please pray about your contributions to your church for 2023, complete an Estimate of Giving Card for 2023, and return it to the church office as quickly as you can (at least by November 30th), so that our Finance Team can finish up the 2023 budget.



Generosity: Ways to Give

www.fumcgadsden.org/give

Text to Give: 256-344-8464

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

Guidelines for End of Year Contributions

In order for contributions to be posted to your 2022 giving record, they must meet one of these requirements:

1. The gift is received and posted to your account before December 31st.
2. The contribution is put into the offering plate or delivered to the office on or before December 29th.
3. The envelope in which the gift is mailed is postmarked on or before December 31st.
4. An online E-Giving transaction is dated on or before December 30th. (Find link at fumcgadsden.org/giving)
5. Gifts of stock should be transferred before the market closes on December 30th. Please inform the financial Office at the church about a stock transfer.

If you have questions or need more information, please contact Sheila Witherspoon or Pam Deru in the church office at giving@fumcgadsden.org or 256-543-8200, no later than December 29th. **(Church office is closed 12/30)**

DOES AN IRA ROLLOVER MAKES SENSE THIS YEAR?

Did you know that you can reduce your taxes by making a gift from your IRA to your church? An IRA rollover is a simple and easy way for you to use your IRA to help Gadsden First United Methodist Church fulfill its mission.

By transferring some of your IRA required distribution to the church, you may be able to lower your taxable income and capital gains taxes this year. Check with your advisor to see how an IRA rollover gift could impact your taxes while helping the ministries and missions of the church.



*Christmas
in Gadsden*

COOKIES & CAROLS

5:30 PM, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GADSDEN
115 S. 5TH STREET



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP
4 PM AND 6 PM
LIVE NATIVITY 5 PM

*Christmas
in Gadsden*

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GADSDEN



G FUMC
Brunch
Club

MONTHLY LUNCH/BRUNCH
AT 12:30 FOLLOWING
TRADITIONAL SERVICE.

Sunday, December 11 at The Rail
All Young Adults and Families Welcome!

Calendar for December 11-17, 2022

Dec 11, Sunday

10:00 am Dedication of the Children's Worship Room

11:00 am Chancel Choir Christmas Music, Sanctuary

Dec 12, Monday

9:00 am-1:00 pm ELC Fall Schedule

9:00 am-10:00 am Exercise Group, Gym

5:00 pm-7:00 pm Basketball, Gym

Dec 13, Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm ELC Fall Schedule

Yoga 5:00pm-6:00pm, Gym

6:00 pm-8:00 pm Basketball, Gym

Dec 14, Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm ELC Fall Schedule

11:00 am Bible Study, Room 208

(Facebook Live @ 6pm)

6:00 pm Children Christmas Party, Room 108

6:00 pm Youth at the Corley's home

Dec 15, Thursday

9:00 am-1:00 pm ELC Fall Schedule

9:00 am-10:00 am Exercise Group, Gym

5:30 pm Thursday Worship, Sanctuary

5:00 pm-8:00 pm Basketball, Gym

Dec 16, Friday

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

Holiday Office Hours

Office closed 12/26 & 12/27

Office closed 12/30 & 1/2/23

Last Wednesday Night Meal & Bible Study 12/7. Return to normal activities on 1/4/23.

No Ladle of Love 12/23 & 12/30.

Honorariums and Memorials

In memory of Alex Holtsford, given by Julia Nolen Knox.

In memory of Alex Holtsford, given by Mrs. Mary Collins & Family.

In memory of Alex Holtsford, given by Kathie & Phillip Mangum.



Immediate Prayer Concerns

Rodney Thompson Jane Herb

Michael Fortenberry (Regina Holloway's brother)

Continued Prayer Concerns

Lisa Dobbins Chris Gunnels (Gail McNair's nephew)

The ministers and congregation of First United Methodist Church of Gadsden extend Christian sympathy to

Terry and Sheila Bishop in the death of her brother,

Randy Cowan on December 3, 2022.



Birthdays

Dec 11 Bonda Vance, Bryant Grizzell, Kimberly Hayes Watts, Allison Hayes, Emma Smith

Dec 12 Jessica Hopper, Sara Catheryne Freeman

Dec 13 Dick Abel, Danny Jackson, Jon Ford, Jackson Skelton

Dec 14 Neil Mullin, Gloria Rives, Michael Haney, Tommy Hiltz

Dec 15 Danna Dean, Helene Haller,

Dec 16 Cindy Norris, Kaci Pritchard, Jen Hester

Dec 17 Leone Norris, Lenora Arnold, Genevieve Corley



Week of December 4, 2022

In Person Total *154 Online 411

Worship Total 565 Thursday Worship *10

Celebration Service *52/215

Traditional Worship *92/196

Adult Sunday School *27/3 Children *2

Bible Study Groups *19/34

Children *30 Youth *17 Nursery *3

Children's Christmas Program *93/148

Total Small Group Attendance *191/185

*In Person

General Offering Budget \$13,175.00

General Offering Received \$37,079.00

YTD General Offering Budget \$645,575.00

YTD General Offering Rec'd \$645,064.00

Text to Give: 256.344.8464



Generosity 2023

First United Methodist Church of Gadsden

**As of December 4, 2022
42 Pledge Cards received
for
\$177,244.00 Funds**