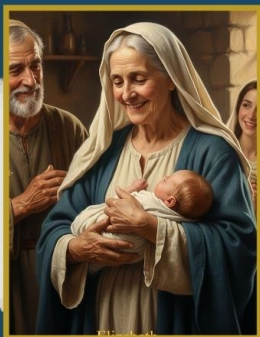


Women of Scripture

Celebrating 70 Years of Ordination of Women



Elisabeth

Luke 1:39-45

Rev. Sherri Reynolds

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

Sermon Notes: August 13 & August 16, 2026

Too often I get busy, distracted, attached to a screen, or overwhelmed and fail to notice the presence of Jesus in my life. I know he is always there, but I fail to notice his ongoing presence each day. I take for granted that miracles are a constant in my life. I always don't see that when I do for the least of these that Jesus is there. When I gather with two or three others in the name of Jesus, I miss that he is there among us.

Elisabeth did not miss the presence of the Messiah (Luke 1:39-45). In fact, she was the first to proclaim that he was. When her cousin Mary came to visit her, a pregnant Elisabeth's baby leapt in her womb, and she was filled with Spirit. She knew that Mary was pregnant with the Messiah. She knew the greatest miracles and promise of the Lord was about to be fulfilled with Jesus' birth. She was attuned to Jesus' presence. This week I encourage you to pause the busyness, focus, put down the screen, and release the anxiety to become attuned to Christ's presence.

Thankful to the witnesses who did not remain silent.
Rev. Sherri

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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

ACOLYTES

August 16: Anna Kate Casey, Jade Collins, Layne Godfrey

August 23: Luke Barnes; Brooks Bone; Claire Bone

Tech Team Schedule

August 16

Celebration: Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman

Traditions: Wayne Payton, Sheila Freeman

August 23

Celebration: Rob Reynolds, Bill Haller, Carmen McKiven

Traditions: Mark Condra, Davis Varner, Brad Barnes



Hannah



The Woman with Issue of Blood



Mary
Mother of Jesus



Naomi and Ruth



Elisabeth



Esther

Women of Scripture Sermon Series

July 16-August 23

Celebrating
70 Years of
Ordination of
Women

- ◇ Hannah
- ◇ The Woman Who Touched Jesus Garment
- ◇ Mary
- ◇ Ruth
- ◇ Elisabeth
- ◇ Esther

- ◇ Wonderful Wednesday, August 19th, Dinner @ 5:15 pm.
- ◇ Menu: Barbecue, Baked Beans, Potato Salad, Chips, Dessert
- ◇ Small Groups and Activities for all ages, 6 pm
- ◇ Make a dinner reservation @ 256-490-5018 \$7 per person, (under 11, \$3)



- ◇ **Wednesday Bible Study with Rev. Sherri—11 am & 6 pm, beginning Wednesday, August 12**
 - Join us beginning August 12 for a six-week study, *"A Woman's Place: What does the Bible Really Say about Women and Leadership in the Church."* Bring your Bible as we look at various perspectives on women's leadership. Led by Rev. Sherri, this class will be offered at both 11am and 6pm. Classes will meet in Room 208 and will end on September 16.
 - **Starting September 30, join a study on the United Methodist Book of Discipline.** This study will focus on The Social Principles: The Community of All Creation and the official stance of the United Methodist Church on many contemporary issues. The study will be offered at 11am and 6pm and will meet in Room 208. The last session will be held on November 11. The night session will not meet on the evening of fall festival.
 - **Hit the Road to Bethlehem on December 2 and 9 for a two-week Bible Study** which will parallel and enhance the Advent sermon series of the same name. Take a closer look at the locations, characters, and scriptures which surround Jesus' birth. The study will be offered at 11am and 6pm and will meet in Room 208.
- ◇ **Wednesday Bible Study with Harriet Murray, 6 pm, beginning Wednesday, August 12:**
Twelve Women of the Bible-In this twelve-session small group journey taught by six acclaimed Bible teachers you will meet a group of women in the Bible whose lives teach us about ourselves and about who God is. Come and grow closer to God and each other through these revealing stories of frailties, struggles, brokenness, and victories of real women from both the Old and New Testaments.



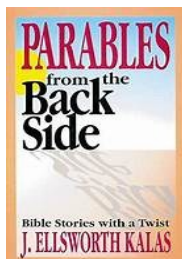
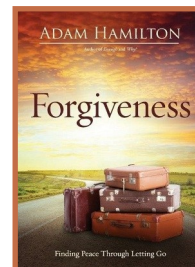
Odyssey

Sundays at 10:00 a.m. • Room 202 (Adult Library)

Pathfinders/Seekers 10 am, Room 208

Forgiveness by Adam Hamilton

In this 4-week study of Forgiveness, Adam Hamilton not only reminds us about the importance of reconnecting the broken pieces of our lives, but shows how the process of grace and forgiveness is possibly our most complete picture of God.



Living Water 10 am, Room 116 Rev. Ken Casey

Parables from the Backside by J. Ellsworth Kalas

This insightful study explores Jesus' parables from fresh and unexpected perspectives, helping us discover new meaning and deeper spiritual truths in familiar stories. Whether you are a longtime member or looking for a class to visit, you are warmly invited to join us for engaging discussion, fellowship, and spiritual growth.

"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.

◇ Devotionals ◇ Fellowship ◇ Mission ◇ Service ◇

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



ELC NEWS

ELC faculty had a great work week meeting new coworkers and preparing for the 2026-2027 school year.

Open house was well attended and we are ready for school to start back Monday, August 17th.

—Helene Haller



LIFT YOUTH SUMMER CALENDAR

**JULY AND
AUGUST 2026**

WED
JULY 15
4:00pm - 6:00pm

MOVIE & GAME NIGHT
Bring your favorite card or board game and a snack to share!

**ICE CREAM SOCIAL AND
WEDNESDAY NIGHT!**

WED
AUGUST 12, 2026
4:00pm - 5:00pm

GIFT TO GADSDEN
Join us to learn something new or hone your craft at Gift to Gadsden!

**MON-
THURS**
JULY 27-30, 2026
4:00pm

**TEXT BECCA @
256-295-6176 WITH
ANY QUESTIONS**

SUN
AUGUST 2, 2026
4:00pm

BAKING WITH JACE
Join us at Mark & Allison Casey's as we learn how to make a Friday's Famous Baked Good! Dinner provided!

Wonderful Wednesday is back!

5:15 pm for dinner \$7 per person (\$3 for 11 and under!)

6 pm Small Groups and Activities for all ages!

Text Sheila @ -256.490.5018 to make a reservation.

**Youth
Sunday
School
Meets @
10 am
Room 211**

Wonderful Wednesday August 19

Dinner at 5:15 pm: Barbecue, Chips, Dessert (\$7 per person, \$3 for 11 & under)

Children's Ministry

**GFUMC
Kids Ministry
2026**

Every Wed.
night @6

Fall Calendar

August	October	November
12 → Ice Cream Social @6	17 → SHP Build a Bed	21 → Bonfire at Hilburns
	21 → Fall Festival	

The first Wednesday of each month, the children will participate in a service project for local missions.

For more info, find us on Facebook
Gadsden First United Methodist Church Children's Ministry

AUGUST 16

BACKPACK BLESSINGS

**9 & 11 AM
FIRST UMC GADSDEN**

BOTH WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday Mornings

Children's Church during worship, 9 am & 11 am

Sunday school @ 10 am

Wonderful Wednesday

5:15 pm Dinner: Barbecue, Baked Beans, Potato Salad, Chips, Dessert

\$7 per person, (under 11 \$3), Max \$20 per family

6 pm, Small Groups and Activities for Children

Need more info? katharine@fumcgadsden.org

August Mission Focus

W. E. Striplin—Our Adopted School

**WELCOME
BACK TO
SCHOOL**

Each August, we invite our church family to join us in supporting **W. E. Striplin Elementary School**, our adopted school, as students, teachers, and staff begin a new school year. Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare for a successful and rewarding year.



One way we're showing our appreciation is by **providing breakfast for the faculty** on Friday, August 7. **School supplies were also donated** to ensure that all students have the necessary tools for learning for the 2026 school year!

Throughout the school year, there will be many opportunities for everyone to get involved, including helping with **A/B Honor Roll Parties, Teacher Appreciation events, and other activities that encourage and support our school community.** *Contact a member of the mission team if you would like to volunteer!*

Whether you choose to serve, pray, or give, your participation makes a meaningful difference. Donations to support these efforts may be made to **First UMC Gadsden and marked "Striplin Fund"**.

Thank you for partnering with us as we continue to share Christ's love through our ongoing support of our community school. —The Mission Team

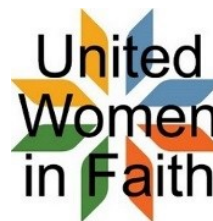


**First UMC Gadsden is sponsoring
a Community Build for
"Sleep in Heavenly Peace" October 17, 2026
See Page 5 for more details!**

United Women in Faith

UWF September Luncheon
Special Guest Speaker: Michelle Thompson
Admission: \$20 per person
12 noon, Monday, September 14
First UMC Gadsden
Make a Reservation Online: www.fumcgadsden.org or the church app

Olivia Kendrick, President
Susan Copeland, 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.

Volunteers are needed to serve on Ladle of Love Teams. Contact the church office for more information on how you can serve.

Clothes Closet Workdays are Tuesdays before open days from 9:00-11:00 am.

Open to Public

1st & 3rd Wednesdays

**August open dates are
8/5 and 8/19**

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

**Ladle of Love
Clothes Closet**

May 2026

LOL	520
Clothes Closet	268

**Thanks to our
Volunteers!**



First UMC Gadsden's Community Bed Build for "Sleep in Heavenly Peace"

Saturday, October 17, 2026

Church family, we have an exciting opportunity to serve our community! First UMC Gadsden is hosting a Community Bed Build in partnership with Sleep in Heavenly Peace.

Our goal is to build 100 beds and raise \$25,000 so that no child in our town sleeps on the floor. You can help by sponsoring a bed (\$250), making a donation of any amount, volunteering on Build Day, or praying for the families we serve. There are tasks for all ages to participate in the Bed Build!

Build Day is Saturday, October 17, from 8 am to 12 pm,

right here at our church. *Volunteer Sign Up Online is now available.*

Let's come together and make a difference — one bed at a time!



Community Bed Build: October 17, 2026



Find Out More

Climbing
Toward
Sweet
Dreams



**Goal: \$25,000
to Build 100 BEDS!**



\$25,000

\$24000
\$23000
\$22000
\$21000
\$20000
\$19000
\$18000
\$17000
\$16000
\$15000
\$14000
\$13000
\$12000
\$11000
\$10000
\$9000
\$8000
\$7000
\$6000
\$5000
\$4000
\$3000
\$2000
\$1000

Support our Community SHP Bed Build!

Donate a NEW Twin-Size "Bed-in-a-Bag" Complete Bedding Set

Examples!



*Many Designs
to Choose
From!*



- Average cost is \$35 to \$50 per set.
- Available online or at local stores.
- Sets must be NEW & Twin Size (regular).
- Sets should include:
 - 1 comforter (66"x86")
 - 1 sham (20"x26")
 - 1 pillowcase (20"x30")
 - 1 flat sheet (66"x102")
 - 1 fitted sheet (39"x75"+12").

Bring Your Donation of Bedding Sets to the church during the month of July!



Michelle Thomas

United Women in Faith

First United Methodist Church of Gadsden

\$20 Per Person

(Pay at the Door.)

UWF Luncheon: 12 Noon

Monday, September 14

Make a Reservation by

Friday, September 11

Online:

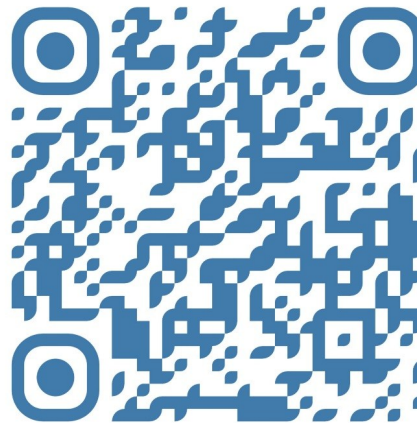
www.fumcgadsden.org

By Phone: 256.543.8200

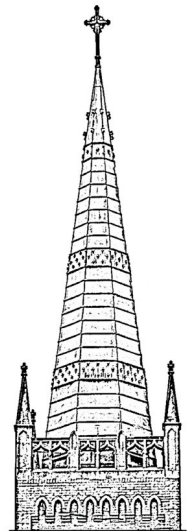


Lay Leadership (Nominations)

While 2027 may seem far away, it is almost time for the church to start preparing for the year ahead. This includes nomination of leadership for 2027. If you feel led to serve in the areas of caring for our facilities, personnel, finance, general business, missions or nominations for leadership; you are invited to self-nominate by August 17th. Simply follow the QR code to the self nominate form or pick up a paper form at the front desk of the church office. You may find a description of all the teams at fumcgadsden.org then click on the about tab for "about" and then "leadership". Under :leadership" you will find a complete description for all the leadership teams. You can also speak with a FUMCG staff member to find out more.



**First UMC Gadsden
Lay Leadership (Nominations)**





Community Bed Build
October 17, 2026

**NO KID SLEEPS
ON THE FLOOR
IN OUR TOWN!**

8 AM TO 12 NOON




Here's how you can be a part of this community mission!

- Sponsor a bed — \$250 provides a child with a bed.
- Make a donation of any amount.
- Volunteer on Build Day—Participate in hands-on building projects.
- Help with setup, registration, hospitality, or cleanup.
- Provide Snacks and refreshments for the Bed Build.
- Donate a NEW Twin-Size Bed-in-a-Bag.
- Serve alongside your church family and community.
- Pray for the children and families receiving beds.
- Invite friends, neighbors, and small groups to join.



Sign Up Now!



Donate

Community Bed Build - Downtown Gadsden
FUMCG - 115 S. 5th Street, Gadsden, AL 35901

Volunteer Sign up is now open online!

Register individually on the SHP link for the FUMCG Community Bed Build using the QR Code. Volunteer information is available in the Chestnut Street Foyer. Thank you!

If you need assistance signing up, please contact
Sheila Freeman
@ 256-490-5018.

He Brews

...where your cup runneth over



FIRST UMC GADSDEN

Follow us on
Facebook and Instagram.



Inviting Ministries



Welcomes You!

First United Methodist Church of Gadsden

HeBrews Coffee Café, Chestnut Foyer, Sundays, 10 am
We look forward to seeing you on Sunday Morning!

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

Greeters & Ushers for Worship

Sunday, August 16

Celebration: Helene Haller, Vicky Handy

Traditions: Leslie & Phillip Johnson; Lori Varner (Greeter);
Gail McNair (usher); Grover Kitchens

Sunday, August 23

Celebration: Julie Gage; Karen Owen

Traditions: Charles & Delores Abney; Jennifer Jackson; Bobby Robinson

If you would like to serve as an Greeter/Usher, please contact Susan Swann in the church office, email: susan@fumcgadsden.org or phone: 256.543.8200.



TIM & LYNNE DAVIS



Tim grew up in Ashville, AL, and graduated from Ashville High School. He studied Business Administration at Faulkner University and currently works for AT&T, where he oversees Cloud computing labs around the country. He has also served in the Navy Seabees—the naval construction force known for building critical military infrastructure and fighting to defend it. His interests include gardening, travel, and Alabama football. Lynne grew up in Kannapolis, NC, and moved to Southside at age 16. She graduated from Southside High School and attended Jacksonville State University, where she majored in Early Childhood Education. She then received a Master's degree in English as a Second Language from UAB. Lynne is retired after 25 years at John Jones Elementary School, where she taught kindergarten, 2nd grade, and 3rd grade and was a reading coach. Her hobbies include knitting, crocheting, gardening, and travel. They have 5 children: Kristin, Matthew, Emily, Hayden, and Will.

Celebrating Seventy Years of Women's Ordination

In 1956, the General Conference of The Methodist Church granted women full clergy rights — a historic recognition of the Holy Spirit's call to women to preach, teach, lead, and serve. As we mark the seventieth anniversary of that milestone, The United Methodist Church celebrates the courage of those who came before and the faithfulness of the many women whose ministries continue to shape and enrich our communities of faith.



Alleluia Offering 2026



*"...The old has gone,
the new has come!"*
2 Corinthians 5:17b

Alleluia Offering 2026

With deep gratitude, we announce that the 2026 Alleluia Offering is \$42,790. That is a record-breaking amount for First United Methodist Church. Thank you for your ongoing generosity and support. Your gifts fully funded all the designated areas for Alleluia 2026 and will allow the support of vital ministries to be expanded.

This year's Alleluia Offering will fund needed lighting upgrades for the sanctuary, including steeple, and lamp post lights; invest in Children and Youth Ministry Spaces; and support technology (computer) upgrades for the church staff.

In Christ,
Rev. Sherri Reynolds, Senior Pastor



"Building A Solid Foundation" 2026 Generosity Emphasis

Information and Estimate of Giving Cards are available in the Chestnut Foyer or Online. Thank you for your Generosity.

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

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.



First UMC Gadsden Aug 16-Aug 22, 2026

Aug 16, Sunday

9:00 am-Celebration Worship

HeBrews Coffee; Sunday School

11:00 am-Traditions Worship

Aug 17, Monday

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

2:00 pm-4:00 pm-Pickleball, Gym

Aug 18, Tuesday

9:00 am-11:00 am-Clothes Closet workday

1:15 pm-Staff Meeting, Adult Library

5:00 pm-Yoga, Gym



All Students, Teachers, Staff & Administrators are invited to join us in worship, this Sunday, for a special blessing for the new school year.

The rose on the altar is placed in honor of the birth of

James Elliott Propes

Born: July 23, 2026

Parents: Tori & Elliott

Big Brother: Louis



Aug 19, Wednesday

9:00 am-11:00 am-Clothes Closet open

11:00 am- Wednesday Morning Bible Study

5:15 pm-Wednesday Night Meal, Gathering Room

6:00 pm-Children's Activities, Gym & Room 108;

Youth Activities, Gym & Room 211;

Bible Study Groups, Rooms 110 & 208

6:00 pm-Choir Practice, Choir Room

Aug 20, Thursday

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

5:30 pm-Thursday Worship, Sanctuary

Aug 21, Friday

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

Office Closed 12:00 pm

Community Bed Build October 17, 2026
8 am to 12 noon

NO KID SLEEPS ON THE FLOOR IN OUR TOWN!

Volunteer Sign Up

Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Dinner

5:15 pm, \$7 pp, (under 11, \$3)

Text to reserve your spot: 256-490-5018

Menu Aug 19: Barbecue, Baked Beans, Chips, Dessert

Honorariums & Memorials

Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed

In honor of her children given by Sheila Freeman.

General Budget Fund

In memory of Evelyn Pierson, given by Marian Ford.

In memory of Evelyn Pierson, given by Olivia Kendrick.

In memory of Evelyn Pierson, given by Mr. & Mrs. Johnny Wetzell.

In memory of Evelyn Pierson, given by Mr. & Mrs. Mark Condra.

The pastor and congregation of First United

Methodist Church of Gadsden extend

Christian sympathy to Bobby and Rhonda

Robinson in the death of her father,

Wallace Wesley Brown

August 8, 2026



Birthdays

Aug 16 Dave Cummins,

Dr. Bitsy Dorsett, Charles Trotter,
Grady Leach IV

Aug 17 Chip Edwards, Linda

Harwell, Hayden Caldwell,
Peighton Myers

Aug 19 Briggs Megois

Aug 20 Joyce Noojin, Brad Norris

Aug 21 Lilly Rhea

Aug 22 Donny Gray,

Lisa Dobbins



Attendance Week of August 9, 2026

In Person Total *154 On Line Total 354

Thursday *8 Celebration *62/174

Traditions *84/180 Worship Total 508

Adult SS*47 Children's SS *5

Youth SS*4 Children Sun *7

Bible Study *5 UWF *20 Nursery Sun *2

Children Wed/Sun *23 Youth Wed/Sun *8

Year 2026 Week of August 9, 2026

General Offering Budget \$13,040.00

General Offering Received \$18,843.00

YTD Gen. Offering Budget \$417,280.00

YTD Gen. Offering Rec'd \$447,314.04

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Family of Wallace Wesley Brown

Trish Harrell Dawn Rains

Rachel Sims Bobby Junkins

Anne McNabb (Becky Thompson's sister)

Mark Burkett (J.T. Harrell's cousin)

Continued Prayer Concerns

Lynn Page

Amy Epperson

(daughter of Gene & Danna Dean)

James Dial (infant son of Jay & Taylor)