

Women of Scripture

Celebrating 70 Years of Ordination of Women



Mary, Mother of Jesus

Luke 1:26-38

Rev. Sherri Reynolds

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

Sermon Notes: July 30 & August 2, 2026

Logic may cause you to think that you can earn God's favor. If you are good enough or super holy, then we will earn God's love and no bad will ever happen. When it comes to following Jesus, it is not put in a good deed and get a prayer answered. Jesus is not a vending machine. Jesus loves the sinner and saint. His grace is sufficient. He reminded us that it rains on the righteous and unrighteous, meaning that life happens to the holy and the not so holy. Jesus' love is not fair but is beyond fair and beyond what we could earn or deserve.

One biblical example is Mary, mother of Jesus (Luke 1:26-38). The angel, Gabriel, called her highly favored. She even says that God has favored her and generations will call her blessed. She was chosen to be the mother of God's Son. Yet, her story also includes rejection and heartache. But through the work of her Son, Mary would eventually know that good and God are working in the face of the evil and pain of this world. If you are facing challenges, take heart that God is working all things for good.

Thankful for witnesses who do not remain silent.

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 2: Sara Kate, Jake, & Caroline Thornburg

August 9: Volunteer

Tech Team Schedule

August 2

Celebration: Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman, Carmen McKiven

Traditions: Mark Condra, Neil Mullin, Sheila Freeman

August 9

Celebration: Rob Reynolds, Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman

Traditions: Davis Varner, Wayne Payton, Sheila Freeman



Hannah



The Woman with Issue of Blood



Mary
Mother of Jesus



Naomi and Ruth



Elizabeth



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

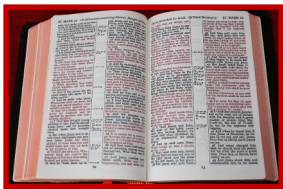
- ◇ **Wednesday Bible Study with Rev. Sherri—11 am & 6 pm, beginning Wednesday, August 12**
- **Join us beginning August 12 for a six-week study, “A Woman’s Place: What does the Bible Really Say about Women and Leadership in the Church.”** Bring your Bible as we look at various perspectives on women’s 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.
- ◇ **Wonderful Wednesday returns on August 12! Dinner @ 5:15 pm.**
- ◇ **Small Groups and Activities for all ages, 6 pm.**
- ◇ **Everyone is invited to the annual Ice Cream Social at 6:30 pm.**



Odyssey

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

While our regular class takes a two-month summer break, Odyssey will meet for approximately eight Sundays during June and July. Together, we’ll read and discuss the New Testament **“Red Letter”** passages—the words of Jesus—tangents and observations welcome, and so are you! —Cenda, Barbara, & Glenda



Pathfinders/Seekers 10 am, Room 208

“Dream Big” Bob Goff

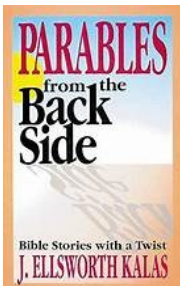
The Dream Big Study is a journey to begin exploring your hopes, dreams, ambitions, and the real purpose God has implanted within you. Each session will explore a different aspect of what it means to dream big and how to turn your dreams into a



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.



Transitions 10 am, Room 209

This class will not meet during the summer! Look for more information in August.

“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

Fall 2026-2027 Open House is Thursday, August 13th from 10:00 am to 11:00 am. Come and go.

Getting excited to be back for Fall Semester which begins August 17.

—Helene Haller



LIFT YOUTH SUMMER CALENDAR

**JULY AND
AUGUST 2026**

WED

JULY 15
6:00pm - 8:00pm

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
5:00pm - 7:00pm

GIFT TO GADSDEN

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

**MON-
THURS**

JULY 27-30, 2026
8:00pm

TEXT BECCA @

**256-295-6176 WITH
ANY QUESTIONS**

SUN

AUGUST 2, 2026
4:00 pm

BAKING WITH JACE

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

Wednesday Night Activities will resume August 16.

Children's Ministry

First UMC Children's Summer Calendar

First UMC Gadsden
115 S. 5th St
Gadsden, AL 35901

256.543.8200
www.fumcgadsden.org

July

- 8-Popcorn&Pajamas Movie Night
- 22-Wheelie FUN Night!
- 27-30: Gift to Gadsden

August

- 5-River Day at Ms. Ola's!
- 12-Ice Cream Social

Sssssuper Summer Sundays!

- 6/14-Silly Sock Sunday
- 6/21-Cereal Sunday
- 6/28-Superhero
- 7/5-Silly String Sunday
- 7/12-Stuffie Sunday
- 7/19-Silly Hat Sunday
- 7/26-Sundae Sunday

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

"Slide into Reading"

This Summer, check out FIVE books from the children's library and get a summer prize!

Johnson Family Library Room 104

Find Us Online...

www.fumcgadsden.org/children

FIRST UMC Gadsden Children's Ministry

SERVICE OPPORTUNITY!

help in the Soup Kitchen every Friday June & July 10:30-12:00

ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL

6:30 PM, AUGUST 12

ON THE PORTICO & WEST LAWN

CHILL OUT & SCOOP UP SOME FUN!

First United Methodist Church of Gadsden
115 S. 5th Street
Gadsden, AL 35901

Small Groups & Activities for All Ages 6 pm

Wednesday Night Dinner 5:15 pm

Sunday Mornings

Children's Church during worship,

9 am & 11 am

Sunday school @ 10 am

Wonderful Wednesday resumes August 12!

Small Groups and Activities for Children

Need more info?

katharine@fumcgadsden.org

AUGUST 16

BACKPACK BLESSINGS

9 & 11 AM

FIRST UMC GADSDEN

BOTH WORSHIP SERVICES

Mission Focus



Principal Anthony Ash is inviting men and women throughout the community to be at Striplin Elementary School at 7 am on Wednesday, August 12. It's the first day of school! Come cheer for the students and faculty and welcome them back to school.



During the month of July, you can fill a stocking for Christmas for the Salvation Army! Pick up your stocking in the Chestnut Street lobby. You will find suggested lists of

items, stockings and the toppers to close your stocking with! Thank you for bringing joy this Christmas! Return filled stockings by August 5.



**First UMC Gadsden is sponsoring
a Community Build for
"Sleep in Heavenly Peace" October 17,
2026**

See Page 5 for more details!

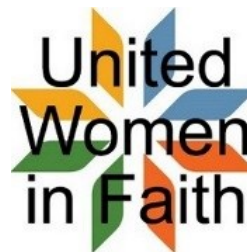
United Women in Faith

**Come to the Third "Summer Supper"
At Gadsden Country Club
Tuesday, August 4
6:00 pm**

Come at 5:30 pm to see friends early!

All women in the church are welcome at Summer Suppers.

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"

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, right here at our church. 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!



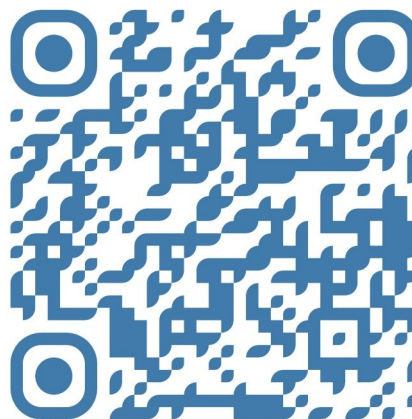
- Average cost is \$35 to \$50 per set.
- Available online or at local stores.
- Sets must be NEW & Twin Size (regular).
- Sets should include:
 - 1 comforter(66"x86")
 - 1 sham (20"x26")
 - 1 pillowcase (20"x30")
 - 1 flat sheet (66"x102")
 - 1 fitted sheet(39"x75"+12").

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

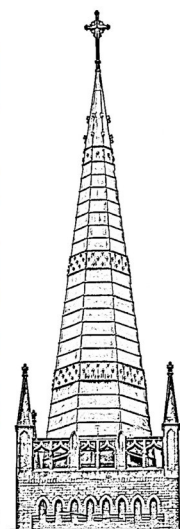


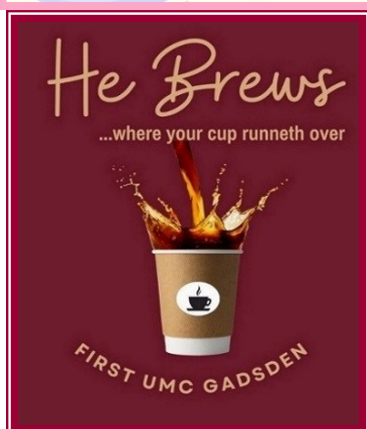
Lay Leadership (Nominations)

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.



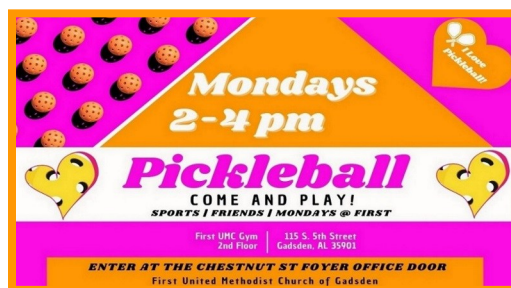
First UMC Gadsden
Lay Leadership (Nominations)





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

Follow us on
Facebook and Instagram.



Greeters & Ushers for Worship

Sunday, August 2

Celebration: Butch Herb; Becky Thompson

Traditions: Terry & Sheila Bishop; Bob & Becky Oltman

Sunday, August 9

Celebration: Keith Southers; Nancy McCorkle

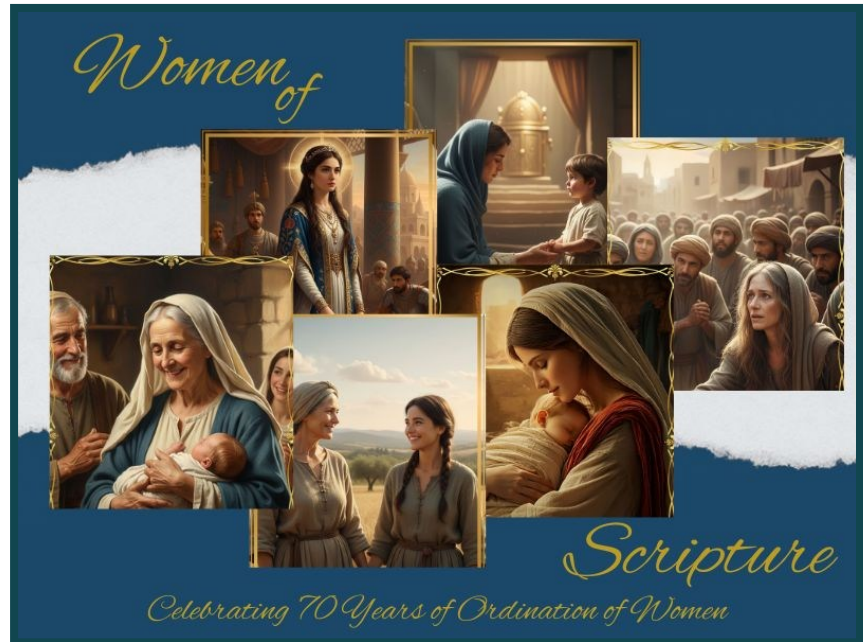
Traditions: Mandell & Judy Tillman; John & Margie Freeman

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.



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 looks back with gratitude before and the faithfulness of our women who have enriched our communities of faith.



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.

Thursday
WORSHIP

A SERVICE OF PRAYER AND WORD

5:30 pm to 6:00 pm

In the Sanctuary

First United Methodist Church of Gadsden

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 2-Aug 8, 2026

Aug 2, Sunday

9:00 am-Celebration Worship

10:00 am-Reception-Pat Walker;
HeBrews Coffee; Sunday School

11:00 am-Traditions Worship

Aug 3, Monday

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

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

Aug 4, Tuesday

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

1:15 pm-Staff Meeting, Adult Library

5:00 pm-Yoga, Gym

6:00 pm- UWF Summer Supper, Country Club

Aug 5, Wednesday

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

6:00 pm-Choir Practice, Choir Room

Aug 6, Thursday

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

5:30 pm-Thursday Worship, Sanctuary

Aug 7, Friday

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

Office Closed 12:00 pm



In Memory of Her Life
Christine (Christy) Adams Moody
July 27, 2026



July 26, 2026
Tim and Lynne Davis

What's Happening in August!

**Sunday, August 2, 10 am — Reception
honoring Pat Walker, Chestnut Foyer**

**Wednesday, August 12 — 6:30 pm,
Ice Cream Social - Portico & Greenspace**

Everyone is Invited!

Wonderful Wednesday is back!

**Dinner 5:15 pm, followed by Small
Groups & Activities for all ages @ 6 pm**

**Sunday, August 16 — Both Worship
Services—Blessing of the Backpacks**

Birthdays

Aug 2 Gaynor Griffin,
Patsy Blankenship,
Joey Couvillion

Aug 3 Gary Griffin,
Mac McIntyre, Asher McFarland

Aug 4 Jane Patton,
Patricia Probyn, Kaden Epperson

Aug 5 Katie Wilson

Aug 6 Karen Blackstock,
David Freeman, Jade Collins

Aug 7 Ruthie Hester, Ray Smith,
Carol Roberts

Aug 8 Jennifer Jackson

Attendance Week of July 26, 2026

In Person Total *172	On Line Total 369
Thursday *9	Celebration *74/179
Traditions *89/190	Worship Total 541
Adult SS*37	Children's SS *2
Youth SS*3	Children Sun *8
Bible Study *5	Nursery Sun *4
Children Wed/Sun *20	Youth Wed/Sun *3

Year 2026 Week of July 26, 2026

General Offering Budget	\$ 13,040.00
General Offering Received	\$ 7,764.00
YTD Gen. Offering Budget	\$391,200.00
YTD Gen. Offering Rec'd	\$419,618.28

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Family of Christine Moody
Gail Spotnitz Trish Harrell
Jim Fleeman Dawn Rains
Bobby Junkins
Elder Chaves Carranza

Continued Prayer Concerns

Lynn Page
Amy Epperson
(daughter of Gene & Danna Dean)
James Dial

