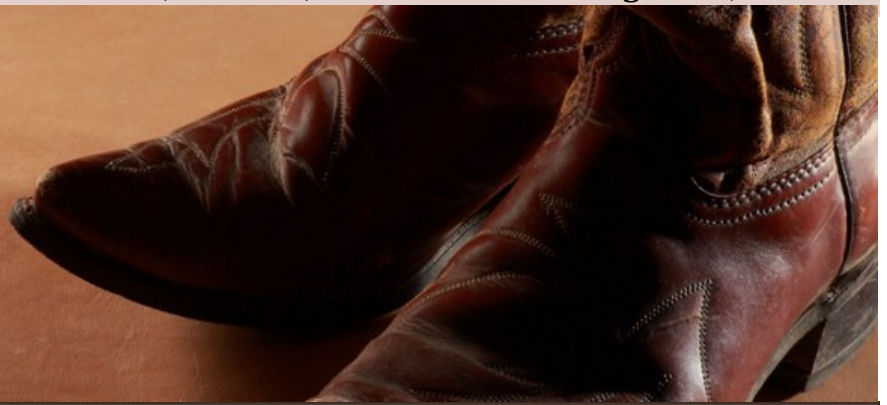


Gideon and His Texan Cousin Willy

1 Corinthians 1:24-31

Rev. Ken Casey



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

Sermon Notes: August 27 & August 30, 2026

1 Corinthians 1:24-31

I found this story on the internet so I do not know whether this story is factual. But it makes a very good point so I will share it and you can decide its value.

A Navy seaman named Douglas Hegdahl was captured during the Vietnam War and was sent to the infamous "Hanoi Hilton" prison. He was considered to be "stupid" and incompetent. He wandered around singing a child's song. Because he was considered stupid he was not considered to be a threat to the prison guards and administration. They only mocked and ridiculed him. But all the time he was learning the names of the 256 prisoners through his little song. When he was released after two years of imprisonment, he recited all 256 names of the men in the Hanoi Hilton. By doing this he exposed the lies told by the Vietnamese authorities regarding the fate of the prisoners.

God uses simple people to do great feats of power and grace. We remember Moses, a man with a stick taking on the great Egyptian Empire. We often think of King David, a man with wealth and power. But do you think of Gideon, a poor, simple, insecure military leader who fought thousands of Midianites with 300 men? Or Willy a Texan with unusual dreams? Wait.....who is Willy? And what does he have to do with anything? Come and Worship with us on Thursday night at 5:30 pm or on Sunday morning and meet Gideon, Willy and just maybe yourself.

Ken Casey

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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 30: Clementine & Rhett Hilburn

September 6: Volunteer

Tech Team Schedule

August 30

Celebration: Bill Haller, Carmen McKiven

Traditions: Davis Varner, Neil Mullin, Brad Barnes

September 6

Celebration: Rob Reynolds, Carmen McKiven

Traditions: Neil Mullin, Brad Barnes

NO KID SLEEPS ON THE FLOOR IN OUR TOWN!

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

Volunteer Sign Up

- ◇ Wonderful Wednesday, September 2, Dinner @ 5:15 pm.
- ◇ Menu: Chicken Fingers, Macaroni & Cheese, Salad, 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**

- **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**

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.



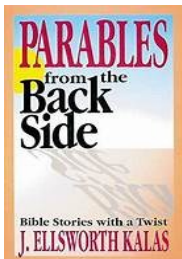
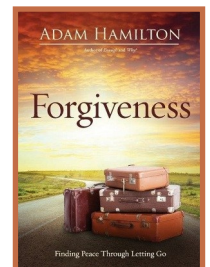
Odyssey

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.

New Young Adult Sunday School Class Forming

Begins September 13 @ 10 am in the Parlor.

"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

This week at the ELC we started music, chapel and Spanish. We all are settling into our new routines nicely. We hope you will support our Apples Gone Wild Sale which is September 1st through September 14th. Look for more information in the church news and flyers around the church

—Helene Haller

LIFT YOUTH FALL 2026 CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 12 TAILGATE PARTY @ THE CASEY'S 2:30PM - 6:00PM 	OCTOBER 17 SHP BED BUILD 8AM - 12PM 	OCTOBER 18 PUMPKIN CARVING @ RECCA'S 2:00PM - 4:00PM 	OCTOBER 21 FALL FEST 5PM - 7PM
NOVEMBER 18 FRIENDSGIVING 6PM - 7PM BRING A SNACK TO SHARE! 	DECEMBER 9 LIFT CHRISTMAS PARTY 6PM - 7PM BRING A GIFT FOR SECRET SANTA! 	DECEMBER 24 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE - LIVE NATIVITY SCENE 	CONTACT INFO RECCA ECHOLS DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MINISTRIES TEXT WITH ANY QUESTIONS! 256-295-6176

Youth Sunday School Meets @ 10 am Room 211 *** L.I.F.T. Youth Wed Nights @ 6 pm**

Wonderful Wednesday Sep 2 Dinner @ 5:15 pm

Chicken Fingers, Macaroni & Cheese, Salad (\$7 per person, \$3 for 11 & under)

Children's Ministry

GFUMC CHILDREN'S TEAM SPIRIT

SEPTEMBER UNIT **WEDNESDAY'S AT 6:00**

WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4
WE CAN FOLLOW GOD'S DIRECTIONS.	GOD GIVES US HOPE WHEN THINGS FEEL IMPOSSIBLE.	GOD IS WITH US WHEN LIFE IS UNFAIR.	GOD SHOWS US WE NEED EACH OTHER.

"TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND LEAN NOT ON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING."
PROVERBS 3:5 (NIV)

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	

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

Every Sun. @ 9 & 11
The first Wednesday of each month, the children will participate in a service project for local missions.

Sunday Mornings

Children's Church during worship, 9 am & 11 am
Sunday school @ 10 am

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!

Need more info?
katharine@fumcgadsden.org

August Mission Focus

W. E. Striplin—Our Adopted 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

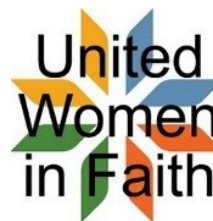
12 noon, Monday, September 14

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

September open dates are 9/2 and 9/15

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

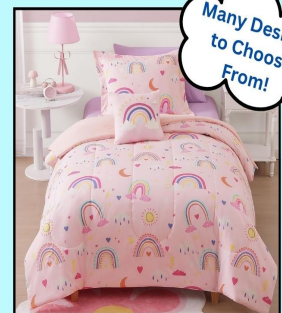
Support our Community SHP Bed Build!

**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:

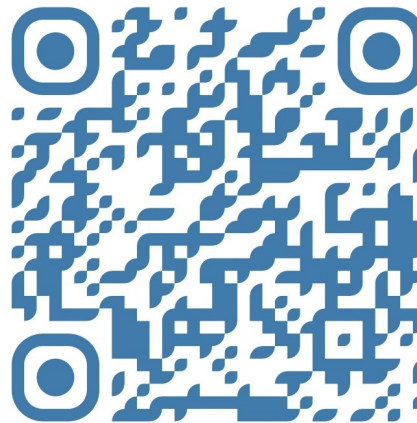
www.fumcgadsden.org

By Phone: 256.543.8200

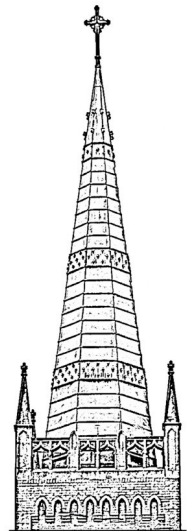


Lay Leadership (Nominations)

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)**





NO KID SLEEPS ON THE FLOOR IN OUR TOWN!

**Community
Bed Build
October 17,
2026**



Volunteer



Sign Up Now!

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.



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



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 30

Celebration: Karen Owen; Nancy McCorkle

Traditions: Lee/Kathy & Charles Trotter; Paula Wilson;
Eileen Graham

Sunday, September 6

Celebration: Vicky Handy

Traditions: Terry & Sheila Bishop; Bob & Becky Oltman

*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.*



Fall ELC Apple Sale!

Order by September 14. Apples will be ready for pickup on September 26th. Six flavors to choose from!



Apple Strudel

Creamy homemade caramel covering a fresh granny smith apple and then dipped in a sweet white chocolate and tossed with our cinnamon-sugar topping - most popular.

Strawberry Cheesecake

Granny smith apple covered in soft creamy caramel and dipped into white chocolate and covered in a delicious strawberry cheesecake and graham cracker crumbles.

Triple Chocolate

Fresh granny smith apple smothered in our homemade caramel and dipped into milk chocolate and then drizzled with dark and white chocolate.

Dark Sea Salt

Made from scratch caramel coated granny smith apple dipped in a sweet dark chocolate and sprinkled with grey sea salt.

Peanut Butter Swirl

Crisp granny smith apple coated in golden caramel and dipped in white chocolate blended with peanut butter then topped with milk chocolate drizzle.

Classic With Nuts

Granny smith apple coated in creamy sweet caramel and rolled in nuts.



Order Online Now!

ELC Fall Apple Sale- \$14.00 Each

Pay Online:



Name _____ Email _____

Phone _____



Order Deadline: Sep. 14

Apple Pickup: Sep 26

Name	STRUDEL	STRAW BERRY	Triple Choco-late	Dark Sea Salt	Peanut Butter Swirl	Classic With Nuts	Quantity Ordered	Donated Amount
								\$
								\$
								\$
						Totals		\$

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 30-Sep 6, 2026

Aug 30, Sunday

9:00 am-Celebration Worship

HeBrews Coffee; Sunday School

11:00 am-Traditions Worship

Aug 31, Monday

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

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

Sep 1, Tuesday

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

5:00 pm-Yoga, Gym

Sep 2, 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

Sep 3, Thursday

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

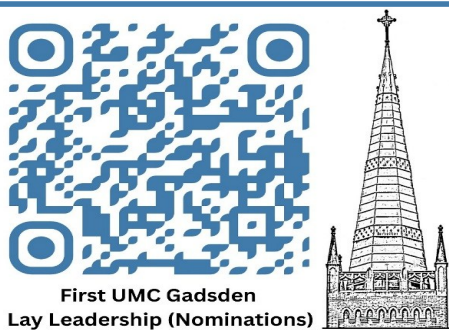
5:30 pm-Thursday Worship, Sanctuary

Sep 4, Friday

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

12:00 pm, Office Closed

See Page 6 for more information on opportunities to lead and serve.



Honorariums & Memorials

Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed

In memory of August Angels: Winnie Phillips & Geri Oltman (our mothers); Garry Phillips, (Becky's brother) given by Bob & Becky Oltman.

In Honor of Megan Haller given by Dr. Bill & Helene Haller.

In Honor of Allie Haller given by Dr. Bill & Helene Haller.

In Memory of Elizabeth Barnes, given by ELC Faculty.

SRJ Scholarship Fund

In memory of Evelyn Pierson, given by Leone Norris.

Ladle of Love Fund

In Honor of Pat Walker, given by Leone Norris.

Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Dinner

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

Text to reserve your spot: 256-490-5018

Menu Sep 2: Chicken Fingers, Mac & Cheese, Salad

Continued Prayer Concerns

Tricia Blount Cindy Archer (ELC teacher)

Anna Morgan Harrell Trish Harrell Dawn Rains

Rachel Sims Lynn Page

Anne McNabb (Becky Thompson's sister)

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

James Dial (infant son of Jay & Taylor)

Birthdays

Aug 30 Jane Weaver,
Marie Johnson, Jennifer Yarnell,
Zander Calcote

Aug 31 Dr. Cecil Dorsett,
Faye Kennah, Bill Green

Sep 1 Louis Loveman

Sep 2 Sherry Bridges,
Frances Isbell, Sam Blackstock,
Sarah Blackstock

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

Susan Swann

Attendance Week of August 23, 2026

In Person Total *162	On Line Total 415
Thursday *7	Celebration *67/179
Traditions *88/236	Worship Total 577
Adult SS*45	Children's SS *2
Youth SS*4	Children Sun *8
Bible Study *25	Nursery Wed/Sun *9
Children Wed/Sun *19	Youth Wed/Sun *18

Year 2026 Week of August 23, 2026

General Offering Budget	\$13,040.00
General Offering Received	\$ 5,726.46
YTD Gen. Offering Budget	\$443,360.00
YTD Gen. Offering Rec'd	\$463,265.49

Read the

Weekly Newsletter

Subscribe to the weekly newsletter by submitting your email address to the church secretary, Susan Swann:

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.

Please remember to update your contact info with the church!