

Women of Scripture

Celebrating 70 Years of Ordination of Women



Ruth

Ruth 1:14-22

Rev. Sherri Reynolds

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

Sermon Notes: August 6 & August 9, 2026

We live in age of instant. AI provides instant information and knowledge without much study. The microwave can provide a quick, ready-to-eat meal. Breaking news headlines come from across the world with an immediate alert. You can order online and have the product overnight or order online and get whatever you need delivered quickly to your door from the store. Instant is nice, but there is also something which can be said for slow and steady too.

Ruth is a beautiful example of slow, steady faithfulness. (Ruth 1:14-22) She was committed to her mother-in-law following her to a foreign land. She cared and provided for her mother-in-law and listened to her advice. She cared for her, not out of obligation but out of enduring relationship. In this slow-steady faithfulness, Ruth discovers the faithfulness of God, whose steadfast love endures forever. Who are the examples of slow, steady faithfulness in your life? How can you be the example for those around you in need?

Thankful for those witnesses who did not remain silent.
Rev. Sherri



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

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Worship Opportunities

Thursday Worship 5:30 pm

Sunday Morning* Celebration, 9 am

Traditions 11 am *In-Person and Livestream

ACOLYTES

August 9: Volunteer

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

Tech Team Schedule

August 9

Celebration: Rob Reynolds, Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman

Traditions: Davis Varner, Wayne Payton, Sheila Freeman

August 16

Celebration: Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman

Traditions: Wayne Payton, Sheila Freeman

- ◇ Wonderful Wednesday returns on August 12! Dinner @ 5:15 pm.
- ◇ Dinner: Chick-fil-A, Chips, Fruit
- ◇ Small Groups and Activities for all ages, 6 pm
- ◇ Everyone is invited to the annual Ice Cream Social at 6:30 pm.



◇ **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.



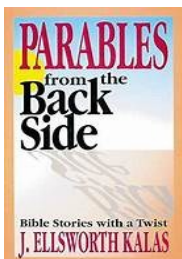
Odyssey

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

Pathfinders/Seekers 10 am, Room 208

“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 reality!



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 coming soon!

“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
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 - 10:00pm

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
4:00 pm

BAKING WITH JACE

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

Wonderful Wednesday is back! Join us August 12 at 5:15 pm for dinner \$7 per person (\$3 for 11 and under!)
6 pm Small Groups and Activities
6:30 pm Ice Cream Social on the Portico and West Lawn

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

Wonderful Wednesday August 12

Dinner at 5:15 pm: Chick-fil-A, Chips, Fruit (\$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

Wednesday Night Dinner 5:15 pm

Small Groups & Activities for All Ages 6 pm

**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

Sunday Mornings

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

Sunday school @ 10 am

Wonderful Wednesday resumes August 12!

5:15 pm Dinner: Chick-fil-A, Chips, Fruit

6 pm, Small Groups and Activities for Children

6:30 pm, Ice Cream Social on the Portico & Green Space (August 12)

Need more info? katharine@fumcgadsden.org

AUGUST 16



BOTH WORSHIP SERVICES

August 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.

Striplin—Our Adopted School

Each August, we invite our church family to join us in supporting **Striplin, 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**. 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 the **Striplin Fund for Missions**.

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



Thank your for generosity! The stockings are filled with care and delivered to the Salvation Army for Christmas!



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

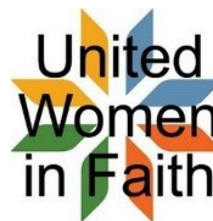
UWF September Luncheon
Special Guest Speaker: Michelle Thompson

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"

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. **Volunteer Sign Up Will Begin Soon!** 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:

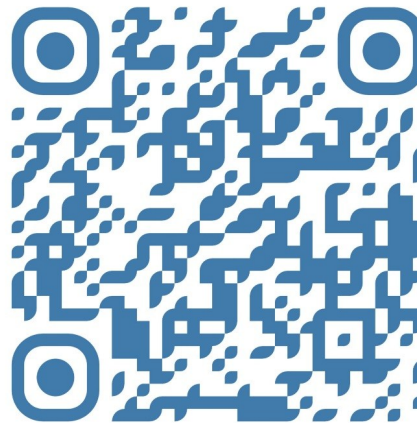
www.fumcgadsden.org

By Phone: 256.543.8200

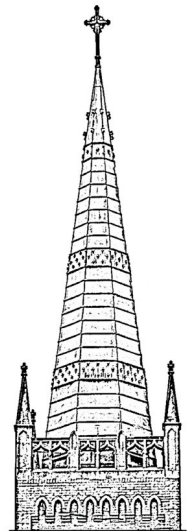


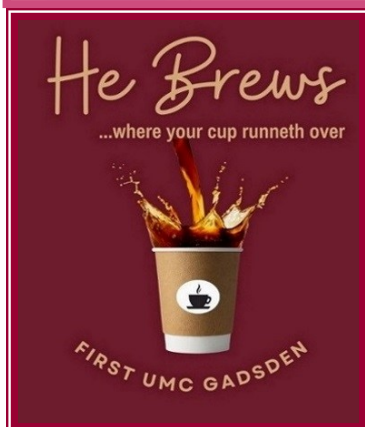
Lay Leadership (Nominations)

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.



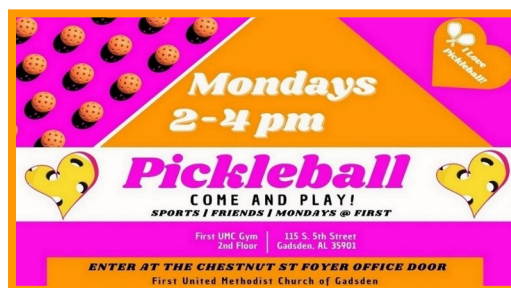
**First UMC Gadsden
Lay Leadership (Nominations)**





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 9

Celebration: Keith Southers; Nancy McCorkle

Traditions: Mandell & Judy Tillman; John & Margie Freeman

Sunday, August 16

Celebration: Helene Haller, Vicky Handy

Traditions: Leslie & Phillip Johnson; Lori Varner (Greeter);

Gail McNair (usher); Grover Kitchens

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 9-Aug 15, 2026

Aug 9, Sunday

9:00 am-Celebration Worship

HeBrews Coffee; Sunday School

11:00 am-Traditions Worship

Aug 10, Monday

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

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

Aug 11, Tuesday

1:15 pm-Staff Meeting, Adult Library

5:00 pm-Yoga, Gym

Aug 12, Wednesday

7:00- am Meet at Striplin to Welcome Children 1st Day

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

6:30 pm- Ice Cream Social on the Portico

Aug 13, Thursday

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

5:30 pm-Thursday Worship, Sanctuary

Aug 14, Friday

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

Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Dinner is Back!

Wednesdays @ 5:15 pm

Menu: August 12-Chick-fil-A, Chips, Fruit



What's Happening in August!

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



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.

In Memory of Her Life

Evelyn Matthews Pierson

August 5, 2026



Birthdays

Aug 9 Peggy Burnett,
Diana Rampey, Judy Tillman,
Lewis Hill, Emily Copeland

Aug 10 Jacob McKiven,
Presley Autrey

Aug 12 Claire Hedgspeth,

Aug 14 Kelly Roach

Aug 15 Trish Harrell,
Ashley Freeman Hornick,
Kirk Mabeus, Madeline Mills,
Cody Myers

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

Attendance Week of July 26, 2026

In Person Total *192	On Line Total 276
Thursday *10	Celebration *62/125
Traditions *120/151	Worship Total 468
Adult SS*34	Children's SS *5
Youth SS*0	Children Sun *8
Bible Study *0	Nursery Sun *2
Children Wed/Sun *13	Youth Wed/Sun *0

Year 2026 Week of August 2, 2026

General Offering Budget	\$ 13,040.00
General Offering Received	\$ 8,849.00
YTD Gen. Offering Budget	\$404,240.00
YTD Gen. Offering Rec'd	\$428,471.04

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Family of Evelyn Pierson
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)

