



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

Sermon Notes: July 9 & July 12, 2026 It's a God Thing

I became aware of the phrase "It's a God Thing" within the last few months of my Facebook page. It is a slang reference to God's providence. To be honest I am not a big fan of the term. But you need to understand that I am not a big fan of any religious slang or any fads of any kind. I am usually one of the last people on earth to adopt or wear any fashion fad that is currently in vogue. If you see me wearing the latest fashions on the market I did not make the choice to buy it or wear it. The decision was made for me.

The phrase "God Thing" actually dates to the early 1970's. Gene Roddenberry was going to write an episode for Star Trek entitled "The God Thing" with the premise being the exploration of the existence of God. The Star Trek executives never bought into the idea.

The modern phrase "It's a God Thing" is primarily a reference to the province of God. Generally, it refers to extraordinary interactions between God and humans. Most of these interactions would be described as "miracles". The term "God thing" refers to events or circumstances believed to be direct interventions by God. It is commonly used in contemporary Christian culture to describe situations that seem to defy coincidence and are attributed to divine influence.

Come to worship this Sunday as we more fully consider "It's a God Thing."
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



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

ACOLYTES

July 12: Sarah Echols, Lily Hindsman, & Scout Pritchard

July 19: Luke Barnes, Brooks & Claire Bone

Tech Team Schedule

July 12

Celebration: Bill Haller, Carmen McKiven

Traditions: Wayne Payton, Brad Barnes

July 19

Celebration: Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman, Brad Barnes

Traditions: Sheila Freeman, Neil Mullin, Rob Reynolds

Summer Devotional Suggestions

"You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart." – Jeremiah 29:13

As our regular Wednesday morning Bible Study and Wednesday Night Small Groups take a break for the summer months, we encourage you to continue nurturing your walk with the Lord in simple, meaningful ways. Whether you are at home or traveling, these ideas are meant to help you stay connected to God at your own pace.

1. Spend Time in Scripture

Choose a simple focus for the summer, such as the Psalms or the parables of Jesus. Read a short passage each day or week, asking: What does this teach me about God? How can I respond?

2. Take Your Devotional Time Outdoors

Use the beauty of summer as a reminder of God's presence. Sit on a porch, walk in a park, or pause during your day to reflect on His creation and give thanks.

3. Keep It Simple and Consistent

Set aside a few quiet moments each day or a longer time once or twice a week. Even a brief time in prayer and Scripture can be deeply meaningful.

4. Pray with Intention

Use this season to focus on prayer. Pray for your family, your church, and specific needs in our community. Consider keeping a short list to guide your prayers.

5. Practice Gratitude

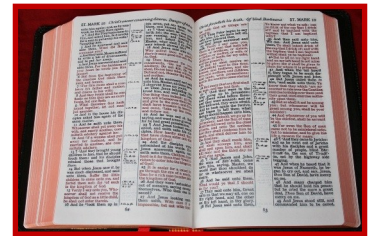
Each day, take a moment to thank God for specific blessings. Writing them down in a journal can help you see His faithfulness over time.

Wednesday morning Bible study and Wonderful Wednesday Small Groups resume in August.

Odyssey – New Sunday School Class Forming

June & July • 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

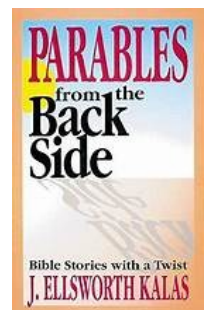
The Dream Big Study is a journey to begin exploring your hopes, dreams, ambitions, and the real purpose God has implanted within you. Each session will explore a different aspect of what it means to dream big and how to turn your dreams into a reality!



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 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

ELC summer session continues through July 22nd. We will have Papa John's Pizza on July 22nd to celebrate our end of summer session. Fall 2026-2027 Open House is Thursday, August 13th from 10:00 am to 11:00 am. Come and go.

—Helene Haller



LIFT YOUTH SUMMER CALENDAR

**JULY AND
AUGUST 2026**

WED

JULY 15
8:00pm - 9:00pm

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 Casay's as we learn how to make a Frickey's Famous Baked Good! Dinner provided!

Wednesday Night Activities will resume in August.

Children's Ministry

GFUMC Children's Summer Calendar

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

256.543.8200
www.fumcgadsden.org



**"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



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

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

**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

Sunday Mornings

Children's Church during worship,

9 am & 11 am

Sunday school @ 10 am

Need more info? katharine@fumcgadsden.org

July Mission Focus



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 July 31.



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

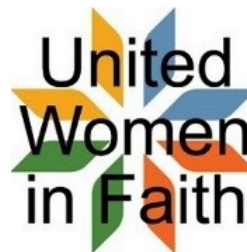
See Page 5 for more details!

**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

**July open dates are
7/1 and 7/15**

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"

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!**

Mid-Central District Lay Speaking Classes

August 1, 2026

Teacher: TBA

Leading Worship:

Deadline to Register: July 25, 2026

August 22, 2026

Leading Worship

Teacher: TBA

Deadline to register: August 15, 2026



Greetings to all who are interested. I am

Barbara Russell chair person of the Mid-Central District of Lay Servant Ministries of the North Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Please register with me by phone 334-863-1142 or email me barbarussell57@gmail.com. I will be in contact with you within 24 hours. If you register for a class and cannot attend, please notify me as I plan the food by the number attending.

- ◆ Cost is \$40.00 for the classes and each person is responsible for ordering their own book. You can order your book from the Upper Room 1-800-972-0433 or UpperRoom.org/store. The \$40.00 includes breakfast, lunch and a snack on Saturday.
- ◆ Registration begins at 7:30 am on Saturday morning. Class begins at 8:00 am with a break mid-morning and lunch at noon. The class will end at 2:00pm.
- ◆ The classes will be held at Cullman First United Methodist Church. Address is 320 3rd St. SE, Cullman, AL 35055.
- ◆ Everyone will receive a certificate for taking the class. If you have any questions, please contact me. I look forward to seeing you there.

Barbara Russell
Chairperson of Lay Servants Ministry
Mid-Central District
334-863-1142 or barbarussell57@gmail.com

"How beautiful
are the feet of those who
preach the good news!"

ROMANS 10:15, ESV





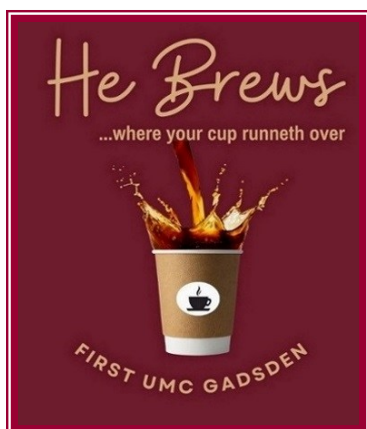
You are invited to connect with the GFUMC Family in a new and exciting way. Connect through the church app today by scanning the QR code above. You will now be able to find groups and connect with Teams, Leadership Groups, Sunday school classes, UWF Circles and more within the App.

Follow these steps to connect:

- Scan the QR Code and Click the link.
- "Join" by creating your profile with a password in the app (use "continue with email").
- Discover your connections to the GFUMC church community, a smaller community (like UWF, choir, or Children's Ministry, etc.) or a small group (like

a Sunday school class or small group) or a church leadership team. There are so many ways to connect!

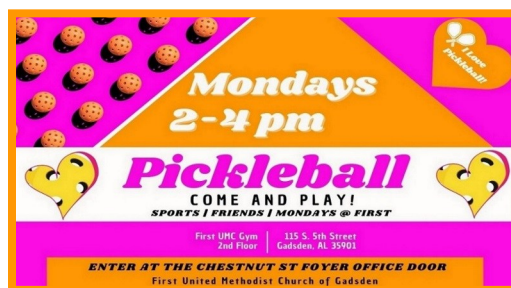
- Request to join or accept an invitation to join.
- You are now ready to send and receive notifications, messages, notices, reminders, prayer requests, and more within your GFUMC connections.
- Thank you for joining GFUMC Community Connection today!



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, July 12

Celebration: Denise McCarthy; Nancy McCorkle

Traditions: Mandell & Judy Tillman; John & Margie Freeman

Sunday, July 19

Celebration: Kim & Cynthia Whitt

Traditions: Phillip & Leslie Johnson; Lori Varner; Gail McNair; 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.



Members Sharing Their Gifts & Talents Free Workshops & Introductory Classes

SESSION 1 6:00–7:00 PM

MTWTH

Acrylic Painting For Beginners* — Patti Phelps

Cooking Made Easy — Harriet Murray

Sewing for Beginners* — Sandra Hill

STEM Activities (Children's Class Ages 6-12) — Katharine Barnes & Becca Echols

MT

Dog Training Basics — Butch Herb

MW

Wills and Trusts — Davis Varner

The Gift of Hope after Loss — Lurenda Avery

M or T

King's Olive Oil (M) — Jeff Johnson — Off Campus

King's Olive Oil (T) — Jeff Johnson — Off Campus

T or TH

Stained Glass Window Tour (T) — Sherri Reynolds — Sanctuary

Stained Glass Window Tour (TH) — Sherri Reynolds — Sanctuary

Medicare & You (T) — Jackie Brechin

Medicare & You (Th) — Jackie Brechin

Th Only

Chair Yoga for Beginners* — Barbara Hightower

SESSION 2 7:15–8:15 PM

MTWTH

Building a Fairy Garden (Children's Class) — Becky Thompson

Fancy Desserts* with a Dash of Pinterest — Kathy Trotter

MT

Bucket List: Travel — Ray Macon

Canva Basics* — Sheila Freeman

Jelly Making (Canning) — Carmen McKiven

Recycling to Make Money — John Brown

WTH

Assertiveness Training — Delores Abney

Canva Pro* — Sheila Freeman

OFFERED DURING BOTH SESSIONS 6:00 pm to 8:15 pm

MTWTH

Cake Decorating for Beginners — Michelle Cothran

Mah Jong for Beginners* — TBD

MT

Beginning Pickleball* — Jana & Mac Downs / Steve & Sherri Watson — Gym

WTH

Beginning Pickleball* — Jana & Mac Downs / Steve & Sherri Watson — Gym

Intro to Fly Fishing* — George Fant — GSCC

T Only

Crochet for Beginners* — Angela Horton — 118

W Only

Intro to Line Dancing — TBD — 202

TH Only

Knitting for Beginners* — Angela Horton — 118

**Bring Your Own Supplies-A list will be provided. Cookie Break: 7:00 to 7:15 pm
Some classes have a required minimum # of registrations or a limit on class size. Classes are subject to change.*

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 July 12-July 18, 2026

July 12, Sunday

9:00 am-Celebration Worship

10:00 am-HeBrews Coffee; Sunday School

11:00 am-Traditions Worship

3:00 pm-JSU A Capella Choir Concert, Sanctuary

July 13, Monday

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

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

July 14, Tuesday

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

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

5:00 pm-Yoga, Gym

July 15, Wednesday

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

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

No Choir Practice

July 16, Thursday

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

5:30 pm-Thursday Worship, Sanctuary

July 17, Friday

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

Office Closed 12:00 pm

Registration for Gift to Gadsden is now open!

Online www.fumcgadsden.org/G2G2026

Phone @ 256.543.8200

See Page 8 for the full list of classes!



Immediate Prayer Concerns

Lynn Page Jim Fleeman

Continued Prayer Concerns

Amy Epperson (daughter of Gene & Danna Dean)

James Dial (infant son of Jay & Taylor)



Birthdays

July 12 Derrick Barnes,

Tate Ogletree

July 13 Joanie Leach,

Deborah Masters

July 14 Keith Murray,

Nancy Smith, Amanda Summers,

Clint Copeland, Camille Wigley

July 15 Amy Reaves,

Holly Ostendorf, Atticus Selsor

July 16 Monica Gilmer

July 17 Barbara Khajavi,

Broasha Williams, Ryan Jackson

Attendance Week of July 5, 2026

In Person Total *158

Thursday *10

Traditions *85/178

Adult SS*33

Youth SS*2

Bible Study *0

*In Person

On Line Total 421

Celebration *63/243

Worship Total 579

Children's SS *5

Children Sun *12

Nursery Sun *2

Year 2026 Week of July 5, 2026

General Offering Budget \$ 13,040.00

General Offering Received \$ 19,567.69

YTD Gen. Offering Budget \$352,080.00

YTD Gen. Offering Rec'd \$392,826.42

Read the Weekly Newsletter
on the GFUMC Church App
and on the Church Website:
www.fumcgadsden.org

Important Deadlines

Deadline for the newsletter is noon
on Tuesday of each week.

All requests for spoken
announcements for Sunday mornings
must be turned in by Thursday @ noon,
in writing to Susan Swann in the office.