

Women of Scripture

Celebrating 70 Years of Ordination of Women



The Woman Who Touched Jesus' Garment

Matthew 9:20-22
Rev. Sherri Reynolds

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

Sermon Notes: July 23 & July 26, 2026

If you read the scripture about the woman who touched Jesus' garment (Matthew 9:20-22), you make think her story is one of desperation. She had been sick for twelve years, exhausting her resources to try to get better. She was also an outcast from her religious group and from society. When the woman reached out to touch Jesus, her circumstances were dire.

Other than desperation, there was another component to her story and that component was faith. She trusted Jesus enough to know that he would not ridicule her and ostracize her for her ailment. She had faith to believe that Jesus could make her well. The woman carried the hope that her life would be better with Jesus. All this motivated her to seek Jesus, not out of desperation but with faith. The woman who touched Jesus' garment reminds us that faith can sometimes have an action component. She acted in faith and out of acting in faith, she found the healing which made all the difference. Thankful for 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

July 26: Clementine & Rhett Hilburn

August 2: Sara Kate, Jake, & Caroline Thornburg

Tech Team Schedule

July 26

Celebration: Bill Haller, Carmen McKiven

Traditions: Davis Varner, Sheila Freeman

August 2

Celebration: Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman, Carmen McKiven

Traditions: Mark Condra, Neil Mullin, 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

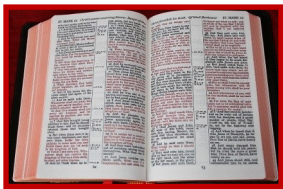
- ◇ **Wednesday Bible Study with Rev. Sherri—11 am & 6 pm, beginning Wednesday, August 12**
- **Join us beginning August 12 for a six-week study, “A Woman’s Place: What does the Bible Really Say about Women and Leadership in the Church.”** Bring your Bible as we look at various perspectives on women’s 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

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

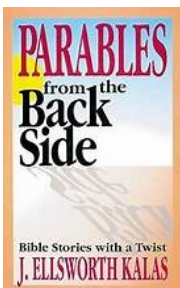
The Dream Big Study is a journey to begin exploring your hopes, dreams, ambitions, and the real purpose God has implanted within you. Each session will explore a different aspect of what it means to dream big and how to turn your dreams into a



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

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

"Slide into Reading"

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

Johnson Family Library
Room 104

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

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

Sunday Mornings

Children's Church during worship,

9 am & 11 am

Sunday school @ 10 am

Need more info? katharine@fumcgadsden.org

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 July 31.



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

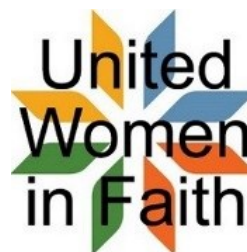
See Page 5 for more details!

**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

**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!**



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,



Greetings to all who are interested. I am Barbara Russell chair person of the 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 barbararussell57@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.

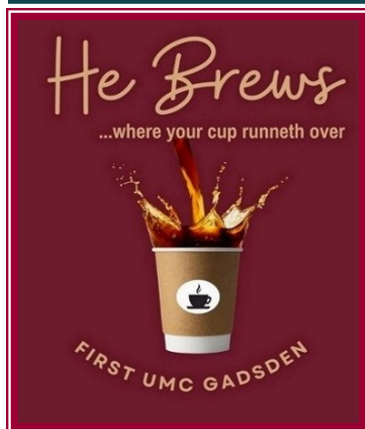
- ◆ Cost is \$40.00 for the classes and each person is responsible for ordering their own book. You can order your book from the Upper Room 1-800-972-0433 or UpperRoom.org/store. The \$40.00 includes breakfast, lunch and a snack on Saturday.
- ◆ Registration begins at 7:30 am on Saturday morning. Class 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



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.



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 26

Celebration: Wayne & Karen Owen

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

Sunday, August 2

Celebration: Butch Herb; Becky Thompson

Traditions: Terry & Sheila Bishop; Bob & Becky Olman



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 26-Aug 1, 2026

July 26, Sunday

9:00 am-Celebration Worship

10:00 am-HeBrews Coffee; Sunday School

11:00 am-Traditions Worship

July 27, Monday

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

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

6:00 pm-7:00 pm-Gift to Gadsden Classes

7:15 pm-8:15 pm-Gift to Gadsden Classes



Bring homemade cookies, brownies, and bars for the Cookie Break at Gift to Gadsden on Sunday, July 26 or Monday, July 27. There will be a donation cart in the Chestnut Foyer. Thank you for your donations!

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!



July 28, Tuesday

6:00 pm-7:00 pm-Gift to Gadsden Classes

7:15 pm-8:15 pm-Gift to Gadsden Classes

July 29, Wednesday

6:00 pm-7:00 pm-Gift to Gadsden Classes

7:15 pm-8:15 pm-Gift to Gadsden Classes

July 30, Thursday

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

5:30 pm-Thursday Worship, Sanctuary

6:00 pm-7:00 pm-Gift to Gadsden Classes

7:15 pm-8:15 pm-Gift to Gadsden Classes

July 31, Friday

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

Office Closed 12:00 pm

What's Happening in August!

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

Sunday, August 9 — Both Worship Services—Blessing of the Backpacks

Wednesday, September 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

Honorariums & Memorials

Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed

A bed was given in memory of Dr. Rick Rutland, given by Charlotte Rutland.

Birthdays

July 28 Billie Hackney, Linton Roberts

July 29 Wayne Payton

July 30 Phillip Johnson, Reagan McFarland

July 31 Jacob Kelley, Hunter Lowe

Aug 1 Jackie Herlong, Sharon Quinn, Karen Owen, Charles Abney, Keith Copeland, Jim Harwell

Attendance Week of July 19, 2026

In Person Total *181	On Line Total 333
Thursday *12	Celebration *64/168
Traditions *105/165	Worship Total 514
Adult SS*43	Children's SS *2
Youth SS*2	Children Sun *10
Bible Study *4	Nursery Sun *4
Children Wed/Sun *10	Youth Wed/Sun *11

Year 2026 Week of July 19, 2026

General Offering Budget	\$ 13,040.00
General Offering Received	\$ 10,211.20
YTD Gen. Offering Budget	\$378,160.00
YTD Gen. Offering Rec'd	\$413,229.28

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Trish Harrell Jim Fleeman
Dawn Rains Christine Moody

Continued Prayer Concerns

Lynn Page
Amy Epperson
(daughter of Gene & Danna Dean)
James Dial
(infant son of Jay & Taylor Dial)

