



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

Sermon Notes: June 18 & June 21, 2026

During Jesus’s last night with the disciples, he tells them that no greater love can be demonstrated, than to give one’s life for his friends. Then he goes on to call them friends, foreshadowing what will happen within the next 24 hours. Jesus will lay down his life for his friends, and he is inviting them to follow such a path as sacrificial love. Jesus desires the disciples to consider and observe a life of sacrificial love. This is not only the act of laying down one’s life for one’s friends but involves other aspects of life. Sacrificial love also involves serving, giving, and helping others while putting the interest of others ahead of your own. It often means not counting the cost but acting out of the interest to love. (John 15:12-17)

What would our world look like if we followed this path which Jesus invited his disciples to follow? Sacrificial love could be a transformative blueprint for personal relationships, communities, and society at large. This would be radical change. Let’s face it, our world is marked with self-interest. Division, competition, and win at all costs often permeate our world. If we could only sacrificially love and set aside self-interest, then there would be more congeniality, compassion and reconciliation. Our world would be so different if we could simply love like Jesus loves us. 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

- June 21: Clementine & Rhett Hilburn
- June 28: Sara Kate, Jake, & Caroline Thornburg

Tech Team Schedule

- June 21
- Celebration:** Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman
- Traditions:** Mark Condra, Sheila Freeman
- June 28
- Celebration:** Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman
- Traditions:** Davis Varner, Wayne Payton, Sheila Freeman



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

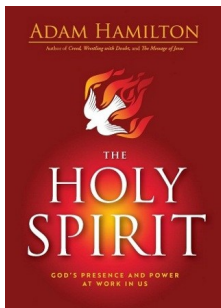
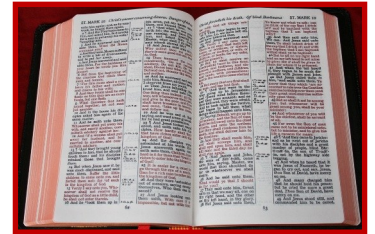
Each day, take a moment to thank God for specific blessings. Writing them down in a journal can help you see His faithfulness over time.

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

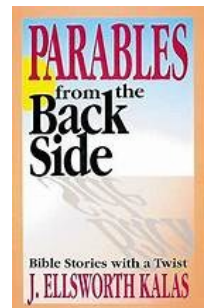
The Holy Spirit-God’s Presence and Power at Work in Us by Adam Hamilton

Explore what Scripture teaches about God’s Spirit—from the Hebrew Bible through Jesus’ promises in the Gospels, the powerful Pentecost experience in Acts, and the rich teachings found in the New Testament letters. This accessible study helps believers understand and experience the Holy Spirit’s presence and power in their daily walk with Christ.

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 continues to have a great summer session. This coming Wednesday June 24th will be our June Lunchbox Revolt. The Dog House will be here and the cost is \$5.00.

—Helene Haller

LIFT YOUTH MINISTRY SUMMER CALENDAR 2026

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17 - 6:00PM
MOVIE NIGHT & ICE CREAM BAR AT THE CHURCH

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24 - 6:00PM
BLOCK PARTY

THURSDAY, JULY 9 - 6:00PM
BOWLING AT THE ALLEY

Wednesday Night Activities will resume in August.

Children's Ministry

GFUMC Children's Summer Calendar

| May | June | July | August |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 6-Church Picnic | 8-11: VBS | 8-popcorn&pajamas Movie Night | 5-River Day at Ms. Ola's! |
| 13-Game Night! | 12-Pool party at the Isbell's! | 22-Wheelie FUN Night! | 12-Ice Cream Social |
| | 24-Block Party with Cornerstone | 27-30: Gift to Gadsden | |

Ssssuper 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

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

Find Us Online...
www.fumcgadsden.org/children
Gadsden First United Methodist Children's Ministry

Summer Reading Challenge
This Summer, check out FIVE books from the children's library and get a summer prize!
Johnson Family Library Room 104

Sunday Mornings
Children's Church during worship,
9 am & 11 am
Sunday school @ 10 am
Need more info?
katharine@fumcgadsden.org

CORNERSTONE CHURCH - FIRST UNITED METHODIST PRESENTS

BLOCK PARTY

INFLATABLES
FOOD TRUCKS
FACE PAINTING
AND FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

FREE ADMISSION 6PM - 8PM
530 CHESTNUT ST. GADSDEN, AL

JUNE 24th

June Mission Focus

Donate NEW Socks and Underwear for the FUMCG



The Red Buckets are back out and ready to receive your donations for the First UMC Gadsden Clothes Closet! And this month, they have a very specific (and very important) request: **NEW socks and underwear for ALL ages and ALL genders**

Yes—something as simple as brand-new socks and underwear can make a powerful difference. These everyday essentials are often the most urgently needed items for individuals and families working hard to rebuild stability in their lives.

The Clothes Closet continues to serve as a hands-on ministry of compassion, dignity, and hope. Every item placed in the Red Buckets goes directly toward meeting real needs in our community.

Small Items. Big Impact. It might not seem like much—but think about it:

- A child going to school with confidence
- A job seeker prepared for an interview
- A family stretching every dollar a little further

These are the kinds of life moments your donation supports. Something as simple as a pack of socks can become a step toward renewed dignity and encouragement.

Be Part of the Story

The First UMC Gadsden Clothes Closet is more than a collection of clothing—it's a living ministry of care, compassion, and hope in action. And you are a vital part of it.



First UMC Gadsden is sponsoring
a Community Build for
"Sleep in Heavenly Peace" October 17, 2026
See Page 5 for more details!

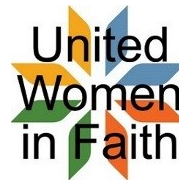
United Women in Faith

Summer Suppers: July 7, Nola's Clover

Watch for more dates and time and location for a monthly get together for fellowship in July, and August. 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

June open dates are

6/3 and 6/17

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!



Announcing 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



Climbing
Toward
Sweet
Dreams

Find Out
More



Goal: \$25,000
to Build 100 BEDS!



SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE

Community Bed Build

9 am
October 17, 2026
@ FUMC Gadsden

Partner Churches

First United Methodist Church of Gadsden

Cornerstone

Episcopal Church of the Holy Comforter

First UMC Attalla

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
- Opportunities available for all ages to participate

First United Methodist Church Gadsden



A Community Block Party

**First United Methodist Church Gadsden &
Cornerstone will take over the block downtown!**

Free Admission!

Wednesday, June 24th

6–8 PM

On Chestnut St, between 5th & 6th St.

Get ready for:

HUGE inflatables + a special toddler area

Fresh popcorn popped on-site

Fun for the whole family

Food trucks will also be on-site selling all their best stuff!

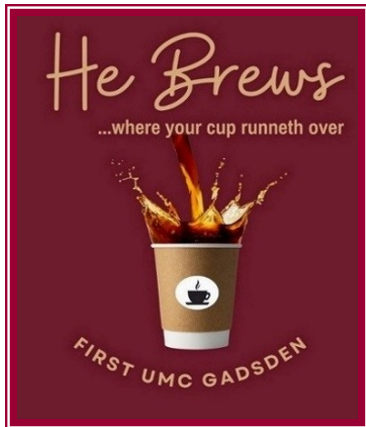
**Grab your friends, bring the family, and come hang out with us for
a night of fun!**

DO YOU KNOW?

MATTHEW & AMANDA HERMAN



Matthew grew up in North Carolina and graduated from Shelby High School. He attended North Carolina State University in Raleigh and received a BS degree in Animal Science. He has worked in the poultry industry for 37 years, with 20 of those being at Tyson Foods and the last 10 at Koch Foods. His hobbies include landscaping, hunting, and golf. Amanda grew up in northwest Arkansas and graduated from Oak High School. She attended Arkansas Tech University in Russellville and received a bachelor's degree in Business Management and Marketing. Her hobbies include gardening and hiking. They have four grown children—Sara, William, Meagan, and Marie—and three grandchildren.



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, June 21

Celebration: Butch Herb; Helene Haller

Traditions: Phillip & Leslie Johnson; Lori Varner; Gail McNair; Grover Kitchens

Sunday, June 28

Celebration: Steve & Kelley Roach

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



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.



Get ready for another exciting week of learning, creativity, fellowship, and fun!

First United Methodist Church of Gadsden is delighted to present the annual **Gift to Gadsden** community event, coming **July 27–30, 2026**. Created as a gift to our community, this beloved event brings people together through a wide variety of mostly free workshops and classes led by talented members of our church family.

From cooking, crafts, and home improvement to wellness, technology, history, music, hobbies, devotional studies, and more, there is truly something for everyone to enjoy, explore, and learn!

Class Schedule (New for 2026)

- **Session 1:** 6:00–7:00 PM
- **Cookie Break:** 7:00–7:15 PM
- **Session 2:** 7:15–8:15 PM

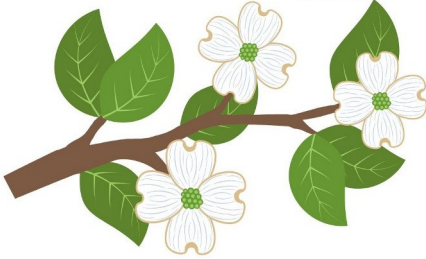
One of the highlights of Gift to Gadsden is the opportunity for members of our congregation to share their passions, talents, and experiences with others. Members of the FUMCG Mission Team are currently working to schedule instructors and classes for this year’s event. Mission Team members include Ginger Ross, Lynne Frederick, Charlotte Rutland, Delores Abney, Eileen Graham, Jeanne Mabeus, Paula Wilson, Ray Macon, and Sheila Freeman.

As always, we warmly invite members of our church family to consider teaching a class or workshop. You do not have to be a professional teacher to make a difference! If you love baking, gardening, painting, photography, quilting, woodworking, organizing, budgeting, fitness, music, history, technology, or another special interest, chances are someone in our community would love to learn from you.

We are especially excited to welcome fresh ideas and new class topics this year. If you have ever thought, *“I could teach that!”* — this is your opportunity to share your gifts in a meaningful and joyful way.

Gift to Gadsden is more than a series of classes — it is a celebration of community, connection, hospitality, faith, and the joy of learning together. We look forward to another wonderful year!

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
Bob Blount, Generosity Chairman



"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](https://venmo.com/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](https://venmo.com/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 June 21-June 27, 2026

June 21, Sunday

9:00 am-Celebration Worship
10:00 am-HeBrews Coffee; Sunday School
11:00 am-Traditions Worship

June 22, Monday

9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym
2:00 pm-4:00 pm-Pickleball, Gym

June 23, Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC
Summer Schedule
5:00 pm-Yoga, Gym

June 24, Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Summer Schedule
6:00 pm-8:00 pm-Block Party, Chestnut Street
& Parking Lot

6:00 pm-Choir Practice

June 25, Thursday

9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym
5:30 pm-Thursday Worship, Sanctuary

June 26, Friday

11:00 am to 12:00 am -Ladle of Love
12:00 pm-Office Closed



Watch for the 2026 Gift to Gadsden Lineup of Classes to be announced soon!

CORNERSTONE CHURCH + FIRST UNITED METHODIST PRESENTS

BLOCK PARTY


VOL. 6
JUNE 24th

**INFLATABLES
FOOD TRUCKS
FACE PAINTING**

AND FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

FREE ADMISSION 6PM - 8PM
530 CHESTNUT ST. GADSDEN, AL

*The rose on the altar is placed
in honor of the birth of*



Bear Thomas Barkley
Born: May 22, 2026


Parents: Amanda & Bradley Barkley
Siblings: Britton & Bryce

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Jim Fleeman Lewis Hill

Continued Prayer Concerns

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



*The rose on the altar is placed
in honor of the birth of*



Kora Kate Zhang
Born: June 16, 2026

Parents: Kaitlin & Aaron Zhang
Big Brother: Koda

Birthdays

June 21 Linda Cleveland,
Alice Johns, Bentley McClendon

June 23 Rachel Sims,
Meg Fleeman, Eric Wright,
Joe Pritchard, Lucy Gilbert
Leland Ware Trotter

June 25 Carolyn Howren,
Sophia Hornik, Wells Isbell

June 26 Peggy Casey,
Cortland Phillips, Taylor Smith

June 27 Ciara Caldwell,
John Freeman

Attendance Week of June 14, 2026

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| In Person Total *209 | On Line Total 289 |
| Thursday *13 | Celebration *87/143 |
| Traditions *109/146 | Worship Total 498 |
| Adult SS*21 | Children's SS *3 |
| Youth SS*0 | Bible Study *10 |
| Children Sun *13 | Nursery Sun *4 |
| VBS Children *68 | VBS Youth *15 |
| VBS Volunteers *28 | |



Holy Baptism
Vera Rae
Collier
June 14, 2026

| Year 2026 | Week of June 14, 2026 |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| General Offering Budget | \$ 13,040.00 |
| General Offering Received | \$ 17,919.00 |
| YTD Gen. Offering Budget | \$312,960.00 |
| YTD Gen. Offering Rec'd | \$358,248.73 |

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