



Become

Philippians 1:3-11

Rev. Sherri Reynolds

BE FUMCG

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

Sermon Notes: June 25 & June 28, 2026

Paul opens the letter to the Philippians with a salutation and greeting. Then he sets the tone for the Philippians with a prayer for them. The prayer includes thanksgiving for their willingness to share about Jesus. Paul then notes that one day will God will complete the great work that he began in that worshipping community. His prayer for them is that they overflow with love, increased knowledge, and insight, to be blameless when Jesus returns. (Philippians 1:3-11)

To overflow with love, increased knowledge, and insight, to be blameless when Jesus returns, reminds me of our call to grow in God's grace. We grow in the command to love God completely and love our neighbor as self. This increase may not be something which is instant but is the ongoing completion of that work which God's begins in us. This is a process or journey of Jesus working within us, and our working to draw closer to God. I remember words from scripture, "draw near to God and he will draw near to you." This week consider all the ways in which God is completing that good work which He began in you.

"Bee" coming a follower of Christ,
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 28: Sara Kate, Jake, & Caroline Thornburg

July 5: Volunteer (Holiday weekend)

Tech Team Schedule

June 28

Celebration: Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman

Traditions: Davis Varner, Wayne Payton, Sheila Freeman

July 5:

Celebration: Sheila Freeman, Carmen McKiven

Traditions: Sheila Freeman, Rob Reynolds



BE FUMCG

Rev. Sherri Reynolds

Believe
Be the Blessing
Belong
Become

June Sermon Series

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

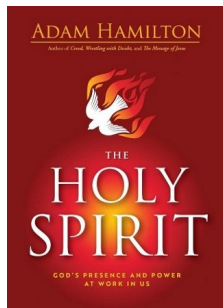
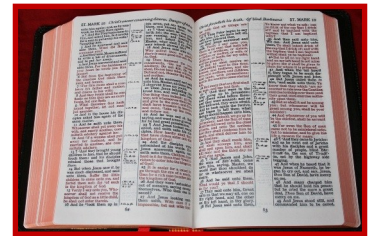
Each day, take a moment to thank God for specific blessings. Writing them down in a journal can help you see His faithfulness over time.

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

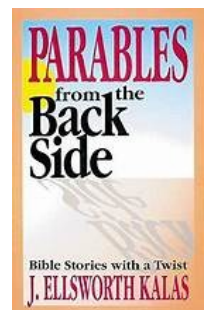
The Holy Spirit-God's Presence and Power at Work in Us by Adam Hamilton

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

The Dog House was fun as always. ELC summer session continues through July 22nd. Fall 2026-2027 Open House is Thursday, August 13th from 10:00 am to 11:00 am. Come and go.

—Helene Haller



LIFT YOUTH MINISTRY SUMMER CALENDAR 2026

SUMMER ACTIVITIES




THURSDAY, JULY 9 - 6:00PM

BOWLING AT THE ALLEY





MONDAY-THURSDAY, JULY 27-30 - 6:00PM

GIFT TO GADSDEN

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10 - 6:00PM

LIFT GROUP & ICE CREAM SOCIAL AT THE CHURCH






www.fumcgadsden.org/youth/

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



SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

Find Us Online...

www.fumcgadsden.org/children



FIRST UMC Gadsden Children's Ministry



Sssssuper Summer Sundays!

- 6/14 - Silly Sock Sunday
- 6/21 - Cereal Sunday
- 6/28 - Superhero
- 7/5 - Silly String Sunday
- 7/12 - Stuffedie Sunday
- 7/19 - Silly Hat Sunday
- 7/26 - Sundae Sunday

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

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

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!

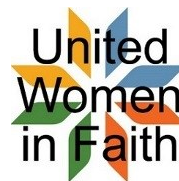
United Women in Faith

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

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



Climbing Toward Sweet Dreams

Find Out More



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



Amount
\$25,000
\$24,000
\$23,000
\$22,000
\$21,000
\$20,000
\$19,000
\$18,000
\$17,000
\$16,000
\$15,000
\$14,000
\$13,000
\$12,000
\$11,000
\$10,000
\$9,000
\$8,000
\$7,000
\$6,000
\$5,000
\$4,000
\$3,000
\$2,000
\$1,000

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

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

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

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

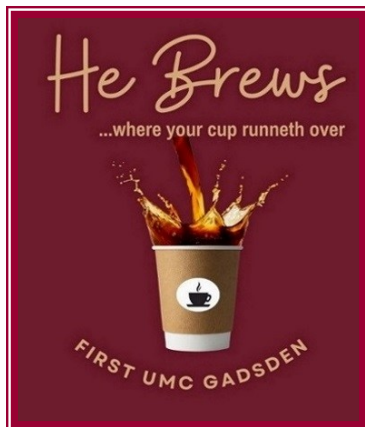


DO YOU KNOW?

CLAY & LESLIE HIX



Clay is a self-described "army brat" who grew up in Madison and Huntsville, AL. He graduated from Butler High School in Huntsville, where he met Leslie in 1971. He then received a Business degree from Jacksonville State University and began his career in banking, also serving part time in the National Guard. He is now retired and enjoys playing golf. Leslie was born in Kansas and lived in Arizona, Florida, and Kentucky before graduating from Butler High School in Huntsville. She majored in Finance, Accounting, and Economics at Auburn University, then went into banking. She worked with a software technology company that worked with banks and is now retired. Her hobbies include mahjong, golf, and painting in watercolors. They have three grown children: Austin (46), Adam (43), and Lindsay (37), who is currently running for the State House of Representatives in Georgia.



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 28

Celebration: Steve & Kelley Roach

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

Sunday, July 5

Celebration: Vickie Handy; Nancy McCorkle

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.





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

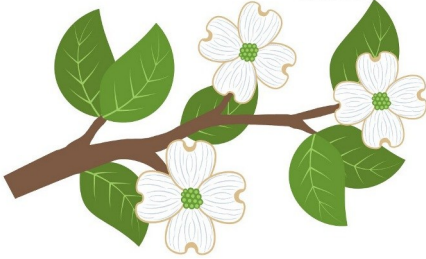
One of the highlights of Gift to Gadsden is the opportunity for members of our congregation to share their passions, talents, and experiences with others. Members of the FUMCG Mission Team are currently working to schedule instructors and classes for this year's event. Mission Team members include Ginger 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

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 June 28-July 5, 2026

June 28, Sunday

9:00 am-Celebration Worship

10:00 am-HeBrews Coffee; Sunday School

11:00 am-Traditions Worship

June 29, Monday

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

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

June 30, Tuesday

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

5:00 pm-Yoga, Gym

July 1, Wednesday

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

No Choir Practice

July 2, Thursday

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

5:30 pm-Thursday Worship, Sanctuary

July 3, Friday

Office Closed for Holiday

No Ladle of Love



See
Page 8
for
more
details!



ELC TEACHERS & SUBSTITUTES NEEDED FOR FALL 2026

First UMC Early Learning Center is seeking caring, dependable, and enthusiastic Teachers and Substitute Teachers for the upcoming fall semester. Both full-time and part-time positions are available.

The Early Learning Center operates as a Mother's Day Out Preschool program, Monday-Thursday, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and offers early care and extended care options. Known for many years as one of our area's premier preschool program helping to ensure children's readiness for kindergarten, the ELC provides a nurturing Christian environment where children learn, grow, and thrive. This is a loving and meaningful opportunity to make a positive difference in the lives of the children entrusted to our care.

The Early Learning Center is a ministry of First United Methodist Church of Gadsden.

For more information, please contact:

Helene Haller, Director

elc@fumcgadsden.org

Honorariums & Memorials

Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Build

In memory of Helen Wright, given by Julia Nolen Knox.

In memory of Elisabeth Hardin, given by Julia Nolen Knox.

In memory of Elizabeth Barnes, given by Mr. & Mrs. Steve Frederick.

In honor of GFUMC Staff, given by Mr. & Mrs. Steve Frederick.

In memory of Joey Condra, given by Laura Condra.

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Lynn Page Jim Fleeman Lewis Hill

Continued Prayer Concerns

Amy Epperson (daughter of Gene & Danna Dean)

James Dial (infant son of Jay & Taylor)



Birthdays

June 28 Lee Pruett,

Grace Walton

June 29 Denise McCarthy

July 1 Carma Rayburn,

Lauren Blackstock, Liam Hornik,

Lilly Ostendorf

July 2 Susan McCord,

Gene Dean, Gavin Martin

July 3 Todd Rains,

Jody Sizemore

July 4 Mitch Dupont,

Dr. Kim Whitt, Neil Summers,

Jackson Camp, Natalie Blevins

Attendance Week of June 21, 2026

In Person Total *200 On Line Total 296

Thursday *9 Celebration *71/159

Traditions *120/137 Worship Total 496

Adult SS*43 Children's SS *6

Youth SS*0 Children Sun *15

Bible Study *7 Nursery Sun *3

Year 2026 Week of June 21, 2026

General Offering Budget \$ 13,040.00

General Offering Received \$ 5,967.00

YTD Gen. Offering Budget \$326,000.00

YTD Gen. Offering Rec'd \$364,215.73

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.