



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

**Sermon Notes: June 4 & June 7, 2026**

When we think of belief, we often think of individualism. We have this individual understanding of faith, meaning that we are saved by our faith in Jesus. This is a decision that we come to individually. We aren't born a Christian, and no one can make that decision to be a Christ follower for us. We make the decision for ourselves. Yet, faith is not only a personal decision but also lived in community. The community transmits, reminds us, and keeps us on track, so that we may arrive in the place where we can not only have a communal relationship with Jesus, but also a personal relationship with Jesus.

*Phillipians 2:1-11* is believed to be one of the earliest statements of communal belief. The *Christ Hymn* is thought to be a confession of the early church to remind and teach believers what they believe. Thus, it comes to us reminding as well! We are not Christians in isolation, but believers who are part of a great crowd of witnesses. In our faith, we are not alone.

See you at FUMCG!  
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](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/media)

**ACOLYTES**

- June 7: Volunteer
- June 14: Luke Barnes, Brooks Bone, & Claire Bone

**Tech Team Schedule**

June 7

- Celebration:** Sheila Freeman, Brad Barnes
  - Traditions:** Mark Condra, Wayne Payton, Sheila Freeman
- June 14

- Celebration:** Rob Reynolds, Carmen McKiven
- Traditions:** Davis Varner, Neil Mullin, 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.*

## **Transitions 10 am, Room 209**

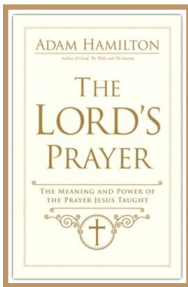
***This class will not meet during the summer! Look for more information in August.***

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## **Pathfinders/Seekers 10 am, Room 208**

### **The Lord’s Prayer The Meaning & Power of the Prayer by Adam Hamilton**

Most Christians know the Lord’s Prayer by heart. We pray it often, at different times and in different settings. We remember it as the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples. But do we really understand and appreciate the meaning and power of its words, what we ask of God each time we pray it?

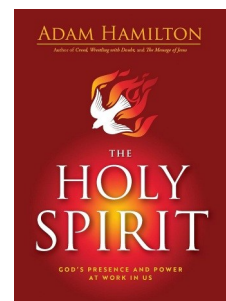


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## **Living Waters 10 am, Room 116 Rev. Ken Casey**

### **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.



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## **“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

We are back...sort of. We had a great first two days of our summer 2026 session. Next week we will break for VBS, but will hit the ground running June 16<sup>th</sup> and be open every Tuesday and Wednesday through July 22.

—Helene Haller

## LIFT YOUTH MINISTRY SUMMER CALENDAR 2026

### SUMMER ACTIVITIES

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

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24 - 6:00PM  
**BLOCK PARTY**

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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

**SUMMER READING CHALLENGE**

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](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/children)

**Gadsden First United Methodist 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](mailto:katharine@fumcgadsden.org)

## VBS WORK DAYS

**MAY 31 & JUNE 7 (12-2)**

REGISTER TO HELP! \*LIGHT LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

JUNE 1, 2, 3, 4 WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR ANYONE THAT CAN WORK ON SMALL PROJECTS DURING THE DAY.

## 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. When you drop items into the Red Buckets this June, you’re not just giving clothing—you’re helping to change someone’s day, and sometimes, even their direction in life.

#### Let’s Fill the Buckets!

So when you see the Red Buckets, don’t walk by—step in and give generously.



### Announcing First UMC Gadsden’s 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!

### United Women in Faith

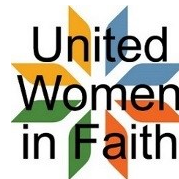
**Boston Butt Sale** begins May 24 and ends June 7.  
The pickup date will be: June 17.

**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

**May open dates are 5/6 and 5/20**

9:00 am to 11:00 am

516 Broad Street Gadsden

Find out more about mission and service opportunities @

[www.fumcgadsden.org/serve](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/serve)

Phone: 256-543-8200

Email:

[fumc@fumcgadsden.org](mailto:fumc@fumcgadsden.org)

### Ladle of Love Clothes Closet

March 2026

LOL 408

Clothes Closet 359

April 2026

LOL 400

Clothes Closet 225

Thanks to our Volunteers!

*Please join us on*

*Hardin Hope  
Sunday*

*honoring*

*Elisabeth Hardin*  
*in both worship services*



**Sunday, June 14**

*Reception 10 am*

*Worship at 9 & 11 am*

*First United Methodist Church*

*115 S. 5th St*

*Gadsden, AL 35901*



# A Community Block Party

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

This event is completely FREE.

Wednesday, June 24th

6-8 PM

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

Get ready for:

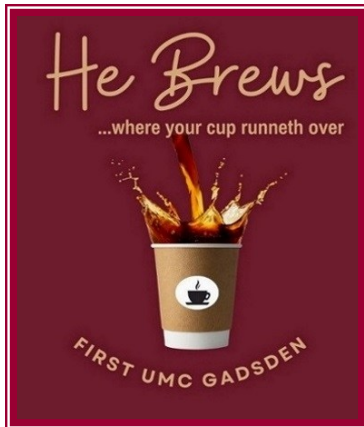
HUGE inflatables + a special toddler area

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



Follow us on Facebook and Instagram.



HeBrews Coffee Café, Chestnut Foyer, Sundays, 10 am  
We look forward to seeing you on Sunday Morning!



## Greeters & Ushers for Worship

Sunday, June 7

Celebration: Bob & Kathy Sisson

Traditions: Terry & Sheila Bishop; Bob & Becky Olman

Sunday, June 14

Celebration: Vickie Handy; Nancy McCorkle

Traditions: Mandell & Judy Tillman; John & Margie Freeman



If you would like to serve as an Greeter/Usher, please contact Susan Swann in the church office, email: [susan@fumcgadsden.org](mailto:susan@fumcgadsden.org) or phone: 256.543.8200.

# JOIN US THIS SUMMER AT GFUMC!

[WWW.FUMCGADSDEN.ORG/CHILDREN](http://WWW.FUMCGADSDEN.ORG/CHILDREN)

256-543-8200

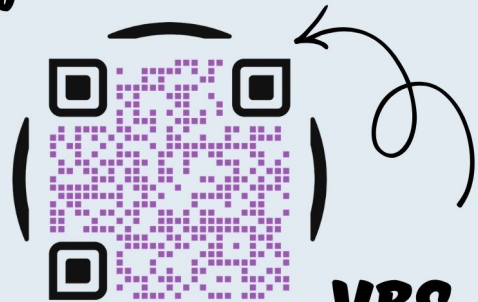
**I CAN  
DO ALL  
THINGS  
THROUGH HIM  
WHO STRENGTHENS ME.**

PHILIPPIANS 4:13, NRSV



**FIND US ON FACEBOOK!**

[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/GFUMCCHILDRENSMINISTRY](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/GFUMCCHILDRENSMINISTRY)



**VBS  
JUNE 8-11**

**AGES 3K-5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE  
COMPLETED**



## Safe Sanctuary Training Room 108, 12 Noon Sunday, June 7

At First United Methodist Church of Gadsden, we are committed to providing a safe, caring environment for all children, youth, and vulnerable adults in our ministry. To protect those in our care, as well as those who serve, all volunteers must follow our Safe Sanctuary guidelines:

- Be an active participant in the church for at least 6 months
- Be at least 5 years older than the age group they serve
- Follow the two unrelated adult rule
- Complete and pass a background check before serving
- Complete FUMCG's Safe Sanctuary Training (Annual training is required.)

These practices help ensure a safe and trusted space where children, youth, and vulnerable adults can grow in faith. Thank you for helping us protect and strengthen our ministry.

\*The complete FUMCG Safe Sanctuary Policy is available in the church office.



**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

*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.



*"...The old has gone,  
the new has come!"  
2 Corinthians 5:17b*

**If you have not contributed, but desire to do so, we are still receiving gifts.** You may return your Alleluia Offering during worship (designate "Alleluia Offering"), by mail, or through secure e-giving or Venmo (Visit [www.fumcgadsden.org/give](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/give) for details).

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](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/give)  
 Text to Give: 256-344-8464  
 Venmo [@FirstUMCGadsden](https://www.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**  
 (Please search in Venmo under charities or follow the link in the QR Code.)

Download our Church App  
 Search First UMC-Gadsden  
 In the App Store for Android or iPhone.



# First UMC Gadsden June 7-June 13, 2026

## June 7, Sunday

**9:00 am-Celebration Worship**  
**10:00 am-HeBrews Coffee; Sunday School**  
**11:00 am-Traditions Worship**  
**12:00-2:00 pm-VBS Volunteer Workday**

## June 8, Monday

9:00 am-12:00 pm, VBS  
 2:00 pm-4:00 pm-Pickleball, Gym

## June 9, Tuesday

9:00 am-12:00 pm, VBS  
 5:00 pm-Yoga, Gym

## June 10, Wednesday

9:00 am-12:00 pm, VBS  
 6:00 pm-Choir Practice

## June 11, Thursday

9:00 am-12:00 pm, VBS  
 11:30 am-VBS Program, Sanctuary  
**5:30 pm-Thursday Worship, Sanctuary**

## June 12, Friday

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

**Bring Snacks for VBS Volunteers by Sunday,  
 June 7: Bottled water, Sodas, Gatorades  
 Chicken nuggets, Baked goods & Individual  
 bags of chips.**

Church office receptionists are needed to answer the phone, monitor the door, and assist with light office tasks. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Susan @ [susan@fumcgadsden.org](mailto:susan@fumcgadsden.org) or 256.543.8200.

**VBS WORK DAYS**  
**MAY 31 & JUNE 7 (12-2)**  
 REGISTER TO HELP!  
 \*LIGHT LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED  
 JUNE 1, 2, 3, 4 WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR ANYONE THAT CAN WORK ON SMALL PROJECTS DURING THE DAY.

**GIFT TO GADSDEN 2026**  
**JULY 27-30**

**Immediate Prayer Concerns**  
 Collins Tackaberry Lynn Page Family of Frank Dressman

**Continued Prayer Concerns**  
 Jackie Herlong Ronald Crowe  
 Amy Epperson (daughter of Gene & Danna Dean)  
 James Dial (infant son of Jay & Taylor)

*In Memory of His Life*  
*Charles Maitland Adams*  
*June 3, 2026*

**Birthdays**  
**June 7** Valerie Johnson,  
 Jay Hedgspeth, Alley Sizemore  
**June 8** Brenda Holmes,  
 Mark Whitt, Owen Trotter  
**June 9** Dr. Alejandro Hornik,  
 Jud Burford  
**June 10** Allison Casey  
**June 11** Ruthie Hornik  
**June 12** Connor Jarecki  
**June 13** Dr. Gary Dial,  
 Gail Spotnitz,  
 Steve Roach

**Attendance Week of May 31, 2026**

In Person Total *184	On Line Total 298
Thursday *13	Celebration *52/125
Traditions *119/173	Worship Total 482
Adult SS*32 Children's SS *7 Youth SS*1	
Bible Study *9 UWF *0 Children Sun *21	
Nursery Sun *4	

***Honorariums & Memorials***  
**Ladle of Love Fund**  
 In memory of Helen Wright,  
 given by Mr. & Mrs. Richard McCoy.

Year 2026	Week of May 31, 2026
General Offering Budget	\$ 13,040.00
General Offering Received	\$ 24,816.00
YTD Gen. Offering Budget	\$286,880.00
YTD Gen. Offering Rec'd	\$326,931.29

**Read the Weekly Newsletter  
 on the GFUMC Church App  
 and on the Church Website:  
[www.fumcgadsden.org](http://www.fumcgadsden.org)**