



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

**Sermon Notes: May 14 & May 17, 2026**

The Bible is filled with beautiful examples of prayer. You have the Lord’s Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13). There is also Hannah’s prayer (1 Samuel 1:10-11). You have Jesus’ prayer in the garden (Matthew 26:39) and Soloman’s prayer for wisdom (1 Kings 3: 5-14). Add to this all the Psalm which not only are heartfelt acts of worship, but also prayers which encompass all human emotions. These are a few of the many prayers which you will find in scripture.

Another prayer from scripture is Ephesians 1:15-23. This is not only the scripture for the week, but also a prayer from Paul for the Ephesians. Would you join me in praying this ancient prayer for our graduates and church this week?

*I thank God for you. I pray for you, asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you wisdom to see clearly and really understand who Christ is and all that he has done for you. I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can see something of the future he has called you to share. I want you to realize that God has been made rich because we who are Christ’s have been given to him! I pray that you will begin to understand how incredibly great his power is to help those who believe him. It is that same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God’s right hand in heaven, far, far above any other king or ruler or dictator or leader. Yes, his honor is far more glorious than that of anyone else either in this world or in the world to come. Amen.*

Praying for you. Rev. Sherri



**Safe Sanctuary Training**  
**Room 108**  
**12:15 pm**  
**Sunday, May 17**  
**Lunch Provided**

**See page 7** for details about First UMC Gadsden’s commitment to providing a safe environment for our children youth, and vulnerable adults.

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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)**

<b>ACOLYTES</b>
May 17: Volunteer
May 24: Volunteer

**Tech Team Schedule**

- May 17**
- Celebration:** Sheila Freeman, Bill Haller, Carmen McKiven
- Traditions:** Sheila Freeman, Rob Reynolds
- May 24**
- Celebration:** Rob Reynolds, Sheila Freeman
- Traditions:** 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**

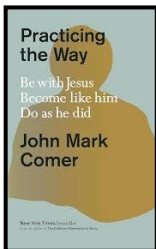
Use this season to focus on prayer. Pray for your family, your church, and specific needs in our community. Consider keeping a short list to guide your prayers.

## **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.***

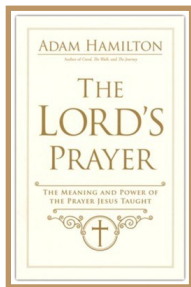
## **Transitions 10 am, Room 209**



***The Adventure Continues! Room 209! You are Invited!***

**Practicing the Way** by John Mark Comer—The disciples spent 3 years being apprentices to Jesus. They watched His every move and hung on every word. They were with Him 24/7. As a result, they, over time, became more and more like Him and began to do many of the things He did. With the Spirit’s help, with John Mark Comer as our guide, and with each other as encouragers, we too can learn to walk in Jesus’ steps.

***Join Rev. Dawson Harmon for this new small group study! Everyone is welcome!***



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

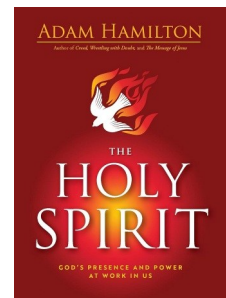
**The Lord’s Prayer** *The Meaning & Power of the Prayer* by Adam Hamilton

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?

## **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.



## **“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 ELC hosted its annual End of Year Program and 4K graduation this past Wednesday. Afterwards, we had a great time at our class parties.

The ELC will be on a short break from Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup> through Tuesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> when we will be back for our summer session.

—Helene



## Youth

Sunday School  
10 am, Room 211

## Wonderful Wednesday

Youth Group, 6:00 pm  
Room 211 & Gym

*"Let's Build a Solid  
Foundation!"*

Matthew 7:24

**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  
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

## 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.

## May Mission Focus

### Striplin Elementary School—Our Adopted School

During the month of May, First UMC Gadsden will focus its mission efforts on supporting Striplin Elementary School. On April 23, the mission team hosted the final A/B Honor Roll Party of the 2025–2026 school year, celebrating an impressive 193 students.

On May 5, teachers and faculty were honored with a Teacher Appreciation Lunch, featuring box lunches from Chicken Salad Chick. In addition, the Teachers of the Month and the Teacher of the Year for the 2025–2026 school year received certificates and gift cards in recognition of their outstanding dedication.

We are grateful for the continued support of our church family, which makes these meaningful opportunities possible. Together, we celebrate and encourage these educators who work so faithfully to serve the children of our community. *See page 5 for photos from the Teacher Appreciation Lunch.*



### 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

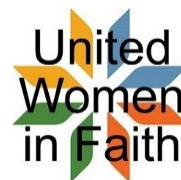
**Boston Butt Sale** begins May 24 and ends June 7.  
The pickup date will be: June 17.

**Summer Suppers: June 2– Gameday LIVE!** (Gadsden Mall)

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!

May 5, 2019




# Striplin Teacher Appreciation Luncheon

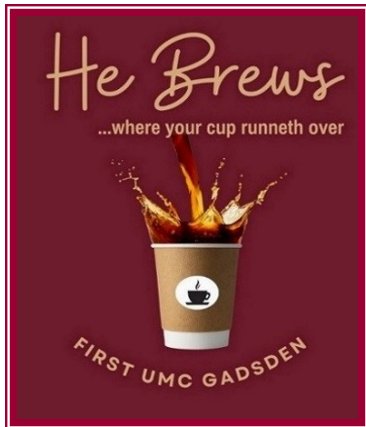


DO YOU KNOW?

**DENISE McCARTHY**



Denise grew up in Fairhope, AL, and graduated from Fairhope High School. She joined the United States Army and served for 6 years, then attended the Department of Medical Services at the University of South Alabama, where she received a Paramedic's certification. She now lives just outside of Ashville, AL, and is retired from the commercial air-conditioning business. Denise has 4 children: Randy (46), Christina Dianne (42), Christina Lynn (38), and James (34). Her hobbies include scuba diving and watching the Atlanta Braves' baseball games.



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, May 17

Celebration: Kirk & Jeanne Mabeus

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

Sunday, May 24

Celebration: Steve & Sherri Watson

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](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

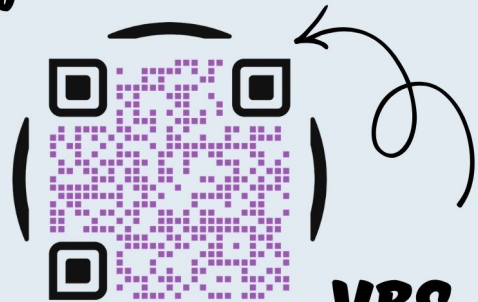
**I CAN  
DO ALL  
THINGS  
THROUGH HIM  
WHO STRENGTHENS ME.**

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  
12:15 pm, Room 108  
Sunday, May 17  
Lunch Provided**

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!

### **2026 Class Schedule**

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

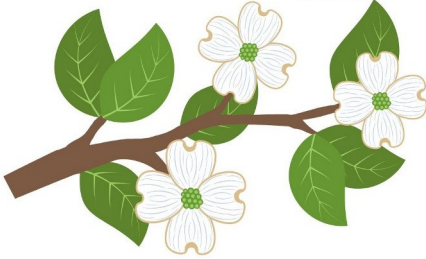
One of the highlights of Gift to Gadsden is the opportunity for members of our congregation to share their passions, talents, and experiences with others. Members of the FUMCG Mission Team are currently working to schedule instructors and classes for this year’s event. Mission Team members include Ginger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

**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://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.)



**venmo**

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





# First UMC Gadsden May 17-May 23, 2026

## May 17, Sunday

**9:00 am-Celebration Worship**  
**10:00 am-10:45 am- Senior High Brunch**  
 HeBrews Coffee; Sunday School  
**11:00 am-Traditions**

## May 18, Monday

ELC Closed-Summer Session begins June 2  
 9:00 am-10:00 am Exercise Gym  
 9:30 am-11:00 am-Striplin Elementary 4K Graduation  
 2:00 pm-4:00 pm-Pickle Ball, Gym  
 5:00 pm-Trustees Meeting

## May 19, Tuesday

5:00 pm-Yoga, Gym

## May 20, Wednesday

No Wednesday morning Bible Study  
 or small groups until August  
 Children's Activities and Youth TBD  
 6:00 pm-Choir Practice

## May 21, Thursday

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

## May 15, Friday

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

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 or 256.543.8200.

*The flowers on the altar are in memory of Robert G. and Charlie Nell Johnson on their birthdays this month given by their family.*

**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.

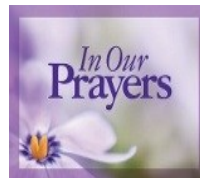
**GIFT TO GADSDEN 2026**  
**JULY 27-30**

### Immediate Prayer Concerns

Sharon Morris Regina Holloway

### Continued Prayer Concerns

Evelyn Pierson Nancy Smith  
 Amy Epperson (daughter of Gene & Danna Dean)  
 James Dial (infant son of Jay & Taylor)



### Save the Dates

**May 17**, Senior High Graduation Recognition Sunday, both worship services. *There will be a brunch for graduates and their families in the Gathering Room, between the worship services.*  
 Safe Sanctuary Training, 12 noon  
**May 18, 10 am**, Striplin Kindergarten Graduation, Sanctuary

### Birthdays

**May 19** Amy Epperson  
**May 20** Rose Schmuck, Martha Gray, Holt Page  
**May 21** Craig Ford, Sara Echols

*Please update your family's record in the church office to include all dates of birth.*

Thank you! Susan Swann



### Attendance Week of May 10, 2026

In Person Total *234	On Line Total 300
Thursday *11	Celebration *105/147
Traditions *118/153	Worship Total 534
Adult SS*39	Children's SS *7
Youth SS*3	Bible Study *6
Children Sun/Wed *28	Youth Sun/Wed *3
Nursery Sun/Wed *2	

### Year 2026 Week of May 10, 2026

General Offering Budget	\$ 13,040.00
General Offering Received	\$ 5,941.00
YTD Gen. Offering Budget	\$247,760.00
YTD Gen. Offering Rec'd	\$281,845.79



**May 10, 2026**

*Julie Nelson*