



Holy, Holy, Holy

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Rev. Sherri Reynolds

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

Sermon Notes: May 28 & May 31, 2026

At the conclusion of Paul’s 2nd letter to the Corinthians, Paul ends with a Trinitarian Blessing, “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” (2 Corinthians 13:11-13). You have likely heard such blessings in church or religious services and not given it much thought. What does it mean to be blessed in the name of the Trinity? While I have studied, preached, and spent time learning about the Trinity, there are still many details which remain holy mystery to me. While I am good with holy mystery, I do cling to some truths about the Trinity. Those are that God is greater than we can explain, God models relationship to us, and God loves me so much that God reveals himself in so many ways, so that I might draw closer to God.

I encourage you to spend time connecting with Trinity this week. Take time to notice the wonder of God our Creator. Reflect on the humanity of God with us, Jesus. Notice the presence of God with you in the Holy Spirit. Take a few moments to appreciate the gift of the Trinity and all the ways God makes himself known to you each day.

In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
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



UPDATE



The Church Directory is almost here! It is in final production @ Universal Church Directories. More details are coming soon!

ACOLYTES

May 31: Luke Barnes
June 7: Volunteer

Tech Team Schedule

May 31

Celebration: Rob Reynolds, Bill Haller, Carmen McKiven
Traditions: Davis Varner, Neil Mullin, Brad Barnes

June 7

Celebration: Sheila Freeman, Brad Barnes
Traditions: Mark Condra, 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.

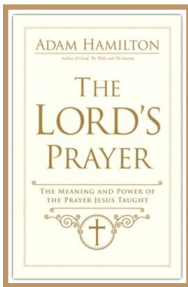
Transitions 10 am, Room 209

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

Pathfinders/Seekers 10 am, Room 208

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

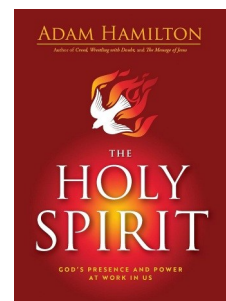
Most Christians know the Lord’s Prayer by heart. We pray it often, at different times and in different settings. We remember it as the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples. But do we really understand and appreciate the meaning and power of its words, what we ask of God each time we pray it?



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 14th through Tuesday, June 2nd 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

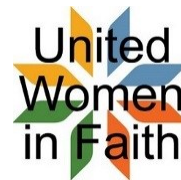
Boston Butt Sale begins May 24 and ends June 7. The pickup date will be: June 17.

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

Phone: 256-543-8200

Email:

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:

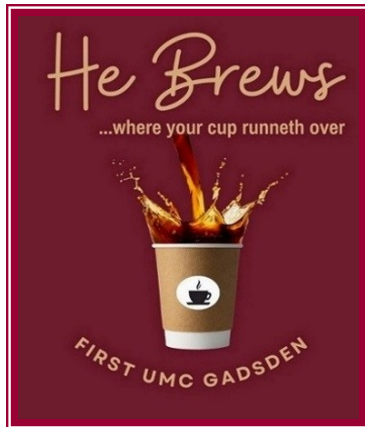
HUGE inflatables + a special toddler area

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



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 31

Celebration: Kim & Cynthia Whitt

Traditions: Lee, Charles, & Kathy Trotter; Paula Wilson; Eileen Graham

Sunday, June 7

Celebration:

Traditions: Sheila & Terry Bishop, Becky & Bob Oltman,



If you would like to serve as an Greeter/Usher, please contact Susan Swann in the church

JOIN US THIS SUMMER AT GFUMC!

WWW.FUMCGADSDEN.ORG/CHILDREN

256-543-8200

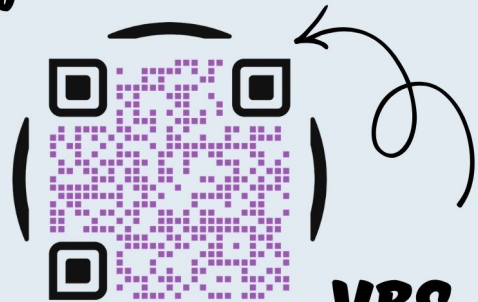
**I CAN
DO ALL
THINGS
THROUGH HIM
WHO STRENGTHENS ME.**

PHILIPPIANS 4:13, NRSV



FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/GFUMCCHILDRENSMINISTRY



**VBS
JUNE 8-11**

**AGES 3K-5TH GRADE
COMPLETED**



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!



“...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 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
 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 May 31-June 6, 2026

May 31, 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 1, Monday

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

June 2, Tuesday

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

6:00 pm-Summer Supper UWF, Gameday LIVE

June 3, Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, ELC Summer Session
 6:00 pm-Choir Practice


June 4, Thursday

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

5:30 pm-Thursday Worship, Sanctuary

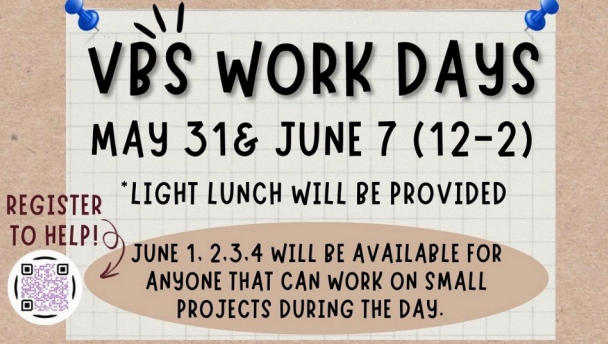
June 5, Friday

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



May 24, 2026
Joey Couwillion
Phyllis Couwillion

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.




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GIFT TO GADSDEN 2026
JULY 27-30

Immediate Prayer Concerns
 Collins Tackaberry Lynn Page

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




Holy Baptism
Collins Reese Hill
May, 24, 2026

Birthdays

May 28 Anna Harrell
May 31 Alan Ross
June 1 Clate McGwier, Carter Thornburg, Rosalia McNair
June 2 Carol McPherson, Carter Rains, Bailey Womack, Carter Womack
June 3 Dick McCoy, Jace Frickey, Amelia Hedgspeth
June 4 Jack Kennedy
June 5 Blaise Jarecki, Wells Ford
June 6 Ola Head, Sally Sohor


Attendance Week of May 24, 2026

In Person Total *167	On Line Total 305
Thursday *12	Celebration *52/145
Traditions *103/160	Worship Total 499
Adult SS*33 Children's SS *1	Youth SS*0
Bible Study *7 UWF *0	Children Sun *22
Youth Sun *0 Nursery Sun *0	

Year 2026 Week of May 17, 2026

General Offering Budget	\$ 13,040.00
General Offering Received	\$ 13,582.50
YTD Gen. Offering Budget	\$273,840.00
YTD Gen. Offering Rec'd	\$302,115.29

The pastors and congregation of First United Methodist Church of Gadsden extend Christian sympathy to Tregg and Valerie Johnson in the death of her mother, Helen Wright on May 23, 2026.



Read the Weekly Newsletter on the GFUMC Church App and on the Church Website.