11 October 2026

256.543.8200
fumcgadsden.org
115 S. 5th St
Gadsden, AL 35901

First UMC Gadsden

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



this issue

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Weekly Volunteers

Acolytes

October 11
Volunteer

October 18
Sara Kate, Jake, & Caroline Thornburg

Tech Team Schedule

October 11
Celebration:
Bill Haller,
Rob Reynolds
Traditions:
Wayne Payton,
Rob Reynolds

October 18
Celebration:
Sheila Freeman,
Carmen McKiven
Traditions:
Wayne Payton,
Davis Varner
Sheila Freeman

Ushers & Greeters

October 11
Celebration:
Kelly & Steve Roach

Traditions:
Mandell & Judy Tillman
Margie & John Freeman

October 18
Celebration:
Keith Southers
Kathy Sisson

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

Now Is the Time for Presence

Sermon Notes: October 8 and October 11: Romans 12:4-5

Being one in Christ and belonging to one another is an important way to view Christian community. We are not Christians in isolation, but we are deeply connected and we belong to one another. We are only one part of a greater whole, the body of Christ. When we are not connected, then something is missing. In Romans 12:4-5, Paul writes about the interconnectedness of Christian community. He particularly addresses spiritual gifts and how they relate to one another in the life of the church. Just before, Paul gets into specific gifts, he writes that we are one in Christ and we belong to one another. We are a part of one another and without every part, something is absent. Think about what is absent when you are not connected to the church.

How are you actively engaged in presence? One of the ways which we are invited to engage in presence is by being present at First United Methodist Church of Gadsden. This is part of our membership vows. Is connecting to Christ's body and fellow Church members part of your spiritual disciplines? This week, I encourage you to invest in the church through your presence. It is a beautiful gift you offer yourself, the church, and your fellow siblings in Christ.

Now is the Time!
Rev. Sherri

The SHP Bed Build Day is Saturday, October 17, from 8 am to 12 pm, right here at our church!

Follow the QR Code for Volunteer Sign Up Online!

Note: A limited number of nursery spots for ages up to 4 years old are available for the SHP Bed Build. Make a reservation for the nursery for your child @ sheila@fumcgadsden.org by Thursday, October 15.

Wonderful Wednesday, October 14, Dinner @ 5:15 pm.

◊ Menu: Assorted Sandwiches, Salad, Chips, Fruit Dessert

◊ Small Groups and Activities for all ages, 6 pm

◊ Make a dinner reservation @ 256-490-5018 $7 per person, (under 11, $3)



◊ *Wednesday Bible Study with Rev. Sherri—11 am & 6 pm*

· ***Starting September 30, join a study on the United Methodist Book of Discipline.*** This study will focus on The Social Principles: The Community of All Creation and the official stance of the United Methodist Church on many contemporary issues. The study will be offered at 11am and 6pm and will meet in Room 208. The last session will be held on November 11. The night session will not meet on the evening of fall festival.

· ***Hit the Road to Bethlehem on December 2 and 9 for a two-week Bible Study*** which will parallel and enhance the Advent sermon series of the same name. Take a closer look at the locations, characters, and scriptures which surround Jesus' birth. The study will be offered at 11am and 6pm and will meet in Room 208.

◊ *Wednesday Bible Study with Harriet Murray, 6 pm*

Twelve Women of the Bible-In this twelve-session small group journey taught by six acclaimed Bible teachers you will meet a group of women in the Bible whose lives teach us about ourselves and about who God is. Come and grow closer to God and each other through these revealing stories of frailties, struggles, brokenness, and victories of real women from both the Old and New Testaments.

Sunday Mornings at FUMC

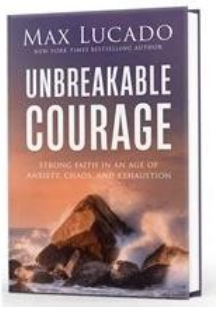


- **Odyssey Sundays at 10:00 a.m. Room 202 (Adult Library)**

Discussion of sermon topics and relevant scripture.

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

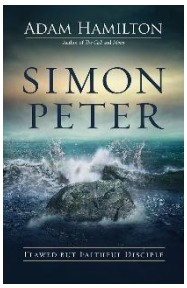
<u>Unbreakable Courage</u> by Max Lucado



Does the world feel topsy-turvy at best and toxic at worst? In Unbreakable Courage, Max Lucado brings today's chaos into conversation with the timeless truth of Scripture, offering biblical insight, encouragement, and hope for uncertain times. Through the story of Elijah, whose unwavering faith gave him courage in turbulent times, Max shows how you can stand strong no matter what challenges you face. Elijah's story can calm your fears, strengthen your faith, and guide your steps toward a renewed life of courage.

- **Living Water 10 am, Room 116-Rev. Ken Casey**

<u>Simon Peter</u> by Adam Hamilton



He left everything to follow his teacher and possessed a passion that would change the world. That's one way to describe Peter. Here's another: poor, uneducated, quick-tempered, and full of doubts and fears. Doesn't even sound like the same man. Peter was just an ordinary guy who heard and followed God's extraordinary call. Discover how you, too, have special gifts, talents, and abilities that God can use to make a difference today.

- **New Young Adult/Family Sunday School Class, 10 am, in the Parlor-Room 117**

"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.

◊ Devotionals ◊ Fellowship ◊ Mission ◊ Service ◊

Contact Todd Rains, Mark Condra, Mark Casey, or any of the Men at the Well for more information.

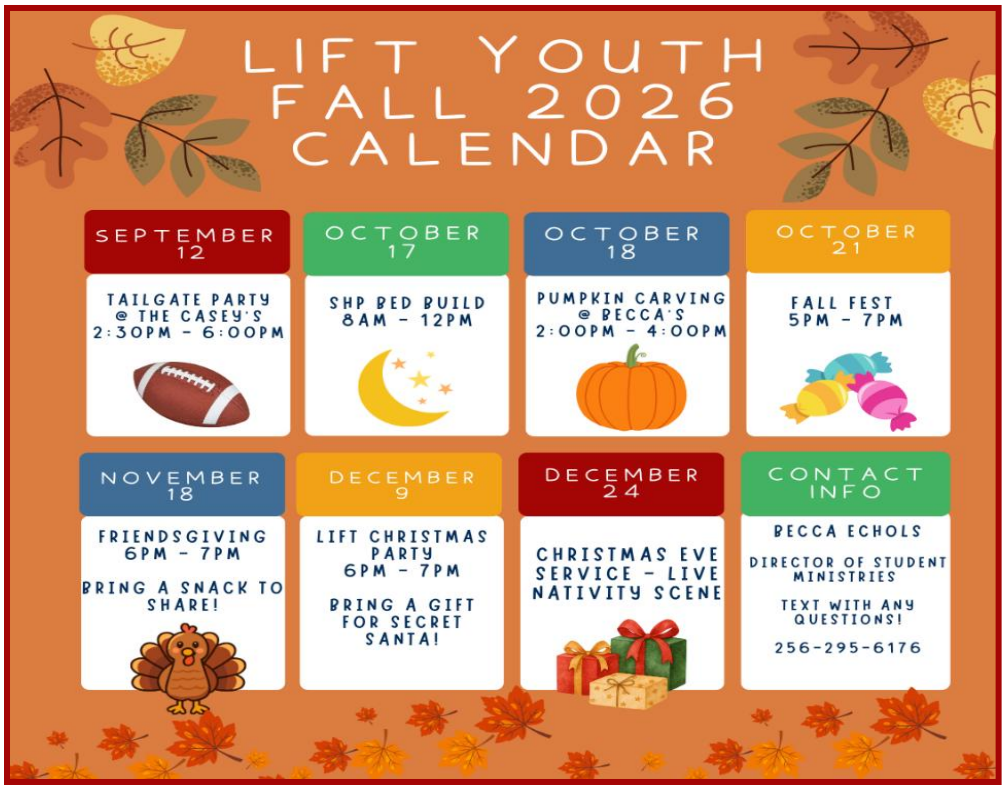


ELC News

The ELC is on Fall Break but will return Thursday, Oct 15th. Scholastic Book Orders are due Thursday, October 15th. Each purchase helps build our classroom libraries. Our 4K class will visit Fire Station 1 on Thursday, October 22nd. This is always an exciting day.

Helene

Youth Sunday School
10 am-Room 211
*****
L.I.F.T. Youth
Wed Nights @ 6 pm



Wonderful Wednesday Oct 14- Dinner @ 5:15 pm ($7 per person, $3 for 11 & up)
Menu: Assorted Sandwiches, Salad, Chips, Fruit, Dessert

Children's Ministry



Sunday Mornings

Children's Church during worship, 9 am & 11 am

Sunday school @ 10 am

Wonderful Wednesday
5:15 pm for dinner $7 per person
($3 for 11 and under!)

6 pm Small Groups and Activities for all ages!

Need more info?
katharine@fumcgadsden.org





"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
October open dates are 10/7 and 10/21
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
June 2026

LOL	456
Clothes Closet	294

July 2026

LOL	428
Clothes Closet	257

Thanks to our Volunteers!



Mission Focus

The FUMCG Mission Team sponsors monthly mission focus that supports local non-profit organizations and church ministries & missions.

Donations for 2nd Chance, Inc.
During the month of October, the mission team is receiving donations for 2nd Chance. Look for the red buckets near the entrances of the church. Needed items are listed.

2nd Chance, Inc. has been assisting survivors of domestic violence since 1990. Serving Etowah, Calhoun, Cleburne, and Talladega Counties, they receive almost 1000 crisis calls each year from this service area. There are two emergency shelters in Calhoun County. One is for people with limited mobility and is completely ADA compliant. They also provide case management, legal advocacy, counseling, support groups and relocation assistance, all free of charge. 2nd Chance serves women, men, and children, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, age, disability and/or sexual orientation. **24-hour crisis line: 256-236-7233**

2nd Chance Wish List

Deodorant
Bar Soap
Ethnic Hair Products
Hairbrushes
Cleaning Supplies (Kitchen, Bathroom & All Purpose Cleaners)
Sponges
Toilet Tissue
Paper Towels
Laundry Detergent (High Efficiency)
Towels-All Sizes
Sheets (Twin & Full)
Blankets (Twin & Full)
Comforters (Twin & Full)
Bed Pillows
Body Lotion
Vaseline
Chap Stick/Lip Balm
Umbrellas
Baby Wipes
Over-the-Counter Medications (Ibuprofen, Tylenol, Cold & Cough Medicines)

United Women in Faith

Olivia Kendrick, President
Susan Copeland, Vice-President

UWF October Luncheon
Speaker: Mosaic Open Door Update
Monday, October 12 at 12:00 noon, Gathering Room

LuVerna Waid Circle—Reunion
All are invited! Please make a reservation by October 9.
"Who in the World is LuVerna Waid"
Special Guest: Susan Waid George
Tuesday, October 13 at 6:00 pm, Gathering Room



FUMCG's Community Bed Build, 10.17.26

Current Industry Trends

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! Sign up online today!

Build Day is Saturday, October 17, from 8 am to 12 pm, right here at our church!.

Follow the QR Code to Volunteer Sign Up Online!

Note: It is NOT necessary to have any building skills! There are jobs for all skill levels or those with "no skills". We currently have 93 Volunteers signed up! Our goal is 200!

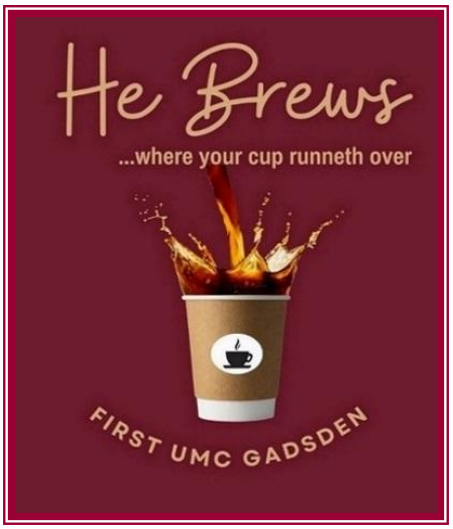
We have exceeded our donations goal!

We will build 125+ beds on October 17!









HeBrews Coffee Café, Chestnut Foyer, Sundays, 10 am

We look forward to seeing you on each Sunday Morning!

Second Sunday Social @ HeBrews includes iced coffee and snacks!

Follow us on

Facebook and Instagram.



Out of town or working on weekends? *Thursday Worship could be just right for you! Join us in the sanctuary for a peaceful, in-person gathering where we reflect on the upcoming Sunday's scripture and sermon and spend time in prayer together. It's a meaningful way to deepen your faith and stay connected with God and your GFUMC family in a warm, welcoming setting. Please join us for Thursday Worship!*







FUMCG Connect

You are invited to connect with the GFUMC Family in a new and exciting way. Connect through the church app today by scanning the QR code above. You will now be able to find groups and connect with Teams, Leadership Groups, Sunday school classes, UWF Circles and more within the App.

Follow these steps to connect:

- **Scan the QR Code and Click the link.**
- **"Join" by creating your profile with a password in the app (use "continue with email").**
- **Discover your connections to the GFUMC church community, a smaller community (like UWF, choir, or Children's Ministry, etc.) or a small group (like a Sunday school class or small group) or a church leadership team. There are so many ways to connect!**
- **Request to join or accept an invitation to join.**
- **You are now ready to send and receive notifications, messages, notices, reminders, prayer requests, and more within your GFUMC connections.**
- **Thank you for joining GFUMC Community Connection today!**







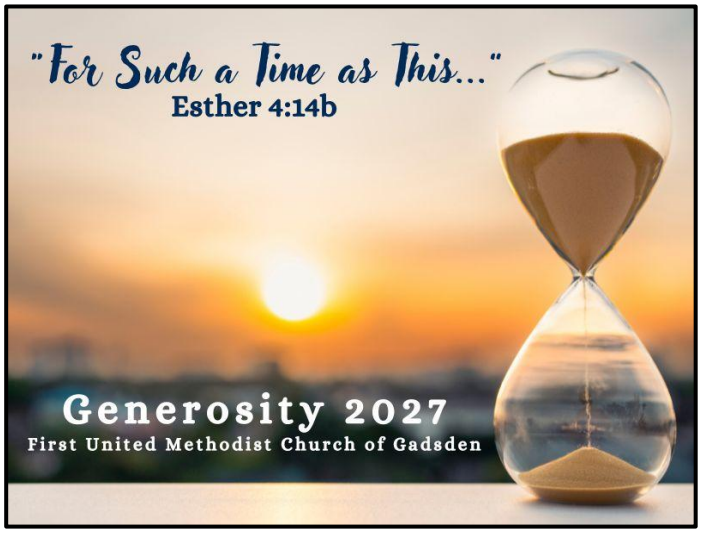
Invite your friends and neighbors to

FUMCG's Fall Festival!

Many volunteers are needed to make Fall Fest a success! Please see Katharine Barnes and Becca Echols if you would like to help with setup and decorating, games and activities or special events at Fall Festival.

katharine@fumcgadsden.org
Or becca@fumcgadsden.org

Chili and Hotdogs Supper will be served in the Gathering Room from 5 pm to 7 pm.



Join us this fall as we, like Esther, are reminded that perhaps we have come to this place for such a time as this. This is a season of richness. By now, you should have received a letter with more information about **Generosity 2027 "For Such a Time as This…"** and exciting news for our church family and community. (Contact the church office if you did not receive your letter.)

Our generosity emphasis for **2027, "For Such a Time as This…"** celebrates the blessings of today and looks forward to the opportunities which are yet to come. The upcoming series reminds us that **our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness** are not just membership vows, but an opportunity to use our influence to **impact God's kingdom.**

As an act of celebration for this season, we will conclude our generosity emphasis with a **churchwide brunch on November 15 at 10 am in the GFUMC Gym/Activity Center.** I hope you will come and be a part of this special event. You may make a reservation for the brunch by scanning the QR code or by calling the church office at 256.543.8200. Reservations for the brunch are needed by Monday, November 9.

Make a Reservation for Brunch.

Rev Shu Reynolds — Senior Pastor

Bob Blount — Generosity Chairman

Download our Church App

Search First UMC-Gadsden

In the App Store for Android or iPhone.

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

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

giving powered by NCS SERVICES

Secure Online Giving

Scan the QR Code or
Text to Give: 256-344-8464
First United Methodist Church of Gadsden



Save the Date:

October 17– 8 am-12 noon FUMCG Community Bed Build

October 21 – 4 pm, Sensory Friendly hour 5-7 pm, Fall Fest & Chili Supper

November 15–10 am *"For Such a Time as This…"* Churchwide Brunch, Gym/Activity Center, Between the worship services.

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

Oct 12, Monday
9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym
10:30 am-UWF Board Meeting, Room 208
12:00-1:00 pm-UWF Luncheon, Gathering Rm
2:00 pm-4:00 pm-Pickle Ball, Gym

Oct 13, Tuesday
1:15 pm-Staff Meeting
5:00 pm-Yoga, Gym
6:00 pm-LuVerna Waid Circle, Gathering Rm

Oct 14, Wednesday
11:00-12:00 am-Morning Bible Study
5:15 pm-Wednesday Night Meal, Room 201
6:00 pm-Children's Activities, Room 108 Youth Activities, Gym & Room 211
Bible Study Groups, Room 110 & 208
6:00 pm-Choir Practice, Choir Room

Oct 15, Thursday
9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym
5:30 pm-Thursday Worship, Sanctuary

Oct 16, Friday
11:00 am-12:00 pm; Ladle of Love
12:00 pm-Office Closed

Oct 17, Saturday
8:00 am-12:00 pm-SHP Bed Build, Chestnut Street Parking Lot



Holy Baptism
Harleen (LeeLee) Smith
October 4, 2026



Immediate Prayer Concerns

Lewis Hill Family of Bobby Junkins Family of Ellis Grady Fulbright
Sheila Bishop Julie Gage Brent Styles (cousin of June Styles)
Darrel Faulkner (Billie Faulkner's husband-ELC)

Continued Prayer Concerns

Anna Morgan (DIL of Michelle Morgan) Dawn Rains
Mark Burkett (J.T.Harrell's cousin) Jane Jones
James Dial (infant son of Jay & Taylor)
Amy Epperson (daughter of Gene & Danna Dean)



The pastor and congregation of First United Methodist Church of Gadsden extend Christian sympathy to J.T. & Trish Harrell in the death of her father, Ellis Grady Fulbright, Sr.
October 5, 2026



Birthdays
Oct 12 Dotty Ivey, Jacob Gilbert, Emleigh Ridens
Oct 13 Carolyn Dombroski, Lara Dyer
Oct 14 Addison Rains
Oct 15 Dr. Mike McEwen, Robin Wilson
Oct 16 Margaret Kirby, Robby Head, Dr. Nancy McCorkle, Millie Martin, Ashby New

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



Attendance	**Week of Oct 4, 2026**
In Person Total *170	On Line Total 317
Thursday *13	Celebration *71/139
Traditions *86/178	Worship Total 487
Adult SS*47	Children's SS *2
Youth SS*7	Children Sun *7
Bible Study *24	Nursery Wed/Sun *5
Children Wed/Sun *23	Youth Wed/Sun *22

Year 2026	**Week of Oct 4, 2026**
General Offering Budget	$13,040.00
General Offering Received	$17,115.00
TD Gen. Offering Budget	$521,600.00
YTD Gen. Offering Rec'd	$545,865.68

Honorariums & Memorials

Budget Fund
In memory of Mike Witherspoon, given by Mr. & Mrs. Steve Frederick.

Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Dinner

5:15 pm, $7 pp (under 11-$3)
Text to reserve your spot: 256-490-5018
Menu Oct 14: Assorted Sandwiches, Chips, Salad, Fruit, & Dessert