18 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

Sermon Notes & Volunteer Schedules P.1
Small Groups P.2
ELC, Children & Youth P.3
Mission Focus & UWF P.4-5
Inviting Ministries & Special Events P.6-8
Giving P.9
Calendar, Birthdays, Weekly Reports P.10

Weekly Volunteers

Acolytes

October 18
Sara Kate, Jake, & Caroline Thornburg

October 25 **Sara Echols, Lily Hindsman, Scout Pritchard**

Tech Team Schedule

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

October 25
Celebration:
Rob Reynolds, Bill Haller, Carmen McKiven
Traditions:
Wayne Payton, Davis Varner, Brad Barnes

Ushers & Greeters

October 18
Celebration:
Keith Southers Kathy Sisson

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

October 25

Celebration:
Karen Owen, Denise McCarthy

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

See the Children; Bless the Children

Sermon Notes: October 15 and October 18: Luke 18:15-17

You always see what you are looking to find. If you look for something beautiful, you will find something beautiful. If you look for the ugly, you will find ugly. If you are looking for children, you can find children. But did you ever think that because of struggles in society, there are many children which go unseen? We may see them with our eyes, but we don't see the needs and challenges which they face. We can't see poverty, hunger, abuse, and instability. That is why times like Children's Sabbath are so important. Children's Sabbath (October 18) is a time when we are encouraged to really see children and their challenges. Not only are we invited to see them but also bless them.

In Luke 18:15-17, people are bringing children, even infants, to Jesus for a blessing. The disciples are not happy with this interruption in Jesus' busy ministry, so they rebuke those bringing the children. Jesus responds, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop then for such as the kingdom of God belongs." In a time when children were not as valued in society, Jesus saw the children and he blessed the children. I believe that we are invited to follow in his footsteps.

In Christ,
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 Fellowship Dinner and Small Groups and Activities for all ages will resume on October 28.

Please join us for the Fall Fest and Chili & Hot Dog Supper on October 21. There is no charge for this event! Everyone is welcome!



◊ *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—this class will not meet on Oct. 21.*

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

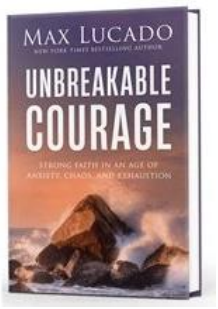


- **Odyssey Sundays at 10:00 a.m. Room 202 (Adult Library)**

Discussion of sermon topics and relevant scripture.

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

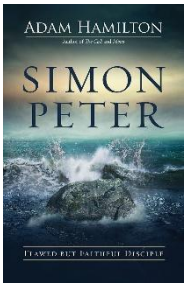
<u>Unbreakable Courage</u> by Max Lucado



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.

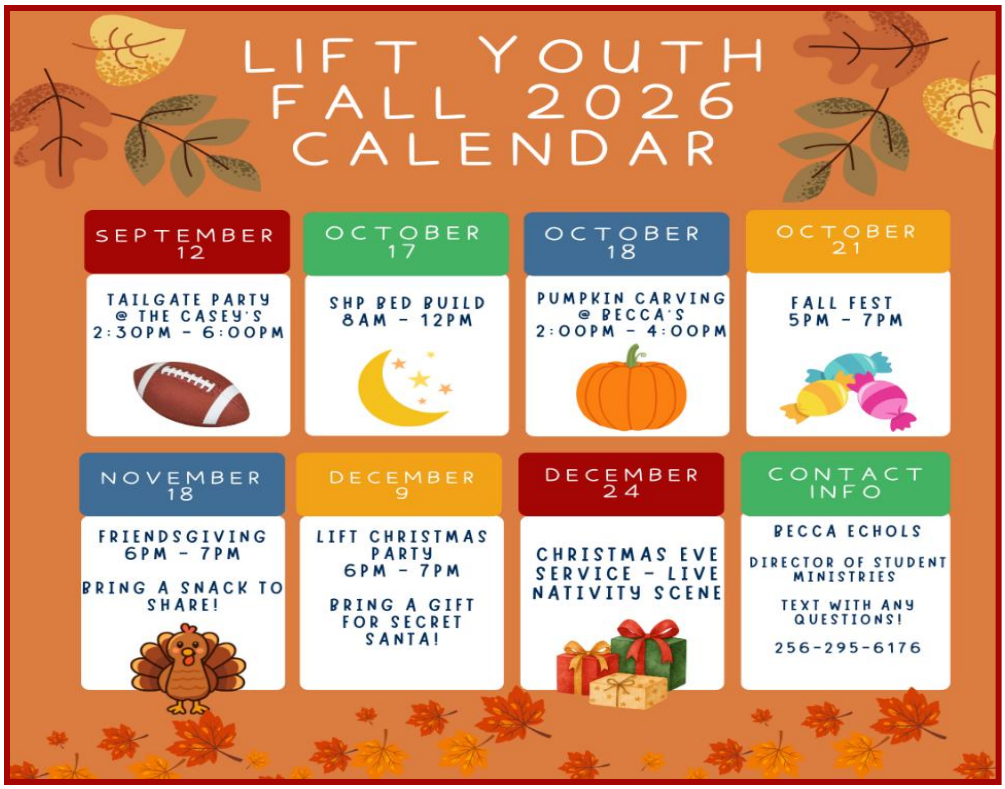


ELC News

We all enjoyed our small break. Our 4K class will visit Fire Station 1 on Thursday, October 22nd. This is always an exciting day. Please join us for our annual Halloween Parade on Thursday, October 29th.

Helene

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



Fellowship Dinner will resume on October 28. Join us for the Chili & Hot Dog Supper at Fall Fest on Wednesday, October 21!

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 @ 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

The Annual UWF Fall Bake Sale is coming on Sunday, November 22.
Women in the church are asked to provide 3 baked good items.

Sign up for "Lessons in Pies"

Tuesday, Nov. 17 @ 11 am, Apple Pie - Kathy Trotter
Tuesday, Nov. 17 @ 6 pm, Chocolate Pecan Pie, Kathy Trotter
Thursday, Nov. 19 @ 11 am, Quiche, Eileen Graham
Thursday, Nov. 19 @ 6 pm, Quiche, Eileen Graham
Watch for signup sheets in the Chestnut Foyer. Contact Karen Owen, 256-393-8552.



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!

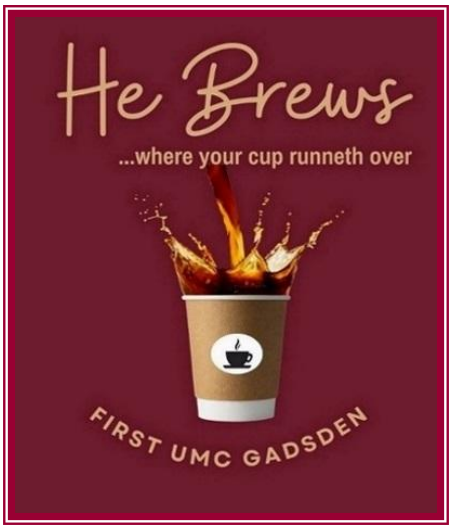
Note: It is NOT necessary to have any building skills! There are jobs for all skill levels or those with "no skills". We currently have 93 Volunteers signed up! Our goal is 200!

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!*





October is
Pastor Appreciation Month.

We give thanks for

Pastor Sherri Reynolds

for her leadership and all that she gives to our church.



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!**







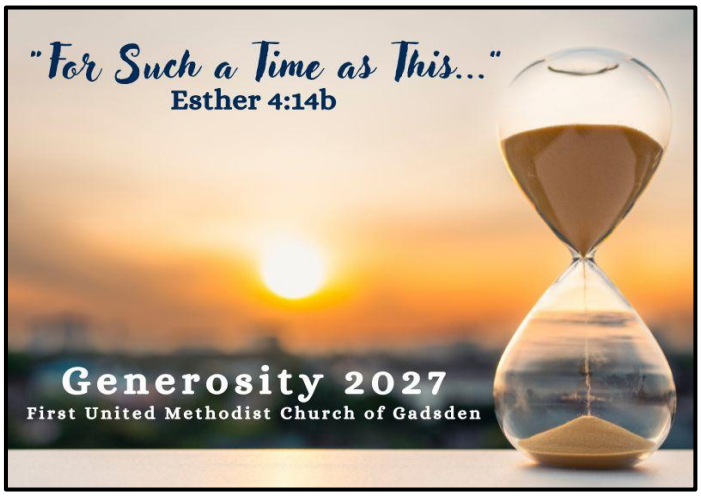
Invite your friends and neighbors to

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.



We are in the middle of our **2027 Generosity emphasis, "For Such a Time as This..."** Remembering the story of Queen Esther, we are called to consider perhaps we have come to this place "for such a time as this." Maybe we have come to be First United Methodist Church in this season to build upon our current blessings through our membership vow of prayer, presence, gifts, service, and witness. This is opportunity to have impact in space where lives are changed in the name of Jesus Christ.

Last week, you should have gotten a letter in the mail with more information about the emphasis. If not, please contact the church office at 256.543.8200 or email susan@fumcgadsden.org. Also, be sure to register for the churchwide brunch on November 15, 2026 at 10am. We hope you make plans to be a part of this special event. You may make a reservation for the brunch by scanning the QR code below 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 Shi 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– 8am-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 18, Sunday
9:00 am-Celebration Worship
HeBrews Coffee; Sunday School
11:00 am-Traditions Worship

Oct 19, Monday
9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym
2:00 pm-4:00 pm-Pickle Ball, Gym

Oct 20, Tuesday
9:00 am-11:00 am-Clothes Closet workday
1:15 pm-Staff Meeting
5:00 pm-Yoga, Gym

Oct 21, Wednesday
9:00 am-11:00 am-Clothes Closet open
11:00-12:00 am-Morning Bible Study
4:00-5:00pm-Sensory Hour Fall Fest
5:00-7:00pm-Fall Fest & Chili Supper

Oct 22, Thursday
9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym
5:30 pm-Thursday Worship, Sanctuary

Oct 23, Friday
11:00 am-12:00 pm; Ladle of Love
12:00 pm-Office Closed



Donate "Little Debbie" Cakes for the Cake Walk!
(Look for the donation table in the Chestnut Foyer)

Sign up to work a shift at Fall Fest.

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Lewis Hill Sheila Bishop Julie Gage Collins Tackaberry
Brent Styles (June Styles' husband)
Wally Diaczenko (Belinda Tackaberry's brother)
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)



Volunteer!

8 am-12 noon
Sat., October 17

FUMCG Community Bed Build.

Birthdays

Oct 18 Bob Blount, Trinity McKiven, Rachel Reynolds, Georgia Godfrey
Oct 19 Rex Pruett, Becky Oltman
Oct 20 Bubba Masters, Reagan Mullin, Allie Haller
Oct 21 Mandell Tillman
Oct 22 Keith Southers
Oct 23 Julie Gage, Hadley Hedgspeth
Oct 24 Sonya Nesbitt, Anna Kate Casey, Josephine Leach, Charlie Hilburn



Attendance	Week of Oct 11, 2026
In Person Total *157	On Line Total 299
Thursday *11	Celebration *61/169
Traditions *85/130	Worship Total 456
Adult SS*52	Children's SS *2
Youth SS*5	Children Sun *8
Bible Study *26	Nursery Wed/Sun *8
Children Wed/Sun *21	Youth Wed/Sun *22

Year 2026	Week of Oct 11, 2026
General Offering Budget	$13,040.00
General Offering Received	$ 9,262.00
TD Gen. Offering Budget	$534,640.00
YTD Gen. Offering Rec'd	$555,127.68

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.

Honorariums & Memorials

Budget Fund
In memory of Mike Witherspoon, given by Mr. Alfred Grant.

Ladle of Love
In memory of Mike Witherspoon, given by Cenda Price.