4 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



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Weekly Volunteers

Acolytes

October 4
Sara Kate, Jake, & Caroline Thornburg

October 11
Volunteer

Tech Team Schedule

October 4
Celebration: Bill Haller, Sheila Freenan
Traditions: Neil Mullin, Sheila Freeman, Rob Reynolds

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

Ushers & Greeters

October 4
Celebration: Tim & Lynne Davis

Traditions: Terry & Sheila Bishop; Bob & Becky Oltman

October 11
Celebration: Kelly & Steve Roach

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

Now Is the Time for Prayer

Sermon Notes: October 1 and October 4: Romans 12:9-13

In Romans 12:9-13, Paul is offering a list of the traits or characteristics of a true Christian. Some of these marks include holding fast to goodness, loving one another and honoring one another. Be zealous, ardent, and serve the Lord. He adds that one should rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, contribute to the needs of the saints and extend hospitality to strangers. In the middle of this list of traits is to preserve in prayer. What does it mean to persevere in prayer? If you go to the original language, you will find that the word which is translated persevering means, *being constant, being consistent, steadfast* or *devoted.* It is an active verb which indicates being actively engaged. Paul is writing that the mark of a Christian life is to be actively engaged and consistently devoted to prayer.

How are you actively engaged in prayer? One of the ways which we are invited to engage in prayer is by praying for First United Methodist Church of Gadsden. Our membership vows call us to pray for the church. Is this part of your regular life of prayer? This week, I encourage you to invest in the church through your prayers, not just the prayer list of needs but the deeper mission and work of the church. If we believe that prayers make a difference, then shouldn't our prayer life be about making a difference in the work of this congregation?

Now is the time,
Rev. Sherri

Thank you to all who supported the ELC Apples Gone Wild sale! Our profit is just under $1400.00! We will use these proceeds to purchase LifeVac Choking Rescue devices for each classroom, as well as one for the Gathering Room/Kitchen. These will provide emergency care for children and adults. We will also purchase some additional instructional items for the ELC classrooms.

Wonderful Wednesday, October 7, Dinner @ 5:15 pm.

◊ Menu: Chick-Fil-A, 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

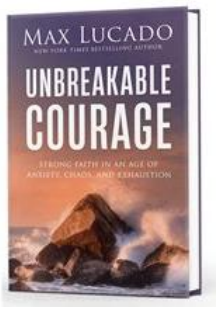


- **Odyssey Sundays at 10:00 a.m. Room 202 (Adult Library)**

Discussion of sermon topics and relevant scripture.

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

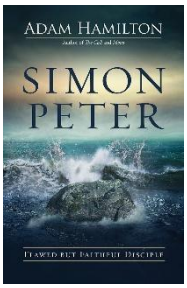
<u>Unbreakable Courage</u> by Max Lucado



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 ◊

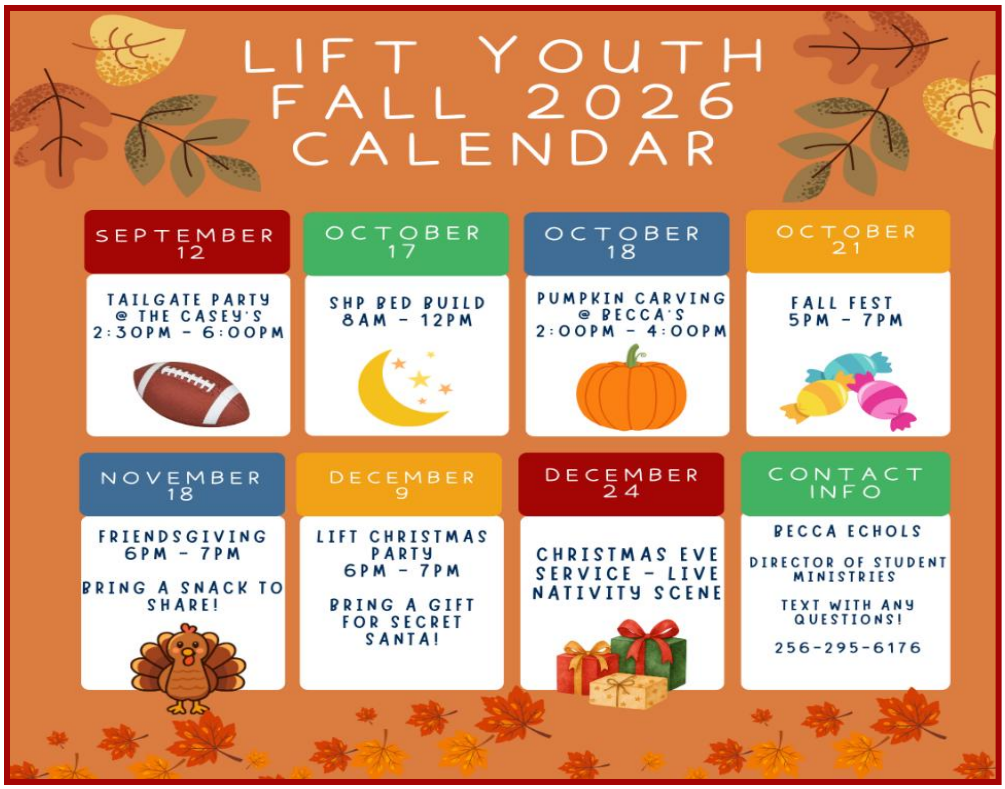
Contact Todd Rains, Mark Condra, Mark Casey, or any of the Men at the Well for more information.



ELC News

ELC will host fall pictures next week Tuesday, Oct 6 and Wednesday, Oct 7. The backdrop can be seen on our Facebook page. We will be closed for Fall Break Oct 12 through Oct 14. 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 7- Dinner @ 5:15 pm ($7 per person, $3 for 11 & up)
Menu: Chick-Fil-A, 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.

Final Sunday: Make your "Red Bucket" Donations for the Etowah Free Community Clinic:

- **Paper Towels**
- **Kleenex tissue**
- **Toilet Paper**
- **Copy Paper**

Look for the big "Red Buckets" in the Chestnut Foyer and the entrances to the Sanctuary.

Etowah Free Community Clinic provides uninsured patients of Etowah County with access to physicians, nurses, support staff, prescription medication and a variety of holistic care services, at no cost.



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!

We have exceeded our goal!

We will build 125+ beds on October 17!

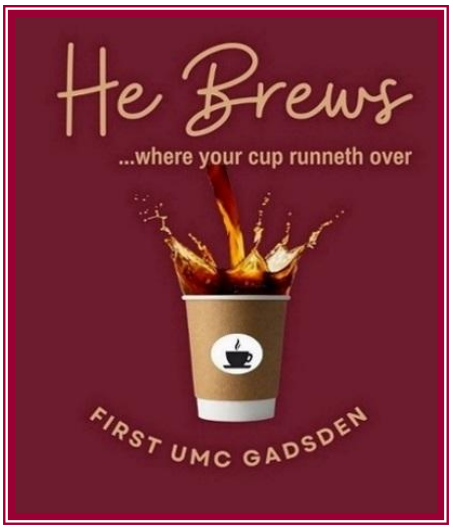




Build Day is Saturday, October 17, from 8 am to 12 pm, right here at our church!.

Follow the QR Code to Volunteer Sign Up Online!





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.



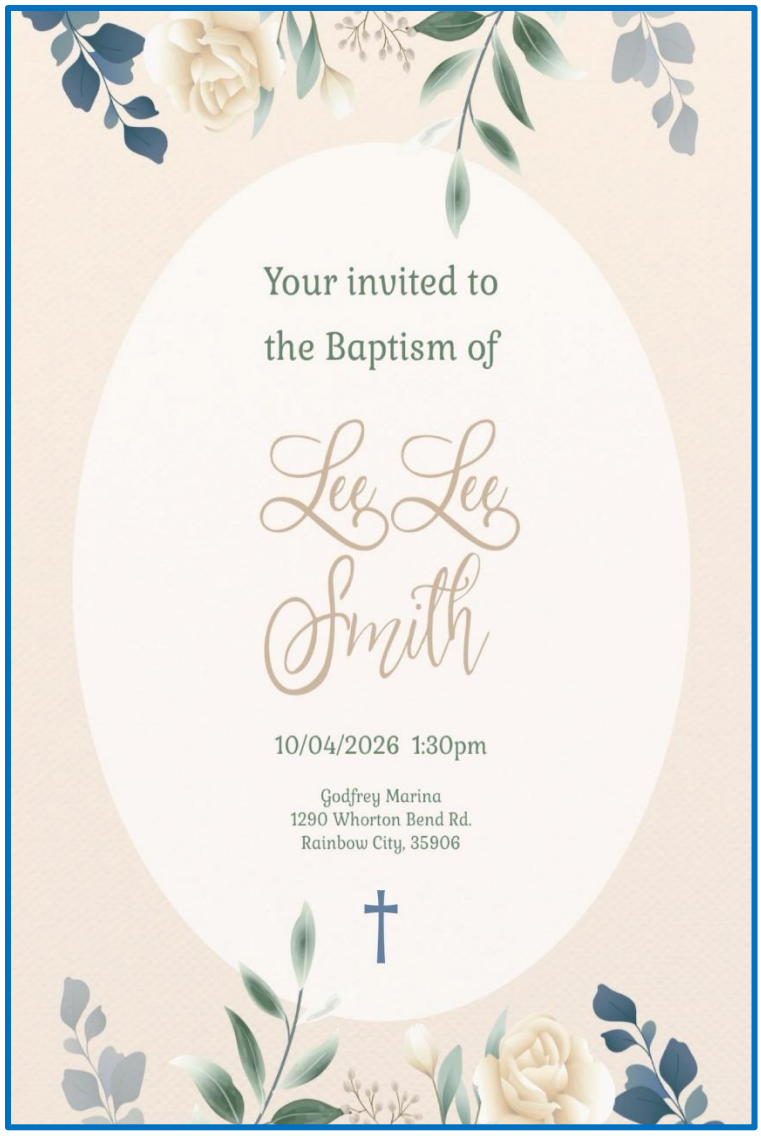
Do You Know?





Anne grew up in Montgomery, AL, and graduated from Trinity Presbyterian School, a private, coeducational Christian school offering grades Pre-K through 12. She attended the University of Alabama and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Environmental Sciences (hospitality). She worked for the Capital City Club in Montgomery, then for the City Club in Birmingham, with both of them belonging to the worldwide organization, Club Corp. Currently, she serves as the Administrative Assistant to the department head in the Department of Professional Counseling and Leadership at Jacksonville State University. On April 25, 2026, she married attorney Davis Varner, a lifelong member of our church. Anne enjoys reading, traveling, hiking, and spending time at her family's lake house on Lake Martin.





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*







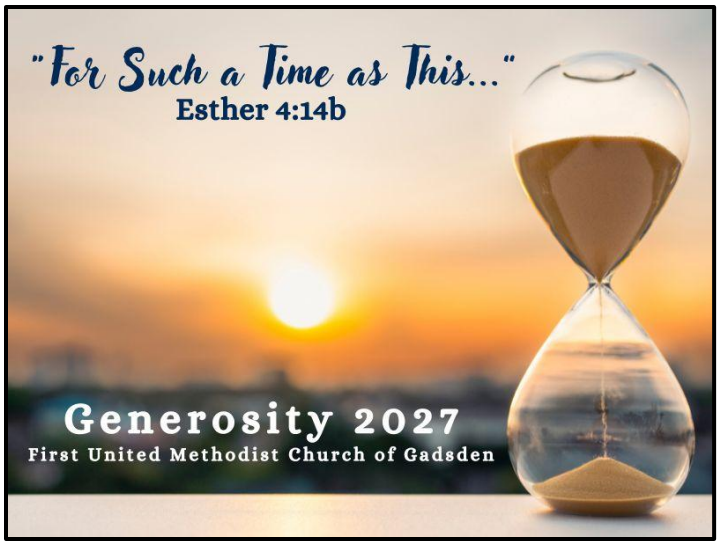
Invite your friends and neighbors to

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. This week you will receive a letter with more information about **Generosity 2027 "For Such a Time as This…"** and exciting news for our church family and community.

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



The GFUMC Church Family is invited to join together at Godfrey's Marina for the Baptism of Lee Lee Smith.

Sunday, October 4

Godfrey's Marina

1290 Whorton Bend Rd.
Rainbow City, AL 35906

Oct 4, Sunday
9:00 am-Celebration Worship
HeBrews Coffee; Sunday School
11:00 am-Traditions Worship
1:30 pm-Baptism, Godfrey's Marina

Oct 5, Monday
9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym
2:00 pm-4:00 pm-Pickle Ball, Gym

Oct 6, Tuesday
9:00 am-11:00 am-Clothes Closet workday
1:15 pm-Staff Meeting
5:00 pm-Yoga, Gym

Oct 7, Wednesday
9:00 am-11:00 am-Clothes Closet open
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 8, Thursday
9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym
5:30 pm-Thursday Worship, Sanctuary

Oct 9, Friday
11:00 am-12:00 pm; Ladle of Love



The flowers on the altar are in memory of Ellizabeth Brooklynn (Liz) Barnes, given by the Peggy Casey Circle.



Holy Baptism
Sloane Grace Cassity
September 27, 2026

Honorariums & Memorials

Music Fund **In Honor** of the baptism of Sloane Grace Cassity, given by Mr.& Mrs. Bob Oltman. **In Memory** of Harold Nelson, given by Jill Vincent. **In Memory** of Wesley Brown, given by Jill Vincent. **Mission Fund- In Memory** of Glenn Thompson, given by Jill Vincent.
SHP Bed Build **In Memory** of Evelyn Pierson, given by Julie Knox. **In Honor** of Pat Walker given by Julie Knox.
In Honor of Children's Ministry given by Cathy Bohannon.

Immediate Prayer Concerns



Anna Morgan (DIL of Michelle Morgan)
Jane Jones Family of Mike Witherspoon
Family of Jean Hutchcraft (Bob Oltman's cousin)

Continued Prayer Concerns

Mark Burkett (J.T.Harrell's cousin) Bobby Junkins
James Dial (infant son of Jay & Taylor) Dawn Rains
Amy Epperson (daughter of Gene & Danna Dean)

Birthdays

Oct 4 Wilson Abel, Martha Smith
Oct 5 Hilary Jarecki, John Paul Wilson, Amanda Hindsman, Stephen Blackstock
Oct 6 Susan Swann
Oct 7 Patrick Wigley
Oct 8 Amanda Fortenberry
Oct 9 Kinley Freeman
Oct 10 Cynthia Whitt, Abby Ross



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

Attendance	**Week of Sept 26, 2026**		
In Person Total *175		On Line Total 457	
Thursday *10		Celebration *62/196	
Traditions *103/261		Worship Total 632	
Adult SS*43		Children's SS *4	
Youth SS*5	111	Children Sun *12	
Bible Study *15		Nursery Wed/Sun *5	
Children Wed/Sun *29		Youth Wed/Sun *13	

Year 2026	**Week of Sept 26, 2026**
General Offering Budget	$13,040.00
General Offering Received	$10,983.74
TD Gen. Offering Budget	$508,560.00
YTD Gen. Offering Rec'd	$528,751.60

The pastor and congregation of First United Methodist Church of Gadsden extend Christian sympathy to Sheila Witherspoon and her family in the death of her husband,
Mike Witherspoon.

September 28, 2026

