



FORGIVENESS ON REPEAT

MATTHEW 18:21-35

REV. SHERRI REYNOLDS

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

Sermon Notes: September 10 & September 13, 2026

Matthew 18:21-35

Imagine a world without forgiveness. There would be no marriages, no family gatherings, only hostile work environments, and no lasting friendships. We would carry the weight of sin and not be reconciled to God. Resentment toward self and others would cloud our lives. We likely would be stuck in the past unable to move forward. Fortunately, we find grace and forgiveness with and through our relationship with Jesus. And fortunately, God offers us strength, guidance, and mercy so that we might be able to forgive.

Jesus offers a lesson on forgiveness in Matthew 18:21-35. The lesson reminds us that forgiveness is not about keeping score or waiting for someone to mess up again, but becoming like our Father in heaven, who is abounding in steadfast love. Who and where is God calling to forgive? Someone? Yourself? A Circumstance?

In His Mercy,
Rev. Sherri

Virtual Blessing of the Animals

Join First UMC Gadsden for a special **Virtual Blessing of the Animals on September 27, 2026** as we celebrate the beloved pets who bring so much joy, companionship, and love into our lives. Whether your pet is with you or forever in your heart, we invite you to be part of this meaningful celebration.



Virtual Blessing of the Animals

Share a Photo of Your Beloved Pet

Send a photo of your pet—in honor or in memory—by September 16 to: sheila@fumcgadsden.org You may also bring a photo on September 27 to place on the Chancel Rail in the Sanctuary.

Please note: This will be a virtual celebration only. Please do not bring your pet to church. Instead, let us celebrate our furry, feathered, and beloved companions through photos and prayer.

We look forward to honoring the special animals who have touched our lives!

Table of Contents:

Page 1- Sermon Notes; Tech Schedule; Acolytes

Page 2– **Weekly Dinner Menu; Bible Studies; Adult Small Groups; Sunday School Classes**

Page 3- ELC News; Student Ministries; Youth Calendar; Children's Ministry Calendar & Wonderful Wednesday

Page 4– GFUMC Missions News; SHP Bed Build; Clothes Closet; Ladle of Love; United Women in Faith

Page 5– **GFUMC's Community Bed Build for SHP**

Page 6– **UWF September Luncheon w/ Michelle Thomas;** Lay Leadership Nominations

Page 7– **Virtual Blessing of the Animals Sept 27;** HeBrews; Pickleball; Usher/Greeters

Page 8– **ELC Fall Apple Sale**

Page 9– Alleluia Offering 2026; Generosity 2026; Ways to Give; Online Giving

Page 10– Calendar; Lay Leader/ Nominations; **Dinner Menu;** Prayer Concerns; Births; Deaths; Memorials; Birthdays; Weekly Reports

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

ACOLYTES

September 13: Sara Kate, Jake & Caroline Thornburg

September 20: Sarah Echols; Lily Hindsman; Scout Pritchard

Tech Team Schedule

September 13

Celebration: Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman

Traditions: Neil Mullin, Sheila Freeman, Rob Reynolds

September 20

Celebration: Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman, Carmen McKiven

Traditions: Neil Mullin, Wayne Payton, Sheila Freeman

- ◇ Wonderful Wednesday, September 16, Dinner @ 5:15 pm.
- ◇ Menu: Assorted Sandwiches, Salads, Chips, 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**

- **Join us beginning August 12 for a six-week study, "A Woman's Place: What does the Bible Really Say about Women and Leadership in the Church."** Bring your Bible as we look at various perspectives on women's leadership. Led by Rev. Sherri, this class will be offered at both 11am and 6pm. Classes will meet in Room 208 and will end on September 16.
- **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.



Odyssey

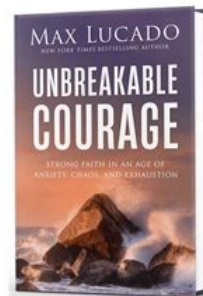
Discussion of sermon topics and relevant scripture.

Sundays at 10:00 a.m. • Room 202 (Adult Library)

Pathfinders/Seekers 10 am, Room 208

Unbreakable Courage by Max Lucado

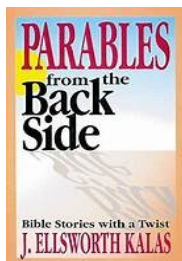
Does the world feel topsy-turvy at best and toxic at worst? In *Unbreakable Courage*, Max Lucado brings today's chaos into conversation with the timeless truth of Scripture, offering biblical insight, encouragement, and hope for uncertain times.



Living Water 10 am, Room 116 Rev. Ken Casey

Parables from the Backside by J. Ellsworth Kalas

This insightful study explores Jesus' parables from fresh and unexpected perspectives, helping us discover new meaning and deeper spiritual truths in familiar stories. Whether you are a longtime member or looking for a class to visit, you are warmly invited to join us for engaging discussion, fellowship, and spiritual growth.



New Young Adult Sunday School Class Forming

Begins September 13 @ 10 am in the Parlor.

"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

All apple orders are due Monday, September 14th. Thank you for supporting this fundraiser toward special ELC projects. Parents, Scholastic Book Orders are due Wednesday, September 16th.

—Helene Haller

Youth Sunday School
10 am Room 211

L.I.F.T. Youth Wed
Nights @ 6 pm

LIFT YOUTH FALL 2026 CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 12 TAILGATE PARTY @ THE CASEY'S 2:30PM - 6:00PM 	OCTOBER 17 SHP BED BUILD 8AM - 12PM 	OCTOBER 18 PUMPKIN CARVING @ BECCA'S 2:00PM - 4:00PM 	OCTOBER 21 FALL FEST 5PM - 7PM
NOVEMBER 18 FRIENDSGIVING 6PM - 7PM BRING A SNACK TO SHARE! 	DECEMBER 9 LIFT CHRISTMAS PARTY 6PM - 7PM BRING A GIFT FOR SECRET SANTA! 	DECEMBER 24 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE - LIVE NATIVITY SCENE 	CONTACT INFO BECCA ECHOLS DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MINISTRIES TEXT WITH ANY QUESTIONS! 256-295-6176

Wonderful Wednesday Sep 16 Dinner @ 5:15 pm

Assorted Sandwiches, Salads, Chips, Dessert (\$7 per person, \$3 for 11 & under)

GFUMC CHILDREN'S TEAM SPIRIT

SEPTEMBER UNIT WEDNESDAY'S AT 6:00

WEEK 1 WE CAN FOLLOW GOD'S DIRECTIONS.	WEEK 2 GOD GIVES US HOPE WHEN THINGS FEEL IMPOSSIBLE.	WEEK 3 GOD IS WITH US WHEN LIFE IS UNFAIR.	WEEK 4 GOD SHOWS US WE NEED EACH OTHER.
--	---	--	---

"TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND LEAN NOT ON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING."
PROVERBS 3:5 (NIV)

Sunday Mornings

Children's Church during worship, 9 am & 11 am
Sunday school @ 10 am

Wonderful Wednesday is back!
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

Children's Ministry

GFUMC Kids Ministry 2026

Every Wed. night @ 6 Every Sun. @ 9 & 11

Fall Calendar

OCTOBER 17 SHP Build a Bed 21 Fall Festival	NOVEMBER 18 Children's Sabbath 21 Bonfire at Hilburns	DECEMBER Christmas Musical TED Christmas Party 5-7
--	--	---

The first Wednesday of each month, the children will participate in a service project for local missions.

For more info, find us on Facebook
Gadsden First United Methodist Church Children's Ministry

September Mission Focus

During the month of **September** the Mission Team is receiving “**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 physician’s, nurses, support staff, prescription medication and a variety of holistic care services, at no cost.

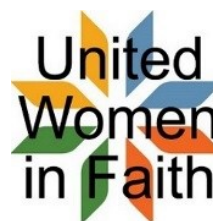


**First UMC Gadsden is sponsoring
a Community Build for
“Sleep in Heavenly Peace” October 17, 2026
See Page 5 for more details!**

United Women in Faith

UWF September Luncheon
Special Guest Speaker: Michelle Thomas
Admission: \$20 per person
12 noon, Monday, September 14
First UMC Gadsden
Make a Reservation Online: www.fumcgadsden.org or the church app

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

**September open dates are
9/2 and 9/15**

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

May 2026

LOL	520
Clothes Closet	268

**Thanks to our
Volunteers!**



First UMC Gadsden's Community Bed Build for "Sleep in Heavenly Peace"

Saturday, 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, from 8 am to 12 pm, right here at our church. **Volunteer Sign Up Online is now available.**
Let's come together and make a difference — one bed at a time!



Community Bed Build: October 17, 2026



Climbing
Toward
Sweet
Dreams

Find Out
More



**Goal: \$25,000
to Build 100 BEDS!**



\$25,000

\$24000
\$23000
\$22000
\$21000
\$20000
\$19000
\$18000
\$17000
\$16000
\$15000
\$14000
\$13000
\$12000
\$11000
\$10000
\$9000
\$8000
\$7000
\$6000
\$5000
\$4000
\$3000
\$2000
\$1000

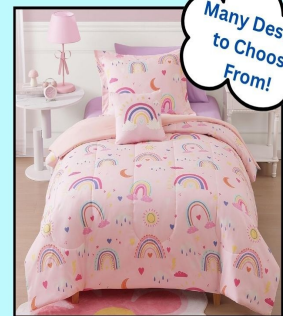
Support our Community SHP Bed Build!

Donate a NEW Twin-Size "Bed-in-a-Bag" Complete Bedding Set

Examples!



Many Designs
to Choose
From!



- Average cost is \$35 to \$50 per set.
- Available online or at local stores.
- Sets must be NEW & Twin Size (regular).
- Sets should include:
 - 1 comforter (66"x86")
 - 1 sham (20"x26")
 - 1 pillowcase (20"x30")
 - 1 flat sheet (66"x102")
 - 1 fitted sheet (39"x75"+12").

Bring Your Donation of Bedding Sets to the church during the month of July!



Michelle Thomas

United Women in Faith

First United Methodist Church of Gadsden

\$20 Per Person

(Pay at the Door.)

UWF Luncheon: 12 Noon

Monday, September 14

Make a Reservation by

Friday, September 11

Online:

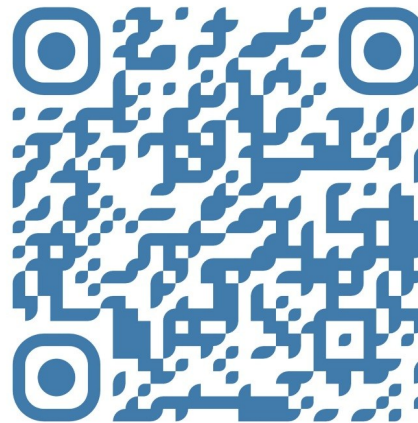
www.fumcgadsden.org

By Phone: 256.543.8200

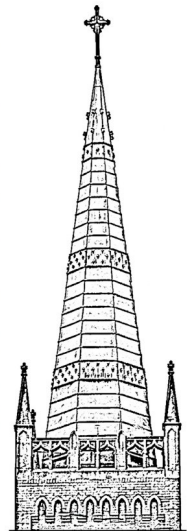


Lay Leadership (Nominations)

While 2027 may seem far away, it is almost time for the church to start preparing for the year ahead. This includes nomination of leadership for 2027. If you feel led to serve in the areas of caring for our facilities, personnel, finance, general business, missions or nominations for leadership; you are invited to self-nominate by August 17th. Simply follow the QR code to the self-nominate form or pick up a paper form at the front desk of the church office. You may find a description of all the teams at fumcgadsden.org, then click on the about tab for "about" and then "leadership". Under "leadership" you will find a complete description for all the leadership teams. You can also speak with a FUMCG staff member to find out more.



**First UMC Gadsden
Lay Leadership (Nominations)**

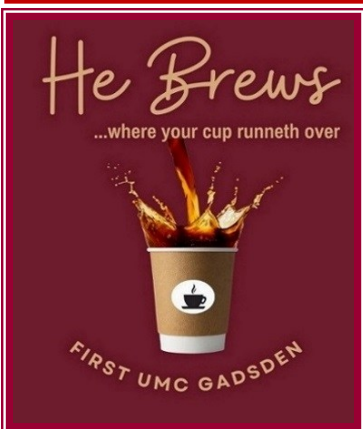




Virtual Blessing of the ANIMALS

**Sunday
September 27**

Submit a photo of your beloved pet (in honor or in memory) by September 16 by email:
sheila@fumcgadsden.org
 or bring a photo on September 27 of your pet to place on the Chancel Rail in the Sanctuary.



He Brews
 ...where your cup runneth over

FIRST UMC GADSDEN

Follow us on
Facebook and Instagram.




Inviting Ministries

Welcomes You!
 First United Methodist Church of Gadsden

HeBrews Coffee Café, Chestnut Foyer, Sundays, 10 am
 We look forward to seeing you on Sunday Morning!



**Mondays
2-4 pm**

Pickleball
 COME AND PLAY!
 SPORTS / FRIENDS / MONDAYS @ FIRST

First UMC Gym | 115 S. 5th Street
 2nd Floor | Gadsden, AL 35901

ENTER AT THE CHESTNUT ST FOYER OFFICE DOOR
 First United Methodist Church of Gadsden

Greeters & Ushers for Worship

Sunday, September 13

Celebration: Chris & Amanda Hindsman

Traditions: Mandell & Judy Tillman; John & Margie Freeman

Sunday, September 20

Celebration: Nancy McCorkle; Michelle Morgan

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

If you would like to serve as an Greeter/Usher, please contact Susan Swann in the church office, email: susan@fumcgadsden.org or phone: 256.543.8200.



Fall ELC Apple Sale!

Order by September 14. Apples will be ready for pickup on September 26th. Six flavors to choose from!



Apple Strudel

Creamy homemade caramel covering a fresh granny smith apple and then dipped in a sweet white chocolate and tossed with our cinnamon-sugar topping - most popular.

Strawberry Cheesecake

Granny smith apple covered in soft creamy caramel and dipped into white chocolate and covered in a delicious strawberry cheesecake and graham cracker crumbles.

Triple Chocolate

Fresh granny smith apple smothered in our homemade caramel and dipped into milk chocolate and then drizzled with dark and white chocolate.

Dark Sea Salt

Made from scratch caramel coated granny smith apple dipped in a sweet dark chocolate and sprinkled with grey sea salt.

Peanut Butter Swirl

Crisp granny smith apple coated in golden caramel and dipped in white chocolate blended with peanut butter then topped with milk chocolate drizzle.

Classic With Nuts

Granny smith apple coated in creamy sweet caramel and rolled in nuts.



Order Online Now!

ELC Fall Apple Sale- \$14.00 Each

Pay Online:



Name _____ Email _____

Phone _____



Order Deadline: Sep. 14

Apple Pickup: Sep 26

Name	STRUDEL	STRAW BERRY	Triple Choco-late	Dark Sea Salt	Peanut Butter Swirl	Classic With Nuts	Quantity Ordered	Donated Amount
								\$
								\$
								\$
						Totals		\$

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.

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

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 Sept 13-19, 2026

Sept 13, Sunday

9:00 am-Celebration Worship

HeBrews Coffee; Sunday School

11:00 am-Traditions Worship

Sept 14, Monday

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

12:00 pm-UWF Luncheon, Special Speaker, Gym

2:00 pm-4:00 pm-Pickle Ball, Gym

Sept 15, Tuesday

9:00 am-11:00 am-Clothes Closet workday

5:00 pm-Yoga, Gym; 6:30 pm Emmaus Cluster meeting

Sept 16, Wednesday

9:00 am-11:00 am-Clothes Closet open

11:00 am- Wednesday Morning Bible Study

5:15 pm-Wednesday Night Meal, Gathering Room

6:00 pm-Children's Activities, Gym & Room 108;

Youth Activities, Gym & Room 211;

Bible Study Groups, Rooms 110 & 208

6:00 pm-Choir Practice, Choir Room

Sept 17, Thursday

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

5:30 pm-Thursday Worship, Sanctuary

Sept 18, Friday

11:00 am-12:00 pm; Ladle of Love

12:00 pm, Office Closed



Mark your calendars!

Robbie's of Fayette will be at First UMC Gadsden on Tuesday, September 29th, for the Fall Trunk Show and Sale!

10:00 am to 2:00 pm, Gathering Room

Please Invite Friends!

A percentage of the sales is donated to GFUMC's Children's Ministry Program.

The pastor and congregation of First United Methodist Church of Gadsden extend Christian sympathy to Debbie & Bill Leach in the death of her father, Glenn Thompson, on September 9, 2026.



Honorariums & Memorials

General Fund Budget In memory of Evelyn Pierson, given by the West Point Cousins.

SHP Bed Build In Honor of my Grandsons, Eddie & Chris Ferguson, given by Louise Ferguson.

Continued Prayer Concerns

Tricia Blount Cindy Archer (ELC teacher) Dawn Rains
Anna Morgan Harrell Trish Harrell Rachel Sims
Lynn Page Anne McNabb (Becky Thompson's sister)
Mark Burkett (J.T. Harrell's cousin) Bobby Junkins
James Dial (infant son of Jay & Taylor)
Amy Epperson (daughter of Gene & Danna Dean)



Birthdays

Sept 13 Linda Marble

Sept 15 Alicia Dowling,
Lucas Selsor, Anna Dobbins

Sept 16 Elaine Spearman,
Bibb Holland

Sept 17 Doug Frickey

Sept 18 Hunter Grimes

Sept 19 Gwen Ford,
William Leach, Jr.,
Sophia Norris



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

Attendance Week of Sept 6, 2026

In Person Total *178	On Line Total 407
Thursday *11	Celebration *62/164
Traditions *105/243	Worship Total 585
Adult SS*34	Children's SS *3
Youth SS*5	Children Sun *12
Bible Study *27	Nursery Wed/Sun *8
Children Wed/Sun *26	Youth Wed/Sun *19

Year 2026 Week of Sept 6, 2026

General Offering Budget	\$13,040.00
General Offering Received	\$26,806.00
YTD Gen. Offering Budget	\$469,440.00
YTD Gen. Offering Rec'd	\$498,453.46

Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Dinner

**5:15 pm, \$7 pp,
(under 11, \$3)**

**Text to reserve your spot:
256-490-5018**

**Menu Sep 16: Assorted
Sandwiches, Salads, Chips,
Dessert**