27
September
2026
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

September 27
Volunteer

October 4
Clementine Hilburn
Rhett Hilburn

Tech Team Schedule

September 27
Celebration: Bill Haller, Carmen McKiven
Traditions: Neil Mullin, Wayne Payton, Sheila Freeman

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

Ushers & Greeters

September 27
Celebration:
Kelly & Steve Roach

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

October 4
Celebration:
Tim & Lynne Davis

Traditions:
Terry & Sheila Bishop; Bob & Becky Oltman

In Praise of Creation, Rev. Sherri Reynolds

Sermon Notes: September 24 and September 27: Genesis 1

The Creation account began with chaos, and God brought order to the chaos. He separated light from the darkness. God then separated the waters and the sky. Then he made the dry land. God then brought forth plants of every kind, those bearing seed and fruit. God then brought the sun to rule over the day and the moon to rule over the night. He made the stars shine. Then God made creatures that swarmed in the water and birds that flew in the sky. Then God made all kind of wildlife. God created livestock and crawling things. God made creatures to inhabit the land. He then made humans in the divine image of God. These are the gifts of God's created order (Genesis 1). How often do we take this great gift of creation for granted?

Too often we are busy, buried in technology, or distracted, failing to recognize the greatness around us. It is there, if we only pause and notice. Today take the time to pause and notice. Not only take the time to notice but take the time to praise. In recognizing and giving thanks for Creation, you may find the opportunity to connect with God in a new and blessed way.

Created in God's Image,

Rev. Sherri



Virtual Blessing of the Animals, September 17

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. Bring a photo of your pet to place on the chancel rail. A Special prayer for all our beloved pets will be offered.

◊ **Wonderful Wednesday, September 30, Dinner @ 5:15 pm.**

◊ **Menu: Chicken Fingers, Mac & Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Rolls & 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.

Sunday Mornings at FUMC

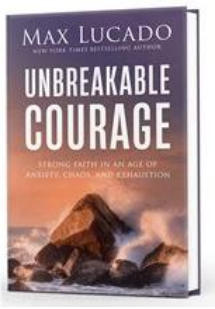


- **Odyssey Sundays at 10:00 a.m. Room 202 (Adult Library)**

  Discussion of sermon topics and relevant scripture.

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

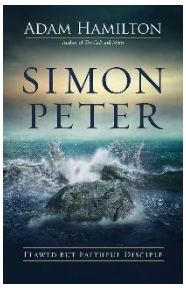
<u>Unbreakable Courage</u> by Max Lucado



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

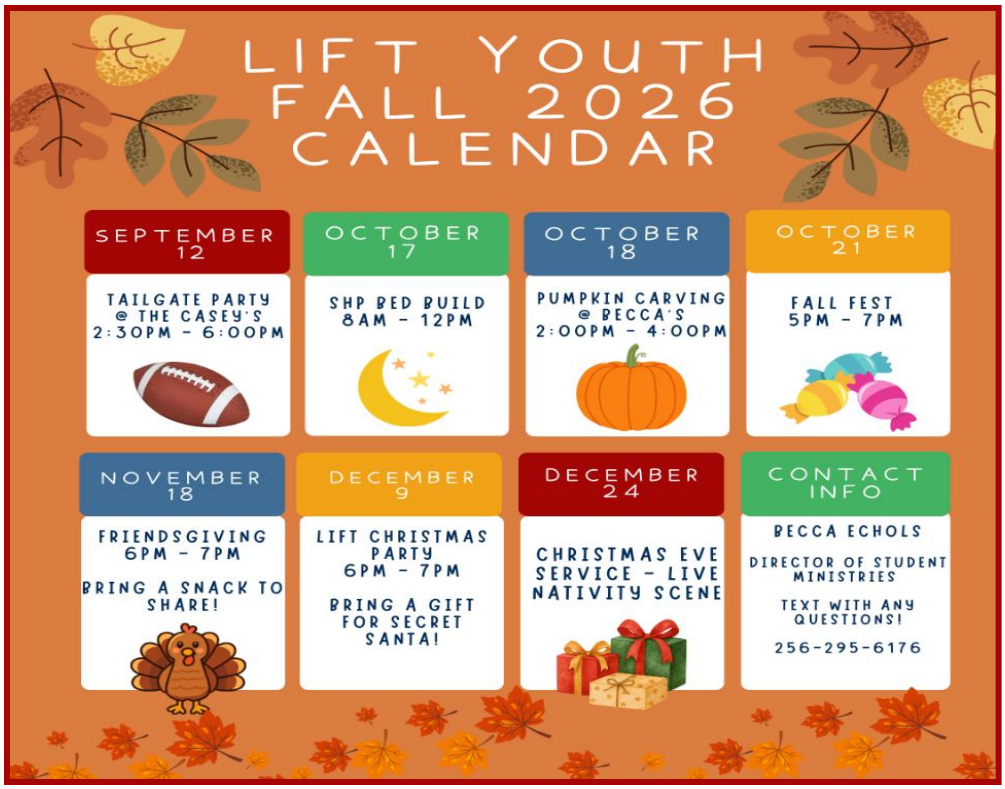
We enjoyed 'The Dog House' visiting us for our first lunchbox revolt of the year. Always so fun to see Greg and David. 4K had a blast at their first *show and tell*.
'Apples Gone Wild'- pick up will be Friday from 5 pm to 6 pm and Saturday morning from 9 am to 10 am.

—Helene Haller

Youth Sunday School
10 am-Room 211

*****

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



Wonderful Wednesday Sep 30 Dinner @ 5:15 pm ($7 per person, $3 for 11 & u)
9/30- Chicken Fingers, Mac & Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Rolls & 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!



September Mission Focus

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

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 physicians, nurses, support staff, prescription medication and a variety of holistic care services, at no cost.

United Women in Faith

Olivia Kendrick, President
Susan Copeland, Vice-President

UWF October Luncheon
Speaker: Andy Yarnell, Connectional Ministry
Monday, October 12 at 12:00 noon, Gathering Room

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



Watch for an Important Announcement Coming Sunday, September 27!





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

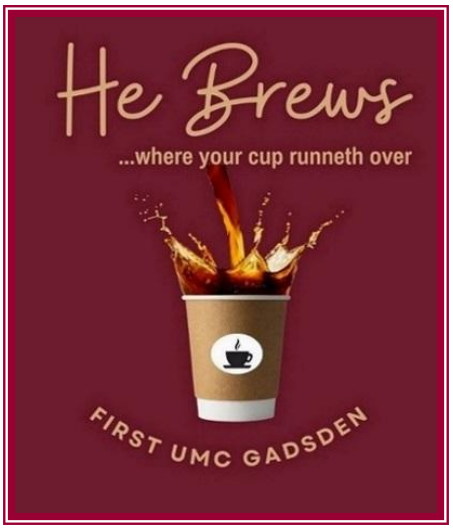
Follow the QR Code to Volunteer Sign Up Online!

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!





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.





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.

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!







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 Beca@fumcgadsden.org

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

Alleluia Offering 2026



We are grateful for the generosity of our First UMC Gadsden family through the **Alleluia Offering**! Because of your faithful giving, we have been able to make meaningful improvements throughout our church.

Among the accomplishments are a new **Sonic View Smart Board in the Children's Worship Room**, providing easy access to videos, Bible stories, music, games, and other learning resources; **new flooring and improvements in the Youth Room**; **new staff computers**; and upgrades to our **security and spam-filter systems**.

We have also enhanced the lighting for our **beautiful steeple, and stained-glass windows** helping our church shine both inside and throughout our community. Still to come are additional **lighting upgrades in the sanctuary and for the choir loft in the sanctuary**.

Thank you to everyone who has given to the Alleluia Offering. **Your generosity is making a difference in the ministries, worship, and future of First UMC Gadsden. We are truly grateful!**

In Christ,

Rev. Sherri 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

Secure Online Giving

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



Virtual Blessing of the Animals

Sept. 27, 2026

We will share photos of beloved pets in both worship services. If you did not submit a photo, you may bring a picture to place on the chancel rail for the Blessing of the Animals.

Sept 27, Sunday
9:00 am-Celebration Worship
HeBrews Coffee; Sunday School
11:00 am-Traditions Worship
Sept 28, Monday
9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym
2:00 pm-4:00 pm-Pickle Ball, Gym
Sept 29, Tuesdau
10:00 am-2:00 pm-Robbie's-Room 201
5:00 pm-Yoga, Gym

Sept 30, 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 1, Thursday
9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym
5:30 pm-Thursday Worship, Sanctuary
Oct 2, Friday
11:00 am-12:00 pm; Ladle of Love



The flowers on the altar are in honor of Baptism for Sloane Grace Cassity, given by her parents and grandparents

Mark your calendars!

Robbie's of Fayette will be at First UMC Gadsden on Tuesday, September 29th, for the Fall Trunk Show and Sale! Please invite Friends!
10:00 am to 2:00 pm, Gathering Room
A percentage of the sales is donated to GFUMC's Children's Ministry Program.



Read the Weekly Newsletter
Subscribe to the weekly newsletter by submitting your email address to the church secretary, Susan Swann:
susan@fumcgadsden.org

Honorariums & Memorials

SHP Bed Build
In honor of our grandchildren: Coleman, Berkley, Shepard, and Winslet, given by Kirk and Jeanne Mabeus.

Immediate Prayer Concerns
Anna Morgan (DIL of Michelle Morgan)
Jane Jones Family of Harold Nelson



Continued Prayer Concerns
Tricia Blount Dawn Rains Cindy Archer (ELC teacher)
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 27 Julia Keenum, Judge Wayne Owen
Sept 28 Valerie Pennington, Kara Livesay, Jake Malone, Judd Malone
Sept 29 Trish Croy
Sept 30 Jami Grimes, Kara Roberts, Mason Russell
Oct 1 Tyler Harrell
Oct 2 Pam Newman, Beverly Godfrey
Oct 3 Julia Knox



Attendance	Week of Sept 20, 2026		
In Person Total *163		On Line Total 321	
Thursday *11		Celebration *68/140	
Traditions *84/181		Worship Total 484	
Adult SS*59		Children's SS *2	
Youth SS*4	UWF *96	Children Sun *6	
Bible Study *28		Nursery Wed/Sun *8	
Children Wed/Sun *22		Youth Wed/Sun *14	

Year 2026	Week of Sept 20, 2026
General Offering Budget	$13,040.00
General Offering Received	$ 6,384.00
TD Gen. Offering Budget	$495,520.00
YTD Gen. Offering Rec'd	$517,767.86

Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Dinner

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

Text to reserve your spot: 256-490-5018

Menu Sep 30:
Chicken Fingers, Macaroni & Cheese, Green Beans, Salad, Rolls, & Dessert