

Holy Ground

Exodus 3:5
Rev. Ken Casey

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

Sermon Notes: Thursday, Sept 18 and Sunday, Sept 21

Holy Ground-Exodus 3:5

Forty-four percent of people say that religion does more good than harm, while 19 percent said it does more harm than good for the U.S. An additional 35 percent said it does equal amounts of good and harm.

Since 2014, Americans have become less supportive of religious institutions across the board. The number of Americans who expressed a positive view of religious institutions dropped from 63 percent in 2014 to 51 percent in 2024.

There is less and less respect for the institutional church in our world at this time. There are many reasons and excuses why this is so. But I believe that the institutional church represents "holy ground" and that we need to know the reasons why this is important for us.. Come Sunday and let us appreciate and honor the places where we worship.

Rev. Ken Casey

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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



L.I.F.T.

GFUMC YOUTH ROOM, 211

OPEN HOUSE

And Shower

Youth Room Makeover
New Paint. New Look.

10 AM TO 10:45 AM
SUNDAY, SEPT. 21

DONATIONS OF GIFT CARDS SUCH AS AMAZON AND TARGET TO HELP COMPLETE THE MAKEOVER ARE WELCOME!

L.I.F.T. Youth: Love in Fellowship and Truth

STOP BY TO SEE OUR NEW LOOK!

ACOLYTES

September 21: Sarah Echols and Luke Barnes

September 28: Anna Kate Casey, Jade Collins, & Layne Godfrey

Tech Team Schedule

September 21

Celebration: Sheila Freeman, Brad Barnes

Traditions: Mark Condra, Neil Mullin, Sheila Freeman

September 28

Celebration: Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman, Rob Reynolds

Traditions: Davis Varner, Neil Mullin, Sheila Freeman

New Bible Studies Begin

— Many study *Revelation* for what it reveals about the past or future, but what does it have to reveal about today? Using Greg Robbin's ***Revelation Simplified: A Commonsense Approach to the Bible's Most Mysterious Book*** as a guide, see how *Revelation* provides hope-filled promises for today. [Bring your Bible and join Rev. Sherri in Room 208 at 11am or 6 pm on Wednesday.](#) The study will continue through November 19.

— **The Belonging Project: Finding Your Tribe and Learning to Thrive** Are you hungry for true community, deeper connection with God, and friendships that are greater than just “likes” on social media? This is a study of the “One Another” Sayings of the New Testament. Join Harriet Murray and friends for this exciting new study. [Room 110, Wednesdays at 6 pm.](#)

— **Loving on Purpose** by Danny and Sheri Silk brings a fresh perspective on the age-old role of parenting. It will give you tools to:

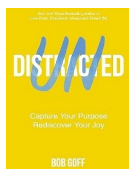
- ◊ Protect your connection with your children.
- ◊ Teach your children to manage increasing levels of freedom.
- ◊ Replace the tools of intimidation and control.
- ◊ Create a safe place for children to build confidence and personal responsibility.

[Room 116, Wednesdays at 6 pm.](#) *This series includes a video live audience recordings of age specific Q&A sessions with wisdom that will work for your toddler all the way through your adult child. Our group facilitator will be Dawson Harmon, but the real teachers will be each of you as you share your stories and learn from one another.*

Wonderful Wednesday Dinner: 5:15 pm
Menu: September 24: Chicken Fingers & Mac & Cheese
\$3 Children under 11 \$7 per Person

Sunday School: New Adult Series

Transitions 10 am, Room 209 Undistracted w/ Bob Goff

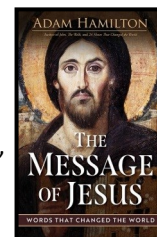


Distractions cause more harm than you might think. And they're all around us, all the time. They can disrupt our focus on what really matters, interfere with our true priorities, and divert our attention from the God who created us for his good purpose. **Identify the distractions in your life. Eliminate them so that you can recharge and refocus on your God-given purpose. Start living a less-distracted and more joy-filled and love-oriented life.**

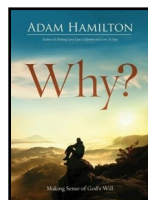
Pathfinders/Seekers 10 am, Room 208

The Message of Jesus— Words that Changed the World by Adam Hamilton

Adam Hamilton's "The Message of Jesus" explores six key themes in Jesus's teachings, emphasizing their relevance today. The study includes insights on the Kingdom of God, the Sermon on the Mount, and Jesus's parables, highlighting how his words can be life-changing and world-changing.



Living Water 10 am, Room 116



Join us, as we try to answer some tough, age-old questions concerning our faith. Questions like: “where is God when tragedy and suffering strikes? Why do the innocent suffer? Why do my prayers go unanswered? Why can’t I see God’s will for my life?” If God is all powerful, and If each one of us is a beloved child of God, then Why? How do we understand the will of God?

Let’s Talk About it! **Why? Making Sense of God’s Will** by Adam Hamilton. Weekly discussions led by Dawson Harmon and Ken Casey.

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



ELC NEWS

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Apple Sale. Such a fun new venture for us. Total details coming soon. This coming Tuesday, September 23rd is our first lunchbox revolt for the year. The Dog House will once again set up in the Portico. Cost is \$5.00 per combo. Apple distribution will take place Friday, September 26th and Saturday, September 27th.
—Helene Haller



Youth

Sunday School
10 am, Room 211

Wonderful Wednesday

Dinner- 5:15 pm

Youth Group, 6:00 pm

"Let's Build a Solid Foundation!"

Matthew 7:24

This Sunday, 9/21

L.I.F.T. Youth Room Open House & Shower, 10 am

Save the Date:

10/22 at

Sensory Hour 4:00 to 5:00 pm

Fall Fest 5:00 pm-7:00 pm

Wonderful Wednesday Dinner: September 24: Chicken Fingers, Mac&Cheese

Children's Ministry

GFUMC Kids Fall Calendar '25

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS @ 6:00 CHILDREN'S CHOIR	SUNDAY MORNINGS @ 9:00&11:00 SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00	FAMILY EVENTS!
August: Under Construction James 1:5	August: The Holy Spirit makes us better	October 22: Fall Festival 5-7
September: Game Plan! Psalm 33:11	September: Creativity: God Creates	November 2: Rake & Run! 12-2
October: Along the Way Psalm 121:8	October: Faith: God's Promise	November 19: Friendsgiving 6-7
November: Unsung Heroes Zeph. 3:4-7a	November: Blessing: God's Blessings	November 26: Community Thanksgiving

Follow us on Facebook for more info!

Wonderful Wednesday

Small Groups and Activities
@ 6 pm

Fellowship Dinner, 5:15 pm
Sept 24

Chicken Fingers
Macaroni & Cheese

\$7 -per person, \$3 -11 & Under
RSVP: Text 256.490.5018

Sunday Mornings

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

Need more info?

Katharine@fumcgadsden.org
Ms. Katharine Barnes
Children's Director

GFUMC CHILDREN'S GAME PLAN

Wednesday's at 6:00

September Unit

WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4
MAKING PEACE IS PART OF GOD'S GAME PLAN.	FOLLOWING GOD IS THE BEST GAME PLAN.	SHOWING KINDNESS IS IN GOD'S GAME PLAN.	FORGIVENESS IS ALWAYS GOD'S GAME PLAN.

BUT THE PLANS OF THE LORD STAND FIRM FOREVER, THE PURPOSES OF HIS HEART THROUGH ALL GENERATIONS.
PSALMS 33:11 (NIV)

Sept. Mission Focus



The 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. The clinic has had a dramatic impact, not just in the lives of those served, but also in the community in which they live, work and play. The clinic is located at 423 South 3rd Street · Gadsden, AL 35901 · (256) 546-3456 .

During the month of September, the mission team will be receiving donations for the Etowah Free Community Clinic. Look for a list of needed items and the red buckets at the entrances to the church building. Thank you for your support for local missions.

—The GFUMC Mission Team

Donation Items

- 13 gallon garbage bags
- reams of white paper
- Kleenex
- paper towels
- toilet paper

Clothes Closet Needs

As the season changes, our clothes closet is empty. Time to clean out closets and contact friends and neighbors to help replenish our store!



We need everything : children, men, women's and plus sizes. Please help with this wonderful mission that helps so many! Thanks for your continued generosity.

Your Clothes Closet Team

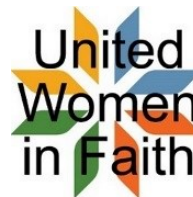
United Women in Faith

October Luncheon

October 13 at 12:00 noon. The "Glory and Grace Dance Team" will perform. Please call or text your reservation for lunch to Olivia Kendrick at 205-454-4375.

Regency Pointe Circle meeting, Tuesday, September 23 at 11:15 am at Regency Pointe.

LuVerna Waid Circle meeting, Tuesday, October 7 at 6:00 pm at the church. Room 208.



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.

Donations may be made to the Ladle of Love Fund in honor or in memory of a loved one.

Clothes Closet Workdays are Tuesdays before open days from 9:00-11:00 am.

Open to Public

1st & 3rd Wednesdays

September open dates are 9/3 and 9/17

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

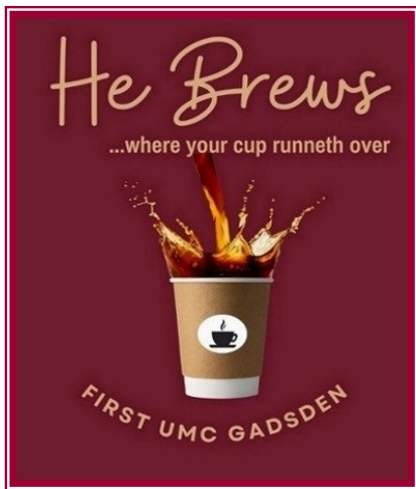
#gfumcreconnect2025

**Ladle of Love
Clothes Closet**

July

LOL	297
Clothes Closet	266

**Thanks to our
Volunteers!**



Follow us on
Facebook and Instagram.

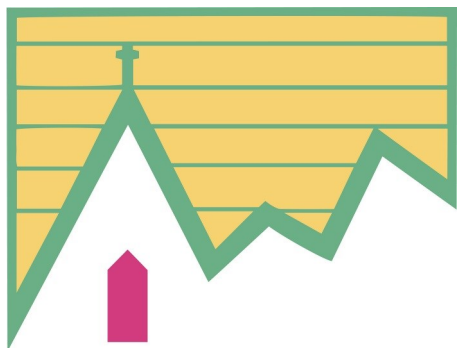


HeBrews Coffee Café 10 am, Chestnut Street Foyer
We Can't Wait to See You There!



A NEW Church Directory is coming! Watch for important dates for your opportunity to have a portrait made and be included in the GFUMC Church Directory. Photography dates are Tuesday, October 7 and Wednesday, October 8. Signup online for your photography session @ www.ucdir.com Church Code: **al217** Password: **photos**





Church FINANCES

A Note from the GFUMC Finance Committee:

If anyone has questions about our budget and spending you can contact the finance office at the church. If you want a specific area or in general, it is open to anyone. It can be printed or emailed to you.

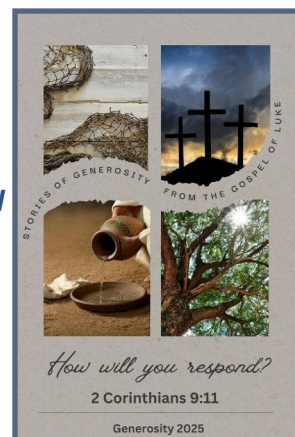
—Jill Vincent, Finance Chair

Generosity 2025 **“How will you Respond?”**

You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us

2 Corinthians 9:11

The 2025 “Estimate of Giving” Card can be filled out at any time during the year online @ www.fumcgadsden.org/give



First UMC Gadsden
is a registered charity and can receive
donations through Venmo:

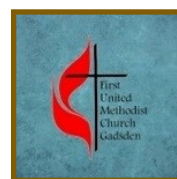
@FirstUMCGadsden

(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.



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**

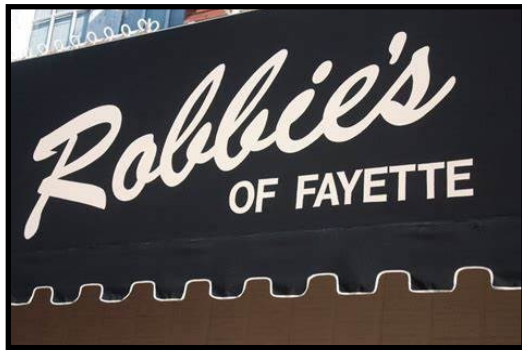
Mail your tithe or gift: 115 S. 5th Street, Gadsden, AL 35901



Secure Online Giving



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



Mark your calendars!

Robbie's of Fayette will be at First UMC Gadsden on Tuesday, October 7, 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.

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!



Download our

Church App

FUMC-Gadsden

On the App Store or Google Play

Create a profile and join the conversation connection!

First UMC Gadsden Sept 21-Sept 27, 2025

Sept 21, Sunday

9:00 am-Celebration Worship, Sanctuary
10:00 am Sunday School
10:00 am HeBrews, Chestnut Foyer
10:00 am-to 10:45 am-Open House , Youth Room
11:00 am-Traditions Worship, Sanctuary

Sept 22, Monday

9:00 am-1:00 pm ELC Fall Schedule
9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym

Sept 23, Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Fall Schedule
1:15 pm-Staff Meeting;
5:00 pm-Yoga, Gym

Sept 24, Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Fall Schedule
No Morning Bible Study
5:15 pm-Wed Night Meal, Gathering Room
6:00 pm-Children's Activities, Room 208
Youth Activities, Room 211 & Gym
6:00 pm-Bible Study Groups, Room 110, 208, & 209
6:00 pm-Choir Practice

Sept 25, Thursday

9:00 am-11:00 am-ELC Fall Schedule
9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym
5:30 pm-Thursday Worship Service

Sept 26, Friday

11:00 am-12:00 pm- Ladle of Love
12:00 pm-Office Closed

Save the Date

Sept 21-10:00 am to 10:45 am-Open House & Shower for Youth Room, 211
Sept 28-10:00 am-10:30 am-Blessing of Animals-West Lawn (Green Space) See page 7 for details.
Oct 7 & Oct 8-2:00 pm-9:00 pm-Directory Pictures
Oct 7-10:00 am-3:00 pm-Robbie's of Fayette
Oct 22-5:00 pm-7:00 pm-Fall Festival
4:00 pm-5:00 pm-Sensory Friendly Hour

A new church directory is coming! Photography Sessions are 2 pm to 9 pm on Oct. 7 & 8.
Sign up online:
www.ucdir.com
Church Code: **a1217**
Password: **photos**

Honorariums & Memorials

General Fund Budget

In memory of Mary Tom Hale, given by Mike & Peggy Kanche.

Ladle of Love Fund

In memory of Kenneth Cox, given by Mr. & Mrs. Richard McCoy.

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Jane Jones Dawn Rains Jackie Herlong Ruthie Hester
Beth Kimball Amy Epperson (Gene & Danna Dean's daughter)

Continued Prayer Concerns

Betty Elliott (Cindy Archer's mother)
Jay Morgan (Friend of Bobby Robinson)
Ricky Couvillion (Joey Couvillion's brother)



Birthdays

Sept 21 Hannah Johnson Badgett
Sept 23 Joan Garry, Dr. Gordon Isbell, Rob Reynolds, Adam Sollie
Sept 24 Susan Wright,
Dr. Lowndes Harrison,
Sept 25 Barbara Mosley,
Carolyn Harrison
Sept 27 Judge Wayne Owen,
Grant Griffin



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

Attendance Week of Sept 14, 2025

In Person Total *170 On Line Total 422
Worship Total 592 Thursday Worship *12
Celebration *63/162 Traditions *95/260
Adult Sunday School *44 Children SS *8
Middle School & Senior Hi SS *6 UWF *47
Bible Study Groups *89 Children Wed/Sun *32
Middle & Sen Hi Wed/Sun *12 Nursery *6

Year 2025 Week of Sept 14, 2025

General Offering Budget	\$12,400.00
General Offering Received	\$17,054.00
YTD Gen. Offering Budget	\$458,800.00
YTD Gen. Offering Rec'd	\$478,118.83

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 in the office.

All Meetings, Events and Activities must be scheduled in advance with the church secretary, by email susan@fumcgadsden.org or call the church office.