

HOW TO BE RICH

MATTHEW 25:14-30

REV. SHERRI REYNOLDS

GENEROSITY 2026
"Building a Solid Foundation"

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

Sermon Notes: Thursday, Sept 25 and Sunday, Sept 28

How does one become rich? There are many paths to wealth. You can win the lottery or inherit an estate. You might work hard, accumulating assets. You could also invest well. The sermon this week is about the last way, investing well. When we think about investing, we think about dollars and cents. While this is true, we can also invest our time, talents, spiritual gifts, and other resources. Any gift we have been given by God is a potential for investment and every investment has the potential to make us rich. Again, the definition is broader than dollars and cents. There are many ways to define rich. A rich life is marked by blessings, joy, peace, satisfaction, and our relationship with God. I would even dare to say that the most valuable things in life, in which we can invest, have nothing to do with money.

Jesus told a story once about investing for the master in his absence, awaiting his return. You can read about the story in Matthew 25:14-30. Jesus' parable gives us pause to consider how we are using the gifts He has given us as we await his second coming.

Building upon a Solid Foundation,
 Rev. Sherri

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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

ACOLYTES

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

October 5: Sara Kate, Jake, & Carter Thornburg

Tech Team Schedule

September 28

Celebration: Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman, Rob Reynolds

Traditions: Davis Varner, Neil Mullin, Sheila Freeman

October 5

Celebration: Bill Haller, Brad Barnes

Traditions: Davis Varner, Wayne Payton, Rob Reynolds

Blessing
 of the
ANIMALS

10 am
 Sunday, September 28
 West Lawn
 (near the portico
 entrance)
 Gadsden First UMC



Blessing of the Animals is this Sunday, September 28, Weather Permitting

Pets of all sizes, shapes, and varieties are welcome! Please ensure that your pet is secured in a way that provides safety for them and for the other pets present. **You are welcome to bring a photo of your pet if they are unable to accompany you.**

For those who have lost a pet recently, you are invited to bring a photo to place in memory of your beloved pet. This

blessing event is a chance to give thanks for all God's Creation, especially our pets and the special place they hold in our hearts and lives. We look forward to seeing you and your pet.

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:

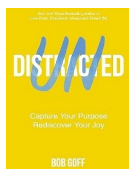
- ◊ Protect your connection with your children.
- ◊ Teach your children to manage increasing levels of freedom.
- ◊ Replace the tools of intimidation and control.
- ◊ Create a safe place for children to build confidence and personal responsibility.

[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: October 1: Pizza, Salad, Chips, Cookies
\$3 Children under 11 \$7 per Person

Sunday School: New Adult Series

Transitions 10 am, Room 209 Undistracted w/ Bob Goff

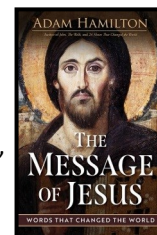


Distractions cause more harm than you might think. And they're all around us, all the time. They can disrupt our focus on what really matters, interfere with our true priorities, and divert our attention from the God who created us for his good purpose. **Identify the distractions in your life. Eliminate 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.**

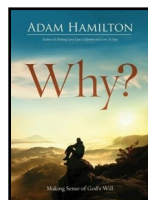
Pathfinders/Seekers 10 am, Room 208

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

Our apple sale was a success. Through sales and donations, we have raised \$1,400. This past week, we enjoyed lunchbox revolt with The Dog House and 4K hosted their first show and tell of the year. The ELC will be closed for Fall Break Monday, October 6th and Tuesday, October 7th. Fall Pictures are scheduled for Tuesday, October 14th and Wednesday, October 15th.

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

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: October 1: Pizza, Salad, Chips, Cookies

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. 3:17a	November: Blessing: God's Blessings	November 26: Community Thanksgiving

Follow us on Facebook for more info!

GFUMC CHILDREN'S October Unit

Wednesday's at 6:00

ALONG the WAY

WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4
GOD IS WITH ME no matter what I go through.	We can show God's love in SMALL WAYS.	GOD IS BIGGER than we could ever understand.	We can trust God will make EVERYTHING RIGHT.

The Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.
PSALM 121:8 (NIV)

Wonderful Wednesday

Small Groups and Activities
@ 6 pm

Fellowship Dinner, 5:15 pm

October 1

Pizza, Salad, Chips, Cookies

\$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

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

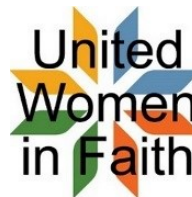
United Women in Faith

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

October open dates are 10/1 and 10/15

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:

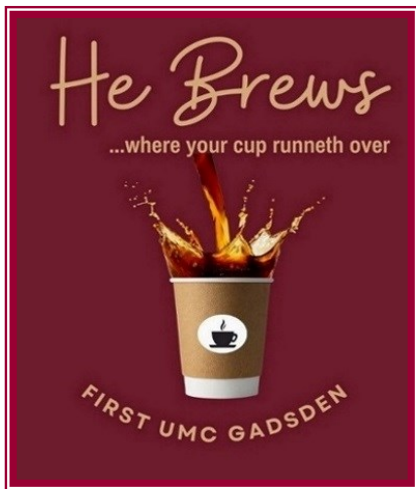
fumc@fumcgadsden.org

#gfumcreconnect2025

Ladle of Love
Clothes Closet

LOL
Clothes Closet

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**

Blessing of the ANIMALS

10 am
Sunday, September 28

West Lawn
(near the portico
entrance)

Gadsden First UMC



**Blessing of the Animals is this Sunday,
September 28, Weather Permitting**

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September 28- "How to Be Rich" Matthew 25:14-30 **Blessing of the Animals**
 October 5- "Marked by Abundance" 1 Timothy 8:9
 October 12- "Why Generosity" Exodus 35:20-29
 October 19- "Counting the Costs" Luke 14: 28-30 **GFUMC Ministry Impact Report Released**
 October 26- "A Heart of Gratitude" Colossians 2:6-7
November 2- "New Life in Christ" All Saints' Sunday
 November 9- "So You May Receive" Luke 6:38
 November 16- "Making a Difference" Corinthians 8:1-7 **Churchwide Brunch, Everyone Invited.**
 (Return your "Building a Solid Foundation" Generosity 2026 Estimate of Giving Cards on Sunday, Nov. 16 in worship.)

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 28-Oct 4, 2025

Sept 28, Sunday

9:00 am-Celebration Worship, Sanctuary
10:00 am-Blessing of the Animals, West Lawn
Sunday School; HeBrews, Chestnut Foyer
11:00 am-Traditions Worship, Sanctuary

Sept 29, Monday

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

Sept 30, Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Fall Schedule
9:00 am-11:00 am-Clothes Closet Workday
1:15 pm-Staff Meeting; 5:00 pm-Yoga, Gym

Oct 1, Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Fall Schedule
9:00 am-11:00 am-Clothes Closet Open
11:00 am-Wed 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

Oct 2, 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

Oct 3, Friday

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

Save the Date

Sept 28-10:00-10:30 am-Blessing of Animals-West Lawn (Green Space)
See page 7 for details.

Oct 7 & Oct 8-2:00-9:00 pm-
Directory Pictures

Oct 7-10:00 am-3:00 pm-
Robbie's of Fayette

Oct 22-5:00-7:00 pm- Fall Festival
4:00-5:00 pm-Sensory Friendly Hour

*The ministers and congregation of
First United Methodist Church
of Gadsden extend Christian
sympathy to
Olivia Kendrick,
in the death of her father,
Dr. Bob W. Walden
September 22, 2025*



**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 my mom Lois Couvillion, given by Mr. & Mrs. Allen Couvillion.

Ladle of Love Fund In memory of Peter Gregerson, given by Mr. & Mrs. Terry Bishop.

In memory of my mom Lois Couvillion, given by Mr. & Mrs. Allen Couvillion.

Youth Fund In memory of my mom Lois Couvillion, given by Mr. and Mrs. Allen Couvillion

Church Bulletins In Honor of Eldred Davis for his faithful service, given by Bob & Becky Oltman, Bobby Robinson, and Charles Abney.

Birthdays

Sept 28 Valerie Pennington,
Kara Livesay, Jake Malone,
Judd Malone

Sept 29 Trish Croy

Sept 30 Jami Grimes, Luke Rosser,
Connie Lane

Oct 1 Kathy Taff, Ann Guffey,
Tyler Harrell

Oct 2 Pam Newman, Beverly Godfrey

Oct 3 Julia Knox

Oct 4 Wilson Abel, Martha Smith,
Alyssa Branch



Attendance Week of Sept 21, 2025

In Person Total *155 On Line Total 496
Worship Total 651 Thursday Worship *9
Celebration *64/230 Traditions *82/266
Adult Sunday School *45 Children SS *6
Middle School & Senior Hi SS *4 UWF *0
Bible Study Groups *43 Children Wed/Sun *29
Middle & Sen Hi Wed/Sun *14 Nursery *10

Year 2025 Week of Sept 21, 2025

General Offering Budget	\$12,400.00
General Offering Received	\$ 9,091.17
YTD Gen. Offering Budget	\$471,200.00
YTD Gen. Offering Rec'd	\$487,210.00

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Family of Bob Walden

Jane Jones

Dawn Rains

Ronald Crowe

(Martha Crowe's husband)

Amy Epperson

(Gene & Danna Dean's daughter)

Continued Prayer Concerns

Jackie Herlong

Ruthie Hester

Betty Elliott

(Cindy Archer's mother)