



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

Sermon Notes: Thursday, December 5 and Sunday, December 8, 2024

Music is an important part of our Advent Season. Songs connect us with precious memories and enhance our celebrations. Hymns and sacred tunes link us anew with the birth of Jesus. We are blessed with the melodies of the season. For sermons this Advent, we return to the original poems surrounding Jesus' birth. Some of these may not have been set to music, but they all put a song in our heart and are a gift to us this Advent. For the second Sunday, we focus upon Zechariah and a father's song. This "Song of the Season" teaches us a lesson about answered prayers and being an answer to prayer.

Luke 1:57-80 are words of praise from Zechariah. This righteous priest's prayer had been heard and the prayers of his people had been heard too! He and Elizabeth would have a son, who would usher in the Messiah in the spirit of Elijah. Zechariah's song encourages us to keep praying and have hope. What are you praying for this Advent? How might you be a hope-bearer or an answered prayer for others?

May the sound of hope be yours this Advent season!

Prayers for a blessed Advent,
Rev. Sherri

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Worship Opportunities

Thursdays: 5:30 pm Sunday Mornings:

Celebration 9 am* Traditions 11 am*

***In-Person and Livestream or On Demand**

www.fumcgadsden.org/media

Adult Studies for Advent

"Prepare the Way for the Lord"

Living Water/Martin Fellowship, Room 116

"On the Way to Bethlehem"

Transitions, Room 209

"God Came Near"

Pathfinders/Seekers Room 208

ACOLYTES

December 8: Anna Kate Casey & Jade Collins

December 15: Sara Kate, Jake, & Carter Thornburg

Thursday Worship Security

December 5 Kirk Mabeus

December 12 Paid Security (Meet in Chapel)

Tech Team Schedule

December 8


Celebration: Sheila Freeman, Bill Haller, Carmen McKiven

Traditions: Mark Condra, Neil Mullin, Sheila Freeman

December 15

Celebration: No Tech Team-Christmas Unplugged, Chapel

Traditions: Davis Varner, Wayne Payton, Sheila Freeman



Advent Study

Prepare for the season of Advent with a small group study which focuses on the symbols, history, and traditions of Advent led by Rev. Sherri. This short-term study will meet November 20 (Room 116) December 4 (Sanctuary) and December 11 (Sanctuary) at 11am and 6pm. Topics include: The meaning behind our Chrismons, The Christian Year, Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, The Christian connection with popular decorations, Christmas around the world, and the stories behind your favorite hymns. *Rev. Sherri Reynolds*

Wednesday Fellowship, Room 208

December 11-Chick-Fil-A
\$7 Youth & Adults \$3 Children 11 & Under
Dinner is served beginning at 5:15 PM

Wednesday Morning Bible Study @ 11 am, Gathering Room

Advent Study w/ Rev. Sherri Reynolds

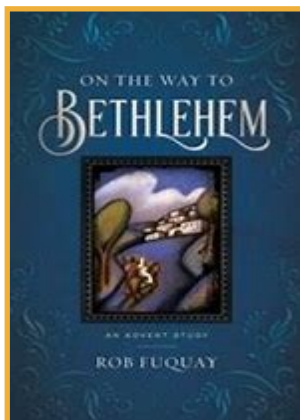
Adult Small Groups @ Wonderful Wednesdays

No Small Group Study on Wednesday, November 27

New Adult Studies on Sunday Mornings

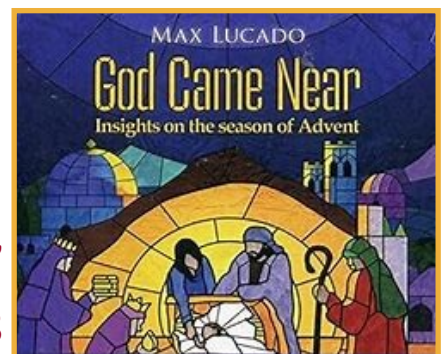
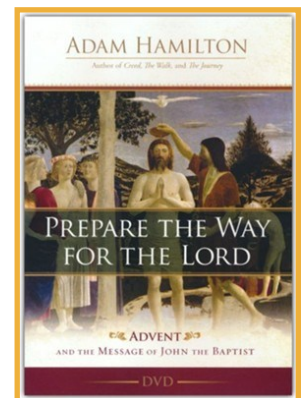
"Prepare the Way for the Lord"

Living Water/Martin Fellowship, Room 116



"On the Way to Bethlehem"

Transitions, Room 209



"God Came Near"

Pathfinders/Seekers, Room 208

"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

We were excited to be back from Thanksgiving break. Everyone's Christmas PJ's were so cute. We love this tradition. This week we will have lots of Christmas singing. On Monday our 3k and 4k students will sing for UWF. Then Tuesday evening, 2k, 3k and 4k students will entertain the ladies of Delta Kappa Gamma here at the church. We will finish our fall semester with our annual Christmas Program and Parties Thursday, December 12th at 9:30 am in the sanctuary. We invite all to come and relax for just a few moments during this hectic time.

—Helene Haller



Upcoming Events for Youth

Christmas Eve Live Nativity, 5 pm December 24
Ice Skating- December 29 (Chattanooga or Gadsden)

Youth Wednesdays, 6 pm
Senior High, Rm 211/Middle, Rm 209

Youth Sundays, 10 am

Youth Sundays w/ Becca
Sunday mornings, Room 211
Middle School and Senior High

Wonderful Wednesday Meal, December 11
Menu: Chick-Fil-A, \$7 Adults, \$3 Age 11 & Under

Children's Ministry

Sunday Mornings @ 9 am and 11 am, Children's Church & 10 am Sunday School

GFUMC Children's Ministry invites you to

Brunch with Santa

Sunday, December 8
10:00am
Gathering Room



*Let's
Celebrate!*

Children's Christmas Musical

December 22nd @ 5pm, Sanctuary

Join us as we celebrate the birth of our Savior!
Happy Birthday, Jesus party to follow in the gym upstairs!

GFUMC KIDS
DECEMBER
CALENDAR

2024

NOV 27	COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING 10-12
DEC 08	SANTA BRUNCH 10:00 AM
DEC 15	ACOLYTE PARTY 4-6 PM
DEC 18	KID'S CHRISTMAS PARTY
DEC 22	Christmas program 5:00 Happy Birthday, Jesus party

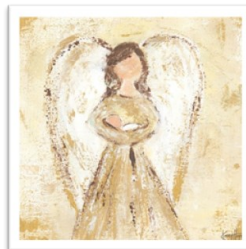


FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.FUMCGADSDEN.ORG/CHILDREN

December Mission Focus

The Angel Tree

The Angel Tree is located in the Sanctuary. You can select an angel from the tree with a child's name and wish list to purchase gifts for this Christmas.



- Select an Angel from the Angel Tree and sign the Angel and Angel Tree List with your name & the Angel Tag #.
- Take the wish list tag only and leave the Angel on the tree.
- Angel Tree Gifts, clearly marked with the Angel # and unwrapped, must be returned to the church no later than Wednesday, December 11 at noon.

Thank you for your generosity for GFUMC November Missions!



This Thanksgiving, your donation of 73 sacks of food will help feed families in our community!

Through your gifts, First United Methodist Church of Gadsden provided desserts and additional financial support for the CommUnity Thanksgiving meal.



United Women in Faith

The monthly luncheons are open to all. Please make a reservation by calling or texting Olivia Kendrick by the Friday prior to the meeting date. 205.454.4375

- ♦ December 9 at 12:00 noon; Christmas Luncheon, ELC Children singing

Following the luncheon this week, we will be delivering poinsettias to the home bound.

Christmas Boutique

We hope that you will also visit the Christmas Boutique in the Chestnut Foyer on Sunday mornings between the worship services during the month of December. (see page 7)

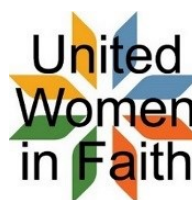
—Delores Abney, President

—Olivia Kendrick, Vice-President

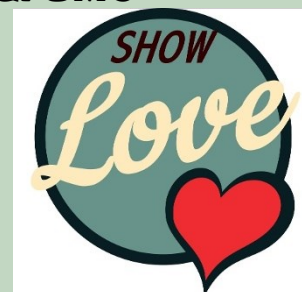
LuVerna Waid Circle

The Christmas Party will be at Jill Vincent's home on Tuesday, December 17th at 5:30 pm. More details to come. Mark your calendar!

—Susan Copeland



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

December open dates are
12/4 and 12/18

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

#gfumcreconnect2024

Ladle of Love
Clothes Closet
October

LOL 379

Clothes Closet 315

November

LOL 404

Clothes Closet 310

Thanks to our
Volunteers!

Stories of Generosity from the Luke

How will you respond?

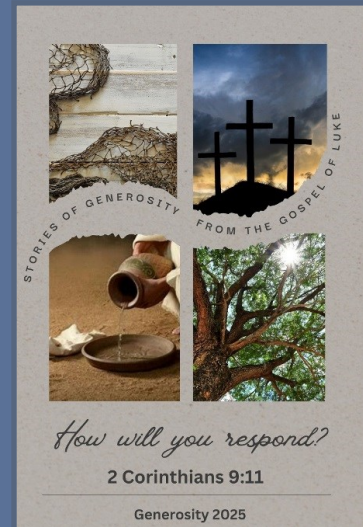
We are near the end of our 2025 Generosity Emphasis. During the month of October, we looked at response to Jesus, as found in the gospel of Luke. The characters who we met along the way caused us to pause and wonder, "How would I respond?"

If you have not received information about the emphasis in the mail, contact the church office. In the information was a 2025 estimate of giving card. On the card you will not only find a space to share your estimate of giving for the coming year, but also a space to faithfully renew your commitment to support the church with your prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. Why do we have a Generosity Emphasis with estimate of giving cards? Like other nonprofits or agencies, we estimate how we will fund our budget. It gives the leadership the ability to plan for the year ahead. Please know that the estimate of giving cards are not legally binding and are kept confidentially within the church office. There is also an online version which can be found on our church website. You may turn in your card directly to the church office, in the offering plate, or complete the online version throughout this month.

As of Tuesday, November 26, we have \$455,396.00 committed to our 2025 General Budget Fund.. Thank you for your generosity and for those of you who have already submitted your card.

How will you respond?

Rev. Sherri Bob Blount
Senior Pastor Generosity Chairman



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**

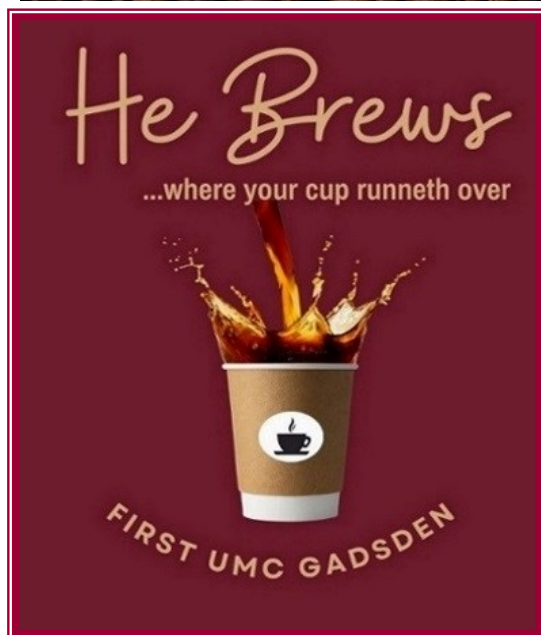
Mail your tithe or gift: 115 S. 5th Street, Gadsden, AL 35901



Secure Online Giving



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



Please join us for HeBrews Coffee Café between the
regular Sunday morning worship services,
from 10 am to 11 am.
We can't wait to see you there!!!



DO YOU KNOW?



Patsy grew up in East Gadsden and attended Gadsden High School. When she was 18 years old, she developed an interest in Rodeo and took part in barrel-racing competitions for many years. After high school, she attended Gadsden State Community College and received an Associate degree in Chemistry. Patsy is the granddaughter of Dr. Alfred Carraway, who was the "company doctor" at Dwight Cotton Mill in Alabama City for many years. She has a caring nature and took care of both her mother and her godmother, Mary Jo Gramlin Cleveland, till the end of their lives. Patsy's son, Henry Charles Koehler, Jr., lives in New Brockton, AL, and is the father of Patsy's three teenage granddaughters—Cheyenne, Heidi, and Evie.



You Are Cordially Invited

*Gadsden State Fine Arts Presents
A Capella Choir and GSCC Singers
Christmas Concert*

*6:00 PM
Thursday, December 12*

*Sanctuary
First United Methodist Church
115 S. 5th Street*

(Thursday Worship will meet
in the Chapel at 5:30 pm.)



Grief Support Group @ Gadsden First UMC

Tuesdays @ 11 am Room 119 Facilitator: Julia Lopez

Coping with grief and loss can indeed be incredibly challenging. A grief support group offers a safe, welcoming environment for individuals to connect with others who understand their experiences. In this 10-week small group, you'll have the opportunity to explore new ways to cope with grief, gain valuable insights into the stages of grief, and discover helpful resources. Together, participants will share their journeys and support one another, fostering a sense of community. By joining this small group, you'll gain new friends, practical tools, and a deeper understanding of your feelings, making the difficult path of

grief a bit more manageable. If you're considering joining, remember that you don't have to navigate this journey alone—support is here for you.

Our facilitator is Julia Lopez. Originally from Merrill, Wisconsin, Julia is a member of First UMC Gadsden and is retired after working 33 years as a Registered Nurse. Julia has been certified in Grief Support and has experience with leading grief support groups in a variety of different settings.

You may sign up for the class by contacting the church office @ 256-543-8200 or on the sign up form on the Church App or the church website @ www.fumcgadsden.org/journey-groups.

#wearefirst

- Diverse
- Investing
- Empowered
- Rooted

Share your pictures
of all things
FIRST
with #wearefirst
on Social Media!

www.fumcgadsden.org

More T-shirts are in Stock!

"We Are First" T-shirts are available in a variety of sizes in the Chestnut Foyer. The cost is \$15. Please make your check payable to FUMC Gadsden and turn it in to the church office. Thank you!

CELEBRATION WORSHIP

Christmas Unplugged

Join us as we sing our familiar & favorite Christmas carols!

15 December 2024
9 am
In the Chapel
 Following worship,
 enjoy Cookies & Hot Cocoa @ Hebrews



Traditions Worship

The Songs of Christmas

FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH CHANCEL CHOIR
WITH STRING ENSEMBLE

DECEMBER 15, 2024
11 AM | SANCTUARY

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 115 S. 5TH STREET
 GADSDEN, AL 35901




Songs of the Season

A Sermon Series for Advent and Christmas

Nov. 24 - "A Mother's Song"
 Dec. 1 - Lessons of the Chrismons
 Dec. 8 - "A Father's Song"
 Dec. 15 - *Special Music in both Services*
 Dec. 22 - "A Long-Awaited Song"
 Dec. 24 - "The Angels' Song"

Ways to Serve

Thursday Worship Security

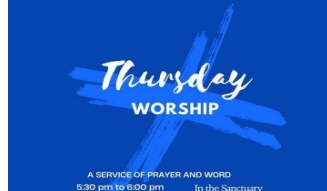
Volunteers are needed to serve at Thursday worship from 5:15 pm to 6:15 pm. This includes assistance with opening and locking the building and being present for the worship service. Contact the church office.

Advent and Christmas

If you are willing to serve Communion or light candles for Advent and Christmas worship in Celebration or Traditions, please contact the church office.

Thursday
WORSHIP

A SERVICE OF PRAYER AND WORD
 5:30 pm to 6:00 pm In the Sanctuary
 First United Methodist Church of Gadsden






Thursday Worship
5:30 pm

Thursday, December 5
“A Father’s Song”

Thursday, December 12
Hymns of Christmas
Meet in the Chapel

Thursday, December 19
“A Long Awaited Song”

Thursday, December 26
No Thursday Worship

Celebration
9 am

Sunday, December 1
“Lessons of the Chrismons”

Sunday, December 8
“A Father’s Song”

Sunday, December 15
Christmas Unplugged
Meet in the Chapel

Sunday, December 22
“A Long Awaited Song”

Traditions
11 am

Sunday, December 1
“Lessons of the Chrismons”

Sunday, December 8
“A Father’s Song”

Sunday, December 15
Chancel Choir & Orchestra
Songs of the Season

Sunday, December 22
“A Long Awaited Song”

Evening Worship, Sunday, December 22
Children’s Christmas Musical –Everyone Welcome

Tuesday, December 24
Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship, 4 pm & 6 pm
“The Angels’ Song”

Live Nativity presented by the GFUMC Youth, 5 pm

Sunday, December 29
One United Worship Service, 10 am



Order a Poinsettia to be placed in the Advent and Christmas Worship Services

Cost: \$25 each _____ of Poinsettias _____ Total Amount Paid

_____ December 15 _____ December 22 _____ December 24

(Select Date: Poinsettias will be placed in both Services)

_____ in Honor of _____ in memory of

Name(s) _____

Given by _____

Calendar for Dec 8-14, 2024

December 8, Sunday

9:00 am-Celebration Worship, Sanctuary
UWF Christmas Boutique, Chestnut Street Lobby
 10:00 am-Sunday School for all ages
 10:00 am-HeBrews Coffee, Chestnut Street Foyer
11:00 am-Traditions Worship, Sanctuary

December 9, Monday 9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC
 9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym
 10:00 am- UWF Executive Board, Rm 208
12:00 pm-UWF Luncheon, Gathering Rm
 2:00 pm-4:00 pm-Pickleball, Gym

December 10, Tuesday 9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC

11:00 am-Grief Support Group, Rm 119; 5:00 pm-Yoga
 6:00 pm-8:00 pm, Basketball practice, Gym

December 11, Wednesday 9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC

11:00 am-12:00 pm- Wednesday Morning Bible Study
 5:15 pm- Wednesday night meal, Gathering Room
 6:00 pm- Children & Youth activities, Gym & Rms 108 & 211; 6:00 pm- Small Group Study, Room 110 & 208
 6:00 pm- Choir Practice, Choir room

December 12, Thursday 9:00 am-1:00pm-ELC

9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym
9:30 am- ELC Christmas Program, Sanctuary
5:30 pm- Thursday Worship, Chapel
6:00 pm-GSCC Christmas Concert, Choir & Singers

6:00 pm-8:00 pm, Basketball practice, Gym

December 13, Friday 11:00 am-12:00 pm-Ladle of Love

In Memory of His Life
Charles Shepherd (Shep) Midgley
November 30, 2024



The rose on the altar is in honor of the birth of
Tucker Matthew Catanzaro
November 25, 2024
Parents: William & Jessy
Siblings: Ann Frances & Whitman
Given by GFUMC Children's Ministry & Early Learning Center



In Memory of His Life
Glenwood (Glen) Marian Pierson
December 5, 2024



Honorariums & Memorials

General Budget

In memory of Stephe Wood, given by Mr. & Mrs. Keith Murray.
 In memory of Michael Morris, given by Mr. & Mrs. Richard McCoy.
 In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Isbell, Jr., given by Dr. & Mrs. Gordon Isbell III. In Honor of Rose Isbell and Wells Isbell, given by Dr. & Mrs. Gordon Isbell III. In Honor of Dr. & Mrs. Ross Isbell IV, given by Dr. & Mrs. Gordon Isbell III. In Honor of the Thursday Worship Family, given by Dr. & Mrs. Gordon Isbell III.

Landscape Fund

In memory of Dr. James Condra, given by Dr. & Mrs. Gordon R. Isbell III.
 In Honor of Laura Condra, given by Dr. & Mrs. Gordon Isbell III. In Honor of Mark & Barbara Condra, given by Dr. & Mrs. Gordon Isbell III.

The rose on the altar is in honor of the birth of
Louis William Propes
November 26, 2024
Parents: Elliott & Tori



Given by GFUMC Children's Ministry & Early Learning Center

Birthdays

Dec 8 Benilda Kelley, Silas Tankersley
Dec 9 Caroline Culp, Kailie Jackson
Dec 10 Debbie Hiltz, Debbie Leach, Jamie Bowers, Bo Hayes
Dec 11 Bonda Vance, Bryant Grizzell, Kimberly Hayes, Misun Leach, Allison Hayes, Emma Smith
Dec 12 Jessica Hopper, Sara Catheryne Freeman
Dec 13 Dick Abel, Danny Jackson, Jon Ford, Jackson Skelton
Dec 14 Neil Mullin, Gloria Rives, Furman Haney, Tommy Hiltz

Week of December 1, 2024

In Person Total-*129 Worship Total-680
 Online-551 Thursday Worship-*0
 Celebration Service-*55/276 *in person
 Traditions Service-*74/275 UWF *0
 Bible Study *0 Sunday School Adult-*32/1
 Children SS- *5 Sr Hi & Middle SS- *2
 Wed/Sun-Children*14 Wed/Sun-Nursery *2
 Wed/Sun-Sr.Hi & Middle Youth *11

General Offering Budget \$11,400.00
 General Offering Received \$24,491.00
 YTD General Offering Budget \$547,200.00
 YTD General Offering Rec'd \$607,438.00

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Family of Shep Midgley
 Family of Glen Pierson
 Shep Vincent
 (Jill Vincent's grandson)

Continued Prayer Concerns

Terry Bishop Jan Humphrey
 Asher Mae Collins Amy Epperson
 Ada Blount (Bob & Trish Blount's granddaughter)

