

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

Sermon Notes: Thursday, Nov. 7 & Sunday, Nov. 10, 2024

Psalm 146 begins and ends with "Praise the Lord!" Between these two exclamations is a beautiful witness for God. The Psalmist speaks to God's saving help, creative power, care for the needy and downcast, and work toward justice in the world. This is a testimony to the nature of God and his relationship with people, especially those who find themselves in the margins.

What would your song of praise be to God? When it comes to a testimony for God's mighty works, we are too often silent. As we move to the season of Thanksgiving, may Psalm 146 inspire us to offer words of praise for all that the Lord does in our lives and in the world.

To God Be the Glory,
Rev. Sherri

This Sunday in the worship services, we will bless the scarves that the LuVerna Waid Circle has made. These scarves are given with love to help warm the homeless and those in need during the coming fall and winter months..



COME AND JOIN US AT
WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY FOR OUR

*Friends
giving*
PARTY

5:15 PM | Room 208 & 209

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Everyone Welcome

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Worship Opportunities

Thursdays: 5:30 pm

Sunday Mornings: Celebration 9 am*
Traditions 11 am*

On Demand: www.fumcgadsden.org/media

ACOLYTES

November 10: Sara Kate, Jake, & Carter Thornburg

Thursday Worship Security

Nov. 7 Mark Condra

Nov. 14 Rob Reynolds

Tech Team Schedule

November 10

Celebration: Sheila Freeman, Bill Haller, Brad Barnes

Traditions: Mark Condra, Sheila Freeman, Carmen McKiven

November 17

Celebration: Sheila Freeman, Bill Haller, Rob Reynolds

Traditions: Wayne Payton, Neil Mullin, Sheila Freeman

Confirmation for Adults - w/ Rev. Sherri

Wednesday at 11am

Responding to God's Grace

November 6

First United Methodist Church

November 13



Wednesday at 6pm

November 6

November 13

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, Gathering Room/201

Menu: Nov 13: Chicken Fingers, Mac n Cheese, Salad, Dessert

\$7 Youth & Adults \$3 Children 11 & Under

Dinner is served beginning at 5:15 PM

Wednesday Morning Bible Study @ 11 am, Gathering Room

Confirmation for Adults w/ Rev. Sherri Reynolds. See full schedule and dates above.

Adult Small Groups @ Wonderful Wednesdays

6 pm Confirmation for Adults w/ Rev. Sherri Reynolds, Rm 208. See full Schedule and dates above.

6 pm Small Group w/ Harriet Murray, Rm 110

"Anxious for Nothing"

Sunday School for All Ages

• Children's Sunday School -Room 104 & 108
4 years through 5th Grade

• Youth Sunday School -Room 211 w/ Becca
6th Grade through 12th Grade

• Transitions (New Adult) -Room 209

• Pathfinders/Seekers -Room 208

• Living Water/Martin Fellowship -Room 116

★ Nursery Available for Children 3 and under

"Men at the Well"

Thursday Mornings,

7:00 am

You are invited to join the weekly Bible study with the "Men at the Well" small group. They are currently meeting at 278 Restaurant. Contact Todd Rains, Mark Condra, Mark Casey, or any of the Men at the Well for more information.

Living Water/Martin Fellowship will begin a Study of "The Trinity."

Everyone is invited to join them for Sunday school at 10 am in Room 116.

ELC News

The ELC will be closed on Monday, November 11th in observance of Veteran's Day. Our November lunchbox revolt will be Tuesday, November 12th. Scholastic Book Orders are also due on Tuesday, November 12th.

—Helene Haller



Youth Sundays

Youth Sundays w/ Becca
Sunday mornings at 10 am
Middle School and Senior High
Meet in the Youth Room, 211.

Wednesday Fellowship, Gathering Room/201

November 13 Menu: Chicken Fingers, Macaroni & Cheese, Dessert

\$7 Youth & Adults \$3 Children 11 & Under

Dinner is served beginning at 5:15 PM

Upcoming Events for Youth

Community Thanksgiving at the Venue	November 27
Christmas Eve Live Nativity	December 24
Ice Skating in Chattanooga or Gadsden	December 29

For more Information for Sr. High Youth Activities Contact

Sr. High Youth Counselor, Carmen McKiven 256.458.3375

or cmckiven@hotmail.com

Children's Ministry

Sunday Mornings @ 9 am and 11 am, Children's Church & 10 am Sunday School
November 13, Wednesday Night Supper Menu: Chicken Fingers, Mac n Cheese, Dessert
5:15 pm, \$3 Under 11, \$7 Adults



GFUMC
CHILDREN'S
NOVEMBER
UNIT

ON THE **RIGHT**
TRACK

WEDNESDAY'S
AT 6:00

WEEK 1
Obstacles are
NO PROBLEM
for God.

WEEK 2
COURAGE
comes from knowing
God's words.

WEEK 3
God can use someone
LIKE ME.

WEEK 4
With God, there is
Victory!

"Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful."
Hebrews 10:23 (NIV)

WeAreFirst



GFUMC CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

FRIENDSGIVING

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 20 • 6:00 PM

LET'S HAVE THE LONGEST TABLE OF FRIENDS AND FOOD!
BRING A FRIEND AND A SNACK TO SHARE!

"WHEN YOU HAVE MORE THAN YOU NEED, BUILD A LONGER TABLE"-UNKNOWN



*Let's
Celebrate!*

Children's Christmas Musical

December 22th @ 5pm, Sanctuary

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



**GFUMC KIDS
FALL
CALENDAR**

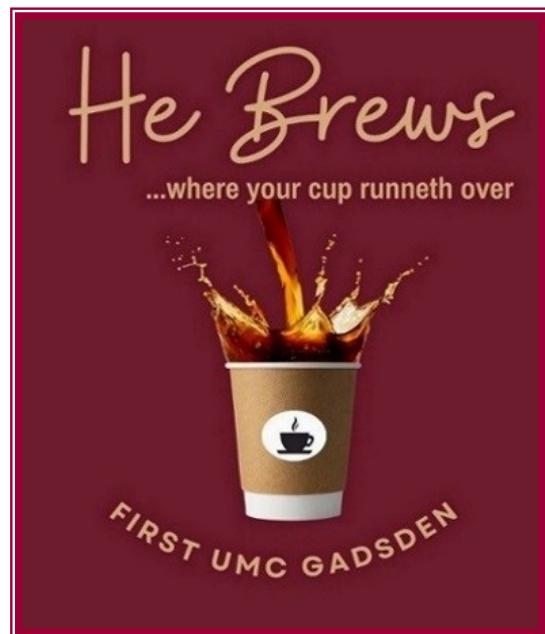
**20
24**

AUG 14	ICE CREAM SOCIAL WONDERFUL WED. RESUMES
FALL FESTIVAL 5:00-7:00 PM	OCT 09
NOV 20	FRIENDSGIVING 6 PM
SANTA BRUNCH 10:00 AM	DEC 8
DEC 22	CHRISTMAS PROGRAM 5:00 PM

Wonderful Wednesdays, every Wed. @6:00

August Dreaming: From Genesis to Joseph
September Lead the Way: Series on Moses
October Are We There Yet? In the Wilderness
November Right Track: Series on Joshua
December Christmas Vacation: Series on Christmas

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.FUMCGADSSEN.ORG/CHILDREN



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!!!



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DAVIS VARNER

Davis grew up in Gadsden and graduated from Westbrook Christian School. He attended Jacksonville State University, where he majored in Political Science, then received a Juris Doctor (JD) degree from the University of Alabama School of Law. Along with business partner, James Shelnutt, he recently celebrated the opening of Shelnutt & Varner law firm at its new location at 517 Broad Street in downtown Gadsden. The firm's work includes Accident, Injury, Custody, Divorce, Criminal, Business Law, and Estate Planning; and Davis says his specialty is Personal Injury law. Davis is the son of First Methodist members, George and Lori Varner, and he and his brother, Collin, grew up in our church. Currently, Davis operates the soundboard and computer graphics for our Sunday "Traditional" service and also serves on our Board of Stewards. His hobbies include hunting, golfing, and community service.

In the
Chestnut
Foyer



Coming in December

United Women
in Faith

Christmas
Boutique for
Missions

*Shop for Christmas
Gifts and support
Local Missions.*

*Watch for more
details.*



New: Grief Support Group @ Gadsden First UMC

Tuesdays @ 11 am

Room 119 Facilitator: Julia Lopez

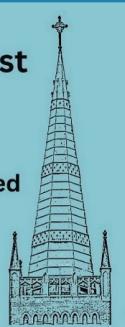
Coping with grief and loss can indeed be incredibly challenging. A grief support group offers a safe, welcoming environment for individuals to connect with others who understand their experiences. In this 10-week small group, you'll have the opportunity to explore new ways to cope with grief, gain valuable 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!



Fall Clothing Show & Sale

Featuring Women's & Children's Clothing

Tuesday, November 12

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.

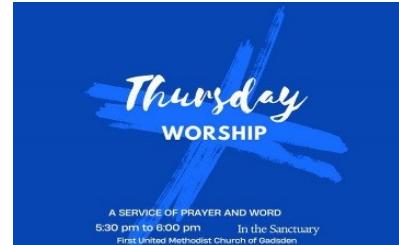
Ways to Serve

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.



Nominations for Leadership 2025

How will you serve in 2025?

Find out more about church leadership @
www.fumcgadsden.org/leadership

Follow the QR Code or look for the Serve Card in the GFUMC Church APP. Complete the Serve Card to share your interest in serving on various leadership roles and teams and a member of the nominations team will contact you!

Take the Spiritual Gifts Inventory @ Spiritual Gifts UMC.org

Every child of God is filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, specially gifted to play a unique and valued role in the body of Christ. No one is without gift or purpose.



Spiritual gifts are not our talents or skills. They are the grace of God at work within us, empowering us to match our deep passions with the world's deep need. The gifts are given to individuals, but they are given to build and strengthen community and to meet the needs of those around us.

Begin the journey. Discover your gifts. Talk about your gifts with others. Strive together to understand your gifts and how you can use them to serve God, neighbor, and world. You have been gifted. You have been given a purpose.

November Mission Focus



Chestnut Lobby on a table ready to be picked up. Remember the items need to be non-perishable and a suggested list is on the sack. These bags will need to be back to the church by Thursday, November 21st. The Salvation Army will pick them up and distribute to the families who have signed up to receive them! Thanks for your Generosity. —Mission Team

Thanksgiving Bags

The bags are out and ready for you to fill with groceries so a family can enjoy a good Thanksgiving meal. These are in the

Community Thanksgiving

Our church will again participate in this annual Thanksgiving meal. We have already received generous donations to help with purchasing food. Many thanks for that! If you want to volunteer during the week to help, please go to <https://commthanks.org/> to sign up. Thanks to all who have donated or volunteered for this wonderful event!



Striplin A/B Honor Roll Reward Party



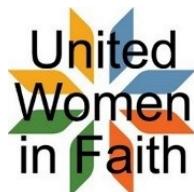
United Women in Faith

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

- ◆ November 11-History of Gadsden & Etowah County, by Ms. Mollie Smith
- ◆ December 9-Christmas Luncheon, ELC Children singing

Save the Date: UWF Bake Sale is Sunday, Nov. 24, 2024

—Delores Abney, President —Olivia Kendrick, Vice-President



LuVerna Waid Circle News

Our next meeting will be Sunday, November 17th, at 3:00 pm, in room 208. Our project this time will be making Prayer Beads. Contact Linda Cleveland about what to bring for this project. Everyone will be responsible for purchasing and buying their own beads. She will be assisting everyone in this project. Hope everyone wants to come and design their own prayer beads.

Susan Copeland

A NEW Circle is beginning. On Tuesday, October 29, 2024, a circle meeting was held at Regency Pointe. There were 16 people in attendance, including Pastor Sherri Reynolds. Watch for news and dates for other meetings.

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

November open dates are
11/6 and 11/20

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

#gfumcreconnect2023

Clients Served September 2024

Ladle of Love 434

Clothes Closet 256

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 are looking at response to Jesus, as found in the gospel of Luke. The characters who we meet along the way cause us to pause and wonder, "How would I respond?" As you consider your response, be sure to stop by the Generosity table in the Chestnut Street lobby. There you will find visuals to foster deeper connection with the scriptures from Luke.

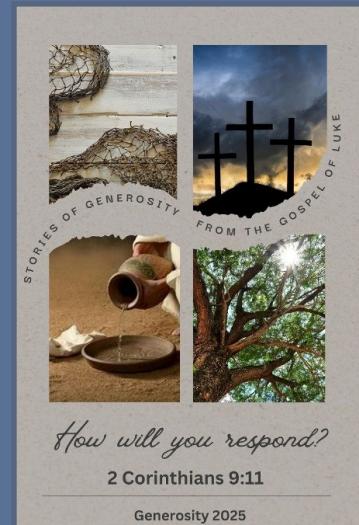
If you have not received information about the emphasis in the mail, contact the church office. In the information was a 2025 estimate of giving card. On the card you will not only find a space to share your estimate of giving for the coming year, but also a space to faithfully renew your commitment 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 Wednesday, October 26, we have \$411,016.00 committed to our 2025 general fund budget. Thank you for your generosity and for those of you who have already submitted your card.

How will you respond?

Rev. Sherri
Senior Pastor

Bob Blount
Generosity Chairman



Generosity 2025

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.)



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



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

November 11 Monday
 ELC Closed
 9:00 am-10:00 am Exercise Group, Gym
 10:30 am-UWF Executive Board meeting, Room 208
 12:00 noon– UWF Luncheon, Room 201
 2:00 pm-4:00 pm-Pickleball, Gym

November 12 Tuesday
 9:00 am-1:00 pm- ELC Fall Schedule
10:00 am-2:00 pm-Robbie's of Fayette, Room 201
 11:00 am-Grief Support Group, Room 119;
 5:00 pm-Yoga, Gym



Fall Clothing Show
 featuring
Women's & Children's Clothing
Tuesday, November 12
10:00 am to 2:00 pm, Room 201
Please invite your friends!
 A percentage of the sales is donated to GFUMC's Children's Ministry.

Save the Dates

- ◊ November 10, Blessing of the Scarves, Veteran's Day
- ◊ November 20, Wonderful Wednesday
Friendsgiving Party @ Fellowship Meal
(All Ages), 5:15 pm, Room 208
- & Friendsgiving for Kids, 6 pm, Gathering Room
- Advent Study with Rev. Sherri begins, 11 am & 6 pm
- ◊ UWF Bake Sale, Sunday, November 24, 2024
- ◊ Charge Conference, 6 pm, November 26, 2024
- ◊ Happy Thanksgiving: Wednesday – Friday, November 27, 28, & 29, Church Office closed

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Ada Blount (Bob & Trish Blount's granddaughter)

Ray Macon

Continued Prayer Concerns

Amy Epperson

Asher Mae Collins

Honorariums & Memorials

General Budget Fund

In memory of Stephe Wood given by Mr. & Mrs. Richard McCoy.

In memory of Stephe Wood, given by Susan Whitt.

Birthdays

Nov 10 Katharine Barnes
Nov 12 Paul McIntyre, Scott Skipper,
 Roger Mills, Emily Lindsey
Nov 13 Wesley Shumate
Nov 14 Juanita Hammons,
 Steven Watson
Nov 15 Shelby Smith,
 Catherine Harrison



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

—Susan Swann

Week of November 3, 2024

In Person Total-*160 Worship Total-729
 Online-569 Thursday Worship-*8
 Celebration Service-*69/246 *in person
 Traditions Service-*83/323
 Bible Study *45 Sunday School Adult-*43/1
 Children SS- *4 Sr Hi & Middle SS- *2
 Wed/Sun-Children*32 Wed/Sun-Nursery *2
 Wed/Sun-Sr.Hi *3 Middle Youth *8

General Offering Budget \$11,400.00
 General Offering Received \$21,926.00
 YTD General Offering Budget \$501,600.00
 YTD General Offering Rec'd \$560,167.00

Important Deadlines

Information for the weekly newsletter is due each Tuesday by noon.

All requests for spoken announcements for Sunday morning must be turned in by Thursday @ noon, in writing to Susan Swann.

All Meetings, Events and Activities must be scheduled in advance with the church secretary, by email or phone

Calendar for Nov. 10-16, 2024

November 13 Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Fall Schedule
 11:00 am-12:00 pm- Wednesday Morning Bible Study

5:15 pm- Wednesday night meal, Gathering Room

6:00 pm- Children activities, Room 108
 Middle School/Senior Hi, Gym, Rooms 209 & 211
 6:00 pm- Small Group Study, Room 110 & 208

6:00 pm- Choir practice, Choir room

November 14 Thursday

7:00 am-Men at the Well Bible Group

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Fall Schedule

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

5:30 pm-Thursday Worship

November 15 Friday

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