



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

Sermon Notes: Thursday, Nov. 21 & Sunday, Nov. 24, 2024

While we do not begin the season of Advent until December 1, like the rest of the world, we are rushing a bit by beginning our Advent series early: Songs of the Season. Songs permeate our society this time of year; carols, beloved Christmas hymns, and music which puts us in the holiday mood. Modern music and traditional classics enrich our time of celebration. But let's go back to the originals. These are the poems of our faith which surround the birth story. While most of these poems have not been set to music, they still are the heartbeat songs of scripture and are the songs of those who first met Jesus, with the chorus of their response continuing to echo in our hearts through the ages. Mary, Zechariah, the angels, and Simon all offered song in response to God's work around the birth of Jesus and in their poetic offerings we are renewed for this Advent season.

We begin with Mary's Song (Luke 1:39-56). This song is Mary's response to God's call upon her life to be the mother of Jesus. She acknowledged God's grace in her, a lowly servant, being chosen as the mother to God's child. Mary also thanks God for answering the prayers of His people in sending the Messiah. It is a beautiful song of gratitude and humility. As you prepare for the Advent season, spend some time with Mary's song, considering God's invitation to ministry in your life. How is God inviting you to usher in the work of the Jesus this Advent?

May the sound of God's invitation be yours this Advent season!

Rev. Sherri

Table of Contents:

- Page 1**-Sermon Notes; Tech Schedule; Acolyte Schedule; Friendsgiving Party
- Page 2**-Sunday School Classes; Small Groups
- Page 3**-Children's Ministry News
- Page 4**-ELC News; Student Ministries; Youth Fall Calendar of Events and Activities
- Page 5**-HeBrews; Pickleball; Do You Know?
- Page 6**—UWF Bake Sale & Christmas Boutique, **NEW!** Grief Support Group; We Are First T-shirts
- Page 7**—Sermon Series for Advent & Christmas; Ways to Serve; Take the Spiritual Gifts Inventory
- Page 8** -GFUMC Missions News; Clothes Closet; Ladle of Love; United Women in Faith
- Page 9** -Stories of Generosity from Luke; Ways to Give, Online Giving; Venmo
- Page 10**-Calendar; Prayer Concerns; Memorials; Birthdays; Weekly Reports; Save the Dates

Worship Opportunities

Thursdays: 5:30 pm

Sunday Mornings: Celebration 9 am*
Traditions 11 am*

On Demand: www.fumcgadsden.org/media

ACOLYTES

November 24: Luke Barnes

Thursday Worship Security

Nov. 21 Todd Rains

Nov. 28 No Thursday Worship Service

Tech Team Schedule

November 24

Celebration: Sheila Freeman, Bill Haller, Carmen McKiven
Traditions: Davis Varner, Neil Mullin, Sheila Freeman

December 1

Celebration: Sheila Freeman, Bill Haller, Brad Barnes
Traditions: Wayne Payton, Neil Mullin, Rob Reynolds

New 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



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

No Meal on November 27
\$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

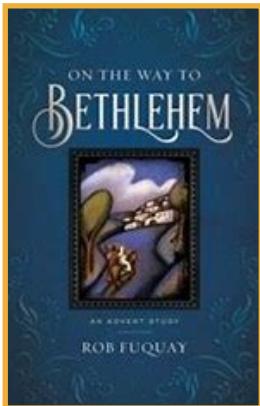
Adult Small Groups @ Wonderful Wednesdays

No Small Group Study on Wednesday, November 27

New Adult Studies on Sunday Mornings

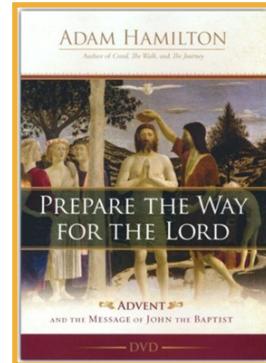
“Prepare the Way for the Lord”

Living Water/Martin Fellowship Room 116



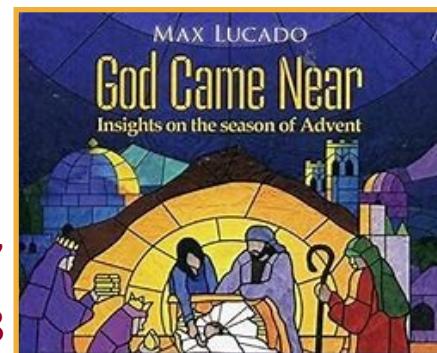
“On the Way to Bethlehem”

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.**

Children's Ministry

Sunday Mornings @ 9 am and 11 am, Children's Church & 10 am Sunday School
November 27, No Wednesday Night Supper
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 DECEMBER CALENDAR

2024

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.FUMCGADSDEN.ORG/CHILDREN

ELC News

Thursday, November 21st, the ELC faculty and students enjoyed Team Spirit Day. We sported our team colors with pride. The ELC will be closed for Thanksgiving Week, November 25th through 28th. Normal hours will resume on Monday, December 2nd.

—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, Room 208

No Wednesday Meal on November 27

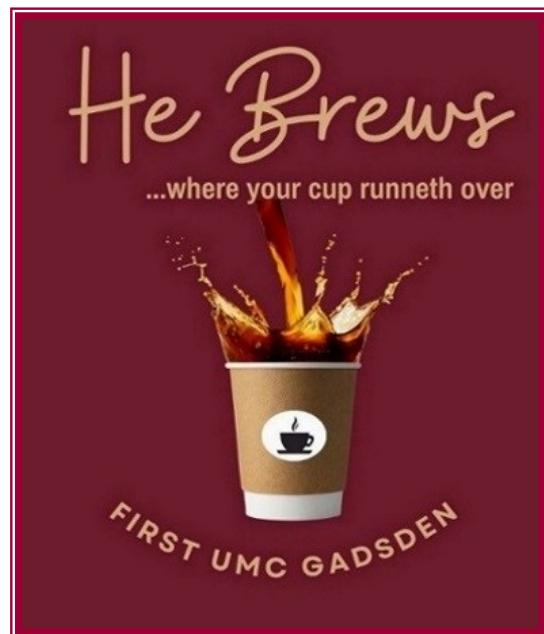
\$7 Youth & Adults \$3 Children 11 & Under

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**



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!!!



D
O
Y
O
U
K
n
o
w
?

CHARLES & KATHY TROTTER

Kathy, the daughter of longtime church members, Hubert and Audrey Owen, grew up in Gadsden and graduated from Westminster Christian School. She received an undergraduate degree in Elementary Education from Jacksonville State University and a Master's degree in Elementary Education from the University of Alabama. Her first job was as the Education Director at our church, overseeing all Children's and Youth programs from 1985 to 1988. She then taught for 34 years with the Gadsden City School System, mostly teaching 3rd grade. Now retired, she loves to bake, cook, entertain, travel, and spend time with her grandchildren. Charles, the son of longtime church members Lee and Jane Trotter, grew up in Gadsden and graduated from Westminster Christian School before attending Auburn University. (At age 12, he joined our church on the same day that 10-year-old Kathy did.) He worked for Goodyear, Owen Realty, Tillman Consulting, and Kessler Land Agency, and is now a broker with Kessler-Trotter Land Agency. Charles has enjoyed golfing, but currently loves fishing and being outdoors. They have 2 sons: Owen Trotter, a Sr. Project Manager/Estimator for Dunn Building out of Birmingham, AL; and Tyler Trotter, who lives in Daphne, AL, and is a full-time Nursing Instructor at Coastal Alabama Community College and is working on his Doctorate in Nursing.

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.*



Grief Support Group @ Gadsden First UMC

Tuesdays @ 11 am

Room 119 Facilitator: Julia Lopez

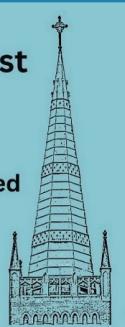
Coping with grief and loss can indeed be incredibly challenging. A grief support group offers a safe, welcoming environment for individuals to connect with others who understand their experiences. In this 10-week small group, you'll have the opportunity to explore new ways to cope with grief, gain valuable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



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.



Take the Spiritual Gifts Inventory @ [Spiritual Gifts UMC.org](http://SpiritualGiftsUMC.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



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 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

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

- ◆ December 9-Christmas Luncheon, ELC Children singing



The Bake Sale is Sunday, November 24. Remember UWF ladies, we need you to bake and bring 3 items or one large item for the bake sale. We will have items for auction. Bring your bake goods on Friday, November 22 by 2 pm or Sunday morning beginning at 8:30 am. For further information call Delores Abney at 256-458-0376.

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

LuVerna Waid Circle Help is needed to decorate the Chrismon Tree! Our circle has the privilege of preparing our beautiful tree for the Advent Season. We will meet in the sanctuary on Tuesday, November 26th at 10:00 am. Hope you can come for this meaningful time of fellowship! Our 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

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.

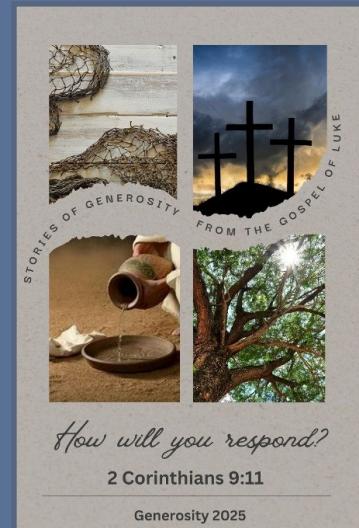
If you have not received information about the emphasis in the mail, contact the church office. In the information was a 2025 estimate of giving card. On the card you will not only find a space to share your estimate of giving for the coming year, but also a space to faithfully renew your commitment 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, November 13, we have \$448,696.00 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
Senior Pastor

Bob Blount
Generosity Chairman

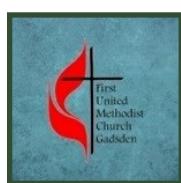


Generosity 2025

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

Thanksgiving

*Praise the **LORD** your God,
who is from everlasting to everlasting.*

NEHEMIAH 9:5 (NIV)

November 24 Sunday

9:00 am-Celebration Worship, Sanctuary
UWF Bake Sale, Chestnut Lobby

10:00 am-Sunday School for all ages
10:00 am-HeBrews Coffee, Chestnut Street Foyer

11:00 am-Traditions Worship, Sanctuary

November 25 Monday

ELC Closed Monday-Thursday
2:00 pm-4:00 pm-Pickleball, Gym

Calendar for Nov. 24-30, 2024

November 26 Tuesday

11:00 am-Grief Support Group, Room 119;
5:00 pm-Yoga, Gym

6:00 pm-Charge Conference & Board of
Stewards Meeting, Gathering Room

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

November 27 Wednesday

Office Closed at 12:00 noon

No Wednesday night meal or activities

November 28 Thursday-Office Closed

No Thursday Worship

November 29 Friday-Office closed

No Ladle of Love

Shop the UWF Bake Sale in the Chestnut Foyer, this Sunday, 8:30 am to 12:30 pm!

Baked Goods and casseroles perfect for Thanksgiving will be available to purchase! And you can bid on specialty Auction Items! The new 2024 UWF Christmas Card will also be available!

Honorariums & Memorials

General Budget Fund In memory of James Pruitt, given by Marian Ford.
In memory of Stephe Wood, given by Dr. & Mrs. Steve Frederick.

Children's Ministry In memory of Mickey Langstaff, given by Paula Wilson.
In memory of Mickey Langstaff, given by Mr. & Mrs. Alan Ross.

Choir Fund

In memory of Mickey Langstaff given by Mr. & Mrs. Mandell Tillman.

SRJ Scholarship Fund In memory of Ruth Chandler and Neita Taylor,
given by Leone Norris.

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Ada Blount (Bob & Trish Blount's granddaughter)
Shep Vincent (Jill Vincent's grandson)

Continued Prayer

Concerns

Ray Macon
Asher Mae Collins
Amy Epperson



Birthdays

Nov 24 Dele Cannon, Lori Varner
Nov 25 Tim Staton
Nov 26 Butch Herb, Inga Livingston
Nov 27 Barbara Jones, Annette Jones
Nov 28 Sally Moss, Lucy Edwards, Kim Reed
Nov 29 Susan Hand, Sandra Hill, Karen Winters
Nov 30 Michelle Morgan, Kevin Thornburg, Jake Thornburg



Week of November 17, 2024

In Person Total-*157 Worship Total-773
Online-616 Thursday Worship-*9
Celebration Service-*70/259 *in person
Traditions Service-*78/357 UWF *34
Bible Study *25 Sunday School Adult-*43/1
Children SS- *3 Sr Hi & Middle SS- *3
Wed/Sun-Children*30 Wed/Sun-Nursery *4
Wed/Sun-Sr.Hi *6 Middle Youth *8

General Offering Budget \$11,400.00
General Offering Received \$10,822.00
YTD General Offering Budget \$524,400.00
YTD General Offering Rec'd \$578,712.00

Important Deadlines

Information for the weekly newsletter is due each Tuesday by noon.
Note Special Deadline:
All information for the Sunday, December 1st Newsletter and Worship Folders is needed by Thursday, November 21.

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