

*Stories from the
Gospel of Luke*

The Woman with the Alabaster Jar

Luke 36-50



*How will you
respond with
gratitude to
Jesus?*
Generosity 2025

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

Sermon Notes: Thursday, Oct. 10 & Sunday, Oct. 13, 2024

This is our second week in the 2025 Generosity Emphasis, journeying through Luke. In this gospel, Jesus meets folks where they are, offering radical grace. Each of the characters responded differently to God's grace.

The Woman with the Alabaster Jar (Luke 7: 36-50): Jesus was dining at the home of a Pharisee. A woman who had a bad reputation located Jesus and came to where he was dining. She brought with her an expensive jar of ointment and stood at his feet, weeping, bathing his feet with her tears and wiping his feet with her hair. She kissed Jesus' feet and anointed them with the ointment. This scene outraged the Pharisees. After all, she was sinful and if Jesus were a prophet, then he would know and have nothing to do with this unclean woman. Jesus responded to the Pharisees, telling them she was only reacting to what she had experienced. She had experienced radical grace and from radical grace came extreme devotion, affection, generosity, and love. Her sins were forgiven, and she responded with profound thanksgiving. This was the response of the woman with the Alabaster jar. How will you respond? Too often we fail to show gratitude to Jesus for what he has done. Unlike the Woman with the Alabaster Jar, we rarely go to lavish measures to express gratitude. How do we need to express gratitude? With our words and prayers? Through worship? By giving back to God a portion of what he has given us? Telling others about the goodness of God? How is Jesus inviting you to respond? How will you respond?

Rev. Sherri



United Methodist Committee On Relief

If you are looking for ways to donate to those impacted by Hurricane Helene across the Southeast U.S., consider donating to UMCOR (The United Methodist Committee on Relief).

UMCOR responds to natural or civil disasters of such magnitude that they overwhelm a community's ability to recover on its own. Through UMCOR, United Methodists extend loving care to people within the United States. When disaster strikes, it is local churches that provide the first response to their communities. This basic understanding—that disaster response is local—forms the foundation for UMCOR's US disaster training and response. When responding to a disaster in the United States, UMCOR provides training, financial assistance, expertise, community collaboration to churches and partners making them more resilient to disasters.

Hurricane Helene Donate Link – <https://umcmmission.org/advance-project/901670/>

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Worship Opportunities
Thursdays: 5:30 pm
Sunday Mornings: Celebration 9 am*
 Traditions 11 am*

*In Person (Sanctuary) and Online

Website: www.fumcgadsden.org/media

Facebook Live: @FUMCGadsden

You Tube: @gadsdenfirstumc6543

On Demand: www.fumcgadsden.org/media

ACOLYTES

October 13: Luke Barnes

October 20: Rhett Hilburn, Clementine Hilburn

Tech Team Schedule

October 13

Celebration: Eric Wright, Sheila Freeman, Rob Reynolds
Traditions: Mark Condra, Sheila Freeman, Brad Barnes

October 20

Celebration: Eric Wright, Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman
Traditions: Mark Condra, Wayne Payton, Sheila Freeman

Confirmation for Adults - w/ Rev. Sherri

Ever wonder what students learn in confirmation class? Want to learn more about the United Methodist Church or Wesleyan Theology? Need a refresher on the basics of faith? Then this class is for you. Based on the We Believe curriculum, the class is an overview of the basics. Be a part of all the classes or drop in for one. The class will meet for one hour on Wednesdays at 11 am in the Gathering Room or Wednesday nights at 6 pm in classroom 208. See the schedule below for the topics of classes, dates, and times. —Rev. Sherri Reynolds

	Wednesday at 11am	Wednesday at 6pm
Sin and Salvation	October 16	October 16
Growing in God's Grace	October 23	October 23
Living a Christian Life	October 30	October 30
Responding to God's Grace	November 6	November 6
First United Methodist Church	November 13	November 13
	(No study on August 28 or September 11)	(No study September 18 or October 9)

Advent Study @11am and 6 pm —November 20, December 4, and December 11

Wednesday Fellowship, Gathering Room/201

Menu: Chicken Fingers, Macaroni & 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

Renewed: Finding Hope When You Don't Like Your Story



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.**

ELC News

Fall picture proof sheets went home this week. Please note the ELC will be closed in honor of Columbus Day and in recognition of GCS Fall Break Monday, October 14th. We will see everyone on Tuesday, October 15th. On Thursday, October 17th, the 4K Class teachers and parents will field trip to Fire Station One.

—Helene



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

Menu: Chicken Fingers, Macaroni & Cheese, Salad, Dessert

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

Dinner is served beginning at 5:15 PM

Upcoming Events for Youth

Haunted Chicken House	October 19
Hockey Game	November 1
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
 Wednesday Night Supper: Chicken Fingers 5:15 pm, October 16, \$3 Under 11, \$7 Adults
 Take a look at all the Fall Calendar of Events & Activities for Children.

GFUMC CHILDREN'S
OCTOBER UNIT
 WEDNESDAY'S
 AT 6:00
#WeAreFirst

WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4	WEEK 5
We can choose to be THANKFUL.	We can LOVE God and others.	We can TURN TO GOD when we're lost.	We can go to God when we need REST.	We can remember God's PROMISES.

"I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."
 Isaiah 43:19b (NIV)

2024

AUG 14 ICE CREAM SOCIAL
WONDERFUL WED. RESUMES

FALL FESTIVAL
5:00-7:00 PM

NOV 20 FRIENDSGIVING
6 PM

SANTA BRUNCH
10:00 AM

DEC 15 CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
5:00 PM

OCT 09

DEC 8

Wonderful Wednesdays, every Wed. @6:00

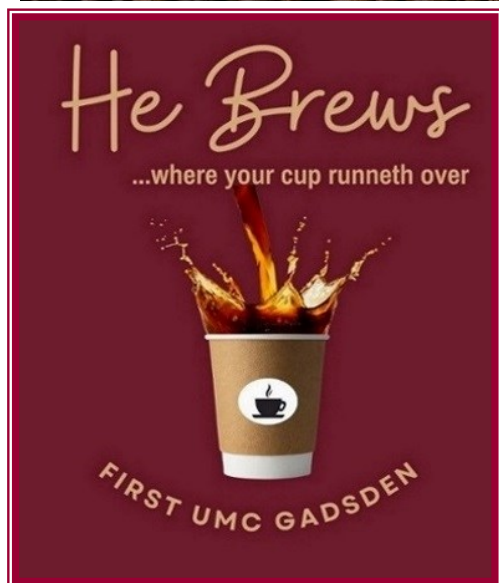
August Dreaming: From Genesis to Joseph
 September Lead the Way: Series on Moses
 October Are We There Yet? In the Wilderness
 November Right Track: Series on Joshua
 December Christmas Vacation: Series on Christmas

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.FUMCGADSDEN.ORG/CHILDREN

We need your photo!

We are creating a prayer wall in the Kid's Worship Room, and we need photos of our kids! If you would like for your child to be included, bring a current photo, selfie, or portrait!

Philippians 1:3



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?

JULIA LOPEZ

Julia grew up in Merrill, Wisconsin, and graduated from Merrill Senior High School. She then received her degree as a Registered Nurse (RN) at Presentation College in Aberdeen, South Dakota. She began her career by working in the Coronary Intensive Care Unit at Hennepin County Hospital in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and is now retired after 33 years in nursing. In the 1970s, she spent time in Mobile, AL, and loved it, wanting to come back to Alabama when she retired; but she hesitated to be so close to the shore during hurricane season, so she decided to move to Gadsden. Julia has three grown children: Juliette (56), a stay-at-home mom who has her own soap-making business; Christopher (51), who has worked for the U.S. government in various capacities; and Norman (46), a tool and die maker in northwestern Wisconsin. Her husband, Gilbert Lopez, is deceased, but used to work on a Navajo reservation for the State of Arizona. Julia enjoys inventing lotions, creams, and sprays for women and hopes to market them sometime in the future. She also loves reading, gardening, knitting, crocheting, cooking, and baking.

October Mission Focus



The Mission Team is receiving donations during the month of October for 2nd Chance. *Items may be placed in the Red Buckets located at the entrances to the sanctuary and in the Chestnut Foyer.* 2nd Chance, Inc. has been assisting survivors of domestic violence since 1990. Serving Etowah,

Calhoun, Cleburne, and Talladega Counties, they receive almost 1000 crisis calls each year from this service area. There are two emergency shelters in Calhoun County. One is for people with limited mobility and is completely ADA compliant. They also provide case management, legal advocacy, counseling, support groups and relocation assistance, all free of charge. 2nd Chance serves women, men, and children, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, age, disability and/or sexual orientation. Their 24-hour crisis line is 256-236-7233.

—**Towels*** (Bath and Kitchen) **Bedding*** (Twin and full-size sheets, blankets & pillows) and **Luggage*** (Suitcases, Tote bags, and reusable shopping bags)

**can be in good used condition*

—**Cleaning Supplies and Paper Products**

—**OTC Medications for adults and children** (Advil, Tylenol, Cough/Cold Medicine, antibiotic ointment, etc.)

—**Personal Hygiene Items and Baby items**

—**Packages of new underwear and socks** (all sizes)

—**Gas Cards or Walmart Gift Cards** (in small amounts for prescriptions, gas, etc.)

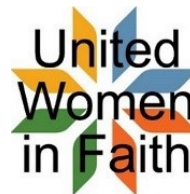
—**Old Cell Phones** —*doesn't matter if they work, have chargers, or how old they are. They are recycled through Shelter Alliance: www.shelteralliance.net and given to clients for 911 access, or to be activated with a local provider.*

United Women in Faith

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

- ♦ **October 14-Luncheon, 12 pm**
Gadsden State Community College A Capella Choir
- ♦ **November 11-History of Gadsden & Etowah County,**
by Ms. Mollie Smith
- ♦ **December 9-Christmas Luncheon, ELC Children singing**

Delores Abney, President
Olivia Kendrick, Vice-President



LuVerna Waid Circle News

We are making changes! In order to be the hands and feet of Christ, as we feel commissioned to do, our Circle is changing our meeting day. We will now meet on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 3:00 pm, in room 208. We will still share a devotion, but will be doing Hands-on-Mission Projects each month. On Sunday, October 13th, we will make fleece scarves to be distributed to selected agencies for winter weather. We have plenty of fleece blankets to make the scarves thanks to our generous members.

The LuVerna Waid Circle is very excited about our new mission! Thanks to all who helped by bringing "fleece blankets for scarves" to provide warmth for those in need this winter!

We will look forward to these monthly mission projects with fun and fellowship. We hope to have many ladies join us!

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

10/2 and 10/16

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:

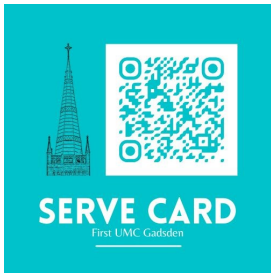
fumc@fumcgadsden.org

#gfumcreconnect2023

Clients Served August 2024

Ladle of Love	500
Clothes Closet	321

**Thanks to our
Volunteers!**



It's Time for 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 in various leadership roles and teams and a member of the nominations team will contact you!

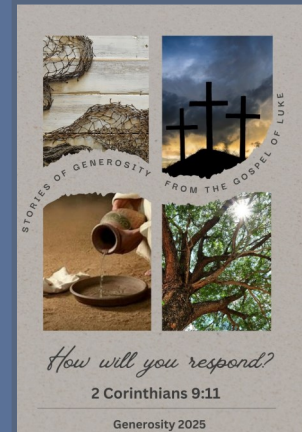
Stories of Generosity from the Gospel of Luke

This October, First United Methodist Church will spend the month in the gospel of Luke examining the response of people as they met Jesus. Simon left everything to follow. The forgiven woman was extravagantly generous and worshipful. Zacchaeus changed his life, making amends for his deceptive practices. The thief on the cross trusted Jesus as they were dying by Roman execution. Their stories capture our imagination and cause us to wonder how we might respond. These stories set the backdrop for Generosity 2025.

When we encounter Jesus, we respond in some way. Do we reject him or ignore him? Do we react with devotion and worship? Do we serve others and share with others about him? Do we live generous lives, offering thanks and changing to be more like Christ? These are questions which we all answer individually. I pray that our encounters with Jesus challenge us to lead lives which produce great thanksgiving to God, just like the people that we meet in Luke through this upcoming sermon series.

"You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us" 2 Corinthians 9:11

How will you respond? —Rev. Sherri



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

Calendar for October 13-19, 2024

October 13 Sunday

9:00 am-Celebration Worship, Sanctuary
 10:00 am-Sunday School for all ages
 10:00 am-HeBrews Coffee, Chestnut Street Foyer
10:00 am-10:40 am-Muffins with the Minister, Parlor
 11:00 am-Traditions Worship, Sanctuary
 3:00 pm-LuVerna Waid Circle, Room 208

October 14 Monday

ELC Closed
 9:00 am-10:00 am Exercise Group, Gym
10:30 am-UWF Board meeting, Room 208
12:00 pm, UWF Luncheon, Gym
 2:00 pm-4:00 pm-Pickleball, Gym

October 15 Tuesday

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

October 16 Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Fall Schedule
 9:00 am-11:00 am-Clothes Closet open
 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 & Rooms 108 & 211
 6:00 pm- Small Group Study, Room 110 & 208
 6:00 pm- Choir practice Choir room

October 17 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

October 18 Friday

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

Save the Date: All Saints' Sunday, November 3, 2024



Join Rev. Sherri in the parlor on Sunday October 13 from 10:00am- 10:40am for **Muffins with the Minister**. Have a question about church membership, theology, worship, or the United Methodist Church? Have a concern that you want to share? Craving a muffin and conversation with the pastor? Grab a cup of coffee from Hebrews and join her in the parlor (Room 117).

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Stephe Wood
 Michael Morris (Dawn Rains' father)

Continued Prayer Concerns

Amy Epperson
 Asher Mae Collins



Honorariums & Memorials

General Budget Fund

In memory of Suzanne Phillips, given by Susan Whitt.
 In memory of Albert Gibson, given by Susan Whitt.

Youth Fund

In memory of Judy Collins, given by Mr. & Mrs. Richard McCoy.

Music Fund

In memory of Albert Gibson, given by Jill Vincent.

Birthdays

Oct 13 Mary Gomillion, Lara Murray
Oct 14 Alana Woodall Clemens, Addison Rains
Oct 15 Dr. Mike McEwen, Robin Wilson, Anna Catherine Edwards
Oct 16 Margaret Kirby, Millie Martin, Dr. Nancy McCorkle, Ashby New
Oct 18 Bob Blount, Trinity McKiven, Rachel Reynolds, Georgia Godfrey
Oct 19 Rex Pruett, Becky Oltman, Brandi Martin

Week of October 6, 2024

In Person Total-*184 Worship Total-705
 Online-521 Thursday Worship-*6
 Celebration Service-*37/231 *in person
 Blessing of Animals *52 Bible Study *28
 Traditional Service-*96/290
 Sunday School Adult-0 Children *0
 Sr Hi & Middle *0 Wed/Sun-Children*38
 Wed/Sun-Sr.Hi & Middle Youth *7 Nursery *1
 General Offering Budget \$11,400.00
 General Offering Received \$23,439.00
 YTD General Offering Budget \$456,000.00
 YTD General Offering Rec'd \$517,481.00



There will be an Emmaus Cluster Meeting on October 15 at First UMC Gadsden. If you have completed an Emmaus Walk, please contact Susan in the church office, 256-543-8200.