

*Stories from the
Gospel of Luke*



*How will you
respond to God's
grace?*

Generosity 2025

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

Sermon Notes: Thursday, Oct. 17 & Sunday, Oct. 20, 2024

Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10): Jesus was passing through Jericho. Zacchaeus was eager to see him. With the crowd around Jesus, Zacchaeus climbed a tree for a better view. Jesus, upon meeting Zacchaeus, told him to come down from the tree because he was going to Zacchaeus' house today. The crowd began to grumble, because Zacchaeus was a tax collector and was despised by his fellow Jews. Zacchaeus was floored by Jesus' radical acceptance and kindness. This rabbi not only saw him, but he was forging a relationship with him. Zacchaeus then told Jesus that he would give half his money to the poor and make amends for any financial misdealing. Salvation had come to Zacchaeus and his household. This relationship caused Zacchaeus to repent and turn. This is the response of Zacchaeus. How will you respond?

Too often it is hard to change as we encounter Jesus' grace. Zacchaeus surrendered his way of life, repenting and making amends. We are saved by faith, but change is the result of a surrendered life. What changes are needed in our lives? Do we need to more fully live into our membership vows? Where can we show grace in response to our salvation. How is Jesus inviting you to 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/>

Table of Contents:

Page 1—Sermon Notes; Tech Schedule; Acolyte Schedule; UMCOR
Page 2—Sunday School Classes; Small Groups
Page 3—ELC News; Student Ministries; Youth Fall Calendar of Events and Activities
Page 4—Children's Ministry News
Page 5—HeBrews; Pickleball; Do You Know?
Page 6— **NEW!** Grief Support Group,
 Page 7— Robbie's of Fayette; All Saint's Sunday; Serve Card; Spiritual Gifts Inventory
 Page 8 — GFUMC Missions News; Clothes Closet; Ladle of Love; United Women in Faith
Page 9 St— Stories of Generosity from Luke: How Will You Respond?; 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*

*In Person (Sanctuary) and Online

Website: www.fumcgadsden.org/media

Facebook Live: @FUMCgadsden

ACOLYTES

October 20: Rhett Hilburn, Clementine Hilburn
 October 27: Marit Norris

Tech Team Schedule

October 20

Celebration: Eric Wright, Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman

Traditions: Mark Condra, Wayne Payton, Sheila Freeman

October 27

Celebration: Eric Wright, Carmen McKiven

Traditions: Davis Varner, Neil Mullin, Brad Barnes

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
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: 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

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

Our 4K Field Trip was a blast as always. This coming week we will have our October Lunchbox Revolt. Papa John's Pizza will be served. 4K will have another round of Show and Tell which is always a monthly highlight. Thursday, October 31st will be our annual Halloween Parade.

—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: Chick fil A

\$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: Chick Fil A 5:15 pm, October 23, \$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)

GFUMC KIDS FALL CALENDAR

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

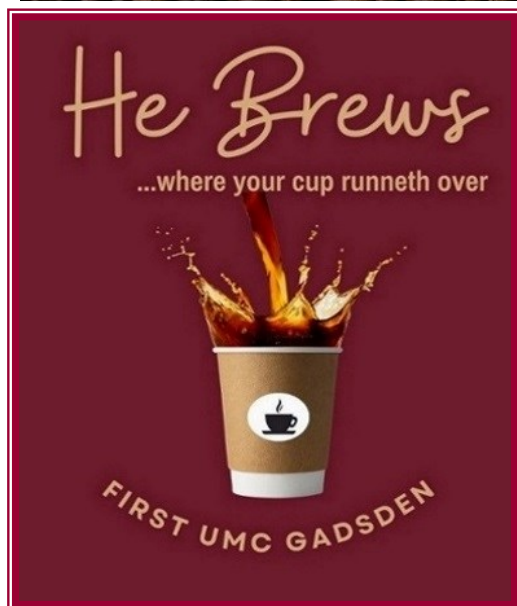
- August Dreaming: From Genesis to Joseph
- September Lead the Way: Series on Moses
- October Are We There Yet? In the Wilderness
- November Right Track: Series on Joshua
- December Christmas Vacation: Series on Christmas

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?

JOHN & MARGIE FREEMAN

John grew up in Gadsden and graduated from Gadsden High. He received a Business degree from Jacksonville State and took Business courses at the Master's level before joining his father's real estate company, Freeman-Kennedy. When the two partners retired, he took over the business and expanded it to include both Real Estate and Development. John is a lifelong member of our church. He was baptized here as a child and has served in the choir, on the Board of Stewards and Board of Trustees, as a leader in the acquisition of the Noojin Building, and as Chair of the renovation of the church playground. Margie grew up in East Gadsden, where her family attended East Gadsden Methodist church. She graduated from Gadsden High, then studied Business at Jacksonville State, married John, and devoted her time to their 3 children: Alex (now 55), who works for Norfolk-Southern Railway; Holly—an Auburn graduate and mother of 3 children—who passed away at age 45 in 2020 from lifelong health problems; and David (42), an engineer with Alabama Power Company. Margie has also been very active in our church, teaching Sunday School, being in charge of the Acolytes and of Fellowship, and working in our Soup Kitchen. Her hobbies include gardening, cooking, reading, and Sudoku.



All Saints' Sunday

On Sunday November 3, First United Methodist of Gadsden will celebrate the lives of church members who died during this past year at both our Celebration Worship (9am) and Traditions Worship (11am). They will be honored at a special time of remembrance and during the sermon. In addition, all worshippers will have an opportunity to light a candle for loved ones who are deceased.

"All Saints Day" reminds us that we are surrounded by "a great cloud of witnesses" who continue to bless us and inspire us each day. We hope you and your extended family will be able to join us on November 3! If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the church office at

256-543-8200.

Rev Shu Reynolds

New: Grief Support Group @ Gadsden First UMC

Begins Tuesday, November 5 @ 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.



Fall Clothing Show & Sale

Tuesday, November 12

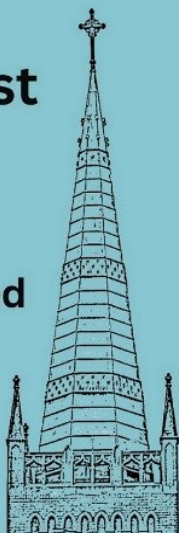
10:00 am to 2:00 pm, Gathering Room

Please Invite Friends!

A percentage of the sales is donated to
GFUMC's Children's Ministry Program.

#wearefirst

- Diverse
- Investing
- Empowered
- Rooted



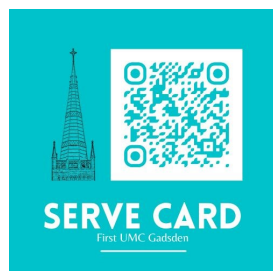
Share your pictures
of all things
FIRST
with #wearefirst
on Social Media!



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!



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 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.

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)

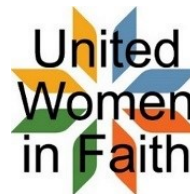
—**Gas Cards or Walmart Gift Cards** (in small amounts for prescriptions, gas, etc.)

—**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 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**



Delores Abney, President
Olivia Kendrick, Vice-President

LuVerna Waid Circle News

Bravo! On Sunday, October 13, we met and 215 scarves were completed to share with many in need as our weather is turning colder! With bolts of material still left to make more, Jeanne Mabeus and Linda Cleveland went back to church and finished all the scarves. Thank you! Now, 350 plus scarves will be given out to the Freedom Center, Family Success Center, Salvation Army, our Clothes Closet, Ladle of Love, and Striplin Elementary. Due to the UWF Luncheons schedule on the 2nd Monday each month, it was decided that we will now meet on the 3rd Sunday afternoon. This will give time for preparation for the luncheons. Our next meeting will be Sunday, November 17th, at 3:00 pm, in room 208. Our project this time will be making Prayer Beads. More information to come!

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 August 2024

Ladle of Love	500
Clothes Closet	321

**Thanks to our
Volunteers!**

Stories of Generosity from the Gospel of Luke

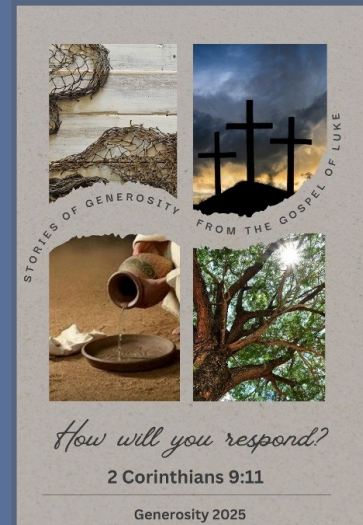
We are near the end of our 2025 Generosity Emphasis. During the month of October, we are looking at response to Jesus, as found in the gospel of Luke. The characters who we meet along the way cause us to pause and wonder, "How would I respond?" As you consider your response, be sure to stop by the Generosity 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 this Monday, we have \$118,472 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 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

Calendar for October 20-26, 2024

October 20 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

October 21 Monday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Fall Schedule
9:00 am-10:00 am Exercise Group, Gym
2:00 pm-4:00 pm-Pickleball, Gym

5:00 pm-Trustees Meeting

October 22 Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm- ELC Fall Schedule
5:00 pm-Yoga, Gym

5:00 pm-Finance Meeting

6:00 pm-Board of Stewards meeting

October 23 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 & Youth activities

Gym & Rooms 108 & 211

6:00 pm- Small Group Study, Room 110 & 208

6:00 pm- Choir practice Choir room

October 24 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 25 Friday

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



Fall

Clothing Show

Tuesday, November 12

10:00 am to 2:00 pm, Room 201

Please Invite Friends!

A percentage of the sales is donated
to GFUMC's Children's Ministry
Program.



All Saints' Sunday

**Worship: 9 am and 11 am
November 3, 2024**

*In Memory of His Life
Stephen (Stephe) Oscar Wood
October 14, 2024*

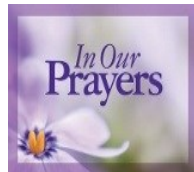


Immediate Prayer Concerns

Family of Stephe Wood
Michael Morris (Dawn Rains' father)

Continued Prayer Concerns

Amy Epperson
Asher Mae Collins



Honorariums & Memorials

Children's Ministry Fund

In memory of Bobby Kitchens, given by Mr. & Mrs. Steve Frederick.

Birthdays

Oct 20 Bubba Masters, Dane Hyatt,
Reagan Mullin, Allison Haller
Oct 21 Bess Estis, Mandell Tillman
Oct 23 Julie Gage, Hadley Hedgspeth
Oct 24 Sonya Nesbitt, Samuel Dabbs,
Anna Kate Casey, Josephine Leach,
Charlie Hilburn
Oct 25 Paige Whitt, Susan Whitt,
Philips Leach, Jordan Ryle
Oct 26 Stacy Hilburn, Qwintan Brothers,
Gregory Ridens



Week of October 13, 2024

In Person Total-*134 Worship Total-893
Online-759 Thursday Worship-*12
Celebration Service-*40/443 *in person
Traditions Service-*82/316 UWF *13
Bible Study *17 Sunday School Adult-*35
Children *4 Sr Hi & Middle *2
Wed/Sun-Children*36 Wed/Sun Nursery *6
Wed/Sun-Sr.Hi & Middle Youth *14

General Offering Budget \$11,400.00
General Offering Received \$4,915.00
YTD General Offering Budget \$467,400.00
YTD General Offering Rec'd \$522,396.00

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
susan@fumcgadsden.org**