

Stories of
Generosity
from Luke



How will you
respond with
trust in
Jesus?

Generosity 2025

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

Sermon Notes: Thursday, Oct. 24 & Sunday, Oct. 27, 2024

The Man Promised Paradise (Luke 23: 32-43):

This was the last day of his life. There was no hope. He was dying by Roman execution for his crimes. Next to him, was another man condemned to death. This man was different. He prayed for forgiveness for those who were tormenting him and killing him. Everyone was deriding him, even the third man dying with them. This man, Jesus, had done nothing wrong but grace and peace were evident as he died. There was something about Jesus which impacted the condemned criminal. He believed and asked Jesus if he would remember him when he came into His kingdom. Jesus promised that this day he would receive the gift of paradise for trusting him. This was the response of the thief on the cross. How will you respond? Do we really trust Jesus? Do we really trust Jesus with our life? Too often we hold back, wanting control. The man beside Jesus on a cross trusted in Jesus as he died. Where do we need to trust Jesus?

Rev. Sherri



United Methodist Committee On Relief

If you are looking for ways to donate to those impacted by Hurricanes Helene and Milton 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.

Make check out to GFUMC and designate UMCOR or go to

Hurricane Helene Donate Link – <https://umcmission.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

ACOLYTES

October 27: Marit Norris

November 3: Anna Kate Casey & Jade Collins

Tech Team Schedule

October 27

Celebration: Eric Wright, Rob Reynolds, Carmen McKiven

Traditions: Davis Varner, Neil Mullin, Brad Barnes

November 3

Celebration: Sheila Freeman, Bill Haller, Brad Barnes

Traditions: Wayne Payton, Neil Mullin, 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
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

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

Wednesday Fellowship, Gathering Room/201

Menu: Lasagna, Spaghetti, 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.

ELC News

Having Papa John's was so much fun!! 4K's Show and Tell could not be beat. This coming Thursday is Halloween. ELC's annual Halloween Parade will start at 9:30. Church volunteers are welcome and appreciated. If you would like to help, please let Helene know by Tuesday.

—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

Menu: Lasagna, Spaghetti, Salad, & Dessert

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

Dinner is served beginning at 5:15 PM

Upcoming Events for Youth

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: Lasagna, Spaghetti, Salad & Dessert

5:15 pm, \$3 Under 11, \$7 Adults

GFUMC CHILDREN'S

OCTOBER UNIT

WEDNESDAY'S

5:15:00

#WeAreFirst



WEEK 1

We can choose to be **THANKFUL.**

WEEK 2

We can **LOVE** God and others.

WEEK 3

We can **TURN TO GOD** when we're lost.

WEEK 4

We can go to God when we need **REST.** **PROMISES.**

WEEK 5

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

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
15

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



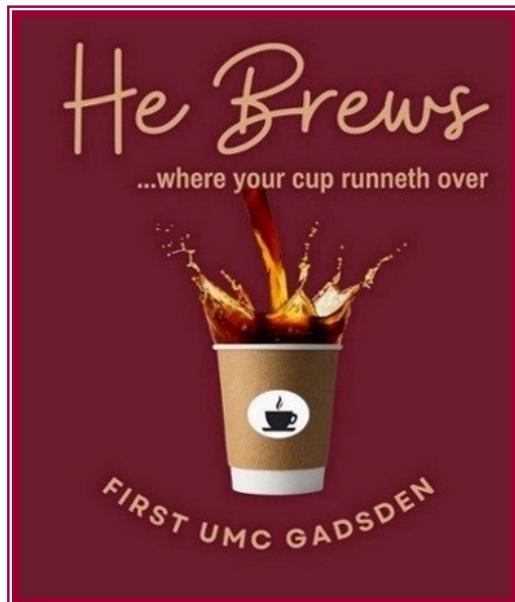
FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.FUMCGADSDEN.ORG/CHILDREN

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!!!



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ALAN & GINGER ROSS



Alan grew up in Birmingham, AL, and graduated from Berry High School before receiving a degree in Business from the University of Alabama. For a few years, he worked at Square D, an electrical components company in Leeds, AL, before becoming the Manager of Plumbers Wholesale on Forrest Avenue in Gadsden, a job he has held for 48 years. Ginger met Alan on a blind date set up by Dave Cummons—Ginger's brother and the owner of Plumbers Wholesale. Ginger grew up in Gadsden, graduated from Gadsden High, and received a degree from the University of Alabama in Special Education for the hearing impaired. For 30 years, she worked as the Office Manager for Cummons Construction and Sandpiper Management, retiring 2 1/2 years ago. Alan and Ginger enjoy traveling, hiking, boating, and gardening. They have 3 grown children: Matt (44), who works in sales for U.S. Foods; Jennifer (42), who works at Plumbers Wholesale; and David (36), who works at REV Renewables (renewable energy) in Houston, TX. Ginger has taught MYF at our church and was the director of Mother's Day Out for 6 years; while Alan has been Chairman of the Board of Trustees and served on the Board of Stewards, Staff-Parish Relations Committee, and the Nominating Committee.



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

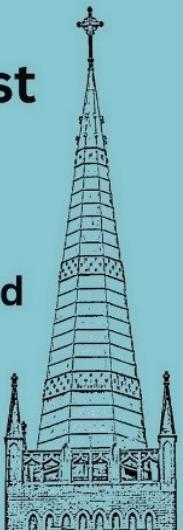
10:00 am to 2:00 pm, Gathering Room

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.

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

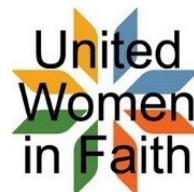
516 Broad Street Gadsden

Find out more about mission and service opportunities @ www.fumcgadsden.org/serve

Phone: 256-543-8200

Email:

fumc@fumcgadsden.org



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

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.

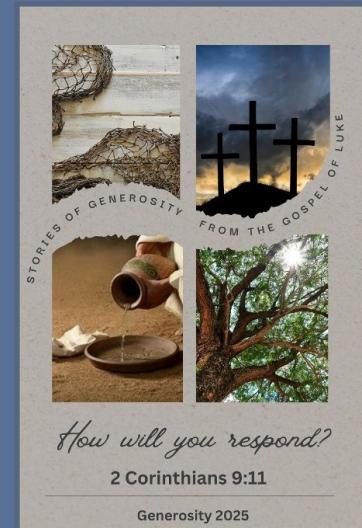
If you have not received information about the emphasis in the mail, contact the church office. In the information was a 2025 estimate of giving card. On the card you will not only find a space to share your estimate of giving for the coming year, but also a space to faithfully renew your commitment 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 Wednesday, October 23, we have \$308,000 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

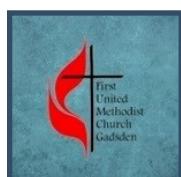
Bob Blount
Generosity Chairman



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

October 27 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 28 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
October 29 Tuesday
 9:00 am-1:00 pm- ELC Fall Schedule
1:00 pm-Striplin A/B Honor Roll Party, School
 5:00 pm-Yoga, Gym

Calendar for Oct. 27-Nov. 2, 2024

October 30 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 31 Thursday
 7:00 am-Men at the Well Bible Group
 9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Fall Schedule
9:30 am-ELC Halloween Parade & Class Parties
 9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym
5:30 pm-Thursday Worship
November 1 Friday 11:00 am-12:00 pm-Ladle of Love



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

The ministers and congregation of First United Methodist Church of Gadsden extend Christian sympathy to Dr. Steve & Lynne Frederick in the death of her mother, Maureen (Mickey) Langstaff

October 20, 2024

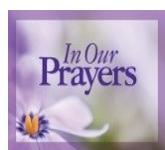


Immediate Prayer Concerns

The Family of Maureen Langstaff

The Family of Michael Morris

Ada Blount (Bob & Trish Blount's granddr)



Continued Prayer

Concerns

Amy Epperson

Asher Mae Collins

Honorariums & Memorials

Men at the Well Fund

In memory of Albert Gibson, given by Mr. & Mrs. Collins Tackaberry.

Birthdays

Oct 27 David Schmuck

Oct 28 Mary Tom Hale, Jan Fraiser, Haddon Jarecki

Oct 30 Katlyn Leach

Oct 31 Harriet Murray

Nov 1 Martha Bullock, Marcy Puckett, David Livingston

Nov 2 Regina Holloway, Bob McElroy, Dr. Stephen Blackstock, Tregg Johnson, Brody Ostendorf

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

Thank you!



Week of October 20, 2024

In Person Total-*139 Worship Total-625

Online-486 Thursday Worship-*15

Celebration Service-*56/214 *in person

Traditions Service-*68/272 UWF *15

Bible Study *39 Sunday School Adult-*33

Children *3 Sr Hi & Middle *2

Wed/Sun-Children*29 Wed/Sun Nursery *5

Wed/Sun-Sr.Hi *4 Middle Youth *7

General Offering Budget \$11,400.00

General Offering Received \$8,752.00

YTD General Offering Budget \$478,800.00

YTD General Offering Rec'd \$531,148.00



**Robby & Ola Head
10/20/2024**

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.