

*Stories from the
Gospel of Luke*

Simon

Luke 5:1-11

*How will you
respond to the call
to follow Jesus?*

Generosity 2025

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

Sermon Notes: Thursday, Oct. 3 & Sunday, Oct. 6, 2024

This year's Generosity emphasis is a journey through Luke.

Throughout the gospel, Jesus meets folks where they are, offering radical grace. Each of these characters responded differently to God's grace.

Simon (Luke 5:1-11): One day, Jesus was teaching along the Sea of Galilee. He came across fisherman who were washing their nets. Jesus jumped in the boat with Simon asking him to cast his nets in the deep water. Simon responded that he had fished all night with no catch, but if this is what Jesus wanted then he would do as he was told. To Simon's surprise, he found that when he cast his nets there were so many fish that the nets were about to break. There were so many fish that Simon had to call others to help. Seeing the miracle of the abundant catch of fish, Simon cried out to Jesus that he was unworthy, and that Jesus should leave. But Jesus did not go away. Instead, Jesus invited him to follow. Luke 5:11 tells us that he left everything to follow Jesus. This was Simon's response to grace. How will you respond? Too often when we follow Jesus, we hold back. Unlike Simon, we rarely "surrender all." What are we holding back? Making the time and commitment to a life of spiritual disciplines? Making a commitment to be active in worship and service? Resources? Sharing Christ with others? Using your being to glorify God? 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/>

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Worship Opportunities

Thursdays: 5:30 pm

Sunday Mornings: Celebration 9 am*

Traditions 11 am*

*In Person (Sanctuary) and Online

www.fumcgadsden.org/media

on Facebook Live: @FUMCGadsden

ACOLYTES

October 6: Sara Kate, Jake, and Carter Thornberg
 October 13: Luke Barnes

Tech Team Schedule

October 6

Celebration: Eric Wright, Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman

Traditions: Wayne Payton, Neil Mullin, Sheila Freeman

October 13

Celebration: Eric Wright, Sheila Freeman, Rob Reynolds

Traditions: Mark Condra, Sheila Freeman, 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
Church History	October 2	September 25
Sacraments	October 9	October 2
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

**Join us for the Chili & Hotdog Supper @ the Fall Carnival
@ 5:00 – 6:30 pm, on October 9!**

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

There were many smiles and a few tears for Fall Pictures. Proof sheets will come home soon. 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.

—Helene



Youth Sundays

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

October 9: Join us for the Chii & Hotdog Supper at The Fall Carnival

Supper will be served from 5 pm to 6:30 pm.

The Youth Group will also be working at the church on Monday 10/7 & Tuesday 10/8 from 6-8pm to get set up for Coffee & Confections!

Thank you, Carmen

Fall Festival

Coffee & Confections-Tickets on sale now \$5.00 each

Haunted Chicken House

Hockey Game

Community Thanksgiving at the Venue

Christmas Eve Live Nativity

Ice Skating in Chattanooga or Gadsden

October 9

October 19

November 1

November 27

December 24

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: 5 pm, October 9, Chili & Hot Dog Supper @ the Fall Carnival
 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



**FALL
CARNIVAL & Chili
SUPPER**

INFLATABLES
GAMES
FOOD

HOTDOGS
&
CHILI

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9
5-7 PM**

OPEN EARLY 4-5 PM FOR LOW SENSORY

**First UMC Gadsden
115 S 5th St Gadsden, AL 35901**



Please join us for a

**SENSORY FRIENDLY
FALL CARNIVAL**

OCTOBER 9, 2024

Wear your costume and
join us for trick-or-
treating, games, bounce
houses, a petting zoo, and
more!

First United Methodist Church of
Gadsden
115 S. 5th Street
Gadsden, AL 35901



**GFUMC FALL
CARNIVAL**

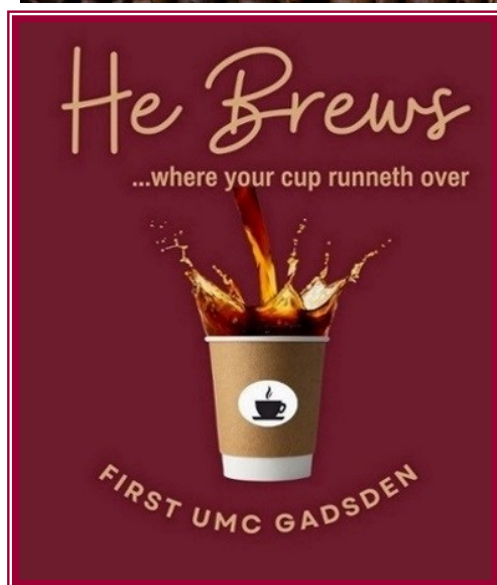
scan here!

**Volunteer
Opportunities!**

**WED, OCT 9
5-7 PM**

4-5 PM FOR LOW SENSORY

Katharine Barnes 256-393-3051

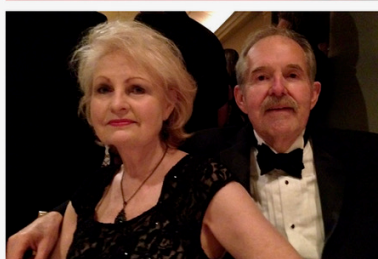


Please join us for HeBrews Coffee Café between the regular Sunday morning worship services, from 10 am to 11 am.
We can't wait to see you there!!!



DO YOU KNOW?

TOM & SHARON QUINN



Both Tom and Sharon grew up in Meridian, MS, graduated from Meridian High School, and attended Meridian Junior College. They married and moved often because of Tom's jobs with different chambers of commerce throughout the Southeast. Sharon worked in Real Estate in various cities and did secretarial work for the University of Alabama before establishing her hospital gift-shop business, called "Raspberry's Gifts and Such," at Gadsden Regional Hospital, Riverview, and hospitals in Anniston, AL, and Florence, SC. Now retired, she loves to walk for exercise, play the electronic Scrabble game "Words With Friends," and garden. A member of our FUMC exercise class, Sharon has worked with Vacation Bible School and attended the Martin Sunday School Class. Tom started his work career with American Can Co., then became an Assistant to the CEO at the Chamber of Commerce in Columbus, MS. He also ran the United Way in Hattiesburg, MS, for a while. He received numerous ACCE certifications from the University of Georgia and was the President & CEO of the Gadsden-Etowah Chamber of Commerce for 19 years before retirement. Tom passed away in 2022 following a long illness. He was a avid tennis player and loved to read. Tom and Sharon's children are: daughter Shawn (57), an Accounts Manager for United Waste Solutions in Franklin, TN; Thomas Jr. (56), a Critical Care Physician in Columbia, TN; and Brian (52), a Deputy Sheriff in Cleveland, TN.

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.)

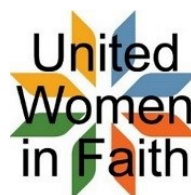
—**Old Cell Phones** —*doesn't matter if they work, have chargers, or how old they are. They are recycled through Shelter Alliance: www.shelteralliance.net and given to clients for 911 access, or to be activated with a local provider.*

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

- ♦ **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



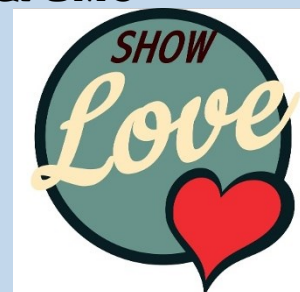
LuVerna Waid Circle News

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

September open dates are 9/4 and 9/18

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

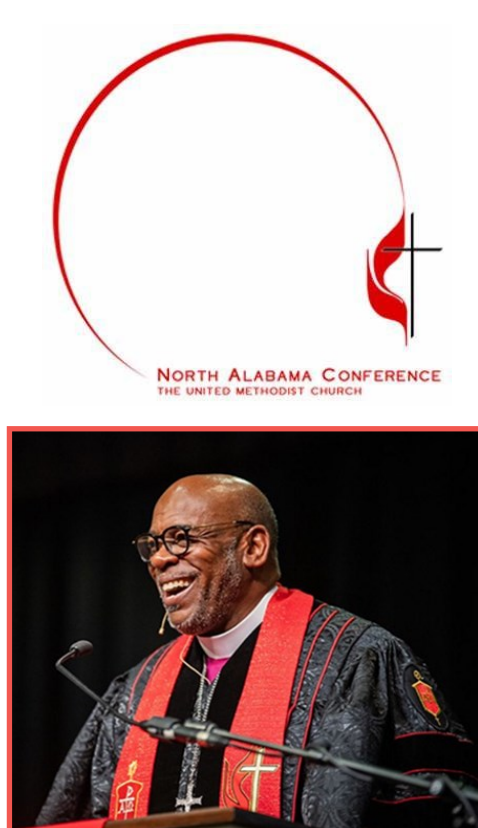
Ladle of Love	500
Clothes Closet	321

Thanks to our Volunteers!



On Sunday, October 6, you are warmly invited to join us at 10 am on the West Lawn (near the portico entrance) for the "Blessing of the Animals" (Weather Permitting).

Pets of all sizes, shapes, and varieties are welcome! Please ensure that your pet is secured in a way that provides safety for them and for the other pets present. You are welcome to bring a photo of your pet if they are unable to accompany you. *For those who have lost a pet recently, you are invited to bring a photo to place on our Memorial Wall.* This blessing event is a chance to give thanks for all God's Creation, especially our pets and the special place they hold in our hearts and lives. We look forward to seeing you and your pet.




SAVE THE DATE

A SERVICE CELEBRATING
THE EPISCOPAL
ASSIGNMENT
OF

Bishop L. Jonathan Holston

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2024
ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, BIRMINGHAM
4 PM

Reception immediately following the service

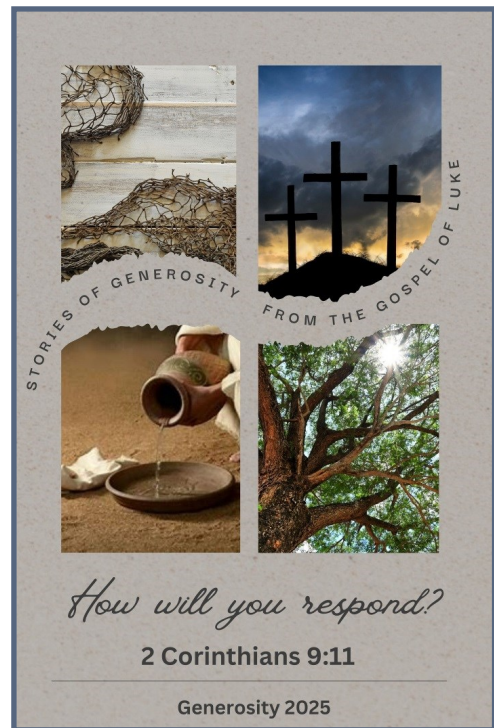
Stories of Generosity from the Gospel of Luke

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.)



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 6-12, 2024

October 6 Sunday

9:00 am-Celebration Worship, Sanctuary
10:00 am-Blessing of the Animals, Green Space
 10:00 am-Sunday School for all ages
 10:00 am-HeBrews Coffee, Chestnut Street Foyer
11:00 am-Traditions Worship, Sanctuary
 12:15 pm-Lay Leadership Nominations, Rm 201

October 7 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 8 Tuesday

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

October 9 Wednesday


9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Fall Schedule
 11:00 am-Wednesday morning Bible Study
4:00 pm-5:00 pm –Sensory Friendly Fall Carnival
5:00 pm-7:00 pm-Fall Fest-Chili Supper in Gathering
Room- games in Gym and 2nd floor classrooms;
Coffee and Confections on 3rd Floor

October 10 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 4 Friday

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



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).

Honorariums & Memorials

General Budget Fund In memory of Albert Gibson, given by Diana Rampey.

HeBrews Coffee Fund In memory of Albert Gibson, given by Mr. & Mrs. Richard McCoy.

Immediate Prayer Concerns

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

Continued Prayer Concerns

Lewis Hill Jane Jones
 Amy Epperson
 Asher Mae Collins



The ministers and congregation of First United Methodist Church of Gadsden extend Christian sympathy to Tripp & Summer Collins in the death of his mother and Jade & Asher Mae in the death of their grandmother, Judy Hamm Collins
September 26, 2024

WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS

Linda Harwell
9/29/2024

Birthdays

Oct 6 Susan Swann, Emily Kate Hayes
Oct 7 Miller Wigley
Oct 9 Kinley Freeman
Oct 10 Cynthia Whitt, Abby Ross
Oct 12 Dotty Ivey, Jacob Gilbert, Emleigh Ridens



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

—Susan Swann

Week of September 29, 2024

In Person Total-*146 Worship Total-646
 Online-500 Thursday Worship-*0
 Celebration Service-*54/210
 Traditional Service-*92/290 UWF-*0
 Sunday School Adult-*42/1 Children *3
 Sr Hi & Middle *3 Bible Study Groups-*39
 Wed/Sun-Children*40 Wed/Sun-Sr.Hi *7
 Middle Youth *8 Wed/Sun-Nursery *4

General Offering Budget \$11,400.00
 General Offering Received \$5,981.00
 YTD General Offering Budget \$444,600.00
 YTD General Offering Rec'd \$494,042.00



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.