



## 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 fishermen 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



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://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

[www.fumcgadsden.org/media](http://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

	<b>Wednesday at 11am</b>	<b>Wednesday at 6pm</b>
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 (No study on August 28 or September 11)	November 13 (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 14<sup>th</sup>. We will see everyone on Tuesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>.

—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

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

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](mailto: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  
#WeAreFirst

ARE WE  
THERE  
YET?

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	
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

**f** FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT [WWW.FUMCGADSDEN.ORG/CHILDREN](http://WWW.FUMCGADSDEN.ORG/CHILDREN)



## We need your photo!

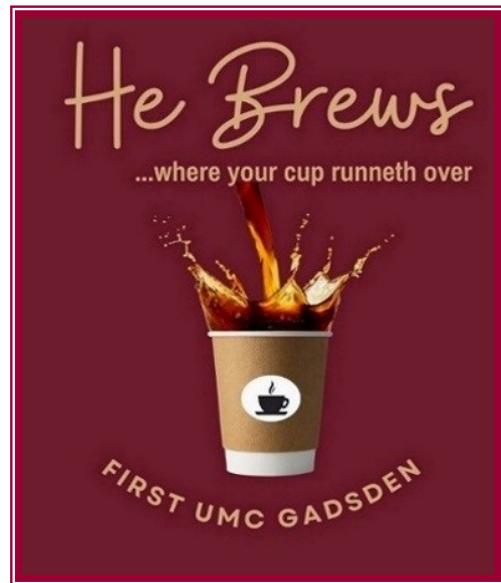


Say CHEESE

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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## 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](http://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

September open dates are  
9/4 and 9/18

9:00 am to 11:00 am

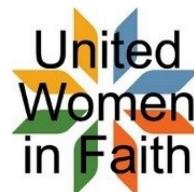
516 Broad Street Gadsden

Find out more about mission and service opportunities @ [www.fumcgadsden.org/serve](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/serve)

Phone: 256-543-8200

Email:

[fumc@fumcgadsden.org](mailto:fumc@fumcgadsden.org)



### 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!

### Clients Served August 2024

Ladle of Love	500
Clothes Closet	321

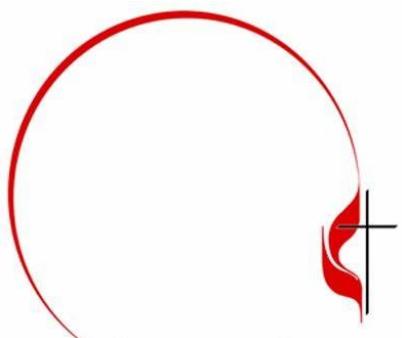
Thanks to our  
Volunteers!



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.



NORTH ALABAMA CONFERENCE  
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



## 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*

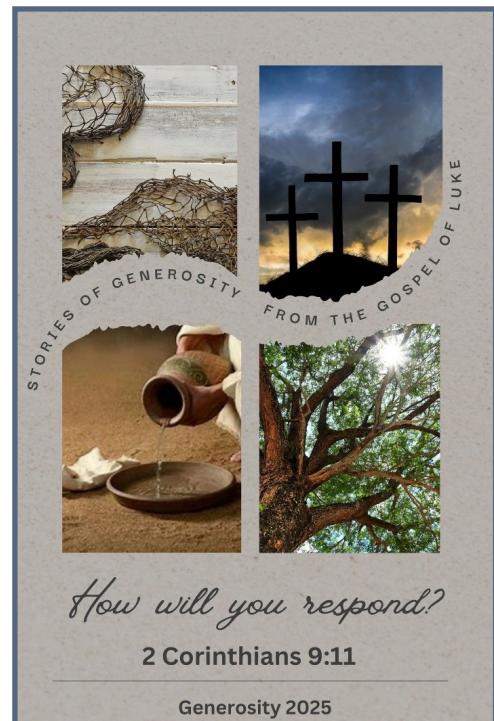
## Stories of Generosity from the Gospel of Luke

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

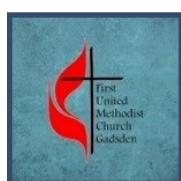


Generosity 2025

**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](http://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

