

GENEROSITY 2021

"WITH A THANKFUL HEART"

I WILL GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD WITH MY WHOLE HEART; I WILL TELL OF ALL YOUR WONDERFUL DEEDS.
PSALM 9:1

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

11-1-20 Sermon Notes "Remember With a Thankful Heart"

This month, we will start a new sermon series: "With a Thankful Heart!" In the month of October, we spent some time in the Book of Job, and hopefully we gain some new insight on suffering, questions, and friendships. As we start November and look forward to the holiday of Thanksgiving...can we still be thankful, despite all our hardships and losses? Can we still have thankful hearts, even though we are going through a very divisive "political" season? I say, "Yes!" And we will start by remembering those of our church family who have gone to join the "Great Cloud of Witnesses" since this time last year.

This Sunday is All Saints Sunday. We will light candles. We will remember with thankful hearts. This Sunday's sermon will be about three questions: Whom do we remember? What do we remember about them? Why do we remember? The scripture will be from 1 Thess. 2: 1-13.

We remember those who love and encourage us. We remember people for how they treat us. After Tammy and I first got married, I took a leave of absence from full-time ministry for a while. I will always be thankful for the new perspectives I gained during those years – because all I had known was being on the "preaching" side of the pulpit (ever since I was 20 years old). For the first time, though, we had to find a church to join. A place where we would be on the "pew" side of worship. We visited several churches. In some of them, we felt as if we were intruders at someone else's family reunion. In some, we didn't feel connected to the worship style, music, preaching, etc... But we ended up where we ended up (Holmes Street UMC) because – not of what anyone said, per se – but because of how they made us feel.

Jim and Helen Underwood sat right behind us that first Sunday. (We sat up front, so as not to sit in anyone else's pew). Jim and Helen immediately treated us as if we were their long-lost grandchildren. They showed genuine hospitality and love. Many others in that church did, too. So... that became our new church home. I will always remember those folks with a thankful heart. What will you remember this Sunday? Whom will you remember? Why will you remember?

This Sunday, we will also celebrate Holy Communion. There will be two ways you can celebrate this sacrament with us: (1) Drive-thru communion from 5:00 – 6:00 pm at the portico of the church.

(2) In-person, with individually sealed elements at your pew.

Join us at 9:00 or 11:00, and bring a thankful heart!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Sam



Nov. Sermon Series "With a Thankful Heart"

Nov. 1- "Remember with a Thankful Heart"

Nov. 8- "Serve With a Thankful Heart"

Nov. 15- "Give With a Thankful Heart"

Nov. 22- "Counting Our Blessings"

Worship Opportunities

- **Mosaic:** 6:30 pm, Tuesday, Church Courtyard*
- **Thursday Worship:** 5:30 pm, Thursday, Sanctuary*
- **Sunday Celebration** Worship, 9:00 am, Sanctuary* (In person & online)
- **Sunday Traditions** Worship, 11:00 am, Sanctuary* (In person & online)
- **Communion, Drive through** Portico, Sunday, November 1, 5:00-6:00 pm

**All services in person require social distancing & masks.*

Generosity

- **Give online:** www.fumcgadsden.org/give
- **Text to Give:** 256-344-8464
- **Mail your tithe or gift to the church:** 115 S. 5th Street Gadsden, AL 35901

A Call to Prayer to United Methodists in Alabama by Bishop David Graves and Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett

Dear Friends,

We strongly believe that **prayer makes a difference**. Indeed, sincere and fervent prayer is an action that positively impacts our lives and the world in which we live.

As the 2020 U.S. Election Day quickly approaches, **we call United Methodists in the state of Alabama to two weeks of daily prayer** for our state and national leaders, beginning October 27 and concluding November 10. We also encourage the practice of praying daily throughout the year for the U.S. President, Vice President, Alabama Governor, National and State Representatives, Senators and other elected officials.

We ask you to join us in praying for the following:

- those **persons who are on the ballot** during this election season as they finish their campaigning and await the election results;
- those **persons who are elected** to lead our nation and state;
- the **transitions for any leaders** who will be entering and exiting public office;
- the **discourse** about the elections to be civil and respectful in the halls of government, schools, work and churches;
- the **embodiment of the rules for voting of our founder, John Wesley**.*

The prayers of the nearly 250,000 United Methodists in the state of Alabama positively affects those for whom we pray. It also changes *us*. Thank you for considering participating in this Call to Prayer.

Blessings,

Bishop David Graves
Resident Bishop
Alabama West-Florida Conference

Debra Wallace-Padgett
Resident Bishop
North Alabama Conference

**I met those of our society who had votes in the ensuing election, and advised them,
1. To vote, without fee or reward, for the person they judged most worth.
2. To speak no evil of the person they voted against.
3. To take care their spirits were not sharpened against those that voted on the other side. (John Wesley's Journal entry on October 6, 1774)*

“Ladle of Love” Team Leader Needed

A volunteer is needed to serve as the **Ladle of Love Team Leader** for Team 1 for the first Friday of each month. Duties include coordinating volunteers, menu planning and purchasing of the food, as well as overseeing the preparation and serving of the food on the first Friday. Currently, Ladle of Love is serving a “to go” bag lunch at the portico of the church.



Thank you to Butch and Jane Herb for their years’ of service as the team leaders for Team 1. They have been faithful volunteers since Ladle of Love began. Their service is very much appreciated!

Clothes Closet

Workday

1st & 3rd Tuesdays

Open

1st & 3rd Wednesdays

9:00 am to 11:00 am

516 Broad Street

Gadsden, AL

Ladle of Love

Fridays, 11:00 am to 12:00 pm

Filled Thanksgiving

Bags may be returned

to the church on

Friday, Nov 13 or

Wednesday, Nov 18

from 2:00 pm to

4:00 pm at the

portico.

Church Phone

256-543-8200

Website

www.fumcgadsden.org

Email

fumc@fumcgadsden.org

Instagram

[First_umcgadsden](https://www.instagram.com/First_umcgadsden)

[#gfumcconnect2020](https://www.instagram.com/gfumcconnect2020)



Missions for November

Thanksgiving Bags.....Due to the Covid19 virus, the annual CommUnity Thanksgiving Meal will not take place this year. So, we want to try to fill at least 100 bags of food for the Salvation Army to distribute to families. You can pick up a bag up at the Portico entrance on Tuesday, November 3rd from 2:00-4:00 pm. (We hope this might work into your voting schedule that day). Bags will also be available to pick up at both services on November 1st and 8th. You can return your filled bags to the Portico entrance, Friday, November 13th or Wednesday, November 18th from 2:00-4:00 pm. Attached to the bag is a list of suggested items to help someone make a nice meal for their family.

Thank you! Mission Team

We are here for you!

We are still taking precautions so the church office is still closed to the public. We ask that all business be conducted by email, phone or text whenever possible. In-person visits are by appointment only. You may call for an appointment or if you or someone you know has a need that we can help with, please call us or email us between 8:00 am --4:00 pm, Monday thru Friday. If no answer, please leave a message and a staff member will return your call as soon as possible.

A MASK is required if you are coming to the office for an appointment or attending any service or activity at the church. If you do not have one, we have masks available for you. **Stay Well. Stay Safe** Your Church Staff!



follow GFUMC on Instagram:

[first_umcgadsden](https://www.instagram.com/first_umcgadsden)

Use our hashtag to Tag and Share your pictures of church activities:

[#gfumcconnect2020](https://www.instagram.com/gfumcconnect2020)

ELC News

Thursday, October 29

The Halloween Parade was cancelled due to inclement weather and schools being closed. The ELC was closed all day. We have rescheduled the parade to Monday, November 2 at 9:30 am.

Thursday, December 10

Plans are being developed and discussed for our annual Christmas program and parties. This will be the last day before the Christmas break.

Helene Haller

Youth News

November 4th at 6:00 pm

All Saints Service
Hebrews 12:1

The Youth ministry will continue to provide online devotionals for those who aren't able to make it on Wednesday night in person.

Virtual Sunday School

Sundays at 10:00 am

Former Youth- check out our college and career Instagram page to stay up to date with future social distancing gatherings.



**Join Andy on Facebook Live
or Instagram
Sunday & Wednesdays, 6pm**



Children's Ministry

Children are meeting in the Green Space with Social Distancing on Wednesday nights at 6 pm. Parents are required to attend with their child/children. The nursery is open during this time. See you on the Green!

Children's Break continues on Facebook on Sundays and Wednesdays!





UMW News

The November **UMW Luncheon** will be **November 9th** at 12:00 noon in the gym. The program is still pending. A catered box lunch from Gadsden Variety Deli will be provided. Please contact your circle leader or call Shelby Smith at 256-442-7117 by noon on November 6th for your reservation.

November UMW Calendar

November 9th: UMW Board meeting, 10:30 am, Gathering Room; Luncheon at noon, Gym
Jean Holtsford-Second Monday-November 9th-meet following luncheon
Stevens Circle-Second Tuesday-November 10th at noon
LuVerna Waid Circle-has voted to suspend circle meetings for now and will determine a schedule in January.

December: UMW luncheon will be on December 7 instead of December 14.
Our Early Learning Center children will sing for us. Please mark your calendars.

Eileen Graham

Dear friends, if God loved us this way, we also ought to love each other. 1 John 4:11

#GFUMCConnect2020

Worship with GFUMC on Sunday mornings online Live:

9:00 am Celebration and 11:00 am Traditions

Where to connect:

Church Website: www.fumcgadsden.org/media

Facebook Live: @FUMCGadsden

Church YouTube Channel: Gadsden First UMC

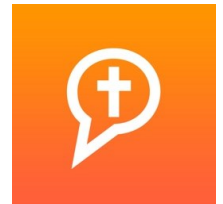
Sermon.net:

First United Methodist Church of Gadsden (search ministries)

Watch on demand:

Church App: **FUMCGadsden**

Church Website: www.fumcgadsden.org/media



Ready to get started with Text to Give?

1. Text 256-344-8464
2. For your first time click "SIGN IN" then "REGISTER FOR AN ACCOUNT".
3. Complete the registration to receive your secure PIN
4. Select the fund, enter the donation amount and payment information.
5. Tap "Save Payment" to use it for future gifts!

It's that easy!

Other text commands:

EDIT— Update your account and payment information

KEYWORD — See a list of Keywords (funds) you can give toward.

REFUND — Made a mistake? Refund your last gift. (15 min. expiry.)

Text to Give: 256-344-8464
Online Giving:
www.fumcgadsden.org/give



Calendar for week of November 1-November 7,

Nov 1, Sunday

9:00 am, Celebration Worship; Sanctuary
 10:00 am, Sunday School, Ken Casey & George Varner, GoToMeeting
 10:00 am, Children's Bible Study, Facebook
 10:00 am, Youth Sunday School, Online
 11:00 am, Traditional Worship; Sanctuary
 5:00-6:00 pm, Communion, Portico (Drive Thru)
 6:00 pm, Youth; via Zoom or Instagram

Nov 2, Monday

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

Nov 3, Tuesday

9:00 am- 1:00 pm, ELC Fall Schedule
 9:00-11:00 am, Clothes Closet workday
 6:30 pm, Mosaic, Courtyard

Nov 4, Wednesday

9:00 am- 1:00 pm, ELC Fall Schedule
 9:00-11:00 am, Clothes Closet open
 6:00 pm, Children's Ministry, Greenspace; Youth Ministry, Courtyard
 6:00 pm, Bible Study with Pastor Sam; Online

Nov 5, Thursday

9:00 am- 1:00 pm, ELC Fall Schedule
 9:00 am- 10:00 am, Exercise Group, Gym
 5:30 pm, Thursday Worship, Sanctuary
 7:00 pm, College Group, via Zoom or Instagram

Nov 6, Friday, 11:00-12:00, Ladle of Love, Portico

Flowers on the altar are in praise and gratitude for God's compassion and in memory of our loved ones who now rest with the Saints in Glory.

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Joanne Hightower
 Family of Mary Rowan Freeman

Continued Prayer Concerns

Pat Martin
 Bessie Crow Leda Taylor
 Judy Dressman Dr. Chip Griffith
 Herman Humphrey (Jan Humphrey's father)

All Saint's Day- November 1

On Sunday, November 1, we will celebrate All Saints' Day. We will light candles in memory of church members who have passed away during the previous year. In addition, there will be an opportunity to light a candle for a loved one who has passed away and a slideshow of submitted pictures as we remember our loved ones who have passed away.



Honorariums and Memorials

Benevolence Fund:

In honor of Hadley Hedgspeth's 5th birthday, given by Keith and Harriet Murray.

Music Fund: In memory of Doug Martin, given by Ruth Chandler and family. In memory of Jim Bennett, given by Jane Gardner. In memory of Jim Bennett, given by Sue Roberts.

Birthdays.....

Nov 1 Martha Bullock, David Livingston
Nov 2 Robert McElroy, Tregg Johnson, Regina Holloway, Stephen Blackstone, Brody Ostendorf
Nov 3 Jeffrey Blackwood, Sam Sollie
Nov 4 Kelley Branch, Gray Skelton, Laney Claire Wigley
Nov 5 Darrell Yarnell, Becky Owen, Beth Day, Vicki Kirk, Robert Branch, William Branch
Nov 6 Sheila Ford

Week of October 25, 2020

Online Viewer Total 297
 *In Person Total *114 Total overall 411
 Celebration *37/117 Traditions *43/145
 Mosaic *7 Thursday *9
 Youth *9 Children *9
 Bible Study Groups 35
 General Offering Budget \$15,440.00
 General Offering Received \$16,110.00
 YTD General Offering Budget \$663,920.00
 YTD General Offering Received \$620,457.98

The ministers and congregation of First United Methodist Church of Gadsden extend Christian sympathy to John & Nancy Bone, and Thomas & Virginia Bone in the death of their mother, Mary Rowan Freeman October 22, 2020



*In Memory of Her Life
 Mary Rowan Freeman
 October 22, 2020*

