

# GENEROSITY 2021

"WITH A THANKFUL HEART"  
PSALM 9:1

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"

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GADSDEN  
115 S. 5TH STREET  
256.543.8200

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

11-15-20

Sermon Notes

"Give With A Thankful Heart"

**Psalm 116** tells the story of a person who has been through a terrible ordeal. Whatever the ordeal was – probably a serious physical illness – God heard the cries of the psalmist, and God saved him or her.

How serious was it? The psalmist was in "distress and anguish," and thought he was about to die. The psalmist says it more poetically than that: *"The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish. Then I called on the name of the Lord: 'O Lord, I pray, save my life!'"* (v. 3-4)

The psalmist expresses love for God for hearing his voice and for answering his prayer and delivering him from death. Even when things were at their worst, the psalmist kept his faith in God (v. 10) and despite the attitudes of people around him (v. 11). (It sort of reminds me of how Job's wife said, "Why don't you just curse God and die?") But the psalmist held on. And the Lord "dealt bountifully" with him. Whew!

Now the Psalmist asks a question that many of us *don't* ask when we are blessed enough to make it through a rough patch: "What can I give back to you, God?"

The passage we will read this Sunday is (v. 12-19)...

What the psalmist describes in these verses is a "Thank Offering." It is sometimes called a "Sacrifice of Thanksgiving" in the Old Testament. It was different from other offerings. It wasn't an offering to atone for sins, or any "required" sacrifice as is described in places like the Book of Leviticus. It was given by free will...just as a way to say, "Thank you, God, for your bounteous blessings to me! Thank you for helping me through a difficult time!"

God has blessed us in so many ways! What can we give to God? We will talk about some of those things this coming Sunday, and you are invited to join us online or in-person for worship.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Sam

Remember to return your 2021 "Estimate of Giving" Card in either service or to the church office by this Sunday, 11/15.



## 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)

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

## Generosity

- **Give online:** [www.fumcgadsden.org/give](http://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

## “Ladle of Love” Team Leader

Thank you to Delores Abney for stepping up and taking on the leadership duties of the First Friday Team. If you are interested in volunteering to help on this team, please contact the church office and we will give your name to the leader. Currently, the Ladle of Love teams are serving a “to go” lunch at the portico from 11:00-12:00 each Friday.



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## Missions for November



**Thanksgiving Bags.....**We need everyone’s help to fill at least 100 bags (or more) of food for the Salvation Army to distribute to families for Thanksgiving. The bags are available to pick up at the doors before and after each Sunday service. There is a list of suggested items attached to each bag. You can return your filled bags to the Portico entrance, Friday, November 13th or Wednesday, November 18th from 2:00-4:00 pm. We have provided a list of suggested items (on this page) if you decide to shop and bring them to the church without picking up a bag first. Also, if anyone is unable to shop, we will have someone shop for you! To fill a bag for a family with all the fixings will take about \$40.00. We will prepare your bag and send it with the others!

*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

Use our hashtag to Tag and Share your pictures of church activities:  
#gfumconnect2020

## 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

### Suggested items for

#### Thanksgiving Bags:

Canned Hams (*Those that with no refrigeration required*)  
Canned Chicken or Tuna  
Flour, Sugar, Corn Meal, Rice, or Pasta  
Canned Pumpkin, Cranberries, and other fruits  
Canned vegetables,  
Box of instant potatoes  
Canned milk  
Jell-O and pudding mixes  
Coffee  
Tea Bags  
Soups  
Cereals  
Crackers  
Canned Juices  
Cake mixes and canned frosting

### Church Phone

256-543-8200

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

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

[#gfumconnect2020](https://www.instagram.com/gfumconnect2020)

## ELC News

**Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>** there will be no early care. Doors will open at 8:55 for all students. After care is available on this day.

**Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>**, the ELC will host its monthly Lunchbox Revolt. This month is Chik-Fil-A.

**Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup>** is team spirit day at the ELC. Join us as we sport our favorite team colors.

The ELC will be closed **Monday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>** through **Thursday, November 26<sup>th</sup>** for Thanksgiving break.

**Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup>** will be our annual Christmas Program and parties. Details will be sent home.

*Helene Haller*

## Youth News

**November 18th at 6:00 pm**

"The Love Commandment"  
Youth Thanksgiving Meal

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

**Safe Sanctuary Policy:** All children and youth volunteers must have Safe Sanctuary Training prior to beginning to work with children or youth and annually thereafter. A background check is required. In addition, volunteers must have been members of the church for 6 months or more, be 5 years older than the group they are working with and there must always be at least 2 unrelated adults present for all activities and events. Other rules apply for field trips or overnight trips. Contact the church office Sheila@fumcgadsden.org for more information.



## 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!**







**Life is a journey. The most important part of the journey is our relationship with God and with others.**

A Journey Group is a small gathering of individuals who help you grow in your loving relationship with both. We invite all people into a relationship with God and seek to create an outwardly focused community of Christ-followers.

**Journey Groups are a great way to stay connected to God and with your church family. All Journey Groups are currently meeting virtually. #GFUMCConnect2020.**

**Sunday Morning** w/Ken Casey and George Varner, 10:00 am, GoToMeeting

**Wednesday Nights, 6:00 pm** *NEW STUDIES!*

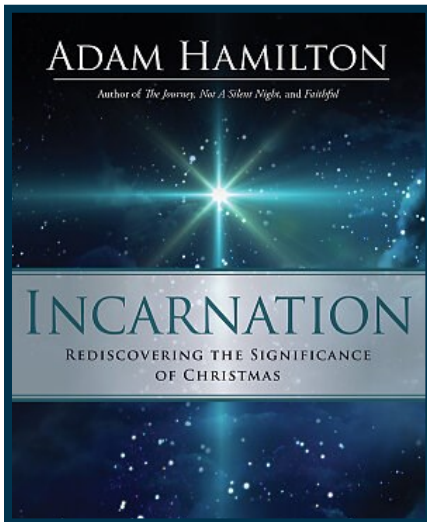
**Incarnation, Harriet Murray, Room 116**

One Chapter Wonders, Pastor Sam, Online Facebook Live (*and loaded to the church app and website after the broadcast.*)

**November 18: Jude**

November 25: No Bible Study

**Thursday, Men at the Well,** 7:00 am, Zoom, *Contact the church office for more information.*



**Advent Study: Incarnation by Adam Hamilton**  
*"Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas"*

**Starts Wednesday, December 2, 6 pm**

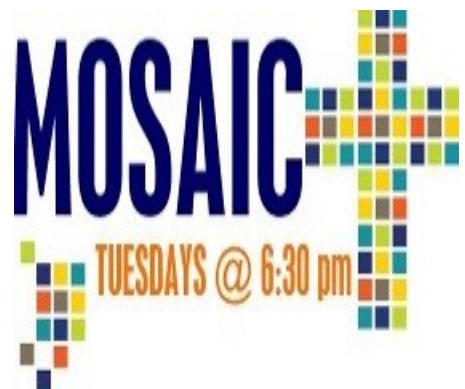
Adam Hamilton's book, Incarnation is available in the church office for \$15.00. If you would like to purchase a book but or unable to come by the church to make the purchase, please call the office @ 256-543-8200 or email: [fumc@fumcgadsden.org](mailto:fumc@fumcgadsden.org) for assistance.

***You may participate In person (with social distancing and masks in the sanctuary) or you may participate virtually in this Advent study on FacebookLive or the church website or YouTube Channel.***

**Wednesdays @ 6 pm, Sanctuary or Online**

## Join Pastor Andy for Mosaic

—A unique worship experience that includes a homily, discussion, and prayer. This service is open to everyone, but is particularly designed for those who have felt hurt or rejected. Come meet with us outside the church in the Courtyard facing 5th Street near the sanctuary on Tuesdays @ 6:30 pm! Social distancing is required. (In case of rain, Mosaic will meet in the gym.)



## UMW News



United  
Methodist  
Women

The United Methodist Women voted at the November Luncheon to discontinue having the UMW luncheons during this time with COVID 19 numbers increasing and Flu season starting. The board will revisit options in early Spring. The **December UMW Luncheon** has been cancelled and the UMW Circles will not meet during this time.

### Things to Remember:

If you have not turned in this year's **UMW pledge**, you may give it to your circle leader or come to the church office and place it in the UMW box. **World Thank Offerings** are due by the end of November. Since we are not having circle meetings at this time, you can give to your circle leader or bring to the church office.

On **December 7th**, the UMW Board members will meet for a short business meeting beginning at 11:00 am. Usually the UMW luncheon in December is when we usually ask for volunteers to take a poinsettia to a homebound member. Since there will be no luncheon, we are asking each person who wants to do this, to come to the church and pick one up on **Monday, December 7th**, between the hours of 9:00 am-3:00 pm. There are approximately 26 to deliver.

**^A note about one of our own:** Cherie Cornelius has written a book under the pen name of Cherie Steward. She has based the title "Go Tell" on Mark 5:19. This book is about her journey in life with stories about her interaction with God. The publisher calls her a female Forrest Gump. It is available at amazon.com or Barnes & Noble in Birmingham. Contact Cherie for further information.

*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](http://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](http://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](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/give)



## Calendar for week of November 15-21, 2020

### Nov 15, 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  
 12:30-2:00 pm, Children's Fall Picnic  
 6:00 pm, Youth; via Zoom or Instagram

### Nov 16, Monday

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

### Nov 17, Tuesday

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

### Nov 18, 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; and Youth Ministry, Courtyard  
 6:00 pm, Bible Study with Pastor Sam, Livestream

### Nov 19, 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 20, Friday, 11:00-12:00, Ladle of Love, Portico

*Remember to return your 2021 "Estimate of Giving Card" this Sunday!*

#### Immediate Prayer Concerns

Joanne Hightower Ernest McBride Melba Amberson

#### Continued Prayer Concerns

Nancy Smith Leda Taylor  
 Judy Dressman Dr. Chip Griffith  
 Herman Humphrey (Jan Humphrey's father)  
 Mary Nichols (Patsy Blankenship's mother)



*The ministers and congregation of First United Methodist Church of Gadsden extend Christian sympathy to Beth Kimball in the death of her cousin,*

*Marie C. Haygood  
 November 6, 2020*



#### Honorariums and Memorials

##### General Budget Fund:

In memory of Sid Gardner, given by Susan B. Spielberger.  
 In memory of Mary Freeman, given by The Taylor Girls.

##### Ladle of Love:

In memory of Rob Harper, given by Mr. & Mrs. Mark Condra.

#### *The Gadsden State Community College "A Cappella Choir"*



*directed by J. T. Harrell will perform a concert in our sanctuary on November 18th at 2:00 pm. It will be the "Annual Christmas Concert". They welcome anyone to attend with our CDC guidelines to wear a mask and social distance.*

#### Birthdays.....

**Nov 15** Shelby Smith, Catherine Harrison  
**Nov 17** Zane Lindsey, Will Roach, Elizabeth Barnes  
**Nov 19** Connie McEwen, Sam Hayes, Adam Walton, Malone Johnson  
**Nov 21** Charles Cantrell, Tommy Lowe, Jamie Kelley



#### Week of November 8, 2020

|                               |              |                    |
|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| Online Viewer Total           | 295          |                    |
| *In Person Total              | *126         | Total overall 421  |
| Celebration                   | *27/123      | Traditions *59/138 |
| Mosaic                        | *7           | Thursday *12       |
| Youth                         | *11          | Children *10       |
| Bible Study Groups            | *34          |                    |
| General Offering Budget       | \$15,440.00  |                    |
| General Offering Received     | \$13,970.00  |                    |
| YTD General Offering Budget   | \$694,800.00 |                    |
| YTD General Offering Received | \$647,562.00 |                    |

#### Subscribe to the Weekly Church News

*You can submit your email to the church office to receive the weekly announcements on Friday.*

#### Important Deadlines

**Information for the weekly announcement sheet is due each Wednesday by noon. Events for the church calendar are needed one month prior to the event.**