

# ME, A SINNER

**Pastor Sam Hayes**  
**First United Methodist Church**  
 10.23.22 | 9 am and 11 am

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

## 10-23-22

## Sermon Notes

## "Me, A Sinner"

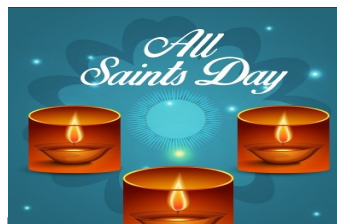
Let's go to court...the ancient Jewish lawcourt, that is. Anytime there was a charge to be brought against someone – whether minor or major – it had to be brought to the court by the person wronged (not the police or DA's office). Both "sides" would present their case, trying to persuade the judge that they were right and the other party was wrong. Onlookers watching might *think* they know what will happen, but it is only *really* known when the judge makes the final verdict. One or the other side will be vindicated or "justified," meaning that the decision was in their favor. Sometimes the verdict is a surprise to the onlookers!

The gospel lesson for this Sunday has this kind of courtroom feel to it. Two "litigants" (the Pharisee and the tax collector) stand before the "judge" (God in this case). The "courtroom" is the temple. There are onlookers, who think they know who will be vindicated (justified). Will they be surprised?

*9)He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: 10)"Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11) The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. 12) fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' 13)But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' 14) tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted." (Luke 18: 9-14 NRSV)*

Why do I say this has a courtroom feel? Because it turns the temple prayer time into a contest. The Pharisee's "prayer" consists of him telling God (and everyone else) how good he is, and putting down others (thieves, rogues, adulterers) and especially the BIGGEST sinner – the tax collector. We can almost hear him end with, "I rest my case, Your Honor." Then the tax collector, with simple faith, casts himself on the mercy of the court (God). As Jesus tells this parable, the onlookers lean in to see what the verdict will be. Surprise! It's not the Pharisee who goes home justified, but the lowly tax collector. What's going on here?! Join us Sunday to find out.

See you Sunday,  
 Pastor Sam



Sunday, November 6

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## Worship Opportunities

Thursday Worship: 5:30 pm, Sanctuary

## Sunday Mornings:

Celebration, 9 am\* Traditions, 11 am\*

\*In Person (Sanctuary) and Online  
[www.fumcgadsden.org/media](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/media) or  
 on Facebook Live: @FUMCGadsden

## ACOLYTES

October 23:

Silas Hosey and Clementine Hilburn

October 30:

Quinn Darden and Marit Norris

## Tech Team Schedule

(Please arrive 45 minutes  
 prior to the start of the service)

**October 23**

**Celebration:** Eric Wright, Bill Haller,  
 Sheila Freeman

**Traditions:** Tammy Hayes, Sheila Freeman

**October 30**

**Celebration:** Mark Casey, Parker Casey,  
 Sheila Freeman

**Traditions:** Mark Condra, Sheila Freeman

**October 26, 2022  
RSVP by Tuesday at noon.**

**Chicken Fingers, Macaroni and Cheese,  
Green Beans, Dessert**

**\$7 per person, \$3 for 11 & Under  
\$20 Max per family**



**Small Group Study  
on Sunday Mornings!**

**Meets in Room 208 @ 10 am  
All Ages are Welcome!**

***"Un-Distracted" By Bob Goff***

## **Bible Study with Pastor Sam**

**Wednesday Mornings**

**11 am In Person Bible Study**

**Gathering Room, 201 The Book of Acts**

**Facebook Live @ 6 pm or on demand-via the  
FUMC APP or website**

**6:00 pm Small Groups**

**Harriet Murray – Forgiveness, Room 110**

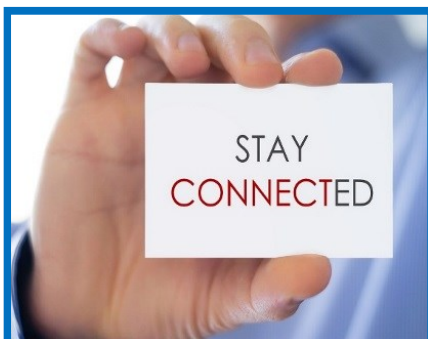
## **Men at the Well Thursday Mornings 7:00 am**

**You are invited to join the weekly Bible study  
with the Men at the Well small group. They are  
currently meeting at the Choice Restaurant.  
"A Guide to Prayer for All Who Seek God" by  
Norman Shawchuck and Rueben P. Job.**

**Contact Todd Rains, Mark Condra, Mark Casey,  
or any of the Men at the Well for more  
information.**

## **RECONNECT with the Sunday School Class of Your Choice!**

- **Living Waters Sunday School Class,**  
"Everybody's Normal Till You Get to Know  
Them", by John Ortberg, **Room 112, In person  
and online. Contact a member of the class for  
the link to join online!**
- **Martin Fellowship Class, International Bible  
Studies, Room 116**
- **Muti-Age Sunday School, with Eric Wright and  
Harriet Murray, Room 208**
- **Pathfinders Class is currently meeting with the  
Multi-Age Sunday School Class, Room 208**



## **Sign Up to Receive Emails from the Church**

**Sign up to receive emails from the church including the  
Weekly News, Devotionals, Ministry and Mission Notes, and  
Sermon Notes.**

**Go to: <http://www.fumcgadsden.org/sign-up-to-receive-emails>  
Need Help: Contact Sheila Freeman @ 256-490-5018**

## ELC News

Our 4K class enjoyed meeting Sparky, climbing on fire trucks and meeting the firemen at Fire Station #1, Wednesday, October 19th. Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup> is Lunchbox Revolt. We will have Papa John's pizza and the cost is \$3.50. Our annual Halloween Parade is Monday, October 31<sup>st</sup>. We will start our trick or treating at 9:30 am. If you would like to help, please contact Helene at [elc@fumcgadsden.org](mailto:elc@fumcgadsden.org).

*Helene Haller*



## Youth Ministry News

Wonderful Wednesdays are back!  
Dinner at 5:15, please make a reservation!  
For UMYF, we will volunteer at Fall Fest this Week!

**Sunday School is back for Youth! Room 210  
10 am on Sunday mornings.**

October 23 Haunted Chicken House  
Look for activities coming up in November!

*—Pastor Andy*

**Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Dinner—Don't forget to make a reservation by Tues. @ noon.  
October 26 -Chicken Fingers, Macaroni and Cheese, Green Beans and Dessert**

# Children's Ministry



**f GFUMC**  
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

## FALL 2022

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES  
6:00PM ROOM 108

AUG 17	WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES RESUME W/ ICE CREAM SOCIAL
OCT 19	FALL FESTIVAL AT GFUMC 
NOV 16	FRIENDSGIVING! 
DEC 4	 LUNCH WITH SANTA AT 12:00 
DEC 4	CHRISTMAS PLAY AT 3:00 
DEC 14	 UGLY SWEATER PARTY 

KATHARINE BARNES • 256-543-8200 • [WWW.FUMCGADSDEN.ORG/CHILDREN](http://WWW.FUMCGADSDEN.ORG/CHILDREN) • PROVERBS 22:6



## October Mission Focus

**MANNA** is a non-profit corporation, organized by local people. It's purpose is to meet the nutritional needs of housebound people who are unable to provide an adequate diet for themselves and have no one else to do it for them. Find out more or volunteer: <https://mannagadsden.org>

### CommUnity Thanksgiving Meal

It is that time of year when we begin preparing for the **CommUnity Thanksgiving** event. As in the past, our church will provide the money to purchase the desserts for the meal. They are planning on feeding 8,000 people this year. We are going to have individually wrapped Cakes (Little Debbie) for the pick-up and delivered meals. Then, the usual pound cakes for those eating in the Venue. If you would like to make a donation, please send a check or e-give and mark it for CommUnity Thanksgiving. Donations of approximately \$1200.00 are needed to provide these cakes. Thanks, as always, for your unending generosity! There will also be an opportunity for you to sign up to volunteer prior to Thanksgiving Day to slice cakes or help in other ways.

### Thanksgiving Bags for Salvation Army

Now is the time to fill a bag with groceries for a family who has applied through Salvation Army for help with a meal for Thanksgiving. The bags are located at each entrance to the sanctuary and in the Chestnut Street lobby for you to pick up. **The deadline to return them is November 16.**

### CLOTHES CLOSET

The season is changing, so we are ready for you to send us your fall and winter clothing. The racks are looking empty in all areas, but especially in the Men's Department!

Let's clean out our closets and get our clothes closet stocked again! Your generosity is greatly appreciated!



### UMW News

November UMW Luncheon will be November 14th at 12:00 noon.

#### UMW Circles

LuVerna Waid Circle: Susan Copeland, Leader

Stevens Circle: Regina Holloway, Leader

Peggy Casey Circle: Jenn Yarnell, Leader

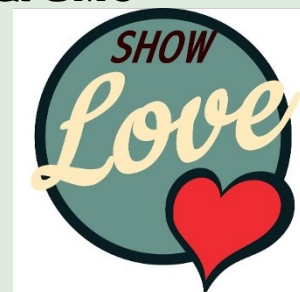
Jean Holtsford Circle: Cherie Cornelius, Leader

*If you wish to visit a circle meeting, contact the leader for time and place. Thank you.*

—Barbara Bennett, President



### GFUMC



*"By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:35*

### Clothes Closet

#### Workdays

1st & 3rd Tuesdays

#### Open to Public

1st & 3rd Wednesdays

#### October dates are:

10/5 and 10/19

9:00 am to 11:00 am

516 Broad Street Gadsden

### Ladle of Love

Fridays, 11:00am-12:00pm,  
at the Portico entrance.

### Clients served in September 2022

Ladle of Love 390

Clothes Closet 229

*Thank you to all our  
volunteers for their time and  
service to these missions!*


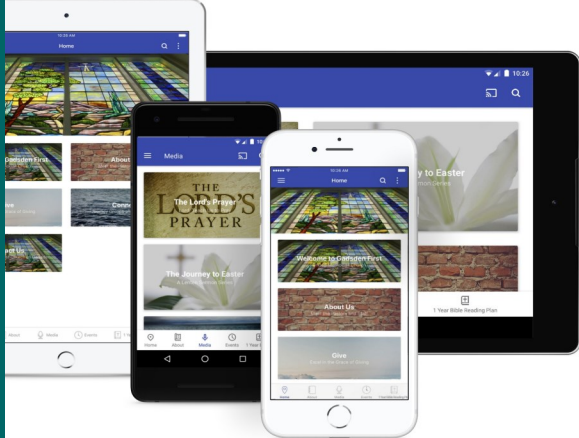
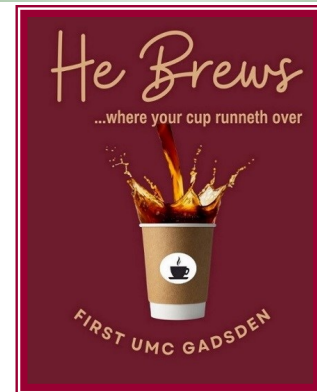
Find out more about mission  
and service opportunities @  
[www.fumcgadsden.org/serve](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/serve)

Church Phone 256-543-8200  
[fumc@fumcgadsden.org](mailto:fumc@fumcgadsden.org)




#gfumcreconnect2022

# Inviting Ministries

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



First United Methodist Church of Gadsden  
Available in App Stores



**Search: First UMC-Gadsden**



**MONTHLY LUNCH/BRUNCH  
AT 12:30 FOLLOWING  
TRADITIONAL SERVICE.**

**Sunday, November 6 at Villa Fiesta  
All Young Adults and Families Welcome!**



## Generosity: Ways to Give

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

**Text to Give:**  
**256-344-8464**

**Mail your tithe or gift:**  
115 S. 5th Street  
Gadsden, AL 35901



## Calendar for October 23-29, 2022

### Oct 23, Sunday

9:00 am Celebration Service, Sanctuary  
10:00 am Sunday School; HeBrews Coffee Ministry  
11:00 am Traditional Service, Sanctuary

### Oct 24, Monday

9:00 am-1:00 pm ELC Fall Schedule  
9:00 am-10:00 am Exercise Group, Gym  
5:00 pm Trustees Meeting, Parlor

### Oct 25, Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm ELC Fall Schedule  
5:00 pm Yoga, Gym  
5:00 pm Finance Meeting, Parlor  
6:00 pm Board of Stewards Meeting, Room 201

### Oct 26, Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm ELC Fall Schedule  
11:00am Bible Study Room 208 (Facebook Live @ 6pm)  
5:15 pm Wednesday Night meal, Gathering Room  
6:00 pm Adult Bible Study, Room 208 and 110  
6:00 pm Children activities, Room 108  
6:00 pm Youth activities, Gym & Room 211  
6:00 pm Choir Practice, Choir Room

### Oct 20, 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

### Oct 21, Friday

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

### **Honorariums and Memorials**

#### General Budget Fund

In memory of Dick Phillips, given by Lee Trotter.  
In memory of Judy Dressman, given by Dr. Charles Griffith.  
In memory of Paula Beck, given by Juanita Hammonds.

#### Ladle of Love Fund

In memory of Judy Dressman, given by Irby Jackson.  
In memory of Judy Dressman, given by Mary Beth Dowd.  
In memory of Judy Dressman, given by Roger Levin.  
In memory of Judy Dressman, given by Pat Walker.  
In memory of Dick Phillips, given by Pat Walker.  
In memory of Judy Dressman, given by Mr. & Mrs. James Cunningham.  
In memory of Judy Dressman, given by Mr. & Mrs. Stuart Bentson.  
In memory of Judy Dressman, given by Jess Rawls.

#### UMCOR

In memory of Judy Dressman, given by Dotty Ivey.  
In memory of Dick Phillips, given by Dotty Ivey.

### ***In Honor or Memory***

*Special donations may be made, in honor or memory of a loved one, to the General Budget Fund or other designated funds. You can send a check by mail, drop in the offering plate, or use e-giving. Be sure to include the name of the person you want to be remembered.*

*The ministers and congregation of First United Methodist Church of Gadsden extend Christian sympathy to Elaine Spearman in the death of her beloved, Ernest McBride on October 17, 2022.*



### **Birthdays**

**Oct 23** Jack Brookshire, Hadley Hedgspeth  
**Oct 24** Sonya Nesbitt, Jennifer Brookshire, Samuel Dabbs, Anna Kate Casey, Charlie Hilburn, Paige Whitt, Susan Whitt, Philips Leach, Haley Goodwyn, Jordan Ryle  
**Oct 26** Stacy Hilburn, Qwintan Brothers  
**Oct 27** David Schmuck  
**Oct 28** Mary Tom Hale, Haddon Jarecki



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

### **Week of October 16, 2022**

In Person Total \*148 Online 258  
Worship Total 406 Thursday Worship \*7  
Celebration Service \*67/142  
Traditional Worship \*74/116  
Adult Sunday School \*14 Children \*1  
Bible Study Groups \*30/31 UMW 30  
Children \*24 Youth \*19 Nursery \*7  
Total Small Group Attendance \*175/31  
\*In Person

General Offering Budget \$13,175.00  
General Offering Received \$4,199.00  
YTD General Offering Budget \$553,350.00  
YTD General Offering Rec'd \$541,761.00

**Text to Give: 256.344.8464**

IN OUR  
*Thoughts and Prayers*

### **Immediate Prayer Concerns**

Alex Holtsford  
Albert Gibson  
Family of Ernest McBride  
Family of Paula Beck  
(Rev. Harvey Beck's mother)  
Family of Jean Griffith  
(Jane Newman's mother)

### **Continued Prayer Concerns**

Jerry Casey  
John Jones (Dottie Roger's son)