

*Word
from the
Windows*

“The Open Bible”

Rev. Sherri Reynolds



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

Sermon Notes: Thursday, April 11 & Sunday, April 14, 2024

The next window in the series is The Open Bible. It can be found in the narthex facing 5th street to your right as you enter the church through the brass doors. This window was given in memory of Hamilton Blount Ralls by Lola Johnson Ralls. It depicts as it is named an open Bible and is given in memory of one who proclaimed the Good News found in the Bible as a preacher. The Open Bible challenges us to consider how God's Word is a foundation for our lives. Do we know scripture, rely upon scripture, and allow it to speak to us each day?

As you prepare for worship this week, spend some time in 2 Timothy 2:15 and spend some time with God's Word. Take some time to memorize a verse, memorize the order of the books of the Bible, or read a book of the Bible. Give some time for scripture to renew you and guide you as you grow as a follower of Christ.

See you Sunday as we see the beauty and hear the story.

Rev. Sherri

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Worship Opportunities

5:30 pm Thursday Worship

Sunday Mornings: Celebration 9 am*

Traditions 11 am*

ACOLYTES

April 14: Sara Kate & Jake Thornburg

April 21: Mikko and Marit Norris

Security for Thursday Worship

April 18 George Fant

April 25 Open

Tech Team Schedule

April 14

Celebration: Eric Wright, Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman

Traditions: Davis Varner, Neil Mullin, Sheila Freeman

April 21

Celebration: Eric Wright, Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman

Traditions: Mark Condra, Sheila Freeman, Brad Barnes

MARCH MADNESS FAVORITE WORSHIP SONGS

Champion: How Great Thou Art



**Tithes and Gifts to the
2024 Alleluia Offering
as of 4/10/24:**

\$30,951.00

**Thank you for your generosity.
Gifts for the Alleluia Offering will
continue to be received
throughout the Easter Season.**

Sunday SCHOOL

Classes for All Ages!

**Children's Sunday School Rooms 108 and 104
Youth Sunday School Room 211**

**New Young Adult Sunday School Room 209
Pathfinder/Seekers Room 208
Living Water Room 116**

(Nursery provided for Children under 3)

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Bible Study with Rev. Sherri, Wednesdays @ 11 am

The Chosen Bible Study

April 17 will be the last class for Spring



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 at 7 am.

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

**Wednesday
Fellowship Dinner
April 17
Menu:
Barbecue**

Adult Small Groups @ Wonderful Wednesdays

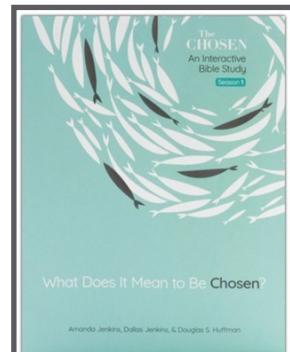
Small Group with Harriet Murray, Room 110

Renewed

by Heather Dixon

**The Chosen Bible Study
Join Pastor Sherri on Wed. @ 6 pm**

April 17- Episode 8 (Last study for spring)



ELC News

On Tuesday, April 16th, we will host our annual Donuts for Dads event from 8:50 am to 9:30 am at the portico entrance. Thursday, April 18th, at 10:30, we will shower our own Miss Caroline as she weds on Saturday, April 27. Our last lunchbox revolt will be Tuesday, April 23. Once again "The Dog House" will be here. Please support our scholarship program by honoring the women in your life with a rose on the altar on Mother's Day.

—Helene

STUDENT MINISTRY

Youth Ministry News



"The Chosen Bible Study"
Apr 7 Sheila Freeman
Apr 14 Sherri Reynolds
Apr 21
Apr 28

Youth Group Meets

Wednesdays at 6 pm each week!

Wednesday Fellowship Dinner
April 17: \$7-Adults \$3-11 & Under
Barbecue

Youth Counselor
Carmen McKiven

Children's
Ministry

Confirmation
Class
Wednesdays at 6 pm
Contact Katharine Barnes



See Page 6 for details!

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SARA RABUN JOHNSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Mother's Day Roses Sale

With your donation of \$20 or more, a rose is placed on the altar on Mother's Day, in honor or in memory of your loved one.

All donations provide direct support for ELC families whose children would not otherwise be able to afford the program.



**MAKE YOUR DONATION PAYABLE TO GFUMC AND
MARK IT "SRJ SCHOLARSHIP FUND".
ADDITIONAL DONATIONS TO THE FUND MAY BE GIVEN
THROUGOUT THE YEAR.**

Thank you for your donations!

Top 10 Things To Do on the Church APP



10. Meet the Pastors and Staff. (Home Tab-Meet the Pastors and Staff)
9. Fill out a Connect Card. (Home Tab-Connect)
8. Read the Church News. (Home Tab-News)
7. Check Out Upcoming Church Events. (Events Tab)
6. Read the Bible in a Year. (Bible Tab)
5. Look up Scripture. (Bible Tab)
4. Send a Prayer Request. (Home Tab-Prayer Request)
3. Give. (Home Tab-Give)
2. Receive notifications/messages from the church.
1. Watch or Listen to Worship Services and Sermons. (Media Tab)

Volunteer Opportunity

A big part of our in-person Sunday morning worship experience is having greeters & ushers welcome guests into the space. This job is an essential part of making sure we provide a safe and welcoming environment for everyone who comes into our church. If you would like to help please call the church office—256-543-8200.



April Mission Focus

Tornado Bucket

During the month of April, we will be filling Tornado Buckets and collecting needed items. Tornado Buckets are located at the entrances, if you would like to take a bucket to fill with the requested items. If you would prefer to donate any of the items below, there is also a Red Bucket for donations of individual items. All of the Tornado Buckets and additional items will be delivered to the NACUMC Disaster Relief Warehouse in Decatur! Thank you for your support of missions. -First UMC Gadsden Mission Team

1 Standard Size Claw Hammer

1 each: Shirt pocket notebook, permanent marker, pencil and sharpeners.
(Place in a small Ziploc bag.) For "To Do" lists and marking packing boxes.

1 Flashlight with batteries

12 Black Trash Bags, 30-45 Gallon recommended (bundled) *for trash removal*

1 Roll of Toilet Paper in a Ziploc Bag

1 Pr. Leather Palm/Cloth back or All Leather Work Gloves

1 50 count #8 Nails

10 White 13 Gallon Kitchen Trash Bags with Draw Strings (bundled)

1 Cellophane packing Tape

10 One-Gallon Ziploc Bags (bundled) (For jewelry, and valuables)

1 Box Cutter

1 Liquid Hand Sanitizer 4 oz –12 oz

1 Insect Repellant Spray Bottle/Can, Wipes or Combination

1 Pr. Safety Glasses. *For hammering tarps, wood strips on roof*

6 Clear Large Plastic Bags, 40-55 Gallon recommended (bundled)

3 Tampons or Pads in a small Ziploc Bag

-Add all items on the above list to the bucket. Secure the lid, if any of the items aren't available just label the top of the bucket "Needs... (the missing item(s))" and the warehouse will add the item(s).

Please return filled buckets to the church by Sunday, April 28. Additional donations of loose items may be placed in the Red Bucket in the Chestnut Foyer.

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

**April open dates are
4/3 and 4/17**

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

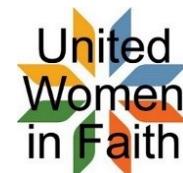
#gfumcreconnect2023

United Women in Faith

LuVerna Waid Circle will meet on Tuesday, April 16 at 6 pm in the church parlor.

Our new study is "30 Days to Taming Your Tongue." BYOBrown Bag for supper. Cookies and drinks will be provided.

The next UWF Luncheon is Monday, May 13.



Clients Served

February 2024

Ladle of Love 386
Clothes Closet 222

**Thanks to our
Volunteers!**



See the Beauty... Hear the Story. This Sermon Series has been extended! From January 21, 2024 through April 21, 2024, the sermon series, "Word from the Windows," will feature the history and scripture stories of the beautiful stained glass windows that are in our church. The remaining three weeks will feature windows in the Narthex and a reimagining of the "Jesus and the Rich Young Ruler" Window in the Sanctuary. Come and worship together on Thursdays at 5:30 pm or on Sunday mornings at 9 am or 11 am each week.



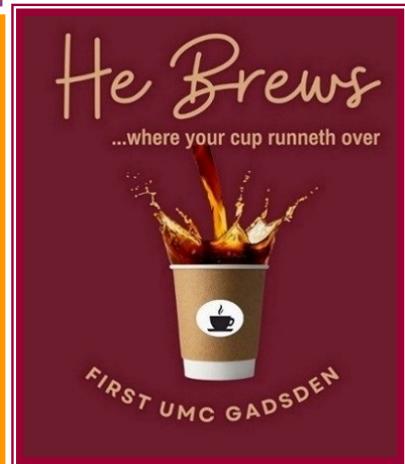
Robbie's of Fayette Spring Clothing Show



Thank you to all who shopped and to all who volunteered at the sale! We will update you next week on the amount donated from the sale! *A percentage of the sales is donated to GFUMC's Children's Ministry Program.*

Inviting Ministries

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!!!



This Saturday, April 13, is the Eagle Rock Eagle charity ride in Rainbow City starting at Rainbow Middle School at 8 AM. I'll be riding the White route which is 20 miles out and back. The average grade is 0.1% which is perfect for trikes. All 2 and 3 wheelers are welcome. Bring your snacks. No one is left behind. —keep rolling, George Fant
Contact George Fant for more information or if you have questions! 256-312-4381

April 13, Rainbow City
Bike Ride
Family Friendly

Children and youth must be accompanied by a parent!

Pickleball

Round Robin & Social

Just for Fun!
Not a Tournament!

Sunday, April 14
2:00 pm to 5:00 pm

A light
supper will
be served!

First
UMC
Gym

Whether You Are
New to Pickleball or
a Seasoned Player...
Bring Your Racquet
and Join the Crowd!

First United Methodist Church of Gadsden

Baby Sprinkle

PLEASE HELP US "SPRINKLE" TWO NEW
BABIES IN OUR CONGREGATION ON

SUNDAY, APRIL 21ST AT 10:00 AM.

PRECIOUS OTILLIE AND PARENTS,
DAVID AND TRACIE WOOTEN
(SIZE 4 DIAPERS AND HIGHER)

&

SWEET BABY-TO-BE, ROSE AND PARENTS,
ROSS AND STEPHANIE ISBELL
(SIZE NEWBORN AND HIGHER).

WE ARE INVITING OUR CONGREGATION TO
BLESS THESE BABIES WITH DIAPERS AND
WIPES AS WE ENJOY FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP
IN OUR HEBREWS COFFEE AREA.

THERE ARE NO KNOWN ALLERGIES
OR PREFERENCES ON BRANDS.

Do You Know...?



Interviewer
Anna Mullin

Do
You
Know?

This series is designed to help everyone at First UMC Gadsden get to know one another! Anna Mullin is volunteering to interview and feature our members for this special article of our newsletter! *Special thanks goes to Anna for her excellent work on this.* Photos may be taken at the time of the interview or you may submit a photo if you prefer. All articles are sent to the members to be previewed and approved prior to publication. Please keep in mind that participation in this interview and photography process is completely voluntary and we invite you to be a part of “Do You Know?” series.

KEITH & HARRIET MURRAY



Harriet grew up in Gadsden and graduated from Gadsden High. She attended The University of Alabama, receiving a degree in Home Economics (now called “Family & Consumer Science”) before teaching for 27 years at Emma Sansom and 10 years at Gadsden City High. Harriet is very active in our church, currently serving as Chair of the Staff Parish Relations Committee—in charge of all paid staff—and serving on both the Board of Stewards and the Finance Committee. She also leads Wednesday night Adult Bible Studies and Adult Sunday School for the Pathfinders/Seekers combined class and has the distinction of being a 3rd generation member of our church. Harriet enjoys playing tennis & pickleball, doing yoga,

and watching sports. Keith grew up in Gadsden and graduated from Emma Sansom High. He has a degree in Mechanical Engineering from Auburn and worked in Research and Design for Republic Steel, Goodyear, and the Anniston Army Depot before retiring. Keith enjoys coin collecting and watching sports. Keith and Harriet are the parents of Hannah Murray Badgett (age 27), who is also a member of our church.

Dear Member,

One of the traditions of giving and faith at First United Methodist Church is the Alleluia Offering. This special offering started as a challenge to tithe your income during Holy Week, above and beyond your regular giving to the church. A tithe is a Biblical concept with roots in Malachi 3:10 (Bring the whole tenth into the storehouse, so there will be food in my house, and put me to the test, says the Lord, "See if I won't open all the floodgates of heaven and pour out my blessings beyond your needs."). The challenge may seem daunting especially if you do not proportionally give to the church, but it is the first step to Biblical generosity. The special offering is received at Easter to fund specific ministries within the church. Our giving responds to Jesus' sacrificial love for us and the power of resurrection in our lives.

The year's special offering will be allocated toward:

A confirmation retreat for our youth and children. Investing in youth and children is important for First United Methodist Church. I cannot think of a more critical time than when these students are deciding to commit to a lifelong relationship with Jesus and become a member of the church. Your gifts will not only allow them to know your support, but also provide a critical component to their confirmation journey.

Investing in worship experience. Both in-person and on-line worship are central to the life of First United Methodist Church. With new microphones, wiring, a sound box and tracking camera, worship will be enhanced.

Any gifts beyond funding these two areas will be used to fund new ministries through the Inviting Ministries Team and Missions. Jesus charges his disciples to go and make disciples. These disciples are made in words and action. By investing in outreach and care for community, we are working to make disciples of Jesus.

You may return your Alleluia Offering at worship on Easter Sunday (designated Alleluia Offering), by mail, through secure E-Giving via our website or Venmo (go to www.Fumcgadsden.org to learn more). If you have questions, please contact us.

You are encouraged to pray about God's direction for you and your family with this special gift.

In Christ,


Rev. Sherri Reynolds


Bob Blount



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



Search @FirstUMCGadsden in Venmo, under charities or follow the link in the QR Code.



venmo

Calendar for April 14-20, 2024

Apr 14 Sunday
9:00 am-Celebration Worship, Sanctuary
10:00-am Sunday School for all ages;
HeBrews Coffee, Chestnut Street Foyer
11:00 am-Traditions Worship, Sanctuary
2:00 pm –5:00 pm, Pickleball Social

Apr 15 Monday
9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Spring Schedule
9:00 am-10:00 am- Exercise Group, Gym
2:00 pm-4:00 pm-Pickleball, Gym

Apr 16 Tuesday
9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Spring Schedule
9:00 am-11:00 am-Clothes Closet workday
5:00 pm-6:00 pm-Yoga, Gym

Apr 17 Wednesday
9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Spring Schedule
9:00 am-11:00 am-Clothes Closet open
11:00 am-12:00 pm-Wednesday Morning Bible Study
5:15 pm-Wednesday night meal, Gathering Room
6:00 pm-Children & Youth activities, Gym & Rooms 108 & 211
6:00 pm-Small Group Study, Room 110 & 208
6:00 pm-Choir practice Choir room

Apr 18 Thursday
9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Spring Schedule
9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym

Apr 19 Friday
11:00 am-12:00 pm-Ladle of Love

Mark Your Calendars

Sunday, April 14, Pickleball Social (See p. 7)

Sunday, April 21, A “Sprinkle” for Ross and Stephanie Isbell and David and Tracie Wooten, at 10 am during HeBrews (See p. 7)

Sunday, May 5, High School Senior Recognition Sunday

Sunday, May 12, Mother’s Day, 2nd Grade Bibles

Sunday, May 19, Confirmation Sunday

Church Picnic

5:00 pm

Wednesday, May 15

**Kiwanis Pavilion,
Noccalula Falls Park**

**Everyone is
welcome!**

Immediate Prayer Concerns

John Floyd Johnny Gunnels (Gail McNair's brother)
 Chris Gunnels (Gail McNair's nephew)

Continued Prayer Concerns

Lisa Dobbins Martha Bullock Marian Ford
 Amy Epperson Judy Collins (Tripp Collins' Mother)



Honorariums & Memorials

General Budget Fund

In memory of Gwen Bradley, given by Richard & Gloria McCoy.

Birthdays

Apr 14 Jan Humphrey, Blake New,
 Alex Long
Apr 15 Evans Sizemore, James Kelley
Apr 16 Gary Atkins, Kathie Ferguson,
 David Hopper, Harry Hightower
Apr 17 Kent Haney, Denise Floyd
Apr 18 Lance Watkins, Alyssa McNair
Apr 19 Dorothy Robinson,
 Jared Gladden
Apr 20 Lauren Cain



Week of April 7, 2024

In Person Total-*151 Worship Total-561
 Online-410 Thursday Worship-*6
 Celebration Service-*55/191
 Traditional Service-*90/219
 Sunday School Adult-*41 Children *5 Youth *3
 Nursery *2 Bible Study Groups-*29
 Wed/Sun-Children*30 Wed/Sun-Youth *10
 Misc. *11 Confirmation Class *in person
 General Offering Budget \$11,400.00
 General Offering Received \$23,050.00
 YTD General Offering Budget \$159,600.00
 YTD General Offering Rec'd \$191,936.00

Important Deadlines

Information for the weekly newsletter is due each Tuesday by noon.

All Meetings, Events and Activities must be scheduled in advance with the church secretary, Susan Swann by email or phone, susan@fumcgadsden.org or 256.543.8200.