

*Word  
from the  
Windows*

# “Nicodemus”

*Rev. Sherri Reynolds*



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

## Sermon Notes: Thursday, April 18 & Sunday, April 21, 2024

This is the final Sunday of the Word from the window series. I have been greatly blessed by the series. The opportunity to appreciate the art of this church, hear the stories behind the windows, and look at all the varied scriptures which inspired the windows has been a wonderful opportunity.

I give thanks for this series for what it has meant to me. After this series, I will not think of the windows in the same way, and I hope you don't either.

As you prepare for the final window spend some time with John 3:1-21. This is not the scripture which inspired the window for the week, The Rich Young Ruler, but we are going to use our imagination and reimagine this window as Nicodemus. As you consider the story of Nicodemus, ponder the ways that you seek Jesus.

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

## Table of Contents:

**Page 1**-Sermon Notes; Tech Schedule; Acolyte Schedule

**Page 2**-Sunday School Classes; Small Groups

**Page 3**-ELC News; Student Ministries; Children's Ministry

**Page 4**-Mother's Day Roses Sale; GSCC A Cappella Choir Concert

**Page 5**-GFUMC Missions News; Clothes Closet; Ladle of Love; United Women in Faith

**Page 6** -HeBrews, Pickleball; Boston Butts Sale

**Page 7**-Baby Sprinkle; Spring Picnic

**Page 8**-Do You Know?

**Page 9**-Alleluia Offering; Ways to Give, Online Giving; Venmo

**Page 10**-Calendar; Prayer Concerns; Memorials; Birthdays; Weekly Reports

## Worship Opportunities

5:30 pm Thursday Worship

**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

April 21: Mikko and Marit Norris

April 28: Rhett and Clementine Hilburn

## Tech Team Schedule

April 21

Celebration: Eric Wright, Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman

Traditions: Mark Condra, Sheila Freeman, Brad Barnes

April 28

Celebration: Eric Wright, Jacob and Carmen McKiven

Traditions: Mark Condra, Wayne Payton, Brad Barnes



## Tithes and Gifts to the 2024 Alleluia Offering as of 4/14/24:

**\$31,571.00**

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 Mornings Bible Study with Rev. Sherri  
April 17 was the last class for Spring.  
Watch for more information, coming soon!**

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

**Wednesday  
Fellowship Dinner  
April 24  
Menu: Chick fil A  
\$7 Adults  
\$3 Children**

## **Adult Small Groups @ Wonderful Wednesdays**

**Small Group with Harriet Murray, Room 110  
“How Happiness Happens” by Max Lucado**

## **Take the Spiritual Gifts Inventory @ Spiritual Gifts UMC.org**

Every child of God is filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, specially gifted to play a unique and valued role in the body of Christ. No one is without gift or purpose.

Spiritual gifts are not our talents or skills. They are the grace of God at work within us, empowering us to match our deep passions with the world's deep need. The gifts are given to individuals, but they are given to build and strengthen community and to meet the needs of those around us.

Begin the journey. Discover your gifts. Talk about your gifts with others. Strive together to understand your gifts and how you can use them to serve God, neighbor, and world. You have been gifted. You have been given a purpose.



## ELC News

Last week we celebrated our dads and Miss Caroline. Tuesday, April 23rd will be our last Lunchbox Revolt for the school year. We are so excited to welcome The Dog House back. On Wednesday, April 24th, ELC families will host our annual Teacher Appreciation Breakfast. Our year is quickly coming to an end. Such a fun time of fun, food and fellowship. Our roses sale benefitting the scholarship fund continues. Thank you to those who have already purchased a rose this year.

—Helene

# STUDENT MINISTRY

## Youth Ministry News



"The Chosen Bible Study"  
Apr 21 Sheila Freeman  
Apr 28 Sheila Freeman

Youth Group Meets  
Wednesdays at 6 pm each  
week!

Youth Counselor  
Carmen McKiven

Wednesday Fellowship Dinner  
April 24: \$7-Adults \$3-11 & Under  
Chick fil a

# Children's Ministry

Sunday Mornings @ 9 am and 11 am, Children's Church & 10 am Sunday School

Wednesdays at 6 pm, Small Groups for Children

May 12 2nd Grade Bibles

May 19 Confirmation Sunday

THIS SUMMER, JOIN US FOR  
GFUMC's  
Vacation Bible School

**JUNE 3-6**

**KNIGHTS OF NORTH CASTLE**

REGISTER ONLINE

A QR code linking to the registration page.

"Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His power." Ephesians 6:10

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GADSDEN  
115 S. 5th St. Gadsden, AL 35901

An illustration of a medieval castle with a flag flying from its top, and a friendly-looking orange dragon flying in front of it.

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  
THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.



# Thank you for your donations!



Gadsden State  
Community College  
A Cappella Choir Concert

3:00 pm  
Sunday, April 28  
Sanctuary  
First UMC Gadsden

### Gadsden State Community College A Cappella Choir Embarks on 58th Annual Tour

Gadsden, AL - [April 24-28] - The Gadsden State Community College A Cappella Choir, under the direction of JT Harrell, is proud to announce its 58th annual tour, showcasing a repertoire of traditional choral literature, spirituals, and popular music.

The tour will feature performances in various cities and venues, offering audiences a captivating musical experience. The choir's rich harmonies and dynamic performances are sure to delight audiences of all ages.

"We are thrilled to embark on our 58th season tour," said JT Harrell, Conductor of the A Cappella Choir. "This tour is a wonderful opportunity for our talented singers to share their passion for music with audiences across the region."

The Gadsden State Community College A Cappella Choir has a long-standing tradition of excellence, earning acclaim for its outstanding performances and dedication to musical artistry. The choir's commitment to musical excellence and passion for performance make them a must-see ensemble.

Don't miss your chance to experience the magic of the Gadsden State Community College A Cappella Choir.

# 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](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/serve)

**Phone: 256-543-8200**

**Email:**

**fumc@fumcgadsden.org**

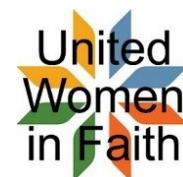
**#gfumcreconnect2023**

## United Women in Faith

### May Luncheon

**Monday, May 13 at 12:00 noon.**

**Speaker is Benny McNair, who will share with us "Jewels of the Bible". Please phone or text your lunch reservation by noon on Sunday, May 12, to Olivia Kendrick at 205-454-4375**



**Delores Abney, President**

**Olivia Kendrick, Vice-President**

### 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.



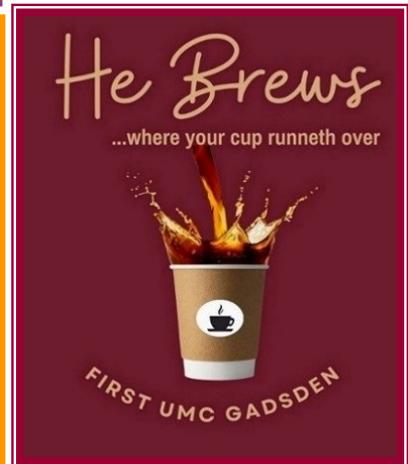
## Robbie's of Fayette Spring Clothing Show



Thank you to all who shopped and to all who volunteered at the sale!

## 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!!!*



**United Women in Faith Boston Butts Sale Benefiting Local Missions \$40 Each**

**Featuring Boston Butt's from Robertson's Barbecue (Tuscaloosa, AL)**



**Place your order by June 10. Prepayment is required.**

All order must be picked up\* between 3 pm and 6 pm on

Wednesday, June 19th

at First UMC Gadsden's Portico entrance facing 6th Street.

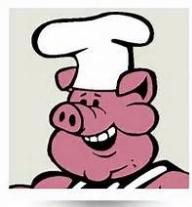
**(Orders not picked up will be donated to Ladle of Love.)**



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Boston Butt's \_\_\_\_\_ X 40.00 = Order Total \_\_\_\_\_



**Note: Order Early—Quantities are Limited!**

# 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.

YOU ARE INVITED TO  
FIRST UMC GADSDEN'S

# SPRING PiCNiC

KIWANIS PAVILION @ NOCCALULA FALLS PARK

**15 May | 5 p.m.**

- Burgers and Hotdogs
- Games and Activities
- Children Singing at 5:00

**1500 Noccalula Rd  
Gadsden, AL 35901**

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

**Join Us for Fellowship  
at the Back Forty  
Thursday, May 2 @ 6 pm  
following**

*Thursday*  
**WORSHIP**

A SERVICE OF PRAYER AND WORD

5:30 pm to 6:00 pm      In the Sanctuary  
First United Methodist Church of Gadsden

**PAT & DEE DEE McLEOD**



Pat was born in Michigan, and his family moved to Ohio, Alabama, then Kentucky as his father was promoted within Goodyear. While in Alabama, Pat graduated from Gadsden High; then he met his future wife, Dee Dee, when his family moved next door to her in Kentucky. Pat had loved living in Gadsden, so after he married Dee Dee, they moved here and he enrolled in a Goodyear Management Program, while taking Business courses at Gadsden State. Pat is retired from Goodyear, but works as a Deputy Sheriff at the courthouse one or two days a week. In his free time, he enjoys golfing. Dee Dee grew up in Madisonville, KY, and attended the University of Kentucky before marrying Pat. In Gadsden, she worked as a Legal Secretary for attorneys George Ford and George Day. Now retired, Dee Dee loves to play golf, work in her yard, and play pickleball. Pat and Dee Dee have two children: Michael (46), the General Manager of the Toyota Dealership in Decatur, AL; and Elizabeth (45), a Systems Analyst for Protective Life Insurance in Columbia, SC.

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](http://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](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



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



venmo

## Calendar for April 21-27, 2024

<p><b>Apr 21 Sunday</b></p> <p>9:00 am-Celebration Worship, Sanctuary 10:00-am Sunday School for all ages; Baby "Sprinkle" Shower; HeBrews Coffee, Chestnut Street Foyer 11:00 am-Traditions Worship, Sanctuary</p> <p><b>Apr 22 Monday</b></p> <p>9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Spring Schedule 9:00 am-10:00 am- Exercise Group, Gym <b>2:00 pm-4:00 pm-Pickleball, Gym</b></p> <p><b>Apr 23 Tuesday</b></p> <p>9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Spring Schedule 5:00 pm-6:00 pm-Yoga, Gym <b>5:00 pm-Finance Team meeting, Parlor</b> <b>6:00 pm-Board of Stewards meeting, Gathering</b></p>	<p><b>Apr 24 Wednesday</b></p> <p>9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Spring Schedule NO 11:00 am Bible Study 5:15 pm-Wednesday night meal, Gathering Room 6:00 pm-Children &amp; Youth activities, Gym &amp; Rooms 108 &amp; 211 6:00 pm-Small Group Study, Room 110 6:00 pm-Choir practice Choir room</p> <p><b>Apr 25 Thursday</b></p> <p>9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Spring Schedule 9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym</p> <p><b>Apr 26 Friday</b></p> <p>11:00 am-12:00 pm-Ladle of Love</p>
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### Mark Your Calendars

**Sunday, April 21, 10 am, A "Sprinkle" at HeBrews (See p. 7)**

**Sunday, May 5, High School Senior Recognition Sunday**

**Sunday, May 12, Mother's Day, 2nd Grade Bibles**

**May 15, 5 pm, Church Picnic, Kiwanis Pavilion, Noccalula Falls**

**Sunday, May 19, Confirmation Sunday**

**Gadsden State  
Community College  
A Cappella Choir Concert**

**3:00 pm**

**Sunday, April 28**

**Sanctuary**

**First UMC Gadsden**

### Immediate Prayer Concerns

John Floyd      Louie Loveman      Brent Styles (June Styles' husband)

Johnny Gunnels (Gail McNair's brother)

Chris Gunnels (Gail McNair's nephew)

Elizabeth Page & Pam James (Jan Humphrey's sisters)

### Continued Prayer Concerns

Martha Bullock      Marian Ford      Amy Epperson

Asher Mae Collins      Judy Collins (Tripp Collins' mother)

**WELCOME  
NEW MEMBERS**

**April 14, 2024  
Martha Macon Crowe**

### Birthdays

**Apr 21** Savannah Beth Phillips,  
Marit Norris, James Waid

**Apr 22** Shep Midgley,  
Tom Dawson II

**Apr 23** Martha White,  
Lenn Rainwater

**Apr 24** Walter Waid,  
Daniel Sherrouse,

John Rollins McCord  
**Apr 25** Tyler Trotter

**Apr 26** Ellen Bridges,  
Kelsey Freeman

**Apr 27** Josh Holloway



### Week of April 14, 2024

In Person Total-\*173      Worship Total-553  
Online-380      Thursday Worship-\*27  
Celebration Service-\*69/147  
Traditional Service-\*77/233  
Sunday School Adult-\*37      Children \*12      Youth \*2  
Nursery \*2      Bible Study Groups-\*30      UWF \*27  
Wed/Sun-Children\*44      Wed/Sun-Youth \*9  
Misc. \*10 Confirmation Class      \*in person

General Offering Budget \$11,400.00

General Offering Received \$9,217.00

YTD General Offering Budget \$171,000.00

YTD General Offering Rec'd \$201,153.00

### 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 se**