



Woven

The Burning Oil Lamp

Rev. Sherri Reynolds

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

Sermon Notes: Thursday, April 3, and Sunday, April 6

When will the second coming of Jesus take place? Many sermons, books, and movies have been written about the subject. Preachers have preached on the topic. In fact, some leaders have gained a following claiming that they can read signs or have some special supernatural knowledge of when that may be. We know that Jesus taught about his return. What we read in the New Testament makes you think that early Christians thought the second coming would be imminent. While Jesus said that there would be signs before he returns, he taught that no one knows except God, the Father. When will Jesus's return? According to scripture, only God knows. And while we may not know specifics, there are some elements which we can know, but we trust the exact timing to the God, the Father.

Jesus did say that we are to be ready. One of the parables of readiness is the scripture for this week (Matthew 25:1-13). The story of the ten bridesmaids and their oil lamps reminds us to be prepared. We may not know the details of Jesus' return, but we are called to be prepared, just like the five wise bridesmaids. In what ways are you preparing your soul for Jesus to return?

Journeying through Lent with You,
Rev. Sherri

MARCH MADNESS

During the month of March, when you attend in-person worship, you will find brackets with students of Jesus. You'll get a chance to vote for a champion Christ follower. Come cast your vote in worship this Sunday! March Madness (9-30) with winner announced on April 6.

Students of Jesus—March Madness Champion:

Mary Magdelene



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Worship Opportunities

Thursday: Worship, 5:30 pm

**Sunday Morning: Celebration, 9 am
Traditions, 11 am**

*In-Person and Livestream or On Demand
www.fumcgadsden.org/media

ACOLYTES

April 6: Anna Kate Casey & Jade Collins
 April 13: Luke Barnes

Tech Team Schedule

April 6

Celebration: Mark Condra, Rob Reynolds, Brad Barnes
Traditions: Davis Varner, Wayne Payton, Brad Barnes

April 13

Celebration: Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman
Traditions: Neil Mullin, Wayne Payton, Sheila Freeman

The Chosen Season 2 Bible Study



Rev. Sherri will be leading a Bible Study of Season 2 of the Chosen starting January 8. Each week will focus on a particular episode, reviewing the corresponding scriptures while engaging both with thought provoking questions. The class will be offered at 11am and 6pm on Wednesdays in room 208. The class will last until April 30 (with the night session skipping March 26 for spring break.)

Wednesday Fellowship, Room 201
Menu for April 9: Chicken Fingers, Mac & Cheese, Salad Dessert
\$7 per person Children under 11, \$3

Wednesday Morning Bible Study @ 11 am, Gathering Room

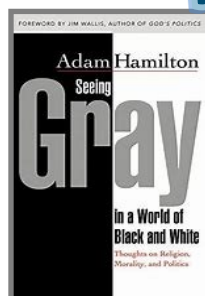
"The Chosen" w/ Rev. Sherri Reynolds

Adult Small Groups @ Wonderful Wednesdays, 6 pm

Rev. Sherri, "The Chosen", Room 208

Harriet Murray, "Fierce", Room 110

Sunday School: New Adult Series for Lent

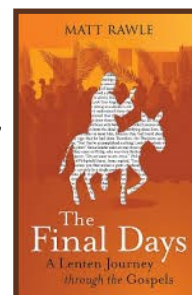


Transitions 10 am, Room 209

This study encourages thinking persons of faith to model for the rest of the country a richer, more thoughtful conversation on the political, moral, and religious issues that divide us. Hamilton rejects the easy assumptions and sloppy analysis of black and white thinking, seeking instead the truth that resides on all sides of the issues, and offering a faithful and compassionate way forward.

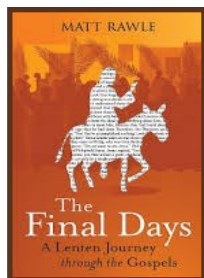
Pathfinders/Seekers 10 am, Room 208

Join us. Everyone welcome! Dive into The Final Days: A Lenten Journey through the Gospels by Matt Rawle, a powerful study that examines the themes of justice, poverty, freedom, and love through the lens of the four New Testament Gospels. Discover how each Gospel offers a distinct perspective on Jesus' final week in Jerusalem—culminating in the Resurrection hope we all hold dear.



Living Waters 10 am, Room 116

Dive into The Final Days: A Lenten Journey through the Gospels by Matt Rawle, a powerful study that examines the themes of justice, poverty, freedom, and love through the lens of the four New Testament Gospels.



"Men at the Well" Thursday Mornings, 7:00 am

You are invited to join the weekly Bible study with the "Men at the Well" at the 278 Restaurant.
Contact Todd Rains, Mark Condra, Mark Casey, or any of the Men at the Well for more information.



ELC NEWS

The annual roses sale for the Sara Rabun Johnson Scholarship Fund runs Sunday April 6th through Sunday May 4th. See flyer for additional details. ELC Easter parties and Bunny Visits will be Wednesday, April 16th. Dad, Uncles and Granddads: mark your calendars. Our annual Donuts for Dads event will be Thursday, April 24th from 8:50 am to 9:30 am.

—Helene Haller



Youth Group
Wednesdays at 6 pm
Room 211
(will not meet 3/26)

Sunday School
10 am, Room 211

Hymns for Hunger
Youth will receive donations at the doors of the Sanctuary. Plan to arrive by 1:45 pm to set up and serve.

Wonderful Wednesday
April 2 – Menu: Chicken Fingers, Mac & Cheese, Salad, Dessert
Adults & Youth \$7 Children 11 & Under \$3

Children's Ministry

Stop by the Children's Ministry table in the Chestnut St. Foyer and find out how you can help with the Easter Egg Hunt (April 12, 11 am). Drop off donations of individually wrapped Easter candy. (No chocolate please.)

GFUMC 2025 Kid's Spring Calendar

VALENTINE'S NIGHT 2/12	FAMILY NIGHT 3/19 (GYM)
ASH WEDNESDAY 3/15	SPRING BREAK 3/24-3/28
GFUMC EASTER EGG HUNT 4/12 (GFUMC)	PALM SUNDAY KIDS WILL SING 4/13
Vacation Bible School 6/9-6/12	EASTER SUNDAY 4/20
GFUMC FAMILY PICNIC NOCCALULA FALLS 5/7	

GFUMC CHILDREN'S APRIL UNIT

FULBLOOM

WEEK 1 GOD SENT JESUS TO SAVE US.	WEEK 2 JESUS UNDERSTANDS WHEN WE'RE HURTING.	WEEK 3 JESUS MAKES ALL THINGS NEW.	WEEK 4 JESUS CONNECTS US TO GOD.
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"BUT GROW IN THE GRACE AND KNOWLEDGE OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST."
2 PETER 3:18A (NIV)

WEDNESDAY'S AT 6:00

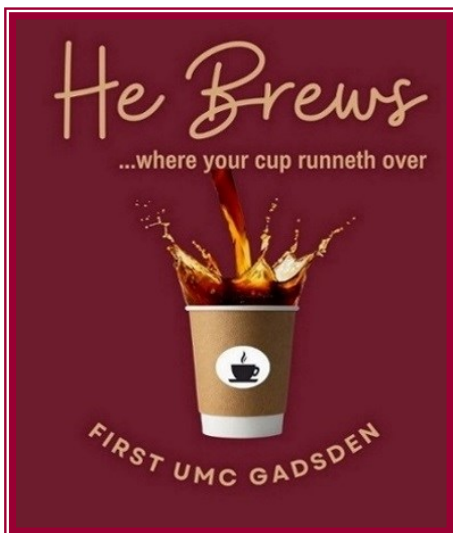
GFUMC EASTER EGG HUNT

APRIL 12
11:00AM

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GADSDEN

**515 S.5TH STREET
GADSDEN, AL**

WWW.FUMCGADSDEN.ORG/CHILDREN



HeBrews Coffee Café
10 am, Chestnut Street Foyer
We Can't Wait to See You There!



April Mission Focus

GFUMC APRIL MISSION FOCUS



The mission of the James M. Barrie Center for Children, Inc. is to promote hope, healing, and justice for child abuse victims by providing coordinated, trauma-informed services and education in our community.

**April is
Child Abuse Prevention
Month**



WISH LIST

**Snacks and Drinks
for Children**
(Capri Suns, Little Debbie Snacks,
Chips, Crackers)

**Gift Cards in \$5 or \$10
Increments**
(Fast Food, Movies, Gas Cards)

**Donate at Gadsden First UMC
during the month of April!**



605 S. 4TH ST
GADSDEN, AL 35901

Find
out
more:



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
4/2 and 4/16**

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

#gfumcreconnect2024

**Ladle of Love
Clothes Closet**

February

LOL	400
Clothes Closet	210

**Thanks to our
Volunteers!**

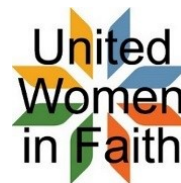
United Women in Faith

April UWF Luncheon—April 7 at 12:00 noon

The speaker is Melissa Mooneyham from "Our Father's Ministry" to talk about "Amanda's House". The menu is from Downtown Chief: Chicken salad on croissant, fruit cup, potato salad, and Oreo crème fluff. Please call in your reservation for lunch by Sunday, April 6th by noon to Delores Abney.

UWF Bake Sale—Sunday, April 13 Palm Sunday

Remember UWF ladies, we need you to bake and bring 3 items or one large item for the bake sale. We will have items for auction. Bring your bake goods on Friday, April 11 by 12:00 pm or Sunday morning beginning at 8:30 am. For further information call Delores Abney at 256-458-0376.



SARA RABUN JOHNSON
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Mother's Day Roses Sale

With your donation of \$20 or more, a rose will be 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". ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY SUNDAY, MAY 4.

ADDITIONAL DONATIONS TO THE FUND MAY BE GIVEN THROUGHTOUT THE YEAR.



UWF BAKE SALE & SILENT AUCTION Chestnut St Foyer



Sunday, April 13

8:30 AM TO 12:30 PM

Some of our most treasured classic old time
homemade baked goods will be available at our
Silent Auction Table for you to bid on!



PALM SUNDAY PIE PANTRY

Introducing the Palm Sunday Pie Pantry!

(Open, Sunday, April 13)

Select any of our four Easter pies.

***Made with all fresh ingredients no preservatives
freezer ready for Easter Sunday.***



Choose from

◆ peanut butter

◆ French coconut

◆ lemon icebox

◆ ham and cheese quiche



Ever wonder where the UWF bake sale money goes?

- Snack bags for homeless***
- Shelter for abused women and children***
- Job training for low income women***
- Emergency antibiotics for children***
- Medical assistance for low income***

***When you make a purchase of a homemade cake or pie
100% of your donation, goes to meet local needs right here
at home. Thank you for caring and making our community
a safer and happier place for everyone to live.***

United Women of Faith

First UMC Gadsden

Holy Week



Palm Sunday, April 13, 9:00 am & 11:00 am — Woven: The Crown of Thorns

Holy Week Noon Day Services, 12:05 pm, followed by lunch in the Gathering Room, 201

Monday-Rev. Michael Robertson, Sweet Home UMC

Tuesday-Rev. David Holmes, Retired Elder, FUMC Gadsden

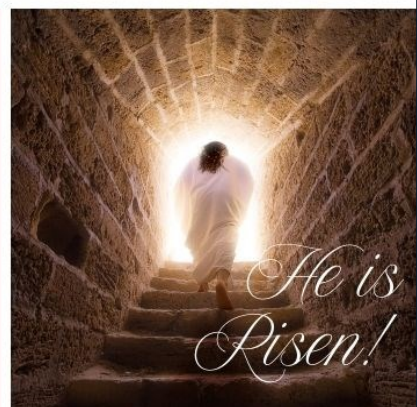
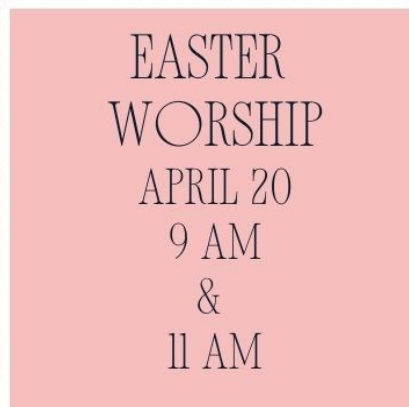
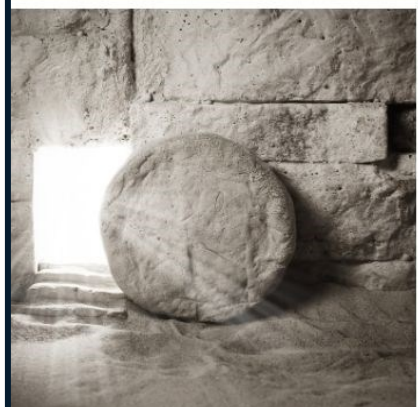
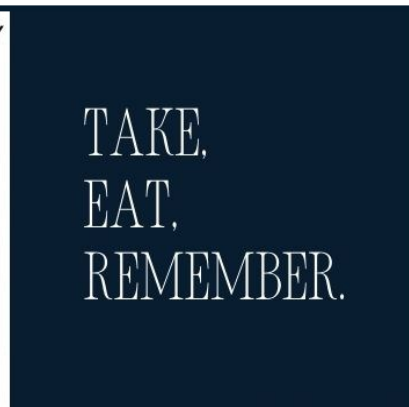
Wednesday-Rev. Beth Johnson, Ordained Deacon, worshipping at Southside UMC

Thursday-Rev. Sherri Ferguson, Retired Deacon, NAC

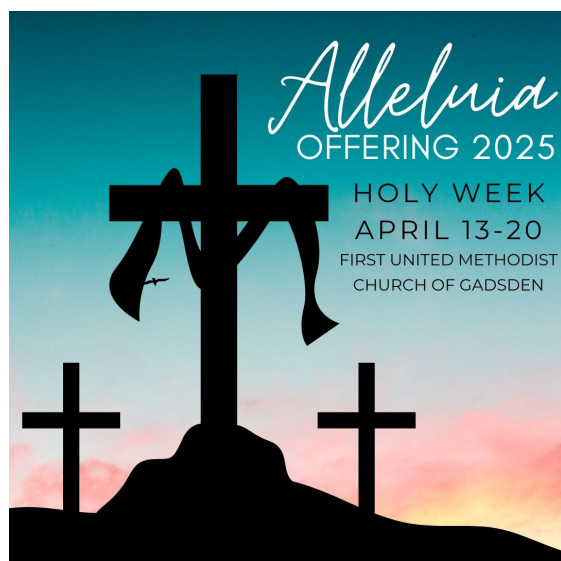
Friday-Rev. Alan Head, Mid Central District Superintendent

Maundy Thursday Worship, 6:00 pm — Woven: The Jesse Tree

Easter Sunday, April 20, 9:00 am & 11:00 am — Woven: The Butterfly



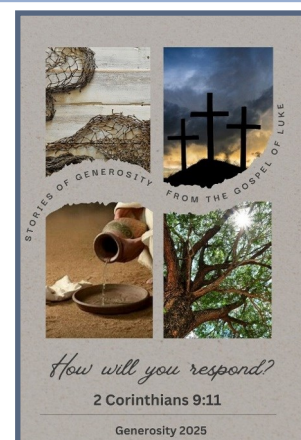
Dogwood trees are blooming, and tulips are making their debut. Signs of spring are all around us, with Easter coming quickly. This means the 2025 Alleluia offering is soon approaching. The Alleluia Offering is a special offering, received at Easter, to fund specific, special ministries within the church. It is a challenge to tithe your income during Holy Week, above and beyond your regular giving to the church. This year's gifts will fund organ maintenance, student ministry and media ministry. Watch your mail in the coming weeks for more information. If you do not receive further information in the mail, please contact the church office. —Rev. Sherri



Generosity 2025 “How will you Respond?”

You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us
2 Corinthians 9:11

The 2025 “Estimate of Giving” Card can be filled out at any time during the year online @ www.fumcgadsden.org/give



First UMC Gadsden
is a registered charity and can receive
donations through Venmo:

@FirstUMCGadsden

(Please search in Venmo under charities
or follow the link in the QR Code.)



venmo

Download our Church App
Search First UMC-Gadsden
In the App Store for Android or iPhone.



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



Secure Online Giving



Scan the QR Code or
Text to Give: 256-344-8464
First United Methodist Church of Gadsden

First UMC Gadsden

April 6, Sunday

9:00 am-Celebration Worship, Sanctuary
10:00 am-Sunday School classes for all ages
10:00 am- HeBrews Coffee
11:00 am-Traditions Worship, Sanctuary

April 7, Monday

9:00 am-1:00 pm- ELC
9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym
10:00 am-Pie Class, Kitchen
2:00 to 4:00 pm- Pickleball, Gym
6:00 pm-Pie Class, Kitchen

April 8, Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm- ELC
6:00 pm-Hymns for Hunger Practice

April 9, Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, ELC
11:00 am Wednesday Morning Bible Study

April 9, Wednesday cont'd

5:15 pm Fellowship Meal
6:00 pm Wednesday Night Activities for all ages
Small Groups for Adults, Room 110 & 208
Children and Youth Groups Meet
6:00 pm Choir Practice

April 10, Thursday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, ELC
9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym
11:00 am-Pie Class, Kitchen
5:30 pm-Thursday Worship, Sanctuary
6:00 pm-Pie Class, Kitchen

April 11, Friday

11:00 am-12:00 pm- Ladle of Love
Office closes at 12:00 pm

April 12, Saturday

11:00 am-Children's Easter Egg Hunt, Church

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Continued Prayer Concerns

Allison Casey Martha Bullock Juanita Hammons
Amy Epperson Mary Tom Hale Jackie Herlong
Bob Walden (Olivia Kendrick's father)

*The rose on the altar is in honor of the birth of
Wrenley Faye Calcote*

March 24, 2025

Parents: Will & Julia Calcote

Big Brother: Zander

Grandparents: John & Mary Ryles

Given by GFUMC Children's Ministry & Early Learning Center



Week of March 30, 2025

In Person Total-*152 On Line Total-558
Worship Total-710 Thursday service *6
Celebration *62/241 Traditions *84/317
Adult Sunday School *45 Children *7
Middle School & Senior Hi SS *1
Bible Study Groups *11 UWF *0
Children Wed/Sun *29 Nursery Wed/Sun *5
Middle Wed/Sun *0 Senior Hi Wed/Sun *1

Year 2025

General Offering Budget	\$12,400.00
General Offering Received	16,327.00
YTD General Offering Budget	161,200.00
YTD General Offering Rec'd	175,139.00

Birthdays

Apr 6 Dianne Rogerson, Grif Durham
Apr 7 Claire Michaels
Apr 8 David Fortenberry, Norah Horton,
Bentley Roberts, Thomas Gladden,
Jan Rutheford
Apr 9 Beverly McWhorter,
Sam Masters
Apr 10 Kimberly Abel, Amy Gladden,
Katie Peavy, Charlie Cox,
Leyton Hudak
Apr 11 Bessie Crow, Sherri DeJong,
Pat McLeod, Sherry Hall, BJ Miller

WELCOME

NEW MEMBERS

Carolyn Dombroski

Dates to Remember:

Saturday, April 12 — GFUMC
Easter Egg Hunt, 11 am
Sunday, April 13 — Palm Sunday
Worship @ 9 am & 11 am
Sunday School 10 am
Children Singing in both services,
Donuts & Donkeys, 10 am;
UWF Bake Sale and Pie Pantry;
Hymns for Hunger, 2:30 pm

*See page 8 of the weekly news
for more information about
Holy Week Services, Maundy
Thursday, and Easter Sunday.*

Order an Easter Lily by Monday, 4/14/25



*Lilies will be placed on the altar for Easter Sunday Worship
in memory or in honor of a loved one in both services.*

Cost: \$25.00

☐ **In Honor of**

☐ **In Memory of**

Name (s): _____

Given by: _____