

Word
from the
Windows

"The Cross and the Crown"

Rev. Sherri Reynolds



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

Sermon Notes: Thursday, April 4 & Sunday, April 7, 2024

Just as the joy of Easter continues, so does the Word from the Windows series. This series was originally scheduled to end on Easter, but due to popular demand the series will continue to mid-April, now including the windows in the narthex and a reimagining of Jesus and the Rich Young Ruler.

This week, we turn to The Cross and the Crown. The symbol in this window reminds us of the Lordship of Jesus and His work for us on our behalf through the cross. It is fitting in this season of resurrection, that we reflect upon the crown and the rule of Jesus. This symbol reminds us of Jesus' servant nature and kingly nature, as Suffering Servant and Lord of Lords.

As you prepare for this week's sermon, I encourage you to spend time with James 1:12. Reflect upon the following questions:

1. How does your life as a Christ-follower reflect his Lordship?
2. How does your life as a Christ-follower model his servant nature and obedience?
3. What does receiving the crown of life mean to you?

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

Rev. Sherri

MARCH MADNESS
FAVORITE WORSHIP SONGS

Champion: How Great Thou Art



**Tithes and Gifts to the
2024 Alleluia Offering
as of 4/3/24:**

\$27,722.00

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

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Worship Opportunities

5:30 pm Thursday Worship

Sunday Mornings: Celebration 9 am*

ACOLYTES

April 7 Rhett & Clementine Hilburn

April 14 Sara Kate & Jake Thornburg

Security for Thursday Worship

April 11 Mark Casey

April 18 George Fant

Tech Team Schedule

April 7

Celebration: Sheila Freeman, Carmen & Jacob McKiven
Traditions: Mark Condra, Wayne Payton, Brad Barnes

April 14

Celebration: Eric Wright, Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman
Traditions: Davis Varner, Neil Mullin, Sheila Freeman

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
w/Pastor Sherri will resume on April 3, 2024.**

**Bible Study with Rev. Sherri, Wednesdays @ 11 am
The Chosen Bible Study**



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 10
Menu:
Italian Night
(Lasagna & Spaghetti)**

Adult Small Groups @ Wonderful Wednesdays

Small Group with Harriet Murray, Room 110

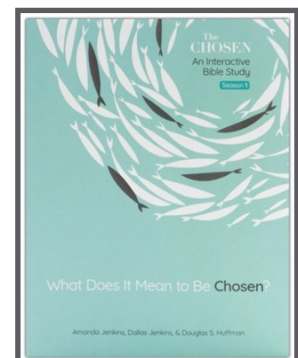
**How Happiness Happens
by Max Lucado**

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

April 3- Episode 6

April 10- Episode 7

April 17- Episode 8 (Last study for spring)



ELC News

We are in our final weeks of the 2023-2024 school year. This Sunday April 7th, through Sunday May 5th, is our annual Mother's Day Roses Sale for the Sara Rabun Johnson Scholarship Fund. On Tuesday April 16th we will host our annual Donuts for Dads event. Thursday April 18th at 10:30 we will shower our own Miss Caroline as she weds on Saturday April 27.

—Helene



Youth Ministry News



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

Wednesday Fellowship Dinner
April 10: \$7 Adults \$3 11 & Under
Lasagna & Spaghetti

Youth Group Meets
Wednesdays at 6 pm each week!

Youth Counselor
Carmen McKiven

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FAMILY NIGHT!

Cupcake Wars

WED.
APRIL
17

Join us in the gym for a night
of cupcake decorating!

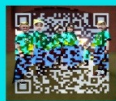
BRING YOUR FAMILY!



Confirmation Class

Wednesdays at 6 pm
Contact Katharine Barnes

Scan the QR Code to Register Now Online!



GFUMC's
Vacation Bible School

See Page 6 for details!

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

JUNE 3-6

KNIGHTS OF NORTH CASTLE

REGISTER ONLINE

**"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

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!

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 zip lock 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 Zip Lock 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 Zip-lock Bags (bundled) (For jewelry, and valuables)

1 Box Cutter

1 Liquid Hand Sanitizer 4 oz –12 oz

1 Insect Repellent Spray Bottle/Can, Wipes or Combination

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

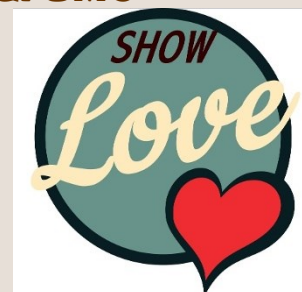
6 Clear Large Plastic Bags 40-55 Gallon recommended (bundled)

3 Tampons or Pad in Small Zip-lock 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:

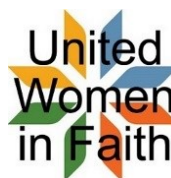
fumc@fumcgadsden.org

#gfumcreconnect2023

UMW Luncheon

Monday, April 8, 2024 at 12:00 noon in the Gathering Room.
The program will be "Camp Sumatanga-What's New? Given by Rev. Tony Jones, Director
The meal will be from the Downtown Chief restaurant and it will be chicken and dressing. Call your reservation in by noon on Sunday, April 7 to Olivia Kendrick by phone or text message at 205-454-4375

Delores Abney, 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

Tuesday, April 9
10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Gathering Room

Please Invite Friends!

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!!!*



**Mondays
2-4 pm**





Pickleball

COME AND PLAY!
SPORTS | FRIENDS | MONDAYS @ FIRST




First UMC Gym | 115 S. 5th Street
2nd Floor | Gadsden, AL 35901

ENTER AT THE CHESTNUT ST FOYER OFFICE DOOR

First United Methodist Church of Gadsden

He Brews

...where your cup runneth over



FIRST UMC GADSDEN



Watch for the upcoming dates!

Bike Ride & Social

Family Friendly

Children and youth must be accompanied by a parent!



This is a casual, friendly group Bike Ride and Social that meets at the Eubanks Welcome Center in Piedmont usually once a month with the date and time selected depending on the weather! The next date will be announced soon! Two wheelers and three wheelers are all welcome. This is an outback ride with no person left behind. Bring your own water and snacks. Contact George Fant for more information or if you have questions! 256-312-4381 We hope that you will join the fun!

Pickleball

Round Robin & Social

Just for Fun!
Not a Tournament!



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

First
UMC
Gym

A light
supper will
be served!

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.

LOUIS LOVEMAN



Louis was born in Reform, AL, and grew up in Gadsden. He attended our church as a toddler and was confirmed at First Methodist in April of 1955. A faithful member of our congregation for 69 years, Louis has helped with church projects such as the Clothes Closet. After graduating from Gadsden High, he worked at Coosa Nursery and Garden Shop, Morrison's Cafeteria, and the Mountaintop Club in Rainbow City before joining the staff of the Gadsden Public Library, a job which he has held for 26 years. Louis has many interests, including rock collecting (geology), chemistry, stamp collecting, photography, and Alabama history. He says he enjoys "collecting everything." He is also active with the Gadsden Chapter of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) and has been especially

interested in its courses on history and literature. There is rarely a Sunday that you won't see Louis at 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 7-13, 2024

Apr 7 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

Apr 8 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 9 Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Spring Schedule
10:00 am-3:00 pm-Robbie's of Fayette
5:00 pm-6:00 pm- Yoga, Gym

Apr 10 Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Spring Schedule
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 11 Thursday

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

Apr 12 Friday

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

Mark Your Calendars

Tuesday, April 9, 10 am to 2 pm,
Robbie's of Fayette Spring Clothing Show

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

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

Robbie's of Fayette



Spring Clothing Show

Tuesday, April 9
10:00 am to 2:00 pm
In the Gathering Room

Please Invite Friends!

A percentage of the sales is donated to
GFUMC's Children's Ministry Program.

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Marian Ford Amy Epperson
Judy Collins (Tripp Collins' Mother)

Continued Prayer Concerns

Lisa Dobbins Martha Bullock



The ministers and congregation of First United Methodist Church of Gadsden extend Christian sympathy to Julie Gage in the death of her mother and Mollie Horton & her family in the death of her grandmother, Gwen Bradley on April 2, 2024.



Birthdays

Apr 7 Claire Michaels
Apr 8 Bentley Roberts,
Thomas Gladden, Jan Rutheford,
Norah Horton
Apr 9 Beverly McWhorter,
Sam Masters
Apr 10 Kim Abel, Amy Gladden,
Katie Peavy, Charlie Cox,
Leyton Hudak
Apr 11 B.J. Crow, Sherri DeJong,
Pat McLeod, Sherry Hall, BJ Miller



Week of March 31, 2024

In Person Total-*518 Worship Total-1668
Online-1150 Maundy Thursday Worship-*55/234
Celebration Service-*92 Traditional Service-*187
Both Online-260 Sunday School Adult-*35
Children *9 -Youth *0 - Nursery *1
Bible Study Groups-*5 Wed/Sun-Children-*33
Youth *0 Holy Week Noon services-*184/647
*in person

General Offering Budget \$11,400.00
General Offering Received \$10,317.00
YTD General Offering Budget \$148,200.00
YTD General Offering Rec'd \$168,886.00

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.