

*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.

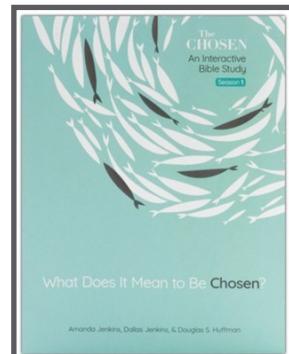
**Wednesday  
Fellowship Dinner  
April 10  
Menu:  
Italian Night  
(Lasagna & Spaghetti)**

## **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

# 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 10: \$7 Adults \$3 11 & Under  
Lasagna & Spaghetti

Youth Counselor  
Carmen McKiven

Children's  
Ministry

Confirmation  
Class  
Wednesdays at 6 pm  
Contact Katharine Barnes



See Page 6 for details!



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.

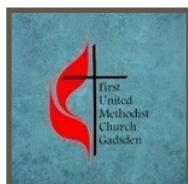
MAKE YOUR DONATION PAYABLE TO GFUMC AND  
MARK IT "SRJ SCHOLARSHIP FUND".  
ADDITIONAL DONATIONS TO THE FUND MAY BE GIVEN  
THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.



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

**Phone: 256-543-8200**

**Email:**

**fumc@fumcgadsden.org**

**#gfumcreconnect2023**

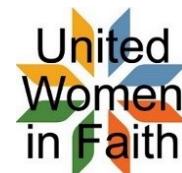
## UMW Luncheon

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.



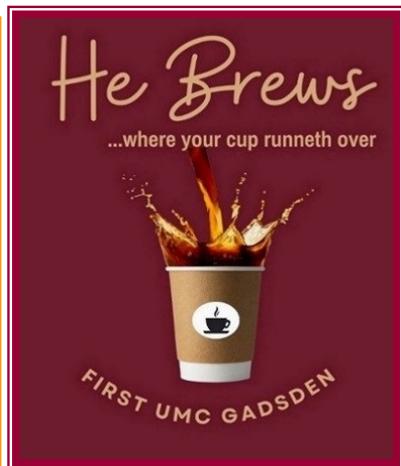
## Robbie's of Fayette Spring Clothing Show



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!!!*



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

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.

## 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](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 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](mailto:susan@fumcgadsden.org) or 256.543.8200.*