

Word  
from the  
Windows

# “The Altar Lilies”

Rev. Sherri Reynolds



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

### Sermon Notes: Thursday, February 8 & Sunday, February 11

The fourth windows in the series are unique, for several reasons. First, “Windows” is plural because we examine two windows identical this Sunday: “The Altar Lilies”. These are the two smallest of the stained-glass windows and are located on the opposite walls of the choir loft. Unlike the others, these were not given as a memorial, but as a gift from the artist, Joseph Victor Llorens who designed the windows of the church. They are also not visible from the street like the others.

“The Altar Lilies” display Easter Lilies reminding us of these beautiful perennial flowers which adorn the sanctuary each easter morning. The flowers have become a symbol for spring, resurrection, and all things new.

As you prepare for this sermon, read 2 Corinthians 5:13-19 and contemplate these questions 1) How is Christ making you a new creation? 2) What old has passed away in your life since becoming a follower of Jesus? And 3) How do you see God making all things new?

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

Rev. Sherri

### Join a Small Group Study for Lent

Wednesday Mornings 11 am (beginning February 21)

- “The Chosen Bible Study” with Rev. Sherri, Gathering Room/Rm 201
- Wednesday Nights 6 pm (beginning February 21)
- “The Chosen Bible Study” with Rev. Sherri, Room 208
- “Seven Words” by Susan Robb with Harriet Murray, Room 110

Thursdays, 7 am

- “Lent Guide”, Men at the Well, The Choice Restaurant

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### 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)

### ACOLYTES

- February 11 Rhet and Clementine Hilburn
- February 18 Anna Kate Casey

### Security for Thursday Worship

- February 8 Bob Blount
- February 15 Mark Casey

### Tech Team Schedule

February 11

Celebration: Eric Wright, Jacob McKiven, Carmen McKiven

Traditions: Wayne Payton, Neil Mullin, Brad Barnes

February 18

Celebration: Eric Wright, Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman

Traditions: Davis Varner, Brad Barnes, Sheila Freeman

ASH WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 14

RECEIVE ASHES FROM 11:30 AM TO 12:30 PM OR @ 6 PM WORSHIP

Lent Begins

# 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)**

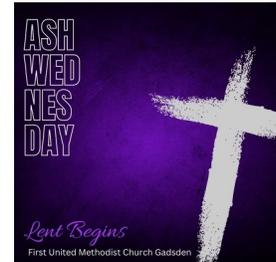
***Ash Wednesday, February 14***

***Imposition of Ashes, 11:30 am to 12:30 am, in the Sanctuary.***

***Or Ash Wednesday Worship @ 6 PM***

***Bible Study w/Pastor Sherri will not meet on February 14.***

**Bible Study with Rev. Sherri, Wednesdays @ 11 am will resume on 2/21**



## **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.

**Wonderful  
Wednesday  
Fellowship Dinner  
Feb 14, 5:00 pm  
\$7 Adults, \$3 11 & U**

**Chickfila**

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

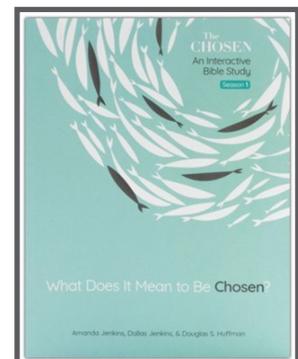
**Ash Wednesday, February 14, 6 pm, in the sanctuary**

**6 pm Small Group with Harriet Murray, Room 110**

**Will resume on February 21**

### **Join Pastor Sherri on Wed. @ 6 pm**

Rev. Sherri will be leading a Bible study based on *The Chosen*, Season 1. This popular Christian historical drama focuses on people who encountered Jesus, and how Jesus may have been viewed through their eyes. The study will include episodes from the show, examination of relevant scriptures, separation of scripture from dramatization within the episodes, theological reflection, and personal application. The study held will be at 11am and 6pm on Wednesdays, starting January 17 in room 208. No books are required. Classes will last until March 20 (skipping February 14 for Ash Wednesday).



## ELC News

In King Cake news, we presold 276 cakes and sold an additional 30 for a total of 306 cakes. Currently estimating \$2,000 for third floor updates. Thank you to everyone for your support of this fundraiser. Church members who are currently enrolled will have registration Feb 12<sup>th</sup> through 16<sup>th</sup>. Non church members who are currently enrolled will have registration Feb 20<sup>th</sup> through Feb 26<sup>th</sup>. Teacher Meet and Greets have been rescheduled for Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>. Information has been sent home.  
—Helene



## Youth Ministry News



**“The Chosen Bible Study”**  
Feb 4 - Sheila Freeman  
Feb 11– Rev. Sherri Reynolds  
Feb, 18 Sheila Freeman  
Feb. 25 Barbara Condra

### Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Dinner

5:00 pm, Feb 14:

Chickfila

\$7 Per Person

\$3 Age 11 & Under

Please make a reservation:

Text: 256-490-5018

**Youth Group Meets**  
Wednesdays at 6 pm each week!

**Everyone!**  
Super Bowl Meet Up!  
Pizza Party, Barone’s @ 4:30 pm

Youth Counselor  
Carmen McKiven

# Children's Ministry

ASH WEDNESDAY IS ON  
VALENTINE'S DAY

YOU CAN'T SPELL Valentine WITHOUT LENT

REMEMBER U R DUST

Join US! WED, FEBRUARY 14 6:00

First United Methodist Church of Gadsden  
115 South 5th Street  
Gadsden, Al

SPRING 2024  
GFUMC CHILDREN'S CALENDAR  
Children's Church, Sunday's 9:00 & 11:00  
Wonderful Wednesdays @6:00

<p><b>FEBRUARY</b></p> <p>February 11 Valentine's Day party!</p> <p>February 14 Ash Wednesday @6 Wednesday Unit How To?: Jesus' teachings</p>	<p><b>MARCH</b></p> <p>March 16 Easter Egg Hunt</p> <p>March 24 Children will sing at Palm Sunday service Wednesday Unit Glow in the Dark: Lead us to Easter</p>
<p><b>APRIL</b></p> <p>April 17 Family Night: Cupcake Wars Wednesday Unit Throw Back: Jesus' trendy teachings</p>	<p><b>MAY</b></p> <p>May 15 Annual GFUMC Picnic Wednesday Unit One Small Step: Stories from Acts</p>

★ Mark your calendar! GFUMC Vacation Bible School, June 3–June 6 ★



The Friends of the ELC Present

# AUTHENTIC LOUISIANA KING CAKES

FUNDRAISER BENEFITTING THE EARLY LEARNING CENTER

**King Cake Orders are Closed.**  
 Thank you for your support for this year's King Cake Fundraiser!

This year, the Early Learning Center will use funds they receive from the sale to do some updates on the third floor play area.

Thank you all for your love and support. —Friends of the ELC Committee

**United Women in Faith is hosting their monthly luncheon and EVERYONE is invited!**

**February 12: Luncheon and Speaker & Book Signing. "Writing Christian Books" Ms. Vernet Clemons Nettles, author of Unspoken Words, will be the guest speaker. Lunch reservations are available for \$15.00. Please contact Olivia Kendrick for reservations by 12 noon on February 9 by text to 205-454-4375.**

## Vernet Clemons Nettles, EdD

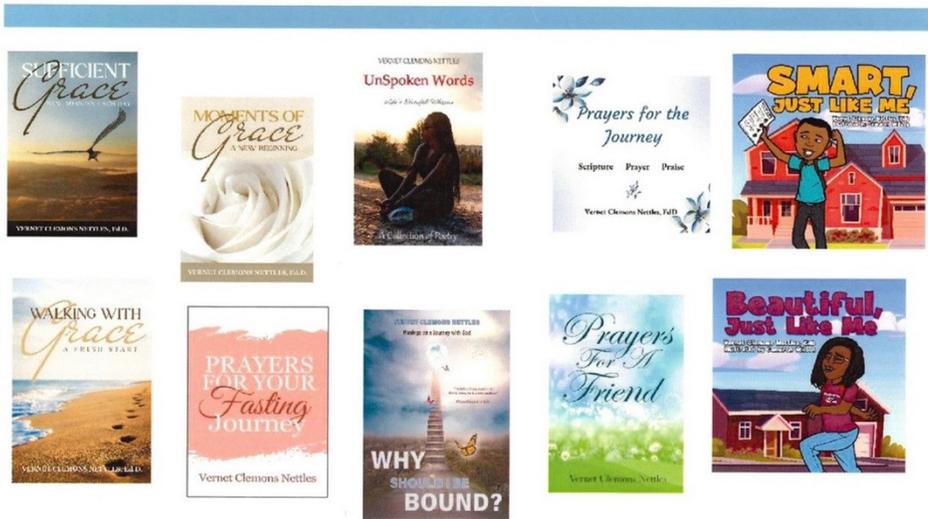
### Author - Educator – Speaker

Vernet Clemons Nettles, Ed.D. is a parent, educator, poet, and author of her second children's book, *Smart, Just Like Me*. Highlighting the power of spiritual connection and personal reflection, Dr. Nettles' works include prayer journeys, devotionals, poetry, journals, and children's books. Her desire is to continue exploring more genres and branch into serving as a writing coach and publisher.

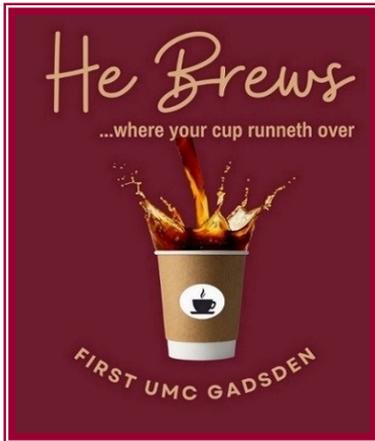


Dr. Nettles shares daily original prayers on her website *Another Day's Journey* - [www.vcdailypray.com](http://www.vcdailypray.com), and has been published since 2018. In 2023, for her 5-year anniversary, she self-published 5 books, and ended the year with a total of 12 published books.

Dr. Nettles enjoys seeking Christ, researching the Word of God, and relishing in the a-ha moments of God's promises. She hopes to inspire others to trust, believe, and grow in God's grace through the sharing of her devotions, prayers, and poetry.



# 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!!!*

The poster is divided into several color-coded sections. The top left features a pattern of cookies on a pink background. The top right is a yellow triangle containing the text 'Come Celebrate Valentine's Day on Our Courts!' and 'Monday Feb 12 2-4 pm'. A small heart icon with 'I Love Pickleball!' is in the top right corner. The middle section is white and features two yellow hearts with faces on either side of the text 'Pickleball VALENTINE'S KICKOFF SPORTS | FRIENDS | MONDAYS @ FIRST'. The bottom section is pink and contains the address: 'First UMC Gym | 115 S. 5th Street | 2nd Floor | Gadsden, AL 35901'. The very bottom is a yellow banner with the text 'ENTER AT THE CHESTNUT ST FOYER OFFICE DOOR' and 'First United Methodist Church of Gadsden'.

# January 2024 Mission

## There's Still Time...

### to Donate for UMCOR to the UMCNA Disaster Relief Warehouse!

#### January Mission Focus- UMCOR US Disaster Relief & Supplies for UMCNA UMCOR Disaster Relief Warehouse:

Your Mission Team will be leading the way to once again fill Tornado Buckets for the UMCOR Disaster Relief Warehouse in Decatur! This year, we will be collecting donations of items for the cleaning supplies and buckets so that those can then be divided up and packed!

You can help by donating multiple quantities of the same item, providing cleaning supplies, or by sponsoring a tornado bucket. The estimated cost of the items for one tornado bucket is \$120. We hope to have lots of supplies and buckets ready to take to our Disaster Relief Warehouse

#### Specific Items Needed to Complete a Tornado Bucket

- 1 Standard Size Claw Hammer (No Stubby hammers, framing hammers or hammers lighter than 16 Oz, please!)
- 4-4 oz Insect Repellant Spray Can
- 1 pair Safety Glasses
- 9-12 Tampons or Pads in a Zip Loc Bag
- Flashlight with batteries

#### Cleaning Bucket Supply List

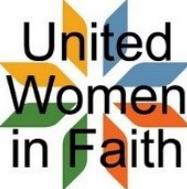
- Liquid Laundry Soap Awesome brand. 42 oz (Dollar Tree)
- Dish Washing Soap (14-30 oz)
- 5 Scrub Buddies square scrub pads (5 Individual pads per bucket) (No round scrubbers, no steel/copper scrubbers, and no Brillo pads please.)
- Reusable Wipes— Brillo Basics are great. 2 packs of 9 per bucket. (No cloth wipes, no disinfectant wipes, no cloth rags, or wash cloths and no shop rags etc., please.)

**Note: The cleaning bucket supplies listed above can be found at Dollar Tree.**

Thank you in advance for your continued support of all of our GFUMC Missions.  
—GFUMC Missions Team

**United Women in Faith**

**February 12: Luncheon and Speaker & Book Signing. "Writing Christian Books"**  
**Ms. Vernet Clemons Nettles, author of Unspoken Words, will be the guest speaker.**  
**Lunch reservations are available for \$15.00.**  
**Please contact Olivia Kendrick for reservations by 12 noon on February 9 by text to 205-454-4375.**



**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**

**February open dates are**

**2/7 and 2/21**

**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](mailto:fumc@fumcgadsden.org)**

**#gfumcreconnect2023**

#### Clients Served

#### December 2023

Ladle of Love 284

Clothes Closet 240

#### 2023 Totals

Ladle of Love 4463

Clothes Closet 2895

**Thanks to our Volunteers!**

ASH  
WEDNESDAY  
FEBRUARY 14

*Lent Begins*



RECEIVE ASHES  
FROM  
11:30 AM TO 12:30 PM

*In the  
Sanctuary* @ 6 PM WORSHIP  
OR



*Word  
from the  
Windows*

*1.21.24  
through  
3.31.24*

**See the Beauty...  
Hear the Story.**

From January 21, 2024 through March 31, 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 sanctuary, prayer room, Narthex and William's Parlor (Bride's Room) and other areas adjacent to the sanctuary. Come and worship together on Thursdays at 5:30 pm or on Sunday mornings at 9 am or 11 am, each week.



*See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.*

*I am so excited about the year ahead. By the power of the Holy Spirit, I can feel that God is doing a new thing at First United Methodist Church, and I am blessed to be on this journey with you!*

*In Christ,*

*Rev. Shu Reynolds*

**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

**Secure Online Giving**



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

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



**venmo**

## Calendar for February 11-17, 2024

### Feb 11 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

### Feb 12 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 Kickoff, Gym

### Feb 13 Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Spring Schedule  
 5:00 pm-6:00 pm- Yoga, Gym

### Feb 14 Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm- ELC Spring Schedule  
 11:30 am-12:30 pm- Imposition of Ashes, Sanctuary  
 5:00 pm- Wednesday night meal, Gathering Room  
 6:00 pm-Ash Wednesday Service, Sanctuary

### Feb 15 Thursday

9:00 am-1:00 pm- ELC Spring Schedule  
 9:00 am-10:00 am- Exercise Group, Gym  
 5:30 pm- Thursday Worship

### Feb 16 Friday

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

**Ash Wednesday, February 14**  
 In the Sanctuary  
 Receive Ashes from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm  
 or at Ash Wednesday Worship, 6 pm

ASH WEDNESDAY IS ON  
 VALENTINE'S DAY

YOU CAN'T SPELL  
*Valentine*  
 WITHOUT  
**LENT**

REMEMBER  
 U R  
 DUST

Join  
 US!  
 WED, FEBRUARY 14  
 6:00

First United Methodist Church  
 of Gadsden  
 115 South 5th Street  
 Gadsden, AL

### **New Handbell Choir**

The **NEW** Handbell Choir is planning to start rehearsals for Easter soon. We are looking for any new adults who would be interested in joining our group. If you know basic musical notes, please join us! For more information, you may contact Monica Gilmer at 256-328-4420.

### Immediate Prayer Concerns

Ralph Whitfield  
 Rodney Thompson  
 Asher Mae Collins  
 Judy Collins (Tripp Collins' mother)  
 Jaron Gray (Donny & Janie Gray's grandson)

### Continued Prayer Concerns

Lisa Dobbins  
 Bessie Crow

### **Honorariums & Memorials**

General Budget Fund  
 In memory of George Varner, given by Dr. & Mrs. Seth Spotnitz.  
 (Correction from previous announcements)

### **Birthdays**

**Feb 11** Courtney Hood,  
 Stephen Leach  
**Feb 12** Leslie Johnson,  
 Casey Wigley  
**Feb 13** Sherry McIntyre,  
 Parker Vallejo, Rhett Hilburn  
**Feb 14** Herman Cowart,  
 Sara McClendon, Carol Vice,  
 Elizabeth Haney, Katie Darden  
**Feb 15** Jace McDill, Libby Reynolds  
**Feb 16** Sandra Hunter,  
 Barbara Condra, Ann Sasser

### **Week of February 4, 2023**

In Person Total \*157    Worship Total 532  
 Online 375    Thursday Worship \*10  
 Celebration Service \*62/158  
 Traditional Service \*85/217  
 Sunday School-Adult \*42/1    Children \*6  
 Sunday School-Youth \*2    Nursery \*2  
 Bible Study Groups \*29    Children \*45  
 Youth \*12    \*in person

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General Offering Budget \$11,400.00  
 General Offering Received \$19,026.00  
 YTD General Offering Budget \$57,000.00  
 YTD General Offering Rec'd \$83,302.00

### Update Your Contact Information

**Please help us update the membership records in the church office with your current mailing address, phone number, email address and birthdays for all family members.**

Updates may be sent to  
[susan@fumcgadsden.org](mailto:susan@fumcgadsden.org) or call  
 Susan in the church office @  
 256-543-8200.