

ADVENTURE


**GIVING
HOPE**
 REV. SHERRI REYNOLDS


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

Sermon Notes: Thursday, Feb. 13, and Sunday, Feb. 16

The best adventure story is one with a happy ending. Now don't get me wrong, there can be peril, evil villains, and danger; but if you know there is a positive outcome you can have peace in the anxious parts of the story. You can move forward with the adventure without worry or fear. You can move forward with hope.

As followers of Jesus, we can move forward in hope. We can rest in the assurance that in Christ, we are a new creation. We also know that God removes our sins as far as the East is from the West. We also have the assurance that all things work together for good for those who love the Lord and are called according to God's purpose. We know that Christ will receive us at the end of the journey into His eternal love.

The Israelites could move forward in hope to the Promised Land. When Moses renewed the covenant with God, God's promise was that God would "perform marvels, such as not been performed in all the earth or in any nation; and all the people who lived would see the work of the Lord, for it would be an awesome thing that God would do with them." (Exodus 34:8-12) Through such assurance they could find peace for the journey ahead. May we all find peace and joy for the journey ahead this week.

Adventuring with You,

Rev. Sherri


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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

ACOLYTES

February 16: Volunteer

February 23: Luke Barnes

Thursday Worship Security
February 13: Steve Frederick

February 20: Mark Casey

Tech Team Schedule
Feb 16
Celebration: Sheila Freeman, Rob Reynolds, Carmen McKiven

Traditions: Davis Varner, Neil Mullin, Sheila Freeman

Feb 23
Celebration: Sheila Freeman, Bill Haller, Carmen McKiven

Traditions: Davis Varner, Neil Mullin, Sheila Freeman


Are you wanting to go deeper in your spiritual life? Consider a life-changing 72-hour retreat at Camp Sumatanga called the Walk to Emmaus. The Walk to Emmaus is a spiritual renewal program intended to strengthen the local church through the development of Christian disciples and leaders. The retreat us a 72-hour short course in Christianity, comprised of fifteen talks by lay and clergy on the themes of God's grace, disciplines of Christian discipleship, and what it means to be the church. The course is wrapped in

prayer and meditation, special times of worship and daily celebration of Holy Communion. Contact the church office or go to alaemmaus.org to learn more.

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 208
February 19—Chicken Fingers, Salad & Dessert
\$7 Youth & Adults \$3 Children 11 & Under
Dinner is served beginning at 5:15 PM

Wednesday Morning Bible Study @ 11 am, Gathering Room

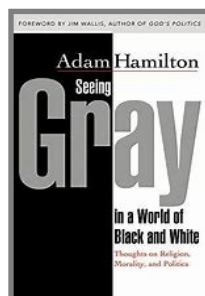
"The Chosen" w/ Rev. Sherri Reynolds

Adult Small Groups @ Wonderful Wednesdays, 6 pm

Rev. Sherri, "The Chosen", Room 208

Harriet Murray, "Common Ground", Room 110

Adventure Into Sunday School with New Adult Studies

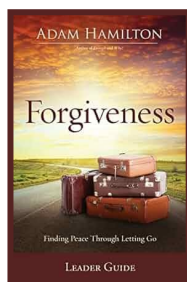


Transitions 10 am, Room 209

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! Context looks at verses we know by heart but may not know the people, places, and times that give them meaning. Josh Scott delves into these well-known Scripture verses, exploring their true meanings by examining them in their original biblical context.



Living Waters 10 am, Room 116

A new study will begin our new study January 12th on the book Forgiveness - Finding Peace Through Letting Go by Adam Hamilton. The book is available on Amazon for \$9.99 (newer version with suitcases.)

"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

We had a great time swapping Valentine's last week. Registration continues! Registration for all currently enrolled families continues through Feb 24th. Reserve your spot now for Summer 2025 and the 2025-2026 school year. The ELC will be closed for President's Day Monday, Feb 17th. On Tuesday, Feb 18th, our 4K students will have a special visitor come and talk about healthy teeth.

—Helene Haller

YOUTH CALENDAR

FEB 9 BAKE AND DELIVER COOKIES 2 PM

FEB 12 VALENTINE PARTY
BRING SNACKS & 12 VALENTINES TO SHARE 6 PM

MAR 2 COOK & DELIVER MEALS 2 PM

APR 13 COLLECT FOOD [AT] HYMNS FOR HUNGER 2:30 PM

APR 13 TOP GOLF 5 PM

SUNDAY SCHOOL
10 AM RM 211

WEDNESDAYS 6 PM
MIDDLE: ROOM 209
HIGH: RM 211

MAY 4 SENIOR HIGH
RECOGNITION SUNDAY IN
WORSHIP & BRUNCH AT 10 AM

MAY 18 BOWLING [AT] THE ALLEY 5 PM

GADSDEN FIRST UMC STUDENT MINISTRIES

FOR MORE INFO: FUMC@FUMCGADSDEN.ORG

Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Dinner, 5:15 pm, Gathering Room
Wed., February 19: Chicken Fingers, Salad, & Dessert
\$7 Youth & Adults \$3 Children 11 & Under
Activities and Small Groups for All Ages begin at 6 pm.

Children's Ministry

GFUMC CHILDREN'S FEBRUARY UNIT

WOW!

WEDNESDAY'S AT 6:00

WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4
Wow! Jesus has the power to heal .	Wow! Jesus has the power to calm our fears .	Wow! Jesus has the power to provide .	Wow! Jesus has the power to save .

"In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all."
1 Chronicles 29:12b (NIV)

GFUMC 2025 Kid's Spring Calendar

VALENTINE'S NIGHT 2/12

FAMILY NIGHT 3/19 (GYM)

SPRING BREAK 3/24-3/28

ASH WEDNESDAY 3/15

GFUMC EASTER EGG HUNT 4/12 (GFUMC)

PALM SUNDAY KIDS WILL SING 4/13

GFUMC EASTER SUNDAY 4/20

FAMILY PICNIC NOCCALULA FALLS 5/7

Vacation Bible School 6/9-6/12

Sunday morning Children's Church
9:00am & 11:00am

Sunday School
10:00am

Wonderful Wednesday's
6:00pm

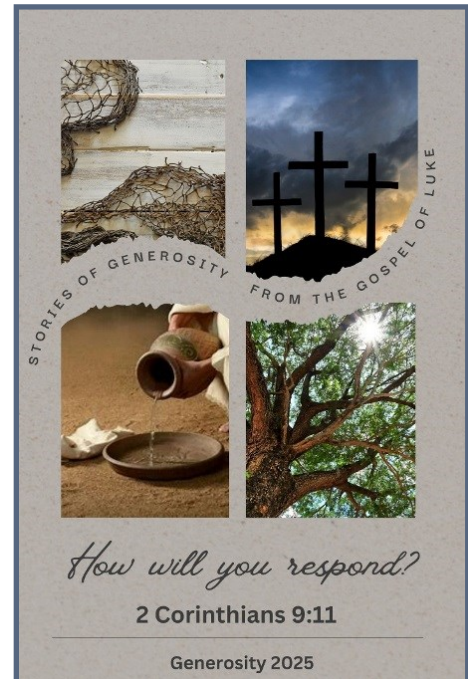
A Letter of Gratitude

I am thankful for your commitment and discipleship lived out through First United Methodist Church of Gadsden in 2024. The generosity emphasis, "How will you Respond?" resulted in 68 commitments returned for \$461,596 pledged to our 2025 budget, representing an increase in the number making a commitment and an increase in the amount over last year. We closed the 2024 General Fund with receipts exceeding the budget by more than \$90,000. We also saw an increase of 11 in attendance or 6.8% over the year before. There are incredible folks who were willing to step up to lead for the coming year. First United Methodist Church celebrated 13 professions of faith and 9 baptisms last year. This is data worth recognizing! While this is the year in metrics, it is also lives changed and lives growing deeper in relationship with Jesus.

I am not sure what 2025 will bring, but I know that God will be with us. My prayer is that we continue to be a congregation that is changing lives, because we share Jesus, make disciples, serve people, and offer hope.

In gratitude,
Rev. Sherri Reynolds
Rev. Sherri

Generosity 2025



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**

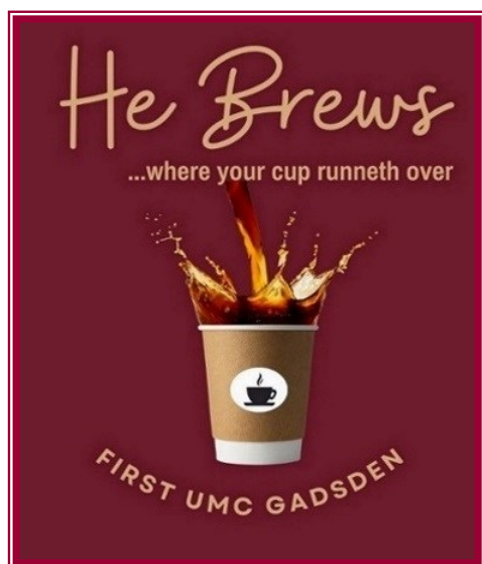
Mail your tithe or gift: 115 S. 5th Street, Gadsden, AL 35901



Secure Online Giving



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



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



**DO
YOU
KNOW?**

DAVID FORTENBERRY & AMANDA HARBIN



David grew up in Walnut Grove, AL, and studied Auto Technology at Gadsden State before going into the Woodworking business with his uncle. (David's love for woodworking was instilled in him by his grandfather.) The Fortenberry family's woodworking business, Smoky Mountain Bow Knife, features bow knives (a taut blade between wooden handles that is used to cut bread), rolling pins, and cutting boards. David enjoys the outdoors and loves to go fishing. Amanda grew up in northern California and studied Criminal Justice Administration at Cumberland University in Lebanon, TN. She is also involved in the family woodworking business. Amanda enjoys reading, for instance, books by Thomas Merton and Edith

Wharton. The Fortenberrys come to us from First United Methodist Church in Huntsville, AL. They have two children: Jessica (14), who attends Emma Sansom Middle School; and Sylvia (10), who attends Mitchell Elementary School.

February Mission Focus

Members in Mission

◇ Seven members worked at the Disaster Relief Warehouse in Decatur for a one day Mission trip on March 7. Thank you for your Service! Another trip will be planned for late spring.

◇ UMCOR Donations for CA Fire Relief of \$2160.00 were received during January and February. 100% of these donations goes directly to disaster Relief. Thank you for your Generosity!

Save the Dates for

March Church Spring Cleaning!

The Mission Team is sponsoring "Spring Cleaning Days" to clean various parts of GFUMC's buildings.



**Spring Cleaning
at GFUMC
Church
Workdays**

**March 14
&
March 15**

Watch for more information
&
Sign up on the church
website or app!

United Women in Faith

LuVerna Waid Circle News

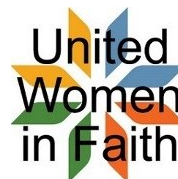
Next Meeting: March 4, Room 208

—Susan Copeland, Circle Leader

March 10, 12 noon, UWF Luncheon

12:00 Noon-Luncheon, Gathering Room; Program: Benny Campbell, owner of Attalla Florist and a favorite speaker at Gadsden First will present Fling Spring into Your Home. We will **learn new ways to use flowers to brighten our houses as spring comes in. (Deco/Clean-up Members At Large)**

Monday, 10th -10:30 am, UWF Executive Board Meeting, Room 208



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
2/5 and 2/19**

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

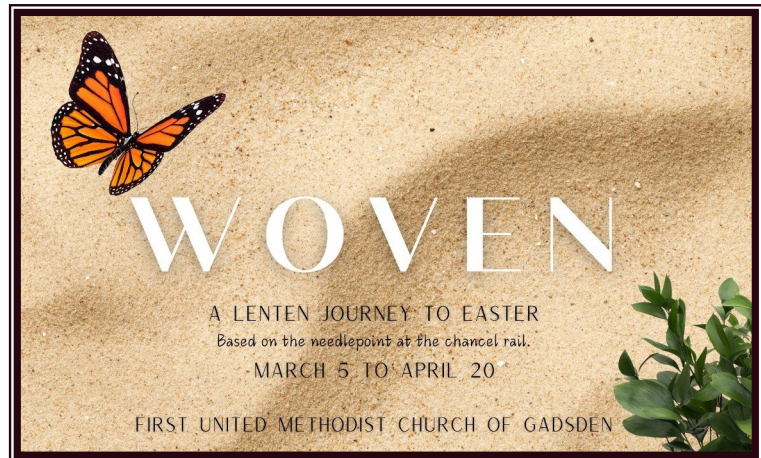
Ladle of Love Clothes Closet

January

LOL	501
Clothes Closet	154

**Thanks to our
Volunteers!**

One of the greatest artistic assets of this church is one that we don't often notice: the needlepoint work on the kneelers at our communion rail. For almost fifty years, worshippers have knelt on cushions handcrafted by skillful hands. Each cushion is adorned with extraordinary needlepoint depicting the rich symbols of our Christian faith. Created in 1976 and restored in 2011, these cushions are a treasure that enhance our worship and guide us in faithful discipleship.



This Lent, First United Methodist Church of Gadsden will be spending the season looking at the story behind the kneelers and the meaning of the symbols with *Woven*. The series will kick off on Ash Wednesday and conclude Easter. Find your favorite symbol on the cushions, bring your curiosity, and join us for *Woven* this spring.

Pancake Supper

In the Gathering Room

5:15 pm

Wednesday, February 26

followed by "Burning of Palms"

in the Greenspace

@ 6 pm

Everyone is invited!

Please RSVP for the Pancake Supper by text 256.490.5018.

\$7 PER PERSON

\$3 AGE 11 & UNDER



Burning of the Palms

Wednesday, February 26

6 pm, Greenspace



ASH WEDNESDAY MARCH 5

Imposition of Ashes

Sanctuary Open for Prayer and Reflection

12 pm to 1 pm

*Worship &
Imposition of Ashes*
6 pm



Wednesday Night

Fellowship Meal

March 5, 5 pm

Red Beans & Rice

Muffaletta Sandwiches

King Cake

(Kid's Menu: Chicken Fingers)

Everyone is Invited

\$7 Per Person

\$3 for age 11 and under

First UMC Gadsden Calendar for Feb 16-Feb 22, 2025

February 16, 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

February 17, Monday

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

February 18, Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm- ELC
9:00 am-11:00 am-Clothes Closet workday
5:00 pm-Yoga, Gym
6:30 pm-Emmaus Cluster meeting, Gathering Room

February 19, Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, ELC
9:00 am-11:00 am-Clothes Closet open
11:00 am-Bible Study-Pastor Sherri, Room 208
5:15 pm-Fellowship Dinner, Gathering Room
6:00 pm-Small Groups for Adults, Rooms 110 & 208
Children, Room 108
Middle Group, Room 209
Youth Group, Room 211
Choir Practice, Choir Room

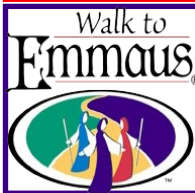
February 20, Thursday

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

February 21, Friday

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

*The flowers on the altar are in remembrance of
Rodney Thompson's heavenly birthday.
Given by his family.*



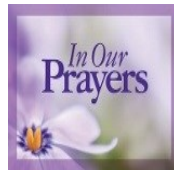
Are you wanting to go deeper in your spiritual life? Consider a life-changing 72-hour retreat at Camp Sumatanga called the Walk to Emmaus. Find out more on page 1 of this week's newsletter.

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Family of Benilda Kelley Family of Glenn Puckett
Dottie Rogers Gwen Axtell
Juanita Hammons Marian Ford
Bob Walden (Olivia Kendrick's father)

Continued Prayer Concerns

Mary Tom Hale Amy Epperson
Dr. Pat Herrera
(Juanita Hammons' son-in-law)



*The ministers and congregation of First United Methodist Church of Gadsden extend Christian sympathy to Marcy Puckett in the death of her brother-in-law, Glenn Puckett
February 8, 2025*



*The rose on the altar is in honor of the birth of
Darbi Drew Robinson
February 8, 2025
Parents: Caleb & Nicki
Grandparents: Bobby & Rhonda Robinson
Given by GFUMC Children's Ministry
& Early Learning Center*



Week of February 9, 2025

In Person Total-*155 On Line Total-470
Worship Total-625 Thursday service *11
Celebration *48/205 Traditions *96/265
Adult Sunday School *32 Children *3
Bible Study Groups *38 UWF *10
Middle School *1 Senior High *2
Children Wed/Sun *25 Nursery Wed/Sun *5
Middle Wed/Sun *9 Senior Hi Wed/Sun *17

Year 2025

General Offering Budget	\$12,400.00
General Offering Received	\$12,267.00
YTD General Offering Budget	\$74,400.00
YTD General Offering Rec'd	\$66,503.00

Birthdays

Feb 16 Sandra Hunter, Barbara Condra, Ann Carter Sasser
Feb 18 Kelly Cox
Feb 19 Byron Hall, Courtney McEwen
Feb 20 Chris Dorsett, Jeremy Wilson
Feb 21 Ann Green, Vickie Handy, Shelby Russell
Feb 22 Martha Kitchens, Eileen Graham, Haley Freeman

Please update your family's record in the church office to include all dates of birth. Thank you!
—Susan Swann



Important Deadlines

Deadline for the newsletter is noon on Tuesday of each week.

All requests for spoken announcements for Sunday mornings must be turned in by Thursday @ noon, in writing to Susan Swann in the office.

*All Meetings, Events and Activities must be scheduled in advance with the church secretary, by email
susan@fumcgadsden.org*