

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.

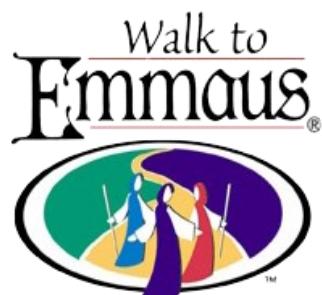
As followers of Jesus, we can move forward in hope. We can rest in the assurance that in Christ, we are a new creation. We also know that God removes our sins as far as the East is from the West. We also have the assurance that all things work together for good for those who love the Lord and are called 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



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 uses 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](http://alaemmaus.org) to learn more.

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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

## 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

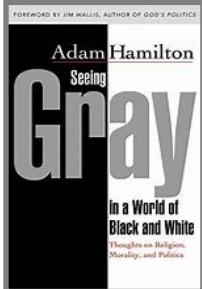
"The Chosen" w/ Rev. Sherri Reynolds

### Adult Small Groups @ Wonderful Wednesdays, 6 pm

Rev. Sherri, "The Chosen", Room 208

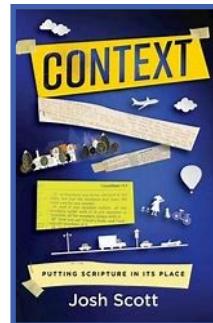
Harriet Murray, "Common Ground", Room 110

## Adventure into Sunday School with New Adult Studies



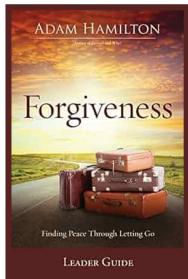
### Transitions 10 am, Room 209

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 24<sup>th</sup>. Reserve your spot now for Summer 2025 and the 2025-2026 school year. The ELC will be closed for President's Day Monday, Feb 17<sup>th</sup>. On Tuesday, Feb 18<sup>th</sup>, our 4K students will have a special visitor come and talk about healthy teeth.

—Helene Haller

## YOUTH CALENDAR

FEB BAKE AND DELIVER COOKIES  
9 2 PM

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

MAR COOK & DELIVER MEALS  
2 2 PM

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

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

MAY 18 BOWLING  
[AT] THE ALLEY  
5 PM

APR 13 TOP GOLF  
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



## 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.

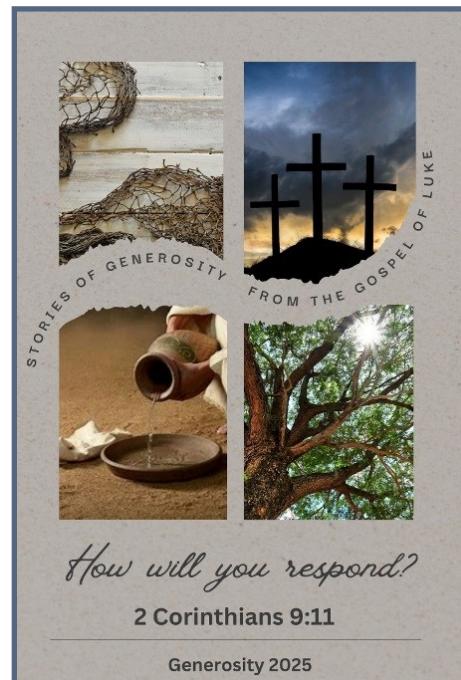
I am not sure what 2025 will bring, but I know that God will be with us. My prayer is that we continue to be a congregation that is changing lives, because we share Jesus, make disciples, serve people, and offer hope.

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](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/give)

Text to Give: 256-344-8464

Venmo @FirstUMCGadsden

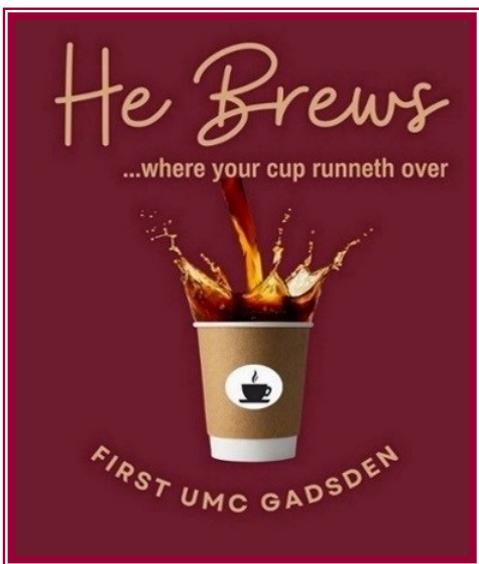
Mail your tithe or gift: 115 S. 5th Street, Gadsden, AL 35901



### Secure Online Giving



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



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



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**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.*

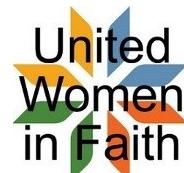
**Spring Cleaning at GFUMC Church Workdays**

**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](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/serve)  
Phone: 256-543-8200

Email:

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

#gfumcreconnect2024

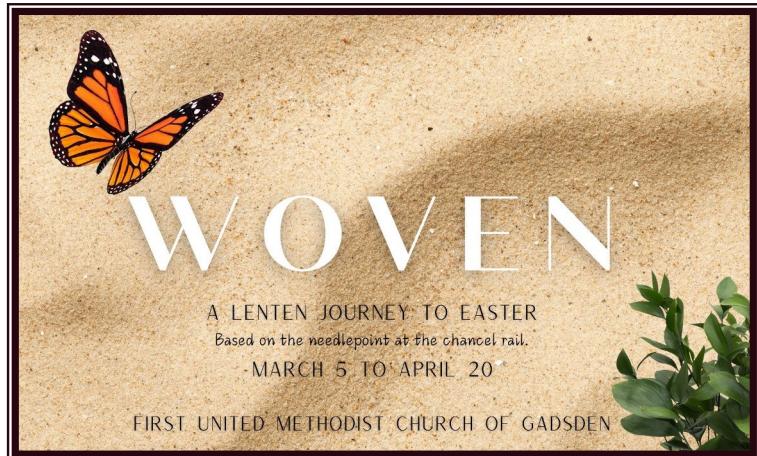
**Ladle of Love Clothes Closet**

**January**

<b>LOL</b>	<b>501</b>
<b>Clothes Closet</b>	<b>154</b>

**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.



**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

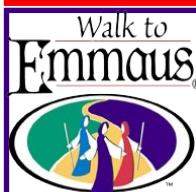
9:00 am-1:00 pm- ELC

9:00 am-11:00 am-Clothes Closet workday

5:00 pm-Yoga, Gym

6:30 pm-Emmaus Cluster meeting, Gathering Room

**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

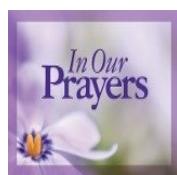
Bob Walden (Olivia Kendrick's father)

### Continued Prayer Concerns

Mary Tom Hale Amy Epperson

Dr. Pat Herrera

(Juanita Hammons' son-in-law)



### 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

### 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 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*

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