

Word
from the
Windows

"The Journey of Life"

Rev. Ken Casey



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

Sermon Notes: Thursday, February 15 & Sunday, February 18

The fifth window in the series was a gift by the magnanimous Mrs. Evelyn Pierson as a memorial to her husband, Mr. Glenwood Marion Pierson, Jr.

"The Journey Of Life" window is unique for several reasons. First of all, it is not in the sanctuary or in a room adjacent to the sanctuary. It is in the Activity Center (gym) and a little difficult to view because of the walking track. However, the best view is from the walking track. The largest of all the windows, it was designed and created by Ken Hardeman, a grandson of Joseph Victor Llorens, who was the artist and designer of the windows found throughout First United Methodist Church. Another reason the window is unique is that it blends traditional and contemporary styles in order to tie in with all the other windows in the church and to also have a unique contemporary message. All of us, from the moment we were born until the moment we die are on a journey.

Read Matthew 11: 28-30 considering these questions:

1. Where am I going on this Journey of Life?
2. What difference does it make being yoked with Christ?
3. What is heaven (Kingdom of God)?

See you at worship!

Ken Casey

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
- "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

ACOLYTES

February 18 Anna Kate Casey

February 25 Sara Kate and Jake Thornburg

Security for Thursday Worship

February 15 Mark Casey

February 22 Kirk Mabeus

Tech Team Schedule

February 18

Celebration: Eric Wright, Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman

Traditions: Davis Varner, Brad Barnes, Sheila Freeman

February 25

Celebration: Sheila Freeman, Bill Haller, Brad Barnes

Traditions: Mark Condra, 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**

**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.

**Wonderful
Wednesday
Fellowship Dinner
Feb 21, 5:15 pm
\$7 Adults, \$3 11 & U
Barbecue**

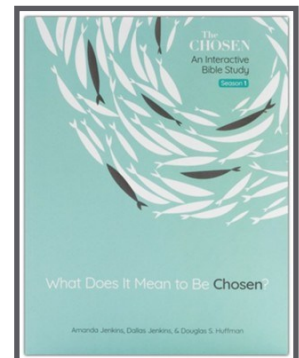
Adult Small Groups @ Wonderful Wednesdays

6 pm Small Group with Harriet Murray, Room 110

**Seven Words-Listening to Christ from the Cross
by Susan Robb**

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

Rev. Sherri is 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 includes episodes from the show, examination of relevant scriptures, separation of scripture from dramatization within the episodes, theological reflection, and personal application. The small group study is offered at 11am and 6pm on Wednesdays, in room 208. No books are required. Classes will last until March 20 (skipping February 14 for Ash Wednesday). **Room 208**



ELC News

Registration continues with those who are currently enrolled. Deadline for commitments is Thursday, February 26th. Tuesday, February 27th is Lunchbox Revolt and we will be having McDonald's. Order sheets went home this past week and are due Tuesday, February 21st. Teacher Meet and Greet have been rescheduled for Wednesday, February 28th. 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 21:

Barbecue

\$7 Per Person

\$3 Age 11 & Under

Please make a reservation:

Text: 256-490-5018

Youth Group Meets
Wednesdays at 6 pm each week!

March 8 Havoc Hockey
March 24-31 Spring Break

Youth Counselor
Carmen McKiven

Children's Ministry

SPRING 2024

GFUMC CHILDREN'S CALENDAR

Children's Church, Sunday's 9:00 & 11:00

Wonderful Wednesdays @6:00

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

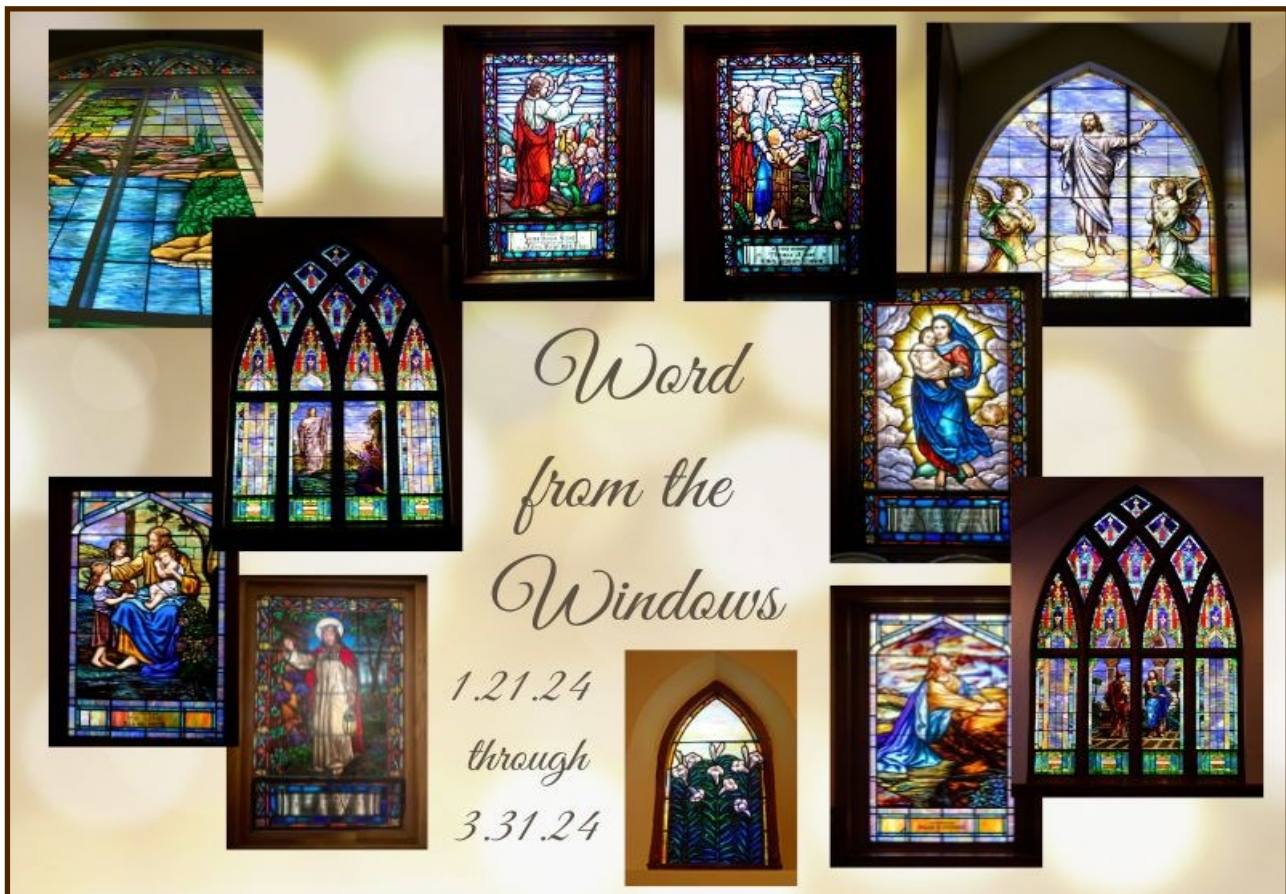
★ Mark your calendar! GFUMC Vacation Bible School, June 3-June 6 ★

MARCH MADNESS

FAVORITE WORSHIP HYMNS

You have likely heard of March Madness. This term relates to the excitement around NCAA tournament play for college basketball during the month of March. Fans have been known to keep up with the tournament with brackets. Others create fantasy brackets to predict the outcome. There is a lot of fun in the spring with basketball and bracket making.

At First United Methodist Church, we are going to embark on a little March Madness of our own. Our madness has nothing to do with basketball, but our brackets are built around songs that we love. During the month of March, when you attend worship, you will find brackets of some of your favorite Christian songs going head-to-head against one another to determine the winning song of the church. We will start with 16 songs suggested by the staff, choir, and praise band and reduce the number in half each week, until we reach one which will be announced on Easter. The final four will then become the topic for a music-based series this summer. Voting for your favorite will take place in worship and you must be present to mark your bracket.



See the Beauty... Hear the Story.

From January 21, 2024 through April 14, 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.

2024 February/March Mission Focus



During the months of February and March, we will meet United Methodist Missionaries from around the world.

Ashley Waite Riddle is a United Methodist missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries, serving as the Volunteers in Mission coordinator and Christian education trainer for the South Congo/Zambia Episcopal Area.

Born in Atlanta and calling Thomasville, Georgia, her hometown, Ashley most recently lived in Trussville, Alabama, with her husband, Joe Riddle, and two children, ages 4 and 5. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology from the University of Georgia (2007) and a Master of Divinity in theology from Candler School of Theology at Emory University, Atlanta (2016). She co-directed summer and basketball programs at St. Paul United Methodist Church, Atlanta. Ashley formerly attended Wesley Chapel UMC in Florence, Alabama, and Pell City (Alabama) UMC, where Joe was pastoring.

"I cannot remember the beginning of my journey with God," she said. "God has always been with me, guiding my soul. I feel most in tune with God when I am encountering God's creation with other people – when love, hospitality and grace are intermingled. I experience a beautiful and unexplainable peace when I am connecting to God's work."

Her mission, Ashley continued, is to be a messenger of love. "My highest goal is to love God by loving other people," she explained. "I strive to take care of creation and the earth around me." She feels called "purposefully to focus on dedicating my life to service. It is an honor to join with people in Zambia."

The church in Lusaka, Zambia's capital, is experiencing significant growth that needs to be translated into adequate church infrastructure building. Ashley will invite and guide Volunteers in Mission in supporting church projects in the area, especially in terms of church construction. She also will support and train Sunday school leaders, critical for setting a strong foundation for the church in Lusaka.

To find out more about United Methodist Missionaries in Zambia go to <https://umcmmission.org/missionary-country/zambia/>

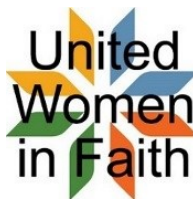
United Women in Faith

LuVerna Waid Circle will meet on Tuesday, February 20 at 6 pm in the church parlor.

Our new study is "30 Days to Taming Your Tongue." BYOBrown Bag for supper.

Cookies and drinks will be provided.

Next UWF Luncheon is Monday, March 11 at 12 noon.



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

Phone: 256-543-8200

Email:

fumc@fumcgadsden.org

#gfumcreconnect2023

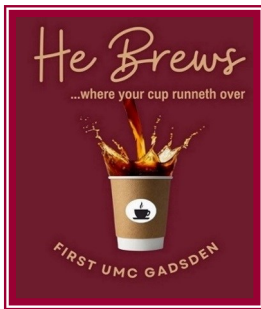
Clients Served

January 2024

Ladle of Love 368

Clothes Closet 160

**Thanks to our
Volunteers!**



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

KYLE HORTON



"I grew up in Etowah County in a small community called Keener, the last before you cross into Dekalb County on Hwy 11. I graduated from Etowah High School in 2002, where I played baseball, then attended Gadsden State Community College for Industrial Maintenance Technology. I have worked at the Morioku Technology North America plant (RTI) in Rainsville for about 20 years, where I am a maintenance supervisor. I married my wonderful wife, Mollie, on May 1st 2010. We currently live in Duck Springs and have two children: Lydia (age 9) and Norah (age 4). I enjoy watching Alabama football and Atlanta Braves baseball, kayaking on Big Wills Creek, fishing, and spending time with Mollie and my precious daughters. I am happy and excited about the new path we are taking as a family with Gadsden First United Methodist Church, and I pray we can serve this church and community to the best of our ability to help

spread God's word and help our church be a light in the community. I truly feel at home in this church and want to thank everyone for their warm welcome and friendships from the beginning with our family. It made us feel welcome from the start. Thank you all for the love and support as we move forward with all of you within our church." -- Kyle

New Beginnings

2024

Generosity

ISAIAH 43:19

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. Shari Reynolds

Secure Online Giving



Scan the QR Code or

Text to Give: 256-344-8464

First United Methodist Church of Gadsden

New! First UMC Gadsden is now a registered charity and can receive donations through Venmo:

@FirstUMCGadsden

(Please search in Venmo under charities or follow the link in the QR Code.)

Please note: This new option for online giving is **IN ADDITION** TO First UMC Gadsden's eGiving platform. No changes have been made to our online giving platform where one-time & recurring gifts, and text to give are all still available!

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 February 18-24, 2024

Feb 18 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 19 Monday

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

Feb 20 Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Spring Schedule
9:00 am-11:00 am-Clothes Closet workday
5:00 pm-6:00 pm- Yoga, Gym

Feb 21 Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm- ELC Spring Schedule
9:00 am-11:00 am-Clothes Closet open
11:00 am-12:00 pm- Bible Study, Room 208
5:15 pm- Wednesday night meal, Gathering Room
6:00 pm-Children & Youth activities
Gym & Rooms 108 & 211
6:00 pm-Small Group Study, Rooms 110 & 208
6:00 pm-Choir practice, Choir room

Feb 22 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 23 Friday

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

Volunteer Opportunity

A big part of our in-person Sunday morning worship services 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.



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



Birthdays

Feb 19 Byron Hall,
Courtney McEwen

Feb 20 Chris Dorsett,
Jeremy Wilson

Feb 21 Ann Green, Vickie Handy,
Shelby Russell, Beau Crain

Feb 22 Eileen Graham,
Haley Freeman

Feb 24 Terry Bishop, Cindy Isbell



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

Week of February 11, 2023

In Person Total *143 Worship Total 491
Online 348 Thursday Worship *12
Celebration Service *53/206
Traditional Service *78/142
Sunday School-Adult *40/1 Children *5
Sunday School-Youth *2 Nursery *2
Bible Study Groups *32 Children *34
Youth *11 *in person

General Offering Budget \$11,400.00
General Offering Received \$11,984.00
YTD General Offering Budget \$68,400.00
YTD General Offering Rec'd \$95,285.00

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 or call Susan in the church office @ 256-543-8200.