

ADVENTURE

THE RESULT
OF A GRAND
ADVENTURE
REV. SHERRI REYNOLDS

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

Sermon Notes: Thursday, Feb. 20, and Sunday, Feb. 23

This week marks the end of our *Adventure* sermon series, but that doesn't mean that the journey ends. The adventure continues. While we are finishing up our time with Moses, and moving to other scriptures or series, you can continue to read about the Israelites reaching the Promised Land. Read your Bible in the book of Exodus to find out more and then move to Joshua and Judges, because the adventure culminates with the next generation claiming that land which was promised to their ancestors. And the adventure keeps going as you keep reading in the Old Testament. You will find out how the quest plays out even after the Israelites entered the promised land. You will also discover how God's covenant was claimed and rejected by coming generations.

And the journey continues for us too. That journey which started by some Methodists in the 1800s keeps going. That group who wanted to start a Methodist congregation, sharing a schoolhouse and having no preacher, continues with us. We are the legacy of that great adventure, which continues as we seek to be a change agent in lives in the name of Jesus. God invites us to change lives through sharing Christ, making disciples, serving people, and giving hope. This has not stopped but is an adventure which we live out daily at First United Methodist Church of Gadsden.

This week, I encourage you to read about Moses' physical transformation (Exodus 34:29-35). As you do, consider your own transformation. How has your life been transformed through First United Methodist Church of Gadsden?

Adventuring with You,
Rev. Sherri



Table of Contents:

Page 1-Sermon Notes; Walk to Emmaus; Tech Schedule; Acolyte Schedule
Page 2-Small Groups; Adult Studies for Sunday School Classes
Page 3-ELC News; Student Ministries; Youth Calendar of Activities; Children's Ministry
Page 4-Generosity 2025; Ways to Give; Online Giving; Venmo
Page 5-HeBrews; Pickleball; March Madness
Page 6-GFUMC Missions News; Clothes Closet; Ladle of Love; United Women in Faith News
Page 7-Woven: A Lenten Journey; Pancake Supper & Burning of the Palms, Feb 26; Ash Wed. Mar 5
Page 8-Calendar; Prayer Concerns; Memorials; Birthdays; Weekly Reports; Save the Dates

Worship Opportunities

Thursday: Worship, 5:30 pm

Sunday Morning:

Celebration, 9 am

Traditions, 11 am

**In-Person and Livestream or On Demand*

ACOLYTES

February 23: Luke Barnes

March 2: Sara Kate, Jake, & Carter Thornburg

Thursday Worship Security

February 20: Mark Casey

February 27:

Tech Team Schedule

Feb 23

Celebration: Sheila Freeman, Bill Haller

Traditions: Davis Varner, Neil Mullin, Sheila Freeman

Mar 2

Celebration: Bill Haller, Rob Reynolds

Traditions: Davis Varner, Wayne Payton, Brad Barnes



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 is 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 26- Pancake Supper

\$7 Youth & Adults \$3 Children 11 & Under

Dinner is served beginning at 5:15 PM

Wednesday Morning Bible Study @ 11 am, Gathering Room

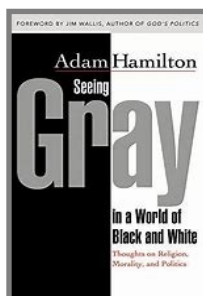
"The Chosen" w/ Rev. Sherri Reynolds

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

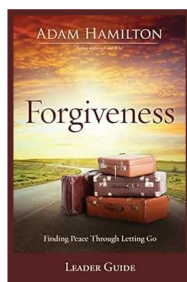


Transitions 10 am, Room 209

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

Lunchbox revolt is Tuesday, February 25th and will be McDonald's. Orders were due February 20th. Registration continues! Registration for any FUMC families not enrolled will be March 3rd through 6th, see Helene for more information. Spring Picture days are Tuesday, March 4th and Wednesday, March 5th.

—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 26: Pancake Supper
\$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

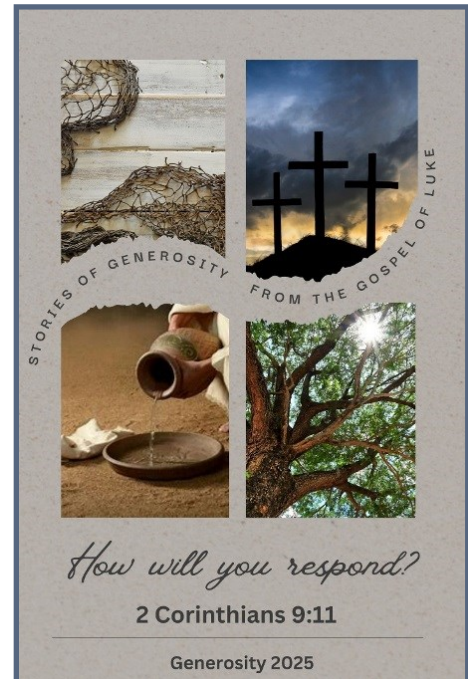
A Letter of Gratitude

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**

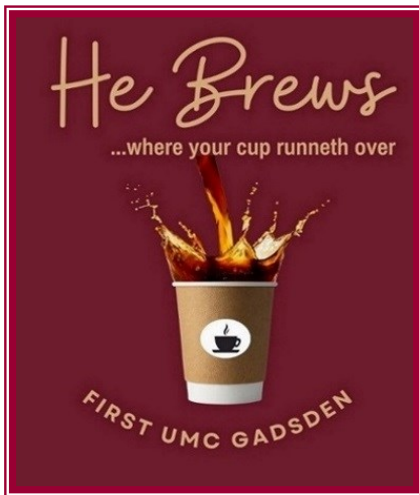
Mail your tithe or gift: 115 S. 5th Street, Gadsden, AL 35901



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!



MARCH MADNESS

March Madness is quickly approaching. I don't mean the excitement around NCAA tournament play for college basketball for the month of March. I am talking about the March Madness that happens here at First United Methodist Church. While others are making their bracket, predicting the outcome of the tournament, we'll be voting on students of Jesus.

During the month of March, when you attend in-person worship, you will find brackets with students of Jesus. You'll get a chance to vote for a champion Christ follower. We are starting with a sweet sixteen and will reduce the number by half each week. Until we reach one which will be announced the first Sunday of April. The final four will be will then become the topic for a "back-to school" series this summer. Voting will take place in worship, and you must be present to mark your bracket. Who will it be? Peter? Mary Magdelene? James the Lesser? Lazarus? Or another follower? Come cast your vote in worship this March!

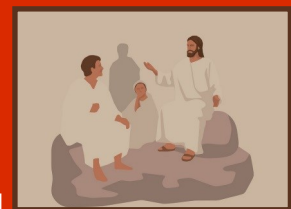
March Madness (9-30) with winner announced on April 6.

Students of Jesus

Peter
 Thaddeus
 Mary Magdelene
 James (son of Alphaeus)
 Thomas
 Andrew

John
 James (the Son of Zebedee)
 Martha
 Philip
 Matthew
 Bartholomew

Lazarus
 Simon The Zealot
 Judas
 Mary (Sister of Martha and Lazarus)



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.
Sign Up Online @ www.fumcgadsden.org/missionteam
or in the Chestnut Foyer.



**Spring Cleaning
at GFUMC
Church
Workdays**

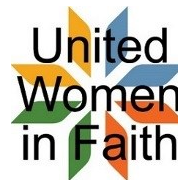
March 14 9 am to 3 pm
&
March 15 9 am to 12 noon

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

Delores Abney, President Olivia Kendrick, Vice-President



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

March open dates are 3/5 and 3/19

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

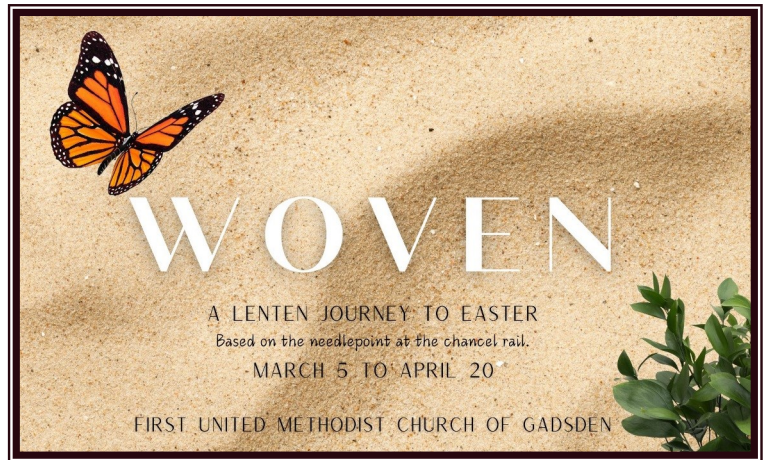
**Ladle of Love
Clothes Closet**

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 on 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 23-Mar 1, 2025

February 23, 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 24, 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
5:00 pm-Trustees Meeting

February 25, Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm- ELC
5:00 pm-Yoga, Gym
5:00 pm-Finance Meeting
6:00 pm-Board of Stewards Meeting

February 26, Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, ELC
11:00 am-Bible Study-Pastor Sherri, Room 208
5:15 pm-Fellowship Dinner, Gathering Room
6:00 pm-Burning of the Palms
Small Groups for Adults, Rooms 110 & 208
Children, Room 108

Middle Group, Room 209

Youth Group, Room 211

Choir Practice, Choir Room

February 27, Thursday

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

February 28, Friday

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

The rose on the altar is in honor of the birth of

Lawson Brown Acuff

February 8, 2025

Parents: Sam & Madeline Mills Acuff

Grandparents: Elizabeth Haney &

Roger Mills

*Given by GFUMC Children's Ministry
& Early Learning Center*



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 one of this week's newsletter.

The rose on the altar is in honor of the birth of

Anthony Alexander Grant

February 8, 2025

Parents: A.J. & Jennifer Hester Grant

Grandparents: Dr. Ben and Shelly Hester

Great-Grandparent: Ruthie Hester

*Given by GFUMC Children's Ministry
& Early Learning Center*



Immediate Prayer Concerns

Jackie Herlong Family of Gwen Axtell

Continued Prayer Concerns

Juanita Hammons Mary Tom Hale
Amy Epperson
Bob Walden (Olivia Kendrick's father)
Dr. Pat Herrera
(Juanita Hammons' son-in-law)



Week of February 16, 2025

In Person Total-*153 On Line Total-466
Worship Total-619 Thursday service *12
Celebration *69/228 Traditions *72/238
Adult Sunday School *27 Children *6
Middle School & Senior Hi SS *1
Bible Study Groups *17 UWF *30
Children Wed/Sun *41 Nursery Wed/Sun *2
Middle Wed/Sun *6 Senior Hi Wed/Sun *7

Year 2025

General Offering Budget	\$12,400.00
General Offering Received	\$32,224.84
YTD General Offering Budget	\$86,800.00
YTD General Offering Rec'd	\$98,727.84

Birthdays

Feb 24 Terry Bishop, Cindy Isbell
Feb 26 George White, Stanley Taylor,
Susan Copeland, Lachlan McNair
Feb 27 Inez McDonald, Leigh Carroll
Phillips, Donald Edwards, Leah Rhodes
Feb 28 Scott Dobbins
Feb 29 Elisabeth Hardin

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***