

ADVENTURE

THE RESULT
OF A GRAND
ADVENTURE
REV. SHERRI REYNOLDS

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

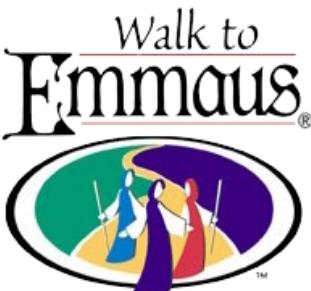
Sermon Notes: Thursday, Feb. 20, and Sunday, Feb. 23

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



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.

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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 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

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

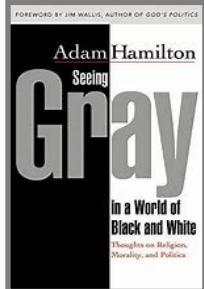
"The Chosen" w/ Rev. Sherri Reynolds

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

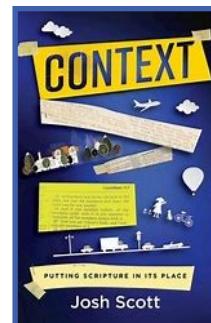


Transitions 10 am, Room 209

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.

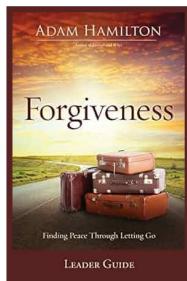
Pathfinders/Seekers 10 am, Room 208

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 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
13 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



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.

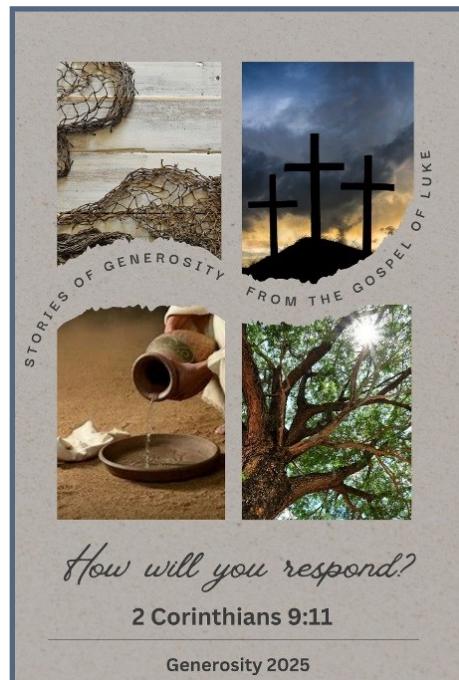
I am not sure what 2025 will bring, but I know that God will be with us. My prayer is that we continue to be a congregation that is changing lives, because we share Jesus, make disciples, serve people, and offer hope.

In gratitude,

Rev Sherri Reynolds

Rev. Sherri

Generosity 2025



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**

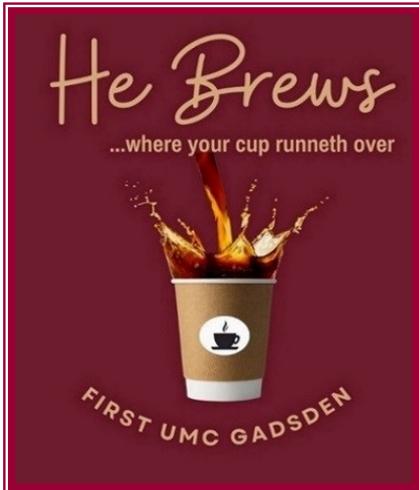
Mail your tithe or gift: 115 S. 5th Street, Gadsden, AL 35901



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 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 Magdalene? 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 Magdalene
 James (son of Alpheus)
 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.

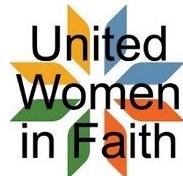
Donations may be made to the Ladle of Love Fund in honor or in memory of a loved one.

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

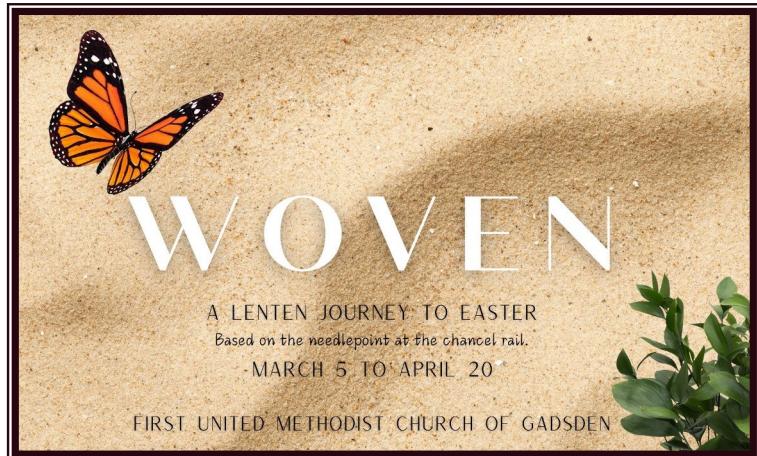


**Ladle of Love
Clothes Closet**

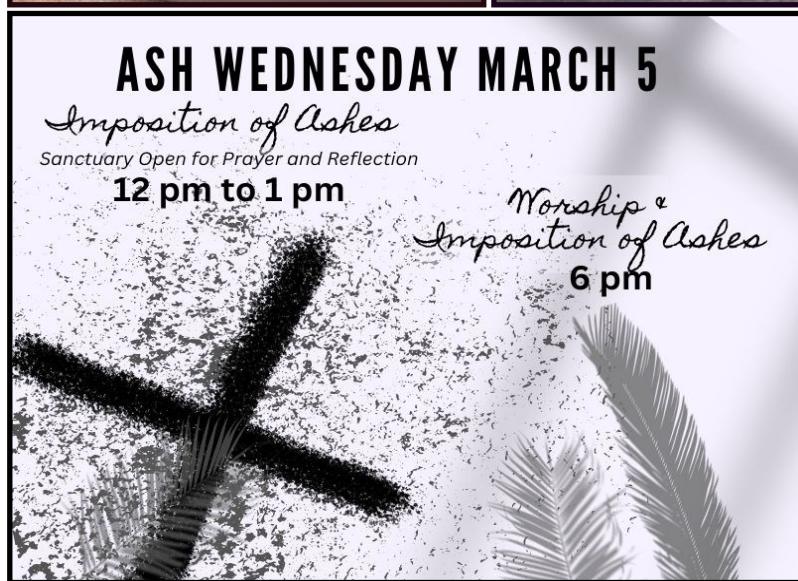
January	
LOL	501
Clothes Closet	154

**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.



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



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



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