

Word
from the
Windows

"The Boy Christ"

Rev. Sherri Reynolds



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

Sermon Notes: Thursday, February 1 & Sunday, February 4

The third window in this series is The Boy Christ. For the longest time, The Boy Christ was the most perplexing window, I could not connect the image with scripture. The window depicts a boy with two women and a man. There is a basket, of what appears to be figs, being passed between a woman and the boy. I inquired with several folks as to what the window meant, because I could never decide what scripture was the inspiration. The people seemed to be baffled just like me. One day I happened to come across a church member showing another person the window, so I asked if he knew the scripture inspiration for the stained glass. He said that the child has to be boy Jesus and the woman in blue is Mary, mother of Jesus, because Mary always wears blue. And sure enough, when I started researching in the archives of the church, I found the inspirational scripture was that of Jesus' childhood. But even knowing the scripture did not offer much background or detail for today's sermon. Luke is the only gospel to mention Jesus' childhood with few details. There is much left to our imagination.

The Boy Christ was given in memory of Thomas Job Carson and Matilda Ellen Wilholt Carson by their descendants. Thomas Carson owned and operated Gadsden's first meat market. He died in 1887 and was survived by his wife, Matilda, and their nine children, who remained faithful workers in this church. It is believed that the last descendent on the roll was Nan Ellen Lindsay who died in 1986.

For your daily dose of discipleship, reflect upon the scripture for the week Luke 2:41-52. 1) What would you want to know about Jesus' childhood? 2) What would it mean for Jesus to increase in wisdom and human favor? 3) How does this scripture connect with the humanity of Jesus?

See you Sunday as we see the beauty and hear the story.

Rev. Sherri

Table of Contents:

Page 1—Sermon Notes; Tech Schedule; Acolyte Schedule; Thursday Worship Security
Page 2—Sunday School Classes; Small Groups
Page 3—ELC News; Student Ministries; Children's Ministry
Page 4— Friends of the ELC King Cake Sale; UWF Luncheon & Speaker February 12
Page 5—Inviting Ministries, HeBrews, Striplin Honor Roll Parties Celebration!
Page 6— GFUMC Missions News; Clothes Closet; Ladle of Love; United Women in Faith
Page 7—Ash Wednesday, "Word from the Windows" Sermon Series; Generosity 2024
Page 8— Calendar; Prayer Concerns; Memorials; Birthdays; Weekly Reports

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 4 Luke Barnes

February 11 Rhett and Clementine Hilburn

Security for Thursday Worship

February 8 Bob Blount

February 15 Mark Casey

Tech Team Schedule

February 4

Celebration: Eric Wright, Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman

Traditions: Neil Mullin, Sheila Freeman, Brad Barnes

February 11

Celebration: Eric Wright, Jacob McKiven,

Carmen McKiven

Traditions: Wayne Payton, Neil Mullin, Brad Barnes

THE GFUMC CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEAM

INVITES YOU TO MAKE VALENTINE'S CARDS FOR OUR CHILDREN

with LOVE & PRAYER

We have 40 active children, please sign
and deliver your VALENTINE'S CARDS by
Sunday, February 4.

"LOVE GOD, AND LOVE OTHERS"

MATTHEW 22:37-40

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)

Bible Study with Rev. Sherri, Wednesdays @ 11 am

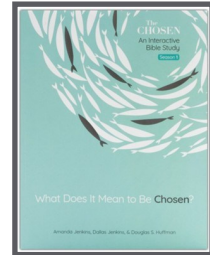
The Chosen Bible Study

Please note:

Ash Wednesday, February 14

Imposition of Ashes, 11:30 am to 12:30 am, in the Sanctuary.

Bible Study w/Pastor Sherri will not meet on February 14.



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
Assorted Sub
Sandwiches
Feb 7, 5:15 pm
\$7 Adults, \$3 11 & U**

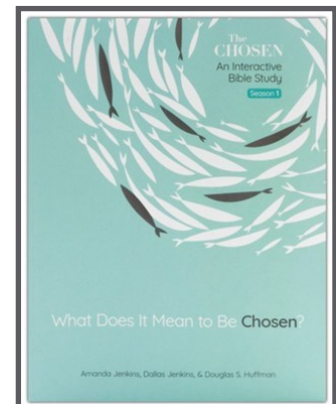
Adult Small Groups @ Wonderful Wednesdays

6 pm Small Group with Harriet Murray, Room 110

"I Guess I Haven't Learned that Yet"

Join Pastor Sherri on Wed. @ 6 pm

Rev. Sherri will be 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 will include episodes from the show, examination of relevant scriptures, separation of scripture from dramatization within the episodes, theological reflection, and personal application. The study held will be at 11am and 6pm on Wednesdays, starting January 17 in room 208. No books are required. Classes will last until March 20 (skipping February 14 for Ash Wednesday).



ELC News

ELC News: In King Cake news, we are still processing our costs and payments. We will have a detailed report soon.

Reminder: King Cake Orders will be ready for pick up Saturday Feb 3rd between 9 am and noon at the portico entrance.

Registration for Summer 2024 and the 2024-2025 school year for current students begins in February. Church members who are currently enrolled will have registration Feb 12th through 16th. Non church members who are currently enrolled will have registration Feb 20th through Feb 26th. See Helene for more details.

—Helene



Youth Ministry News



"The Chosen Bible Study"
Feb 4 - Sheila Freeman
Feb 11- Rev. Sherri Reynolds

Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Dinner

5:15 pm, Feb 7:

Assorted Sub Sandwiches

\$7 Per Person

\$3 Age 11 & Under

Please make a reservation:

Text: 256-490-5018

Youth Group Meets

Wednesdays at 6 pm each week!

Valentine's Party Wednesday February 7

Youth Counselor
Carmen McKiven

THE GFUMC CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEAM

INVITES YOU TO MAKE VALENTINE'S CARDS FOR OUR CHILDREN

with LOVE & PRAYER

We have 40 active children, please sign and deliver your VALENTINE'S CARDS by Sunday, February 4.

"LOVE GOD, AND LOVE OTHERS"
MATTHEW 22:37-40

You are loved

Children's Ministry

SPRING 2024 GFUMC CHILDREN'S CALENDAR

Children's Church, Sunday's 9:00 & 11:00
Wonderful Wednesdays @6:00



FEBRUARY

February 11

Valentine's Day party!

February 14

Ash Wednesday @6

Wednesday Unit

How To?: Jesus' teachings

MARCH

March 16

Easter Egg Hunt

March 24

Children will sing at Palm Sunday service

Wednesday Unit

Glow in the Dark: Lead us to Easter



APRIL

April 17

Family Night: Cupcake Wars



Wednesday Unit

Throw Back: Jesus' trendy teachings

MAY

May 15

Annual GFUMC Picnic



Wednesday Unit

One Small Step: Stories from Acts

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



The Friends of the ELC Present

AUTHENTIC LOUISIANA

KING CAKES

FUNDRAISER BENEFITTING THE EARLY LEARNING CENTER

King Cake Orders are Closed.
Pickup/Delivery date for King Cake
Orders will be Saturday, Feb. 3rd
from 9 am to Noon @ the Portico

We were so blessed by this sale last year that we had to do it again. Monies raised this year will be set aside for updating the third floor play area.
Thank you all for your love and support. —Friends of the ELC

United Women in Faith is hosting their monthly luncheon and **EVERYONE is invited!**

February 12: Luncheon and Speaker & Book Signing. “Writing Christian Books”
Ms. Vernet Clemons Nettles, author of Unspoken Words, will be the guest speaker.
Lunch reservations are available for \$15.00. Please contact Olivia Kendrick for reservations by 12 noon on February 9 by text to 205-454-4375.

Vernet Clemons Nettles, EdD

Author - Educator – Speaker

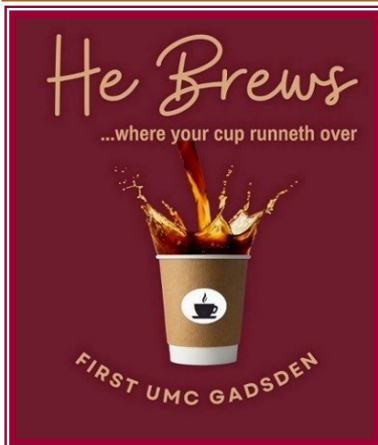
Vernet Clemons Nettles, Ed.D. is a parent, educator, poet, and author of her second children’s book, *Smart, Just Like Me*. Highlighting the power of spiritual connection and personal reflection, Dr. Nettles’ works include prayer journeys, devotionals, poetry, journals, and children’s books. Her desire is to continue exploring more genres and branch into serving as a writing coach and publisher.

Dr. Nettles shares daily original prayers on her website *Another Day’s Journey* - www.vcndailypray.com, and has been published since 2018. In 2023, for her 5-year anniversary, she self-published 5 books, and ended the year with a total of 12 published books.

Dr. Nettles enjoys seeking Christ, researching the Word of God, and relishing in the a-ha moments of God’s promises. She hopes to inspire others to trust, believe, and grow in God’s grace through the sharing of her devotions, prayers, and poetry.



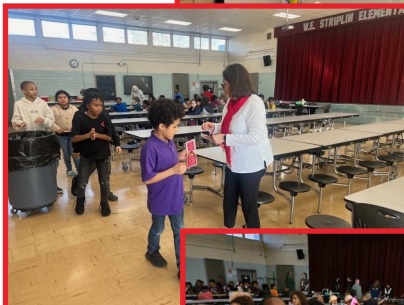
Inviting Ministries



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!!!

How Sweet
It Is...
to be an
A/B Honor Roll
Student
@ Striplin
Elementary!

Thanks for your gifts for GFUMC Missions
and our Adopted School, Striplin Elementary!



January 2024 Mission

There's Still Time...

to Donate for UMCOR to the UMCNA Disaster Relief Warehouse!

January Mission Focus- UMCOR US Disaster Relief & Supplies for UMCNA UMCOR Disaster Relief Warehouse:

Your Mission Team will be leading the way to once again fill Tornado Buckets for the UMCOR Disaster Relief Warehouse in Decatur! This year, we will be collecting donations of items for the cleaning supplies and buckets so that those can then be divided up and packed!

You can help by donating multiple quantities of the same item, providing cleaning supplies, or by sponsoring a tornado bucket. *The estimated cost of the items for one tornado bucket is \$120. We hope to have lots of supplies and buckets ready to take to our Disaster Relief Warehouse*

Specific Items Needed to Complete a Tornado Bucket

- 1 Standard Size Claw Hammer (No Stubby hammers, framing hammers or hammers lighter than 16 Oz, please!)
- 4-4 oz Insect Repellant Spray Can
- 1 pair Safety Glasses
- 9-12 Tampons or Pads in a Zip Loc Bag
- Flashlight with batteries

Cleaning Bucket Supply List

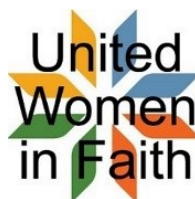
- Liquid Laundry Soap Awesome brand. 42 oz (Dollar Tree)
- Dish Washing Soap (14-30 oz)
- 5 Scrub Buddies square scrub pads (5 Individual pads per bucket)
(No round scrubbers, no steel/copper scrubbers, and no Brillo pads please.)
- Reusable Wipes— Brillo Basics are great. 2 packs of 9 per bucket. (No cloth wipes, no disinfectant wipes, no cloth rags, or wash cloths and no shop rags etc., please.)

Note: The cleaning bucket supplies listed above can be found at Dollar Tree.

Thank you in advance for your continued support of all of our GFUMC Missions.
—GFUMC Missions Team

United Women in Faith

February 12: Luncheon and Speaker & Book Signing. "Writing Christian Books"
Ms. Vernet Clemons Nettles, author of Unspoken Words, will be the guest speaker.
Lunch reservations are available for \$15.00.
Please contact Olivia Kendrick for reservations by 12 noon on February 9 by text to 205-454-4375.



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

December 2023

Ladle of Love 284
Clothes Closet 240

2023 Totals

Ladle of Love 4463
Clothes Closet 2895

Thanks to our Volunteers!

ASH
WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 14

Lent Begins



RECEIVE ASHES
FROM
11:30 AM TO 12:30 PM
OR
*In the
Sanctuary* @ 6 PM WORSHIP



*Word
from the
Windows*

1.21.24
through
3.31.24

See the Beauty... Hear the Story.

From January 21, 2024 through March 31, 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.



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

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

Search @FirstUMCGadsden
in Venmo, under charities or
follow the link in the QR Code.



venmo

Calendar for February 4-10, 2024

Feb 4 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 5 Monday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Spring Schedule
 9:00 am-10:00 am- Exercise Group, Gym
 6:00 pm Basketball Practice, Gym

Feb 6 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
 6:00 pm-8:00 pm- Basketball Practice, Gym

Feb 7 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- Wednesday Morning Bible Study
 5:15 pm- Wednesday night meal, Gathering Room
 6:00 pm- Children & Youth activities
 Gym & Rooms 108 & 211
 6:00 pm- Small Group Study, Room 110 & 208
 6:00 pm- Choir practice Choir room

Feb 8 Thursday

9:00 am-1:00 pm- ELC Spring Schedule
 9:00 am-10:00 am- Exercise Group, Gym
5:30 pm- Thursday Worship
 6:00 pm-8:00 pm- Basketball Practice, Gym
Feb 9 Friday 11:00 am-12:00 pm- Ladle of Love

Ash Wednesday, February 14

In the Sanctuary

Receive Ashes from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm
 or at Ash Wednesday Worship, 6 pm



January 28, 2024

Kyle Horton

In Memory of Her Life
Jeanne Jacobs Cosper
January 23, 2024



The flower on the altar is in honor of
Marlow Kate Turner

born January 24, 2024

Big Brothers: Sutton and Price
Parents: Noel and Lauren,

Given by The Early Learning Center
and GFUMC Children's Ministry



The flower on the altar is in honor of
Eloise Ruth Simonetti

born February 1, 2024

Parents: Sara and Joe Simonetti

Given by Great Grandparents,
Wayne and Karen Owen



Birthdays

Feb 4 Janet Page, Connie Brown,
 Christine Green

Feb 5 Dottie Rogers, Anna Inzer

Feb 6 Dee McCoy, Kathy Trotter

Feb 7 Grayson Kelley

Feb 8 Rev. Ken Casey

Feb 9 Blakely Roberts

Feb 10 Jay Knowles

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



Week of January 28, 2023

In Person Total *159 Worship Total 564
 Online 405 Thursday Worship *12
 Celebration Service *62/190
 Traditional Service *85/215
 Sunday School-Adult *46/1 Children *5
 Sunday School-Youth *2 Nursery *2
 Bible Study Groups *32 Children *37
 Youth *11 *in person

General Offering Budget \$11,400.00
 General Offering Received \$16,864.70
 YTD General Offering Budget \$45,600.00
 YTD General Offering Rec'd \$64,276.00

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Family of Jeanne Cosper
 Bessie Crow Rodney Thompson
 Asher Mae Collins
 Judy Collins (Tripp Collins' mother)
 Jaron Gray (Donny & Janie Gray's
 grandson)

Continued Prayer Concerns

Lisa Dobbins

