

*Word
from the
Windows*

“The Ascension”

Rev. Sherri Reynolds



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

Sermon Notes: Thursday January 18 & Sunday January 21

This week we start a new series “Word from the Window” featuring the stained-glass windows of the church. The first window is “The Ascension” which is located over the Narthex. This window depicts Jesus as he ascended into Heaven. It was installed in 1936 along with nine other windows in the sanctuary and given in memory of Walter Reese Gramling and Mary Catherine Beason Gramling by their children. “The Ascension” was designed by Joseph Victor Llorens of Atlanta, Georgia.

For your daily dose of discipleship, I encourage you to spend time in the Scripture which inspired this window: Acts 1:6-11. As you do so, consider these questions for reflection: 1) What must it have been like as the disciples witnessed Jesus ascend to heaven?, 2) While Jesus has ascended to heaven, how do we experience his presence with us today?, and 3) Why do you think the beings appeared to challenge the disciples about why they were standing and staring at the sky?

Join us Sunday as we see the beauty and hear the story.

Rev. Sherri

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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

January 21 Mikko Norris & Marit Norris
 January 28 Sara Kate and Jake Thornburg

Security for Thursday Worship

January 25 Kirk Mabeus

February 1 Todd Rains

Tech Team Schedule

January 21

Celebration: Eric Wright, Parker Casey, Sheila Freeman
 Traditions: Davis Varner, Wayne Payton, Brad Barnes

January 28

Celebration: Eric Wright, Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman
 Traditions: Wayne Payton, Jacob McKiven, 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

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 Mornings
Bible Study w/Pastor Sherri*

The Chosen Bible Study 11 am, Room 208



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
5:15 pm
\$7 Adults, \$ 3 11 & U
January 24

Italian Night**

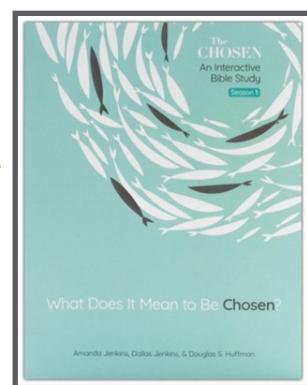
Adult Small Groups @ Wonderful Wednesdays

Will resume on Wednesday, January 10.

**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). **Room 208**



ELC News

King Cake Orders were due Friday, January 19th. Next Wednesday, we will have lunchbox revolt. This month we will have Burger King. BK Orders were due Thursday, January 18th. Our 3K and 4K students will have a field trip to the Mary G Hardin Center and Imagination Place on Thursday, January 25th.

—Helene Haller



Youth Ministry News



"The Chosen Bible Study"

Jan 7- Pastor Sherri
Jan 14- Sheila Freeman
Jan 21- Sheila Freeman
Jan 28- Barbara Condra

Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Dinner

5:15 pm, January 24: Italian Night

\$7 Per Person \$3 Age 11 & Under

Please make a reservation:

Text: 256-490-5018

More Fun Stuff Coming WW resumes on January 10.

Youth Counselor
Carmen McKiven

Children's Ministry

GFUMC CHILDREN'S CALENDAR

JANUARY 2023

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

Wonderful Wednesdays @6:00

MEASURE UP: JESUS' EARLY LIFE

January 10: God guides us to safety

January 17: Love God with our actions

January 24: We can follow Jesus

January 31: We are ready at the right time

January 24

National Belly Laugh Day

Bring a joke this Wednesday!

www.fumcgadsden.org/children

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



January 3, 2024

Dear ELC Families, Faculty and Friends,

It's time to put in your King Cake orders for 2024. Once again, we are selling King Cakes from Randazzo's bakery in Slidell, LA. There are several flavors and two sizes in each option. Last year, we hoped to sell at least 100 cakes but due to your generosity and campaigning we sold 409. The bakery has a maximum order of 500 cakes per fundraiser. This sale, we will be collecting orders through an online method only. We feel that this will be the best way to manage the orders and not exceed the maximum number allowed. We have an order link on the church website: www.fumcgadsden.org/elc. Payment will be collected through PayPal or cash or check dropped off to the church within 24 hours of ordering. **PayPal Link: PayPal.me@FELC115**

The fundraiser is currently open, and all orders and money are due by Friday, January 19. This will give plenty of time to review all the orders and count the money before giving a grand total per item to the bakery. Sheila Freeman and I will be driving to Slidell to pick them up on Thursday, February 1.

Flavors, Sizes and Pricing:

Small Traditional: \$25

Medium Traditional: \$30

Small Filled (Choice of Apple, Strawberry, or Cream Cheese): \$30

Medium Filled (Same choices above): \$35

Dates to Note:

Due date for orders and money is Friday, January 19th.

Pickup/Delivery date will be Saturday, February 3rd

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 Committee

January 2024 Mission

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

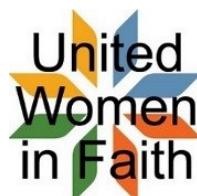


The GFUMC Clothes Closet is in immediate need of **winter coats, hats, and gloves** for men, women, youth and children.

Please bring donations to the church office as soon as possible! —The Clothes Closet 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 7, 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

January 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

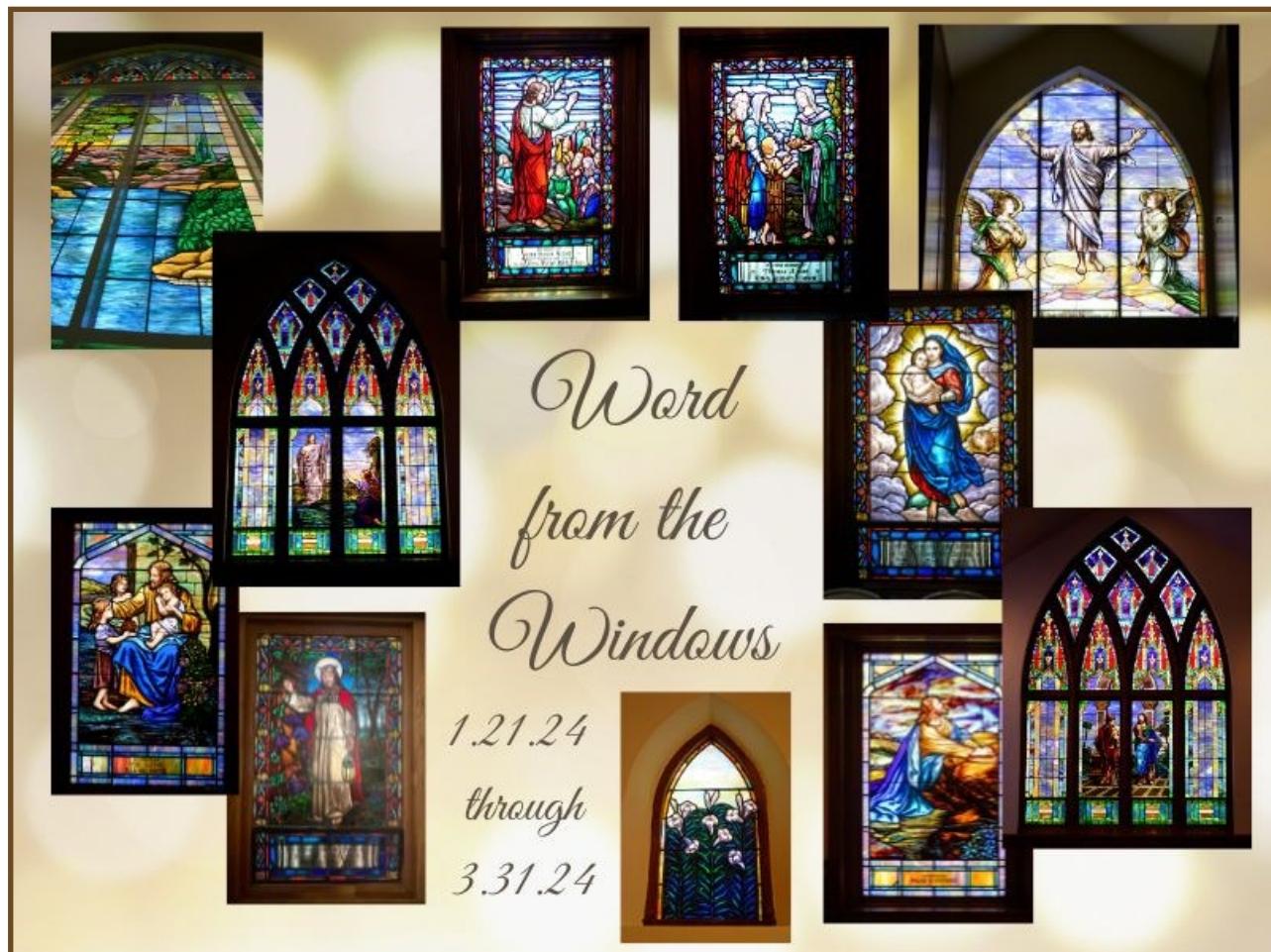
#gfumcreconnect2023

Clients Served

December 2023

Ladle of Love 294
Clothes Closet 248

**Thanks to our
Volunteers!**



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

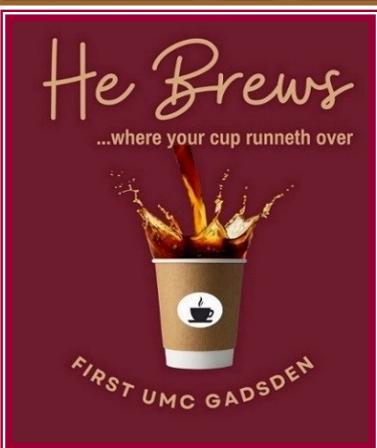
Mail your tithe or gift: 115 S. 5th Street, Gadsden, AL 35901

Secure Online Giving



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

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!!!

Do You Know?

A weekly interview column by Anna Mullin & Inviting Ministries to help our church family get to know one another. Anna may be calling you soon, so we can get to know you too!

BARBARA BENNETT



Barbara grew up in Jacksonville, AL, and attended Auburn University, then Jacksonville State, where she graduated with a degree in English Education. She taught 12th grade English for many years at Jacksonville High School before retiring. Her husband, Jim, now deceased, graduated from Auburn with a Business degree, then owned and managed Bennett-Knight Furniture, which had stores in Piedmont, Oxford, and Anniston. He was a member of our choir and had a wonderful

personality and great sense of humor. Barbara is currently the Traditional Worship Leader for our church and has taught Sunday School for the Martin Class and 3rd grade classes. She and Jim were both certified as Master Gardeners. They have four accomplished children—Beth, Maury, Cory, and Barry—and 3 grandchildren. The flag used on the altar for our Veterans Day service belongs to their son, Cory, who carried the flag on every mission he flew in Afghanistan. Barbara says it represents her gratitude to God for bringing him home safely.

Calendar for January 21-January 27, 2024

Jan 21 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

12:00 pm-Adaptive Leadership Team, Gathering Rm

Jan 22 Monday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Spring Schedule
9:00 am-10:00 am- Exercise Group, Gym
5:00 pm-Trustees Meeting, Parlor
6:00 pm-8:00 pm- Basketball Practice, Gym

Jan 23 Tuesday

5:00 pm-6:00 pm- Yoga, Gym
5:00 pm-Finance Team Meeting, Parlor
6:00 pm-Board of Stewards, Gathering Room
6:00 pm-8:00 pm- Basketball Practice, Gym

Jan 24 Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm- ELC Spring Schedule
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

Jan 25 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

Jan 26 Friday

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



We would like to take a moment to express our sincerest thanks to our FUMC family for your unending prayers and giving hearts during this difficult time of loss. We are forever blessed by your outpouring of love shown for George and our family.

With Love, Lori, Davis and Collin Varner

Honorariums & Memorials

General Budget Fund

In memory of George Varner, given by Lela Melson Lofton.
 In memory of George Varner, given by Frances Chancey.
 In memory of George Varner, given by Tom & Cammie O'Connor.

Youth Department Fund

In memory of Michael Ridens, given by Mr. & Mrs. Alan Ross.

Children's Department Fund

In memory of George Varner, given by Mr. & Mrs. Alan Ross.

Clothes Closet Fund In memory of Terrell Barr Linton, given by Clothes Closet Volunteers.

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.)



venmo

Birthdays

Jan 22 Ragan Godfrey, Nathan Whitt
Jan 23 Dr. Steve Frederick, Amy Kelley
Jan 24 Greg Carroll, Riley Epperson
Jan 25 Dr. Richard Caldwell, Laura Bone
Jan 26 June Longshore, Charlotte Rutland
Jan 27 Brad Barnes



Week of January 14, 2023

In Person Total	*141	Worship Total	516
Online	375	Thursday Worship	*7
Celebration Service	*55/181		
Traditional Service	*79/194		
Sunday School-Adult	*44/1	Children	*6
Sunday School-Youth	*1	Nursery	*1
Bible Study Groups	*14	Children	*33
Youth	*8	*in person	
UWF	*26		

General Offering Budget \$11,400.00
 General Offering Received \$7,750.00
 YTD General Offering Budget \$22,800.00
 YTD General Offering Rec'd \$41,329.30

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Family of Alex DeGraff
 Rodney Thompson
 Asher Mae Collins
 Judy Collins (Tripp Collins' mother)
 Jaron Gray (Donny & Janie Gray's grandson)

Continued Prayer Concerns

Lisa Dobbins
 Bessie Crow

