

*Word  
from the  
Windows*

# “The Madonna and Christ”

*Rev. Sherri Reynolds*



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

## Sermon Notes: Thursday January 25 & Sunday January 28

This is the second week of the series “Word from the Window” featuring the stained-glass windows of the church. This week’s window is “The Madonna and Christ” which is at the courtyard entrance just off the Narthex and was inspired by Raphael’s The Sistine Madonna. It is a partial copy of the famous painting which is in Dresden, Germany. The window was installed in 1945 as part of the first prayer room, and while the prayer room location has moved, the window has not. The window is given in memory of Allie Lois Giddens Brown, Allie Josephine Brown, Hilda Phenix Brown, and Dr Joseph Lucien Brown by the Brown family.

When Dr. And Mrs. Mack Brown moved to Gadsden in 1904 with their twelve-year-old son, Joseph Lucien Brown, they joined First Methodist Episcopal Church South, and began a family tradition of church involvement across generations. Hilda Phenix Brown, wife of Joseph, was a faithful worker for many years with the children, a circle leader, and president of the Women’s Society of Christian Service (a forerunner of United Women in Faith). Allie Josephine, their two-year-old daughter who died in 1926 is forever memorialized with her face in the window and her name etched in the glass.

For your daily dose of discipleship, I encourage you to spend time in scripture: Luke 1:41-56. 1) What part of this scripture helps you connect with Mary? 2) How is Mary’s compassion and empathy displayed in her song? 3) How can Mary be a model of faithfulness and comfort?

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

## ACOLYTES

January 28 Sara Kate and Jake Thornburg  
February 4 Luke Barnes

## Security for Thursday Worship

February 1 Todd Rains

February 8 Bob Blount

## Tech Team Schedule

January 28

Celebration: Eric Wright, Sheila Freeman

Traditions: Wayne Payton, Jacob McKiven, Carmen McKiven

February 4

Celebration: Eric Wright, Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman

Traditions: Neil Mullin, Sheila Freeman, 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)**

*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 31**  
**Chicken Fingers**

## **Adult Small Groups @ Wonderful Wednesdays**

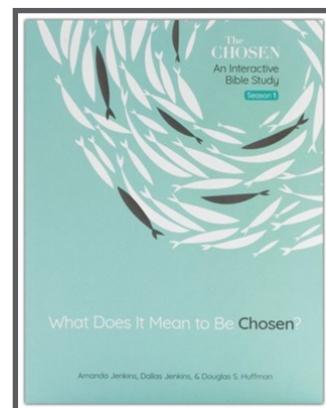
**6 pm Small Group with Harriet Murray, Room 110**

**“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).

**Room 208**



## ELC News

ELC News: Thank you for ordering your king cakes. They will be ready for pick up Saturday Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> between 9 am and noon at the portico entrance. Details on the amount sold and the profit made will be announced next week. This past week we enjoyed Burger King as our January Lunchbox Revolt. 3k and 4k students, parents and teachers enjoyed the field trip to the Hardin Center and the Snow Exhibit. This coming Tuesday, January 30<sup>th</sup> is our annual teacher meet and greets for those currently enrolled. Registration for current students begins in February. More details to come.

—Helene



## 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 31: Chicken Fingers,  
Macaroni & Cheese & More!  
\$7 Per Person  
\$3 Age 11 & Under  
Please make a reservation:  
Text: 256-490-5018

**Youth Group Meets**  
**Wednesdays at 6 pm each week!**

**We will meet Sunday, Jan 28 after church**  
**to go to “Activate Birmingham”**  
**Bring \$15.00 & Snack Money**

**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

### 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



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, 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*

### 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](http://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.



# January 2024 Mission

We are celebrating our “A/B Honor Roll” Students

at Striplin Elementary School

Date: Tuesday, January 30

Time: 1:30 pm, Kdg—2nd & 2:00 pm, 3rd --5th

Gadsden Middle School Band will help us CELEBRATE!

Volunteers are needed to help serve!

Call Susan Copeland, 256-441-8600

## 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

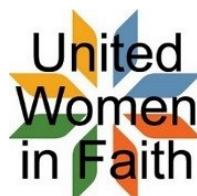
Liquid Laundry Soap Awesome brand. 42 oz (Dollar Tree)  
Dish Washing Soap (14-30 oz)  
5 Scrub Buddies square scrub pads (5 Individual pads per bucket)  
(No round scrubbers, no steel/copper scrubbers, and no Brillo pads please.)  
Reusable Wipes— Brillo Basics are great. 2 packs of 9 per bucket. (No 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**  
**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](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/serve)  
**Phone: 256-543-8200**  
**Email:** [fumc@fumcgadsden.org](mailto:fumc@fumcgadsden.org)

**#gfumcreconnect2023**

### Clients Served

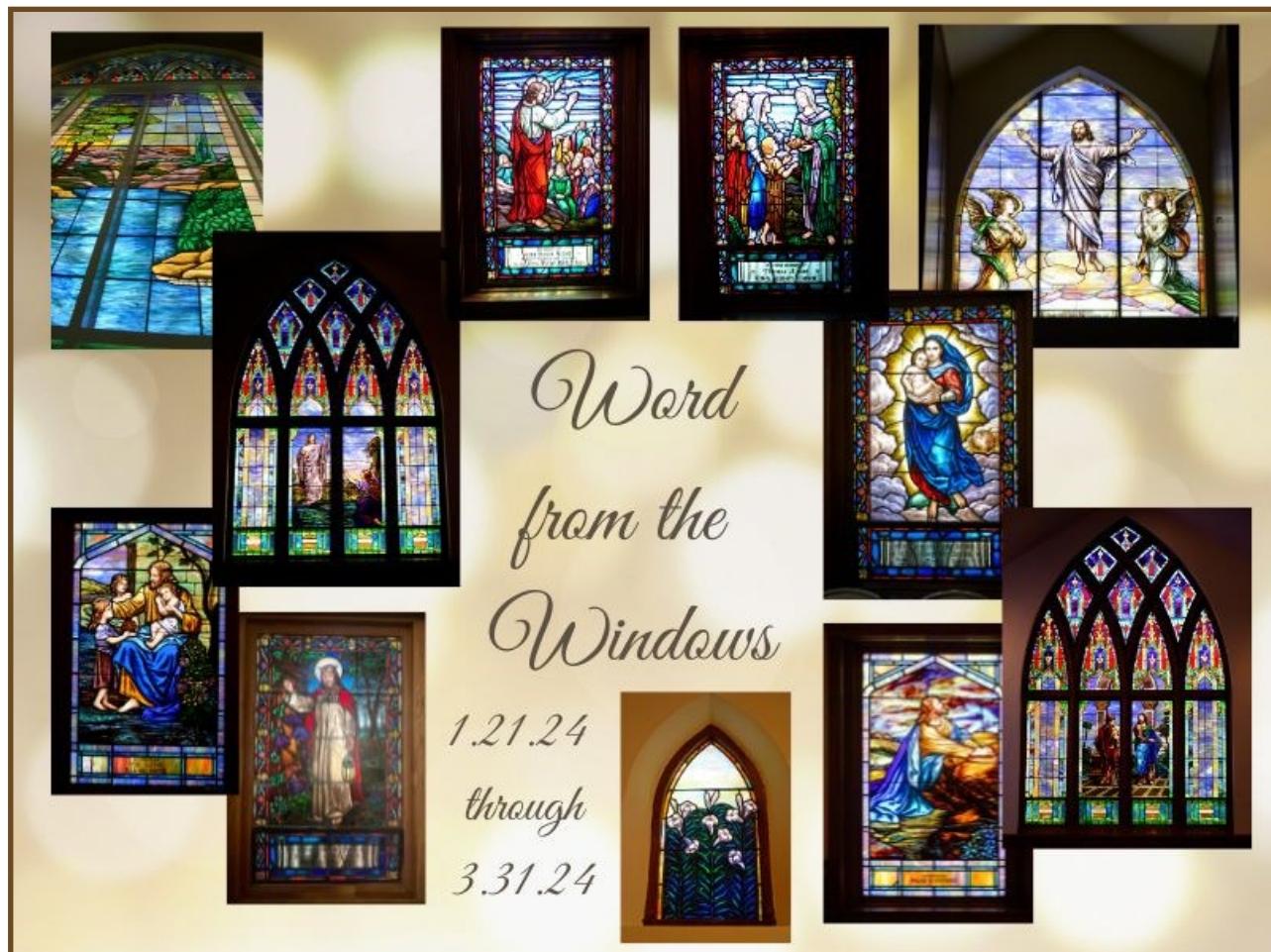
#### December 2023

Ladle of Love 284  
Clothes Closet 240

#### 2023 Totals

Ladle of Love 4463  
Clothes Closet 2895

**Thanks to our  
Volunteers!**



*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](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/give)

Text to Give: 256-344-8464

Venmo @FirstUMCGadsden

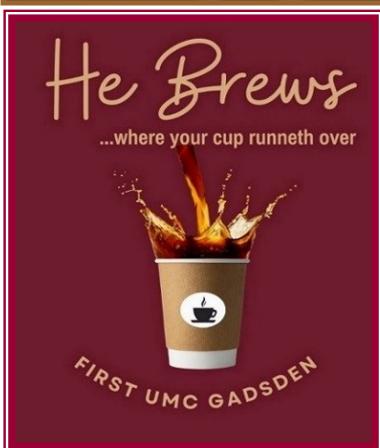
Mail your tithe or gift: 115 S. 5th Street, Gadsden, AL 35901

### 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!

### GENE & DANNA DEAN



Gene was adopted at the age of 7 by Maurice and Ruth Dean, owners of C&J Auto Parts in Gadsden. Gene graduated from Gadsden High School in the Class of 1968, then attended Livingston University (now the University of West Alabama) before becoming a Draftsman at CECO Steel Corp. Subsequently, he joined the family business, from which he retired in 2001. Having established the first martial arts school in Gadsden, Gene taught martial arts for 52 years. Currently, he runs a computer repair business, called "Computech," out of their home. Danna

grew up in Stonewall, MS, and attended Jones County Junior College in Ellisville, MS, before taking a job at American National Bank in Gadsden. She then worked at Lancaster Management for the next 32 years. Now she is a vital part of our church's Early Learning Center (ELC) and in her spare time "loves to cook." They have 2 children—Amy Epperson, who works for Inteva, and David Dean, who works for AT&T. Grandson Kaden Epperson (23), graduated from Jacksonville State in Electrical Engineering; and granddaughter Riley Epperson (18) is currently attending Jacksonville State, preparing to be a Physician's Assistant.

## Calendar for January 28-February 3, 2024

Jan 28 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**

Jan 29 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**

Jan 30 Tuesday  
**1:30 pm-2:00 pm A/B Honor Roll party, Striplin School**  
**5:00 pm-6:00 pm- Yoga, Gym**  
**6:00 pm-8:00 pm- Basketball Practice, Gym**

Jan 31 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**

Feb 1 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 2 Friday  
**11:00 am-12:00 pm- Ladle of Love**



### 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.



**January 21, 2024**

**Carla Watson**

### **Honorariums & Memorials**

#### General Budget Fund

In memory of George Varner, given by Margaret Jones.

**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 28** Marian Ford,  
 Caroline Thornburg  
**Jan 29** Eldred Davis, Michael Blevins,  
 Sara Katherine McCord  
**Feb 1** Lee Trotter, Sherri Watson,  
 Kelly Whisenant, Sarah Grace Whitt  
**Feb 2** Temple Bryson,  
 Benjamin Hester  
**Feb 3** David Gray, Jeanne Mabeus,  
 Mikko Norris



#### **Week of January 21, 2023**

In Person Total	*160	Worship Total	544
Online	384	Thursday Worship	*12
Celebration Service	*52/222		
Traditional Service	*96/162		
Sunday School-Adult	*37/1	Children	*6
Sunday School-Youth	*1	Nursery	*2
Bible Study Groups	*22	Children	*32
Youth	*8	in person	

General Offering Budget \$11,400.00  
 General Offering Received \$6,182.00  
 YTD General Offering Budget \$34,200.00  
 YTD General Offering Rec'd \$47,411.30

#### **Immediate Prayer Concerns**

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

#### **Continued Prayer Concerns**

Lisa Dobbins

