

Word
from the
Windows

"Christ Blessing the Children"

Rev. Sherri Reynolds



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

Sermon Notes: Thursday, March 7 & Sunday, March 10

The next window in our series is Christ Blessing the Children, located in the back of the sanctuary on the courtyard side of the church. It depicts a loving Jesus affectionately welcoming the children to him. The window was given in memory of Ethel Lindsay Klutts and Ella Mae Hunter by their Sunday School Class. These women were beloved teachers in the children's department and representative of the countless teachers at First United Methodist Church who have welcomed and cared for the children of this church.

As you prepare for worship this week, spend time with the scripture which inspired the window, Luke 18:15-17. Reflect upon the questions:

1. How might you need Jesus' blessings this week?
2. How might you bless a child?
3. What are ways in which you can serve the students at First United Methodist Church?

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

Rev. Sherri

March Madness

This week, come to worship on Thursday or Sunday and vote on your favorite worship songs in FUMCG's March Madness, Week 2, "Elite Eight"! (See page 4.)



North Alabama Conference
of The United Methodist Church

You are invited to participate with other North Alabama United Methodists in town hall gatherings to learn more and discuss the bold and exciting direction we will take together to realign our Districts in

the North Alabama Conference for missional effectiveness. There will be four opportunities to participate. You may attend any of these in-person meetings. The same information will be presented at each gathering by the members of the Appointive Cabinet.

Sunday, March 10 at 2:30 p.m. - Decatur First UMC
Sunday, March 10 at 5:30 p.m. - Cullman First UMC
Sunday, March 17 at 2:30 p.m. - Pleasant Hill UMC (Bessemer)
Sunday, March 17 at 5:30 p.m. - Sylacauga First UMC

We are realigning for missional effectiveness: In an intentional effort for the North Alabama Conference to live its purpose of "equipping its local churches for ministry and by providing a connection for ministry beyond the local church" (Book of Discipline ¶601), Conference leaders have prayerfully decided to realign and restructure the Districts within the Conference area. This realignment will introduce new district lines and simplify leadership to provide intentional connection and accountability to best serve local churches throughout North Alabama. Information about North Alabama's District Realignment will be available at www.umcna.org/realignment2024.

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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

March 10 Mikko & Marit Norris

March 17 Anna Kate Casey & Jade Collins

Security for Thursday Worship

March 14 Kirk Mabeus

March 21 Todd Rains

Tech Team Schedule

March 10

Celebration: Bill Haller, Jacob McKiven, Carmen McKiven
Traditions: Wayne Payton, Neil Mullin, Brad Barnes

March 17

Celebration: Eric Wright, Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman
Traditions: Mark Condra, Sheila Freeman

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 Morning Bible Study
w/Pastor Sherri**

**Bible Study with Rev. Sherri, Wednesdays @ 11 am
The Chosen Bible Study**



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
Mar 13, 5:15 pm
\$7 Adults,
\$3 11 & Under
Barbecue**

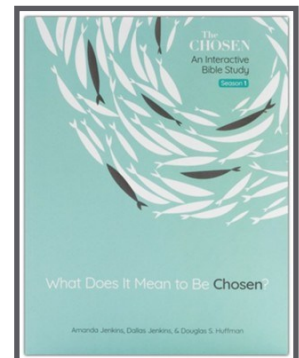
Adult Small Groups @ Wonderful Wednesdays

6 pm Small Group with Harriet Murray, Room 110

**Seven Words-Listening to Christ from the Cross
by Susan Robb**

Join Pastor Sherri on Wed. @ 6 pm, The Chosen Bible Study

Rev. Sherri is 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 includes episodes from the show, examination of relevant scriptures, separation of scripture from dramatization within the episodes, theological reflection, and personal application. The small group study is offered at 11am and 6pm on Wednesdays, in room 208. No books are required. Classes will last until March 20 (skipping February 14 for Ash Wednesday). **Room 208**



ELC News

This week we begin open registration with priority given to those on the waitlists for any open spots. We will enjoy Papa John's pizza on Wednesday and 4K will have another fascinating round of Show and Tell. Easter Parties will be on Wednesday, March 20th which will also be an early dismissal day. Lastly, the ELC will be closed for Spring Break Monday, March 25th through Thursday, March 28th.

—Helene



Youth Ministry News



"The Chosen Bible Study"
Mar 10 Sherri Reynolds
Mar 17 Barbara Condra
Mar 24
Mar 31

Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Dinner 5:00 pm,
Mar 13:Barbecue
\$7 Per Person \$3 Age 11 & Under
Please make a reservation—Text: 256-490-5018

Youth Group Meets
Wednesdays at 6 pm each week!
March 9 Havoc Hockey
March 24-31 Spring Break
Youth Counselor
Carmen McKiven

Children's Ministry

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GADSDEN
 invites you to our annual
EASTER EGG HUNT
 Bring your BASKET and
JOIN US
 for food, games, prizes, and
CANDY!
SATURDAY
March 16th
 11:00-12:00
 First United Methodist Church of Gadsden 115 S. 5th Street

Scan the QR Code to Register Now Online!

GFUMC's
 Vacation Bible School

See Page 6 for details!

SPRING 2024
GFUMC CHILDREN'S CALENDAR
 Children's Church, Sunday's 9:00 & 11:00
 Wonderful Wednesdays @6:00

Confirmation Class Wednesdays at 6 pm Contact Katharine Barnes for more information!	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 17 Family Night: Cupcake Wars Wednesday Unit Throw Back: Jesus' trendy teachings	May 15 Annual GFUMC Picnic Wednesday Unit One Small Step: Stories from Acts

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

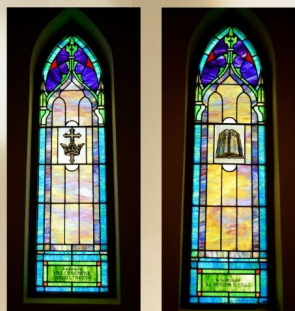
MARCH MADNESS

FAVORITE WORSHIP HYMNS

You have likely heard of March Madness. This term relates to the excitement around NCAA tournament play for college basketball during the month of March. Fans have been known to keep up with the tournament with brackets. Others create fantasy brackets to predict the outcome. There is a lot of fun in the spring with basketball and bracket making.

At First United Methodist Church, we are going to embark on a little March Madness of our own. Our madness has nothing to do with basketball, but our brackets are built around songs that we love. During the month of March, when you attend worship, you will find brackets of some of your favorite Christian songs going head-to-head against one another to determine the winning song of the church. We will start with 16 songs suggested by the staff, choir, and praise band and reduce the number in half each week, until we reach one which will be announced on Easter. The final four will then become the topic for a music-based series this summer. Voting for your favorite will take place in worship and you must be present to mark your bracket.

Word from the Windows



*Sermon Series
January 23
through
April 14*



See the Beauty... Hear the Story.

From January 21, 2024 through April 14, 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.

Mission Focus



Hosea Wanniya Ado is an International Global Mission Fellow with the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries, engaged in a two-year term of service.

The Global Mission Fellows program takes young adults ages 20-30 out of their home environments and places them in new contexts for mission experience and service. The program has a strong emphasis on faith and justice. Global Mission Fellows become active parts of their new local communities. They connect the church in mission across cultural and geographical boundaries. They grow in personal and social holiness and become strong young leaders working to build just communities in a peaceful world.

Hosea is a member of the United Methodist Church, Pero East District, Filiya, Nigeria. The church is related to the Northern Nigeria Annual Conference. Hosea serves as youth secretary. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in medical lab science from Africa

University, Harare, Zimbabwe.

Hosea said he became a born-again Christian when he realized that Jesus is the only way to God, and in Christ alone could he obtain mercy. "My parents are dedicated United Methodist church members," he said. "They trained me in the ways of Jesus Christ by taking me to Sunday school lessons. I began to understand my purpose for creation; however, it was so blissful and a privilege for me to have uncles who are United Methodist clergy. They taught me about Jesus Christ."

When Hosea's uncles took him on evangelism calls with them, however, he sometimes didn't want to go. "I was angry," he admitted, "but they didn't care about my mood. I didn't know that they were trying to build my spiritual life to prepare me for the future. Now that I am grown, I realize that the evangelism spirit they injected in me triggered me to apply for Global Mission Fellows."

Although Hosea is not a pastor, he believes his profession will help him to do God's mission work. "Serving as a missionary," he believes, "will increase my quest for God and help me to know the purpose of living. I think Global Mission Fellows will be the best ministry for me because of their values, mission, vision and concern for social justice."

United Women of Faith Luncheon

Monday, March 11, 2024, Noon

Elaine Harris Spearman, Esq., Speaker



Our own Elaine Harris Spearman will share her experiences as a foot soldier in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, as well as her experiences as a woman and a minority in major leadership positions in the City of St. Louis Government and in Organizations at the local, state, and national levels. Elaine was born and reared in Gadsden. At the age of 15 she graduated from Carver High School and enrolled in Tennessee A and I State University. She received the Juris Doctorate Degree from St. Louis University School of Law. She has had an outstanding career and received many professional and community awards. She has paved the way for many women of color to

enjoy the opportunities she earned.

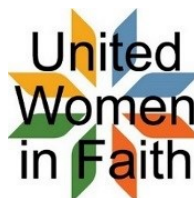
Elaine Harris Spearman is involved in many community organizations in our area and writes a Sunday weekly commentary for the Gadsden Times. Her column is often republished by statewide and national publications such as AL.com and USA Today.

Lunch will be catered by Chicken Salad Chick. Make reservations by texting Olivia Kendrick at 205-454-4375 by Friday, Mar. 8 at noon. Lunch is \$15 payable at the event. Everyone, men and women, are welcome. For fun, Jewelry by Jemelle will have a display with jewelry you may purchase.

United Women in Faith

UWF Luncheon will be Monday, March 11 at 12 noon. Our speaker will be Elaine Harris Spearman, Esq. The topic will be "Memories of a Foot Soldier of the Civil Rights Movement."

Make your reservation by noon on March 8 with Olivia Kendrick by phone or text message. 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

March open dates are

3/6 and 3/20

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

January 2024

Ladle of Love 368

Clothes Closet 160

Thanks to our Volunteers!

Robbie's of Fayette Spring Clothing Show



Tuesday, April 9
10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Gathering Room

Please Invite Friends!

A percentage of the sales is donated to
GFUMC's Children's Ministry Program.

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!!!*

**Mondays
2-4 pm**

Pickleball
COME AND PLAY!
SPORTS | FRIENDS | MONDAYS @ FIRST

First UMC Gym | 115 S. 5th Street
2nd Floor | Gadsden, AL 35901

ENTER AT THE CHESTNUT ST FOYER OFFICE DOOR
First United Methodist Church of Gadsden

He Brews
...where your cup runneth over

FIRST UMC GADSDEN

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GADSDEN
invites you to our annual

EASTER EGG HUNT

Bring your BASKET and
JOIN US
for food, games, prizes, and
CANDY!

**SATURDAY
March 16th**
11:00-12:00

First United Methodist Church of Gadsden 115 S. 5th Street

THIS SUMMER, JOIN US FOR
GFUMC's
Vacation Bible School

JUNE 3-6

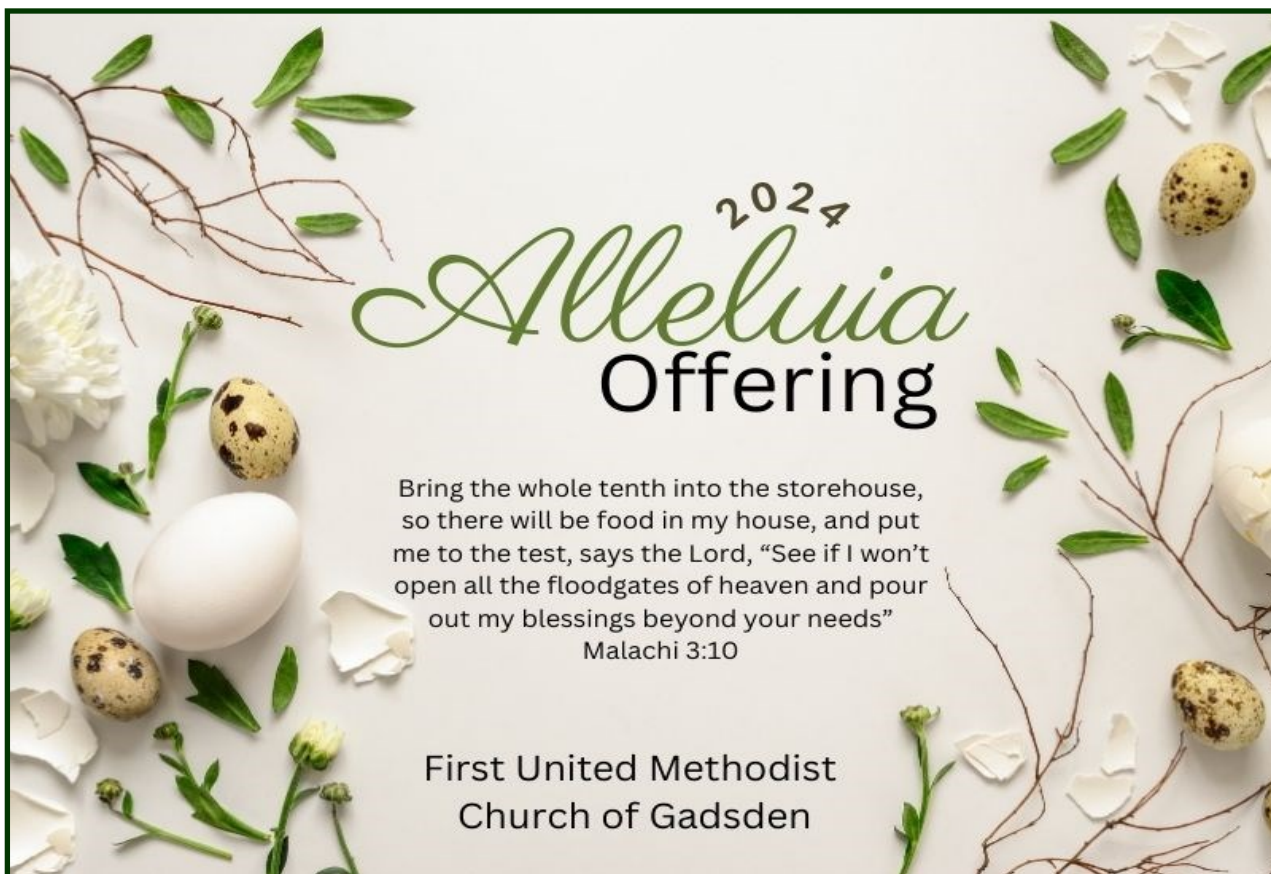
KNIGHTS OF NORTH CASTLE

REGISTER ONLINE

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GADSDEN
115 S. 5th St Gadsden, AL 35901

"Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His power."
Ephesians 6:10

It's Time...
to invite your
friends and
neighbors to the
church Easter Egg
Hunt and our
amazing Vacation
Bible School!



Secure Online Giving



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

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.)

Please note: This new option for online giving is IN ADDITION TO First UMC Gadsden's eGiving platform. No changes have been made to our online giving platform where one-time & recurring gifts, and text to give are all still available!

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

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



venmo

Calendar for March 10-March 16, 2024

Mar 10 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

Mar 11 Monday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Spring Schedule
9:00 am-10:00 am- Exercise Group, Gym
10:30 am-UWF Executive Board, Room 208
12:00 noon-UWF Luncheon, Gathering Room
2:00 pm-4:00 pm-Pickleball, Gym

Mar 12 Tuesday

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

Mar 13 Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm- ELC Spring Schedule
11:00 am-12:00 pm- Bible Study, Room 208
5:15 pm- Wednesday night meal, Gathering Room
6:00 pm-Children & Youth activities
Gym & Rooms 108 & 211
6:00 pm-Small Group Study, Rooms 110 & 208
6:00 pm-Choir practice, Choir room

Mar 14 Thursday

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

Mar 15 Friday

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

Mar 16 Saturday

11:00 am-Easter Egg Hunt, Greenspace & Courtyard

**Spring
Forward**



Set your clock
forward
one hour
Sunday, March 10
@ 2 am

Luncheon: Elaine Spearman, Esq., Speaker, March 11 Everyone Welcome

The UWF Luncheon will be Monday, March 11 at 12 noon. Our speaker will be Elaine Harris Spearman, Esq. The topic will be "Memories of a Foot Soldier of the Civil Rights Movement."

Make your reservation by noon on March 8 with Olivia Kendrick by phone or text message, 205-454-4375.
Read more about Elaine Spearman, Esq., on page 5 of the weekly church newsletter!

The flower on the altar is in honor of Lachlan Woods McNair



born February 26, 2024

Parents: John & Sarie

Siblings: Lucca & Rosalia

Grandparents: Benny & Gail McNair

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

Honorariums & Memorials

General Budget Fund

In memory of Rodney Thompson, given by Dr. Noah & Vickie Miller.

Spring Cleaning-Free Pianos

We have 3 upright pianos free to a good home. These are currently stored under a stairwell and easily accessible. Please contact the office if you are interested.

Birthdays

Mar 10 Paula Lang, Tamara Kirk
Mar 11 Augusta Waters, Gail McNair
Kathryn McCollum, Dee Dee McLeod
Mar 12 Megan Haller,
Clementine Hilburn
Mar 13 Blake Badgett, Claire Bone
Mar 14 Delilah Ogletree
Mar 15 Barbara Roberts,
Parker Jarecki,
G.W. Leach, Jr.
Mar 16
Hannah Torbert Kennedy



Week of March 3, 2023

In Person Total *161 Worship Total 613
Online 452 Thursday Worship *8
Celebration Service *58/223
Traditional Service *95/229
Sunday School-Adult *44/1 Children *9
Sunday School-Youth *2 Nursery *2
Bible Study Groups *26 Children *40
Youth *8 *in person

General Offering Budget \$11,400.00
General Offering Received \$14,679.00
YTD General Offering Budget \$102,600.00
YTD General Offering Rec'd \$128,948.00

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Martha Bullock
Judy Collins
(Tripp Collins' mother)

Continued Prayer Concerns

Lisa Dobbins
Asher Mae Collins

