

*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

**the North Alabama Conference for missional effectiveness. 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](http://www.umcna.org/realignment2024).**

**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**

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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](http://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.

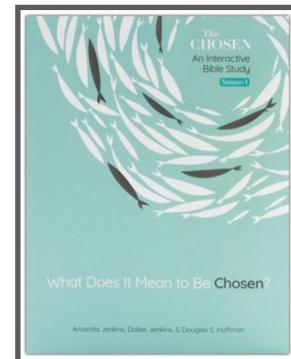
**Wonderful  
Wednesday  
Fellowship Dinner  
Mar 13, 5:15 pm  
\$7 Adults,  
\$3 11 & Under  
Barbecue**

## **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 20<sup>th</sup> which will also be an early dismissal day. Lastly, the ELC will be closed for Spring Break Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>.

—Helene

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

# STUDENT MINISTRY

## Youth Ministry News



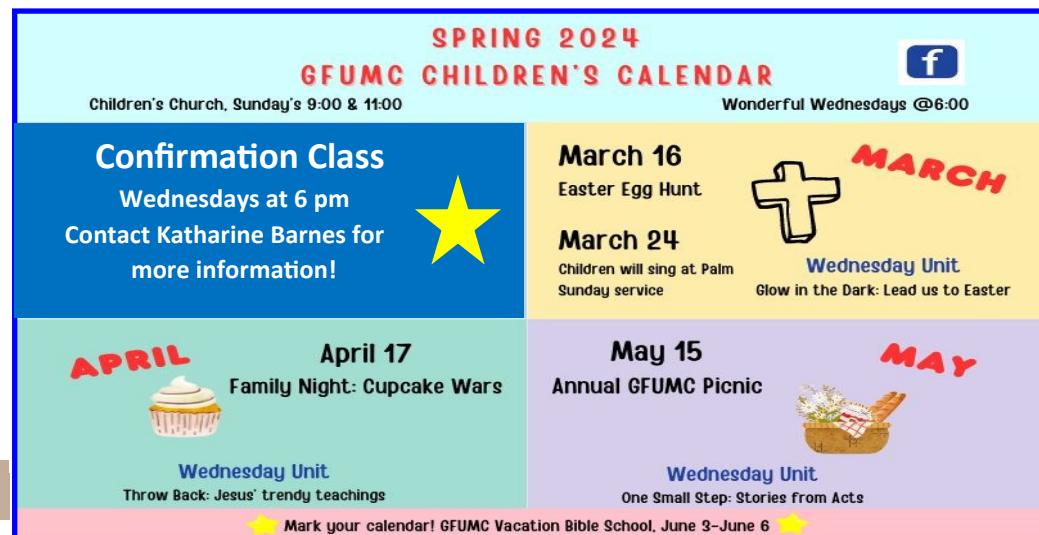
"The Chosen Bible Study"  
Mar 10 Sherri Reynolds  
Mar 17 Barbara Condra  
Mar 24  
Mar 31

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



See Page 6 for details!



# 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 28  
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



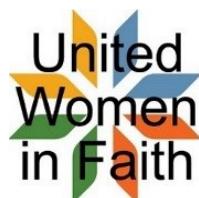
Our own Elaine Harris Spearman will share her experiences as a foot soldier in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, as well as her experiences as a woman and a minority in major leadership positions in the City of St. Louis Government and in Organizations at the local, state, and national levels. 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](http://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!!!*

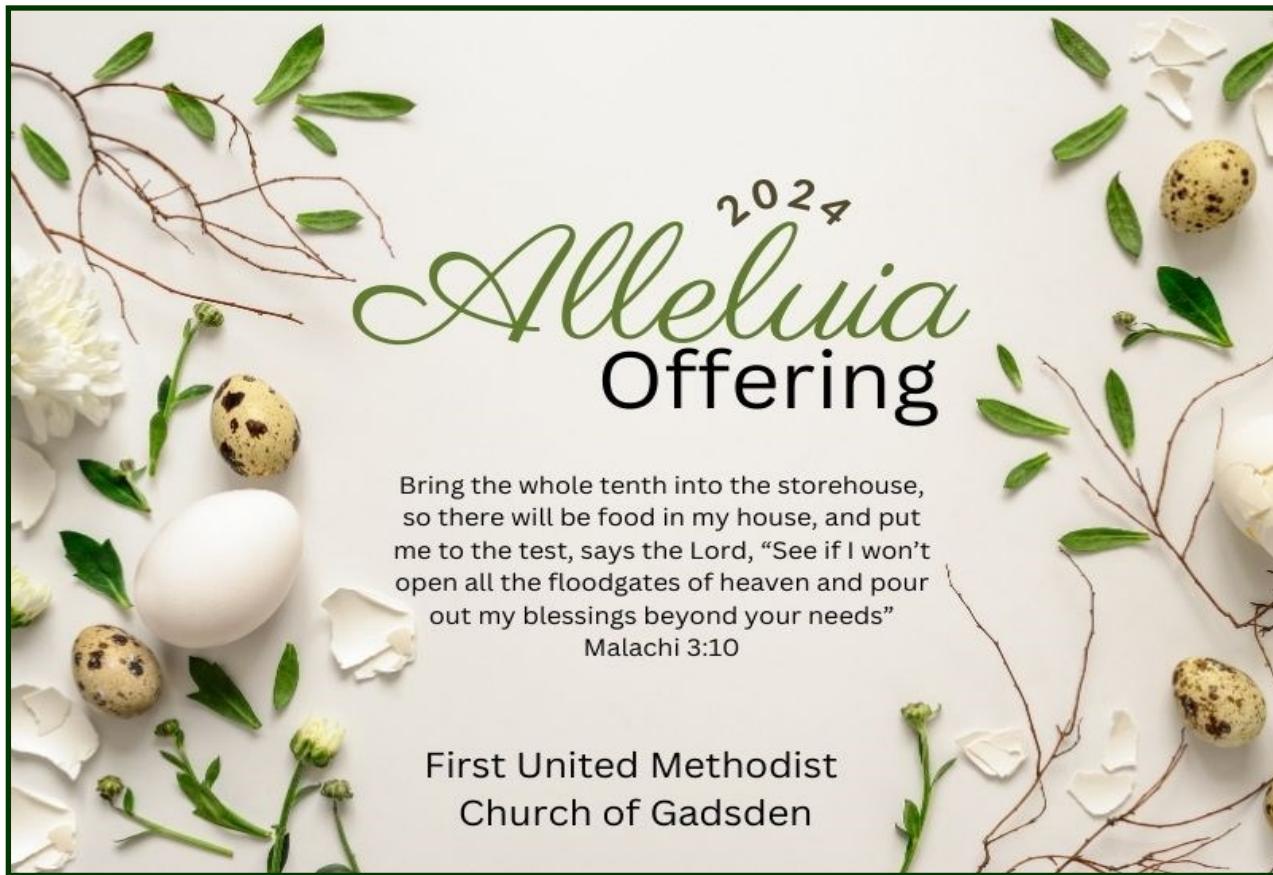
A flyer for Pickleball at First United Methodist Church of Gadsden. It features a pink and orange background with a pattern of pickleballs. The text includes 'Mondays 2-4 pm', 'Pickleball COME AND PLAY!', 'SPORTS | FRIENDS | MONDAYS @ FIRST', and the address 'First UMC Gym 2nd Floor 115 S. 5th Street Gadsden, AL 35901'. It also says 'ENTER AT THE CHESTNUT ST FOYER OFFICE DOOR' and 'First United Methodist Church of Gadsden'.

A flyer for He Brews, featuring a maroon background. It has the text 'He Brews ...where your cup runneth over', an image of a coffee cup with coffee splashing out, and the text 'FIRST UMC GADSDEN' curved along the bottom.

A flyer for the First United Methodist Church of Gadsden's annual Easter Egg Hunt. It features a blue background with a banner of colorful bunting. The text includes 'FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GADSDEN invites you to our annual EASTER EGG HUNT', 'SATURDAY March 16th 11:00-12:00', 'Bring your BASKET and JOIN US for food, games, prizes, and CANDY!', and the address 'First United Methodist Church of Gadsden 115 S. 5th Street'.

A flyer for GFUMC's Vacation Bible School. It features a blue background with a castle and a dragon. The text includes 'THIS SUMMER, JOIN US FOR GFUMC's Vacation Bible School JUNE 3-6', 'REGISTER ONLINE', and a QR code. It also features a banner with the text '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!



First United Methodist  
Church of Gadsden

## 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](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

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



### 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!*

### 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

*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

