



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

### Sermon Notes: Thursday, March 13, and Sunday, March 16

The image in our *Woven* series is a shamrock within the triangle. With St. Patrick's Day on March 17<sup>th</sup>, it is the perfect symbol for worship. Tradition says that St. Patrick used the shamrock to teach the doctrine of the Trinity. The shamrock is a trefoil, or a single design of three circles. It is set within a triangle with three identical sides, and angles. Thus, this image helps us recall One God in three persons.

Three is important number for the symbol and our faith. Three is the symbol of the Trinity and a number of wholeness. Jesus was resurrected on the third day. Jonah was in the belly of a big fish for three days and Jesus practiced earthly ministry for three years. Peter denied Jesus three times and the Ark of the Covenant held three objects. Three is also the number of relationships found in the Great Command (Matthew 22:36-40) These are the relationships with God, neighbor and self. As *School House Rock* told us, three is a magic number.

Consider completeness in relationships this week as you strive to love God fully, and love your neighbor as yourself? Which relationship needs your greatest attention this Lent?

Journeying through Lent with You,

Rev. Sherri



Are you wanting to go deeper in your spiritual life? Consider a life-changing 72-hour retreat at Camp Sumatanga called the Walk to Emmaus. The Walk to Emmaus is a spiritual renewal program intended to strengthen the local church through the development of Christian disciples and leaders. The retreat is a 72-hour short course in Christianity, comprised of fifteen talks by lay and clergy on the themes of God's grace, disciplines of Christian

discipleship, and what it means to be the church. The course is wrapped in prayer and meditation, special times of worship and daily celebration of Holy Communion. Contact the church office or go to [alaemmaus.org](http://alaemmaus.org) to learn more.

# Woven The Shamrock

Rev. Sherri Reynolds

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### Worship Opportunities

**Thursday: Worship, 5:30 pm**  
**Sunday Morning: Celebration, 9 am**  
**Traditions, 11 am**

\*In-Person and Livestream or On Demand  
[www.fumcgadsden.org/media](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/media)

### ACOLYTES

March 16: Sylvia Harbin & Sarah Echols  
 March 23: Volunteer

### Tech Team Schedule

**March 16**  
**Celebration:** Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman, Rob Reynolds  
**Traditions:** Davis Varner, Sheila Freeman, Brad Barnes

**March 23**  
**Celebration:** Rob Reynolds, Sheila Freeman, Brad Barnes  
**Traditions:** Mark Condra, Neil Mullin Sheila Freeman

## The Chosen Season 2 Bible Study



Rev. Sherri will be leading a Bible Study of Season 2 of the Chosen starting January 8. Each week will focus on a particular episode, reviewing the corresponding scriptures while engaging both with thought provoking questions. The class will be offered at 11am and 6pm on Wednesdays in room 208. The class will last until April 30 (with the night session skipping March 26 for spring break.)

### Wednesday Fellowship, Room 208

5:15 pm-March 19 - Chick-fil-A

\$7 Youth & Adults    \$3 Children 11 & Under

### Wednesday Morning Bible Study @ 11 am, Gathering Room

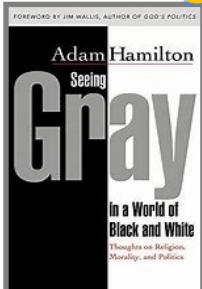
**“The Chosen” w/ Rev. Sherri Reynolds**

### Adult Small Groups @ Wonderful Wednesdays, 6 pm

Rev. Sherri, “The Chosen”, Room 208

Harriet Murray, “Fierce”, Room 110

## Sunday School: New Adult Series for Lent



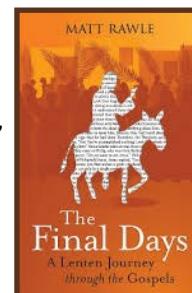
### Transitions 10 am, Room 209

This study encourages thinking persons of faith to model for the rest of the country a richer, more thoughtful conversation on the political, moral, and religious issues that divide us. Hamilton rejects the easy assumptions and sloppy analysis of black and white thinking, seeking instead the truth that resides on all sides of the issues, and offering a faithful and compassionate way forward.

### Pathfinders/Seekers 10 am, Room 208

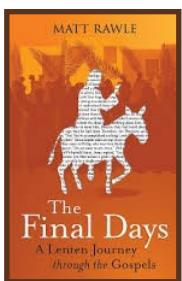
Join us. Everyone welcome! Dive into The Final Days: A Lenten Journey through the Gospels by Matt Rawle, a powerful study that examines the themes of justice, poverty, freedom, and love through the lens of the four New Testament Gospels.

Discover how each Gospel offers a distinct perspective on Jesus' final week in Jerusalem—culminating in the Resurrection hope we all hold dear.



### Living Waters 10 am, Room 116

Dive into The Final Days: A Lenten Journey through the Gospels by Matt Rawle, a powerful study that examines the themes of justice, poverty, freedom, and love through the lens of the four New Testament Gospels.



### “Men at the Well” Thursday Mornings, 7:00 am

You are invited to join the weekly Bible study with the “Men at the Well” at the 278 Restaurant. **Contact Todd Rains, Mark Condra, Mark Casey, or any of the Men at the Well for more information.**



## ELC NEWS

Registration continues! Open registration begins Monday, March 10<sup>th</sup> and all openings will be filled through the waitlist. See Helene for more information. Dr. Amy Kelley will be visiting our 4k class on Monday, March 10<sup>th</sup> to talk about healthy bodies. Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, we will have Papa John's; the cost is \$4.00 per student. The ELC will be closed for Spring Break Monday, March 24<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>.  
—Helene Haller



**Youth Group**  
Wednesdays at 6 pm  
Room 211  
(will not meet 3/26)

**Sunday School**  
10 am, Room 211

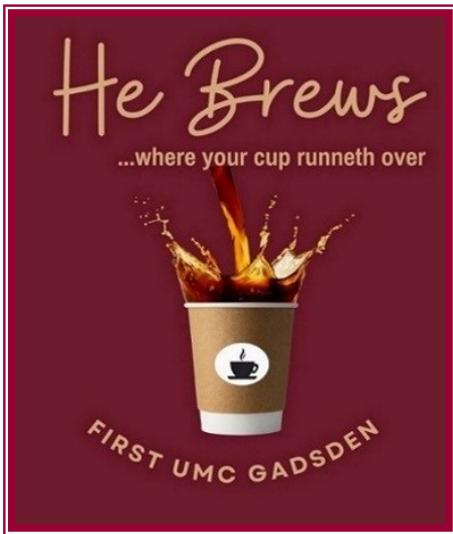
**Hymns for Hunger**  
Youth will receive donations at the doors of the Sanctuary. Plan to arrive by 1:45 pm to set up and serve.

**Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Dinner, 5:15 pm-Gathering Room**  
**Menu for March 19 Family Night: Chick-fil-A**  
**\$7 Youth & Adults    \$3 Children 11 & Under**  
**Activities and Small Groups for All Ages begin at 6 pm**

## Children's Ministry

Stop by the Children's Ministry table in the Chestnut St. Foyer and find out how you can help with the Easter Egg Hunt (April 12, 11 am).  
Drop off donations of individually wrapped Easter candy. (No chocolate please.)





HeBrews Coffee Café  
10 am, Chestnut Street Foyer  
We Can't Wait to See You There!



## March Mission Focus

Volunteers are needed to help clean the church for spring. The dates will be Friday, March 14 from 9 am to 3 pm and Saturday, March 15 from 9 am to 12 noon.

**Sign Up Now for March Church Spring Cleaning!**  
*The Mission Team is sponsoring "Spring Cleaning Days" to clean various parts of GFUMC's buildings.*

**Sign Up Online @ [www.fumcgadsden.org/missionteam](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/missionteam)**  
**or in the Chestnut Foyer.**



**Spring Cleaning at GFUMC Church Workdays**

**March 14** 9 am to 3 pm  
&  
**March 15** 9 am to 12 noon

Watch for more information &  
Sign up on the church website or app!

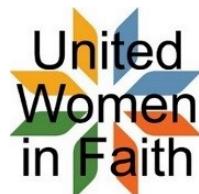
**United Women in Faith**  
**LuVerna Waid Circle-Tuesday, April 1st @ 6:00 pm.**

Drinks will be furnished and anyone that would like to bring a snack is welcome to do so. We will continue the study in the UWF Program Book. The theme of Water will still be our focus as we study the April program. Hope all members will join in this great Bible Study with friends in fellowship! Susan Copeland

**April UWF Luncheon—April 7 at 12:00 noon**

**UWF Bake Sale—Sunday, April 13-Palm Sunday**

Remember UWF ladies, we need you to bake and bring 3 items or one large item for the bake sale. We will have items for auction. Bring your bake goods on Friday, April 11 by 12:00 pm or Sunday morning beginning at 8:30 am. For further information call Delores Abney at 256-458-0376.



**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 3/5 and 3/19**

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)

**#gfumcreconnect2024**

**Ladle of Love Clothes Closet**

**January**

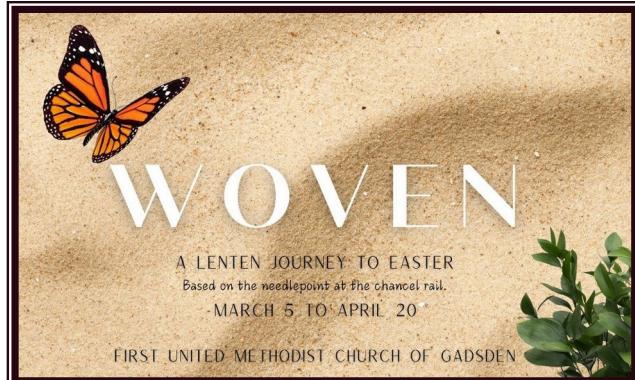
|                       |            |
|-----------------------|------------|
| <b>LOL</b>            | <b>501</b> |
| <b>Clothes Closet</b> | <b>154</b> |

**Thanks to our  
Volunteers!**

Stop by the Children's Ministry table in the Chestnut St. Foyer and find out how you can help with the Easter Egg Hunt which will be on April 12, 11 am.  
Drop off donations of individually wrapped Easter candy. (No chocolate please.)

One of the greatest artistic assets of this church is one that we don't often notice: the needlepoint work on the kneelers at our communion rail. For almost fifty years, worshippers have knelt on cushions handcrafted by skillful hands. Each cushion is adorned with extraordinary needlepoint depicting the rich symbols of our Christian faith. Created in 1976 and restored in 2011, these cushions are a treasure that enhance our worship and guide us in faithful discipleship.

This Lent, First United Methodist Church of Gadsden will be spending the season looking at the story behind the kneelers and the meaning of the symbols with *Woven*. The series will kick off on Ash Wednesday and conclude on Easter. Find your favorite symbol on the cushions, bring your curiosity, and join us for *Woven* this spring.



## MARCH MADNESS

March Madness is quickly approaching. I don't mean the excitement around NCAA tournament play for college basketball for the month of March. I am talking about the March Madness that happens here at First United Methodist Church. While others are making their bracket, predicting the outcome of the tournament, we'll be voting on students of Jesus.

During the month of March, when you attend in-person worship, you will find brackets with students of Jesus. You'll get a chance to vote for a champion Christ follower. We are starting with a sweet sixteen and will reduce the number by half each week. Until we reach one which will be announced the first Sunday of April. The final four will be will then become the topic for a "back-to school" series this summer. Voting will take place in worship, and you must be present to mark your bracket. Who will it be? Peter? Mary Magdelene? James the Lesser? Lazarus? Or another follower? Come cast your vote in worship this March!



**March Madness (9-30) with winner announced on April 6.**

**Voting continues this week in worship services.**

**Students of Jesus.**

|                      |         |     |                                     |
|----------------------|---------|-----|-------------------------------------|
|                      | Peter   | vs. | Mary Magdelene                      |
| <b>March Madness</b> | Thomas  | vs. | John                                |
| <b>Elite Eight:</b>  | Martha  | vs. | Matthew                             |
|                      | Lazarus | vs. | Mary (Sister of Martha and Lazarus) |



## Weekly Newsletter

Subscribe to the weekly newsletter by submitting your email to the church secretary,

Susan Swann:

[susan@fumcgadsden.org](mailto:susan@fumcgadsden.org)

You will receive the weekly newsletter by email on Friday mornings.

The Newsletter is also available in the GFUMC Church App and on the Church Website.

## Important Deadlines

**Deadline for the newsletter is noon on Tuesday of each week.**

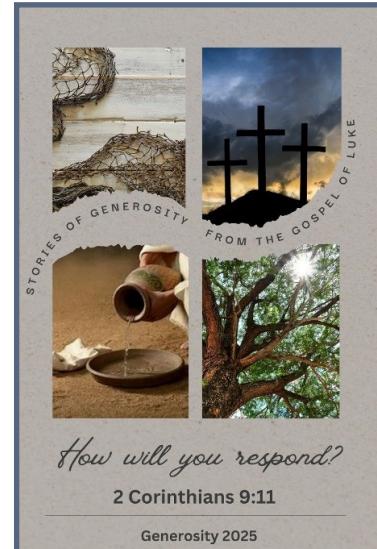
**All requests for spoken announcements for Sunday mornings must be turned in by Thursday @ noon, in writing to Susan Swann in the office.**

**All Meetings, Events and Activities must be scheduled in advance with the church secretary, by email**  
**[susan@fumcgadsden.org](mailto:susan@fumcgadsden.org)**

## Generosity 2025 “How will you Respond?”

***You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us***  
2 Corinthians 9:11

**The 2025 “Estimate of Giving” Card can be filled out at any time during the year online @ [www.fumcgadsden.org/give](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/give)**



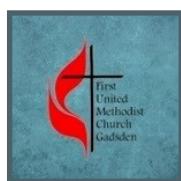
**First UMC Gadsden  
is a registered charity and can receive  
donations through Venmo:  
@FirstUMCGadsden**

(Please search in Venmo under charities  
or follow the link in the QR Code.)



**venmo**

Download our Church App  
Search First UMC-Gadsden  
In the App Store for Android or iPhone.



## 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

# First UMC Gadsden Calendar for March 16-March 22, 2025

## March 16, Sunday

9:00 am-Celebration Worship, Sanctuary  
10:00 am-Sunday School classes for all ages

10:00 am- HeBrews Coffee

11:00 am-Traditions Worship, Sanctuary

## March 17, Monday

9:00 am-1:00 pm- ELC

9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym

2:00 to 4:00 pm- Pickleball, Gym

## March 18, Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm- ELC

9:00 am-11:00 am-Clothes Closet workday

5:00 pm-Yoga, Gym

## March 19, Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, ELC

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

## March 20, Thursday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, ELC

9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym

5:30 pm-Thursday Worship, Sanctuary

## March 21, Friday

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

Office closes at 12:00 pm

5:00 pm-8:00 pm-Movie Night, Room 108

### *In Memory of His Life*

**Robert M. McElroy, Jr.**

**March 7, 2025**



## Save the Dates

Saturday, April 12 — GFUMC Easter Egg Hunt, 11 am

Sunday, April 13 — Palm Sunday— Children sing in Worship; UWF Bake Sale; Hymns for Hunger, 2:30 pm

Monday, April 14 through Friday, April 18 — Holy Week Services 12:05 pm Daily; Maundy Thursday, 6 pm

Sunday, April 20 — Easter Sunday worship at 9 am and 11 am

### Immediate Prayer Concerns

Family of Dr. Pat Herrera

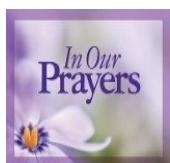
Juanita Hammons      Martha Kitchens

Amy Epperson

### Continued Prayer Concerns

Mary Tom Hale      Jackie Herlong

Bob Walden (Olivia Kendrick's father)



### Honorariums & Memorials

#### General Budget Fund

In memory of Glen Pierson, given by Wilbur & Laurie Smith.

#### Caring Angels

In memory of Gwen Axtell, given by Diana Rampey.

#### Benevolence Fund

In memory of Gwen Axtell, given by Sonya Nesbitt.

### **Week of March 9, 2025**

In Person Total-\*287 On Line Total-879

Worship Total-1,166   Thursday service \*5

Celebration \*63/229   Traditions \*85/303

Ash Wed Service \*134/347

Adult Sunday School \*40   Children \*3

Middle School & Senior Hi SS \*2

Bible Study Groups \*15   UWF \*15

Children Wed/Sun \*25   Nursery Wed/Sun \*4

Middle Wed/Sun \*8   Senior Hi Wed/Sun \*12

#### **Year 2025**

General Offering Budget      \$12,400.00

General Offering Received      \$14,825.63

YTD General Offering Budget      \$124,000.00

YTD General Offering Rec'd      \$141,800.84

### **Birthdays**

**Mar 16** Hannah Kennedy

**Mar 17** Holly Whitt, Chuck Herb,

Eli Hornik

**Mar 18** Dr. Fred Feist, Adrian Leach,

Mary Edmondson, Benjamin Cornett

**Mar 20** Barbara Bennett, Tricia Blount,

Dr. Rex Wilson, John Floyd, Zach

Hilburn, Rebecca Abel, Todd McKiven,

Kennedy Jackson, Harrison Phillips

**Mar 21** Tripp Martin, Ari Beckett

**Mar 22** Mary Hager, James Waid,

Harris Jones, Brooks Bone

### **Volunteer Opportunity**

A big part of our in-person Sunday morning worship experience is having greeters & ushers welcome guests. These roles are an essential part of making sure we provide a welcoming and safe environment for everyone who comes into our church. If you would like to help please contact the church office: 256-543-8200 or [fumc@fumcgadsden.org](mailto:fumc@fumcgadsden.org)