

Word
from the
Windows

"Christ Knocking at the Door"

Rev. Sherri Reynolds



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

Sermon Notes: Thursday, March 14 & Sunday, March 17

Christ Knocking at the Door is the only window to be moved after its original installation. The window, like the others, was designed by Joseph Victor Llorens and it was installed in 1945 in the original prayer room, which was located off the narthex on the courtyard side. With architectural changes made in 1955, the window was moved to a new prayer room, where it is seen today. The window was inspired by a world-renowned painting entitled, The Light of the World by William Holman Hunt, which depicts Christ knocking. While many have interpreted the painting to be Jesus knocking at the heart, to allow him in for salvation, Hunt intended the painting to be Jesus knocking at the door of an obstinate mind. In that painting, the outside knob is missing, and it must be opened to Jesus from the inside by the person. With Hunt's original intent, how might Jesus be knocking at your obstinate mind?

As you prepare for this week's sermon, I encourage you to spend time in Revelation 3:20. Reflect upon these questions:

1. How is Jesus trying to get your attention?
2. What do you need to do to allow the space to hear Jesus?
3. What would it mean for you to open the "door" for Christ to come in?

See you Sunday! 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 3, "Final Four" (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 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*

ACOLYTES

March 17 Anna Kate Casey & Jade Collins
March 24 Volunteer

Security for Thursday Worship

March 21 Todd Rains
March 28 Mark Condra

Tech Team Schedule

March 17

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

March 24

Celebration: Sheila Freeman, Bill Haller, Brad Barnes
Traditions: Davis Varner, Neil Mullin, 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 20, 5:15 pm
\$7 Adults,
\$3 11 & Under
Chick-fil-a**

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

The Chosen Bible Study

Join Pastor Sherri on Wed. @ 6 pm

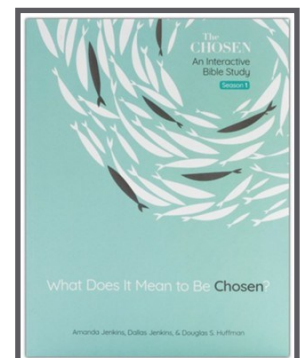
March 20- Episode 5b

March 27- No class- Spring Break/Holy Week

April 3- Episode 6

April 10- Episode 7

April 17- Episode 8 (Last study for spring)



ELC News

Open registration continues with priority given to those on the waitlists. Easter Parties will be on Wednesday, March 20th which will also be an early dismissal day. 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 20: - Chick fil a
\$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 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

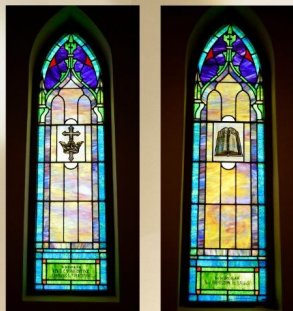
MARCH MADNESS

FAVORITE WORSHIP HYMNS

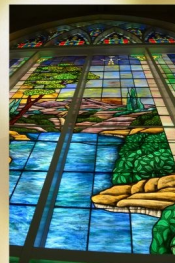
You have likely heard of March Madness. This term relates to the excitement around NCAA tournament play for college basketball during the month of March. Fans have been known to keep up with the tournament with brackets. Others create fantasy brackets to predict the outcome. There is a lot of fun in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



Adolé Gloria Rébécca Akue 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.

Adolé is a member of Salem Parish Methodist Church of Togo, Lomé. A Sunday school teacher and member of La Voix Divine choir, she serves on the national youth commission and is a host of Gloire à Dieu, the voice of the Methodist Church in Togo. "I teach our hymns to Sunday school children, prepare them for singing performances and teach them how to conduct worship," she said. Adolé holds a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from the University of Lomé.

"Growing spiritually," Adolé said, "requires certain sacrifices and work on oneself." Realizing that she needed to deal with anger issues, Adolé sought God's help. She prayed regularly and studied the Bible.

"Now, in every situation I face, I give thanks to God, instead of complaining," she continued. "I started by becoming aware of certain situations that could help me in my journey with Christ." Although she was baptized as a child, Adolé didn't fully understand the sacrament's significance. Eventually, she comprehended the importance of baptism in the life of a Christian. She asked many questions and learned, she said, that "God does everything in his time, and everything works together for those who love God. I transformed my moments of sadness into joy and praise. Little by little, I had control over my moments of anger."

As a Global Mission Fellow, Adolé hopes to enrich her skills in health, nutrition, social services and singing and focus on the rights of women and children.

"Working in mission," she believes, "will allow me to test my faith even more, see where I am in my journey with Christ and see how far my faith can take me in the face of challenges and temptations."

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!

The UMW Bake Sale is Back!

Calling all Bakers and Buyers

BAKE SALE

8:30 AM TO 12:30 PM

Sunday, March 24

Chestnut St Foyer

for UWF Missions

& SILENT AUCTION

Some of our most Treasured Classic Old Time Homemade Baked Goods will be available at our Silent Auction Table for you to bid on!

Open Your Hearts
Open Your Pocket Books
for UMW Missions

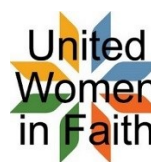
Bake Sale

UWF members are invited to bring 3 items for the Bake Sale on Sunday, March 24.

These items can be casseroles, breads, muffins, cakes, pies, brownies, cookies, and more!

If you cannot bake, please consider a \$25 donation to UWF Missions. Thank you!

—Delores Abney



The LuVerna Waid Circle will meet Tuesday, March 19 at 6:00 pm in the Parlor.

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

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

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

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

Top 10 Things To Do on the Church APP



10. Meet the Pastors and Staff. (Home Tab-Meet the Pastors and Staff)
9. Fill out a Connect Card. (Home Tab-Connect)
8. Read the Church News. (Home Tab-News)
7. Check Out Upcoming Church Events (Events Tab)
6. Read the Bible in a Year (Bible Tab)
5. Look up Scripture. (Bible Tab)
4. Send a Prayer Request (Home Tab-Prayer Request)
3. Give (Home Tab-Give)
2. Receive notifications/messages from the church.
1. Watch or Listen to Worship Services and Sermons. (Media Tab)

Volunteer Opportunity

A big part of our in-person Sunday morning worship experience is having greeters & ushers welcome guests into the space. This job is an essential part of making sure we provide a safe and welcoming environment for everyone who comes into our church. If you would like to help please call the church office—**256-543-8200**.



Do You Know?

ZACH & STACY HILBURN



Stacy lived in Texas until her family moved to Huntsville when she was 14. She graduated from Huntsville High, then received a degree in Molecular Biology from Jacksonville State University, where she met Zach. She worked at Trans Cycle Industries (TCI), testing transformer oil for PCBs, before taking her current job at Calcean Minerals and Materials, which harvests sand from the Bahamas and brings it here to use as a calcium carbonate source. In her free time, she enjoys reading contemporary thrillers. Zach grew up in Altoona, AL, graduating from West End High School. He received an undergraduate degree in Education from JSU, then a Master's degree in Gifted from Samford

University. Based out of Ivalee Elementary School, Zach currently teaches Gifted students for the Etowah County School System. His hobbies include tabletop role-playing games, such as "Dungeons and Dragons," and making objects by means of 3D printing. He is also a founding member of the Gadsden Rugby Team. Zach and Stacy have three children: Clementine (9), Rhett (7), and Charlie (4). We're thrilled to have them as part of our church family!

Holy Week Services, March 25 -29

Worship M-F @ 12:05 pm followed by
lunch in the Gathering Room at 12:35 pm
(Lunch is \$5, No reservation is needed.)

Monday- March 25
Rev. Carol Gullatt

Tuesday- March 26
Rev. Ron Schultz

Wednesday- March 27
Rev. Tom Parrish

Thursday-March 28
Rev. Adlene Kufarimai

Friday- March 29
Rev. Roger Thompson



WORSHIP
9 AM CELEBRATION
&
11 AM TRADITIONS

MARCH
24
2024

Palm Sunday

www.fumcgadsden.org/media

Maundy Thursday

March 28 | 6 pm

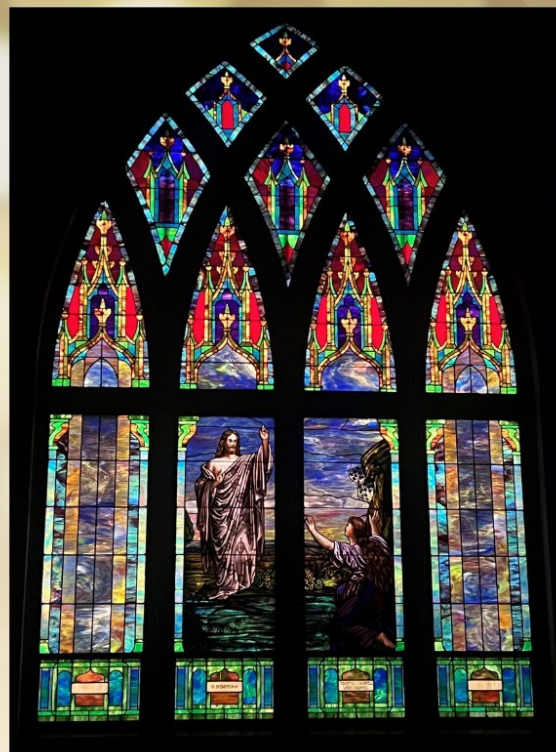
"Do this in remembrance of me"

www.fumcgadsden.org/media

*Word
from the
Windows*

**"Jesus and Mary
at the Garden
Tomb"**

Rev. Sherri Reynolds



Easter Sunday Worship at 9 am and 11 am

2024 Alleluia Offering

Gadsden First UMC has a tradition of receiving an Alleluia Offering each year at Easter. It is different from our usual tithes and offerings. Please consider an additional gift for Holy Week, over and above your regular tithes and offerings.

- Your 2024 Alleluia Offering will be allocated for
- First UMC Gadsden's 2024 Confirmation Class' retreat and to support their confirmation journey.
 - Investing in worship experience-improved audio and visual equipment will enhance both in-person and on-line worship.
 - Funding new ministries through FUMCG's Inviting Ministries team and Missions.

Bring the whole tenth into the storehouse, so there will be food in my house, and put me to the test, says the Lord, "See if I won't open all the floodgates of heaven and pour out my blessings beyond your needs" Malachi 3:10

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

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 17-March 23, 2024

Mar 17 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 18 Monday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Spring Schedule
9:00 am-10:00 am- Exercise Group, Gym
2:00 pm-4:00 pm-Pickleball, Gym

Mar 19 Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Spring Schedule
9:00 am-11:00 am-Clothes Closet workday
5:00 pm-6:00 pm- Yoga, Gym
6:00 pm-LuVerna Waid Circle, Parlor

Mar 20 Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm- ELC Spring Schedule
9:00 am-11:00 am-Clothes Closet open
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 21 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 22 Friday

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



The LuVerna Waid Circle has alerted the Church that Angels have gained access to the building and are hiding small wooden crosses in the most unlikely places during the last part of the Lenten season. This is one more way to remind us of Christ's love and ultimate sacrifice for us as we celebrate Easter. Begin searching on March 20 and you may find a blessing or have the opportunity to bless someone with a wooden cross this Easter.



Honorariums & Memorials

General Budget Fund In memory of Rodney Thompson, given by Mr. & Mrs. Mac Downs.

The ministers and congregation of First United Methodist Church of Gadsden extend Christian sympathy to Joe & Kaci Pritchard in the death of his mother, Martha Pritchard on March 12, 2024.



Immediate Prayer Concerns

The Family of Martha Pritchard
Marian Ford Martha Bullock
Amy Epperson
Judy Collins
(Tripp Collins' Mother)

Continued Prayer Concerns

Lisa Dobbins
Asher Mae Collins



Week of March 10, 2023

In Person Total *154 Worship Total 542
Online 388 Thursday Worship *11
Celebration Service *50/189
Traditional Service *93/199
Sunday School-Adult *44/1 Children *6
Sunday School-Youth *0 Nursery *2
Bible Study Groups *36 Children *26
Youth *18 *in person

General Offering Budget \$11,400.00
General Offering Received \$13,686.61
YTD General Offering Budget
\$114,000.00

Birthdays

Mar 17 Holly Whitt, Chuck Herb, Eli Hornik **Mar 18** Dr. Fred Feist, Adrian Leach, Mary Elizabeth Edmondson, Benjamin Cornett
Mar 20 Barbara Bennett, Tricia Blount, Dr. Rex Wilson, John Floyd, Zach Hilburn, Rebecca Abel, Todd McKiven, Kennedy Jackson, Dathan Phillips
Mar 21 Ari Beckett, Rob Wilson, Trip Martin **Mar 22** James Waid, Harrison Jones, Brooks Bone
Mar 23 Paige Dawson



Order an Easter Lily by Monday, 3/25/24

Lilies will be placed on the altar, in honor or memory of a loved one, for Easter Sunday Worship in both services.

Cost: \$25.00 ☐ In Honor of ☐ In Memory of

Name (s): _____

Given by: _____