

Woven

The Open Bible

Rev. Ken Casey

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

Sermon Notes: Thursday, March 20, and Sunday, March 23

"B-I-B-L-E that's the book for me" we sang at Vacation Bible School when I was a little tyke. And it is still sung at VBS. The Bible is very important for the church and for us as individuals.

So often when we hear the phrase "the Word of God" we think about the Bible, because we have been told so often that the Word of God is the Bible and that we should believe it; sometimes literally. But the Word of God is a person-Jesus Christ.

"It is Christ Himself, not the Bible, which is the true word of God. The Bible, read in the right spirit and with the guidance of good teachers will bring us to him." -CS Lewis

"Christ is the Word of God. It is not in certain texts written in the New Testament, valuable as they are; it is not in certain words which Jesus spoke, vast as is their preciousness; it is in the Word, which Jesus is, that the great manifestation of God is made." ~ Phillips Brooks

What difference does it make that we encounter the Word of God in a person? It is very important that we read the Bible, which tells us how to recognize the Word, what the Word teaches us, how we are to respond and that we are expected to be the Word for the rest of the world. But we encounter the Word of God in a person.

Come to worship Sunday or tune in via the internet to learn about the Bible as the primary and a most important witness to the Word of God.

Rev. Ken Casey



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 to learn more.

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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

ACOLYTES

March 23: Volunteer

March 30: Volunteer

Tech Team Schedule

March 23

Celebration: Sheila Freeman, Brad Barnes

Traditions: Mark Condra, Neil Mullin, Sheila Freeman

March 30

Celebration: Mark Condra, Bill Haller, Rob Reynolds

Traditions: Mark Condra, Davis Varner, Brad Barnes

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
No Meal on March 26
Will return on April 2.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study @ 11 am, Gathering Room

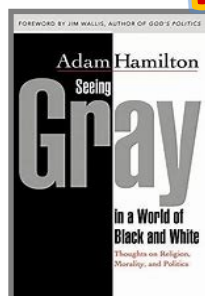
"The Chosen" w/ Rev. Sherri Reynolds

Adult Small Groups @ Wonderful Wednesdays, 6 pm will not meet on March 26

Rev. Sherri, "The Chosen", Room 208

Harriet Murray, "Fierce", Room 110

Sunday School: New Adult Series for Lent

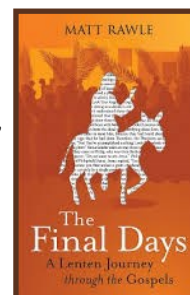


Transitions 10 am, Room 209

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.

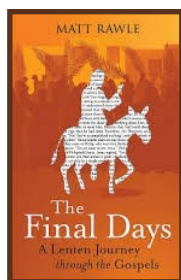
Pathfinders/Seekers 10 am, Room 208

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

Thank you Dr. Amy Kelley for coming and talking with our 4K students about Healthy Bodies this past week. ELC students also enjoyed some Papa John's Pizza as well as the continuation of Open Registration. This week, the ELC will be closed for Spring Break.

—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.

March 26

**No activities for Youth and Adults & No Wednesday night meal.
Wonderful Wednesday will return on April 2.**

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.)

GFUMC CHILDREN'S MARCH UNIT

★ BIG ★ PICTURE

WEDNESDAY'S AT 6:00

WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4	WEEK 5
God helps us know WHAT'S TRUE.	We can give back TO GOD.	God sends us HELPERS.	God gives us second CHANCES.	We belong in GOD'S FAMILY

"Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know."
JEREMIAH 33:3 (NIV)

Movie Night

GFUMC KID'S WORSHIP ROOM
FRIDAY, MARCH 21
6-9

WEAR YOUR PAJAMAS AND BRING A SNACK TO SHARE!

TICKET CINEMA

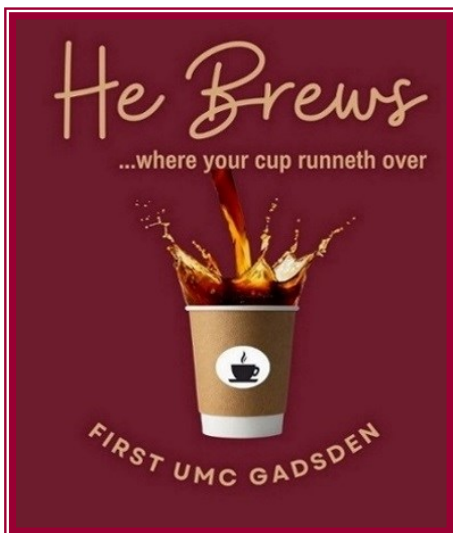
GFUMC EASTER EGG HUNT

APRIL 12 11:00 AM

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GADSDEN

515 S.5TH STREET GADSDEN, AL

WWW.FUMCGADSDEN.ORG/CHILDREN



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



March Mission Focus

We want to give a great big Thank You to all our volunteers who came out last week to give our beautiful Church a good thorough cleaning. We appreciate all those who contributed their time & elbow grease to make our March Mission emphasis happen. We are so blessed to have talented people in our Church who are willing to give of their time and many talents. —The Mission Team



United Women in Faith

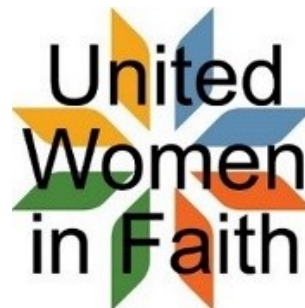
LuVerna Waid Circle-Tuesday, April 1st @ 6:00 pm. Drinks will be furnished and anyone that would like to bring a snack is welcome to do so. We will continue the study in the UWF Program Book. The theme of Water will still be our focus as we study the April program. Hope all members will join in this 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

April open dates are

4/2 and 4/16

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

#gfumcreconnect2024

**Ladle of Love
Clothes Closet**

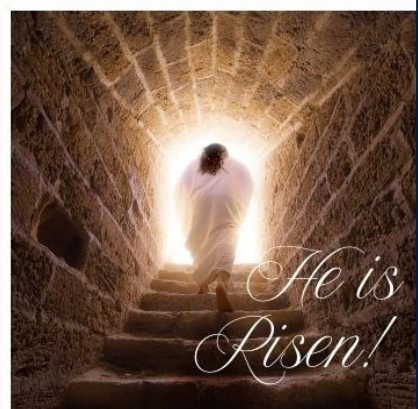
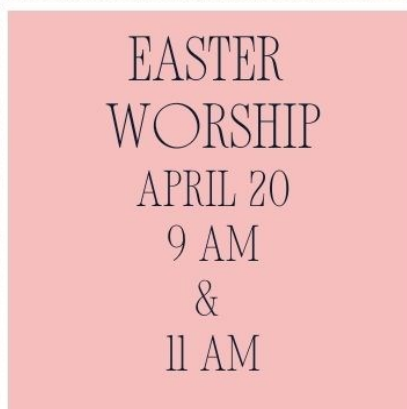
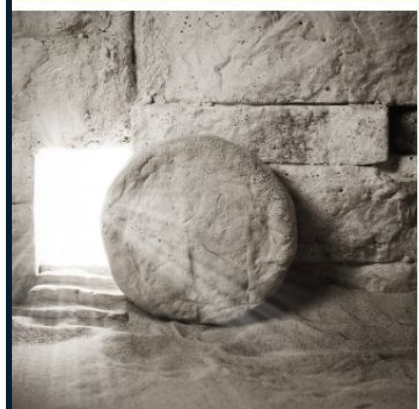
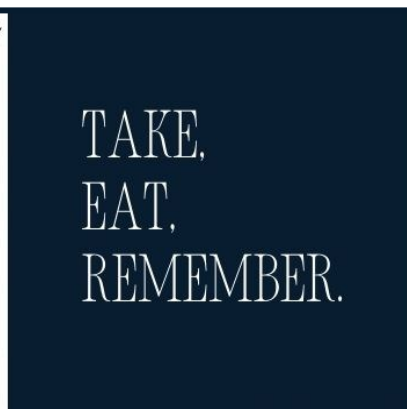
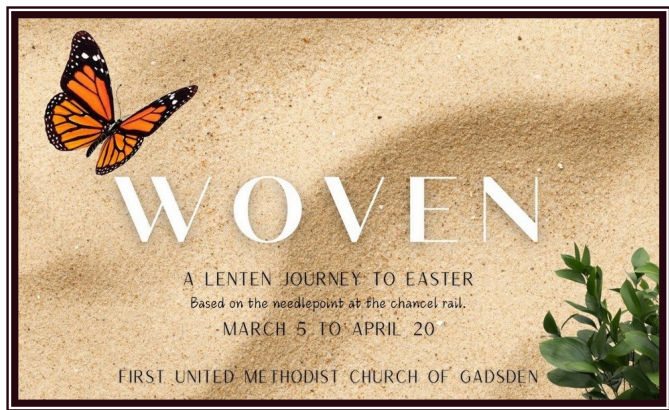
February

LOL	400
Clothes Closet	210

**Thanks to our
Volunteers!**

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

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.



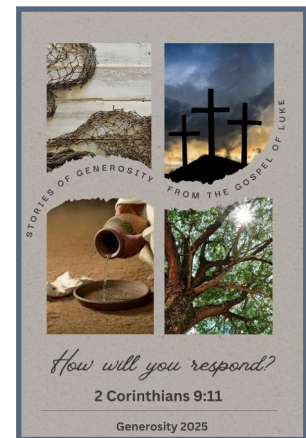
Voting will take place in worship, and you must be present to mark your bracket. Who will it be? Peter? Mary Magdelene? James the Lesser? Lazarus? Or another follower? Come cast your vote in worship this March! March Madness (9-30) with winner announced on April 6. Voting continues this week in worship services. Students of Jesus.

March Madness Final Four: Mary Magdelene vs John
Matthew vs. Mary (Sister of Martha and Lazarus)

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



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

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 23-March 29, 2025

March 23, 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 24, Monday

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

March 25, Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm- ELC Closed
 5:00 pm-Yoga, Gym

March 26, Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, ELC Closed
 11:00 am Wednesday Morning Bible Study
 Spring Break: No Wednesday Night Activities

March 27, Thursday

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

March 28, Friday

11:00 am-12:00 pm- Ladle of Love
 Office closes at 12:00 pm

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 at 11 am, on April 12.
Drop off donations of individually wrapped Easter candy. (No chocolate please.)

Dates to Remember:

Wednesday, March 26-No Wednesday Night Meal or Activities-Enjoy your Spring Break!
 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
 Thursday, April 17, Maundy Thursday, 6 pm
 Sunday, April 20 — Easter Sunday worship at 9 am and 11 am

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Family of Robert (Bob) McElroy
 Martha Bullock Juanita Hammons Amy Epperson

Continued Prayer Concerns

Lewis Hill John Freeman Martha Kitchens
 Mary Tom Hale Jackie Herlong
 Bob Walden (Olivia Kendrick's father)

Holy Week Noon Day Services, 12:05 pm

Monday-Rev. Michael Robertson, Sweet Home UMC
Tuesday-Rev. David Holmes, Retired Elder, FUMC Gadsden
Wednesday-Rev. Beth Johnson, Ordained Deacon,
 worshipping at Southside UMC
Thursday-Rev. Sherri Ferguson, Retired Deacon, NAC
Friday-Rev. Alan Head, Mid Central District Superintendent

Week of March 16, 2025

In Person Total-*146 On Line Total-666
 Worship Total-812 Thursday service *5
 Celebration *60/303 Traditions *81/363
 Adult Sunday School *40 Children *4
 Middle School & Senior Hi SS *2
 Bible Study Groups *30 UWF *40
 Children Wed/Sun *20 Nursery Wed/Sun *4
 Middle Wed/Sun *7 Senior Hi Wed/Sun *2

Year 2025

General Offering Budget	\$12,400.00
General Offering Received	\$10,145.16
YTD General Offering Budget	\$136,400.00
YTD General Offering Rec'd	\$151,946.00

Birthdays

Mar 23 Paige Dawson, Christian Rice
Mar 24 Jamie Payton, Lynn King,
 Lucy Durham
Mar 26 James Kelley, Jay Dial
Mar 27 Caroline Calhoun, David Ross,
 Keegan Powell, Beth Kelley
Mar 28 Cathy Lowe, Caroline Knowles
Mar 29 Romy Megois

Please update your family's record in the church office to include all dates of birth. Thank you!

—Susan Swann

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 or call the church office.