

Word
from the
Windows

"Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane"

Rev. Sherri Reynolds



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

Sermon Notes: Thursday, March 21 & Sunday, March 24

The next window in the series is Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane. It is in the rear of the sanctuary on the Chestnut Street side. It was given in memory of Millard Munford Whitehead, after his tragic death at age 30, by his parents Millard Zeno Whitehead and Ida Mae Collier Whitehead. Both the scripture and memorial of the window point to agony. This is a powerful and poignant emotion as we enter and recall the events of Holy Week.

As you prepare for worship, spend some time with the scripture which inspired the window, Luke 22:39-53. Reflect upon these questions:

1. Have you ever been in a situation where you asked God to remove a situation if it be His will?
2. Does it give you comfort to know that Jesus prayed that if be the Father's will to remove the cup of suffering from Him?
3. How does God work through prayer to bring us peace and strength?

See you Sunday as we hear the story and see the beauty!
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 4, "Championship Sunday"

**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

Special Music and Soloists each day!

More Holy Week Worship Opportunities

March, 24, Palm Sunday, 9 am and 11 am

March 28, Maundy Thursday, 6 pm

March 31, Easter Sunday, 9 am and 11 am



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Worship Opportunities

5:30 pm Thursday Worship

Sunday Mornings: Celebration 9 am*
Traditions 11 am*

ACOLYTES

March 24 Volunteer

March 31 Luke Barnes; Brooks Bone

Security for Thursday Worship

March 21 Todd Rains

March 28 Maundy Thursday Service

Tech Team Schedule

March 24

Celebration: Eric Wright, Bill Haller, Brad Barnes
Traditions: Davis Varner, Neil Mullin, Brad Barnes

March 31

Celebration: Eric Wright, Jacob McKiven, Carmen McKiven
Traditions: Neil Mullin, Wayne Payton, Brad Barnes

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 will resume on April 3, 2024.***

**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.

**No Wednesday
Fellowship Dinner
Mar 27**

Dinner will resume

April 3, 2024

Adult Small Groups @ Wonderful Wednesdays

**Resumes 4.3.24, 6 pm Small Group with Harriet Murray,
Room 110**

Seven Words-Listening to Christ from the Cross

The Chosen Bible Study

Join Pastor Sherri on Wed. @ 6 pm

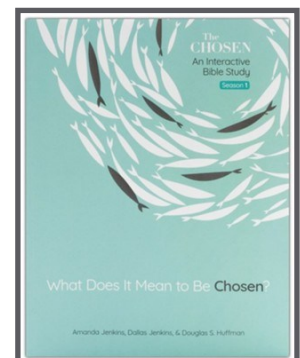
March 20- Episode 5b

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 No Youth Sunday School
 Mar 31 Sheila Freeman

**No Wednesday Fellowship Dinner
 May 27**

Will resume April 3, 2024

**Youth Group Meets
 Wednesdays at 6 pm each week!**

**March 24-31 Spring Break
 Youth Counselor**

Children's Ministry



See Page 6 for details!

SPRING 2024 GFUMC CHILDREN'S CALENDAR <small>Children's Church, Sunday's 9:00 & 11:00</small> <small>Wonderful Wednesdays @6:00</small>	
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	May 15 Annual GFUMC Picnic
Wednesday Unit Throw Back: Jesus' trendy teachings	Wednesday Unit One Small Step: Stories from Acts
Mark your calendar! GFUMC Vacation Bible School, June 3-June 6	

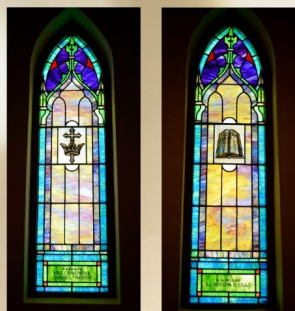
MARCH MADNESS

FAVORITE WORSHIP HYMNS

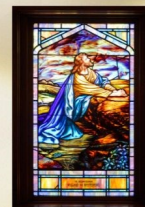
You have likely heard of March Madness. This term relates to the excitement around NCAA tournament play for college basketball during the month of March. Fans have been known to keep up with the tournament with brackets. Others create fantasy brackets to predict the outcome. There is a lot of fun in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



Kirk Stephens Sims is a United Methodist missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries, serving as a consultant and theological educator in the Czech and Slovak Republics Episcopal Area, based in Prague, Czech Republic.

Born in East Point, Georgia, Kirk most recently lived in Wilmore, Kentucky. He and his wife, Nicole, have two teenage sons. Nicole is also a Global Ministries missionary assigned to the English-speaking United Methodist church in Prague.

Kirk earned two undergraduate degrees before continuing his education at Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, Kentucky (Master of Divinity, 1999), and Middlesex

University/Oxford Centre for Mission Studies, Oxford, United Kingdom (Ph. D. in religious/mission studies, 2016).

Kirk served as a consultant to the church planting initiative at Asbury Seminary; associate professor of intercultural studies, program coordinator and director of cross-cultural engagement at Asbury University; and cross-cultural worker (missionary), Europe regional consultant and Ghana field leader for TMS Global. Most recently a member of First United Methodist Church, Lexington, Kentucky, Kirk was ordained an elder in the North Georgia Annual Conference in June 2022.

"My relationship with Jesus," he said, "has been the most durable, longest-lasting bond I have had in my life. Raised in a Methodist context, I look to my infant baptism as a sign of and an acknowledgment of, God's prevenient grace on my life from the very beginning." Inviting Jesus into his heart at age 7, Kirk recalls passionately pursuing Jesus as a child and as a teen, becoming involved in Bible studies, camps, choirs and youth groups. "I found that one of the most delightful things I could do was to talk about my faith," he said. "It was during this season that I responded to a call into full-time ministry. Since then, I have been plunging into truly understanding God's grace.

"Through God's Spirit, I continue to become more and more a person of grace, and out of a deep love of Jesus, I am motivated to give grace and point people to his extravagant love." He noted that over the years, he has benefited from small groups, accountability partners, mentors and spiritual directors. "I seek to be a similar voice to others," he said. "The vitality of my faith is strengthened by my personal pursuit of Jesus, my community of faith that encourages and challenges me, and God's constant grace that is active in my life."

He recalled his call to mission. "Some of the earliest seeds for cross-cultural mission service," he said, "were sown in my childhood through my home church. I remember [listening to] a GBGM missionary share about Zaire, sitting with homeless men at a soup kitchen, chatting with refugees, hearing testimonies from disaster-relief teams and going on mission trips with my youth group. I sensed that mission would be a part of my life."

Kirk and Nicole met in seminary. "I remember sharing that I sensed the Lord leading me toward ordination in The United Methodist Church, but I also wanted to be ready to move to Africa if the Lord called me there," Kirk said.

"She responded that she sensed the same thing."

Migration to Europe is one of the most hotly debated subjects in the last decade. The arrival of refugees from the Middle East in 2015 led to organizational problems and political conflict within Europe. While Europe in general and particularly the European Union and its member states has a solid legal and political framework for dealing with migration, this has in recent years been called to question. This has been fueled by prejudice and the assumption that the arrivals are all Muslims. While no official statistics exist, educated guesses assume that around 50-60% of the migrants coming to Europe or moving within Europe are of Christian background. This has led to new ecumenical landscapes in Europe, with the north becoming more Catholic, the south more Protestant and the west more Orthodox. Many newly established parishes and churches no longer correspond to old definitions of Christian denominations. Minority churches and churches with strong missionary heritage have been the first to reflect upon this through ecumenical cooperation. Other churches which may have seen migration more as an issue of charity or advocacy are also increasingly reflecting upon the aspect of unity of the church that migration raises.

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 UWF Missions

Bake Sale

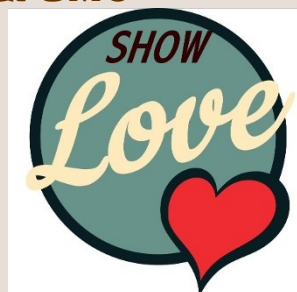
UWF members are invited to bring 3 items for the Bake Sale on Sunday, March 24. These items can be casseroles, breads, muffins, cakes, pies, brownies, cookies, and more! If you cannot bake, please consider a \$25 donation to UWF Missions.

Thank you!

—Delores Abney



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

February 2024

Ladle of Love 386

Clothes Closet 222

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

FAMILY NIGHT!
Cupcake Wars

Join us in the gym for a night
of cupcake decorating!
BRING YOUR FAMILY!

**WED.
APRIL
17**

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
CM's Cupcake
Wars, and
amazing Knight's
of North Castle
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**.



NEIL & ANNA MULLIN



Neil grew up in Davenport, Iowa, and studied at four universities, graduating from St. Ambrose University with an undergraduate degree in English/Music, then from the University of Georgia with a Master's degree in Journalism/Mass Communication. He has been a radio announcer, TV videographer, newspaper columnist, theater critic, Speech Communication teacher, and manager of public radio station WSGN-FM at Gadsden State. Anna grew up in Atlanta, GA, and attended Randolph Macon Woman's College in Lynchburg, VA, graduating with a double major in Music and English. Her main interests are Horses, Music, and Art (see annamullin.com for more information). She has written three books on horses and is now retired from judging shows and giving riding clinics around the U.S. Anna has

sung in choirs for 60 years and been a guest soloist for both the Alabama Symphony Orchestra and Gadsden Symphony Orchestra. She is also an avid painter of landscapes and portraits. Neil and Anna have two children: Reagan (39), who is an Air Force pilot stationed in Okinawa, Japan; and Caitlin (36), who works in Information Technology for the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB).

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

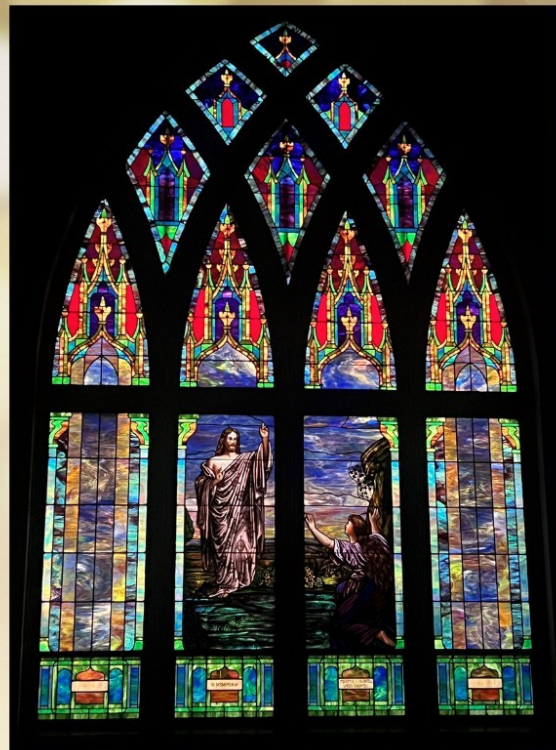
"Do this in remembrance of me"

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

Dear Member,

One of the traditions of giving and faith at First United Methodist Church is the Alleluia Offering. This special offering started as a challenge to tithe your income during Holy Week, above and beyond your regular giving to the church. A tithe is a Biblical concept with roots in Malachi 3:10 (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."). The challenge may seem daunting especially if you do not proportionally give to the church, but it is the first step to Biblical generosity. The special offering is received at Easter to fund specific ministries within the church. Our giving responds to Jesus' sacrificial love for us and the power of resurrection in our lives. The year's special offering will be allocated toward:

A confirmation retreat for our youth and children. Investing in youth and children is important for First United Methodist Church. I cannot think of a more critical time than when these students are deciding to commit to a lifelong relationship with Jesus and become a member of the church. Your gifts will not only allow them to know your support, but also provide a critical component to their confirmation journey.

Investing in worship experience. Both in-person and on-line worship are central to the life of First United Methodist Church. With new microphones, wiring, a sound box and tracking camera, worship will be enhanced.

Any gifts beyond funding these two areas will be used to fund new ministries through the Inviting Ministries Team and Missions. Jesus charges his disciples to go and make disciples. These disciples are made in words and action. By investing in outreach and care for community, we are working to make disciples of Jesus.

You may return your Alleluia Offering at worship on Easter Sunday (designated Alleluia Offering), by mail, through secure E-Giving via our website or Venmo (go to [www. Fumcgadsden.org](http://www.Fumcgadsden.org) to learn more). If you have questions, please contact us.

You are encouraged to pray about God's direction for you and your family with this special gift.

In Christ,

Rev. Sherri Reynolds

Bob Blount



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 24-March 30, 2024

Mar 24 Sunday

8:30 am to 12:00 pm, UWF Bake Sale
 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 25 Monday

ELC Closed-Spring Break
 9:00 am-10:00 am- Exercise Group, Gym
 12:05 pm-Noon Day Service, Sanctuary
 12:30 pm-Lunch, Gathering Room
 2:00 pm-4:00 pm-Pickleball, Gym

Mar 26 Tuesday

12:05 pm-Noon Day Service, Sanctuary

Mar 27 Wednesday

12:05 pm-Noon Day Service, Sanctuary
 12:30 pm-Lunch, Gathering Room

Mar 28 Thursday

9:00 am-10:00 am- Exercise Group, Gym
 12:05 pm-Noon Day Service, Sanctuary
 12:30 pm-Lunch, Gathering Room

6:00 pm- Maundy Thursday Service, Sanctuary

Mar 29 Friday

11:00 am-12:00 pm- Ladle of Love
 12:05 pm-Noon Day Service, Sanctuary
 12:30 pm-Lunch, Gathering Room



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 Phyllis & Joe Atkins, given by Gary Atkins.

Ladle of Love In memory of Bill Campbell, given by Randy & Mandy Campbell.

Confirmation Class In memory of Rodney Thompson, given by Mr. & Mrs. Alan Ross.



Immediate Prayer Concerns

Marian Ford Martha Bullock
 Amy Epperson
 Judy Collins
 (Tripp Collins' Mother)

Continued Prayer Concerns

Lisa Dobbins
 Asher Mae Collins



Week of March 17, 2024

In Person Total *166 Worship Total 678
 Online 512 Thursday Worship *12
 Celebration Service *62/234
 Traditional Service *92/278
 Sunday School-Adult *50/2 Children *8
 Sunday School-Youth *2 Nursery *2
 Bible Study Groups *31 Children *36
 Youth *9 UWF *55 *in person

General Offering Budget \$11,400.00
 General Offering Received \$7,663.39
 YTD General Offering Budget \$125,400.00
 YTD General Offering Rec'd \$150,298.00

Birthdays

Mar 24 Jamie Payton, Lynn King
Mar 26 James Kelley, Jay Dial
Mar 27 Dr. Caroline Calhoun,
 Keegan Powell, David Ross
Mar 28 Cathy Lowe, Caroline Knowles

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

Susan Swann



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: _____

