

Word
from the
Windows

"The Sermon on the Mount"

Rev. Sherri Reynolds



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

Sermon Notes: Thursday, February 29 & Sunday, March 3

The next window in the series, The Sermon on The Mount, is located off the narthex in the acolyte room, facing Chestnut Street. It depicts the Master Teacher as He taught the beatitudes to the multitude and is a tribute to one of the most beloved teachers in the history of First United Methodist Church of Gadsden, Rena Hudson McCord. While the associated scripture is Matthew 5:1-2, the entire Sermon on the Mount can be read in chapters 5,6, and 7 of Matthew. In the sermon, you will find Jesus' teaching upon conflict, worry, money, dealing with enemies and the blessed life.

I encourage you to spend time with the Sermon on the Mount this week and ponder these questions:

- 1) What are the connections of Jesus' teaching long ago and the need for such teaching today?
- 2) What lesson from this sermon do you most need to take to heart?
- 3) How is applying Jesus' teaching like building our house upon a rock?

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

Rev. Sherri

March Madness

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. —Pastor Sherri

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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

ACOLYTES

March 3 Luke Barnes

March 10 Mikko & Marit Norris

Security for Thursday Worship

February 29 Mark Condra

March 7 Bob Blount

Tech Team Schedule

March 3

Celebration: Eric Wright, Brad Barnes, Sheila Freeman

Traditions: Sheila Freeman, Brad Barnes

March 10

Celebration: Bill Haller, Jacob McKiven, Carmen McKiven

Traditions: Wayne Payton, Neil Mullin, 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**

**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 6, 5:15 pm
\$7 Adults, \$3 11 & U
Chicken Fingers &
Mac-n-Cheese**

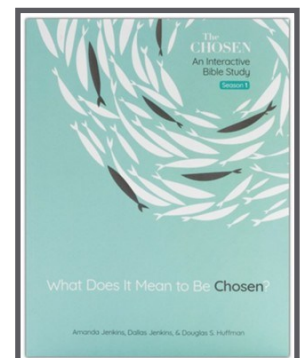
Adult Small Groups @ Wonderful Wednesdays

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

We welcomed Mrs. Danna back. We missed her while she was away. Registration for those currently enrolled has ended. Registration for church members who are not currently enrolled will begin Monday, March 4th and we will begin with anyone on the wait list. Spring Pictures will be held Tuesday, March 5th and Wednesday, March 6th. This includes Cap and Gown pictures for our 4k students.

—Helene



Youth Ministry News



"The Chosen Bible Study"

Mar 3 Sheila Freeman
Mar 10 Sherri Reynolds
Mar 17 Barbara Condra
Mar 24
Mar 31

Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Dinner

5:00 pm, Mar 6:

Chicken Fingers, Mac-n-Cheese

\$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 9 Havoc Hockey
March 24-31 Spring Break

Youth Counselor
Carmen McKiven

Children's Ministry

SPRING 2024

GFUMC CHILDREN'S CALENDAR

Children's Church, Sunday's 9:00 & 11:00

Wonderful Wednesdays @6:00

<p>FEBRUARY</p> <p>February 11 Valentine's Day party!</p> <p>February 14 Ash Wednesday @6</p> <p>Wednesday Unit How To?: Jesus' teachings</p>	<p>MARCH</p> <p>March 16 Easter Egg Hunt</p> <p>March 24 Children will sing at Palm Sunday service</p> <p>Wednesday Unit Glow in the Dark: Lead us to Easter</p>
<p>APRIL</p> <p>April 17 Family Night: Cupcake Wars</p> <p>Wednesday Unit Throw Back: Jesus' trendy teachings</p>	<p>MAY</p> <p>May 15 Annual GFUMC Picnic</p> <p>Wednesday Unit One Small Step: Stories from Acts</p>

★ Mark your calendar! GFUMC Vacation Bible School, June 3-June 6 ★

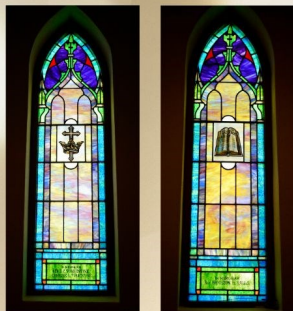
MARCH MADNESS

FAVORITE WORSHIP HYMNS

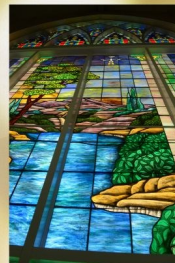
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Word from the Windows



*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

Joy Eva A. Bohol is a missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church. Since July 2023, she has served as the regional migration specialist for Europe with the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe. In her role, she strives for closer contact with UMCOR grantees/funding partners and potential grantees/funding partners in Europe, better awareness of Global Ministries missionaries in the region who work with migrants, themes of migration and refugee ministries, and increased understanding of regional migration policies, practices and flows. She is based in Geneva, Switzerland. Previously, Joy Eva was assigned as program executive for youth engagement at the World Council of Churches (WCC) in Geneva (2017-23). A former mission intern (the intern program was a forerunner to Global Mission Fellows) and mission advocate for the Young Adult Mission Service of the agency, she was commissioned to her present work in October 2015. Joy Eva's name is short for "Joyful Evangelist." She is from Cebu City in the Philippines, where she is a member of the Labangon First United Methodist Church of the Visayas Philippines Annual Conference. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in mass communication, majoring in journalism, from the University of the Philippines. Her mother is clergy.



Joy Eva has worked for an online newspaper, and served as national president of the United Methodist Youth Fellowship in the Philippines, a team member for Discipleship Resources in the Philippines and an Emmaus Walk community coordinator. Participating in a government-sponsored exchange program in South Korea, under the Office of the President of the Republic of the Philippines, she led the case study presentation of the Status of Young People in the Philippines. She has taken part in mission trips within and outside the Philippines. Luke 4:17-20, the passage about Jesus engaging with the people in the synagogue, strongly influenced Joy Eva as a young person. "When Jesus read Isaiah's scroll, 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,'" she said, "it resonated with me that God's calling to serve God's people in fighting for social justice, struggling with those in the margins and being in solidarity with the oppressed is for everyone, wherever you are in the world. "God's mission is for everyone from everywhere to everywhere. Jesus knew exactly what his purpose was. We should, too, and live out Jesus' mission statement as found in Luke 4." Joy Eva has known for years that she would enter mission as a vocation.

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.

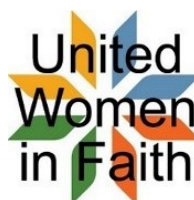
Elaine Harris Spearman is involved in many community organizations in our area and writes a Sunday weekly commentary for the Gadsden Times. Her column is often republished by statewide and national publications such as AL.com and USA Today.

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

Phone: 256-543-8200

Email:

fumc@fumcgadsden.org

#gfumcreconnect2023

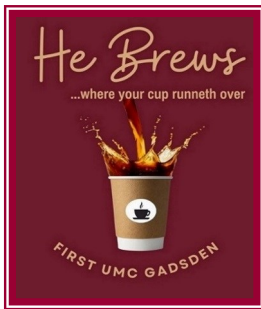
Clients Served

January 2024

Ladle of Love 368

Clothes Closet 160

Thanks to our Volunteers!



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

MARK & ALLISON CASEY



Mark—son of our former pastor, Ken Casey, and his wife, Peggy—grew up in Gadsden and attended Southside High School. He studied Marketing at Jacksonville State University, where he met his future wife. He has worked for Alabama Power for 22 years and is a “Market Specialist,” encouraging commercial, industrial, and residential entities to convert to LED lighting. Mark enjoys boating, fishing, mountain biking, kayaking, and camping. Allison grew up in Section, AL, and attended Section High School before studying Business

Management at Jacksonville State. She is currently the Director of Human Resources at her alma mater. She enjoys reading, cooking, and camping. Mark and Allison were married at Gadsden First Methodist and have two children, Parker (14) and Anna Kate (11), both baptized at our church. Mark and Allison are active with our Children’s and Youth Ministries, and Mark also serves on the Board of Stewards, being the “Lay Leader” for Lay Ministries, while Allison is on the board of the Staff Parish Relations Committee. Mark and Parker play in the Celebration band, and Anna Kate is an acolyte. The entire family is committed to First Methodist and delighted to be members of our church family.

New Beginnings

2024

Generosity

ISAIAH 43:19

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

I am so excited about the year ahead. By the power of the Holy Spirit, I can feel that God is doing a new thing at First United Methodist Church, and I am blessed to be on this journey with you!

In Christ, Rev. Shari Reynolds

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 3-March 9, 2024

Mar 3 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 4 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 5 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

Mar 6 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 7 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 8 Friday

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

*Thank
You*

We would like to take a moment to express our sincerest thanks to our FUMC family for your unending prayers and giving hearts during this difficult time of loss. We are forever blessed by your outpouring of love shown for Rodney and our family. With Love,
Becky, Dantley & Christy, Summer & Tripp

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!

Honorariums & Memorials

General Budget Fund

In memory of George Varner, given by Julia Nolen Knox.
In memory of Rodney Thompson, given by Mr. & Mrs. Richard McCoy.
In memory of Rodney Thompson, given by Mr. & Mrs. Steve Frederick.
In memory of Rodney Thompson, given by Diana Rampey.
In memory of Rodney Thompson, given by Anthony & Robin Walsh.

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 3 Joe Murphy, Sheila Bishop, Harry Sokol, Todd Frederick, Ellen McCollum

Mar 4 Allie Cannon Smith

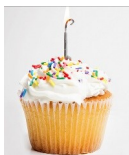
Mar 5 Becca Echols, Darby Hayes

Mar 6 Beth Kimball, Tristan Hocevar

Mar 7 Barbara Smith

Mar 9 Scott Whitt, Madison Watkins

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



Week of February 25, 2023

In Person Total *171 Worship Total 597
Online 426 Thursday Worship *7
Celebration Service *70/190
Traditional Service *94/236
Sunday School-Adult *44/1 Children *9
Sunday School-Youth *2 Nursery *2
Bible Study Groups *36 Children *49
Youth *10 UWF *10 *in person

General Offering Budget \$11,400.00
General Offering Received \$7,176.00
YTD General Offering Budget \$91,200.00
YTD General Offering Rec'd \$113,269.00

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Martha Bullock
Judy Collins
(Tripp Collins' mother)

Continued Prayer Concerns

Lisa Dobbins
Asher Mae Collins

