



Woven

The Pomegranate

Rev. Sherri Reynolds

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

Sermon Notes: Thursday, March 27, and Sunday, March 30

Our symbol for this week's sermon is the pomegranate. I never, ever thought that I would preach a sermon with a pomegranate as a central theme and I never thought that I would type the word, *pomegranate* so many times, but here we are. Pomegranates may not be the most common fruit on our tables, but they are in the Holy Land. I remember the lush, large pomegranates for sale at every roadside fruit stand in Israel. I was also able to enjoy fresh pomegranate juice from vendors. The fruit is common in Israel and people enjoy them very much. Because of this, we find it referenced a great deal in scripture, including the scripture for the week (Deuteronomy 8:7-10).

With this week's scripture, the fruit is listed as a promise from God and one of the seven species of blessing by the Lord. The pomegranate became a reminder to count your blessings and keep God's law. Therefore, it is a very valuable symbol. We all need these reminders from time to time to give thanks and be faithful. May we all remember each day to live in gratitude and follow the Lord with faithfulness.

Journeying through Lent with you,
Rev. Sherri

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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

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. Come cast your vote in worship this Sunday! March Madness (9-30) with winner announced on April 6.

Students of Jesus—March Madness Championship, Vote:

Mary Magdelene vs. Mary (Sister of Martha and Lazarus)



ACOLYTES

March 30: Volunteer

Tech Team Schedule

March 30

Celebration: Bill Haller, Rob Reynolds

Traditions: Mark Condra, Davis Varner, Brad Barnes

April 6

Celebration: Mark Condra, Rob Reynolds, Brad Barnes

Traditions: Davis Varner, Wayne Payton, 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 201
Menu for April 2: Pizza, Salad, Dessert
\$7 per person Children under 11, \$3

Wednesday Morning Bible Study @ 11 am, Gathering Room

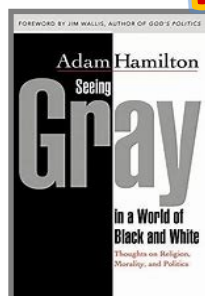
"The Chosen" w/ Rev. Sherri Reynolds

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

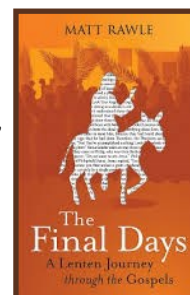


Transitions 10 am, Room 209

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.

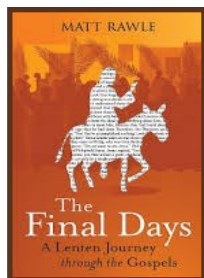
Pathfinders/Seekers 10 am, Room 208

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

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.

Wonderful Wednesday Dinner, Room 201
Menu for April 2– Menu Pizza, Salad, Dessert
Adults & Youth \$7 Children 11 & Under \$3

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 2025 Kid's Spring Calendar

VALENTINE'S NIGHT 2/12	FAMILY NIGHT 3/19 (GYM)
ASH WEDNESDAY 3/15	SPRING BREAK 3/24-3/28
GFUMC EASTER EGG HUNT 4/12 (GFUMC)	PALM SUNDAY KIDS WILL SING 4/13
Vacation Bible School 6/9-6/12	EASTER SUNDAY 4/20
	GFUMC FAMILY PICNIC NOCCALULA FALLS 5/7

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)

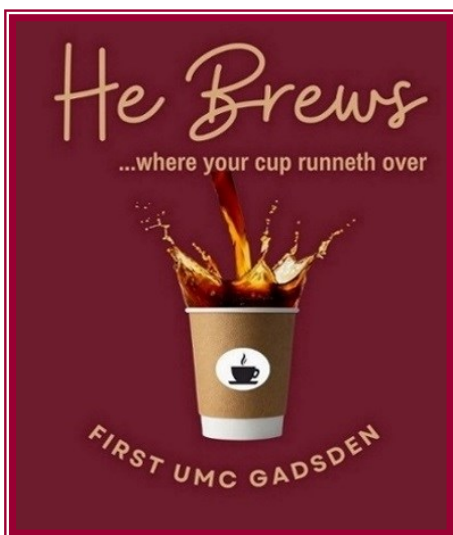
GFUMC EASTER EGG HUNT

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

Clothes Closet



Your Clothes Closet Volunteers want to give a Big Thank You to everyone that has been so generous in donating clothing to help those we serve! The gratitude and appreciation we see is heart warming!

The season is changing and we hope you will remember the Clothes Closet as you go through your spring and summer clothes. We especially need men's items and blue jeans for all. Thanks for sending them our way!
—Your Clothes Closet Volunteers

United Women in Faith

LuVerna Waid Circle-Tuesday, April 1 at 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!

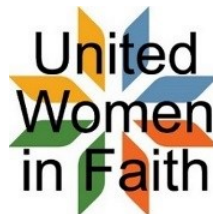
—Susan Copeland

April UWF Luncheon—April 7 at 12:00 noon

Note: The UWF Luncheon is one week early due to Holy Week. Melissa Mooneyham, Our Father's Ministries: Amanda's House Don't forget to make a reservation for the luncheon.

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!



UWF BAKE SALE & SILENT AUCTION

Chestnut St Foyer



Sunday, April 13

8:30 AM TO 12:30 PM

**Some of our most treasured classic
Old time homemade baked goods
will be available at our Silent
Auction Table for you to bid on!**

PALM SUNDAY PIE PANTRY

Pantry

Introducing the Palm Sunday Pie Pantry!

(Open, Sunday, April 13)

Select any of our four Easter pies.

***Made with all fresh ingredients no preservatives
freezer ready for Easter Sunday.***



Choose from

◆ peanut butter

◆ French coconut

◆ lemon icebox

◆ ham and cheese quiche



Ever wonder where the UWF bake sale money goes?

- Snack bags for homeless***
- Shelter for abused women and children***
- Job training for low income women***
- Emergency antibiotics for children***
- Medical assistance for low income***

***When you make a purchase of a homemade cake or pie
100% of your donation, goes to meet local needs right here
at home. Thank you for caring and making our community
a safer and happier place for everyone to live.***

United Women of Faith

First UMC Gadsden

Holy Week



Palm Sunday, April 13, 9:00 am & 11:00 am — Woven: The Crown of Thorns

Holy Week Noon Day Services, 12:05 pm, followed by lunch in the Gathering Room, 201

Monday-Rev. Michael Robertson, Sweet Home UMC

Tuesday-Rev. David Holmes, Retired Elder, FUMC Gadsden

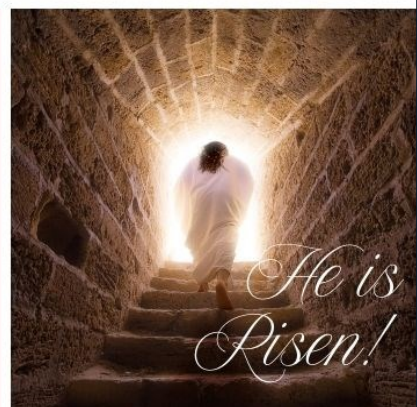
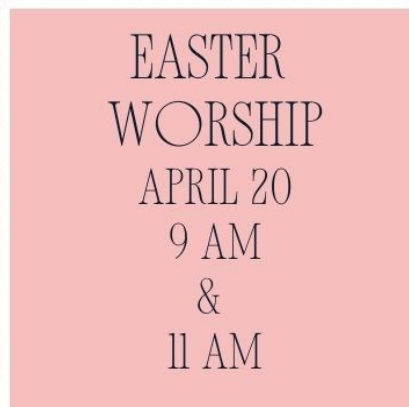
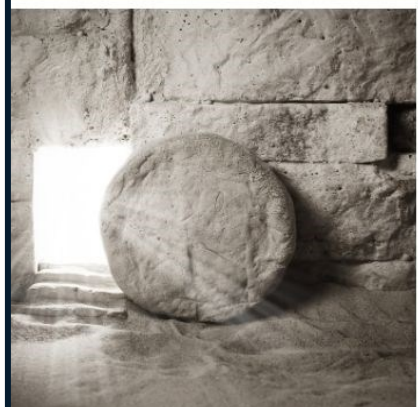
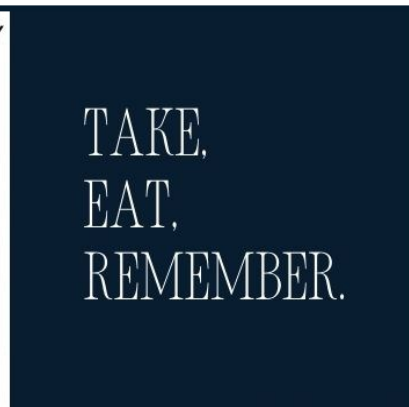
Wednesday-Rev. Beth Johnson, Ordained Deacon, worshipping at Southside UMC

Thursday-Rev. Sherri Ferguson, Retired Deacon, NAC

Friday-Rev. Alan Head, Mid Central District Superintendent

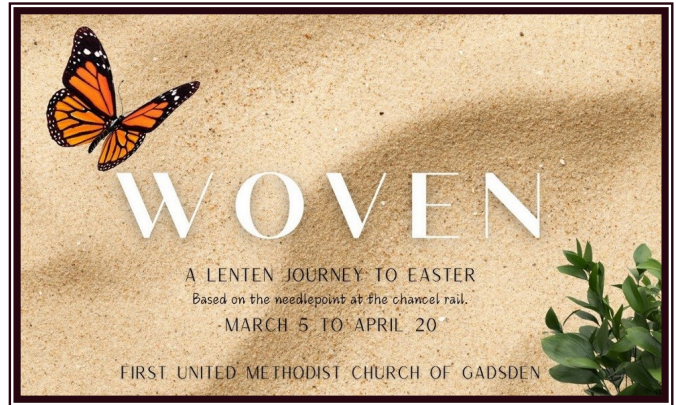
Maundy Thursday Worship, 6:00 pm — Woven: The Jesse Tree

Easter Sunday, April 20, 9:00 am & 11:00 am — Woven: The Butterfly



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.

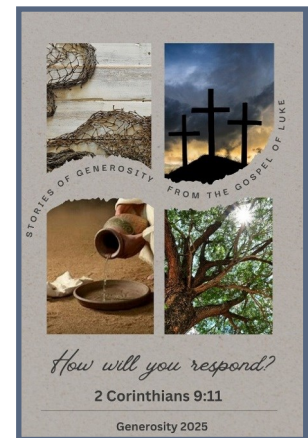
This Lent, First United Methodist Church of Gadsden will be spending the season looking at the story behind the kneelers and the meaning of the symbols with *Woven*. The series will kick off on Ash Wednesday and conclude on Easter. Find your favorite symbol on the cushions, bring your curiosity, and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



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 30-April 5, 2025

March 30, 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 31, 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

April 1, Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC
9:00 am-11:00 am-Clothes Closet workday
5:00 pm-Yoga, Gym

April 2, Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm- ELC
9:00 am-11:00 am-Clothes Closet open
11:00 am Wednesday Morning Bible Study
5:15 pm Fellowship Meal
6:00 pm Wednesday Night Activities for all ages
Small Groups for Adults
Children and Youth Groups Meet
6:00 pm Choir Practice

April 3, Thursday

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

April 4, Friday

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

Children's Ministry Table in the Chestnut St. Foyer—Sign up to help with the Easter Egg Hunt 11 am, on April 12. Drop off donations of individually wrapped Easter candy. (No chocolate please.)

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Allison Casey Martha Bullock
Juanita Hammons Amy Epperson

Continued Prayer Concerns

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



Holy Week Noon Day Services, 12:05 pm, Apr 14-18

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
followed by lunch daily, in the Gathering Room (\$5)

Week of March 23, 2025

In Person Total-*135 On Line Total-676
Worship Total-811 Thursday service *9
Celebration *53/364 Traditions *73/312
Adult Sunday School *21 Children *3
Middle School & Senior Hi SS *2
Bible Study Groups *38 UWF *0
Children Wed/Sun *32 Nursery Wed/Sun *5
Middle Wed/Sun *10 Senior Hi Wed/Sun *6

Year 2025

General Offering Budget	\$12,400.00
General Offering Received	6,866.00
YTD General Offering Budget	148,800.00
YTD General Offering Rec'd	158,812.00

Birthdays

Mar 31 Jennifer Ross Smith
Apr 1 Barbara Sheffield
Apr 2 Kathy Sisson, Lucca McNair
Apr 3 Dr. Cleve Estis, Desiree Hood
Apr 4 Maddie Hall
Apr 5 Mark Casey, Merry Blevins,
David Dean, Jenny Sollie



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

Dates to Remember:

Saturday, April 12 — GFUMC

Easter Egg Hunt, 11 am

Sunday, April 13 — Palm Sunday

Worship @ 9 am & 11 am

Sunday School 10 am

Children Singing in both services,

Donuts & Donkey, 10 am; UWF

Bake Sale and Pie Pantry;

Hymns for Hunger, 2:30 pm

Monday, April 14 through

Friday, April 18 — Holy Week

Services, 12:05 pm daily,

followed by lunch (\$5) in the

Gathering Room. Everyone

welcome. See page 8.

Thursday, April 17— Maundy

Thursday, 6 pm

Sunday, April 20 — Easter

Sunday worship at 9 am & 11 am

Sunday School 10 am



Order an Easter Lily by Monday, 4/14/25

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

Cost: \$25.00

☐ **In Honor of**

☐ **In Memory of**

Name (s): _____

Given by: _____