



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

### Sermon Notes: Thursday, March 6, and Sunday, March 9

Throughout the years, Christianity has used the ship to symbolize the church. Like a ship, churches carry Christians to safe harbor. Tossed in a sea of disbelief, persecution, and worldliness, the church awaits a safe harbor for its cargo of human souls. From the Latin word *navis* comes the word *nave*, which is the main part of the church's interior or sanctuary for worship. A ship was also used so Christians could identify one another. With the ship's mast forming a cross, they could easily hide the sign of the cross within the symbol. While this is the traditional meaning of the ship, I have come to appreciate how the ship also reminds us to go into the world to make disciples of Jesus.

The Good News of Jesus spread from Jerusalem to a worldwide faith. Ships were an important means of transportation for the early church and were important in evangelistic efforts. We even have the example of Paul when he was shipwrecked on the way to Rome. Ships were vital to sharing Christ across the Roman Empire.

When Jesus commanded his followers to be his witnesses from Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth, the disciples took this very seriously. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, they went and told many on a ship. Thus, a ship reminds us of our own calling to continue to share Jesus. How have you shared Jesus today? (Acts 1:6-11)

Journeying with you this Lent,  
Rev. Sherri



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](http://alaemmaus.org) to learn more.

# Woven The Ship

Rev. Sherri Reynolds

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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](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/media)

### ACOLYTES

March 9: Clementine & Rhett Hilburn  
 March 16: Sylvia Harbin & Sarah Echols

### Tech Team Schedule

**March 9**  
**Celebration:** Sheila Freeman, Bill Haller, Brad Barnes  
**Traditions:** Mark Condra, Wayne Payton, Sheila Freeman

**March 16**  
**Celebration:** Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman, Rob Reynolds,  
**Traditions:** Davis Varner, Sheila Freeman, 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

**5:15 pm-March 12 - Barbecue Pork or Chicken, Salad & More**  
**\$7 Youth & Adults    \$3 Children 11 & Under**

### Wednesday Morning Bible Study @ 11 am, Gathering Room

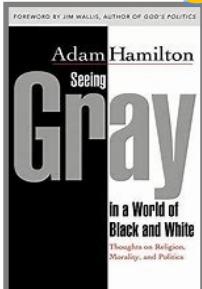
**"The Chosen" w/ Rev. Sherri Reynolds**

### 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

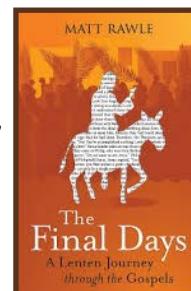


### Transitions 10 am, Room 209

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.

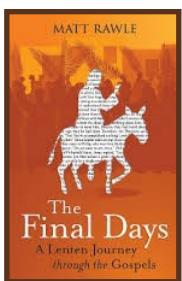
### Pathfinders/Seekers 10 am, Room 208

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

Registration continues! Open registration begins Monday, March 10<sup>th</sup> and all openings will be filled through the waitlist. See Helene for more information. Spring Picture days went well and our 4k students took cap and gown pictures. Our next Lunchbox Revolt will be Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup> and Papa John's will be served.

—Helene Haller

## YOUTH CALENDAR

**FEB BAKE AND DELIVER COOKIES**  
9 2 PM

**FEB VALENTINE PARTY**  
12 BRING SNACKS & 12 VALENTINES TO SHARE  
6 PM

**MAR COOK & DELIVER MEALS**  
2 2 PM

**MAY SENIOR HIGH**  
4 RECOGNITION SUNDAY IN  
WORSHIP  
& BRUNCH AT 10 AM

**APR COLLECT FOOD [AT] HYMNS**  
13 FOR HUNGER  
2:30 PM

**MAY BOWLING**  
18 [AT] THE ALLEY  
5 PM

**APR TOP GOLF**  
13 5 PM

**GADSDEN FIRST UMC STUDENT MINISTRIES**

FOR MORE INFO: [FUMC@FUMCGADSDEN.ORG](mailto:FUMC@FUMCGADSDEN.ORG)

## Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Dinner, 5:15 pm-Gathering Room

**Menu: Barbecue Pork or Chicken and more!**

**\$7 Youth & Adults    \$3 Children 11 & Under**

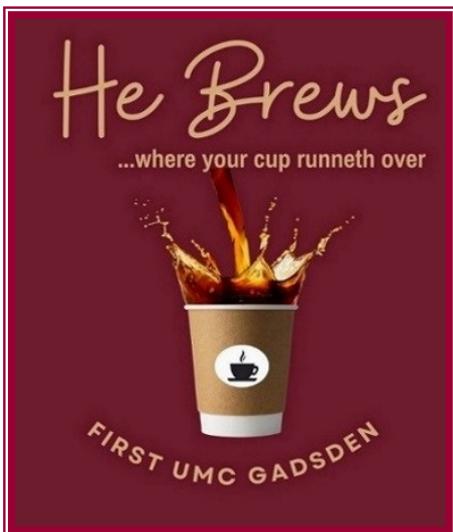
**Activities and Small Groups for All Ages begin at 6 pm**

## 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).

Drop off donations of individually wrapped Easter candy. (No chocolate please.)





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



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Barbara was born and raised in Steele, AL, and still lives there today. She graduated from Jacksonville State University with a major in Sociology and a minor in Anthropology and is now retired from her work as a Child Case Worker at the CED Mental Health Center. Her husband of 42 years, Reza Khaavi, is also retired from his job as Manager at Red Lobster.

Barbara has 2 grown children: a daughter, Daphne (55), who lives in Trussville and works in Birmingham as an audiologist; and a son, Cameron (32), who works for Prince Metal Stampings in Gadsden, which specializes in underbody components for the automotive industry.

Barbara enjoys drawing, making crafts, and being a sympathetic listener when people need someone to talk to.

## March Mission Focus

Volunteers are needed to help clean the church for spring. The dates will be Friday, March 14 from 9 am to 3 pm and Saturday, March 15 from 9 am to 12 noon.

**Sign Up Now for March Church Spring Cleaning!**  
*The Mission Team is sponsoring "Spring Cleaning Days" to clean various parts of GFUMC's buildings.*

**Sign Up Online @ [www.fumcgadsden.org/missionteam](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/missionteam) or in the Chestnut Foyer.**



**Spring Cleaning at GFUMC Church Workdays**

**March 14** 9 am to 3 pm  
&  
**March 15** 9 am to 12 noon

Watch for more information & Sign up on the church website or app!

**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 3/5 and 3/19**

9:00 am to 11:00 am

516 Broad Street Gadsden

Find out more about mission and service opportunities @ [www.fumcgadsden.org/serve](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/serve)

Phone: 256-543-8200

Email:  
[fumc@fumcgadsden.org](mailto:fumc@fumcgadsden.org)

**#gfumcreconnect2024**

**Ladle of Love Clothes Closet**

**January**

<b>LOL</b>	<b>501</b>
<b>Clothes Closet</b>	<b>154</b>

**Thanks to our  
Volunteers!**

### **United Women in Faith**

#### **UWF Luncheon**



**Monday, March 10 at 12 noon**

Program: Benny Campbell, owner of Attalla Florist and a favorite speaker at Gadsden First will present Fling Spring into Your Home. We will learn new ways to use flowers to brighten our houses as spring comes in. (Deco/Clean-up Members At Large) March 10th at 10:30 am, UWF Executive Board Meeting, Room 208.

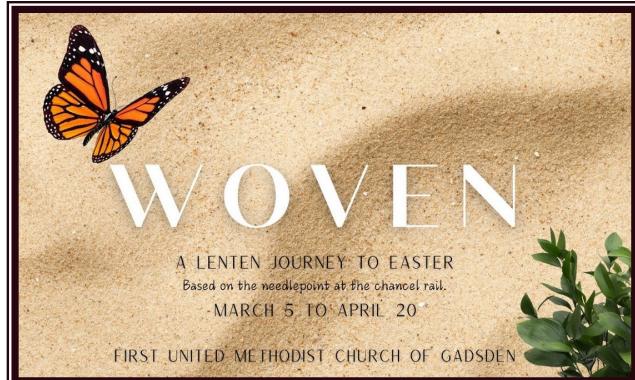
Call or text Olivia Kendrick for a lunch reservation at 205-454-4375 by noon on Friday, March 7.

Delores Abney, President      Olivia Kendrick, Vice-President

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 on March 12.  
Drop off donations of individually wrapped Easter candy. (No chocolate please.)

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

March Madness is quickly approaching. I don't mean the excitement around NCAA tournament play for college basketball for the month of March. I am talking about the March Madness that happens here at First United Methodist Church. While others are making their bracket, predicting the outcome of the tournament, we'll be voting on students of Jesus.

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 begins on Sunday, March 9 in both services.**

**Students of Jesus.**

Peter  
Thaddeus  
Mary Magdelene  
James (son of Alpheus)  
Thomas  
Andrew

John  
James (the Son of Zebedee)  
Martha  
Philip  
Matthew  
Bartholomew

Lazarus  
Simon The Zealot  
Judas  
Mary (Sister of Martha and Lazarus)



## Weekly Newsletter

Subscribe to the weekly newsletter by submitting your email to the church secretary,

Susan Swann:

[susan@fumcgadsden.org](mailto:susan@fumcgadsden.org)

You will receive the weekly newsletter by email on Friday mornings.

The Newsletter is also available in the GFUMC Church App and on the Church Website.

## Important Deadlines

**Deadline for the newsletter is noon on Tuesday of each week.**

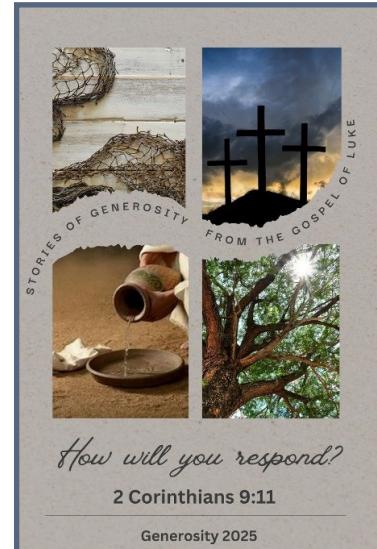
**All requests for spoken announcements for Sunday mornings must be turned in by Thursday @ noon, in writing to Susan Swann in the office.**

**All Meetings, Events and Activities must be scheduled in advance with the church secretary, by email**  
**[susan@fumcgadsden.org](mailto:susan@fumcgadsden.org)**

## 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](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/give)**



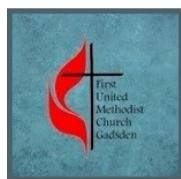
**First UMC Gadsden  
is a registered charity and can receive  
donations through Venmo:  
@FirstUMCGadsden**

(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](http://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 9-March 15, 2025

## March 9, 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 10, Monday

9:00 am-1:00 pm- ELC

9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym

10:30 am-UWF Executive Board meeting, Room 208

12:00 pm-UWF Luncheon, Gathering Room

2:00 to 4:00 pm- Pickleball, Gym

## March 11, Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm- ELC

5:00 pm-Yoga, Gym

### Are You Ready for Spring?

Brighten your home!

UWF Luncheon

Cost: \$15 per person

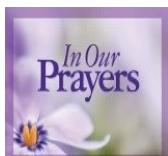
March 10, 12 noon

Program: Benny Campbell,  
owner of Attalla Florist

Everyone is welcome!

Come and learn new ways to use flowers to brighten our  
houses as spring comes in.

Please make a reservation by Friday, March 7.



## Immediate Prayer Concerns

Amy Epperson

Jan Humphrey

## Continued Prayer Concerns

Juanita Hammons    Mary Tom Hale

Jackie Herlong

Bob Walden (Olivia Kendrick's father)

Dr. Pat Herrera (Juanita Hammons' son-in-law)

## Week of March 9, 2025

In Person Total-\*156 On Line Total-626

Worship Total-782 Thursday service \*10

Celebration \*69/299 Traditions \*77/327

Adult Sunday School \*45 Children \*6

Middle School & Senior Hi SS \*3

Bible Study Groups \*21 UWF \*0

Children Wed/Sun \*38 Nursery Wed/Sun \*4

Middle Wed/Sun \*8 Senior Hi Wed/Sun \*9

## Year 2025

General Offering Budget                            \$12,400.00

General Offering Received                            \$19,840.00

YTD General Offering Budget                        \$111,600.00

YTD General Offering Rec'd                        \$126,975.21

## March 12, Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, ELC

11:00 am-12:00 pm- Wednesday Morning Bible Study

5:15 pm- Wednesday night meal, Gathering Room

6:00 pm- Children & Youth activities

Gym & Rooms 108 & 211

6:00 pm- Small Group Study, Room 110 & 208

6:00 pm- Choir practice Choir room

## March 13, Thursday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, ELC

9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym

5:30 pm-Thursday Worship, Sanctuary

## March 14, Friday

9:00 am-3:00 pm-Spring Cleaning, Church

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

Office closes at 12:00 pm

## March 15, Saturday

9:00 am-12:00 pm, Spring Cleaning, Church

**Spring Forward!**  
Set your clocks  
forward one hour  
this Sunday!



*The rose on the altar is in honor of the birth of*

*Sarah Laine Spruiell*

*March 3, 2025*



*Parents: Robby & Caroline Spruiell*

*Big Sister: Mary Michael*

*Given by The Early Learning Center*

*& The GFUMC Children's Ministry*

## Volunteer Opportunity

A big part of our in-person  
Sunday morning worship  
experience is having greeters &  
ushers welcome guests. These  
roles are an essential part of  
making sure we provide a  
welcoming and safe environment  
for everyone who comes into our  
church. If you would like to help  
please contact the church office:  
256-543-8200 or  
fumc@fumcgadsden.org



## Birthdays

**Mar 9** Scott Whitt, Madison Watkins

**Mar 10** Harry Vance, Paula Lang,  
Tamara Kirk

**Mar 11** Gail McNair, Kathryn McCollum,  
Dee Dee McLeod, Scout Pritchard

**Mar 12** Megan Haller,  
Clementine Hilburn

**Mar 13** Blake Badgett, Claire Bone

**Mar 14** Delilah Ogletree

**Mar 15** Barbara Roberts,  
Parker Jarecki,  
Grady (G.W.) Leach V