

SEEING RED

LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

MATTHEW 5:43-48

REV. SHERRI REYNOLDS

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

Sermon Notes: April 9 and April 12, 2026

How should you treat those with whom you disagree or do not align with your world view? How do you deal with those who say things which make your blood boil or post comments on social media which leave you in a rage? How do you treat that rude lady in the store or the man who cut you off in traffic? How should you interact with exes, in-laws, formers, and that neighbor that gives you the stink eye? Jesus said you should love them. In fact, Jesus said, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." (Matthew 5:43-48).

There are two ways that you can get rid of an enemy. You can defeat your enemy in battle, or you can love an enemy into a relationship. Jesus demonstrated the latter. He prayed for those who were executing him and offered grace to one who denied him. Jesus' way may not be easy, but it is way of the followers of Jesus. The next time when you are seeing "red," remember Jesus' teaching on loving your enemy.

Just a thought, as we attempt to navigate this divided world.
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

ACOLYTES

April 12: Sara Kate, Jake, & Carter Thornberg

April 19: Anna Kate Casey, Jade Collins, Layne Godfrey

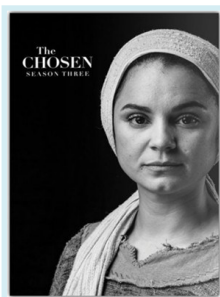
Tech Team Schedule**April 12****Celebration:** Mark Condra, Bill Haller, Carmen McKiven**Traditions:** Rob Reynolds, Neil Mullin, Brad Barnes**April 19****Celebration:** Sheila Freeman, Rob Reynolds**Traditions:** Davis Varner, Sheila Freeman

SEEING RED

LOOKING TO JESUS' TEACHINGS FOR A DIVISIVE WORLD

REV. SHERRI REYNOLDS
FIRST UMC GADSDEN
APRIL 9 - MAY 3

Bible Studies & Small Groups for Adults



Join Rev. Sherri for a Bible Study based on *The Chosen (Season 3)* Each week will focus on a different episode with a Bible Study of the scripture behind the scenes and each week will stand alone, so you can plug in as your schedule permits. **Classes will be at 11 am and 6 pm in Room 208.** (Skipping February 18 for Ash Wednesday and April 1 for Spring Break/Holy Week). The classes will end at the church picnic in May.

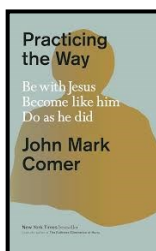
Lessons in Hope, Wednesdays, 6 pm We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday nights—**Harriet Murray**

April 15– Chicken Fingers & Mac & Cheese Wednesday Night Activities

\$7 per person \$3 Age 11 & Under

Please text 256.490.5018 to make or change a reservation.

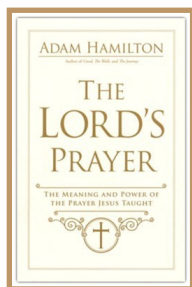
Transitions 10 am, Room 209



The Adventure Continues! Room 209! You are Invited!

Practicing the Way by John Mark Comer—The disciples spent 3 years being apprentices to Jesus. They watched His every move and hung on every word. They were with Him 24/7. As a result, they, over time, became more and more like Him and began to do many of the things He did. With the Spirit's help, with John Mark Comer as our guide, and with each other as encouragers, we too can learn to walk in Jesus' steps.

Join Rev. Dawson Harmon for this new small group study! Everyone is welcome!



Pathfinders/Seekers 10 am, Room 208

The Lord's Prayer *The Meaning & Power of the Prayer* by Adam Hamilton

Most Christians know the Lord's Prayer by heart. We pray it often, at different times and in different settings. We remember it as the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples. But do

Living Waters 10 am, Room 116 Rev. Ken Casey

Why Did Jesus Have to Die? The Meaning of the Crucifixion by Adam Hamilton

Despite the crucifixion's central place in Christian faith, the New Testament offers few clear answers about how Jesus' death saves, or why, exactly, he had to die. The New Testament writers use a host of metaphors—ransom, sacrifice, reconciliation, victory—but never explain exactly how it works or why it had to happen this way. What if that's because we've been asking the wrong question? What if the cross isn't a transaction to be explained, but a living Word from God meant to transform who we are and how we live?

“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

Our last lunchbox revolt of the year will be Tuesday, April 14th and once again we will have a visit from The Dog House. Donuts for Dads will be Thursday April 23rd. We hope that you will support our annual roses sale benefitting the Sara Rabun Johnson Scholarship Fund. This drive will be from April 6th through May 3rd. Look for the flyers around the church.

Helene



Youth

Sunday School
10 am, Room 211

Wonderful Wednesday

Youth Group, 6:00 pm
Room 211 & Gym

"Let's Build a Solid Foundation!"

Matthew 7:24

Wednesday Dinner April 15-Chicken Fingers & Mac & Cheese
\$7 per person \$3 Age 11 & Under
Please text 256.490.5018 to make or change a reservation.

Children's Ministry

Spring 2026

GFUMC CHILDREN'S CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

- 14 PARENT'S NIGHT OUT 6:00PM
- 18 Ash Wednesday

MARCH

- 21 EASTER EGG HUNT
- 27 FUN! 456 LATE-NIGHTER
- 29 PALM SUNDAY

April

- 5 EASTER Sunday
- 22 POTATOES AND BINGO

May

- 6 Church Picnic

GFUMC CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Wonderful Wednesday

Small Groups and Activities @ 6 pm
Fellowship Dinner @5:15 pm

Sunday Mornings
Children's Church during worship,
9 am & 11 am
Sunday school @ 10 am
Need more info?
katharine@fumcgadsden.org

GFUMC CHILDREN'S APRIL UNIT

Clue

WEDNESDAYS AT 6:00

WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4
The Bible says Jesus is alive.	The Bible tells us Jesus loves us.	The Bible reveals who Jesus is.	The Bible shows us how to share God's love.

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
Romans 5:8 (NIV)

UWF Lessons in Pies

French
Coconut
4/14
11 am

Hershey's
Chocolate
Chiffon
Class is Full

Lemon Ice
Box
4/16
11 am

Sausage
Quiche
4/16
6 pm



Sign up to make pies today and support UWF Missions.

Call Karen Owen, 256.393.8552

The Pie Pantry will be open on April 19.

SEEING RED

LOOKING TO JESUS' TEACHINGS FOR A DIVISIVE WORLD

REV. SHERRI REYNOLDS
FIRST UMC GADSDEN
APRIL 9 - MAY 3

We live in a world where people are enraged. Even the slightest slight can send someone over the edge. Everyone seems to have an opinion on everything. Politics, religion, and social issues create division. Anxiety appears to be heightened. All this leaves us seeing red. However, in a time of division, seeing red should not just be an expression that we associate with being angry. You know, "he was so angry that he was seeing red." What if as Christians, our seeing red

leaves us with a desire to see and follow another kind of red: the teachings of Jesus? In some editions of the Bible, you will find Jesus' teachings in red font. This is otherwise known as a red-letter edition. What if when we get caught up in the divisiveness of our time, that we didn't become as angry as the world, but what if we saw the world through the teachings of Christ; those lessons from red-letter editions of the Bible? We may find that these counter-cultural teachings are a place to start as we navigate a divisive world. Join a four-week sermon series; Seeing Red: Looking to Jesus' Teachings for a Divisive World. The series begins on April 9th and will cover the topics of loving our enemies, forgiveness, judging others, and integration of Jesus' teachings. —Rev. Sherri Reynolds

April 9 & 12 - Love Your Enemies— Matthew 5:43-48

April 16 & 19 - Do Not Judge— Luke 6:37-42

April 23 & 26 - Forgiveness— Matthew 18:21-35

April 30 & May 3 - Nutrition for the Journey— John 6:52-59

April Mission Focus



The Barrie Center-April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Pinwheels symbolize childhood, innocence, playfulness, and joy. Look for the pinwheels supporting The Barrie Center by our church sign @ 5th and Chestnut Streets .



Clothes Closet News

A huge "Thank You" goes to Men at the Well for picking up and delivering five truckloads and one trailer load of clothing from West End Baptist Church in Alabama City for the FUMCG Clothes Closet!



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.

Volunteers are needed to serve on Ladle of Love Teams. Contact the church office for more information on how you can serve.

Clothes Closet Workdays are Tuesdays before open days from 9:00-11:00 am.

Open to Public

1st & 3rd Wednesdays

April open dates are 4/1 and 4/15

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

United Women in Faith

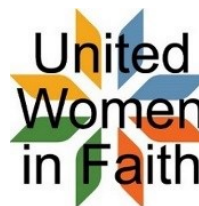
Sign up to make homemade pies for the Pie Pantry! Pie Workshops are April 14 at 11:00 am and 6:00 pm (class is full) and April 16 at 11:00 am and 6:00 pm.

April 13, Monday at 12:00 noon: UWF Luncheon, in the Gathering Room.

Our speaker will be our own Dorothy Robinson, who will speak about "Faith Amid Adversity". Please contact Carla Watson by text to make a reservation for lunch. 256-393-9664

Olivia Kendrick, President

Susan Copeland, Vice-President



Ladle of Love
Clothes Closet

February 2026

LOL	301
Clothes Closet	397

Thanks to our
Volunteers!

Welcome Hannah McCormick, FUMCG Financial Secretary



There will be an opportunity to meet Hannah on April 26 from 10-10:45 am, in the Chestnut Street Foyer at Hebrews. This meet and greet will be hosted by SPRC and Inviting Ministries.

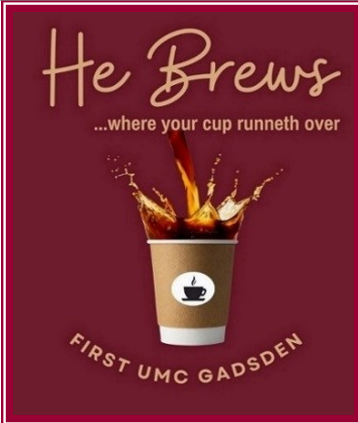
The SPRC is pleased to announce an addition to the FUMCG staff. Hannah McCormick has been hired as a new financial secretary. She began training on March 19. If you are in the church office, please take a moment and stop by to welcome her.

A Word from Hannah....

Hello, my name is Hannah McCormick; I am 27 years old and I have called Gadsden my home for nearly 20 years. I'm excited to step into the role of Financial Secretary at Gadsden First United Methodist Church. I share my life here in Gadsden with my husband, David, and my son, R.J. As a family, we love airplanes

and airshows, live concerts, traveling, and exploring all things a little out of the ordinary. I'm also an active member of Mosaic Family Gadsden, which has been a meaningful part of my journey. I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve and be part of this church community. I look forward to meeting you all! —Hannah

Sheila Witherspoon and Jamie Payton will be around as Hannah transitions into the job. They will be greatly missed. We give thanks for their commitment, diligence, and dedication as financial secretaries at FUMCG.



**HeBrews Coffee Café, Chestnut Foyer, Sundays, 10 am
We look forward to seeing you on Sunday Morning!**

**Follow us on
Facebook and Instagram.**



Greeters & Ushers for Worship

Sunday, April 12

Celebration: Vickie Handy; Nancy McCorkle

Traditions: Mandel & Judy Tillman; John & Margie Freeman

Sunday, April 19

Celebration: Helene Haller; Julie Gage

Traditions: Phillip & Leslie Johnson; Lori Varner; Gail McNair; Grover Kitchens



If you would like to serve as an Greeter/Usher, please contact Susan Swann in the church office, email: susan@fumcgadsden.org or phone: 256.543.8200.

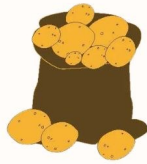
Women of the Bible 
MARCH MADNESS

March Madness 2026

The results of March Madness will lead the summer sermon series, which will be a celebration of 70 years of women being ordained in the United Methodist Church.

Esther **Champion**

Family
GAME
Night



POTATOES

and

BINGO



Family Dinner: Stuffed Potatoes
Family Game: Bingo!

Join us on
Wednesday,
April 22
dinner @5:15
Bingo @6:00



PICNIC

First UMC
 Gadsden

AT THE PARK
FELLOWSHIP & FUN!

- Grilled Hamburgers & Hotdogs & Sides
- Games and Activities

6 May | 5 p.m.

Kiwanis Pavilion @ Nocalula Falls Park
 1500 Nocalula Rd, Gadsden, AL 35904



Trunk Show & Sale Robbie's of Fayette

Tuesday, April 14

10 am to 3 pm

In the Gathering Room
First UMC Gadsden

Come and shop early for the best selection of the latest spring fashions. *A percentage of sales is donated to Gadsden First UMC's Children's Ministry!*

Find a Cross

Crosses, once again, are appearing in our church during Lent. Their purpose is to remind us of the sacrifice Jesus made for us. Key chains for them are in a bowl in the table to the left as you leave the sanctuary to enter the Chestnut Foyer. Keep the cross, give it to a friend, or hide it somewhere else in the church (other than the children's area of the building).



Lay Leadership Classes

If you are interested in learning more about the UMC, growing in your church leadership, or being prepared to teach/preach; then the upcoming classes offered by the district might be just right for you. Lay leadership classes equip and empower laity in the United Methodist Church. Contact Rev. Sherri (sherri@fumcgadsden.org) for more information.

April 25, 2026

Devotional Life in the Wesleyan Tradition

Teacher: TBA

Deadline to register: April 18, 2026



Greetings to all who are interested. I am Barbara Russell chair person of the Mid-Central District of Lay Servant Ministries of the North Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Please register with me by phone 334-863-1142 or email me barbarussell57@gmail.com. I will be in contact with you within 24 hours. If you register for a class and cannot attend, please notify me as I plan the food by the number attending.

Cost is \$40.00 for the classes and each person is responsible for ordering their own book. You can order your book from the Upper Room 1-800-972-0433 or UpperRoom.org/store. The \$40.00 includes breakfast, lunch and a snack on Saturday. Registration begins at 7:30 am on Saturday morning. Class begins at 8:00 am with a break mid-morning and lunch at noon. The class will end at 2:00pm.

The classes will be held at Cullman First United Methodist Church. Address is [320 3rd St. SE, Cullman, AL 35055](http://3203rdstse.com).

Everyone will receive a certificate for taking the class. If you have any questions, please contact me. I look forward to seeing you there.

Alleluia Offering 2026



*"...The old has gone,
the new has come!"*
2 Corinthians 5:17b

Alleluia Offering 2026

We invite you to pray about how God is leading you and your family to participate in this special act of generosity. May your giving be a reflection of the new life Christ brings—just as the dogwood blossoms remind us each spring.

This year's Alleluia Offering will fund needed lighting upgrades for the sanctuary, steeple, and lamp post lights; invest in Children and Youth Ministry Spaces; and support technology (computer) upgrades for the church staff.

This year's Alleluia Offering is still being received. You may return your offering:

- During worship (designate "Alleluia Offering")
- By mail
- Through secure e-giving or Venmo (Visit www.fumcgadsden.org for details)

In Christ,
Rev. Sherri Reynolds, Senior Pastor




"Building A Solid Foundation" 2026 Generosity Emphasis

Information and Estimate of Giving Cards are available in the Chestnut Foyer or Online. Thank you for your Generosity.

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](https://www.venmo.com/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 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.)

Download our Church App
 Search First UMC-Gadsden
 In the App Store for Android or iPhone.



First UMC Gadsden Apr 12-April 18, 2026

April 12, Sunday

9:00 am-Celebration Worship
10:00 am-10:45 am- HeBrews Coffee; Sunday School
11:00 am-Traditions

April 13, Monday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Spring Schedule
 9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym
10:30 am-UWF Executive Board, Room 208
12:00 pm-UWF Luncheon, Gathering Room
 2:00 pm-4:00 pm-Pickle Ball, Gym

April 14, Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Spring Schedule
 9:00 am-11:00 am-Clothes Closet workday
 10:00 am-3:00 pm-Robbie's of Fayette, Gathering Room
 11:00 am-Pie Class, Kitchen; 5:00 pm-Yoga Gym
 6:00 pm-Pie Class

April 15, Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Spring Schedule
 9:00 am-11:00 am-Clothes Closet open
 11:00 am- Wednesday Morning Bible Study
 5:15 pm-Wednesday night meal, Gathering Room
 6:00 pm-Children's Activities, Gym & Room 108;
 Youth Activities, Gym & Room 211;
 Bible Study Groups, Rooms 110 & 208
 Choir Practice, Choir Room

April 16, Thursday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Spring Schedule
 9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym
 11:00 am-Pie Class, Kitchen
5:30 pm-Thursday Worship, Sanctuary
 6:00 pm-Pie Class, Kitchen

April 17, Friday 11:00 am-Ladle of Love

Save the Dates

April 14, 10 am to 3 pm-Robbie's of Fayette Trunk Show, benefitting First UMC's Children's Ministry
April 22, 6 pm-Children's Ministry Potatoes & Bingo Family Night
May 6, 5-7 pm-Gadsden FUMC's Annual Church Picnic, Nocalula Falls Kiwanis Pavilion

UWF "Lessons in Pies" The Pie Pantry will be open on April 19!

Sign up today to make pies for UWF Missions!

Available Sessions for "Lessons in Pies" are
 April 14, 11 am, French Coconut, Kathy Trotter
 April 16, 11 am, Lemon Ice Box, Kathy Trotter
 April 16, 6 pm, Sausage Quiche, Eileen Graham

Contact Karen Owen, 256.393.8552 to sign up.

See
page 4
for
details!

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Family of Jack Roberts
 Marie Johnson Evelyn Pierson
 Nancy Smith Collins Tackaberry



Continued Prayer Concerns

Amy Epperson (daughter of Gene & Danna Dean)
 James Dial (infant son of Jay & Taylor-grandparents Gary & Beth Dial)

*The minister and congregation of
 First United Methodist Church
 of Gadsden extend Christian*

*sympathy to
 Lee and Kara Roberts
 in the death of his father,
 Jack Lee Roberts*

April 3, 2026



Birthdays

Apr 14 Jan Humphrey,
 Blake New
Apr 15 Evan Sizemore,
 James Foster Kelley
Apr 16 Kathie Ferguson,
 Harry Hightower
Apr 17 Kent Haney,
 Denise Floyd
Apr 18 Lance Watkins,
 Alyssa McNair



Attendance Week of Apr 5, 2026

In Person Total *689 On Line Total 1,053
 Maundy Thur *84/105 Celebration *110/296
 Traditions *267/214 Worship Total 1,742
 Holy Week Noon Services *228/438
 Adult SS*43 Children's SS *5 Youth SS*3
 Bible Study *8 Children Sun/Wed *26
 Youth Sun/Wed *3 Nursery Sun/Wed *8

Year 2026 Week of Apr 5, 2026

General Offering Budget	\$ 13,040.00
General Offering Received	\$13,344.00
YTD Gen. Offering Budget	\$182,560.00
YTD Gen. Offering Rec'd	\$226,163.00

Honorariums & Memorials

General Budget Fund

In Honor of Nancy Smith
 given by Randa & Steven Hall.
 In memory of Joe Smith
 given by Randa & Steven Hall.