

SEEING RED

DO NOT JUDGE

MATTHEW 5:43-48

REV. SHERRI REYNOLDS

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

Sermon Notes: April 16 and April 19, 2026

Judgment is not a bad thing. Judgment itself is not a sin. In fact, judgment can be valuable in our discipleship. The problem comes in when we put ourselves in the role of God and judge other people. When we play “god” and put ourselves in the position of “god” that is when we fall short of God’s ideal for our lives. Judgment also keeps us from recognizing and dealing with our own stuff. (Luke 6:37-42). If we are going to live with and lead others, we need to look at our own missteps before we get busy pointing out issues with others.

Unfortunately, we live in world where there are less prudent judgments and more critical judgments. (Oh wait, was that a judgmental statement?) We all have likely participated in those critical judgments, especially when we get upset and are “seeing red.” Jesus’ teachings remind us to not judge and take care of our own business when we become upset. In doing so, we may find that we are sharing less critiques, and more love of neighbor.

Just a thought as we navigate this divided world together.

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 19: Anna Kate Casey, Jade Collins, Layne Godfrey

April 26: Volunteer

Tech Team Schedule**April 19**

Celebration: Sheila Freeman, Rob Reynolds

Traditions: Davis Varner, Sheila Freeman

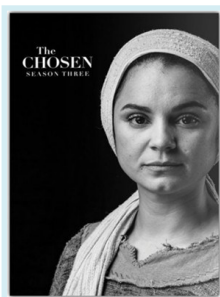
April 26

Celebration: Rob Reynolds, Bill Haller, Carmen McKiven

Traditions: Mark Condra, Wayne Payton, Brad Barnes



Bible Studies & Small Groups for Adults



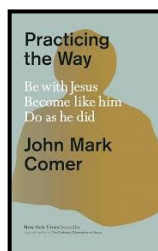
Join Rev. Sherri for a Bible Study based on *The Chosen (Season 3)* Each week will focus on a different episode with a Bible Study of the scripture behind the scenes and each week will stand alone, so you can plug in as your schedule permits. **Classes will be at 11 am and 6 pm in Room 208.** (Skipping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

Loce Does, Wednesdays, 6 pm We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday nights—**Harriet Murray**

April 15– Baked Potatoes & Barbecue Wednesday Night Activities

\$7 per person \$3 Age 11 & Under
Please text 256.490.5018 to make or change a reservation.

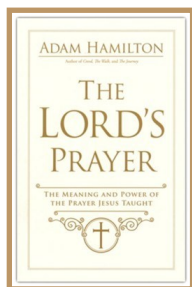
Transitions 10 am, Room 209



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

Once again the Dog House was a hit for our April Lunch box Revolt. We are so excited to welcome our Dads this week. 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 May 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 22-Baked Potatoes & Barbecue
 \$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 Pie Pantry

Choose from 4 delicious flavors! All proceeds support UWF Missions!

French
Coconut



Hershey's
Chocolate
Chiffon



Lemon Ice
Box



Sausage
Quiche



**The Pie Pantry will be open this
Sunday, 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 - Overcoming Hangry - 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 . April 26 wi

Thank you to agents
at ERA King Real
Estate for serving at
Ladle of Love on
February 18 and
March 18!



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

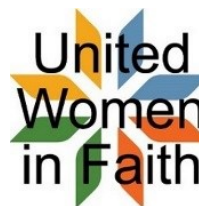
Phone: 256-543-8200

Email:

fumc@fumcgadsden.org

United Women in Faith

UWF Pie Pantry will be open this Sunday! Buy pie and support UWF Missions. There are four delicious flavors to choose from!



May 5- LuVerna Waid Circle meeting at 6:00 pm

May 11-UWF Luncheon at 12:00 noon

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.

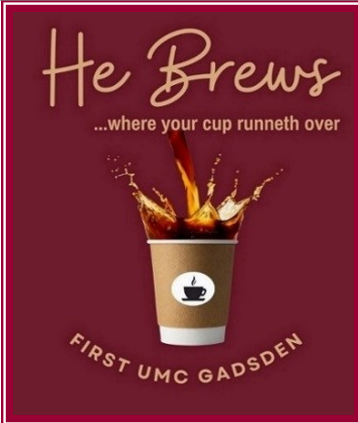
The SPRC is pleased to announce an addition to the FUMCG staff. Hannah McCormick has been hired as a new financial secretary. She began training on March 19. If you are in the church office, please take a moment and stop by to welcome her.

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 19

Celebration: Helene Haller; Julie Gage

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

Sunday, April 26

Celebration: Butch Herb

Traditions: Charles & Delores Abney; Jennifer Jackson; Bobby Robinson

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.



SARA RABUN JOHNSON
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Mother's Day Roses Sale

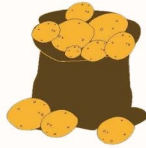
With your donation of \$20 or more, a rose will be placed on the altar on Mother's Day, in honor or in memory of your loved one. All donations provide direct support for ELC families whose children would not otherwise be able to afford the program.

MAKE YOUR DONATION PAYABLE TO GFUMC AND MARK IT "SRJ SCHOLARSHIP FUND". ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY SUNDAY, MAY 3.

ADDITIONAL DONATIONS TO THE FUND MAY BE GIVEN THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.



**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





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 [Upper Room.org/store](http://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.)



venmo

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



First UMC Gadsden Apr 19-April 25, 2026

April 19, Sunday

9:00 am-Celebration Worship
19 am, UWF Pie Pantry
10:00 am-10:45 am- HeBrews Coffee; Sunday School
11:00 am-Traditions

April 20, 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-Pickle Ball, Gym

April 21, Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Spring Schedule
 5:00 pm, Yoga, Gym
6:30 pm- Emmaus Cluster Meeting

April 22, Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Spring Schedule
 11:00 am- Wednesday Morning Bible Study
 5:15 pm-Wednesday night meal, Gathering Room
6:00 pm-Family Night-Potatoes & Bingo, Gym

6:45 pm-Prayer Bench Dedication

Youth Activities, Gym & Room 211;
 Bible Study Groups, Rooms 110 & 208
 Choir Practice, Choir Room

April 23, Thursday

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

April 24, Friday

11:00 am to 12:00 am -Ladle of Love
 12:00 pm-Office Closed



Emmaus Cluster Meeting
Tuesday, April 21 at 6:30 pm
Bring a dish to share. Paper products, drinks and Communion elements are provided.

Immediate Prayer Concerns
 Austin Sanford (friend request)
 Jerry Entrekin (friend request)

Continued Prayer Concerns
 Evelyn Pierson Nancy Smith
 Amy Epperson (daughter of Gene & Danna Dean)
 James Dial (infant son of Jay & Taylor-grandparents Gary & Beth Dial)

Honorariums & Memorials

Ladle of Love Fund
 In memory of Jack Roberts, given by Joanie Leach.

Birthdays

Apr 19 Dorothy Robinson
Apr 21 Savannah Beth Phillips, Marit Norris
Apr 22 William Thomas (Tom) Dawson
Apr 23 Martha White
Apr 24 Walter Waid, John Rollins McCord
Apr 25 Tyler Trotter

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

Attendance Week of Apr 12, 2026

In Person Total *188 On Line Total 430
 Thursday *8 Celebration *60/212
 Traditions *120/218 Worship Total 618
 Adult SS*48 Children's SS *5 Youth SS*4
 Bible Study *25 Children Sun/Wed *38
 Youth Sun/Wed *12 Nursery Sun/Wed *5
Thanks to everyone who report numbers!

Year 2026	Week of Apr 12, 2026
General Offering Budget	\$ 13,040.00
General Offering Received	9,029.00
YTD Gen. Offering Budget	195,600.00
YTD Gen. Offering Rec'd	\$235,192.00

Save the Dates

April 22, 6 pm-Children's Ministry Potatoes & Bingo Family Night
6:45 PM Dedication of Prayer Bench in memory of Elizabeth Brooklynn Barnes, Green Space
May 6, 5-7 pm-Gadsden FUMC's Annual Church Picnic, Nocalula Falls Kiwanis Pavilion
May 17, Senior High Graduation Recognition Sunday, both worship services. *There will be a brunch for graduates and their families in the Gathering Room, between the worship services.*