

SEEING RED

# FORGIVENESS

**MATTHEW 18: 21-35**  
**REV. SHERRI REYNOLDS**

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

**Sermon Notes: April 23 & 26 - Forgiveness– Matthew 18:21-35**

One of the most challenging issues for Christians is the topic of forgiveness. People want to know the hows, whys, and parameters around forgiveness. Even Saint Peter struggled with this issue (Matthew 18:21-35). Peter asked Jesus how many times he should forgive, even offering seven times. Jesus replied, “Seventy times seven.” Meaning a large or perfect number, or also more than we are willing to forgive. Peter wanted to count, rather than forgive.

In a divided world, we may struggle with forgiving others. Yet, I have discovered that forgiveness is one of the best gifts which we can give ourselves. Forgiveness is defined as stopping feeling anger or resentment toward someone for a mistake, slight or offense. It is freeing for us when we move forward to forgive. Let’s face it, in most situations, lack of forgiveness only ends up harming us in the end. It can often be a hard journey to forgive, but with Jesus’ help we can undertake a journey of peace and reconciliation.

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

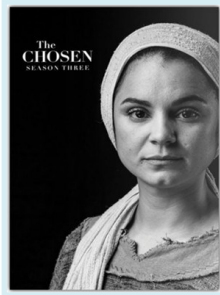
**ACOLYTES**  
 April 26: Volunteer  
 May 3: Sarah Echols, Luke Barnes, Brooks Bone



**Tech Team Schedule**

- April 26**  
**Celebration:** Rob Reynolds, Bill Haller, Carmen McKiven  
**Traditions:** Mark Condra, Wayne Payton, Brad Barnes
- May 3**  
**Celebration:** Sheila Freeman, Brad Barnes  
**Traditions:** Rob Reynolds, Sheila Freeman

## Bible Studies & Small Groups for Adults



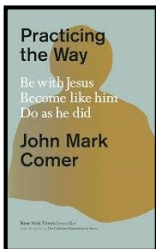
Join Rev. Sherri for a Bible Study based on *The Chosen (Season 3)* Each week will focus on a different episode with a Bible Study of the scripture behind the scenes and each week will stand alone, so you can plug in as your schedule permits. **Classes will be at 11 am and 6 pm in Room 208.** (Skipping 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 29—Italian Night Wednesday Night Activities

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

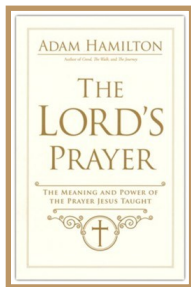
### Transitions 10 am, Room 209



***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

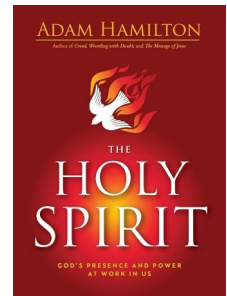
**The Lord's Prayer** *The Meaning & Power of the Prayer* by Adam Hamilton

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 we really understand and appreciate the meaning and power of its words, what we ask of God each time we pray it?

### Living Waters 10 am, Room 116 Rev. Ken Casey

**The Holy Spirit-God's Presence and Power at Work in Us** by Adam Hamilton

Explore what Scripture teaches about God's Spirit—from the Hebrew Bible through Jesus' promises in the Gospels, the powerful Pentecost experience in Acts, and the rich teachings found in the New Testament letters. This accessible study helps believers understand and experience the Holy Spirit's presence and power in their daily walk with Christ.



### “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

We loved celebrating our dads this week with donuts and coffee. We hope that you will support our annual Thank you to Stephanie Isbell for coordinating our Teacher Appreciation Breakfast. This fun morning of food and fellowship will be Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. Please support our annual roses sale benefitting the Sara Rabun Johnson Scholarship Fund. This drive will be from April 6<sup>th</sup> through May 3<sup>rd</sup>. 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 29-Italian Night**  
\$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

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

# Potatoes and Bingo



**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](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/serve)**

**Phone: 256-543-8200**

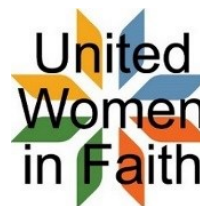
**Email:**

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

### United Women in Faith

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.**

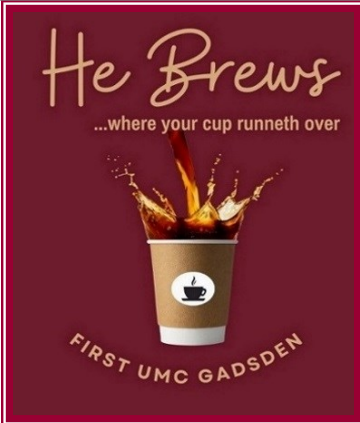
The SPRC is pleased to announce an addition to the FUMCG staff. Hannah McCormick has been hired as a new financial secretary. She began training on March 19. If you are in the church office, please take a moment and stop by to welcome her.

### 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 26

Celebration: Butch Herb

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

Sunday, May 3

Celebration: Vickie Handy

Traditions: Terry & Sheila Bishop; Bob & Becky Oltman

*If you would like to serve as an Greeter/Usher, please contact Susan Swann in the church office, email: [susan@fumcgadsden.org](mailto: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.**



**PICNIC**

First UMC Gadsden

**AT THE PARK**

- Grilled Hamburgers & Hotdogs & Sides
- Games and Activities

**FELLOWSHIP & FUN!**

**6 May | 5 p.m.**

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



## Prepare to be part of an UMCOR Early Response Team!

**Register now for an ERT Training near you.**

What is an Early Response Team (ERT)?

ERTs offer a Christian witness and provide practical aid during the initial days following a disaster, helping people to be safe, sanitary, and secure until insurance and other help arrive. This ERT program consists of specialized training from the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), including topics like disaster types, safety procedures, and how to offer emotional and spiritual care.

The work of an ERT includes tasks such as listening to survivors, tarping roofs, removing damaged belongings, cleaning out flood-damaged homes, debris removal, and other activities that help prevent further damage and make homes habitable.

- ◆ ERTs are not first responders or recovery/rebuild teams. They focus on providing a caring Christian presence and support during the early stages of a disaster.
- ◆ ERTs respond to invitations from disaster response coordinators and work within established protocols to ensure effective and coordinated assistance.
- ◆ ERTs are often self-sufficient, meaning they bring their own supplies and support, though they may coordinate with local resources as needed.
- ◆ ERTs emphasize teamwork, safety, and a positive attitude, recognizing that people are more important than the tasks at hand.

The cost of the training is \$30 and covers lunch, snacks and training materials. Bring something to write with and take notes.

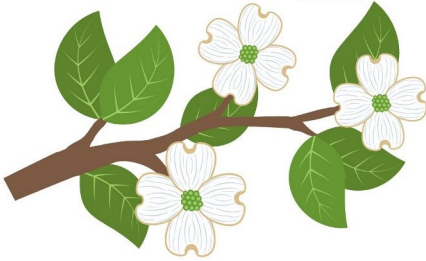
There will be a hands-on portion of the class where participants do some tarp training and ladder safety training.

Please wear comfortable clothes and appropriate footwear for the hands-on part of the class. Everyone will be required to complete a background check application, which UMCOR will pay for.

May 9th is at Arab UMC from 8-4. Please register on <https://www.umcna.org/>  
The Mid Central District will pay for the first 30 registrants.



# Alleluia Offering 2026



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

## Alleluia Offering 2026

*With deep gratitude, we announce that the 2026 Alleluia Offering is \$42,790.* That is a record-breaking amount for First United Methodist Church. Thank you for your ongoing generosity and support. Your gifts fully funded all the designated areas for Alleluia 2026 and will allow the support of vital ministries to be expanded.

**If you have not contributed, but desire to do so, we are still receiving gifts.** You may return your Alleluia Offering during worship (designate "Alleluia Offering"), by mail, or through secure e-giving or Venmo (Visit [www.fumcgadsden.org/give](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/give) for details).

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

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

Text to Give: 256-344-8464

Venmo [@FirstUMCGadsden](https://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](https://venmo.com/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 26-May 2, 2026

## April 26, Sunday

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

## April 27, 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 28, Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Spring Schedule  
 5:00 pm, Yoga, Gym

## April 29, 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  
 Youth Activities, Gym & Room 211;  
 Bible Study Groups, Rooms 110 & 208  
 Choir Practice, Choir Room

## April 30, 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**

## May 1, Friday

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



### Save the Dates

**May 6, 5-7 pm-**Gadsden FUMC's Annual Church Picnic, Nocalula Falls Kiwanis Pavilion

**May 13, 9 am,** ELC 4K Graduation, Sanctuary

**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.*

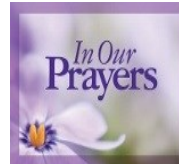
**May 19, 9 am,** Striplin Kindergarten Graduation, Sanctuary

### Immediate Prayer Concerns

Annette Jones (Pastor Sherri's mother)

### 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)



### 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.*

### Read the Weekly Newsletter

Subscribe to the weekly newsletter by submitting your email address 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.

*Update your contact info!*

### Birthdays

**Apr 26** Ellen Bridges, Kelsey Freeman  
**Apr 27** Josh Holloway  
**Apr 28** Adair Arthur, Hannah McCormick  
**Apr 29** Pat Walker, Becky Thompson, Benny McNair  
**Apr 30** Crystal Cornett, Dr. Charlie Newman  
**May 1** Suzy Haney, George Hightower, Julia Calcote, Charles Newman  
**May 2** John Owen Hollingsworth

### Attendance Week of Apr 19, 2026

In Person Total *194	On Line Total 471
Thursday *12	Celebration *64/243
Traditions *118/228	Worship Total 665
Adult SS*46	Children's SS *5
Youth SS*4	
Bible Study *28	Children Sun/Wed *26
Youth Sun/Wed *15	Nursery Sun/Wed *5
UWF *32	

### Year 2026 Week of Apr 19, 2026

General Offering Budget	\$ 13,040.00
General Offering Received	\$ 8,343.00
YTD Gen. Offering Budget	\$208,640.00
YTD Gen. Offering Rec'd	\$243,535.00