



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

Sermon Notes: Thursday, April 24 and Sunday, April 27

I think that Thomas has gotten a bad rap through the ages. Scholars painted him as a doubter who wavered, not believing in the Resurrection until he saw the proof. I believe his questions came because he simply wasn't there when Jesus appeared to the others. His companions saw Jesus and may have had the same doubts if they had not been there. Perhaps, Thomas simply wanted concrete proof that the other disciples had before deciding for himself. He wanted to see just like they did. (John 20:24-31) Likely, we have had Thomas moments. These are times when we need to experience and see for ourselves. Our walk with Jesus often involves seeking, and questions. And just as Jesus showed up for Thomas, so I believe that Jesus shows up for us when we are skeptical. Our doubts and questions can be a step in growing in faith. We just might find that in our wrestling with God, that we come out stronger.

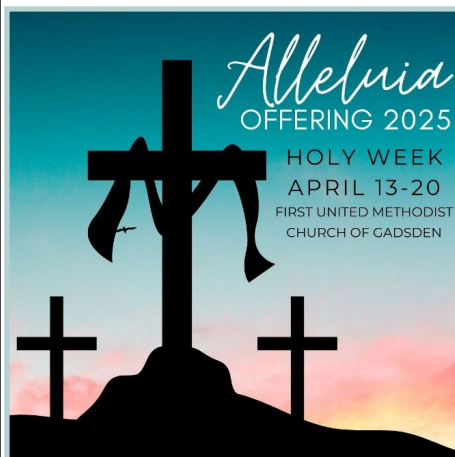
In the love of Christ,
Rev. Sherri

Table of Contents:

- Page 1-** Sermon Notes; Tech Schedule; Acolyte Schedule; Alleluia Offering
- Page 2-** Small Groups; Adult Studies for Sunday School Classes; Wonderful Wednesday
- Page 3-** ELC News; Student Ministries; Youth Calendar of Activities; Children's Ministry
- Page 4-** HeBrews; Pickleball, Vacation Bible School
- Page 5-** GFUMC Missions News-The Barrie Center; Ladle of Love; United Women in Faith News
- Page 6-** ELC Roses Sale, Church Picnic
- Page 9-** Woven; Alleluia Offering 2025; Ways to Give; Online Giving; Venmo
- Page 10-** Dates to Remember; Calendar; Prayer Concerns; Memorials; Birthdays; Weekly Reports

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



The Alleluia Offering is a special offering, received at Easter, to fund specific, special ministries within the church. It is a challenge to tithe your income during Holy Week, above and beyond your regular giving to the church. This year's gifts will fund organ restoration, student ministry and media ministry. Information and Alleluia Offering cards and envelopes are available in the Chestnut St Foyer. *Contact the church office for assistance.*

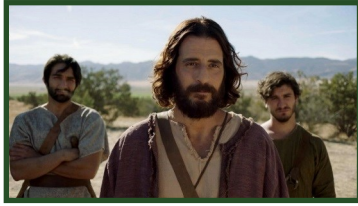
ACOLYTES

- April 27: Clementine and Rhett Hillburn
- May 4: Sylvia Harbin and Sarah Echols

Tech Team Schedule

- April 27**
- Celebration:** Sheila Freeman, Bill Haller, Brad Barnes
- Traditions:** Davis Varner, Neil Mullin, Sheila Freeman
- May 4**
- Celebration:** Sheila Freeman, Bill Haller
- Traditions:** Mark Condra, Neil Mullin, Sheila Freeman

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 30: Italian Trio
\$7 per person Children under 11, \$3

Wednesday Morning Bible Study @ 11 am, Gathering Room

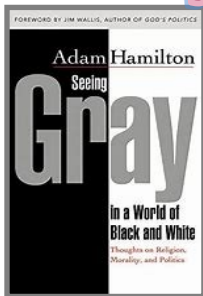
“The Chosen” w/ Rev. Sherri Reynolds will not meet this week. See you on Wednesday, April 30.

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

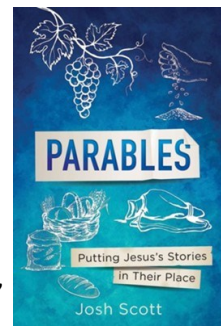


Transitions 10 am, Room 209

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

Parables by Josh Scott. When Jesus taught in parables, he was doing more than telling simple morality tales. His stories were grounded in the world in which he lived and his vision of the Kingdom of God. This book explores six parables that give us a window into Jesus’s message and movement, and, once they are heard in their own context, ask what they might mean for us today. Parables include: the New Wine and Wineskins, the Mustard Seed, the Leaven, the Wedding Party, the Workers in the Vineyard, and the Wicked Tenants.



Living Water 10 am, Room 116

Join Ken Casey and the Living Water Sunday School Class for Parables of Jesus.

“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

This is our last week to purchase your Rose and support the Sarah Rabun Johnson Scholarship Fund. See flyer for additional details. Tuesday, we enjoyed our last lunchbox revolt for the 2024 2025 school year. Thank you to the Reyes family for donating hot dogs for all students and teachers. Wednesday, April 30th will be our annual Teacher Appreciation Breakfast. We thank Brittany Megois for coordinating this year's event. —Helene Haller



Youth Group
 Wednesdays at 6 pm
 Room 211
Sunday School
 10 am, Room 211

Hymns for Hunger
 Thank you to the youth for serving at Hymns for Hunger.

Senior High Graduation Recognition Sunday
 May 4
 Brunch @ 10 am

Church Picnic, May 7, 5 pm

Wonderful Wednesday
April 30 – Menu: Italian Trio
Adults & Youth \$7 Children 11 & Under \$3

Children's Ministry

Wonderful Wednesday Children's Small Groups and Activities, Wednesdays at 6 pm
 (Don't forget dinner is at 5:15 pm in the Gathering Room)
 Sunday Mornings: Children's Church during worship, Sunday school @ 10 am

GFUMC 2025 Kid's Spring Calendar

VALENTINE'S NIGHT 2/12

FAMILY NIGHT 3/19 (GYM)

SPRING BREAK 3/24-3/28

ASH WEDNESDAY 3/15

PALM SUNDAY 4/13
 KIDS WILL SING

GFUMC EASTER 4/12 (GFUMC)

EASTER SUNDAY 4/20

FAMILY PICNIC 5/7
 NOCCALULA FALLS

Vacation Bible School 6/9-6/12

The Lord your God is with you **wherever you go.** (Joshua 1:9)

ROAD TRIP
 ON THE GO WITH GOD

First United Methodist Church of Gadsden
 June 9-June 12
 ages 3k-5th

Register HERE for VBS

Road Trip: On The Road With God!
 GFUMC VBS 2025

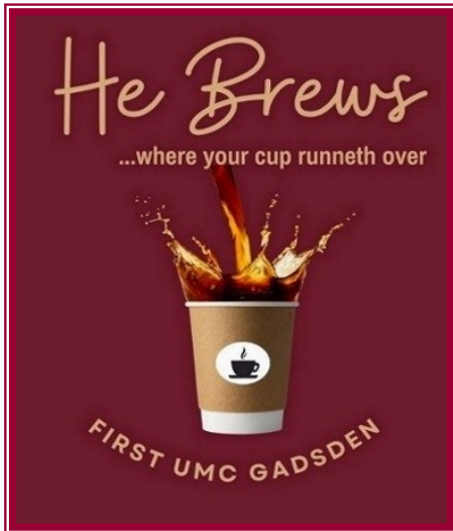
GFUMC CHILDREN'S APRIL UNIT

FULBLOOM

WEDNESDAY'S AT 6:00

WEEK 1 GOD SENT JESUS TO SAVE US.	WEEK 2 JESUS UNDERSTANDS WHEN WE'RE HURTING.	WEEK 3 JESUS MAKES ALL THINGS NEW.	WEEK 4 JESUS CONNECTS US TO GOD.
--	---	---	---

"BUT GROW IN THE GRACE AND KNOWLEDGE OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST."
 2 PETER 3:18A (NIV)



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



April Mission Focus

View the mission video for The Barrie Center on the GFUMC Church App!

GFUMC APRIL MISSION FOCUS



The mission of the James M. Barrie Center for Children, Inc. is to promote hope, healing, and justice for child abuse victims by providing coordinated, trauma-informed services and education in our community.

**April is
Child Abuse Prevention
Month**



WISH LIST

**Snacks and Drinks
for Children**
(Capri Suns, Little Debbie Snacks,
Chips, Crackers)

**Gift Cards in \$5 or \$10
Increments**
(Fast Food, Movies, Gas Cards)

**Donate at Gadsden First UMC
during the month of April!**



605 S. 4TH ST
GADSDEN, AL 35901

Find
out
more:



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

May open dates are

5/7 and 5/21

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

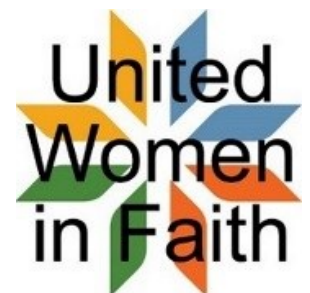
#gfumcreconnect2024

United Women in Faith

"Refresh and Retreat" is May 3 beginning at 10:00 am at Camp Sumatanga sponsored by North Alabama Conference. Deadline for registration is April 23 for \$25.00. The program focus is "How Is It With Your Soul". Guest speaker is Marlow Francis, Nurse Practitioner and Licensed Counselor. Bishop Jonathan Holston is joining us for the afternoon. If you register late, the cost will be \$15.00 which doesn't include lunch. Please contact the church office if you need more information.

LuVerna Waid Circle will meet Tuesday, May 6 at 6:00 pm at the Baja California Cantina & Grill in place of our May salad supper. Please come and bring a friend.

UWF May Luncheon Save the date: Monday, May 12 at noon.



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 4.

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



 Save the Date

Church Picnic @
the Kiwanis Pavilion
Nocalula Falls

 WEDNESDAY
7 MAY, 2025

 **5:00 PM**

FIRST UMC GADSDEN



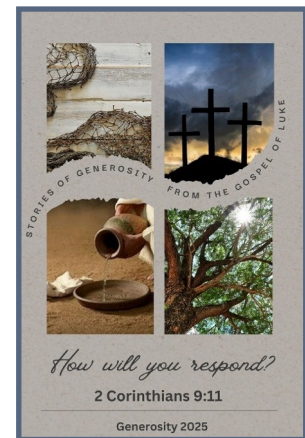
Dogwood trees are blooming, and tulips are making their debut. Signs of spring are all around us, with Easter coming quickly. This means the 2025 Alleluia offering is soon approaching. The Alleluia Offering is a special offering, received at Easter, to fund specific, special ministries within the church. It is a challenge to tithe your income during Holy Week, above and beyond your regular giving to the church. This year's gifts will fund organ restoration, student ministry and media ministry. Information and Alleluia Offering cards and envelopes are available in the Chestnut St Foyer. Contact the church office for assistance. Blessings, Rev. Sherri



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



**GADSDEN STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DIVISION OF FINE ARTS**

CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO THE

**HOMECOMING CONCERT
OF THE A CAPPELLA CHOIR
SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 2025 AT 3:00 P.M.**

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF GADSDEN**

First UMC Gadsden April 27-May 3, 2025

April 27, Sunday

9:00 am-Celebration Worship, Sanctuary
10:00 am-Sunday School classes, all ages
10:00 am- HeBrews Coffee

11:00 am-Traditions Worship, Sanctuary

April 28, 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 29, Tuesday

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

April 30, Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC
11:00 am-Wednesday Bible Study
5:15 pm Fellowship Meal
6:00 pm Wednesday Night Activities for all ages
Small Groups for Adults, Room 110 & 208
Children and Youth Groups Meet
6:00 pm Choir Practice

May 1, Thursday

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

May 2, Friday

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

Save the Dates:

Sunday, May 4 —Senior High School Graduation Recognition in both worship services. **Brunch for families of graduates** in the Gathering Room at 10 am. *Reminder: Pictures of seniors for the slideshow must be turned in no later than April 28. Email photos to Sheila@fumcgadsden.org*

Wednesday, May 7 @ 5 pm —Annual Church Picnic, Kiwanis Pavilion, Nocalula Falls. **Everyone invited!**

Monday-Thursday, June 9-12, 9 am to 11:30 am-Road Trip VBS

Monday-Thursday, July 28-31 –Gift to Gadsden

We can't wait to see you there!

Watch for exciting news about group messaging and communications



within the First UMC-Gadsden Church App Available in the App Store or Google Play Store for iPhone & Android. Download the App today.

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Grayson Phillips (Parents Leigh Carroll & Dathan Phillips)
Gary Atkins Emily Carroll (Adam Carroll's wife)

Continued Prayer Concerns

Dottie Rogers Martha Bullock Mary Tom Hale
Amy Epperson Bob Walden (Olivia Kendrick's father)
Matt Medders (deployed to the border)

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

Camille Ellen Ross

April 15, 2025

Parents: David & Hallie Ross

Big Sister: Sadie

Grandparents: Alan & Ginger Ross

Given by GFUMC Children's Ministry & Early Learning Center



Birthdays

Apr 27 Josh Holloway
Apr 28 Adair Arthur, Rose Isbell
Apr 29 Pat Walker, Lane Echols, Benny McNair, Becky Thompson
Apr 30 Crystal Cornett, Dr. Charlie Newman, Gin Durham
May 1 Suzy Haney, Julia Calcote, George Hightower, Jr., Charles Newman
May 2 Alvin Ferguson, John Owen Hollingsworth, Lindsey Muratta
May 3 Carol Rice

Attendance Week of April 20, 2025

In Person Total-*547 On Line Total-2,238
Worship Total-2,785
Celebration *115/300 Traditions *162/349
Adult Sunday School *29 Children SS *2
Middle School & Senior Hi SS *2
Bible Study Groups *21 Children Wed/Sun *48
Nursery Wed/Sun *8
Middle & Sen Hi Wed/Sun *15

Year 2025 Week of April 20, 2025

General Offering Budget	\$12,400.00
General Offering Received	7,841.00
YTD Gen. Offering Budget	198,400.00
YTD Gen. Offering Rec'd	210,991.00

Holy Week Special Services

Noon Day Services Monday-Friday
198 in person/1,365 online
Maundy Thursday 72 in person/
224 online

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.