



WOVEN
Sermon Series

**THE HERALD:
THE DOGWOOD**

Matthew 28:1-10
Rev. Sherri Reynolds



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

Sermon Notes: Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026

Dogwoods are wonderful heralds of spring! When the trees bloom, they announce to the world that spring has arrived, and Easter is just around the corner. Although these trees can't speak, they have a story to tell the world and those with eyes to see can understand the dogwood's witness so clearly.

In Matthew's account of the resurrection (Matthew 28:1-10), Jesus told Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to go and tell the disciples that he was alive and that he would meet the disciples in Galilee. The women became heralds of the Good News, letting Jesus' followers know that He was not contained in the tomb. We, like dogwood trees and the Marys, are invited to be heralds too! This Easter we can let the world know that Jesus lives! We have a story to share with world, the true story of Easter.

In His Resurrection Power!

Rev. Sherri

**Communion will be offered in the chapel following each service on Easter Sunday.*

**Bring cut flowers to worship to place on the cross for Easter.*

SEEING RED

**LOOKING TO
JESUS' TEACHINGS
FOR A DIVISIVE WORLD**

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

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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 5: Anna Kate Casey, Sarah Echols, & Luke Barnes
- April 12: Sara Kate, Jake, & Carter Thornberg

Tech Team Schedule

- April 5 Easter Sunday**
- Celebration: Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman, Brad Barnes
- Traditions: Davis Varner, Neil Mullin, Sheila Freeman
- April 12**
- Celebration: Mark Condra, Bill Haller, Carmen McKiven
- Traditions: Rob Reynolds, Neil Mullin, Brad Barnes

Bible Studies & Small Groups for Adults



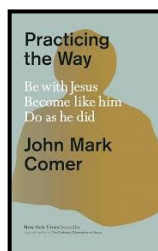
Join Rev. Sherri for a Bible Study based on *The Chosen* (Season 3) Each week will focus on a different episode with a Bible Study of the scripture behind the scenes and each week will stand alone, so you can plug in as your schedule permits. **Classes will be at 11 am and 6 pm in Room 208.** (Skipping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

Why Easter Matters by Andy Stanley, Wednesdays, 6 pm We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday nights—Harriet Murray

**April 8– Pizza, Salad, Chips, Dessert
Wednesday Night Activities**

Join us at Donuts & Donkeys on the portico this Sunday!
Adult Sunday classes will not meet on Palm Sunday.

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? Starts Sunday, April

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

We are back from a little R & R and ready for these last 6 weeks of the semester. Our last lunchbox revolt of the year will be Tuesday, April 14th and once again we will have a visit from The Dog House. 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 8—Pizza, Salad, Chips, Dessert

\$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)

Maundy Thursday, April 2, 6 pm— Rev. Sherri Reynolds
Woven: Body and Blood—Wheat & Grapes
Luke 22:14-23



Good Friday, Apr 3, 12:05 pm Worship

Rev. Bo Aaron- Antioch-Goodsell UMC in Attalla, John 19:17-42

*Lunch will follow the noonday worship. Everyone is welcome.
The cost is \$5 per person.*



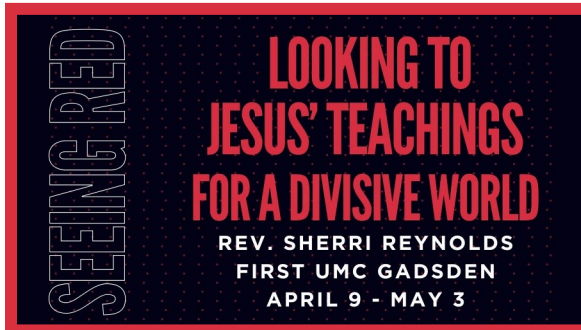
“Woven Continued”
concludes Easter Sunday

April 5- Easter Sunday*

The Herald —The Dogwood, Matthew 28:1-10

***Communion will be offered in the chapel
following each service on Easter Sunday.**

**Bring cut flowers to worship to place on the cross for Easter.*



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

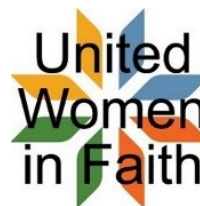
United Women in Faith

April 7, Tuesday at 6:00 pm
LuVerna Waid Circle, Room 208

April 13, Monday at 12:00 noon: UWF Luncheon, 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 am-10:45 am, in the Chestnut Street Foyer at Hebrews. This meet and greet will be hosted by SPRC and Inviting Ministries.

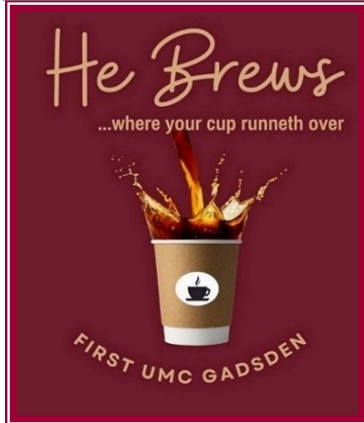
The SPRC is pleased to announce an addition to the FUMCG staff. Hannah McCormick has been hired as a new financial secretary. She began training on March 19. If you are in the church office, please take a moment and stop by to welcome her.

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 5 Easter Sunday

Celebration: Kirk & Jeanne Mabeus

Traditions: Terry & Sheila Bishop; Bob & Becky Olman

Sunday, April 12

Celebration: Vickie Handy; Nancy McCorkle

Traditions: Mandel & Judy Tillman; John & Margie Freeman



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

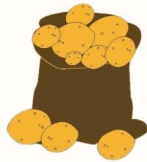
March Madness 2026

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

BINGO	32	44	30		
BINGO	5	52	42		
BINGO	1	93	41	90	79
	40	95	18	78	20
	92	70	30	97	94
	71	38	96	72	39
	99	31	19	98	2

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.

You may return your Alleluia Offering:

- During Easter 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
 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.





Whosoever
BELIEVETH IN HIM
should not perish, but have
eternal life.

JOHN 3:15

First UMC Gadsden Apr 5-April 11, 2026

April 5, Sunday

9:00 am-Celebration Worship

10:00 am-10:45 am- HeBrews Coffee; Sunday School

11:00 am-Traditions

April 6, 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 7, Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Spring Schedule

1:15 pm-Staff Meeting

5:00 pm-Yoga, Gym

April 8, 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-Children's Activities, Gym & Room 108;

Youth Activities, Gym & Room 211;

Bible Study Groups, Rooms 110 & 208

Choir Practice, Choir Room

April 9, 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 10, Friday

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

12:00 pm-Office Closed



Bring cut flowers to worship to place on the cross for Easter.

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Marie Johnson

Evelyn Pierson

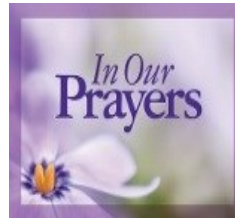
Nancy Smith

Collins Tackaberry

Continued Prayer Concerns

Amy Epperson (daughter of Gene & Danna Dean)

James Dial (infant son of Jay & Taylor-
 grandparents Gary & Beth Dial)



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-First UMC's Annual
 Church Picnic, Nocalula Falls
 Kiwanis Pavilion

Birthdays

Apr 5 Mark Casey,
 Merry Blevins, David Dean

Apr 6 Dianne Brewer

Apr 7 Claire Michaels

Apr 8 David Fortenberry,
 Norah Horton

Apr 9 Beverly McWhorter

Apr 10 Kim Abel, Leyton Hudak

Apr 11 Bessie Crow,

Sherri DeJong,

Pat McLeod,

Sherry Hall



Attendance Week of Mar 29, 2026

In Person Total *180	On Line Total 351
Worship Total 531	Thursday Worship *7
Celebration *67/203	Traditions *106/148
Nursery Sun/Wed *6	Youth SS *0
Adult SS*0	Children's SS *0
Bible Study *26	Children Sun/Wed *23
Youth Sun/Wed *12	Donkeys/Donuts *60

Year 2026 Week of March 29, 2026

General Offering Budget	\$ 13,040.00
General Offering Received	\$ 16,439.00
YTD Gen. Offering Budget	\$169,520.00
YTD Gen. Offering Rec'd	\$212,819.00

Read the

Weekly Newsletter

Subscribe to the weekly newsletter
 by submitting your email address to
 the church secretary, Susan Swann:

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!