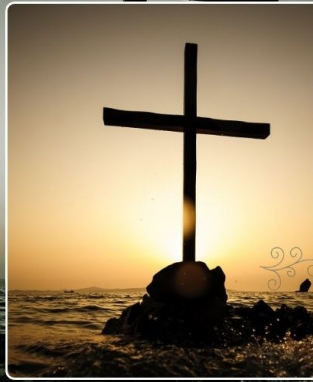


Preparing for a Holy Lent

Psalm 32

Rev. Sherri Reynolds



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

Sermon Notes: Thursday, Feb 12 & Sunday, Feb 15, 2026

Psalm 32 is a roadmap in forgiveness. The Psalmist begins with thanksgiving and joy, because he has been restored. He then moves to honesty and the real consequences of sin. He knew true suffering, but suffering in silence did not bring him peace. It was in confession and relationship with God that he was healed. The Psalmist confessed his sin to God and was forgiven. He urges others to do the same. The Psalmist wants people to turn to God, know joy, and rejoice in the Lord. The Psalmist simply desires to instruct others and show them the path of joy.

Psalm 32 can also be a roadmap for a Holy Lent. As we move to the cross and Easter, Lent provides us with a season to get honest with the state of our soul. In honest reflection, we can confess and repent. We can return to God and be forgiven. All of this helps us experience the joy of Easter morning with renewal and a fresh perspective. Looking to observe a Holy Lent? Psalm 32 can be a guide as we seek to strengthen our relationship with the Lord and travel the coming season.

Peace,
Rev. Sherri

Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2026
Imposition of Ashes, 12 pm-1 pm, Sanctuary
Ash Wednesday Worship, 6 pm

Feb 18 Fellowship Dinner @ 5 pm
(We will begin serving 15 minutes early.)

Everyone is Welcome! RSVP: Text 256-490-5018

(If you have a standing Wednesday night reservation, you do not need to rsvp, unless you want to modify your reservation.)

\$7 per person, \$3 under 11, \$20 Family Max

Muffalattas, Red Beans & Rice, & Jambalaya, King Cake

Kids Menu: Chicken Fingers

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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

Security for Thursday Worship

February 12: Kirk Mabeus February 19: Mark Casey

ACOLYTES

Feb 15: Volunteer Feb 22: Clementine & Rhett Hilburn

February 15

Tech Team Schedule

Celebration: Sheila Freeman, Rob Reynolds

Traditions: Neil Mullin, Sheila Freeman

February 18-Ash Wednesday

Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman, Brad Barnes

February 22

Celebration: Rob Reynolds, Bill Haller, Carmen McKiven

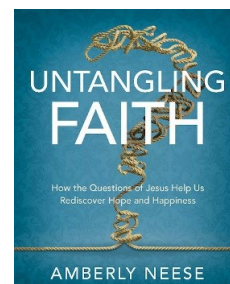
Traditions: Davis Varner, Wayne Payton, Brad Barnes



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.

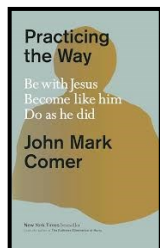
Untangling Faith by Amberly Neese, Wednesdays, 6 pm —Your questions can lead to a deeper faith and trust in God. Have you ever felt you struggled to find your faith footing? Join Amberly Neese in she explores the questions Jesus asked as a way to reclaim that faith. Chapters explore our own questions like Can God Be Trusted? and How Can I Grow in Faith. **We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday nights—Harriet Murray** Amberly’s unique humor and wit help the whole group find their way through deep and rich issues of personal faith, doubt, and growth.



Wonderful Wednesday Dinner *This Week 5 PM*
Muffalettas, Jambalaya, Red Beans & Rice , King Cake Kid’s Menu: Chicken Fingers
February 18, \$7 Per Person, \$3 age 11 & Under
Please text 256.490.5018 to make or change a reservation.

Sunday School: New Adult Studies

Transitions 10 am, Room 209



A new adventure begins January 11th in Room 209! You are Invited!

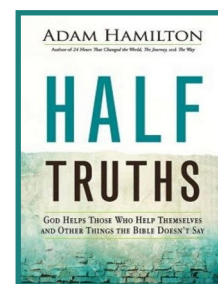
Practicing the Way by John Mark Comer—The disciples spent 3 years being apprentices to Jesus. They watched His every move and hung on every word. They were with Him 24/7. As a result, they, over time, became more and more like Him and began to do many of the things He did. With the Spirit’s help, with 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

Half Truths by Adam Hamilton—Beginning in January 2026

They are simple phrases. They sound Christian—like something you might find in the Bible. We’ve all heard these words. Maybe we’ve said them. They capture some element of truth, yet they miss the point in important ways.



Living Waters 10 am, Room 116 Rev. Ken Casey

Questions You Always Wanted to Ask About the Christian Faith and the Bible

“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 had a great time observing Valentine's Day this week. Lots of red and pink and hugs to go around. Registration continues for Summer 2026 and the 2026 – 2027 school year for **currently enrolled** students from February 17th through February 23rd. Scholastic Book Orders are due Wednesday, February 18th. Lunchbox Revolt Orders are due Thursday, February 19th.

Thanks ladies.



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

Wonderful Wednesday Dinner February 18 Muffalettas/Jambalaya/Red Beans & Rice
Kid's Menu: Chicken Fingers \$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
- 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

PARENTS Night Out

DROP OFF YOUR KIDS WITH MS. KATHARINE, AND ENJOY YOUR NIGHT OUT!
*NURSERY IS AVAILABLE

Saturday
February 14
6:00-9:00

HOSTED BY FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GADSDEN CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

GFUMC CHILDREN'S FEBRUARY UNIT

Miracles

WEDNESDAY'S AT 6:00

WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4
JESUS DOES EVERYTHING OUT OF LOVE.	JESUS CALLS US TO FOLLOW HIM.	JESUS KNOWS WHAT WE NEED	JESUS CAN DO ANYTHING.

YOU ARE THE GOD WHO PERFORMS MIRACLES;
YOU DISPLAY YOUR POWER AMONG THE PEOPLES."
PSALMS 77:34 (NIV)

Ash Wednesday, February 18

Imposition of Ashes 12pm to 1pm
(Sanctuary Open for Prayer and Reflection)
Worship with Imposition of Ashes, 6pm



Woven Continued

Last year, First United Methodist Church of Gadsden embarked on the Lenten journey of Woven, spending time looking at the story behind our beloved kneelers. This Lent, we pick up where we left off and examine the remaining symbols. This needlework is one of the greatest artistic assets of the congregation. For almost fifty years, worshippers have knelt on cushions handcrafted by skillful hands. Created in 1976 and restored in 2011, each work of art depicts rich symbols of our Christian faith and enhances our worship with such beauty. Find your favorite symbol and join us for Woven Continued. This series kicks off on Ash Wednesday and will conclude Easter.

—Rev. Sherri Reynolds



WOVEN

Sermon Series

Rev. Sherri Reynolds

A LENTEN JOURNEY TO EASTER

Images from the needlepoint at the chancel rail.

FEBRUARY 18 TO APRIL 5

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GADSDEN



February Mission Focus

UMCOR Disaster Relief Warehouse – Decatur, AL

The UMCOR Disaster Relief Warehouse in Decatur is a vital mission hub of the North Alabama Conference of The United Methodist Church. Through this ministry, disaster relief supplies are collected, assembled, stored, and distributed to communities impacted by hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, and other emergencies across the Southeast and throughout the United States.

The warehouse prepares UMCOR-standard relief kits, including cleaning buckets, hygiene kits, and other essential supplies that provide immediate assistance to families recovering from disaster.

When crisis strikes, shipments from Decatur are mobilized quickly, offering practical help and a tangible expression of Christ's love.

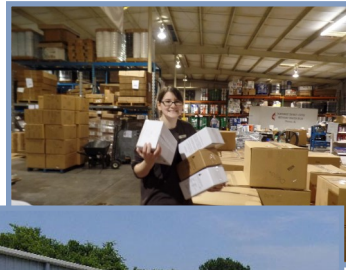
Volunteers are the heart of this ministry. Individuals, Sunday School classes, youth groups, mission teams, and church members of all ages can serve by sorting donations, assembling kits, packing supplies, and preparing shipments.

Opportunities are available for both small and large groups, and scheduling a volunteer day is simple through the warehouse's website or by contacting the office directly. No special skills are required—just willing hands and hearts ready to serve.

Through connectional giving and faithful volunteers, the UMCOR Disaster Relief Warehouse continues to bring hope, healing, and help to communities in their greatest time of need.

"Come & Serve With Us"

Their Motto *"Everything in the warehouse is doing no one any good. Let's get it out where it can do some good! Volunteer To Serve."* If you or your group would like to volunteer at the U.M. Disaster Warehouse please visit the Volunteer Page and signup today: [Volunteering](#)
Or, you can always call for more information: 256-341-9961



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

February open dates are 2/4 and 2/18

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

Save the Date:

March UWF Luncheon, 12 noon, March 9

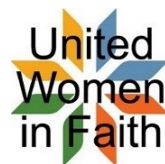
Guest Speaker:

Megan Barber, Upper Sand Mountain Parish

Located in Sylvania, Alabama, Upper Sand Mountain Parish is a United Methodist cooperative ministry serving communities across the rural Sand Mountain region of northeast Alabama. For more than 50 years, the Parish has been dedicated to alleviating poverty, building intentional community, and sharing the love of Christ through hands-on ministry.

Olivia Kendrick, President

Susan Copeland, Vice-President

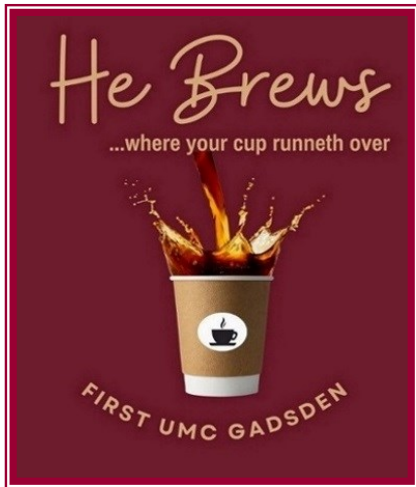


**Ladle of Love
Clothes Closet**

January 2026

**LOL 416
Clothes Closet 299**

**Thanks to our
Volunteers!**



Follow us on
Facebook and Instagram.



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



You are invited to connect with the GFUMC Family in a new and exciting way. Connect through the church app today by scanning the QR code above. You will now be able to find groups and connect with Teams, Leadership Groups, Sunday school classes, UWF Circles and more within the App.

Follow these steps to connect:

- Scan the QR Code and Click the link.
- “Join” by creating your profile with a password in the app (use “continue with email”).
- Discover your connections to the GFUMC church community, a smaller community (like UWF, choir, or Children’s Ministry, etc.) or a small group (like a Sunday school class or small group) or a church leadership team. There are so many ways to connect!
- Request to join or accept an invitation to join.
- You are now ready to send and receive notifications, messages, notices, reminders, prayer requests, and more within your GFUMC connections.



Greeters & Ushers for Worship

Sunday, February 15

Celebration: Rev. Ken & Peggy Casey

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

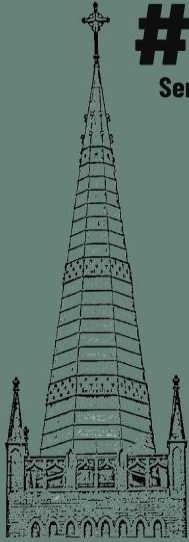
Sunday, February 22

Celebration: Steve & Kelley Roach

Traditions: Delores & Charles 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.





#WeAreFirst

Sermon Series January 8 - February 8
Rev. Sherri Reynolds

**Forging Disciples
Introducing Christ
Rendering Hope
Serving People
Transformation**

**“We Are First”
T-Shirts**

\$20.00

A limited supply of “We Are First, “Light Green” long sleeve t-shirts are now available.

Pick one up in the church office or email:
sheila@fumcgadsden.org

BUILDING A SOLID FOUNDATION
MATTHEW 7:24-27

SEPTEMBER 28-NOVEMBER 16
REV. SHERRI REYNOLDS

GENEROSITY 2026
First United Methodist Church of Gadsden

**“Building Upon a Solid Foundation,”
our 2026 Generosity Emphasis**

As of December 73 estimate of giving cards have been returned with a commitment of \$501,328.00

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

First UMC Gadsden Feb 15-Feb 21, 2026

Feb 15, Sunday

9:00 am-Celebration Worship
 10:00 am-HeBrews Coffee; Sunday School
11:00 am-Traditions
 12:30 pm-Casey Circle, Gathering Room

Feb 16, Monday

ELC closed
 9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym
 2:00 pm-4:00 pm-Pickle Ball, Gym
 5:30 pm-7:30 pm-Basketball practice, Gym

Feb 17, Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Winter Schedule
 5:00 pm-6:00 pm-Yoga, Gym
 6:00 pm-8:00 pm-Basketball practice, Gym

Feb 18, Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Winter Schedule
No Wednesday Morning Bible Study
12:00 pm-1:00 pm-Impositions of Ashes, Sanctuary
 5:00 pm-Wednesday night meal, Gathering Room
6:00 pm-Ash Wednesday Service, Sanctuary

Feb 19, Thursday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Winter Schedule
 9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym
5:30 pm—Thursday Worship
 5:30 pm-7:30 pm-Basketball Practice, Gym

Feb 20, Friday

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

Ash Wednesday
 February 18, 2026

*Imposition of Ashes,
 12 pm-1 pm, Sanctuary*

*Ash Wednesday Worship,
 6 pm, Sanctuary*

Feb 18 Fellowship Dinner @ 5 pm
 (Note early start time!)

Everyone is Welcome! RSVP: Text Sheila 256-490-5018
 (If you have a standing Wednesday night reservation, you do not need to rsvp,
 unless you want to modify your reservation.)

\$7 per person, \$3 under 11, \$20 Family Max

Muffalettas, Red Beans & Rice, & Jambalaya, King Cake
Kids Menu: Chicken Fingers

Immediate Prayer Concerns
 Chip Edwards Ray Macon
 Georgia Reese Moran (infant daughter of Dallas & Shannon-grandparents Jill & Rick)
 James Dial (newborn son of Jay & Taylor-grandparents Gary & Beth Dial)


Continued Prayer Concerns
 Olivia Kendrick Trish Blount Maitland Adams
 Marionette Bishop Dawn Rains
 Amy Epperson (daughter of Gene & Danna Dean)

#WeAreFirst T-Shirts
 Light Green” long sleeve “We Are
 First “T-Shirts are available for
 \$20.
 Sizes Adult Sm-3X.
 Supplies are limited.Pick one up in
 the church office or email:
 sheila@fumcgadsden.org

Birthdays

Feb 15 Carol Calahan, Jace McDill,
 Libby Reynolds
Feb 16 Sandra Hunter, Barbara Condra,
 Ann Carter Sasser
Feb 18 Becky Walker, Kelly Cox
Feb 19 Byron Hall, Courtney McEwen
Feb 20 Chris Dorsett, Jeremy Wilson
Feb 21 Ann Green, Vickie Handy,
 Shelby Russell

*Please update your
 family's record in the
 church office to include
 all dates of birth.*



Attendance Week of Feb 8, 2026

In Person Total *164	On Line Total 411
Worship Total 575	Thursday Worship *10
Celebration *53/237	Traditions *101/174
Nursery Sun/Wed *7	Youth SS *2
Adult Sunday School *50	Children's SS *3
Bible Study *38	Children Sun/Wed *20
Youth Sun/Wed *6	UWF *14

Year 2026 Week of February 8, 2026

General Offering Budget	\$ 13,040.00
General Offering Received	\$ 24,421.06
YTD Gen. Offering Budget	\$ 78,240.00
YTD Gen. Offering Rec'd	\$121,054.06

**Construction on
 Chestnut St.**

**Beginning the
 week of
 February 9,
 there will be
 construction to install a
 speed table at the
 current crosswalk on
 Chestnut St. Chestnut St
 between 5th and 6th St
 will be open for local
 traffic only.**

