



WOVEN
Sermon Series

CLING TO CHRIST: IVY

Psalm 63
Rev. Sherri Reynolds



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

Sermon Notes: Thursday, Feb 19 & Sunday, Feb 22, 2026

Ivy has different layers of symbolism for the church. Ivy, which is green, denotes everlasting life. The three leaves on the Ivy vine remind us of the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Ivy clings to almost everything as it grows. Thus, in gripping tightly it represents fidelity and reminds us to cling to Christ. In a chaotic world, the symbol is a good reminder to cling to Christ. Like the Ivy we find support and like with the aerial roots of ivy, we gain nutrients from Christ who supports us. What is different from Ivy, is that as we hold tight to Christ, Christ holds us.

Psalm 63 expresses this desire for God, as well as any scripture. In fact, the Psalmist states, "I will cling to you, your right hand upholds me." These beautiful words are a life which desires deep connection with Lord and turns to God for support and strength. This week, as you feel that you need support, think of Ivy and Psalm 63.

Journeying Through Lent with you,
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

Security for Thursday Worship

February 19: Mark Casey February 26: Mark Condra

ACOLYTES Feb 22: Clementine & Rhett Hilburn
Mar 1: Sara Kate, Jake, & Carter Thornburg

Tech Team Schedule

February 22

Celebration: Rob Reynolds, Bill Haller, Carmen McKiven

Traditions: Davis Varner, Wayne Payton, Brad Barnes

March 1

Celebration: Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman, Carmen McKiven

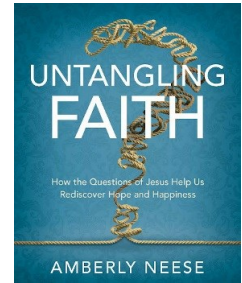
Traditions: Wayne Payton, Sheila Freeman, Rob Reynolds

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.

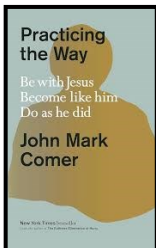
Untangling Faith by Amberly Neese, Wednesdays, 6 pm —Your questions can lead to a deeper faith and trust in God. Have you ever felt you struggled to find your faith footing? Join Amberly Neese in she explores the questions Jesus asked as a way to reclaim that faith. Chapters explore our own questions 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 at 5:15 pm
Barbecue, Potato Salad, Baked Beans, Dessert
February 25, \$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!

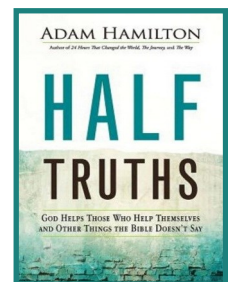
Practicing the Way by John Mark Comer—The disciples spent 3 years being apprentices to Jesus. They watched His every move and hung on every word. They were with Him 24/7. As a result, they, over time, became more and more like Him and began to do many of the things He did. With the Spirit’s help, with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

Registration continues for Summer 2026 and the 2026–2027 school year for **currently** enrolled students from February 17th through February 26th.

Lunchbox Revolt is Tuesday, February 24th. McDonald's will be served and pre-orders were due Feb 19th. Re-scheduled Meet and Greet for those going into 2K and 4K are Wednesday, February 25th.

Thanks Ladies.
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

Wonderful Wednesday Dinner February 25: 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 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 77:14 (NIV)

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

February 18	Sacrifice—The Ram	Leviticus 9:1-7. Joel 2:1-2,12-17
February 22	Cling to Christ—Ivy	Psalms 63
March 1	Holy Spirit—The Dove	Luke 3:21-22
March 8	Reward of the Faithful—The Crown and Cross	James 1:12
March 15	The Fruit of the Spirit—The Strawberry	Galatians 5:22-25
March 22	The Body of Christ—Beehive with Bees	1 Corinthians 12:4-12
March 29	Palm Sunday, Christ the Victor—Lamb and the Cross	John 1:29, Matthew 21:1-11
April 2	Holy Thursday, Body and Blood—Wheat and Grapes	Luke 22:14-23
April 5	Easter Sunday, The Herald—The Dogwood	Matthew 28:1-10

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

March open dates are

3/4 and 3/18

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:

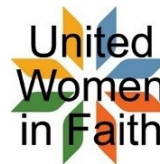
Megan Barber, Upper Sand Mountain Parish

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.

LuVerna Waid Circle will meet Tuesday, March 3 at 6:00 pm.

Olivia Kendrick, President

Susan Copeland, Vice-President

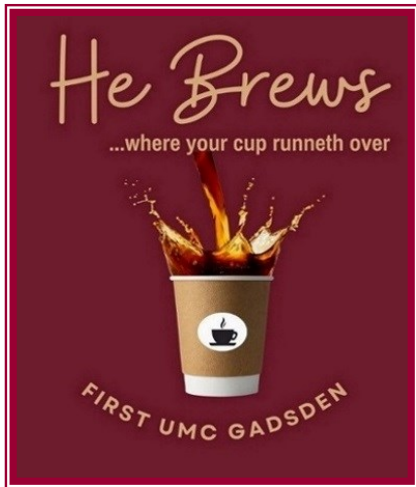


**Ladle of Love
Clothes Closet**

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 22

Celebration: Steve & Kelley Roach

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

Sunday, March 1

Celebration: Butch Herb; Vicki Handy

Traditions: Sheila & Terry 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 or phone: 256.543.8200.



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.

March 28, 2026

Basic Class: Jamie Dupress

Leading Worship: Trent Savage

Deadline to Register: March 21, 2026

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.

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](https://www.google.com/maps/place/320+3rd+St+SE,+Cullman,+AL+35055).

Everyone will receive a certificate for taking the class. If you have any questions, please contact me. I look forward to seeing you there.



March Madness is Coming!

*Watch for ballots in the worship services
on March 8, 15, 22, & 29*

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 UMC.

Esther

Lois

Hannah

Tabitha/Dorcas

Ruth

The widow with the mite

Rebekah

The Woman at the Well

Hagar

Elisabeth

Sarah

Martha

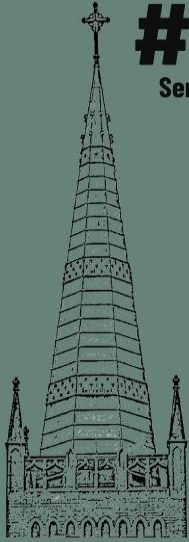
The Woman caught in Adultery

Woman who touched the hem of Jesus' garment

Rachel

**Mary (mother of Jesus), Mary Magdalene, and Mary of Bethany are not included, since they were top vote getters in the 2025 bracket for favorite Students of Jesus.*

A colorful graphic for a fundraiser. At the top is a large, stylized Mardi Gras mask with purple, green, and gold accents. Below the mask are strings of colorful beads in purple, green, and gold. The text 'Thank you for your purchase of' is written in a cursive font. Below that, 'RANDAZZO' is in purple, 'AUTHENTIC LOUISIANA' is in yellow, and 'KING CAKES' is in green. The text 'We hope you enjoyed yours, as much as we did ours! We are so excited to announce that this fundraiser will provide \$3489.45 for ELC needs and special projects. ---Friends of the ELC' is in a bold, black font. At the bottom, 'FUNDRAISER BENEFITTING THE EARLY LEARNING CENTER OF FIRST UMC GADSDEN' is written in purple. The graphic is decorated with various Mardi Gras icons like maracas, a trumpet, a drum, and a fleur-de-lis.



#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

SEPTEMBER 28-NOVEMBER 16
REV. SHERRI REYNOLDS

BUILDING A SOLID FOUNDATION
MATTHEW 7:24-27

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 22-Feb 28, 2026

Feb 22, Sunday

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

Feb 23, Monday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Winter Schedule
9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym
2:00 pm-4:00 pm-Pickle Ball, Gym

Feb 24, Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Winter Schedule
1:15 pm-Staff Meeting
5:00 pm-6:00 pm-Yoga, Gym

Feb 25, Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Winter Schedule
11:00 am-Wednesday Morning Bible Study
5:15 pm-Wednesday night meal, Gathering Room
6:00 pm-Children's Activities, Room 108
Youth Activities, Room 211 & Gym
6:00 pm-Bible Study Groups, Room 110 & 208
6:00 pm-Choir Practice

Feb 26, Thursday

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

Feb 27, Friday


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

#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

New Church Key

We have new locks on our doors so if you have a key to the church, you need to bring it in and swap it for a new one and sign our list. See Susan Swann or Matthew Vance.

Thank You!




Honorariums & Memorials

General Budget Fund In memory of Ida Long White given by Anna Mullin.
Music Fund In memory of Ida Long White given by Anna Mullin.

Immediate Prayer Concerns Trish Harrell
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
Chip Edwards Olivia Kendrick Maitland Adams Dawn Rains
Amy Epperson (daughter of Gene & Danna Dean)
Andrew Swann (grandson of Danny Swann)

Holy Baptism
2.15.2026



Wrenley Faye Calcote

Birthdays

Feb 22 Martha Kitchens,
Eileen Graham, Wendy Phelps,
Haley Freeman

Feb 24 Terry Bishop, Cindy Isbell

Feb 26 George White, Stanley Taylor,
Susan Copeland, Lachlan McNair

Feb 27 Inez McDonald, Andrew Yarnell,
Leigh Phillips, Donald Edwards,
Leah Rhodes

Feb 28 Scott Dobbins

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



Attendance Week of Feb 15, 2026

In Person Total *185	On Line Total 367
Worship Total 575	Thursday Worship *15
Celebration *70/253	Traditions *100/114
Nursery Sun/Wed *10	Youth SS *3
Adult SS*46	Children's SS *2
Bible Study *31	
Children Sun/Wed *30	Youth Sun/Wed *14
UWF *12	Parent's Night Out *17
Kids/Teens	

Year 2026 Week of February 15, 2026

General Offering Budget	\$ 13,040.00
General Offering Received	\$ 11,221.94
YTD Gen. Offering Budget	\$ 91,280.00
YTD Gen. Offering Rec'd	\$132,276.06

Construction on Chestnut St.

Beginning the week of February 16, 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.

