

Word
from the
Windows

“The Rich Young Ruler”

Rev. Sherri Reynolds



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

Sermon Notes: Thursday, February 22 & Sunday, February 25

This week’s window of focus is Christ and the Rich Young Ruler.

This window depicts Jesus’ conversation with a man, in which Jesus was asked, “What must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus responds with a question. Eventually leading to Jesus telling the man to sell all he owns, give it to the poor, and follow him. The man leaves sad, and the people are left to wonder, “Who can be saved?” To this, Jesus responds with, “What is impossible with man is possible with God.” This exchange is found in three of the four gospels and has left countless generations to ponder eternal life, salvation, and our relationship with money. This is a conversation which is as relevant today as it was two thousand years ago.

As you prepare for worship this week, read Mark 10:17-27, and reflect upon these questions:

- 1) What barriers prevent you from fully following Jesus?
- 2) How is your salvation a miracle of God?
- 3) How can you identify with the rich young ruler?

I hope you join us Sunday as we see the beauty and hear the story.

Rev. Sherri

Join a Small Group Study for Lent

Wednesday Mornings 11 am (beginning February 21)

- “The Chosen Bible Study” with Rev. Sherri, Gathering Room/Rm 201
- Wednesday Nights 6 pm (beginning February 21)
- “The Chosen Bible Study” with Rev. Sherri, Room 208
- “Seven Words” by Susan Robb with Harriet Murray, Room 110

Thursdays, 7 am

- “Lent Guide”, Men at the Well, The Choice Restaurant

Table of Contents:

- Page 1—Sermon Notes; Tech Schedule; Acolyte Schedule; Thursday Worship Security
- Page 2—Sunday School Classes; Small Groups
- Page 3—ELC News; Student Ministries; Children’s Ministry
- Page 4— Words from the Windows; March Madness (Favorite Hymns)
- Page 5—GFUMC Missions News; Clothes Closet; Ladle of Love; United Women in Faith.
- Page 6—Inviting Ministries, HeBrews, Pickleball
- Page 7—Generosity 2024-Ways to Give, Online Giving; Venmo
- Page 8— Calendar; Prayer Concerns; Memorials; Birthdays; Weekly Reports

Worship Opportunities

5:30 pm Thursday Worship

Sunday Mornings: Celebration 9 am*
Traditions 11 am*

*In Person (Sanctuary) and Online

www.fumcgadsden.org/media

ACOLYTES

February 25 Sara Kate and Jake Thornburg
March 3 Luke Barnes

Security for Thursday Worship

February 22 Kirk Mabeus
February 29 Mark Condra

Tech Team Schedule

February 25

Celebration: Sheila Freeman, Bill Haller, Brad Barnes
Traditions: Mark Condra, Sheila Freeman

March 3

Celebration: Eric Wright, Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman
Traditions: Sheila Freeman, Brad Barnes

Sunday SCHOOL

Classes for All Ages!

**Children's Sunday School Rooms 108 and 104
Youth Sunday School Room 211**

**New Young Adult Sunday School Room 209
Pathfinder/Seekers Room 208
Living Water Room 116**

(Nursery provided for Children under 3)

**Wednesday Morning Bible Study
w/Pastor Sherri**

**Bible Study with Rev. Sherri, Wednesdays @ 11 am
The Chosen Bible Study**



Men at the Well Thursday Mornings, 7:00 am

You are invited to join the weekly Bible study with the Men at the Well small group. They are currently meeting at the Choice Restaurant at 7 am.

Contact Todd Rains, Mark Condra, Mark Casey, or any of the Men at the Well for more information.

**Wonderful
Wednesday
Fellowship Dinner
Feb 28, 5:15 pm
\$7 Adults, \$3 11 & U
Italian Night**

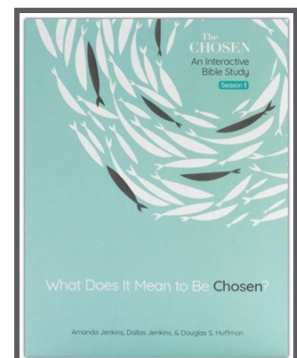
Adult Small Groups @ Wonderful Wednesdays

6 pm Small Group with Harriet Murray, Room 110

**Seven Words-Listening to Christ from the Cross
by Susan Robb**

Join Pastor Sherri on Wed. @ 6 pm, The Chosen Bible Study

Rev. Sherri is leading a Bible study based on *The Chosen*, Season 1. This popular Christian historical drama focuses on people who encountered Jesus, and how Jesus may have been viewed through their eyes. The study includes episodes from the show, examination of relevant scriptures, separation of scripture from dramatization within the episodes, theological reflection, and personal application. The small group study is offered at 11am and 6pm on Wednesdays, in room 208. No books are required. Classes will last until March 20 (skipping February 14 for Ash Wednesday). **Room 208**



ELC News

We were all excited for Mrs. Janet's return. Registration continues for all currently enrolled students. Deadline for commitments is Thursday, February 29th. Tuesday, February 27th is Lunchbox Revolt and we will be having McDonald's. Teacher "Meet and Greets" will be hosted Wednesday, February 28th. Spring Pictures will be held Tuesday, March 5th and Wednesday, March 6th. This includes Cap and Gown pictures for our 4k students.

—Helene



Youth Ministry News



"The Chosen Bible Study"
 Feb 4 - Sheila Freeman
 Feb 11- Rev. Sherri Reynolds
 Feb, 18 Sheila Freeman
 Feb. 25 Barbara Condra

Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Dinner

5:00 pm, Feb 28:

Italian Night

\$7 Per Person

\$3 Age 11 & Under

Please make a reservation:

Text: 256-490-5018

Youth Group Meets

Wednesdays at 6 pm each week!

March 9 Havoc Hockey
 March 24-31 Spring Break

Youth Counselor
 Carmen McKiven

Children's Ministry

SPRING 2024
GFUMC CHILDREN'S CALENDAR

Children's Church, Sunday's 9:00 & 11:00 Wonderful Wednesdays @6:00

<p>FEBRUARY</p> <p>February 11 Valentine's Day party!</p> <p>February 14 Ash Wednesday @6</p> <p>Wednesday Unit How To?: Jesus' teachings</p>	<p>MARCH</p> <p>March 16 Easter Egg Hunt</p> <p>March 24 Children will sing at Palm Sunday service</p> <p>Wednesday Unit Glow in the Dark: Lead us to Easter</p>
<p>APRIL</p> <p>April 17 Family Night: Cupcake Wars</p> <p>Wednesday Unit Throw Back: Jesus' trendy teachings</p>	<p>MAY</p> <p>May 15 Annual GFUMC Picnic</p> <p>Wednesday Unit One Small Step: Stories from Acts</p>

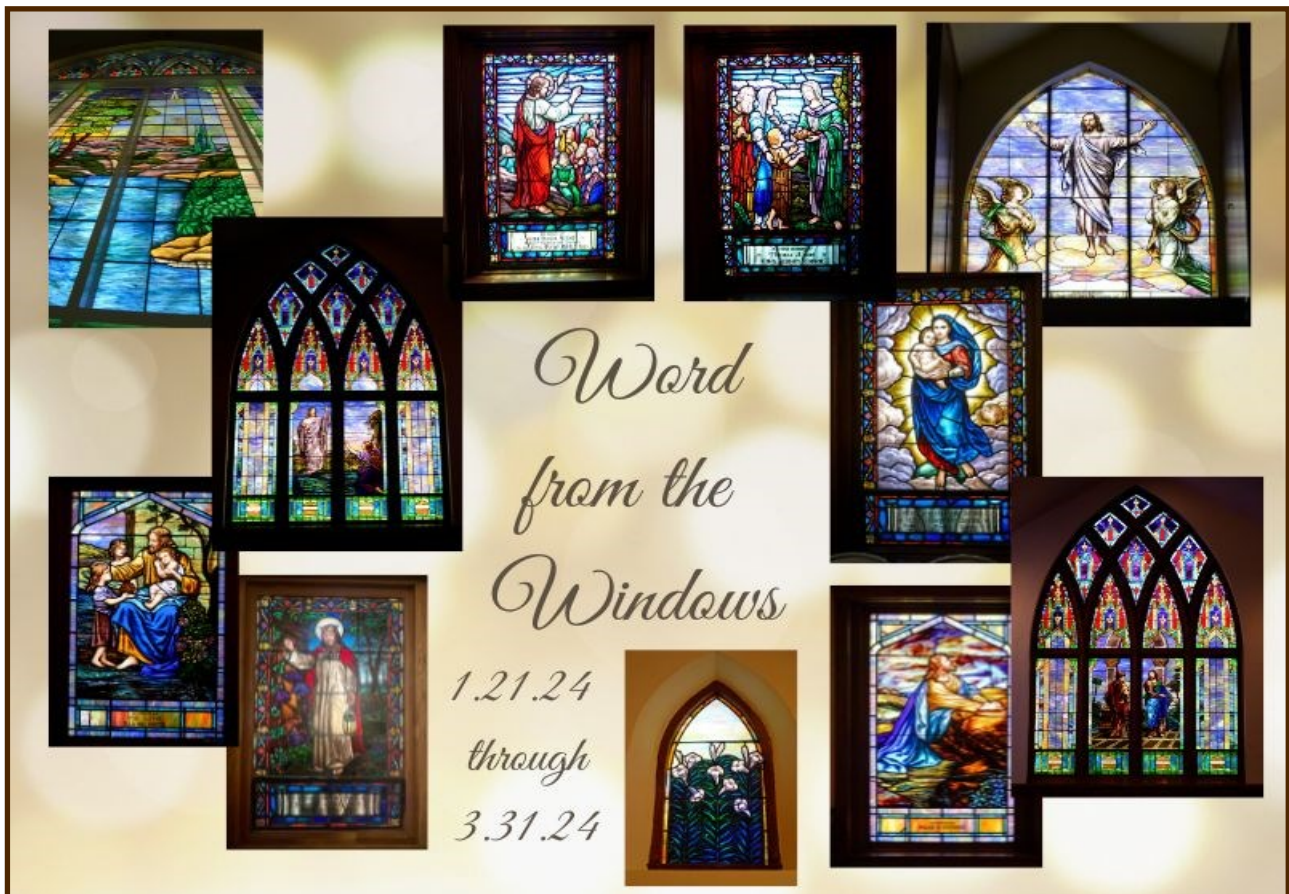
★ Mark your calendar! GFUMC Vacation Bible School, June 3-June 6 ★

MARCH MADNESS

FAVORITE WORSHIP HYMNS

You have likely heard of March Madness. This term relates to the excitement around NCAA tournament play for college basketball during the month of March. Fans have been known to keep up with the tournament with brackets. Others create fantasy brackets to predict the outcome. There is a lot of fun in the spring with basketball and bracket making.

At First United Methodist Church, we are going to embark on a little March Madness of our own. Our madness has nothing to do with basketball, but our brackets are built around songs that we love. During the month of March, when you attend worship, you will find brackets of some of your favorite Christian songs going head-to-head against one another to determine the winning song of the church. We will start with 16 songs suggested by the staff, choir, and praise band and reduce the number in half each week, until we reach one which will be announced on Easter. The final four will then become the topic for a music-based series this summer. Voting for your favorite will take place in worship and you must be present to mark your bracket.



See the Beauty... Hear the Story.

From January 21, 2024 through April 14, 2024, the sermon series, "Word from the Windows," will feature the history and scripture stories of the beautiful stained glass windows that are in our sanctuary, prayer room, Narthex and William's Parlor (Bride's Room) and other areas adjacent to the sanctuary. Come and worship together on Thursdays at 5:30 pm or on Sunday mornings at 9 am or 11 am, each week.

Mission Focus



During the months of February and March, we will meet United Methodist Missionaries from around the world.

Joseph "Joe" Leslie Riddle is a missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church, serving as a church developer in Lusaka, Zambia in the South Congo/Zambia Episcopal Area.

An elder in the North Alabama Annual Conference, Joe most recently was associate pastor at First United Methodist Church, Pell City, Alabama. He previously served as pastor of Wesley Chapel UMC (2016-21) and as director of recreation ministries at St. Paul UMC (2014-16). He and his spouse, Ashley Waite Riddle, have two young children.

A graduate of Jefferson County International Baccalaureate School, Joe earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in communication and information science from the University of Alabama and a Master of Divinity degree from Emory University, Atlanta.

Joe grew up at First United Methodist Church, Trussville, Alabama, attending every Sunday and Wednesday night with his family.

"In high school," he recalled, "I began to question my faith in God after seeing so many leaders and people I trusted stumble in their Christian walk and, at the same time, getting to know people who were good people but not Christian. I began to doubt and didn't really believe in God but stayed connected with a faith community through the Wesley Foundation at the University of Alabama, mostly for food and friends.

During spring break of his junior year, Joe participated in a mission journey to help two friends who had established a nonprofit for foster children in Lee County, Alabama. Working with a foster child, he "recognized God's presence and renewing love and grace in their life, transforming a story that had begun with evil and devastation," Joe said. "I recognized God's presence in that place, and my faith was restored. I have continued to grow my faith through mission work, loving community and dedicated study in seminary and weekly now as a pastor."

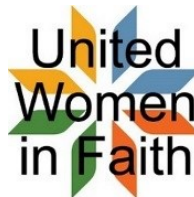
After experiencing faith renewed in college, Joe worked as a General Board of Global Ministries summer mission intern in Cookson, Oklahoma. "It was a very trying time," he said, "as I lived alone in a very rural part of the state. I finished college and sought jobs associated with my degree. I worked a few odd jobs before out of nowhere being offered a position in Germany as part of an international missions team for a year."

Hesitant about the opportunity, Joe prayed. "Through much prayer and several life events that made it easier for me to leave," he said, "I decided to go. I heard about the position at Easter, and by August, I was in Germany." Joe figured he would find his "real career" when he returned home. However, God chose that time to call Joe to ordained ministry and mission work. Realizing he could do ministry for the rest of his life, Joe was filled "with energy and purpose beyond anything else I had ever done," he said. "I ended up staying a second year in Germany before returning to the U.S. for seminary at Candler School of Theology. Throughout my time there and in my work over the last six years as a local pastor, I have repeatedly been reminded and affirmed in my call to mission."

United Women in Faith

UWF Luncheon will be Monday, March 11 at 12 noon. Our speaker will be Elaine Harris Spearman, Esq. The topic will be "Memories of a Foot Soldier of the Civil Rights Movement."

Make your reservation by noon on March 8 with Olivia Kendrick by phone or text message. 205-454-4375



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

February open dates are

2/7 and 2/21

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

#gfumcreconnect2023

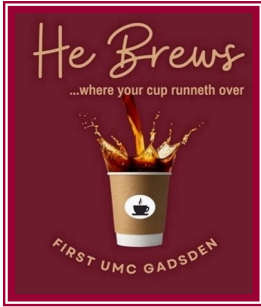
Clients Served

January 2024

Ladle of Love 368

Clothes Closet 160

Thanks to our Volunteers!



Inviting Ministries

Please join us for HeBrews Coffee Café between the regular Sunday morning worship services, from 10 am to 11 am. *We can't wait to see you there!!!*

**Mondays
2-4 pm**

Pickleball
COME AND PLAY!
SPORTS | FRIENDS | MONDAYS @ FIRST

First UMC Gym | 115 S. 5th Street
2nd Floor | Gadsden, AL 35901

ENTER AT THE CHESTNUT ST FOYER OFFICE DOOR
First United Methodist Church of Gadsden

CARLA WATSON



Carla grew up in Hokes Bluff, AL, attending Hokes Bluff High School before pursuing the teaching profession. Her collegiate route began with Gadsden State Community College, followed by receiving a BS degree in Education from Jacksonville State University and a Masters degree in Elementary Education from the University of Alabama. She began her career teaching at Highland Elementary, then taught at Rainbow Middle School. She continued teaching at the middle-school level at Gaston, and completed her career at Glencoe Middle School, where she worked for 17 years before retiring. Carla has two children: a daughter, Casey, who lives in Newnan, GA, and is married with one son in the 10th grade; and a son, Cameron Watson, who lives in Atlanta, GA. Carla's hobbies include reading suspense novels and occasionally non-fiction

works, as well as working with plants and cooking for visiting relatives. She lives in Southside and is one of the newest members of our church, having joined on January 21, 2024.

New Beginnings

2024

Generosity

ISAIAH 43:19

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

I am so excited about the year ahead. By the power of the Holy Spirit, I can feel that God is doing a new thing at First United Methodist Church, and I am blessed to be on this journey with you!

In Christ, Rev. Shu Reynolds

Secure Online Giving



Scan the QR Code or
Text to Give: 256-344-8464
First United Methodist Church of Gadsden

New! First UMC Gadsden is now a registered charity and can receive donations through Venmo:

@FirstUMCGadsden

(Please search in Venmo under charities or follow the link in the QR Code.)

Please note: This new option for online giving is IN ADDITION TO First UMC Gadsden's eGiving platform. No changes have been made to our online giving platform where one-time & recurring gifts, and text to give are all still available!

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

Search **@FirstUMCGadsden** in Venmo, under charities or follow the link in the QR Code.



venmo

Calendar for February 25-March 2, 2024

Feb 25 Sunday

9:00 am- Celebration Worship, Sanctuary
 10:00- am Sunday School for all ages
 HeBrews Coffee, Chestnut Street Foyer
 11:00 am- Traditions Worship, Sanctuary

Feb 26 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-Pickleball, Gym
 5:00 pm-Trustees Meeting, Parlor

Feb 27 Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Spring Schedule
 5:00 pm-6:00 pm- Yoga, Gym
 5:00 pm-Finance Team meeting, Parlor
 6:00 pm-Board of Stewards meeting

Feb 28 Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm- ELC Spring Schedule
 11:00 am-12:00 pm- Bible Study, Room 208
 5:15 pm- Wednesday night meal, Gathering Room
 6:00 pm-Children & Youth activities
 Gym & Rooms 108 & 211
 6:00 pm-Small Group Study, Rooms 110 & 208
 6:00 pm-Choir practice, Choir room


Feb 29 Thursday

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


Mar 1 Friday

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

In Memory of His Life
Rodney Wendell Thompson
 February 17, 2024



The flower on the altar is in honor of
Jane Catherine Sohor
 born February 1, 2024
 Parents: Sally & Roman Sohor
 Grandparents: Lynn & Janet Page
 Aunts & Uncles: Molly, Holt & Kelly Page
 Cousins: Jackson & Grace Ann Page
 Given by The Early Learning Center
 and GFUMC Children's Ministry



Honorariums & Memorials

General Budget Fund

In memory of George Varner, given by Ethel Sell Vaughan.


WHEELCHAIR Available Thanks to a donation from the Howell Erwin Fund by the United Women of Faith, the church now has a transport wheelchair. This is available for anyone needing it in while attending church or for a special need to go to a doctor's appointment. It must be checked out through the church office. *Thanks, UWF*

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Family of Rodney Thompson
 Asher Mae Collins
 Judy Collins (Tripp Collins' mother)
 Jaron Gray (Donny & Janie Gray's grandson)

Continued Prayer Concerns

Lisa Dobbins Bessie Crow



Birthdays

Feb 26 George White, Jr., Stanley Taylor, Susan Copeland
Feb 27 Inez McDonald, Rev. Andy Yarnell, Leah Rhodes, Leigh Carroll Phillips, Donald Edwards
Feb 28 Scott Dobbins, Elisabeth Hardin
Mar 1 Eli Hosey
Mar 2 Dr. Jim Phillips, Dr. George Fant



Week of February 18, 2023

In Person Total *149 Worship Total 601
 Online 452 Thursday Worship *7
 Celebration Service *46/228
 Traditional Service *96/224
 Sunday School-Adult *34/1 Children *7
 Sunday School-Youth *2 Nursery *2
 Bible Study Groups *6 Children *33
 Youth *8 Ash Wednesday *95 *in person

General Offering Budget \$11,400.00
 General Offering Received \$10,807.00
 YTD General Offering Budget \$79,800.00
 YTD General Offering Rec'd \$106,093.00

Update Your Contact Information

Please help us update the membership records in the church office with your current mailing address, phone number, email address and birthdays for all family members.

Updates may be sent to susan@fumcgadsden.org or call Susan in the church office @ 256-543-8200.