



WOVEN
Sermon Series

HOLY SPIRIT: THE DOVE

Luke 3:21-22

Rev. Sherri Reynolds



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

Sermon Notes: Thursday, Feb 26 & Sunday, Mar 1, 2026

Universally the dove is a symbol for peace. Their gentle nature has led cultures across the ages to associate them with a nurturing spirit, peace, and love. In the Bible, a dove is the bearer of the hope. A dove came back to Noah in the ark with the branch of an olive tree, giving Noah the assurance that floods were ending and a promise of new life. Doves were part of the sacrificial system and were an acceptable offering in the temple. In Christianity, the dove is a symbol for the Holy Spirit (Luke 3:21-22).

Jesus' Baptism was a Holy Trinity moment of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God's voice for heaven affirmed that Jesus was the Son, in whom God was well pleased. The Holy Spirit came in the form of a dove. The Holy Spirit would later come in the form of tongues of fire and the sound of rushing wind. (Acts 2). Just as the Spirit was with Jesus at his baptism and the disciples at Pentecost, so we believe that the Holy Spirit continues to be with us. Take a moment and notice the Spirit with you. How is God affirming and empowering you today?

Journeying through Lent with you, 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 26: Mark Condra March 5: Todd Rains

ACOLYTES Mar 1: Sara Kate, Jake, & Carter Thornburg
March 8: Anna Kate Casey, Jade Collins, & Layne Godfrey

Tech Team Schedule

March 1

Celebration: Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman, Carmen McKiven
Traditions: Wayne Payton, Sheila Freeman, Rob Reynolds

March 8

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

Bible Studies & Small Groups for Adults



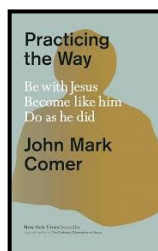
Join Rev. Sherri for a Bible Study based on *The Chosen (Season 3)* Each week will focus on a different episode with a Bible Study of the scripture behind the scenes and each week will stand alone, so you can plug in as your schedule permits. **Classes will be at 11 am and 6 pm in Room 208.** (Skipping 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

Wonderful Wednesday Dinner at 5:15 pm
March 4: Assorted Sub Sandwiches
February 25, \$7 Per Person, \$3 age 11 & Under

Sunday School: New Adult Studies

Transitions 10 am, Room 209



The Adventure Continues! Room 209! You are Invited!

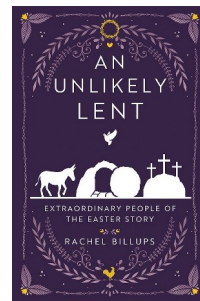
Practicing the Way by John Mark Comer—The disciples spent 3 years being apprentices to Jesus. They watched His every move and hung on every word. They were with Him 24/7. As a result, they, over time, became more and more like Him and began to do many of the things He did. With the Spirit's help, with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

An Unlikely Lent *Extraordinary People of the Easter Story* by Rachel Billups

Notice the Unexpected in Easter. The crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus are at the heart of the story of Easter. But the resurrection was not witnessed in isolation; it unfolded before a crowd. By seeing the Easter story through their eyes, we may discover that the resurrection is not just a past event, but an invitation into something new, unexpected, and unlikely. Walk through this season with eyes wide open, ready to see where God is moving, even in the margins. Since the cross is not the end of the story, embrace every unlikely moment along the way.



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 loved our McDonald's this past week. We had a great turnout at our rescheduled 2K and 4K teacher meet and greets. This week are Spring Pictures as well as 4K Cap and Gown Pictures. They are Tuesday, March 3rd and Wednesday March 4th. Registration continues with church members who are not currently enrolled. Families will be contacted through the waitlists for any open spots they qualify for. Thanks, 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 March 4: Sub Sandwiches
 \$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

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

Save the Date:

March UWF Luncheon, 12 noon, March 9

Guest Speaker:

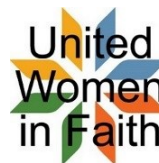
Megan Barber, Upper Sand Mountain Parish

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

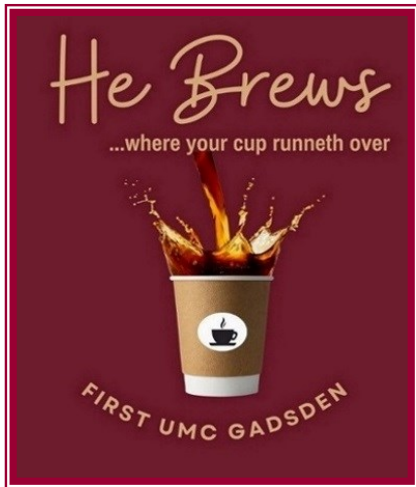
Susan Copeland, Vice-President

**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, March 1

Celebration: Butch Herb; Vicki Handy

Traditions: Sheila & Terry Bishop; Bob & Becky Oltman

Sunday, March 8

Celebration: David & Brenda Holmes

Traditions: Mandell & 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 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

Hannah

Ruth

Rebekah

Hagar

Sarah

The woman caught in adultery

The woman who touched the hem of Jesus' garment

Lois

Tabitha/Dorcas

The widow with the mite

The Woman at the Well

Elisabeth

Martha

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.*

Do You Know?

TERRE LEE



Terre grew up in Gadsden and graduated from Gadsden High School. She attended Gadsden State Community College and received an associate degree as a Medical Assistant, then received an undergraduate degree in Finance from The University of the State of New York in Albany, NY.

She is retired from Accounting for the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and is a Certified Classroom Instructor for the Federal Government, teaching instructional and technical writing all over the country.

Her interests include working with Quarter horses on her farm and painting domesticated animals and wildlife in acrylics and oils.

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.

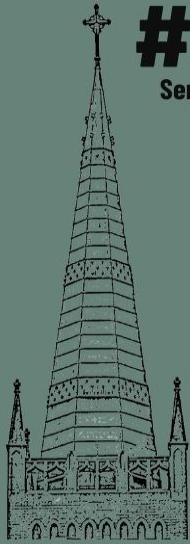
Please register with me by phone 334-863-1142 or email me barbarussell57@gmail.com. I will be in contact with you within 24 hours. If you register for a class and cannot attend, please notify me as I plan the food by the number attending.

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.



#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. (XS to 3XL)
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 Mar 1-Mar 7, 2026

Mar 1, Sunday

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

Mar 2, 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

Mar 3, Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Winter Schedule
 9:00 am-11:00 am-Clothes Closet workday
 1:15 pm-Staff Meeting
 5:00 pm-6:00 pm-Yoga, Gym
 6:00 pm-LuVerna Waid Circle, Room 208

Mar 4, Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Winter Schedule
 9:00 am-11:00 am-Clothes Closet open
 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

Mar 5, Thursday

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

Mar 6, Friday

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

Construction: Please Use Caution



Construction to install a "speed table" at the crosswalk on Chestnut St is underway. Chestnut St between 5th and 6th St is open for local traffic only and can be used to access the church building.

Take 6th St to Chestnut St to access the Portico entrance.
 Take 5th St to Chestnut St to access the parking lot across from the office.

New Church Keys

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



Thank You!

Continued Prayer Concerns

Georgia Reese Moran (infant daughter of Dallas & Shannon-grandparents Jill & Rick)
 James Dial (newborn son of Jay & Taylor-grandparents Gary & Beth Dial)
 Linda Cleveland
 Trish Harrell
 Dawn Rains
 Amy Epperson (daughter of Gene & Danna Dean)



February
 15, 2026

Terre Lee

Birthdays

Mar 1 Savannah Myers
Mar 2 Rev. Dawson Harmon,
 Dr. Jim Phillips, Dr. George Fant
Mar 3 Sheila Bishop, Harry Sokol,
 Jeanne Sims, Todd Frederick,
 Ellen McCollum, Ada Blount
Mar 4 Allie Cannon Smith
Mar 5 Becca Echols, Darby Hayes
Mar 6 Beth Kimball
Mar 7 Barbara Smith
Please update your family's record in the church office to include all dates of birth. Thank you! Susan Swann



Attendance Week of Feb 22, 2026

In Person Total *321	On Line Total 359
Worship Total 680	Thursday Worship *11
Celebration *55/195	Traditions *94/164
Nursery Sun/Wed *6	Youth SS *3
Adult SS*45	Children's SS *2
Bible Study *7	
Children Sun/Wed *18	Youth Sun/Wed *13
Ash Wednesday Services *161	Meal *88

Year 2026 Week of February 22, 2026

General Offering Budget	\$ 13,040.00
General Offering Received	\$ 8,661.00
YTD Gen. Offering Budget	\$104,320.00
YTD Gen. Offering Rec'd	\$140,937.00

#WeAreFirst T-Shirts

Light green, long sleeve "We Are First" T-Shirts are available for \$20. Sizes: Adult Sm-3X. Supplies are limited. Pick yours up in the church office!