



WOVEN

Sermon Series

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT THE STRAWBERRY

Galatians 5:22-25
Rev. Sherri Reynolds



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

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

How does a strawberry connect with being a Christian? The strawberry grows close to the ground, which is said to represent humility. In medieval art, the strawberry often appears in the garden of Mary, mother of Jesus. In the painting, *Madonna of the Strawberries*, Mary is seated on a strawberry bed and garlanded with strawberry leaves. Additionally, Strawberries, along with other fruit, symbolize the fruit of the spirit. While there is not a specific reference to a strawberry in the Bible, there is still a connection reminding us of the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

When the Holy Spirit works in your life, you notice the traits of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, and self-control. Like with an actual strawberry, your fruit may not be fully mature in these areas, but hopefully you are growing. This week, pause to consider how you are ripening in faith through love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-25).

Journeying through Lent with you,
Rev. Sherri



Holy Week March 29 - April 5

- ◆ **March 29, Palm Sunday Worship**
9 am—Celebration & 11 am—Traditions
- ◆ **March 30 – April 3, Mon. through Fri., 12:05 pm, Holy Week Worship, followed by lunch in the Gathering Room, \$5**
- ◆ **April 2, Maundy Thursday, 6 pm, Holy Communion**
- ◆ **April 5, Easter Sunday Worship**
9 am—Celebration & 11 am—Traditions
Communion will be offered in the Chapel immediately following each worship service.

Table of Contents:

- Page 1-** Sermon Notes; Tech Schedule; Acolytes; **Holy Week Calendar**
- Page 2-** New Bible Studies & Small Groups; Adult Studies for Lent in Sunday School Classes
- Page 3-** ELC News; Student Ministries; Youth Calendar of Activities; Children's Ministry
- Page 4-** **"Woven Continued" Sermon Series; Holy Week Noon Day Worship Services, Mar 29-Apr 3.**
- Page 5-** GFUMC Missions News; Clothes Closet; Ladle of Love; United Women in Faith
- Page 6-** HeBrews; Pickleball; Usher/Greeter Schedule
- Page 7-** **March Madness; Easter Egg Hunt**
- Page 8-** **Find a Cross; Lay Leadership Classes**
- Page 9-** Top 10 Things to Do in the Church App; Generosity 2026; Ways to Give; Online Giving
- Page 10-** Calendar; Prayer Concerns; Births; Deaths; Memorials; Birthdays; Weekly Reports, Easter Lily Order Form

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

March 15: Sarah Echols, Luke Barnes, & Brooks Bone
March 22: Clementine & Rhett Hilburn

Tech Team Schedule

March 15

Celebration: Sheila Freeman, Bill Haller, Rob Reynolds

Traditions: Neil Mullin, Sheila Freeman, Rob Reynolds

March 22

Celebration: Sheila Freeman, Carmen McKiven

Traditions: Davis Varner, Wayne Payton, Brad Barnes

Bible Studies & Small Groups for Adults



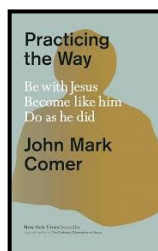
Join Rev. Sherri for a Bible Study based on *The Chosen (Season 3)* Each week will focus on a different episode with a Bible Study of the scripture behind the scenes and each week will stand alone, so you can plug in as your schedule permits. **Classes will be at 11 am and 6 pm in Room 208.** (Skipping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

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 18: Chicken Fingers, Mac & Cheese
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!

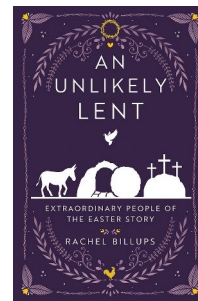
Practicing the Way by John Mark Comer—The disciples spent 3 years being apprentices to Jesus. They watched His every move and hung on every word. They were with Him 24/7. As a result, they, over time, became more and more like Him and began to do many of the things He did. With the Spirit's help, with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

Open registration continues for the limited availability we have for the fall. All spots will be filled through the our waitlist process. Next week is our March lunchbox revolt. We will have Papa John's pizza on Wednesday March 18th. Cost is \$4.00 per student. Mark your calendars for annual Easter Egg Hunts and Parties on Wednesday, March 25th.
—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 18: Chicken Fingers, Mac & Cheese
\$7 per person \$3 Age 11 & Under
Please text 256.490.5018 to make or change a reservation.

Children's Ministry

GFUMC CHILDREN'S CALENDAR

Spring 2026

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

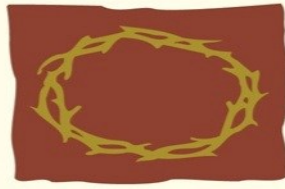
GFUMC CHILDREN'S MARCH UNIT

YOU'RE INVITED!

WEDNESDAY'S AT 6:00

WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4	WEEK 5
I'M INVITED TO BELIEVE IN JESUS.	I'M INVITED TO LOVE LIKE JESUS DOES.	I'M INVITED TO EXPERIENCE JESUS' MIRACLES.	I'M INVITED TO ASK JESUS FOR HELP.	I'M INVITED TO WORSHIP JESUS.

"YET TO ALL WHO DID RECEIVE HIM, TO THOSE WHO BELIEVED IN HIS NAME, HE GAVE THE RIGHT TO BECOME CHILDREN OF GOD."
JOHN 1:12 (NIV)



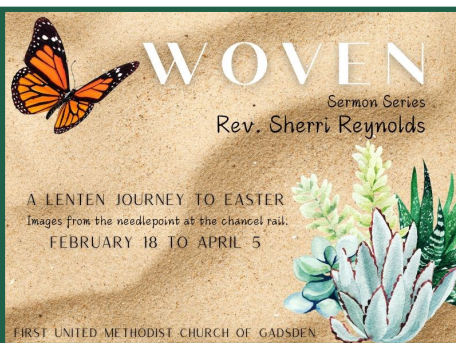
Holy Week March 29 - April 5

- Monday, Mar 30- Rev. Davis Johnson- Southside UMC in Southside John 12:1-11
- Tuesday, Mar 31- Rev. Steven Barber- Upper Sand Mountain Parrish co-director John 12:20-36
- Wednesday, Apr 1- Becky Walker- Certified Lay Speaker- First UMC Gadsden John 13:1-17
- Thursday, Apr 2- Rev. Roy Thomas- Davis Chapel/Mountain Springs UMCs in Cherokee County John 13:21-32
- Friday, Apr 3- Rev. Bo Aaron- Antioch-Goodsell UMC in Attalla John 19:17-42

Services are at 12:05 pm each day.

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

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



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

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

February Mission Focus



GFUMC
Spring Cleaning
March 20

The mission team will be hosting a volunteer spring cleaning day to clean various areas of the church building including classrooms and bathrooms. There will be sign up sheets in the Chestnut Foyer to volunteer! Or sign up on the church app or website and you will be contacted by a member of the mission team.

(Even if you only have an hour or so to serve!)



United Women in Faith
Bake Sale for Missions
BETWEEN THE WORSHIP SERVICES
Sunday, March 29

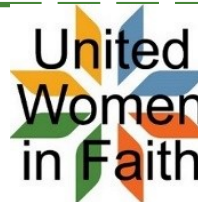
for Missions

Calling all Bakers and Buyers!

United Women in Faith

- March 15, Sunday at 12:00 noon:
Peggy Casey Circle, Gathering Room
- March 29, Palm Sunday from 9:00 am-12:00 pm
Bake Sale, Chestnut Street Lobby
- April 7, Monday at 6:00 pm:
LuVerna Waid Circle, Room 208
- April 13, Monday at 12:00 noon:
UWF Luncheon, Gathering Room

Olivia Kendrick, President Susan Copeland, Vice-President



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

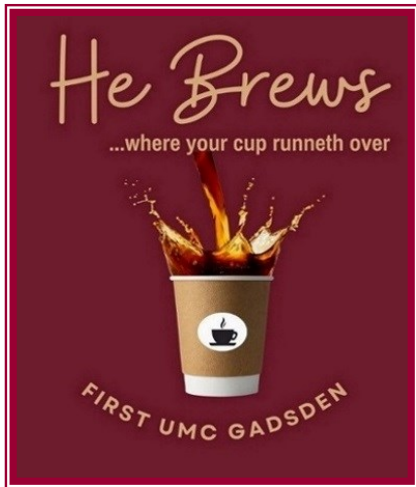
**Ladle of Love
Clothes Closet**

February 2026

LOL 301

Clothes Closet 397

**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 15

Celebration: Kim & Cynthia Whitt

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

Sunday, March 22

Celebration: Nancy McCorkle; Michelle Morgan

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.



March Madness 2026

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 United Methodist Church.



This week in worship, VOTE in the Elite Eight!

Esther

Ruth

Elisabeth

The woman who touched the hem of Jesus' garment

Hannah

The Woman at the well

Sarah

Mary, mother of Jesus

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

A colorful poster for an Easter Egg Hunt. At the top, there is a string of colorful triangular bunting flags. Below the flags, the text "FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GADSDEN" is written in a dark blue, sans-serif font, followed by "invites you to our annual" in a smaller black font. The main title "EASTER EGG HUNT" is written in large, bold, blue letters with a pink outline. To the left of the title is a pink bunny head icon and a cluster of colorful Easter eggs. Below the title, a pink banner with a blue border contains the text "SATURDAY March 21st" in white, with "10:00" below it. To the right of the banner, the text "Bring your BASKET and" is written in black, followed by "JOIN US" in green letters inside a yellow rounded rectangle. Below that, it says "for food, games, prizes, and" in black, and "CANDY!" in large, pink, outlined letters. At the bottom, the text "First United Methodist Church of Gadsden" is written in black, followed by a small carrot icon and "115 S. 5th Street". The background of the poster is a light blue sky with a green grass field at the bottom.



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.

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](http://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.

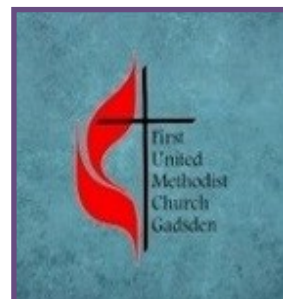
The classes will be held at Cullman First United Methodist Church. Address is [320 3rd St. SE, Cullman, AL 35055](http://3203rdStSE.com).

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



Top 10 Things To Do on the Church APP

10. Meet the Pastors and Staff. (Home Tab-Meet the Pastors and Staff)
9. Fill out a Connect Card. (Home Tab-Connect)
8. Read the Church News. (Home Tab-News)
7. Check Out Upcoming Church Events. (Events Tab)
6. Read the Bible in a Year. (Bible Tab)
5. Look up Scripture. (Bible Tab)
4. Send a Prayer Request. (Home Tab-Prayer Request)
3. Give. (Home Tab-Give)
2. Receive notifications/messages from the church and small group connections
1. Watch or Listen to Worship Services and Sermons. (Media Tab)



“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](https://venmo.com/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.)



venmo

Download our Church App
Search First UMC-Gadsden
In the App Store for Android or iPhone.



First UMC Gadsden Mar 15-Mar 21, 2026

Mar 15, Sunday

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

Mar 16, 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 17, 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

Mar 18, 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 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

Mar 20, Friday

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

UWF Bake Sale is Coming! Palm Sunday, March 29

Attendance Week of Mar 8, 2026

In Person Total *176	On Line Total 433
Worship Total 609	Thursday Worship *6
Celebration *71/246	Traditions *99/187
Nursery Sun/Wed *9	Youth SS *5
Adult SS*53 Children's SS *9	Bible Study *46
Children Sun/Wed *32	Youth Sun/Wed *18

Thanks to everyone who report numbers!

Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinner

5:15 pm, \$7- Adults, \$3- 11 & Under

Text for Reservations: 256.490.5018

March 18: Chicken Fingers, Mac & Cheese

March 25: Chick fil A

April 1: No Wednesday Night Dinner

Year 2026 Week of March 8, 2026

General Offering Budget	\$ 13,040.00
General Offering Received	\$ 24,442.00
YTD Gen. Offering Budget	\$130,400.00
YTD Gen. Offering Rec'd	\$176,870.00

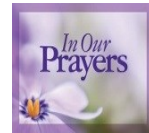
Immediate Prayer Concerns

Esther Roach (Mother of Steve Roach)

Continued Prayer Concerns

Amy Epperson (daughter of Gene & Danna Dean)

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



Birthdays

Mar 15 Barbara Roberts,
 Parker Jarecki,
 Grady (G.W.) Leach V

Mar 16 Hannah Kennedy

Mar 17 Holly Whitt, Chuck Herb,
 Eli Hornik

Mar 18 Brenda Vowell,
 Adrian Leach, Grace Kelly Rhea,
 Benjamin Cornett, Mary Elizabeth
 Edmondson

Mar 20 Barbara Bennett,
 Tricia Blount, John Floyd,
 Zach Hilburn, Rebecca Abel,
 Todd McKiven, Kennedy Jackson,
 Harrison Phillips

Mar 21 Tripp Martin, Ari Beckett



Order an Easter Lily by Monday, March 29.

**(Lilies will be placed on the altar for
 worship in both services on Easter Sunday.)**

Cost: \$25.00 ♦ In honor of ♦ in memory of

Name(s) _____

Given by _____