

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

Luke 9:29-36

Rev. Sherri Reynolds

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

Sermon Notes: Thursday, February 27, and Sunday, March 2

Lent is fast approaching. Ash Wednesday is March 5. It is likely that many of us are asking, "What am I going to do for Lent?" By this question, we mean, "What are we doing to observe a Holy Lent?" This may mean we are taking on (prayer, acts of charity, etc.) or giving up (fasting, indulgences, resources, etc.) as a Lenten discipline. Often, we are quick to consider the discipline without pausing to think about the "why" and the needs of our soul this Lenten season. We sometimes want to jump in to do something, just to do something.

We see Peter in such a quandary in the scripture reading for this week (Luke 9:28-36). Peter witnesses a dazzling Jesus, sees Moses and Elijah, and hears the voice of God. His response to such miracles? Peter asks if he can build small shelters for Jesus, Moses, and Elijah. Instead of being present to take in this moment, Peter quickly moves to action. Peter wants to act when action may not be needed.

Before you quickly move to a Lenten discipline this year, take a moment to consider what your soul needs. Allow the observance of a holy Lent to be an opportunity to grow in grace and be with Jesus during this sacred season.

In Christ,
Rev. Sherri

Ash Wednesday, March 5
12 pm to 1 pm, Come and Receive Ashes
Sanctuary open for prayer and reflection.
6 pm, Ash Wednesday Worship & Imposition of Ashes

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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*

ACOLYTES

March 2: Sara Kate, Jake, & Carter Thornburg
 March 9: Clementine & Rhett Hilburn

Tech Team Schedule

Mar 2
Celebration: Bill Haller, Rob Reynolds
Traditions: Davis Varner, Wayne Payton, Brad Barnes
March 9:
Celebration: Sheila Freeman, Bill Haller, Brad Barnes
Traditions: Mark Condra, Wayne Payton, Sheila Freeman

Volunteers are needed!
Tech Team! Greeters! Ushers!



Are you wanting to go deeper in your spiritual life? Consider a life-changing 72-hour retreat at Camp Sumatanga called the Walk to Emmaus. The Walk to Emmaus is a spiritual renewal program intended to strengthen the local church through the development of Christian disciples and leaders. The retreat is a 72-hour short course in Christianity, comprised of fifteen talks by lay and clergy on the themes of God's grace, disciplines of Christian discipleship, and what it means to be the church. The course is wrapped in prayer and meditation, special times of worship and daily celebration of Holy Communion. Contact the church office or go to alaemmaus.org to learn more.

The Chosen Season 2 Bible Study



Rev. Sherri will be leading a Bible Study of Season 2 of the Chosen starting January 8. Each week will focus on a particular episode, reviewing the corresponding scriptures while engaging both with thought provoking questions. The class will be offered at 11am and 6pm on Wednesdays in room 208. The class will last until April 30 (with the night session skipping March 26 for spring break.)

Wednesday Fellowship, Room 208
5:00 pm-March 5– Red Beans & Rice; Muffaletta Sandwiches; King Cake
Kid’s Menu: Chicken Fingers \$7 Youth & Adults \$3 Children 11 & Under

Wednesday Morning Bible Study @ 11 am, Gathering Room

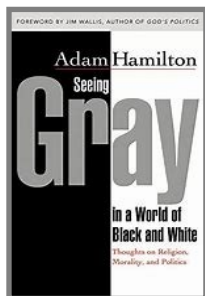
“The Chosen” w/ Rev. Sherri Reynolds

Adult Small Groups @ Wonderful Wednesdays, 6 pm

Rev. Sherri, “The Chosen”, Room 208

Harriet Murray, “Common Ground”, Room 110

Adventure Into Sunday School with New Adult Studies

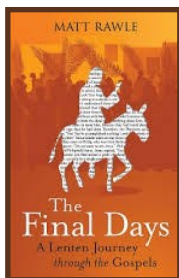
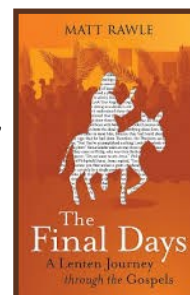


Transitions 10 am, Room 209

This study encourages thinking persons of faith to model for the rest of the country a richer, more thoughtful conversation on the political, moral, and religious issues that divide us. Hamilton rejects the easy assumptions and sloppy analysis of black and white thinking, seeking instead the truth that resides on all sides of the issues, and offering a faithful and compassionate way forward.

Pathfinders/Seekers 10 am, Room 208

Join us. Everyone welcome! Dive into The Final Days: A Lenten Journey through the Gospels by Matt Rawle, a powerful study that examines the themes of justice, poverty, freedom, and love through the lens of the four New Testament Gospels. Discover how each Gospel offers a distinct perspective on Jesus’ final week in Jerusalem—culminating in the Resurrection hope we all hold dear.



Living Waters 10 am, Room 116

Dive into The Final Days: A Lenten Journey through the Gospels by Matt Rawle, a powerful study that examines the themes of justice, poverty, freedom, and love through the lens of the four New Testament Gospels.

“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 another great lunchbox revolt along with 4K show and tell. Registration continues! Registration for any FUMC families not enrolled will be March 3rd through 6th, see Helene for more information. Thank you to Drs. Shadix and Spruiell for teaching our 4k students about healthy teeth. Spring Picture days are Tuesday, March 4th and Wednesday, March 5th.

—Helene Haller

YOUTH CALENDAR

FEB 9 BAKE AND DELIVER COOKIES 2 PM

FEB 12 VALENTINE PARTY
BRING SNACKS & 12 VALENTINES TO SHARE 6 PM

MAR 2 COOK & DELIVER MEALS 2 PM

APR 13 COLLECT FOOD [AT] HYMNS FOR HUNGER 2:30 PM

APR 13 TOP GOLF 5 PM

SUNDAY SCHOOL
10 AM RM 211

WEDNESDAYS 6 PM
MIDDLE: ROOM 209
HIGH: RM 211

MAY 4 SENIOR HIGH
RECOGNITION SUNDAY IN
WORSHIP
& BRUNCH AT 10 AM

MAY 18 BOWLING [AT] THE ALLEY 5 PM

GADSDEN FIRST UMC STUDENT MINISTRIES
FOR MORE INFO: FUMC@FUMCGADSDEN.ORG

Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Dinner, 5:00 pm-Gathering Room
Wed March 5: Red Beans & Rice; Muffaletta Sandwiches; King Cake
Kid's Menu: Chicken Fingers \$7 Youth & Adults \$3 Children 11 & Under
Activities and Small Groups for All Ages begin at 6 pm

Children's Ministry

GFUMC CHILDREN'S FEBRUARY UNIT

WOW! WEDNESDAY'S AT 6:00

| WEEK 1 | WEEK 2 | WEEK 3 | WEEK 4 |
|---|---|--|---|
| Wow! Jesus has the power to heal . | Wow! Jesus has the power to calm our fears . | Wow! Jesus has the power to provide . | Wow! Jesus has the power to save . |

"In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all."
1 Chronicles 29:12b (NIV)

GFUMC 2025 Kid's Spring Calendar

VALENTINE'S NIGHT 2/12

FAMILY NIGHT 3/19 (GYM)

SPRING BREAK 3/24-3/28

ASH WEDNESDAY 3/15

GFUMC EASTER EGG HUNT 4/12 (GFUMC)

PALM SUNDAY KIDS WILL SING 4/13

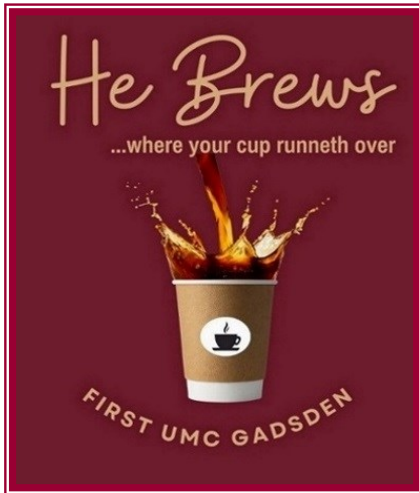
GFUMC EASTER SUNDAY FAMILY PICNIC NOCCALULA FALLS 4/20 5/7

Vacation Bible School ROAD TRIP 6/9-6/12

Sunday morning
Children's Church
9:00am & 11:00am

Sunday School
10:00am

Wonderful
Wednesday's
6:00pm



HeBrews Coffee Café
10 am, Chestnut Street Foyer
We Can't Wait to See You There!



**DO
 YOU
 KNOW?**

GORDON & CINDY ISBELL



Gordon grew up in Gadsden and graduated from Baylor in Chattanooga, TN. He received a BS in Chemistry from Auburn, then a DMD from the University of Alabama Dental School. He received his fellowship in the Academy of General Dentistry in 1989 and his Master's in the Academy in 1996. He has been President of the Alabama Dental Association and served nationally as Chairman of the American Dental Association's Council on the Dental Practice. Cindy grew up in Gadsden and graduated from Emma Sansom before receiving an Accounting degree from the University of Alabama. Ten years ago, she retired from the position of Chief School Finance Officer for Gadsden City Schools, and, currently, she is the CFO for Isbell Dental. Cindy enjoys working with our Clothes Closet, reading, walking, and spending time with their five grandchildren. They have five children: Ross Isbell (37), a dentist; Timothy Isbell (34), a CPA; Frances Isbell (32), a lawyer; William Cornutt (40), who works for Cintas Corporation; and Ellen Cornutt Rains (37), an attorney.

March Mission Focus

Volunteers are needed to help clean the church for spring. The dates will be Friday, March 14 from 9 am to 3 pm and Saturday, March 15 from 9 am to 12 noon.

Sign Up Now for March Church Spring Cleaning!
The Mission Team is sponsoring "Spring Cleaning Days" to clean various parts of GFUMC's buildings.

Sign Up Online @ www.fumcgadsden.org/missionteam or in the Chestnut Foyer.



Spring Cleaning at GFUMC Church Workdays

March 14 9 am to 3 pm
 &
March 15 9 am to 12 noon

Watch for more information & Sign up on the church website or app!

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

March open dates are 3/5 and 3/19

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

#gfumcreconnect2024

Ladle of Love Clothes Closet

January

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| LOL | 501 |
| Clothes Closet | 154 |

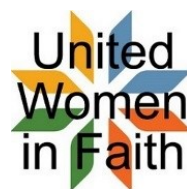
Thanks to our Volunteers!

United Women in Faith

LuVerna Waid Circle News

Next Meeting: March 4, Room 208

—Susan Copeland, Circle Leader



March 10, 12 noon, UWF Luncheon

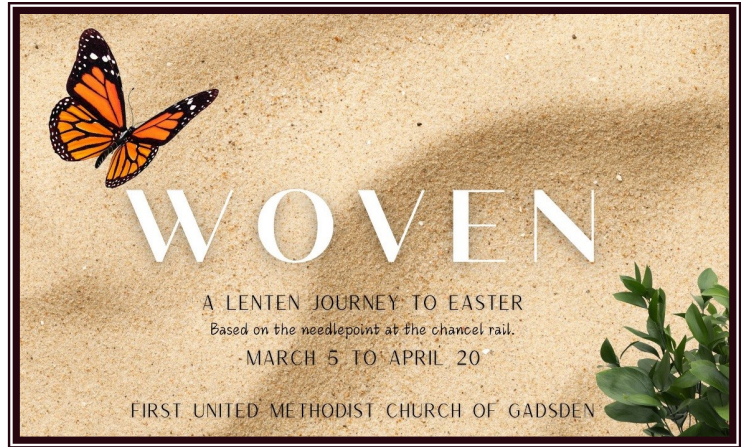
12:00 Noon-Luncheon, Gathering Room; Program: Benny Campbell, owner of Attalla Florist and a favorite speaker at Gadsden First will present Fling Spring into Your Home. We will learn new ways to use flowers to brighten our houses as spring comes in. (Deco/Clean-up Members At Large)

Monday, March 10th -10:30 am, UWF Executive Board Meeting, Room 208.

Delores Abney, President

Olivia Kendrick, Vice-President

One of the greatest artistic assets of this church is one that we don't often notice: the needlepoint work on the kneelers at our communion rail. For almost fifty years, worshippers have knelt on cushions handcrafted by skillful hands. Each cushion is adorned with extraordinary needlepoint depicting the rich symbols of our Christian faith. Created in 1976 and restored in 2011, these cushions are a treasure that enhance our worship and guide us in faithful discipleship.



This Lent, First United Methodist Church of Gadsden will be spending the season looking at the story behind the kneelers and the meaning of the symbols with *Woven*. The series will kick off on Ash Wednesday and conclude on Easter. Find your favorite symbol on the cushions, bring your curiosity, and join us for *Woven* this spring.

MARCH MADNESS

March Madness is quickly approaching. I don't mean the excitement around NCAA tournament play for college basketball for the month of March. I am talking about the March Madness that happens here at First United Methodist Church. While others are making their bracket, predicting the outcome of the tournament, we'll be voting on students of Jesus.



During the month of March, when you attend in-person worship, you will find brackets with students of Jesus. You'll get a chance to vote for a champion Christ follower. We are starting with a sweet sixteen and will reduce the number by half each week. Until we reach one which will be announced the first Sunday of April. The final four will be will then become the topic for a "back-to school" series this summer. Voting will take place in worship, and you must be present to mark your bracket. Who will it be? Peter? Mary Magdelene? James the Lesser? Lazarus? Or another follower? Come cast your vote in worship this March!

March Madness (9-30) with winner announced on April 6.

Voting begins on Sunday, March 9 in both services.

Students of Jesus.

Peter

Thaddeus

Mary Magdelene

James (son of Alpheus)

Thomas

Andrew

John

James (the Son of Zebedee)

Martha

Philip

Matthew

Bartholomew

Lazarus

Simon The Zealot

Judas

Mary (Sister of Martha and Lazarus)



Weekly Newsletter

Subscribe to the weekly newsletter by submitting your email to the church secretary, Susan Swann:

susan@fumcgadsden.org

You will receive the weekly newsletter by email on Friday mornings.

The Newsletter is also available in the GFUMC Church App and on the Church Website.

Important Deadlines
Deadline for the newsletter is noon on Tuesday of each week.

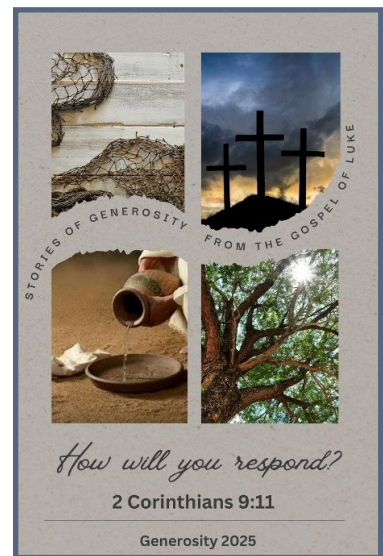
All requests for spoken announcements for Sunday mornings must be turned in by Thursday @ noon, in writing to Susan Swann in the office.

All Meetings, Events and Activities must be scheduled in advance with the church secretary, by email
susan@fumcgadsden.org

Generosity 2025 “How will you Respond?”

You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us
2 Corinthians 9:11

The 2025 “Estimate of Giving” Card can be filled out at any time during the year online @ www.fumcgadsden.org/give



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 Calendar for March 2-March 8, 2025

March 2, Sunday

9:00 am-Celebration Worship, Sanctuary
10:00 am-Sunday School classes for all ages
10:00 am- HeBrews Coffee
11:00 am-Traditions Worship, Sanctuary
2:00 pm-Memorial Service, Chapel & Courtyard

March 3, Monday

9:00 am-1:00 pm- ELC
9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym
2:00 to 4:00 pm- Pickleball, Gym

March 4, Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm- ELC
9:00 am-11:00 am-Clothes Closet workday
5:00 pm-Yoga, Gym

March 5, Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, ELC
9:00 am-11:00 am-Clothes Closet open
11:00 am-Bible Study-Pastor Sherri, Room 208
12:00 pm-1:00 pm-Imposition of Ashes, Sanctuary
5:00 pm-Fellowship Dinner, Gathering Room
6:00 pm-Ash Wednesday Service, Sanctuary

March 6, Thursday

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

March 7, Friday

11:00 am-12:00 pm- Ladle of Love
Office closes at 12:00 pm

Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal

March 5, 5 pm

Red Beans & Rice Muffaletta Sandwiches

King Cake (Kid's Menu: Chicken Fingers)

\$7 per person, \$3 ages under 11

\$7 Per Person \$3 for age 11 and under

Everyone Welcome! RSVP Text 256.490.5018

Deanna Everett
Brenda Vowell
Barbara Khajavi

WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS



Are you wanting to go deeper in your spiritual life? Consider a life-changing 72-hour retreat at Camp Sumatanga called the Walk to Emmaus. Find out more on page one of this week's newsletter.

ASH WEDNESDAY MARCH 5

Imposition of Ashes

Sanctuary Open for Prayer and Reflection

12 pm to 1 pm

Worship & Imposition of Ashes
6 pm



Immediate Prayer Concerns

Amy Epperson Jan Humphrey Family of Charles Cantrell

Continued Prayer Concerns

Juanita Hammons Mary Tom Hale
Jackie Herlong
Bob Walden (Olivia Kendrick's father)
Dr. Pat Herrera
(Juanita Hammons' son-in-law)



Week of February 23, 2025

In Person Total-*141 On Line Total-483
Worship Total-624 Thursday service *6
Celebration *48/133 Traditions *87/350
Adult Sunday School *35 Children *3
Middle School & Senior Hi SS *4
Bible Study Groups *20 UWF *0
Children Wed/Sun *25 Nursery Wed/Sun *4
Middle Wed/Sun *10 Senior Hi Wed/Sun *12

Year 2025

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| General Offering Budget | \$12,400.00 |
| General Offering Received | 8,407.00 |
| YTD General Offering Budget | 99,200.00 |
| YTD General Offering Rec'd | 107,137.84 |

Birthdays

Mar 2 Dr. James Phillips,
Dr. George Fant
Mar 3 Sheila Bishop, Dana Rice,
Harry Sokol, Jeanne Sims, Ada Blount,
Todd Frederick, Ellen McCollum
Mar 4 Allie Cannon Smith
Mar 5 Becca Echols, Darby Hayes
Mar 6 Beth Kimball, Tristan Hocevar
Mar 7 Barbara Smith

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

—Susan Swann



Honorariums & Memorials

General Budget Fund

In memory of Glen Pierson, given by Wilbur & Laurie Smith.

Caring Angels

In memory of Gwen Axtell, given by Diana Rampey.