



WOVEN

Sermon Series

REWARD OF THE FAITHFUL THE CROWN & CROSS

James 1:12
Rev. Sherri Reynolds



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

Sermon Notes: Thursday, March 5 & Sunday, March 8, 2026

The crown and cross are a combination of two different images of faith. Traditionally, the bejeweled, golden crown has represented royalty. It also has come to mean authority and victory. A crown also symbolizes reward, for Christians this could be a reward in earth or in heaven. The cross represents the crucifixion of Jesus. It commonly denotes suffering and sacrifice. Thus, it would not seem that these two would go together, because one symbol is reward and the other symbol is for sacrifice. In terms of the secular, you have the crown as a symbol of the spoils of victory (the king takes the crown) and the cross the consequence of defeat as a means of execution by the state, but in Christianity they do come together, reminding us of our own victory and reward through the cross. (James 1:12). Together these symbols signify that the faithful in life who have suffered great hardships and persecution will receive great reward in the next life. The crown and the cross remind us of victory over death and the reward which comes after enduring trials and tribulation. Revelation 2:10 states, "Be faithful unto death and I will give you the crown of life."

As you face trials this week or are fearful and anxious, may you find hope in the promise of the crown of life. May we find comfort in knowing that one day we will receive a heavenly reward and we will feast at Christ's heavenly banquet.

Journeying through Lent with you,
Rev. Sherri



- ◆ **March 29, Palm Sunday Worship**
9 am—Celebration & 11 am—Traditions
- ◆ **March 30– April 3, Holy Week Worship, 12:05 pm,**
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 from 10-10:30 am

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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

March 5: Todd Rains

ACOLYTES

March 8: Anna Kate Casey, Jade Collins, & Layne Godfrey
March 15: Sarah Echols, Luke Barnes, & Brooks Bone

Tech Team Schedule

March 8

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

March 15

Celebration: Sheila Freeman, Bill Haller, Rob Reynolds
Traditions: Neil Mullin, Sheila Freeman, Rob Reynolds

Bible Studies & Small Groups for Adults



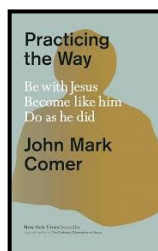
Join Rev. Sherri for a Bible Study based on *The Chosen (Season 3)* Each week will focus on a different episode with a Bible Study of the scripture behind the scenes and each week will stand alone, so you can plug in as your schedule permits. **Classes will be at 11 am and 6 pm in Room 208.** (Skipping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

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 11: Italian Night
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!

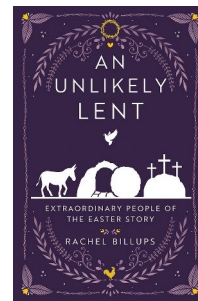
Practicing the Way by John Mark Comer—The disciples spent 3 years being apprentices to Jesus. They watched His every move and hung on every word. They were with Him 24/7. As a result, they, over time, became more and more like Him and began to do many of the things He did. With the Spirit's help, with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

Spring Pictures went great. We got a little teary seeing our 4K students in their caps and gowns.

Open registration for any available spaces begins Monday, March 9th. Priority is given to those currently on the waitlists. Mark your calendars! Annual Easter Egg Hunts and Parties are Wednesday, March 25th.

Helene Haller



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 11: Italian Night

\$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 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)

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
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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



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

Calling all Bakers and Buyers!

for Missions

United Women in Faith

March UWF Luncheon March 9 @12 noon

Guest Speaker:

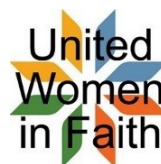
Megan Barber, Upper Sand Mountain Parish

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.

Call or text your lunch reservation to Carla Watson at 256-393-9664.

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

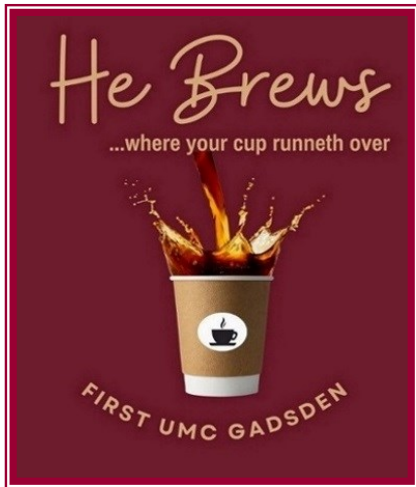
**Ladle of Love
Clothes Closet**

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 8

Celebration: David & Brenda Holmes

Traditions: Mandell & Judy Tillman; John & Margie Freeman

Sunday, March 15

Celebration: Kim & Cynthia Whitt

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

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 Sweet 16!

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.*

A colorful poster for an Easter Egg Hunt. It features a blue sky background with a string of colorful triangular bunting flags at the top. A pink bunny is peeking over the top left. The text reads: "FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GADSDEN invites you to our annual EASTER EGG HUNT". Below this, it says "Bring your BASKET and JOIN US for food, games, prizes, and CANDY!". The date and time are "SATURDAY March 21st 10:00". At the bottom, it says "First United Methodist Church of Gadsden" followed by a carrot icon and "115 S. 5th Street". There are also several colorful Easter eggs on the left side.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GADSDEN
invites you to our annual
EASTER EGG HUNT

Bring your BASKET and
JOIN US
for food, games, prizes, and
CANDY!

SATURDAY
March 21st
10:00

First United Methodist Church of Gadsden  115 S. 5th Street

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.

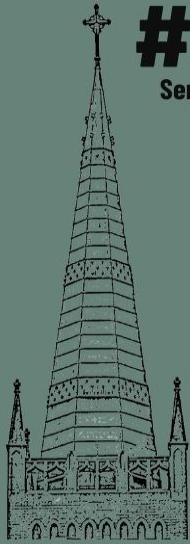
Please register with me by phone 334-863-1142 or email me barbarussell57@gmail.com. I will be in contact with you within 24 hours. If you register for a class and cannot attend, please notify me as I plan the food by the number attending.

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 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](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 8-Mar 14, 2026



Mar 8, Sunday

9:00 am-Celebration Worship

10:00 am-HeBrews Coffee;
Sunday School

11:00 am-Traditions

Mar 9, Monday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Winter Schedule

9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym

10:30 am-UWF Executive Board Meeting

12:00 pm-UWF Luncheon, Gathering Room

2:00 pm-4:00 pm-Pickle Ball, Gym

Mar 10, Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm-ELC Winter Schedule

1:15 pm-Staff Meeting

5:00 pm-6:00 pm-Yoga, Gym

Mar 11, 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

Mar 12, 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 13, Friday

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

UWF Bake Sale is Coming! Palm Sunday, March 29



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.

Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinner

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

Text for Reservations: 256.490.5018

March Menus:

March 4: Assorted Sandwiches

March 11: Italian Night

March 18: Chicken Fingers, Mac & Cheese

March 25: Chick fil A

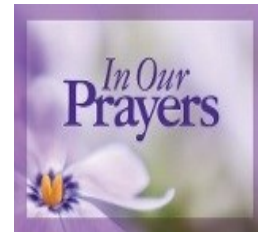
Continued Prayer Concerns

Georgia Reese Moran (infant daughter of Dallas & Shannon-grandparents Jill & Rick)

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

Dawn Rains

Amy Epperson (daughter of Gene & Danna Dean)



Birthdays

Mar 9 Leslie Hix, Scott Whitt,

Madison Watkins

Mar 11 Gail McNair, Kathryn McCollum,

Dee Dee McLeod, Scout Pritchard

Mar 12 Megan Haller,

Clementine Hilburn

Mar 13 Blake Badgett, Claire Bone

Mar 14 Delilah Ogletree



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

Attendance Week of Mar 1, 2026

In Person Total *171 On Line Total 408

Worship Total 579 Thursday Worship *15

Celebration *57/234 Traditions *99/174

Nursery Sun/Wed *2 Youth SS *7

Adult SS*55 Children's SS *2 Bible Study *32

Children Sun/Wed *18 Youth Sun/Wed *18

Thanks to everyone who report numbers!

Year 2026 Week of March 1, 2026

General Offering Budget \$ 13,040.00

General Offering Received \$ 11,491.00

YTD Gen. Offering Budget \$117,360.00

YTD Gen. Offering Rec'd \$152,428.00

Read the

Weekly Newsletter

Subscribe to the weekly newsletter by submitting your email address 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.

Update your contact info!