



Woven
The Ship
 Rev. Sherri Reynolds

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

Sermon Notes: Thursday, March 6, and Sunday, March 9

Throughout the years, Christianity has used the ship to symbolize the church. Like a ship, churches carry Christians to safe harbor. Tossed in a sea of disbelief, persecution, and worldliness, the church awaits a safe harbor for its cargo of human souls. From the Latin word *navis* comes the word *nave*, which is the main part of the church’s interior or sanctuary for worship. A ship was also used so Christians could identify one another. With the ship’s mast forming a cross, they could easily hide the sign of the cross within the symbol. While this is the traditional meaning of the ship, I have come to appreciate how the ship also reminds us to go into the world to make disciples of Jesus.

The Good News of Jesus spread from Jerusalem to a worldwide faith. Ships were an important means of transportation for the early church and were important in evangelistic efforts. We even have the example of Paul when he was shipwrecked on the way to Rome. Ships were vital to sharing Christ across the Roman Empire.

When Jesus commanded his followers to be his witnesses from Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth, the disciples took this very seriously. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, they went and told many on a ship. Thus, a ship reminds us of our own calling to continue to share Jesus. How have you shared Jesus today? (Acts 1:6-11)

Journeying with you this Lent,
 Rev. Sherri



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.

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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

ACOLYTES

- March 9: Clementine & Rhett Hilburn
- March 16: Sylvia Harbin & Sarah Echols

Tech Team Schedule

- March 9**
Celebration: Sheila Freeman, Bill Haller, Brad Barnes
Traditions: Mark Condra, Wayne Payton, Sheila Freeman
- March 16**
Celebration: Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman, Rob Reynolds,
Traditions: Davis Varner, Sheila Freeman, Brad Barnes

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
5:15 pm-March 12 - Barbecue Pork or Chicken, Salad & More
\$7 Youth & Adults \$3 Children 11 & Under

Wednesday Morning Bible Study @ 11 am, Gathering Room

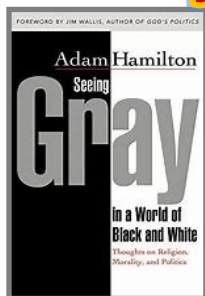
“The Chosen” w/ Rev. Sherri Reynolds

Adult Small Groups @ Wonderful Wednesdays, 6 pm

Rev. Sherri, “The Chosen”, Room 208

Harriet Murray, “Fierce”, Room 110

Sunday School: New Adult Series for Lent

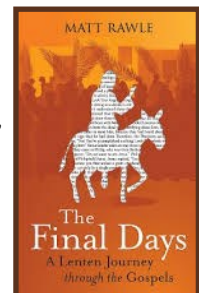


Transitions 10 am, Room 209

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.

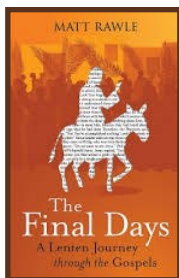
Pathfinders/Seekers 10 am, Room 208

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

Registration continues! Open registration begins Monday, March 10th and all openings will be filled through the waitlist. See Helene for more information. Spring Picture days went well and our 4k students took cap and gown pictures. Our next Lunchbox Revolt will be Wednesday, March 19th and Papa John's will be served.
—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, 5:15 pm-Gathering Room

Menu: Barbecue Pork or Chicken and more!

\$7 Youth & Adults \$3 Children 11 & Under

Activities and Small Groups for All Ages begin at 6 pm

Children's Ministry

Stop by the Children's Ministry table in the Chestnut St. Foyer and find out how you can help with the Easter Egg Hunt (April 12). Drop off donations of individually wrapped Easter candy. (No chocolate please.)

GFUMC CHILDREN'S MARCH UNIT

★ BIG PICTURE ★

WEDNESDAY'S AT 6:00

WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4	WEEK 5
God helps us know WHAT'S TRUE.	We can give back TO GOD.	God sends us HELPERS.	God gives us second CHANCES.	We belong in GOD'S FAMILY

"Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know."
JEREMIAH 33:3 (NIV)

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

Sunday School
10:00am

Wonderful Wednesday's
6:00pm

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

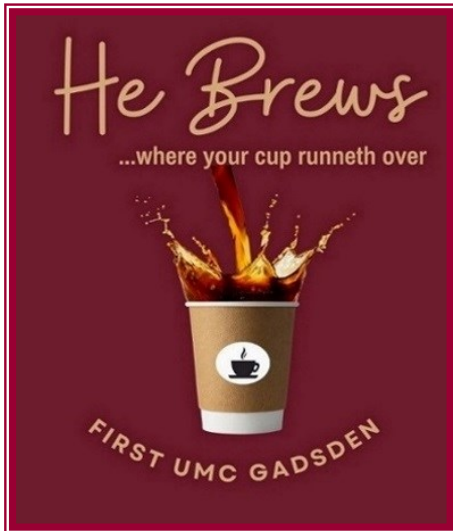
GFUMC EASTER EGG HUNT 4/12 (GFUMC)

PALM SUNDAY 4/13
KIDS WILL SING

EASTER SUNDAY 4/20

GFUMC FAMILY PICNIC 5/7
NOCCALULA FALLS

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



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



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Barbara was born and raised in Steele, AL, and still lives there today. She graduated from Jacksonville State University with a major in Sociology and a minor in Anthropology and is now retired from her work as a Child Case Worker at the CED Mental Health Center. Her husband of 42 years, Reza Khajavi, is also retired from his job as Manager at Red Lobster.

Barbara has 2 grown children: a daughter, Daphne (55), who lives in Trussville and works in Birmingham as an audiologist; and a son, Cameron (32), who works for Prince Metal Stampings in Gadsden, which specializes in underbody components for the automotive industry.

Barbara enjoys drawing, making crafts, and being a sympathetic listener when people need someone to talk to.

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](https://www.facebook.com/gfumcreconnect2024)

Ladle of Love Clothes Closet

January

LOL	501
Clothes Closet	154

Thanks to our Volunteers!

United Women in Faith

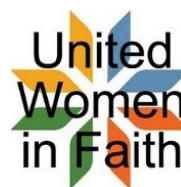
UWF Luncheon Monday, March 10 at 12 noon



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)
 March 10th at 10:30 am, UWF Executive Board Meeting, Room 208.

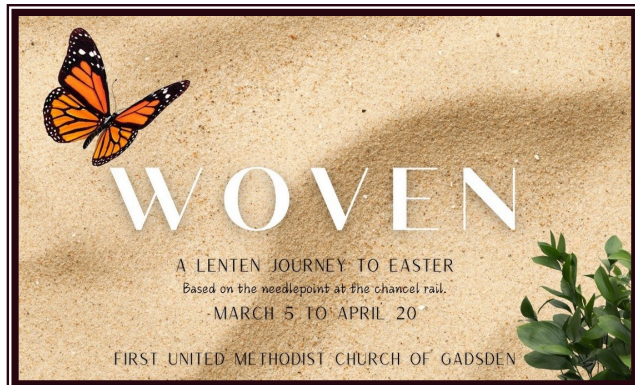
Call or text Olivia Kendrick for a lunch reservation at 205-454-4375 by noon on Friday, March 7.

Delores Abney, President Olivia Kendrick, Vice-President



**Stop by the Children's Ministry table in the Chestnut St. Foyer and find out how you can help with the Easter Egg Hunt which will be on March 12.
Drop off donations of individually wrapped Easter candy. (No chocolate please.)**

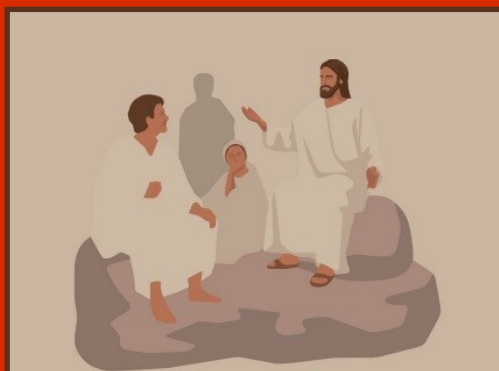
One of the greatest artistic assets of this church is one that we don't often notice: the needlepoint work on the kneelers at our communion rail. For almost fifty years, worshippers have knelt on cushions handcrafted by skillful hands. Each cushion is adorned with extraordinary needlepoint depicting 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 Alphaeus)

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.

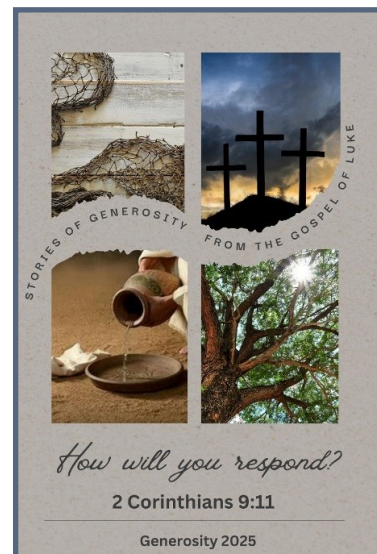
All requests for spoken announcements for Sunday mornings must be turned in by Thursday @ noon, in writing to Susan Swann in the office.

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 9-March 15, 2025

March 9, 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

March 10, Monday

9:00 am-1:00 pm- ELC
9:00 am-10:00 am-Exercise Group, Gym
10:30 am-UWF Executive Board meeting, Room 208
12:00 pm-UWF Luncheon, Gathering Room

2:00 to 4:00 pm- Pickleball, Gym

March 11, Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm- ELC
5:00 pm-Yoga, Gym

March 12, Wednesday

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

March 13, Thursday

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

March 14, Friday

9:00 am-3:00 pm-Spring Cleaning, Church
11:00 am-12:00 pm- Ladle of Love
Office closes at 12:00 pm

March 15, Saturday

9:00 am-12:00 pm, Spring Cleaning, Church

Are You Ready for Spring?

Brighten your home!
UWF Luncheon
Cost: \$15 per person
March 10, 12 noon

Program: Benny Campbell,
owner of Attalla Florist

Everyone is welcome!

Come and learn new ways to use flowers to brighten our
houses as spring comes in.

Please make a reservation by Friday, March 7.



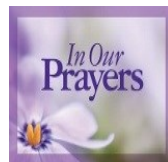
Spring Forward!
**Set your clocks
forward one hour
this Sunday!**

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Amy Epperson
Jan Humphrey

Continued Prayer Concerns

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



The rose on the altar is in honor of the birth of



Sarah Laine Spruiell

March 3, 2025

Parents: Robby & Caroline Spruiell

Big Sister: Mary Michael

Given by The Early Learning Center

& The GFUMC Children's Ministry

Week of March 9, 2025

In Person Total-*156 On Line Total-626
Worship Total-782 Thursday service *10
Celebration *69/299 Traditions *77/327
Adult Sunday School *45 Children *6
Middle School & Senior Hi SS *3
Bible Study Groups *21 UWF *0
Children Wed/Sun *38 Nursery Wed/Sun *4
Middle Wed/Sun *8 Senior Hi Wed/Sun *9

Year 2025

General Offering Budget	\$12,400.00
General Offering Received	\$19,840.00
YTD General Offering Budget	\$111,600.00
YTD General Offering Rec'd	\$126,975.21

Birthdays

Mar 9 Scott Whitt, Madison Watkins
Mar 10 Harry Vance, Paula Lang,
Tamara Kirk
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
Mar 15 Barbara Roberts,
Parker Jarecki,
Grady (G.W.) Leach V



Volunteer Opportunity

A big part of our in-person
Sunday morning worship
experience is having greeters &
ushers welcome guests. These
roles are an essential part of
making sure we provide a
welcoming and safe environment
for everyone who comes into our
church. If you would like to help
please contact the church office:

256-543-8200 or
fumc@fumcgadsden.org