

March 18, 2024



Dear Member,

One of the traditions of giving and faith at First United Methodist Church is the *Alleluia Offering*. This special offering started as a challenge to *tithe your income during Holy Week, above and beyond your regular giving to the church*. A *tithe* is a Biblical concept with roots in *Malachi 3:10 (Bring the whole tenth into the storehouse, so there will be food in my house, and put me to the test, says the Lord, "See if I won't open all the floodgates of heaven and pour out my blessings beyond your needs.")*. The challenge may seem daunting especially if you do not proportionally give to the church, but it is the first step to *Biblical generosity*. The special offering is received at *Easter to fund specific ministries within the church*. Our giving responds to *Jesus' sacrificial love for us and the power of resurrection in our lives*.

The year's special offering will be allocated toward:

A confirmation retreat for our youth and children. Investing in youth and children is important for First United Methodist Church. I cannot think of a more critical time than when these students are deciding to commit to a lifelong relationship with Jesus and become a member of the church. Your gifts will not only allow them to know your support, but also provide a critical component to their confirmation journey.

Investing in worship experience. Both in-person and on-line worship are central to the life of First United Methodist Church. With new microphones, wiring, a sound box and tracking camera, worship will be enhanced.

Any gifts beyond funding these two areas will be used to fund new ministries through the Inviting Ministries Team and Missions. Jesus charges his disciples to go and make disciples. These disciples are made in words and action. By investing in outreach and care for community, we are working to make disciples of Jesus.

You may return your *Alleluia Offering* at worship on *Easter Sunday (designated Alleluia Offering)*, by mail, through *secure E-Giving via our website or Venmo (go to www.Fumcgadsden.org to learn more)*. If you have questions, *please contact us*.

You are encouraged to pray about God's direction for you and your family with this special gift.

In Christ,

Rev. Sherri Reynolds

Bob Blount