



Ready?

Luke 12: 35-40 Aug 7



Set?

Hebrews 11: 29-12:2 Aug 14



Go!

Acts 1: 6-11 Aug 21

AUGUST SERMONS

PASTOR SAM HAYES

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

8-14-22

## Sermon Notes

## “Set?”

What if someone asked you to define “faith?” Could you do it?

I like what Max Lucado writes in his book, *He Still Moves Stones* about faith. “Faith is the belief that God is real and that God is good. Faith is not a mystical experience or a midnight vision or a voice in the forest...It is a choice to believe that the one who made it all hasn’t left it all and that he still sends light into the shadows and responds to gestures of faith...Faith is not the belief that God will do what you want. Faith is the belief that God will do what is right.”

I have been asked to define faith, and my go-to answer is from the “faith” chapter in the Book of Hebrews. “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” (Heb. 11: 1). *Hebrews 11*, after it defines what faith is, proceeds to give examples of faith...beginning with Abel, and continuing through other heroes of the faith, and then culminating in the perfect example of faith – Jesus. Jesus is both the “pioneer” and “perfector” of our faith!

This Sunday, we will look at how we are “set” for faith using Hebrews 11:29-40; 12: 2...

**29** By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. **30** By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. **31** By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

**32** And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— **33** who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, **34** quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. **35** Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. **36** Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. **37** They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented. **38** of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

**39** Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, **40** since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

**12** Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, **2** looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

How are we “set” for faith? Jesus and the great cloud of witnesses have set the example before us. The race is set before us. Finally, the prize is set before us.

See you Sunday,

Pastor Sam

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## Worship Opportunities

Thursday Worship: 5:30 pm, Sanctuary

## Sunday Mornings:

Celebration, 9 am\* Traditions, 11 am\*

\*In Person (Sanctuary) and Online

[www.fumcgadsden.org/media](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/media) or on Facebook Live: @FUMCGadsden

## ACOLYTES

August 7: Silas Hosey

August 14: Clementine Hilburn

## Tech Team Schedule

(Please arrive 45 minutes prior to the start of the service)

## August 14

**Celebration:** Eric Wright, Bill Haller, Brad Barnes

**Traditions:** Mark Condra, Carmen McKiven, Jacob McKiven

## August 21

**Celebration:** Will Brookshire, Brynn Crain, Sheila Freeman

**Traditions:** Davis Varner, Sheila Freeman

## August 17 Wonderful Wednesday

*Wonderful Wednesday Dinner, Bible Study and Activities return!*

5:15 pm- Fellowship Dinner, \$7 per person, \$3 Children 11 and under

6:00 pm- Bible Study and Activities for Adults, Youth and Children

6:30 pm- Welcome Back Celebration w/Ice Cream Social on the Portico!

**Menu 8/17: Chick-fil-a, Chips, Fruit, Tea**



All Ages Welcome!  
6:30 pm, On the Portico  
Wednesday, August 17

### Unshakeable Hope

**by Max Lucado**

Small Group Study on Sunday Mornings!

Will meet in Room 208 @ 10 am

All Ages are Welcome!

with Pastor Andy

*(Snacks are available!)*

### **Bible Study with Pastor Sam**

Summer on Wednesday Mornings

**11 am In Person Bible Study**

Gathering Room, 201

**The Book of Acts**

**Facebook Live @ 6 pm**

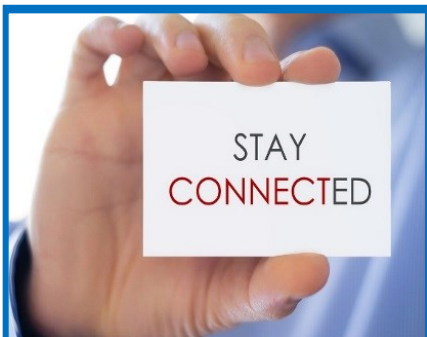
## **Men at the Well** **Thursday Mornings** **7:00 am**

You are invited to join the weekly Bible study with the Men at the Well small group. Currently meeting at the Choice Restaurant.

*Contact Todd Rains, Mark Condra or Mark Casey or any of the Men at the Well for more information.*

### **RECONNECT with the Sunday School Class of Your Choice!**

- Living Water Sunday School Class, "Reading the Old Testament Through Jewish Eyes" by Rabbi Evan Moffic, **Room 112, In person and online. Contact a member of the class for the link to join online!**
- Martin Fellowship Class, International Bible Studies, **Room 116**
- Multi-Age Sunday School, Unshakeable Hope, with Andy Yarnell and Eric Wright **Gathering Room, 201**
- Pathfinders Class is currently meeting with the Multi-Age Sunday School Class, **Gathering Room, 201 or 208**



### **Sign Up to Receive Emails from the Church**

Sign up to receive emails from the church including the Weekly News, Devotionals, Sermon Notes, and Ministry and Mission Notes.

Go to: <http://www.fumcgadsden.org/sign-up-to-receive-emails>

**Need Help: Contact Sheila Freeman @ 256-490-5018**

## ELC News

Our 2022 Summer session has come to an end. We had a great time exploring summer themes and crafts. The new school year is right around the corner. Open House for all incoming students is Thursday, August 18<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am to 11:30 am. First day for the 2022-2023 school year is Monday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>.

—Helene Haller



## Youth Ministry News

August 17th, Wonderful Wednesdays are back! Dinner at 5:15, please make a reservation. UMYF @ 6pm  
Sunday School is back for Youth. 10 am on Sundays.

Youth Retreat to Camp Lee in late September!

**Pastor Andy**

# Children's Ministry



## Wonderful Wednesday Dinner Returns!

5:15 pm, Wednesday, August 17

### Menu:

Chick-fil-a

Fruit

Chips

Tea

\$7 per person

\$3 for children under age 11

\$20 Family Max

**f GFUMC**  
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

# FALL 2022

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES  
6:00PM ROOM 108

AUG 17	WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES RESUME W/ ICE CREAM SOCIAL
OCT 19	FALL FESTIVAL AT GFUMC 
NOV 16	FRIENDSGIVING! 
DEC 4	 CHRISTMAS PLAY PRACTICE 
DEC 11	CHRISTMAS PLAY 
DEC 14	 UGLY SWEATER PARTY 

KATHARINE BARNES • 256-543-8200 • [WWW.FUMCGADSDEN.ORG/CHILDREN](http://WWW.FUMCGADSDEN.ORG/CHILDREN) • PROVERBS 22:6



## August Mission Focus

We are so excited that the principal, Mr. Anthony Ash, will be joining us at the Traditional Service this Sunday, August 14th. He will be participating in



The Blessing of all our children, youth and teachers returning to school in 2022. Our church continues striving to make a difference for all the sweet students at Striplin Elementary School. Principal Ash, the teachers, and the students' families appreciate our church for adopting their school many years ago. In order to continue providing the A/B Honor Roll parties, "Welcome Back" Teacher Breakfast, and Teacher Appreciation Luncheon, August has been designated for Striplin Elementary. *Please help us*

*shine God's Love by giving to the Striplin Fund during the month of August.*

## July Mission Update

*Thank you for packing shoeboxes and filling stockings for children during Christmas in July!*



## GFUMC



*"By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:35*

### Clothes Closet

#### Workdays

1st & 3rd Tuesdays

#### Open to Public

1st & 3rd Wednesdays

9:00 am to 11:00 am

516 Broad Street Gadsden

Please hold your fall and winter donations of clothing until the first of September. Thank you!

### Ladle of Love

Fridays, 11:00am-12:00pm, at the Portico entrance.

Clients served in June 2022

Ladle of Love 385  
Clothes Closet 202

*Thank you to all our volunteers for their time and service to these missions!*

## UMW NEWS

UMW Summer Supper

When: Tuesday, August 16 at 6:00 pm

Where: Tre Ragazzi in the Mall

All ladies (not just UMW members) are welcome. This is the last summer supper.

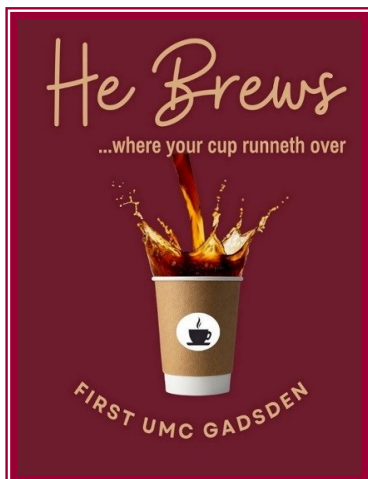
The next UMW Luncheon is September 12th.

Barbara Bennett, President



Find out more about mission and service opportunities @ [www.fumcgadsden.org/serve](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/serve)

Church Phone 256-543-8200  
[fumc@fumcgadsden.org](mailto:fumc@fumcgadsden.org)



## Inviting Ministries welcomes you to our Coffee Café!

We have your Sunday Cup of Coffee waiting for you between  
10 am 11 am on Sunday mornings. **Join us this Sunday!**  
*Come visit with friends, old and new, in Christian Fellowship!*  
*After Celebration and before Traditions and on your way in or*  
*out of Sunday school! **There is nothing like being here!***  
*Everyone come on back!*

# G

FUMC  
Brunch  
Club

MONTHLY LUNCH/BRUNCH  
AT 12:30 FOLLOWING  
TRADITIONAL SERVICE.

**Sunday, August 21– Harp & Clover**

All Young Adults and Families Welcome!



### Generosity: Ways to Give

[www.fumcgadsden.org/give](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/give)

Text to Give:  
256-344-8464

Mail your tithe or gift:  
115 S. 5th Street  
Gadsden, AL 35901



# First UMC Gadsden

## Pathways for Our Future

### Awareness

August 21, 6 pm  
Monica Harbarger,  
Directory of United  
Counseling

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August 28\* TBA  
September 11\* TBA  
\*Sanctuary, 3-6 pm

All sessions available via  
livestream and on demand @  
[www.fumcgadsden.org/media](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/media)

### Assessment

September 11  
through October 6

Daily Prayer &  
Weekly Fasting

Listening Sessions

### Action

September 18  
Straw Poll Vote\* (2/3 Vote  
for Disaffiliation required to  
call Church Conference.)

October 9  
Church Conference\*  
if required.  
(\*Only full members who  
are present can vote.)

Additional information and answers to frequently asked questions are available at  
[www.fumcgadsden.org/pathways4future](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/pathways4future)      password: Pathways2022

### Pathways for our Future Phase 1: Awareness (Prayer, Listening, and Learning)

The first speaker for our Special Pathways will be on **Sunday, August 21, 2022 at 6 pm** in the Sanctuary. **Rev. Monica Harbarger, Director of United Counseling**, will speak to us about how to communicate with each other gracefully and respectfully despite differences. The presentation will be in our sanctuary and live-streamed to our church website. Go to [www.fumcgadsden.org/meda](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/meda) to watch online and the live stream will appear in the media player when the stream becomes active. You can also watch at your convenience on demand on the church website or app.

### GFUMC Member Survey

**We value your opinion!**

The purpose of this survey is to determine what members want to know about the differences in our denomination and the vote that will take place in the fall of 2022 about whether we will stay UMC or disaffiliate from the denomination.



Printed survey forms are available in the church office or you can fill out the online survey form @ <https://forms.gle/itKvoHZAMsA5kV8S7>



## Calendar for August 14-20, 2022

### Aug 14, Sunday

10:00 am, Celebration Service, Sanctuary

10:00 am, Sunday School; HeBrews Coffee Ministry

11:00 am, Traditional Service, Sanctuary

### Aug 15, Monday

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

### Aug 16, Tuesday

9:00-11:00 am, Clothes Closet Workday

5:00 pm, Yoga, Gym

### Aug 17, Wednesday

9:00-11:00 am, Clothes Closet open

11:00 am, Wednesday Bible Study

### Aug 17, Wednesday cont'd

5:15 pm, Wednesday Night Meal, Gathering Room

6:00 pm, Bible Study, Room 208 & Facebook Live

6:00 pm, Children activities, Room 108

Youth activities, Gym & Room 211

6:00 pm, Choir Practice, Choir Room

6:30 pm, Ice Cream Social, Portico

### Aug 18, Thursday

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

5:30 pm, Thursday Worship, Sanctuary

### Aug 19, Friday

11:00 am-12:00 pm, Ladle of Love, Portico

Please help us update the membership records in the church office with your current mailing address, phone number, email address and birthdays for all family members. Updates may be sent to [susan@fumcgadsden.org](mailto:susan@fumcgadsden.org) or call Susan @ 256-543-8200.

*In Memory of Her Life*

*Winnie Mae Beasley*

*August 8, 2022*



*The ministers and congregation of  
First United Methodist Church of Gadsden,  
extend Christian sympathy to  
Denise and John Floyd in the death of her uncle  
Charles Milton Wiggins August 1, 2022*



### Immediate Prayer Concerns

Family of Winnie Mae Beasley.



### Continued Prayer Concerns

Jerry Casey Asher Mae Collins

John Jones (Dottie Roger's son) Dottie Rogers

Regina Holloway

Alice Hayes (mother of Sam Hayes)

### Honorariums and Memorials

#### General Budget Fund

In memory of M.B. McCartney, given by Batey & Sanders, Inc., Gadsden.

#### Building Fund

In memory of M.B. McCartney, given by Hunt Refining, Tuscaloosa.

### Birthdays

**Aug 14** Kelly Roach

**Aug 15** Trish Harrell, Ashley Hornik,  
Madeline Mills, Griffin Bone

**Aug 16** David Cummins, Bitsy Dorsett,  
Charles Trotter, Grady Leach IV

**Aug 17** Hayden Caldwell, Henry  
Darden, Josie Darden

**Aug 18** Georgia Eugenias

**Aug 19** Briggs Megois

**Aug 20** Joyce Noojin, Brad Norris



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

### Week of August 7, 2022

In Person Total \*150 Online 240

Worship Total 390 Thursday Worship \*4

Celebration Service \*60/100

Traditional Worship \*86/140

Adult Sunday School \*37/3 Children \*1

Bible Study Groups \*17/27

Children \*13 Youth \*18 Nursery \*4

Total Attendance \*90/30

General Offering Budget \$13,175.00

General Offering Received \$22,602.00

YTD General Offering Budget \$421,600.00

YTD General Offering Rec'd \$440,573.00

**2022 Pledges: 82 for \$420,924.85**

**Text to Give: 256.344.8464**

### Important Deadlines

Information for the weekly announcement sheet is due each Wednesday by noon. Events for the church calendar are needed one month prior to the event.

### Subscribe to the Weekly Church News

You can submit your email to the church office to receive the weekly announcements on Friday.

**Update Your Contact Information**  
Submit your current Address.  
Phone #, and Email for the church records: [susan@fumcgadsden.org](mailto:susan@fumcgadsden.org)  
or call 256-543-8200