



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

August 1

Sermon Notes

"How to Act in the Lunchroom"

Ready or not, "back-to-school" season is upon us. Whether you are a student or a teacher, a parent, grandparent, or none of the above – please pray for the beginning of this school year. Especially now, when we are unsure how the latest Covid surge will affect us...prayers are appreciated!

Back to School is going to be our new sermon theme for August. We are going to be spending time in the Gospel of Luke. (Join me on Wednesdays for Bible Study if you want to dig even deeper) This week, we will be in chapter 14...

14 On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely. ⁷When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸"When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; ⁹and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." ¹²He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous." (Luke 14: 1, 7-14 NRSV)

Did you know that Luke's gospel has more "meal-time" scenes than all the other gospels? It's like Luke is reminding us that life in the kingdom of God is like...a party! A festive meal! Not everyone who comes to the meal has pure motives. The Pharisees are there to spy on Jesus. Some refuse to come into the party at all, standing outside pouting (the elder brother in the Prodigal Son story). But if we do come to the table together, there are some rules. The parable Jesus tells in vv. 7-14 might seem more like social advice than an actual parable. But it is more than advice. It is a reminder... and a warning...that we don't need to jostle for position in the eyes of God. Those who push themselves to the front will end up the caboose.

I hope you will join us at the Table this Sunday, as we share Holy Communion and be reminded how to act in the "lunchroom."

Grace and peace,
Pastor Sam

Worship Opportunities

- **Mosaic:** 6:30 pm, Tuesday, (in person and online)
- **Thursday Worship:** 5:30 pm, Sanctuary

Sunday Worship

Celebration Service 9:00 am
(In person in the Sanctuary and online)

Traditions Service 11:00 am
(In person in the Sanctuary and online)

www.fumcgadsden.org/media or
on facebook live: @fumcgadsden

Tech Team Schedule

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

August 1

Celebration: Eric Wright, Will Brookshire, Zach Hilburn

Traditions: Sheila Freeman, Tammy Hayes

August 8

Celebration: Eric Wright, Bill Haller, Jacob Kelley, Sheila Freeman

Traditions: Sheila Freeman, Tammy Hayes



Youth Ministry News
Wednesday Night
Youth Group 6:00 pm
Room 211/Gym

Youth Summer 2021

Join us at Youth on Wednesdays, 6 pm

The Most Amazing Youth Event Ever

August 8th from 2 pm -10 pm

Bring \$10 and a fancy outfit to change into. The youth will be going to some surprise locations on the church bus!

Special guest speak for our devotional, amazing food, and lots of surprises! Invite friends!

ELC News

We have only two days left for the Summer 2021 session. We have had a great time exploring many summer themes. Our lunchbox revolt this past week was a blast. The Dog House came and served hot dogs and chips. Yummy Yummy! Next up for the ELC is Open House on Thursday, August 19th from 10:00 am to 11:30 am. First day for Fall 2021 is Monday, August 23rd.

Save the Date: Sept 16-18
Friends of the ELC Consignment Sale.

Helene Haller

Volunteer Meeting
 for all adults that work with children and youth
Sunday, August 1
12:00pm
Kid's Worship Room
 LUNCH AND NURSERY
 WILL BE PROVIDED

calling all volunteers!

Gadsden First United Methodist Church
Acolytes Meeting

Sunday, August 15
 Kid's Worship Room, 12:00pm
 Lunch will be provided

All students 2nd-6th grade are eligible to acolyte.
 The honor of an acolyte is to assist in worship by carrying a crucifer, lighting the candles, or holding the Bible.

"Celebrate Wonder"
Children's Church
In-Person,
Sundays
9 am and 11 am
during Worship

Children's
Worship Room
(Room 108)

August GFUMC Children's Calendar

- **Sunday, August 1** Parent Meeting 12:00pm. lunch provided
- **Wednesday, August 4** Water games! 6:00pm
- **Wednesday, August 11** no church
- **Sunday, August 15** Back to School BASH! 10:00am
- **Sunday, August 15** Acolyte Meeting 12:00pm. lunch provided
- **Wednesday, August 18** Wonderful Wednesday's Resume Ice Cream Social 6:00pm



August Missions

GFUMC is “Roaring into Greatness” with Striplin Elementary! As school begins be watching for opportunities to support our GREAT teachers and students. [#amindsetofexcellence](#)



Our Christmas Stocking Blessing Sleigh is getting ready to depart! A few stockings are still available for stuffing at the Chestnut Street entrance. Stockings need to be returned by Sunday, August 8th! —

“Ladle of Love” Team Leader Needed

A volunteer is needed to serve as the **Ladle of Love Team Leader** for Team IV for the fourth Friday of each month. Duties include coordinating volunteers, menu planning and purchasing of the food, as well as overseeing the preparation and serving of the food. Currently, Ladle of Love is serving a “to go” bag lunch at the portico of the church.



Thank you to Mandell and Judy Tillman for their years of service as the team leaders for Team IV. They have been faithful volunteers since the Ladle of Love began. Their service is very much appreciated!

UMW NEWS

Calendar of Events

The UMW Ladies met at Wellington Bleu’s on July 20, for the July Summertime Dinner. We had 15 in attendance. Watch the newsletter for UMW August Summertime Dinner information.



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

Number of people served
from January-June 2021
1,111

Ladle of Love

Fridays, 11:00am-

12:00pm, at the

Portico entrance

Number of people served
from January-June 2021
2,055

Find out more about mission
and service opportunities @
www.fumcgadsden.org/serve

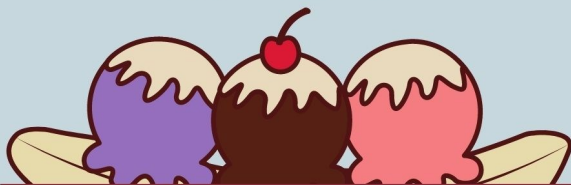
Church Phone

256-543-8200

fumc@fumcgadsden.org

Ice Cream Social

On the Portico
6:30 pm • August 18, 2021
All Ages Are Invited!



First United Methodist Church of Gadsden

Wednesday Night Supper

August 18, 5:15 pm

Chick-fil-a, Chips, Fruit, Drinks

Dinner: \$7 per person

Children 11 and under: \$3

Make a reservation by

Monday, August 16 by calling the church office @ 256.543.8200 or email: sheila@fumcgadsden.org

In-Person Bible Study on Wednesday Nights @ 6:00 pm begins on Wednesday, August 18.

In-person

Pastor Sam

Wednesday

Mornings @ 11 am

Gathering Room



Online

Pastor Sam

Wednesdays @ 6 pm,

online, FACEBOOK Live

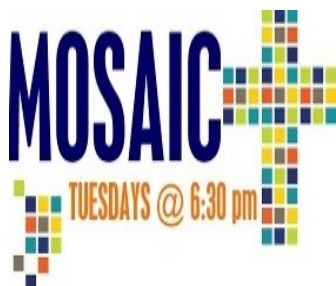
(Also, available on-demand on the GFUMC website or church app under the media tab.)

Thursdays, Men at the Well, 7:00 am via Zoom

"The Miracles of Jesus" with Roger Thompson. *Contact the church office for more information on how to join this online study.*

Sunday Mornings @ 10:00 am in person

- ♦ Living Water Sunday School Class, "Mysteries of the Messiah" by Rabbi Jadon Sobel, Chapel, Room 118.
- ♦ Martin Fellowship Class, "International Sunday School Lessons", Room 116.
- ♦ Pathfinders Class, "Better Decisions, Fewer Regrets" by Andy Stanley, Room 208.
- ♦ Seekers, Discovery and The Middle Sunday School Classes are currently not meeting. *Members are welcome to meet with another classes return.*



Join Pastor Andy for Mosaic

—A unique worship experience that includes a homily, discussion, and prayer. This service is open to everyone, but is particularly designed for those who have felt hurt or rejected. Check out the Mosaic Facebook Page for weekly devotionals and for updates about in-person worship @ 6:30 pm on Tuesdays in the gym or portico/courtyard, depending on the weather.



Worship Services are available ON DEMAND in the media tab on the app or church website.

Have you downloaded the Church App?
It is a great way to reconnect! Go to: **FUMCGadsden**
 (Available in the App Stores for Android or iPhone/)



Any questions about offerings, gifts or financial issues for the church should be directed to Sheila Witherspoon, Financial Secretary. **You can reach Sheila Witherspoon at the church office at 256-543-8200 or email at giving@fumcgadsden.org.**



Generosity-Ways to Give

- www.fumcgadsden.org/give
- Text to Give:
256-344-8464
- Mail your tithe or gift:
115 S. 5th Street
Gadsden, AL 35901
- Offering Plates are located at the entrances the sanctuary.

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Calendar for August 1-7, 2021

August 1, Sunday

9:00 am, **Celebration Service**, in Sanctuary & live streamed
 10:00 am, **Martin Fellowship, Pathfinders, & Living Water**
 Sunday School classes, in person
 11:00 am, **Traditions Service**, in Sanctuary & live streamed
 12:00 pm, **Volunteer Meeting, Adults working with Children & Youth, Room 108**

August 2, Monday

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

August 3, Tuesday

9:00-11:00 am, **Clothes Closet workday**
 5:00-6:00 pm, **Yoga, Gym**
 6:30 pm, **Mosaic, In person/Livestream**

August 4, Wednesday

9:00-11:00 am, **Clothes Closet open**
 11:00 am, **Bible Study w/Pastor Sam, in person**
 6:00 pm, **Bible Study w/Pastor Sam, online**
 6:00 pm, **Children, Water games, outside**
 6:00 pm, **Youth, Gym & 211**
 6:00 pm, **Choir Practice, Choir Room**

August 5, Thursday

9:00 am-10:00 am, **Exercise Group, Gym**
 7:00 am, **Men at the Well Journey Group, Zoom**
 5:30 pm, **Thursday Worship, Sanctuary**

August 6, Friday

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

Save the Date: August 18

Ice Cream Social at 6:30 pm in Portico
 Wednesday Night Supper at 5:15 pm
 In-Person Adult Bible Study returns
 (Reservation required for supper.)

Honorariums and Memorials

General Budget:

In memory of Ina Davis, given by Carma Rayburn.
 In memory of Dot Thompson, given by Ruth Chandler.

Honorariums & Memorials

Special donations may be made, in honor or memory of a loved one, to the General Budget Fund or other designated funds. You can send a check by mail, drop in the offering plate, or use e-giving. Be sure to include the name of the person you want to be remembered.

Altar Flower Fund

Gifts to this fund are used to place flowers on the altar for special worship days throughout the year.
 Flowers may also be placed on the altar in honor or in memory of a loved one by personal request. Contact Susan Swann in the church office for available dates and more information.

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Bryant Grizzell
 Neita Taylor
 Jamie Gould



Continued Prayer Concerns

William (Skip) Edwards (Jennifer Jackson's father)
 Mikey Tonagel (Collins & Belinda Tackaberrys' son-in-law)
 Ruby Christine Poland (granddaughter of Jeff & Cathea Poland)
 Ann Elizabeth Casey (great-granddaughter of Dotty Ivey)
 Yvonne Humphrey (Jan Humphrey's step-mother)
 Mary Nichols (Patsy Blankenship's mother)

Birthdays.....

Aug 1 Jackie Herlong, Sharon Quinn, Karen Owen, Robert Abney, Steve Parrish, Keith Copeland
Aug 2 Gaynor Griffin
Aug 3 Gary Griffin, Jessica Timmons, Mac McIntyre
Aug 4 Jane Patton, Patricia Probyn, Jill Moran, Lori Walker, Mary Elizabeth Dial, Kaden Epperson
Aug 5 Laurie Holtsford, Katie Wilson
Aug 6 Karen Blackstock, David Freeman, Jade Collins

Week of July 25, 2021

*In Person Total *257	Overall Total 523
Online Viewer Total 266	Mosaic *6
Thursday *10	Sunday School *31
Celebration Service *51/110	Children *10
Traditional *65/135	Youth *17
Bible Study Groups *25/21	Other *42
General Offering Budget \$15,200.00	
General Offering Received \$10,846.00	
YTD General Offering Budget \$456,000.00	
YTD General Offering Rec'd \$396,892.00	

Covid – Update

We have masks and hand sanitizer available at the entrances and every other pew has been marked off. Please wear a mask if you have not been fully vaccinated or as needed.