



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

August 22 Sermon Notes "Go To Your Homeroom"

Have you ever heard the old saying, "You can't go home again?" It comes from a Thomas Wolfe novel by that name, which was published (posthumously) in 1940. In the novel, a man named George Webber, a fledgling author, writes a book that makes frequent references to his family and his hometown. When he returns to his hometown, George is shocked at the anger that he finds there. His family and lifelong friends felt betrayed and unfairly represented by his novel. Turned away by his hometown, George Webber begins a quest for his identity, a quest which takes him all over the world. George says in the book, "You can't go back home to your family, back home to your childhood, back home to a young man's dreams of glory and of fame...back home to the old forms and systems of things which once seemed everlasting, but which are changing all the time." There is a lot of truth in that observation; however, there is one sense in which *all* of us *can* – and *must* – go home again. It is when we are away from our true home – a loving fellowship with God. We sometimes forget how much God loves us, and how God will not rest until his children are home, and how much God rejoices when we come home. That's the central point of a couple of powerful stories that Jesus tells in Luke chapter 15: *Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him.* ² *And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."* ³ *So he told them this parable:* ⁴ *"Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it?"* ⁵ *When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices.* ⁶ *And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.'* ⁷ *Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.* ⁸ *"Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it?"* ⁹ *When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.'* ¹⁰ *Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."* (Luke 15: 1-10 NRSV)

Have you been feeling disconnected at lost in the wilderness? Come "home" this Sunday to Gadsden First UMC for worship and reconnection to the God who loves you so much!

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 22

Celebration: Mark Casey, Parker Casey, Brynn Crain

Traditions: Tammy Hayes, Sheila Freeman
August 29

Celebration: Mark Condra, Bill Haller, Carmen McKiven, Jacob McKiven

Traditions: Davis Varner, Sheila Freeman



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

ELC News

We had a great open house on Thursday, August 19. We are so excited to start the new school year on Monday, August 23.

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

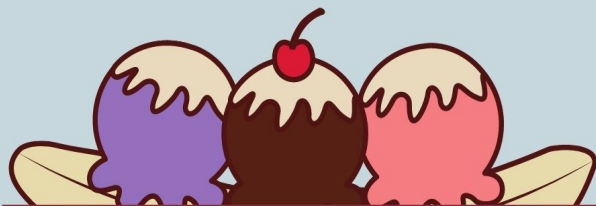
Sign up now to volunteer or consign in the Fall Consignment Sale. Check the ELC page on the website for links and more information.

Helene Haller



Ice Cream Social

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



First United Methodist Church of Gadsden



Wonderful Wednesday for Children
Every Wednesday @ 6 PM

"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!

Each year we have the opportunity to make a difference for our adopted school! We are kicking off the 2021-2022 school year by providing each teacher with a bag of supplies for their classroom. And once again this year, we will provide Teacher of the Month and Teacher of the Year Gift Cards and Certificates, A/B Honor Roll parties and the Teacher Appreciation Luncheon. **Please help us support our GREAT teachers and students by giving to the Striplin Fund.** Thank you in advance for your Generosity.
#amindsetofexcellence

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



As Fall is approaching, we will be collecting Fall and Winter Clothing. Clean out your closets and don't forget Your Clothes Closet! Women, Men, Youth, and Children's clothes are needed.

Ladle of Love

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

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

Church Phone

256-543-8200

fumc@fumcgadsden.org

#gfumcreconnect2021

"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

Due to the increase of the Covid Virus, **UMW** will not have a Summertime dinner in August. Be safe and continue to prayer for an end to this pandemic. Stay tuned in and keep your fingers crossed and say a prayer that we will be able to have our **September UMW Luncheon.**

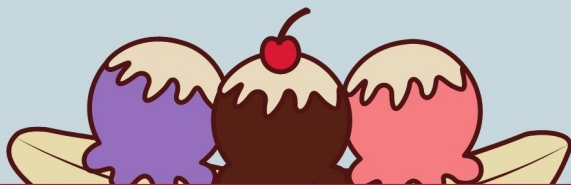
Watch this newsletter for new updates throughout the remainder of August and the beginning of September.

Eileen



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

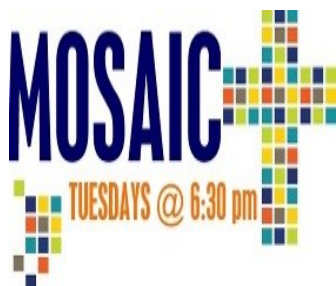
(Also, available on-demand on the GFUMC website or church app under the media tab.)

Thursdays, Men at the Well, 7:00 am via Zoom—New Study for Aug and Sep

You are invited to join the weekly ZOOM bible study with the Men at the Well small group. Everyone is invited to join this discussion group. It meets each Thursday morning at 7 am. During the months of August and September, a different member of the small group will lead a discussion. The discussion topics will be centered around different bible characters featured in the Acts of the Apostles. Each week, minor prophets and ordinary men and women will be featured. Not all of them were good people. Some are well known and some are scandalous. Go to www.fumcgadsden.org/menatthewell for more details.

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.

North Alabama Conference

Disaster Response and Recovery

In the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, on Saturday, August 14, Haiti was hit by a 7.2 magnitude earthquake that caused widespread destruction in the western region of the country. Please join others and extend prayers of comfort for those who died and those who are still missing.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is working with partners in Haiti in finding ways to meet the immediate needs of survivors.

Please join UMCOR by making donations through the work of the International Disaster Response and Recovery fund (Advance #982450).

Read more about the current response in Haiti @

<https://umcmmission.org/umcor/standing-with-haiti-amid-quake-and-storm/>.

Top 10 Things To Do on the Church APP

10. Meet the Pastors and Staff. (Home Tab-Meet the Pastors and Staff)
9. Fill out a Connect Card. (Home Tab-Connect)
8. Read the Church News. (Home Tab-News)
7. Check Out Upcoming Church Events (Events Tab)
6. Read the Bible in a Year (Bible Tab)
5. Look up Scripture. (Bible Tab)
4. Send a Prayer Request (Home Tab-Prayer Request)
3. Give (Home Tab-Give)
2. Watch the Pastor's Bible Study (Media Tab)
1. Watch or Listen to Worship Services and Sermons. (Media Tab)



Have you downloaded the Church App?

Search: 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 or Pam 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 22-29, 2021

August 22, Sunday

9:00 am, Celebration Service, in Sanctuary & live stream
 10:00 am, Martin Fellowship, Pathfinders, & Living Water
 Sunday School classes, in person
 11:00 am, Traditions Service, in Sanctuary & live stream

August 23, Monday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, ELC Fall Schedule
 9:00 am-10:00 am, Exercise Group, Gym
 5:00 pm- Trustees Meeting, gotomeeting

August 24, Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, ELC Fall Schedule
 5:00-6:00 pm, Yoga, Gym
 5:00 pm, Finance Team meeting, gotomeeting
 6:00 pm, Board of Stewards meeting, gotomeeting
 6:30 pm, Mosaic, In person

August 25, Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, ELC Fall Schedule
 11:00 am, Bible Study w/Pastor Sam, Room 208
 5:15 pm, Wednesday Night meal
 6:00 pm, Bible Study w/Pastor Sam, Rm 208
 livestream

6:00 pm, Children's Activities, Room 108
 Youth Activities, Room 211

6:00 pm, Choir Practice, Choir Room

August 26, 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 27, Friday

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



Prayer Concerns

Are for our members and their families. Please notify the pastors or church office with any updates on Prayer Concerns... Ongoing or New.

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Jack Floyd
 Bryant Grizzell
 Neita Taylor
 Silent Prayers for those who do not wish to have their name on the list.



R & R will resume on
Monday, September 27
 at 11:00 am

Get ready for all-new format,
 some amazing programs, and a new leader.
 (Covid guidelines will be in place)

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 22 Maria Swinford, Donny Gray,
 Mike Taff, Lisa Dobbins
Aug 23 Jud Dawson, Carey Malone
Aug 24 Sally Whitt
Aug 25 Tracy Jones, Jane Gardner,
 Suzanne Phillips, Daniel Sizemore,
 Hadley Freeman
Aug 26 Connor Moran
Aug 27 Ellis Rosser
Aug 29 Janet Edwards, Erin DeLucca,
 Afton Yarnell, Henry Hopper

Week of August 15, 2021

*In Person Total *246 Overall Total 504
 Online Viewer Total 258 Mosaic *6
 Thursday *13 Sunday School *29
 Celebration Service *60/117 Children *31
 Traditional *76/126 Youth *31
 Bible Study Groups 15

General Offering Budget \$15,200.00
 General Offering Received \$13,601.00
 YTD General Offering Budget \$501,600.00
 YTD General Offering Rec'd \$444,077.00

Text to Give: 256.344.8464

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.