



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

## August 29 Sermon Notes "In School Suspension"

Back in 1986, Bruce Hornsby had a smash hit with a song entitled, "The Way It Is." I confess that I am a big Bruce Hornsby fan, but even if you are not, you can't help but hear the message in the music. Here are some of the lyrics:

Standing in line, marking time  
Waiting for the welfare dime  
'Cause they can't buy a job  
The man in the silk suit hurries by  
As he catches the poor old ladies' eyes  
Just for fun he says, "get a job"  
That's just the way it is  
Some things will never change  
That's just the way it is  
Ah, but don't you believe them

The song looks at the gap between the rich and the poor (and also the gap of racial inequality). The hook in the song, of course, is the line, "That's just the way it is. Some things will never change." Have people of wealth always passed by without helping? Consider the parable Jesus told in Luke 16: 19-31:

<sup>19</sup> "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. <sup>20</sup> And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, <sup>21</sup> who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. <sup>22</sup> The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. <sup>23</sup> In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. <sup>24</sup> He called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.' <sup>25</sup> But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. <sup>26</sup> Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.' <sup>27</sup> He said, 'Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house— <sup>28</sup> for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' <sup>29</sup> Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.' <sup>30</sup> He said, 'No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' <sup>31</sup> He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'" That's just the way it is. Some things will never change. Don't you believe it! Join us Sunday as we talk about how we can be the change and bridge the gap.

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](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/media) or  
on facebook live: @fumcgadsden

## Tech Team Schedule

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

**August 29**

**Celebration:** Mark Condra, Bill Haller, Brad Barnes

**Traditions:** Davis Varner, Sheila Freeman  
**September 5**

**Celebration:** Mark Casey, Parker Casey, Brynn Crain

**Traditions:** Tammy Hayes, Sheila Freeman

## Blast Off! 2021-2022 ELC School



## ELC News

*We are so excited to "Blast Off" into the new school year!*

We had a great first full week of school. Thank you to all our families for following our safety guidelines. The ELC will be closed on Monday, September 6<sup>th</sup> in observance of Labor Day. Also, please support our fundraiser. Be a consignor or volunteer for the Consignment Sale. See Helene or the ELC website page for more details.

**Save the Date: Sept 16-18**

**Friends of the ELC**

**Consignment Sale**



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

**Sunday School @ 10 am, in-person**

**Don't forget to make a reservation for Wonderful Wednesday**

## Children's Ministry News

*"Celebrate Wonder"*

*Children's Church*

*In-Person, Sundays*

*9 am and 11 am during Worship*

*Children's Worship Room*

## GFUMC Kid's Fall Calendar

**EVERY WEDNESDAY NIGHT**

**6:00-7:00**

**CHILDREN SING IN ONE  
SERVICE**

**SUNDAY 9/26 10:00**

**THE AMAZING CHEMISTRY  
SHOW**

**SUNDAY 11/14 6:00-7:00**

**FALL FESTIVAL  
WEDNESDAY 10/20  
5:00-7:00**

**CHRISTMAS PROGRAM  
SUNDAY 12/12 TBD**



Life is a journey. The most important part of the journey is our relationship with God and with others. A Journey Group is a small gathering of individuals who help you grow in your loving relationship with both. We invite all people into a relationship with God and seek to create an outwardly focused community of Christ-followers.

Journey Groups are a great way to stay connected to God and with your church family.

## Wednesday Night Supper

September 1, 5:15 pm

Chicken Fingers, Mac-n-Cheese, Fruit

Dinner: \$7 per person

Children 11 and under: \$3

(Max \$20 per family.)

Make a reservation by

Monday, August 30 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**

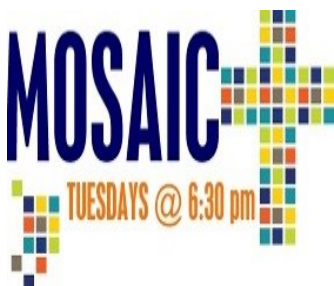
(Also, available on-demand on the GFUMC website or church app under the media tab.)

## 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](http://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.



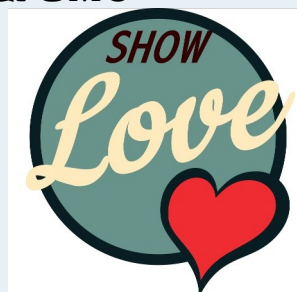


## August Missions

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](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/serve)

**Church Phone**

**256-543-8200**

[fumc@fumcgadsden.org](mailto: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*



## 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/>.

### Receptionists

#### Past, Present, and Future

A big "Thank You" goes out to all receptionists that have volunteered to be the smiling face and cheery voice for Gadsden First UMC at our Reception Desk. Whether you have worked in the past or are now on the present schedule to begin August 30 or on a sub list your "shining Light" from that desk is greatly appreciated! You are greeting all who call or come to God's House with a servant's heart.



## 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](mailto:giving@fumcgadsden.org).**

### 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
- Offering Plates are located at the entrances the sanctuary.

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## Calendar for August 29-September 4, 2121

### August 29, 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 30, Monday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, ELC Fall Schedule

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

### August 31, Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, ELC Fall Schedule

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

5:00-6:00 pm, Yoga, Gym

6:30 pm, Mosaic, In person

### September 1, Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, ELC Fall Schedule

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

11:00 am, Bible Study w/Pastor Sam, Room 208

6:00 pm, Bible Study w/Pastor Sam, livestream

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

Youth Activities, Room 211 & Gym

6:00 pm, Choir Practice, Choir Room

### September 2, 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

### September 3, Friday

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



September 27, 2021

R & R

(Retirement is not a requirement)

Everyone is welcome!

September 27, 2021 @11 am

(Covid Permitting)

We will meet our new leader!

Our first program will be Reverend Keith Elder.

He is a retired Methodist minister. This will be a

musical performance with singing and

storytelling. You will not want to miss this

performance!

Stay tuned-in for more updates!

*In Memory of His Life*

*George Howell Jack Floyd*

*August 24, 2021*



*The ministers and congregation of First United Methodist Church of Gadsden*

*extend Christian sympathy to Faye Kennah*

*in the death of her sister,*

*Betty Jo Latham*

*August 15, 2021*



### Immediate Prayer Concerns

The family of Jack Floyd

The family of Will Downs

June Styles

Bryant Grizzell



### Continued Prayer Concerns

Neita Taylor

Gage Stoudenmire (Diana Rampey's daughter)

William (Skip) Edwards (Jennifer Jackson's father)

Mikey Tonagel (Collins & Belinda Tackaberrys' son-in-law)

Ann Elizabeth Casey (great-granddaughter of Dotty Ivey)

### Birthdays.....

**Aug 30** Jane Weaver, Tommy Hood,

Aaron Andrews, Jenn Yarnell,

Warren Vallejo

**Aug 31** Dr. Cecil Dorsett, Faye Kennah,

Bill Green

**Sept 1** Louis Loveman

**Sept 2** Sherry Bridges, Neita Taylor,

Susan George, Frances Isbell,

Sam Blackstock, Sarah Blackstock



### Week of August 22, 2021

\*In Person Total \*236 Overall Total 508

Online Viewer Total 272 Mosaic \*6

Thursday \*11 Sunday School \*33

Celebration Service \*47/112 Children \*25

Traditional \*84/139 Youth \*15

Bible Study Groups \*15/21

General Offering Budget \$15,200.00

General Offering Received \$7,726.00

YTD General Offering Budget \$516,800.00

YTD General Offering Rec'd \$451,803.00

**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.*