



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

August 8

Sermon Notes

"Pop Quiz"

One of my favorite poems is Robert Frost's *The Road Not Taken*. Remember that one?

*Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;*

That's just the first stanza, but you can get the idea of where this poem is going. Whether or not we want to admit it, and whether or not we are even ready for it, CHOICES in life are inevitable. We can go one way...or we can go the other way...but we can't do both (and be "one traveler" as Frost puts it). Have you ever had a choice sprung on you...like a Pop Quiz in school? Jesus gave such a Pop Quiz in Luke 14.

²⁵ Now large crowds were traveling with him; and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' ³¹ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions. (Luke 14: 25-33 NRSV)

Jesus said these words to a crowd of "maybe" followers. They liked hearing Jesus' teachings. Maybe they had seen Jesus perform a miracle – or heard about one. So, they were tagging along. BUT Jesus was headed to Jerusalem. So they said they wanted to follow Jesus. Were they really willing to pay the price?

Are we willing to take the "road less traveled" that is discipleship? That will be our Quiz this Sunday.

See you in "class,"

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 8

Celebration: Mark Condra, Bill Haller, Jacob Kelley

Traditions: Sheila Freeman, Tammy Hayes

August 15

Celebration: Davis Varner, Brad Barnes, Liz Barnes

Traditions: Carmen McKiven, Jacob McKiven, Sheila Freeman



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

Open House
Thursday, August 19th
10:00 am to 11:30 am.

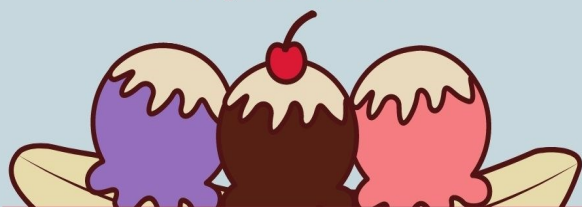
First day for Fall 2021 is
Monday, August 23rd.

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

Helene Haller

Ice Cream Social

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



First United Methodist Church of Gadsden

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!

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



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

We appreciate our
Volunteers!

Ladle of Love

Fridays, 11:00am-

12:00pm, at the

Portico entrance

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

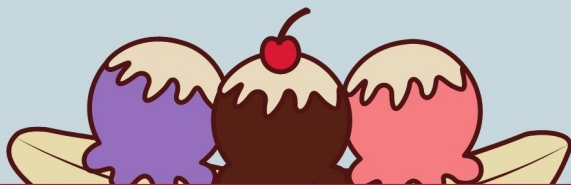
Church Phone

256-543-8200

fumc@fumcgadsden.org

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

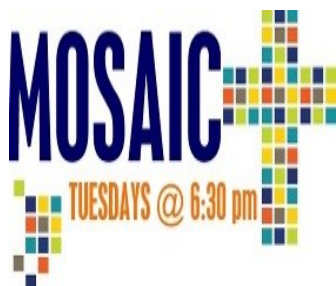
(Also, available on-demand on the GFUMC website or church app under the media tab.)

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.



Sunday, August 8

- Blessing of Christmas Stockings for Christmas in July.
- Blessings of the Teacher Supplies for Striplin Elementary School.

Sunday, August 15

- Blessing for Students and Teachers in Worship Services
- Back to School Bash for Children and Youth, 10 AM
- Bible Presentation for Students entering 3rd or 4th Grade

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 Card)
8. Read the Church News. (Home Tab-GFUMC News)
7. Check Out Upcoming Church Events. (Events Tab)
6. Read the Bible in a Year or Look up Scripture. (Bible Tab)
5. Enable Notifications to Receive Messages from the Church. (Settings)
4. Send a Prayer Request. (Home Tab-Prayer Request)
3. Give. (Home Tab-Give)
2. Watch the Pastor's Bible Study. (Media Tab-Select Study)
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 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 8-14, 2021

August 8, 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

2:00 pm-8:00 pm, Special Youth Event, meet at the church &
Ride the Church Bus

August 9, Monday

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

August 10, Tuesday

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

6:30 pm, Mosaic, In person/Live stream

August 11, Wednesday

No Bible Study w/Pastor Sam

No Children's Activities

6:00 pm, Youth meeting for Dinner (away)

6:00 pm, Choir Practice, Choir Room

August 12, 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 13, 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.)

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.



**R & R
Returning
September 27, 2021**

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

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

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 7 Ruthie Hester, Ray Smith,
Carol Roberts, Sellers Kirk
Aug 8 Jennifer Jackson, Sawyer Cornett
Aug 9 Peggy Burnett, Diana Rampey, Judy
Tillman, Lewis Hill, Rebecca Jones,
Madeline Miller
Aug 10 Tracie Wooten, Jacob McKiven,
Presley Autrey
Aug 12 Gwen Axtell, Claire Hedgspeth
Aug 13 Quinn Darden
Aug 14 Kelly Roach

Week of August 1, 2021

*In Person Total *233 Overall Total 552
Online Viewer Total 319 Mosaic *8
Thursday *10 Sunday School *32
Celebration Service *67/146 Children *11
Traditional *68/157 Youth *14
Bible Study Groups *10/16 Other *13

General Offering Budget \$15,200.00
General Offering Received \$13,136.00
YTD General Offering Budget \$471,200.00
YTD General Offering Rec'd \$410,028.00

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.*