

A Sermon based on 1 John 4:7-12

"The Love Connection"

Rev. Keith Elder

Join us as we welcome Rev. Keith Elder for a special Sunday of worship and song.

One Worship Service, 10 am

Reception to Follow in the Chestnut Foyer

Changing Lives by Sharing Christ, Making Disciples, Serving and Giving Hope**Sunday, Feb 12 Reminder, One Worship Service at 10 am.****GFUMC Praise Band will lead the worship service and our mission focus will be Manna. Rev. Keith Elder will share a message and sing.****There will be a reception in the Chestnut St Foyer after worship.**

2-5-23 Sermon Notes "The Love Connection" 1 John 4:7-12

Knowing God Through Love

7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Seeing God Through Love

12 No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.

Rev. Keith Elder

Singer, songwriter, retreat leader--Keith Elder has spoken and performed for thirty-plus years in a wide variety of church, conference, and community settings. While serving local churches in North Alabama, first as a youth director then as a pastor, Keith continued to write and record, play small concert venues, and provide leadership for special events. As of July, 2020, he is officially retired from pastoral ministry, which makes him even more available to sing and speak for local churches and special events.

Keith has recorded seven full album projects, with his latest, "Mine that Mountain," being released in August, 2014. He has numerous new projects in the works including "Good Life" (due for release, Fall of 2021), and an acoustic Christmas project. Besides many theme songs for camps, service organizations, and special events, he has also written and produced several small-scale musicals.

Keith's songs are life/people songs crossing the lines of Christian, Folk/Americana, Musical Theater, and contemporary Bluegrass. When asked about his genre, he likes to say that he just writes what comes out on a given day. These days he is shooting for an honest word, a compelling story, and a fitting musical form to carry the message. No doubt, his favorite songwriter quote comes from the legendary Roger Miller: "Songwriting is easy. It's like taking candy...from a bear."

Because the new songs continue to surface, Keith's concerts and Sunday morning messages-in-song are ever-evolving, but all include songs that ring true, stories that draw the listener in, and food for thought works on people long after Keith has left the building. If you hear echoes of James Taylor, John Denver, or Larry Gatlin, you won't be the first. Keith and his wife Jean have been married 42 years and currently reside in Vestavia Hills, Alabama.

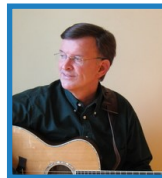


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Financial & Attendance Report

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 or

on Facebook Live: @FUMCgadsden

ACOLYTES

February 12: Quinn Darden &

Sarah Kate Brookshire

February 19: Anna Kate Casey & Maddie Tow

Tech Team Schedule

(Please arrive 45 minutes before the service.)

February 12

One Service at 10 AM

Eric Wright, Brad Barnes, Davis Varner, Sheila Freeman

February 19

Celebration: Will Brookshire, Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman

Traditions: Mark Casey, Parker Casey, Sheila Freeman

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"The Love Connection"

Rev. Keith Elder

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One Worship Service, 10 am

Fellowship Time to Follow in the Chestnut Foyer

Sunday, February 12

First United Methodist Church of Gadsden

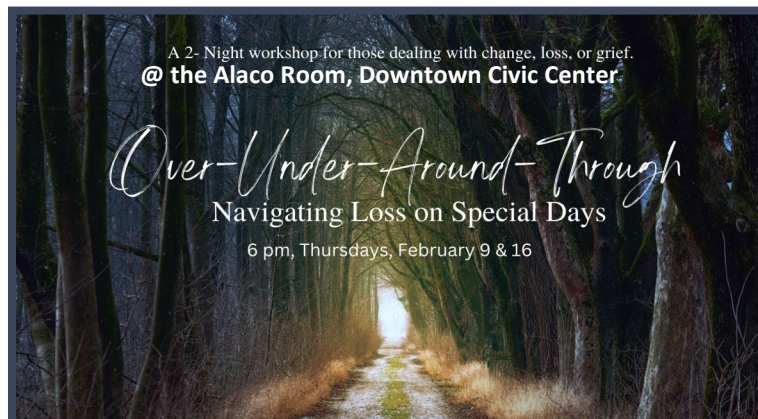
115 S. 5TH STREET



ASH
Wednesday
6:00 pm, February 22, 2023
in the Sanctuary

115 S. 5th Street
Gadsden, AL 35901

www.fumcgadsden.org



A 2-Night workshop for those dealing with change, loss, or grief.
@ the Alaco Room, Downtown Civic Center

Over-Under-Around-Through
Navigating Loss on Special Days
6 pm, Thursdays, February 9 & 16

Gadsden First UMC will host this workshop at the Alaco Room, Downtown Civic Center. Coping with grief and loss can be difficult. Whether you are grieving the death of a loved one, coping with a divorce, feeling the pangs of an empty nest, settling into a new job or town, or experiencing other changes in your life, holidays and other special days may cause your feeling of loss to be intensified. This workshop will give you tools to help you cope with changes and anxiety, as you move through different

seasons of life. The workshop will be facilitated by Frances Hart. **All are welcome!** Find out more @ www.fumcgadsden.org/overunderaroundthrough or contact Sheila Freeman @ 256-490-5018.

**We Want to See You @
Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Meal**

Feb 15 Menu: Chicken Fingers

**Adults \$7 Ages 11 & Under \$3
Family Max \$20**

Out of Town on the Weekend?

Come to Thursday Worship!

5:30 to 6:00 pm each week

In the Sanctuary

Wednesday Mornings, 11 am

Bible Study with Pastor Sam

Room 208, In Person Bible Study, A Study of the Book of Romans

Facebook Live @ 6 pm or on demand-via the FUMC APP or website

Small Groups @ Wonderful Wednesday, 6 pm

- ♦ Christianity and World Religions w/ Pastor Sam, Room 208
- ♦ Good Boundaries and Goodbyes w/Harriet Murray, Room 110

**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. They are currently meeting at the Choice Restaurant.

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

**There's a Place for you
in Sunday School!**

- Living Waters Sunday School Class, Room 112, In person and online. Contact a member of the class for the link to join online!
"All the Places to Go, How Will You Know?" By John Ortberg
- Martin Fellowship Class, International Bible Studies, Room 116
- Multi-Age Sunday School, with Eric Wright and Harriet Murray, Room 208
- Pathfinders and Seekers Classes are currently meeting with the Multi-Age Sunday School Class, Room 208 "Everybody Always" by Bob Goff



Sign Up to Receive Emails from the Church

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

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

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

ELC News

Thank you once again to everyone who purchased a cake. Our profit is \$2,679 to use for ELC needs. A special thank you to Sheila Freeman, Lynne Frederick, Mark Condra, Glenn Porter and members of Men at the Well. Your time and energy into this event truly made a difference. We expect this fundraiser to only grow. This week ELC students and faculty will celebrate Valentine's Day. Registration for Summer 2023 and the 2023-2024 school year begins with currently enrolled church member students.

—Helene Haller



Youth Ministry News

Wonderful Wednesdays are back!
Dinner at 5:15, please make a reservation!

**Sunday School is back for Youth! Room 210
10 am on Sunday mornings.**

**Sunday, February 12-Super Bowl Party
—Pastor Andy**

**Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Dinner— February 15 Menu: Chicken Fingers
\$7 per person, 11 & Under-\$3, Family Max \$20**

Children's Ministry

Children's Church, Sundays during Celebration and Traditions Worship

Wonderful Wednesday Children's Group, Wednesdays at 6 pm

GFUMC Kids
Spring Calendar

"Fort Night" Family Night
February 1 🏠📖

March Madness
March 22 🏀🏈

Easter Egg Hunt
April 1 ✝️

Wonderful Wednesdays Children's Church
Wednesday's @ 6:00 Sunday's @ 9:00 and 11:00

www.fumcgadsden.org/children ● Proverbs 22:6

Wonderful Wednesdays @6:00

January

Jan 4	Jan 11
We can see God through Jesus.	We can hear God's voice if we listen.

February

Feb 1	Feb 8
Following Jesus is the opposite of following ourselves.	Our enemies help us learn to love.

Jan 18	Jan 25	Feb 15	Feb 23
God is powerful!	Following God makes us stand out.	Jesus is with us even though we can't see Him.	Ash Wednesday

You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart.
Jeremiah 29:13

February Mission Focus

Mission Service Team-Upper Sand Mountain Parish

A Mission Service Team is now forming for First UMC Gadsden to take a team to Upper Sand Mountain Parish in beautiful Northeast AL March 27-31. We are planning to take the bus plus a couple of private vehicles. This mission trip will provide opportunities to serve in a variety of ways, including repairing low income housing, maintaining parish and church structures, canning and preserving food at the Better Way Cannery, and serving at Day Camps for area children. Please contact the church office as soon as possible so that we can confirm this trip. **Call the church office at 256-543-8200 to sign up!**

February Mission Focus: Help us fill a Tornado Bucket for the Disaster Relief Warehouse in Decatur! This year, we will be collecting donations of items for the buckets so that those can then be divided up and packed! **You can help by donating multiple quantities of the same item** or by sponsoring a tornado bucket. The estimated cost of the items for one tornado bucket is \$120. Buckets will be taken to our Disaster Relief Warehouse at the end of February.

Specific Items Needed to Complete a Tornado Bucket

- 1 Standard Size Claw Hammer
- 1 Shirt Pocket Notebook, 1 Permanent Marker,
- 1 Pencil and Sharpener in a Ziploc Bag
- 12 Black 30-45 Gallon Trash Bags
- 1 Roll of Toilet Paper in Zip Lock bag
- Work Gloves-Leather Palm or All Leather Gloves
- 50 Count #8 Nails
- 10 White 13 Gallon Trash Bags with drawstrings.
- 1 Cellophane Packing Tape
- 10 One Gallon Zip Lock Bags
- 1 Box Cutter
- 1 Hand Sanitizer (4oz to 12 oz)
- 1 Insect Repellent Spray or Can, or Wipes or combination
- 1 pair Safety Glasses
- 6 Clear 40 –55 Gallon Trash Bags
- 3 Tampons or Pads in a Zip Loc Bag

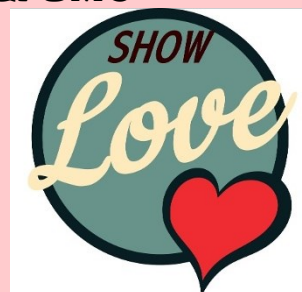
United Women of Faith

Next Luncheon is Monday, February 13, 2023, at 12:00 pm. Speaker is Laura Johnson, Director of Manna. Call your lunch reservations in by noon on February 10 to Delores Abney at 256-458-0376. Executive Board meeting in room 208 at 10:30 am.

The LuVerna Waid Circle will meet February 21 at 6:00 pm in the parlor. The ongoing study is "The Upper Room".

Please invite a friend to come and join us. *Barbara Bennett, President*

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

February dates are

2/1 and 2/15

9:00 am to 11:00 am

516 Broad Street Gadsden

Ladle of Love

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

Clients served

2022 YEAR END

Ladle of Love 4,298

Clothes Closet 2,442

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

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

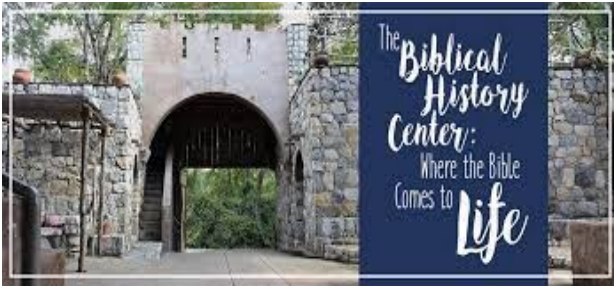
Phone: 256-543-8200

Email:

fumc@fumcgadsden.org

#gfumcreconnect2022

Sign up for a Trip to the Biblical History Center—March 14



Ken and I are planning a trip to the Biblical History Center in LaGrange, GA on Tuesday, March 14.

We will walk through the Archaeological Replica Garden, which has “full scale reconstructions relevant to life in Biblical times.” After the tour, we will have a four course meal. The whole experience of the tour and the meal is three

hours. Our reservation is at 10:30 am. We will travel by church bus with Eileen Graham driving. The cost of \$74.00 includes entrance fee to the Archaeological Garden, the four course meal, and gas for the van. Please let us know as soon as possible so I can lock in our reservation date and time. *Plan to go on this fun and educational experience! You will come away with a better understanding of life in Biblical times.*

Have questions? Call me—Peggy Casey at 256-504-2037 or Ken Casey at 259-441-0280.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GADSDEN

Generosity 2023

Strength for today, bright hope for tomorrow!

Your church needs more than just your financial giving in 2023...we need everyone to be “engaged” with church. We all promised to support our church with our PRAYERS, PRESENCE, GIFTS, SERVICE, and WITNESS. In other words, we all promised to be plugged into every part of the church and to do it faithfully.



Generosity 2023

First United Methodist Church of Gadsden

As of 1.29.23
62 Estimate of Giving
Cards received for a total
of \$346,684.00.

There is a line in the hymn, *Great is Thy Faithfulness*, that is so appropriate for where we are right now: “Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow...” That is what our Faithful God provides to us. That’s what we want you to be a part of. Your giving of tithes, offerings, time, talents, and service will help strengthen FUMC Gadsden today, and will help ensure bright hope for tomorrow. Your church needs YOU at this critical time in its history!

Please pray about your contributions to your church for 2023, complete an Estimate of Giving Card for 2023, and return it to the church office as quickly as you can, so that our Finance Team can finish up the 2023 budget. It’s not too late to complete your card. —The Generosity Team

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





Thank you for your purchase of

**AUTHENTIC LOUISIANA
KING CAKES**

Thank you once again to everyone who purchased a cake. Our profit is \$2,679 to use for ELC needs. A special thank you to Helene Haller, Sheila Freeman, Lynne Frederick, Mark Condra, Glenn Porter, members of Men at the Well and teachers & parents. Your time and energy into this event truly made a difference. We expect this fundraiser to only grow. ---Friends of the ELC

FUNDRAISER BENEFITTING THE EARLY LEARNING CENTER OF FIRST UMC GADSDEN

Please join us for HeBrews Coffee Café
Between the Sunday morning worship services, from 10 am to 11 am.
We can't wait to see you there!!!


He Brews
...where your cup runneth over



FIRST UMC GADSDEN

Have you downloaded
the Church App?

Search:
First UMC-Gadsden



Follow us on Instagram and Facebook.




Church Website: www.fumcgadsden.org

Calendar for February 12-18, 2023

Feb 12 Sunday

10:00 am One Service, Rev. Keith Elder, Sanctuary

11:00 am HeBrews Coffee & refreshments in Chestnut Street Lobby

Feb 13 Monday

9:00 am-1:00 pm ELC Spring Semester

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

Feb 14 Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm ELC Spring Semester

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

5:00-6:00 pm Yoga, Gym

Feb 15 Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm ELC Spring Semester

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

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

5:15 pm Wednesday night meal, Gathering Room

6:00 pm Small Groups, Rooms 110 & 208

6:00 pm Children's Bible Group & activities, Room 108

6:00 pm Youth Group, Gym & Room 211

6:00 pm Choir Practice, Choir Room

Feb 16 Thursday

9:00 am-1:00 pm ELC Spring Semester

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

5:30 pm Thursday Worship, Sanctuary

6:00 pm Workshop, Alaco Room, Downtown Civic Ctr

Feb 17 Friday 11:00 am-12:00 pm Ladle of Love

Honorariums & Memorials

Ladle of Love Fund

In memory of Dr. Bobbie Walden, given by Marian Ford.

Music Fund

In memory of Dr. Lucian Newman, Jr. given by Marian Ford.

Mission Fund

In memory of Dr. Connie Floyd, given by Marian Ford.



Immediate Prayer Concerns

Mike McEwen Jane Herb Mary Tom Hale

Continued Prayer Concerns

Rodney Thompson Chris Gunnells

June Longshore

Martha Bullock



Handbell Musicians



We are looking forward to adult participation in a new handbell choir. If you are interested and know basic musical notes, please contact Monica Gilmer at 256-328-4420.

Birthdays

Feb 12 Leslie Johnson, Casey Wigley

Feb 13 Sherry McIntyre, Rhett Hilburn

Feb 14 Herman Cowart,
Sara McClendon, Carol Vice,
Elizabeth Haney, Katie Darden

Feb 15 Jace McDill

Feb 16 Sandra Hunter,
Barbara Condra, Ann Carter Sasser

Feb 18 Kelly Cox



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

Week of February 5, 2023

In Person Total *146 Online 362
Worship Total 507 Thursday Worship *4
Celebration Service *66/168
Traditions Service *76/193
Adult Sunday School *37 Children *2
Bible Study Groups *36/66
Children *33 Youth *16 Nursery *8
Total Small Groups *132/66
*In Person

Proposed Offering Budget \$12,777.00
General Offering Received \$13,360.00
YTD General Offering Budget \$76,662.00
YTD General Offering Rec'd \$76,557.00

**WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS**

**Justin Gilbert
and
Elizabeth Gilbert**