

# IF YOU FALL DOWN

- First Sunday in Lent -



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

## Sermon Notes: 2.26.23 "If You Fall Down"

### Jesus Is Tested in the Wilderness

<sup>4</sup> Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted<sup>[a]</sup> by the devil. <sup>2</sup> After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. <sup>3</sup> The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

<sup>4</sup> Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'<sup>[b]</sup>"

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. <sup>6</sup> "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written:

"He will command his angels concerning you,  
and they will lift you up in their hands,  
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'<sup>[c]</sup>"

<sup>7</sup> Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'<sup>[d]</sup>"

<sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. <sup>9</sup> "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."

<sup>10</sup> Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'<sup>[e]</sup>"

<sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him. **Matthew 4: 1-11 NIV**

This is our first Sunday in our journey through the season of Lent. Did you notice that the Spirit leads Jesus into the wilderness? It's important for us to remember that the Spirit is with us and leading us through the journey during Lent as well. In this passage, the devil tempts Jesus three times. Did you notice that the devil says, "if you are the Son of God." We are often tempted to doubt our identity. We question if we truly are loved and cared for by God. We are tempted to think we don't have value and don't have a call or mission in life. On our journey with Jesus this Sunday we will remember who we are, who we belong to, and what the Spirit may be leading us to do. We will fall down and mess up over and over again. Don't give up, Jesus loves and cares for us! May we journey and grow closer with Jesus during this season. Our focus on Ash Wednesday and again this Sunday is that an inward repentance, renewal and fasting should lead us into outward change and compassion for all of God's children.

— Pastor Andy

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## 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](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/media) or

on Facebook Live: @FUMCgadsden

## ACOLYTES

February 26: Jack & Sarah Kate Brookshire

March 5: Silas Hosey & Luke Barnes

## Tech Team Schedule

(Please arrive 45 minutes before the service.)

**February 26**

**Celebration:** Will Brookshire,, Bill Haller, Jacob McKiven, Carmen McKiven

**Traditions:** Tammy Hayes, Brad Barnes

**March 5**

**Celebration:** Eric Wright, Sheila Freeman, Brad Barnes

**Traditions:** Davis Verner, Sheila Freeman



## ROBBIE'S OF FAYETTE TRUNK SHOW

Thursday, March 16th

10:00am-3:00pm

In the Gathering Room @ FUMC  
Gadsden

***Come and shop with us!** A portion of your  
purchase benefits the GFUMC Children's Ministry!*

## Sermons for Lent

Thurs. 2/23 & Sun. 2/26 "If You Fall Down"

Thurs. 3/2 & Sun. 3/5 "For God So Loved

Thurs. 3/9 & Sun. 3/12 "How is It"

Thurs. 3/16 & Sun. 3/19 "The Real Blind Man" -

Thurs. 3/23 & Sun. 3/26 "The Resurrection and The Life"

Join us on Thursdays @ 5:30 pm or Sundays @ 9 am and 10:55 am.



***Thank you to everyone who volunteered and served at the Over Under Around Through Workshop. Special thanks to Frances Hart and Jill Hart for coming to join us. We were so glad to welcome so many to the workshop and look forward to seeing you again soon!***

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

**March 1 Italian Night**

**\$ 7 Per Person Ages 11 & Under \$3  
Family Max \$20  
Text Your Reservation: 256-490-5018**

**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**

- ♦ A Study of the Book of Romans w/ Pastor Sam, Room 208
- ♦ Why Easter Matters 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.

Something Happens Here by Stephen P. West will be the topic for Lent.

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!  
Luke-Jesus and The Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws by Adam Hamilton
- 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** He Chose the Nails by Max Lucado



**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

This week the 4k students and teachers enjoyed a visit from Dr. Forrest Bailey. They talked about healthy teeth and Dr. Bailey brought along Blippe as an additional special guest. On Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, we will have our February lunchbox revolt and McDonald's is our vendor. Final registration for those currently enrolled will be February 27<sup>th</sup> through March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Spring Pictures, including Cap and Gown for our 4K students, will be March 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.

*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.**

**Don't miss our Wednesday night series for Lent!**

*—Pastor Andy*

**Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Dinner— March 1**

**Menu: Italian Night Text Reservation to 256-490-5018**

**\$7 per person \$3 for under 11 \$20 Family Max**

## Children's Ministry

**Children's Church, Sundays during Celebration and Traditions Worship**  
**Wonderful Wednesday Children's Group, Every Wednesday at 6 pm**

**GFUMC KID'S PRESENTS**  
**MARCH**  
**MADNESS!**



**MARCH 22**  
**6:00**  
**KID'S**  
**WORSHIP**  
**ROOM**

## 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

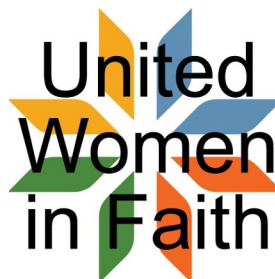
#### United Women in Faith

March Luncheon

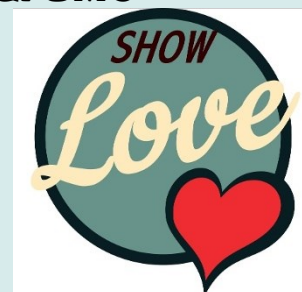
Monday, March 13, 2023 at 12:00 pm.

Our program will be “Moving Forward for the Methodist Women”, Gail Hiatt, Lay Leader, Mountain Lakes District. 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

##### March dates are

3/1 and 3/15

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

Phone: 256-543-8200

Email:

[fumc@fumcgadsden.org](mailto:fumc@fumcgadsden.org)

[#gfumcreconnect2022](https://www.fumcgadsden.org/serve)

## Striplin A/B Honor Roll Party 2/20/23

We are so excited to celebrate the A/B Honor Roll students at Striplin Elementary School! The children were so excited to welcome special entertainment by the Drum Corp and Cheerleaders from Gadsden Middle! Thank you for your generous gifts that support this ministry and mission to children in our community. It would not be possible without you!



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 2.26.23  
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!

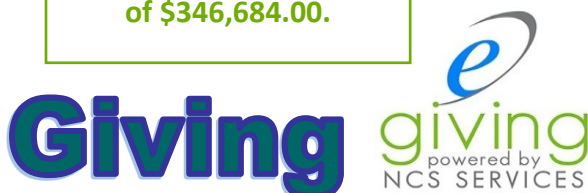
Please pray about your contributions to your church for 2023, complete an Estimate of Giving Card for 2023, and return it to the church office as quickly as you can, so that our Finance Team can finish up the 2023 budget. It’s not too late to complete your card. —The Generosity Team

### Generosity: Ways to Give

[www.fumcgadsden.org/give](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/give)

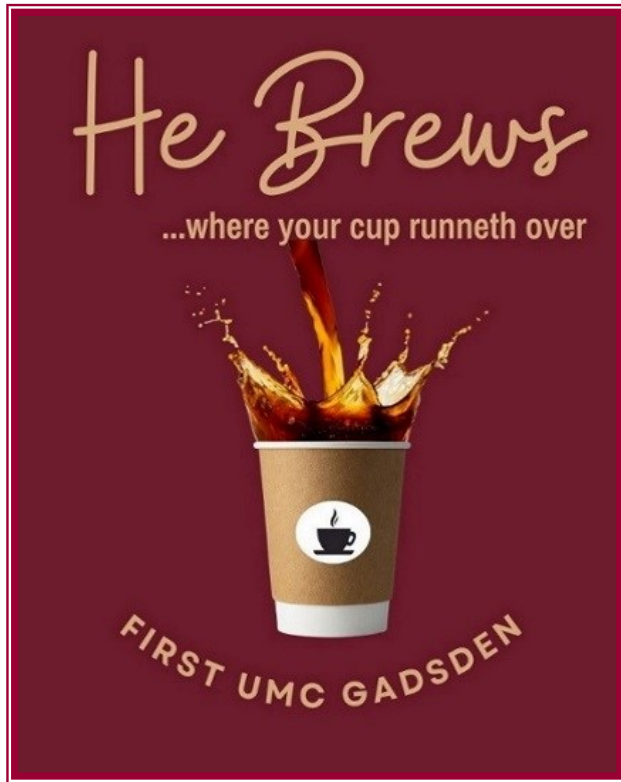
Text to Give: 256-344-8464

Mail your tithe or gift: 115 S. 5th Street, Gadsden, AL 35901

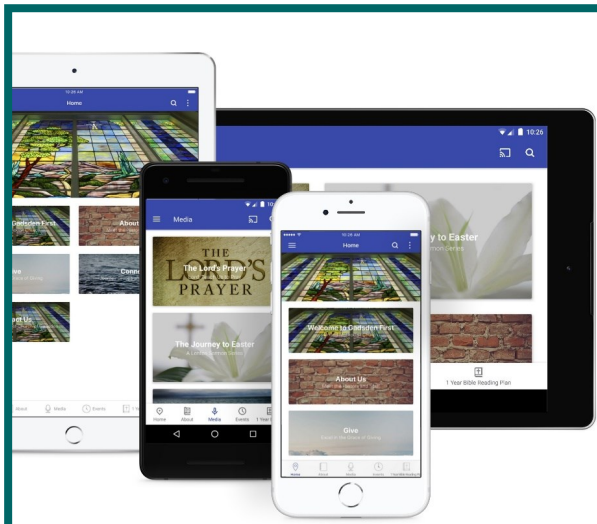





# Inviting Ministries




**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!!!**

A collage of three mobile devices (a tablet and two smartphones) displaying the church's mobile app. The app interface shows a home screen with a large image of a stained glass window, a 'THE LORD'S PRAYER' section, and a 'Journey to Easter' section. The background of the app is a light blue and white color scheme.The app icon for the First United Methodist Church of Gadsden, featuring a red and white cross design.

First United Methodist Church of Gadsden

Available in App Stores

Logos for the Apple App Store, Google Play Store, and Amazon Appstore.

Follow us on Instagram and Facebook.



Church Website: [www.fumcgadsden.org](http://www.fumcgadsden.org)

# Calendar for February 26-March 4, 2023

## Feb 26 Sunday

9:00 am Celebration Service, Sanctuary  
10:00 am Sunday School, HeBrews Coffee Shop  
11:00 am Traditions Service, Sanctuary

## Feb 27 Monday

9:00 am-1:00 pm ELC Spring Semester  
9:00 am-10:00 am Exercise Group, Gym  
5:00 pm Trustees meeting, Parlor

## Feb 28 Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm ELC Spring Semester  
9:00 am-11:00 am Clothes Closet workday  
5:00 pm Finance Team meeting, Parlor  
6:00 pm Board of Stewards, Gathering Room  
5:00-6:00 pm Yoga, Gym

## March 1 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

## March 2 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

## March 3 Friday

11:00 am-12:00 pm Ladle of Love

## Honorariums & Memorials

### General Budget Fund

In memory of Tim Hudak, given by Craig & Linda Marble.

## **Save the Date: March 16, 2023**

10 am to 3 pm, In the Gathering Room

### **Robbie's of Fayette**

Come shop for spring clothes. A portion of the sales will go to support First UMC's Children's Ministry!

## 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 26** Susan Copeland,  
George White, Jr., Stanley Taylor,  
**Feb 27** Rev. Andy Yarnell, Leigh Carroll  
Phillips, Inez McDonald,  
Donald Edwards  
**Feb 28** Scott Dobbins  
**Feb 29** Elisabeth Hardin  
**Mar 1** Eli Hosey  
**Mar 2** Dr. Jim Phillips, Dr. George Fant  
**Mar 3** Joe Murphy, Sheila Bishop,  
Jeanne Sims, Ellen McCollum  
**Mar 4** Allie Cannon Smith



## **Week of February 19, 2023**

In Person Total \*139 Online 308  
Worship Total 447 Thursday Worship \*0  
One Combined Service \*105/236  
Adult Sunday School \*33 Children \*2  
Bible Study Groups \*15  
Children \*35 Youth \*18 Nursery \*4  
UMW \*18 Total Small Groups \*124  
\*In Person

Proposed Offering Budget \$12,777.00  
General Offering Received \$10,167.00  
YTD General Offering Budget \$102,216.00  
YTD General Offering Rec'd \$93,435.00

## **Update Your Contact Information**

*Please help us update the membership records in the church office with your current mailing address, phone number, email address and birthdays for all family members.*

*Updates may be sent to [susan@fumcgadsden.org](mailto:susan@fumcgadsden.org) or call Susan in the church office @ 256-543-8200.*