

"The Best Sermon Ever"

A TWO-PART SERMON SERIES
JANUARY 29 "BE ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT"
FEBRUARY 5 "BEING SALT AND LIGHT"

PASTOR SAM HAYES
FIRST UMC GADSDEN

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

2/5/2023 Sermon Notes "Being Salt and Light"

One day a woman got on an elevator in a tall office building. There was just one other person in the elevator - a strikingly handsome man. She pushed the button for her floor and then "casually" looked over at the man and was suddenly very surprised. Could it be? The man looked *exactly* like Robert Redford (the movie star, in case you don't know). She just stared at him. She couldn't help it. Finally, she blurted out, "Are you the *real* Robert Redford?" He smiled and said, "Only when I'm alone." The elevator doors open, and Robert Redford stepped off and waved goodbye to her.

This makes me wonder...when are we our *real* selves as a church? Is it only when we are inside the four walls of the church building? Or - are we "being" the church when we go out into the world? I think that is what Jesus was getting at when he preached the greatest sermon ever preached...preached it from a mountain, not inside the walls of the synagogue. Here's what he said about being salt and light...

¹³ "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. (Matt. 5: 13-16 NRSV)

Notice the way Jesus phrases these essential parts of our identity. He didn't say, "You have the potential to become the salt of the earth. You have the potential to become the light of the world." He quite pointedly said, "You are salt...you are light." Both of these are very precious, and very much necessary.

Salt? Precious? As common as it is for us, in the time Jesus said this, salt was considered very precious indeed. Roman soldiers were paid partly in salt. That's where the English word "salary" comes from. It's also where we get the old saying, "Anyone worth their salt..." Jesus was saying, "You are both very precious, and every essential to life." Light? We tend to take light for granted until it goes out and we are in darkness. Then we really appreciate how precious and valuable it is. So, why in the world would we try and hide out light? The Cotton Patch Gospel version of this passage says it really clearly. "You are all the world's light; you are a city on a hill that cannot be hid. Have you ever heard of anybody turning on a light and then covering it up? Don't you fix it so that it will light up the whole room? Well, then, since you are God's light which he has turned on, go ahead and shine so clearly that when your conduct is observed it will plainly be the work of your spiritual Father."

When the Church neglects to "be" who we really are - salt and light - then the results are evident. Edmund Burke is credited for saying, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." Wasn't Jesus saying this to us - the Church - that day in the greatest sermon ever preached?

See you Sunday, Pastor Sam

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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 or
on Facebook Live: @FUMCgadsden

ACOLYTES

February 5: Silas Hosey & Clementine Hilburn

February 12: Quinn Darden &

Sarah Kate Brookshire

Tech Team Schedule

(Please arrive 45 minutes before the service.)

February 5

Celebration: Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman

Traditions: Mark Condra, Sheila Freeman

February 12

Celebration: Eric Wright, Brad Barnes, Sheila Freeman

Traditions: Davis Varner, Sheila Freeman

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

Fellowship Time to Follow in the Chestnut Foyer

Sunday, February 12

First United Methodist Church of Gadsden
115 S. 5TH STREET

Save the Date

On February 12,
2023, we will

welcome

Keith Elder for one
worship service

@ 10 am

A 2- Night workshop for those dealing with change, loss, or grief.

Over-Under-Around-Through Navigating Loss on Special Days

6 pm, Thursdays, February 9 & 16

@ the Alaco Room, Downtown Civic Center

Register in advance at www.fumcgadsden.org/overunderaroundthrough

Gadsden First UMC will host this event at the Alaco Room Downtown Civic Center. Register Early! Space is limited to 35 participants. 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,

What to expect: Week 1: Large Group Presentation followed by Small Group Breakout Sessions. Light refreshments will be provided. **Week 2:** Large Group Session and Dinner.

There is no charge for this event. However, your pre-registration will help us plan for materials and refreshments. Find out more @ www.fumcgadsden.org/overunderaroundthrough or contact Sheila Freeman @ 256-490-5018.

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

Feb 8 Italian Night

**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

Meet and greets went well, thank you to all parents that came. 3K and 4K parents students and teachers had a great time on our Snow Field Trip!

King Cakes will be ready for pick up Saturday Feb 4th from 10 a to 1 pm at the portico entrance. Watch for our announcement on total number of cakes and ELC profit. Thank you for everyone that has bought a cake or two.

—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 8 Italian Night
\$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

www.fumcgadsden.org/children

Children's Church
Sunday's
@ 9:00 and 11:00

Proverbs 22:6

Wonderful Wednesdays

@6:00

January

Jan 4
We can see
God through
Jesus.

Jan 11
We can hear
God's voice if
we listen.

Jan 18
God is
powerful!

Jan 25
Following
God makes us
stand out.

February

Feb 1
Following Jesus is
the opposite of
following
ourselves.

Feb 15
Jesus is with us
even though we
can't see Him.

Feb 8
Our enemies
help us learn
to love.

Feb 23
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.

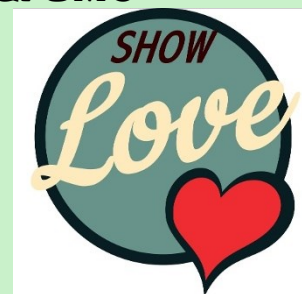
The LuVerna Waid Circle will meet February 21 at 6:00 pm in the parlor. The ongoing study is "The Upper Room".

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

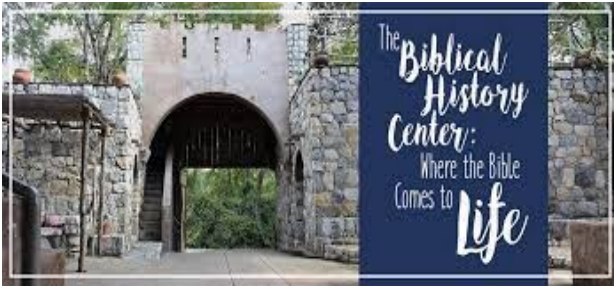
Phone: 256-543-8200

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.

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

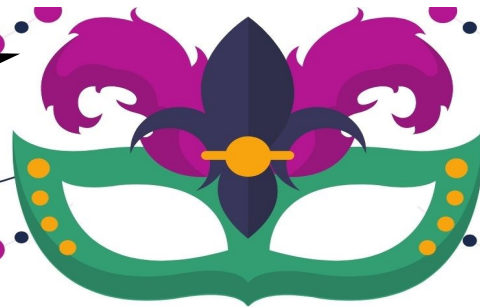
www.fumcgadsden.org/give

Text to Give: 256-344-8464

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



King Cake orders will be ready
for pickup on Sat, Feb. 4.
Check your email for times



The Friends of the ELC Present

AUTHENTIC LOUISIANA KING CAKES

From Randazzo's Bakery

FUNDRAISER BENEFITTING THE EARLY LEARNING CENTER

Thank you for your orders! An announcement will be made soon for the total # of cakes sold and the monies raised!! Cakes will be ready for pickup around 10 am on February 4. Watch for details!

Make checks payable to "Friends of the ELC".

Final order count and money is due January 23, 2023.

Cakes will be available for pickup at First UMC Gadsden on February 4, 2023.

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 5-11, 2023

Feb 5 Sunday

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

Feb 6 Monday

9:00 am-1:00 pm ELC Spring Semester
9:00 am-10:00 am Exercise Group, Gym

Feb 7 Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm ELC Spring Semester
5:00-6:00 pm Yoga, Gym

Feb 8 Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm ELC Spring Semester
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 9 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 10 Friday

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

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Jane Herb Mary Tom Hale
The family of Tim Hudak

Continued Prayer Concerns

Rodney Thompson Chris Gunnells
June Longshore
Martha Bullock



The ministers and congregation of First United Methodist Church of Gadsden extend Christian sympathy to Janice Hudak in the death of her husband, and Claire Wigley & Ross Hudak & their families, in the death of their father, Tim Hudak
January 27, 2023



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 5 Dorothy Rogers, Anna Inzer
Feb 6 Dee McCoy, Kathy Trotter
Feb 8 Rev. Ken Casey
Feb 9 Blakely Roberts
Feb 10 Jay Knowles
Feb 11 Courtney Hood, Stephen Leach



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

Week of January 29, 2023

In Person Total *146 Online 349
Worship Total 495 Thursday Worship *8
Celebration Service *51/154
Traditions Service *87/195
Adult Sunday School *33/2 Children 0
Bible Study Groups *35/77
Children *19 Youth *18 Nursery *3
Total Small Groups *108/77
*In Person

January 29, 2023

Proposed Offering Budget \$12,777.00
General Offering Received \$12,639.00
YTD General Offering Budget \$63,885.00
YTD General Offering Rec'd \$63,197.00



Generosity 2023
First United Methodist Church of Gadsden

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