

THE GIFT OF A NEW YEAR

REFRESHING AND REMEMBERING

"Remembering Who We Are"

Pastor Sam Hayes

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

1/15/2023 Sermon Notes "Remembering Who We Are"

Remembering our identity in Christ is a great way to go into the new year! We started last week by remembering our baptism. We remembered that we are marked in baptism by God's love, initiated into God's family, and grafted into the church, the body of Christ. All of that means that we can no longer keep our hearts set on the things that are of the world. That's not who we are. Instead, we set our hearts on that which nourishes life.

In order to do that, there are some things that have to go. In addition, there are some things that we yearn for. It's a dynamic of holding on and letting go...not just doing, but *being* God's own people. This is how it is described in 1 Peter 2: 1-10...

Therefore, get rid of all ill will and all deceit, pretense, envy, and slander. ² Instead, like a newborn baby, desire the pure milk of the word. Nourished by it, you will grow into salvation, ³ since you have tasted that the Lord is good. ⁴ Now you are coming to him as to a living stone. Even though this stone was rejected by humans, from God's perspective it is chosen, valuable. ⁵ You yourselves are being built like living stones into a spiritual temple. You are being made into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ Thus it is written in scripture, Look! I am laying a cornerstone in Zion, chosen, valuable. The person who believes in him will never be shamed. ⁷ So God honors you who believe. For those who refuse to believe, though, the stone the builders tossed aside has become the capstone. ⁸ This is a stone that makes people stumble and a rock that makes them fall. Because they refuse to believe in the word, they stumble. Indeed, this is the end to which they were appointed. ⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people who are God's own possession. You have become this people so that you may speak of the wonderful acts of the one who called you out of darkness into his amazing light. ¹⁰ Once you weren't a people, but now you are God's people. Once you hadn't received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Join us this Sunday as we remember who we are: we are disciples who still need to grow; we are living stones built into a spiritual house; we are priests who serve as a bridge from darkness to light. If we know who we are, we'll know what to do.

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

ACOLYTES

January 15: Anna Kate Casey and
Hadley Hedgspeth
 January 22: Brooks Bone and Marit Norris

Tech Team Schedule

(Please arrive 45 minutes before the service.)

January 15

Celebration: Joe Pritchard, Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman
Traditions: Mark Casey, Parker Casey, Sheila Freeman

January 22

Celebration: Will Brookshire, Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman
Traditions: Davis Varner, Carmen McKiven, Jacob McKiven

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

Register in advance at www.fumcgadsden.org/overunderaroundthrough

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. Find out more on the church website @ www.fumcgadsden.org/overunderaroundthrough or contact Sheila Freeman @ 256-490-5018.

THE GIFT OF A NEW YEAR

REFRESHING AND REMEMBERING

-  Refreshing Our Hope 1/1/23
-  Remembering Our Baptism 1/8/23
-  Remembering Who We Are 1/15/23
-  Remembering Why We Are Here 1/22/23

First United Methodist Church of Gadsden

Thursday Worship 5:30 pm Sundays, 9 am and 11 am

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

Jan 18 Chicken Fingers , Mac & Cheese

**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!
- 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**



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

ELC News: We had a great week and are glad to be back into the full swing of daily life at the ELC. We will be closed on Monday, January 16th in observance of MLK Jr holiday. Please support our wonderful program by purchasing a Randazzo's King Cake or two. Orders and payment are due by January 23rd and pick up will be Saturday, February 4th.

—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.**

**Wednesday, January 18- Luau Night
(Let's pretend it's not winter)
Sunday, February 12-Super Bowl Party**

—Pastor Andy

**Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Dinner— January 18, Chicken Fingers, Mac&Cheese
\$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

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

January Mission Focus

Your Mission Team will be leading the way in January and February to once again fill Tornado Buckets for the UMCOR 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. We hope to have lots of buckets ready to take 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

GFUMC Backpack Ministry

Donations of the following items are being received in the Chestnut Street Foyer to fill backpacks for those who have recently been released from Jail with little or nothing. Needed items include: TRAVEL SIZE Body Wash, Toothpaste, Tooth Brush, Deodorant, Lotion, Bibles (small in size), and disposable rain ponchos. Backpacks are packed by the GFUMC Mission Team and distributed through The Freedom Center.



UMW News

LuVerna Waid Circle will meet
Tuesday, January 17
at 6:00 pm
in the parlor.

Next UMW Luncheon
Monday, February 13, 2023,
at 12:00 pm.



The Clothes Closet

is in immediate need of clothes that are in season. Don't forget to donate when cleaning out your closets. Tell your neighbors and friends about this great mission.

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

January dates are

1/4 and 1/18

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

NOV

Ladle of Love 293

Clothes Closet 270

DEC

Ladle of Love 288

Clothes Closet 213

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

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GADSDEN

Generosity 2023

Strength for today, bright hope for tomorrow!



As of 1.8.23
61 Estimate of Giving
Cards received for
\$340,684.00 Funds

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.

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 (at least by November 30th), so that our Finance Team can finish up the 2023 budget.

—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

Guidelines for End of Year Contributions

In order for contributions to be posted to your 2022 giving record, they must meet one of these requirements:

1. The gift is received and posted to your account before December 31st.
2. The contribution is put into the offering plate or delivered to the office on or before December 29th.
3. The envelope in which the gift is mailed is postmarked on or before December 31st.
4. An online E-Giving transaction is dated on or before December 30th. (Find link at fumcgadsden.org/giving)
5. Gifts of stock should be transferred before the market closes on December 30th. Please inform the financial Office at the church about a stock transfer.

If you have questions or need more information, please contact Sheila Witherspoon or Pam Deru in the church office at giving@fumcgadsden.org or 256-543-8200, no later than December 29th. **(Church office is closed 12/30)**

DOES AN IRA ROLLOVER MAKES SENSE THIS YEAR?

Did you know that you can reduce your taxes by making a gift from your IRA to your church? An IRA rollover is a simple and easy way for you to use your IRA to help Gadsden First United Methodist Church fulfill its mission.

By transferring some of your IRA required distribution to the church, you may be able to lower your taxable income and capital gains taxes this year. Check with your advisor to see how an IRA rollover gift could impact your taxes while helping the ministries and missions of the church.



The Friends of the ELC Present

AUTHENTIC LOUISIANA KING CAKES

FUNDRAISER BENEFITTING THE EARLY LEARNING CENTER

Small Traditional \$20

Small Filled* \$25

Small Pecan Praline \$30

Medium Traditional \$25

Medium Filled* \$30

Medium Pecan Praline \$35

*Cream Cheese or Strawberry

Deadline to order: January 23, 2023

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.

Authentic Louisiana King Cakes Order Form

Name _____ Phone _____

Type of Cake	Quantity	Price	Total
Small Traditional 12" Circle, Feeds approx. 10		\$ 20.00	
Medium Traditional 12"x16" Oval, Feeds approx. 25		\$ 25.00	
Small Filled* 12"		\$ 25.00	
*Cream Cheese or Strawberry (Circle One)			
Medium Filled* 12"x16"		\$ 30.00	
*Cream Cheese or Strawberry (Circle One)			
Small Pecan Praline 12"		\$ 30.00	
Medium Pecan Praline 12"x16"		\$ 35.00	
Total Quantity and Total Amount Due			

Calendar for January 15-21, 2023

Jan 15 Sunday

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

Jan 16, Monday

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

Jan 17 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
 6:00 pm LuVerna Waid Circle, Parlor

Jan 18 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

Jan 18 Wednesday, cont'd

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

Jan 19 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

Jan 20 Friday

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



Jan 23

5:00 pm Trustees

Jan 24

5:00 pm Finance

6:00 pm Board of Stewards

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Jane Herb Chris Gunnells

Continued Prayer Concerns

Rodney Thompson Ted Jones Dorothy Robinson
 Michael Fortenberry The Leach Family
 Lisa Dobbins
 Scott Dobbins



The rose on the altar is in celebration of the birth of



Sadie Marie Ross

Born: January 4, 2023

Parents: David & Hallie Ross

Grandparents: Alan & Ginger Ross

Given by the Children's Ministry and the ELC

The rose on the altar is in celebration of the birth of



Thomas Lee Hiltz, III

Born: January 6, 2023

Parents: Tommy & Lizzie Hiltz

Grandparents: Don and Debbie Hiltz

Given by the Children's Ministry and the ELC

Birthdays

Jan 15 Joan Bigelow
Jan 16 Dr. Bill Haller
Jan 17 Stephen Kirk, Mary Claire Owen
Jan 18 Frank Dressman, Jan Andrew, Lindsay Winters
Jan 19 Janie Gray, William Edwards
Jan 20 Sharon Morris



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

Week of January 8, 2023

In Person Total *118 Online 412
 Worship Total 530 Thursday Worship *8
 Celebration Service *44/171
 Adult Sunday School *31 Children 4
 Bible Study Groups *41/77
 Children *21 Youth *18 Nursery *4
 Total Small Group Attendance *119/77
 *In Person

YTD 2023

General Offering Budget \$13,175.00
 General Offering Received \$4,599.00
 YTD General Offering Budget \$26,350.00
 YTD General Offering Rec'd \$13,293.00

Text to Give: 256.344.8464

WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS
Linda Cleveland

As of January 8, 2023

**61 Estimate of Giving Cards
 received for
 \$340,684.00 Funds pledged**

As of December 31, 2022

**YTD General Offering Budget
 \$685,100.00
 YTD General Offering Received
 \$727,454.50**