

THE GIFT OF A NEW YEAR

REFRESHING AND REMEMBERING

"Remembering Why We Are Here"

Pastor Sam Hayes

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

1/22/2023 Sermon Notes "Remembering Why We Are Here"

Let me tell you about one of my struggles. This one is hereditary, I think. My dad also had this struggle. Here's how it goes: I go into a store, and I forget why I am there. It's not that my memory is bad, per se. It's not a "senior moment," as we like to say. It's that there are too many distractions. My dad once went shopping to get some things for my mom, and he came back with a 50 pound bag of dog food. The problem? We didn't have a dog at that time. When my mom pointed this out, Dad said, "But it was such a good bargain!" The same thing happens to me when I go to a place like...say...Publix. I go in with a list - usually a short list - of things that I need. And then I see those "buy one get one free" signs. My buggy gets full, and I'm happy as can be. Then this little voice in my head says, "Sam, why are you here?" Oh yeah...back to the list. Remembering why we are here is important for Christians, and important for the church. There are many things to distract us. There are so many "voices" telling us what we "should" be doing. It's easy to get bogged down and forget why we are here. Wouldn't it be great if we could go back to a "list" to jog our memory about why we are here (like I go to my grocery list at Publix)? At the very beginning of Jesus' public ministry, he gives a message that is a defining message for all who claim the name Christian, and he calls his first disciples in a way that is a defining call for all who seek to be His disciples throughout the centuries. The message and the calling for the basis for why we are here. In Matthew 4: 12-23, we read:

12 Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. **13** He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, **14** so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: **15** "Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles— **16** the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." **17** From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

18 As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. **19** And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." **20** Immediately they left their nets and followed him. **21** As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. **22** Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him. **23** Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

Join us this Sunday as we remember why we are here!

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

January 22: Brooks Bone and Marit Norris

January 29: Jack and Sarah Kate Brookshire

Tech Team Schedule

(Please arrive 45 minutes before the service.)

January 22

Celebration: Will Brookshire, Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman

Traditions: Davis Varner, Carmen McKiven, Jacob McKiven

January 29

Celebration: Eric Wright, Brad Barnes, Sheila Freeman

Traditions: Mark Condra, Sheila Freeman

"The Best Sermon Ever"

A TWO-PART SERMON SERIES
JANUARY 29 AND FEBRUARY 5

PASTOR SAM HAYES

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

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.

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

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

Jan 25 Taco 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

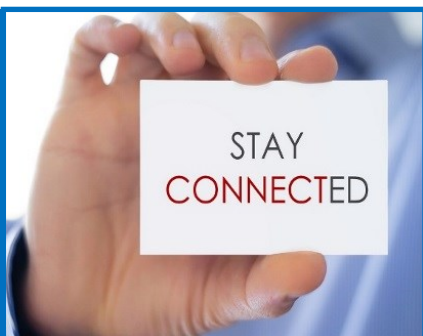
**Men at the Well
Thursday Mornings
7:00 am**

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

ELC News: Monday, January 23rd is the turn in date for all King Cake Orders and money. Pick date is Saturday, February 4th. Pick times will be announced soon. Scholastic Book Orders are due Tuesday, January 24th. Thank you for your support of this program and encouraging a love of reading in your children. On Wednesday, January 25th, we will have our February Lunchbox Revolt. This month is Burger King and orders were due on 1/18. Tuesday, January 31st will be our annual Meet and Greet for those currently enrolled. Invites with specific times will come home next week.

—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 25, Taco 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 Sunday's
@ 6:00 @ 9:00 and 11:00

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

Wonderful Wednesdays

@6:00

January

February

Jan 4 We can see God through Jesus.	Jan 11 We can hear God's voice if we listen.	Feb 1 Following Jesus is the opposite of following ourselves.	Feb 8 Our enemies help us learn to love.
Jan 18 God is powerful!	Jan 25 Following God makes us stand out.	Feb 15 Jesus is with us even though we can't see Him.	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.



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.



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 1.15.23
61 Estimate of Giving
Cards received for a total
of \$340,684.00.

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.

Final Week!
Order by Monday, 1/23
Louisiana King Cakes from
Randazzo's Bakery!



The Friends of the ELC Present

AUTHENTIC LOUISIANA KING CAKES



FUNDRAISER BENEFITTING THE EARLY LEARNING CENTER



Small Traditional \$20
Small Filled* \$25

Medium Traditional \$25
Medium Filled* \$30

*Cream Cheese or Strawberry

Small Pecan Praline \$30

Medium Pecan Praline \$35

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 22-28, 2023

Jan 22 Sunday

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

Jan 23, 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

Jan 24 Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm ELC Spring Semester
5:00-6:00 pm Yoga, Gym
5:00 pm Finance Meeting, Parlor
6:00 pm Board of Stewards, Gathering Room

Jan 25 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

Jan 26 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 27 Friday

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

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Jane Herb Chris Gunnells
The family of Dr. Bobbie Walden
The family of Dr. Lucian Newman, Jr.

Continued Prayer Concerns

Rodney Thompson
Lisa Dobbins
Scott Dobbins



Honorariums & Memorials

Ladle of Love Fund

In memory of Judy Dressman given by Sonya Nesbitt.

Music Fund

In memory of Joyce Fortson given by family.

*The ministers and congregation of First United Methodist Church of Gadsden extend Christian sympathy to Olivia Kendrick in the death of her step-mother, Dr. Bobbie Walden
On January 12, 2023*



*The ministers and congregation of First United Methodist Church of Gadsden extend Christian sympathy to Dr. Charles Newman & Pam in the death of his father, Dr. Lucian Newman, Jr.
On January 11, 2023*



Birthdays

Jan 22 Ragan Godfrey, Nathan Whitt
Jan 23 Dr. Steve Frederick, Amie Kelley
Jan 24 Greg Carroll, Riley Epperson
Jan 25 Dr. Richard Caldwell, Laura Bone
Jan 26 June Longshore, Charlotte Rutland
Jan 27 Brad Barnes
Jan 28 Marian Ford, Rob Lambert, Dr. Bobby Ostendorf, Caroline Thornburg



Week of January 15, 2023

In Person Total *172 Online 343
Worship Total 515 Thursday Worship *5
Celebration Service *55/156
Traditions Service *67/187
Adult Sunday School *36/2 Children 0
Bible Study Groups *43/74
Children *22 Youth *14 Nursery *3
UMW *25 Total Small Groups *135/76
*In Person

January 15, 2023

Proposed Offering Budget \$12,777.00
General Offering Received \$25,907.00
YTD General Offering Budget \$38,331.00
YTD General Offering Rec'd \$39,200.00

As of January 15, 2023

**61 Estimate of Giving Cards
received for a total of
\$340,684.00**

Correction for Jan 8, 2023

General Offering Received
\$8,694.00
YTD General Offering Rec'd
\$13,293.00

Text to Give: 256.344.8464