

# "The Best Sermon Ever"

A TWO-PART SERMON SERIES  
JANUARY 29 "BEATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT"  
FEBRUARY 5 "LIGHT AND SALT"

PASTOR SAM HAYES  
FIRST UMC GADSDEN

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

## 1/29/2023 Sermon Notes "A Beatitude Adjustment"

This morning when I went through the drive-thru at McDonalds for my Diet Coke, the nice lady at the window said, "Have a blessed day." I said, "Thank you." I didn't ask her to expound on what she meant by "blessed." I think I know. I think what she meant was, "I hope you have a nice day...that things go well for you today." I appreciate that. However, I don't think "have a blessed day" was what Jesus meant in the greatest sermon ever preached - The Sermon on the Mount. Here's what Jesus said about "blessed" in the sermon:

- [1] *Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down his disciples came to him.*
- [2] *And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:*
- [3] *"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*
- [4] *"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.*
- [5] *"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.*
- [6] *"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.*
- [7] *"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.*
- [8] *"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.*
- [9] *"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.*
- [10] *"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*
- [11] *"Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.*
- [12] *Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so men persecuted the prophets who were before you. (Matt. 5: 1-12 NRSV)*

Jesus is *not* saying in his sermon that those who possess these particular character qualities will "have a nice day." "Blessed are" in this context is speaking about a kind of divine favor - a true spiritual joy which is bestowed by God and which flows from within a person, regardless of that person's circumstances. So...can a person be having a terrible, horrible, no-good, very bad day and still be called "blessed?" Yes, Alexander. Yes, you can.

This kind of living requires an attitude adjustment. Join us this Sunday as we explore how the greatest sermon ever preached teaches us how to think about ourselves, how to think about our sins, how to think about God, and how to think about "the world" in a way that produces blessedness.

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](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/media) or  
on Facebook Live: @FUMCgadsden

## ACOLYTES

January 29: Jack and Sarah Kate Brookshire  
February 5: Silas Hosey and Clementine Hilburn

## Tech Team Schedule

(Please arrive 45 minutes before the service.)

**January 29**

**Celebration:** Eric Wright, Brad Barnes, Sheila Freeman  
**Traditions:** Mark Condra, Sheila Freeman

**February 5**

**Celebration:** Joe Pritchard, Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman  
**Traditions:** Mark Condra, 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

At the Alaco Room at the Downtown Civic Center

Register in advance at [www.fumcgadsden.org/overunderaroundthrough](http://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. We hope you will come and bring a friend!** Find out more @ [www.fumcgadsden.org/overunderaroundthrough](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/overunderaroundthrough) or contact Sheila Freeman @ 256-490-5018.



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

**Feb 1 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

On Wednesday, we enjoyed our January lunchbox revolt from Burger King. Tuesday, January 31<sup>st</sup> will be our annual Meet and Greets for those currently enrolled. Invites with specific times will come home next week. Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, our 3k and 4k students will field trip to the Hardin Center and enjoy the Snow Exhibit.

Wow! I cannot believe how many cakes were purchased. They will be ready for pick up on Saturday February 4<sup>th</sup> around 10am. Messages will be sent. 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 1st 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 ✝️🥚

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**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**

<b>Jan 4</b> We can see God through Jesus.	<b>Jan 11</b> We can hear God's voice if we listen.	<b>Feb 1</b> Following Jesus is the opposite of following ourselves.	<b>Feb 8</b> Our enemies help us learn to love.
<b>Jan 18</b> God is powerful!	<b>Jan 25</b> Following God makes us stand out.	<b>Feb 15</b> Jesus is with us even though we can't see Him.	<b>Feb 23</b> 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

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

Phone: 256-543-8200

Email:

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

#gfumcreconnect2022

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GADSDEN

# Generosity 2023

***Strength for today, bright hope for tomorrow!***



**As of 1.22.23  
62 Estimate of Giving  
Cards received for a total  
of \$346,684.00.**

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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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.



King Cakes orders will be ready for pickup on Saturday, Feb. 4 around 10 am.



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

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the Church App?

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First UMC-Gadsden



Follow us on Instagram and Facebook.



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

## Calendar for January 29-February 4, 2023

### Jan 29 Sunday

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

### Jan 30 Monday

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

### Jan 31 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 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

### Feb 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

### Feb 3 Friday

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

### Immediate Prayer Concerns

Martha Bullock June Longshore Jane Herb  
 The family of Dora Clark Payne.

### Continued Prayer Concerns

Rodney Thompson Chris Gunnells  
 Lisa Dobbins  
 Scott Dobbins



*The ministers and congregation of First United Methodist Church of Gadsden extend Christian sympathy to Chip & Lucy Edwards in the death of her mother, Dora Clark Payne  
 On January 14, 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

**Jan 29** Marie Lambert, Eldred Davis, Michael Blevins, Sara Katherine McCord  
**Feb 1** Lee Trotter, Chris Thrasher, Sherri Watson, Kelly Whisenant, Sarah Grace Whitt  
**Feb 2** Temple Bryson, Benjamin Hester  
**Feb 3** David Gray, Jeanne Mabeus, Mikko Norris  
**Feb 4** Janet Page, Connie Brown, Christine Green



### Week of January 22, 2023

In Person Total \*143 Online 367  
 Worship Total 510 Thursday Worship \*9  
 Celebration Service \*54/171  
 Traditions Service \*80/196  
 Adult Sunday School \*29/1 Children 0  
 Bible Study Groups \*35/72  
 Children \*21 Youth \*15 Nursery \*3  
 Total Small Groups \*95/72  
 \*In Person

### January 22, 2023

Proposed Offering Budget \$12,777.00  
 General Offering Received \$11,358.00  
 YTD General Offering Budget \$51,108.00  
 YTD General Offering Rec'd \$50,558.00



**Generosity 2023**  
 First United Methodist Church of Gadsden

**As of January 22, 2023  
 62 Estimate of Giving Cards  
 received for a total of  
 \$346,684.00**