

January 2022

Integrity of the Heart

SERMON SERIES

PASTOR SAM HAYES

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GADSDEN

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

1-16-22

Sermon Notes

"What We Want To Do"

Mark Twain is quoted as saying, "It ain't those parts of the Bible that I can't understand that bother me...it is the parts that I *do* understand." I feel pretty much the same way. If I could just do what I *already* understand I'm supposed to do, I wouldn't have time to worry about what I don't understand. Still, I sometimes want God to just *tell* me. "Tell me, God...what should I do?" Maybe I'm trying to test God - like the Pharisees when they confronted Jesus with the question, "What commandment is the greatest?"

³⁴ When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵ and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶ "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" ³⁷ He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' ³⁸ This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." (Matt. 22: 34-40 NRSV)

Was there a question *behind* their question? Probably. The Pharisees were always trying to work some "angle" when they talked to Jesus. Maybe they were wanting to know how they could get the most "bang for the buck" when it came to Torah law. Jesus replied from the Torah alright, but it wasn't just a law. It was THE law of love. Have you ever thought about how the "law of love" is an oxymoron? Leonard Sweet writes,

The "law of love" was one of Jesus' greatest oxymorons, right up there with "suffering savior" and "crucified Christ." Love can never be a law. It can only ever be love, the greatest, most powerful and most accessible divine force in the universe.

Love is the one piece of divinity that every human being is invited to participate in.

Every human being is invited to participate in this one piece of divinity! Join us this Sunday as we continue our series on Integrity of the Heart.

See you Sunday,
Pastor Sam

Worship Opportunities

- **Thursday Worship:** 5:30 pm
In the Sanctuary
- **Mosaic:** 6:00 pm, **Thursday**,
(In person @ Back Forty Beer Company)

• Sunday Worship

Celebration: 9 am*

Traditions 11 am*

*In-Person (Sanctuary)
and Online

www.fumcgadsden.org/media or
on Facebook Live: @FUMCgadsden

Tech Team Schedule

(Please arrive 45 minutes
prior to the start of the service.)

January 16, 2022

Celebration:

Will Brookshire, Brad Barnes,
Elizabeth Barnes

Traditions:

Davis Varner, Tammy Hayes

January 23, 2022

Celebration:

Sheila Freeman
Carmen McKiven, Jacob McKiven

Traditions: Mark Condra,
Sheila Freeman

Top 10 Things To Do on the Church APP

10. Meet the Pastors and Staff. (Home Tab-Meet the Pastors and Staff)
9. Fill out a Connect Card. (Home Tab-Connect)
8. Read the Church News. (Home Tab-News)
7. Check Out Upcoming Church Events (Events Tab)
6. Read the Bible in a Year (Bible Tab)



5. Look up Scripture. (Bible Tab)
4. Send a Prayer Request (Home Tab-Prayer Request)
3. Give (Home Tab-Give)
2. Watch the Pastor's Bible Study (Media Tab)
1. Watch or Listen to Worship Services and Sermons. (Media Tab)

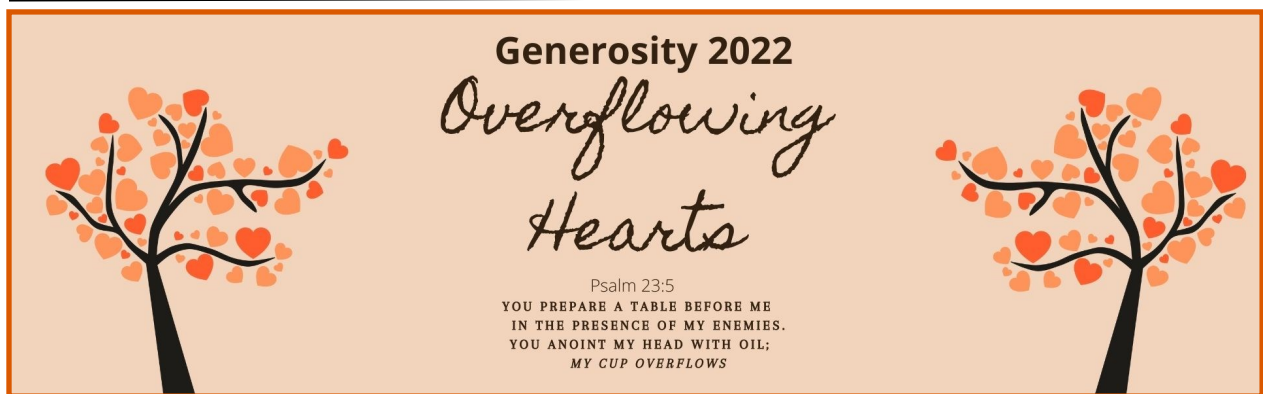
**Have you
downloaded
the Church App?
Search:
FUMCGadsden**



Any questions about tithes, offerings, or gifts for the church should be directed to Sheila Witherspoon, Financial Secretary.

You can reach Sheila Witherspoon or Pam Deru in the church office at 256-543-8200 or email giving@fumcgadsden.org.

www.fumcgadsden.org/give



Thank you for your gifts that make possible, the ministries and missions of First UMC Gadsden.

2022 Estimate of Giving Cards are available in the Chestnut Street lobby and at worship services, if you have not received one by mail.

- You can also fill out a 2022 Estimate of Giving Card online @ www.fumcgadsden.org.
- Your estimate of giving card is confidential and is not a legally binding contract. It is your personal commitment to the Lord.
- Please call the financial secretary anytime to discuss your giving plan.
- Please return your completed card to the church as soon as possible.



Bible Study: Confirmation for Grownups
This class is for anyone & everyone who wants to grow spiritually in 2022!

January 5- Knowing & Loving God: Father, Son & Holy Spirit

January 12- Knowing & Loving Self: Unwrapping Our Spiritual Gifts

January 19- Knowing & Loving Others: Who is My Neighbor?

January 26- Celebrating the Christian Year— Methodist Style

**Wonderful Wednesday fellowship meal January 5:
Italian Night
\$7 per person (\$3 for 11 & Under)**

Thursdays, Men at the Well, 7:00 am via Zoom

You are invited to join the weekly ZOOM bible study with the Men at the Well small group. Everyone is invited to join this discussion group. It meets each Thursday morning at 7 am. Tammy Jackson is leading the current study of Genesis 1-11, pre-history and what it means to us.

Go to www.fumcgadsden.org/menatthewell for more details.

Contact Todd Rains, Mark Condra or Mark Casey or any of the Men at the Well for more information and the Zoom link.

RECONNECT with the Sunday School Class of Your Choice!

- Living Water Sunday School Class, Chapel
- Martin Fellowship Class, Room 116
- Pathfinders Class, Room 208

Seekers, Discovery and The Middle Sunday School Classes are currently not meeting.
Members are welcome to meet with another group until their class returns.





Youth Ministry News
Wednesday Nights Youth Group
 6:00 pm Room 211/Gym

Save the Date: Youth Super Bowl Party
February 13, 2022, 5:00-7:00 pm, Gym

Confirmation Classes will begin on January 23rd. Time: 5:00-7:00 pm each Sunday night. *Please mark your calendars for the following dates: Jan 23rd, Feb 6th, Feb 20th, March 6th, & March 13th. Confirmation Sunday will be March 20th.*

ELC News

This past Tuesday, January 11th our 3k and 4k classes enjoyed visiting the snow exhibit at the Mary G Hardin Cultural Arts Center.

We are closed Monday, January 17th in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

Annual Meet and Greet will be hosted on Wednesday, January 26th; more details will come home soon.

—Helene Haller



COAT DRIVE

GFUMC Children's
Ministry

Donate your gently used items to our Clothes Closet!

January Service Project

coats	girls and boys
clothing	all ages
blankets	
toboggans	
gloves	
socks	

GFUMC CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Wonderful Wednesday's

Wednesday's at 6:00
in the Kid's Worship Room
Room 108

Sunday Children's Church

Sunday's during each service
9:00 and 11:00
Room 108




Children's Ministry

Missions

Mission Looking Back @ 2021...But, Looking Forward to 2022 and Continuing our Focus on *Changing Lives in and around Our Community!*

- ◆ 440 Students @ Striplin Elementary School received A/B Honor Roll Packets.
- ◆ 40 Teachers received "Back to School Supply Bags" in the fall of 2021.
- ◆ Teachers of the Month and Year were awarded certificates and gift cards and GFUMC provided a box lunch for Teacher Appreciation Week!
- ◆ All First Responders received Firehouse Sub Sandwiches in appreciation of all their hard work.
- ◆ 80 Healthcare Workers at GRMC and 65 Healthcare Workers at Riverview received Firehouse Sub Sandwiches in appreciation of their hard work.
- ◆ 110 Workers at GRMC and 170 Workers at Riverview received Jack's Biscuits for breakfast as the shifts changed.
- ◆ The Love Center, Manna, & Camp Sumatanga are among the community agencies that depend on GFUMC to give regular recurring monthly gifts that keep them afloat and assist with electricity, mortgages and other utilities.
- ◆ C.L.I.C.K. After School Program receives monthly funding that feeds the children every afternoon after school!
- ◆ 35 Tornado Buckets were filled and sent to the UMCOR Warehouse in Decatur.
- ◆ 50 Thanksgiving Bags were donated to the Salvation Army to feed families.
- ◆ 70 Christmas Stockings were packed during "Christmas in July" to provide Christmas for families through the Salvation Army.
- ◆ 25 Angels received gifts from their "Lists for Santa" due to the caring generosity of so many of You!

These are only some examples of the mission work done in 2021!

Just think what we can do in the coming year, 2022!

UMCOR and U.S. Disaster Relief

Give to UMCOR's [U.S. Disaster Response and Recovery through Advance #901670](#).

Donations may be made through GFUMC, simply mark your check for UMCOR in the memo line.

UMW NEWS

Watch for upcoming events and meetings.
Contact your circle leader for more information.
New for 2022:

President: Barbara Bennett

Vice President: Delores Abney



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

9:00 am to 11:00 am

516 Broad Street Gadsden



Ladle of Love

Fridays, 11:00am-12:00pm,
at the Portico entrance.

Find out more about mission and service opportunities @ www.fumcgadsden.org/serve

Church Phone

256-543-8200

fumc@fumcgadsden.org

[#gfumcreconnect2021](#)



January 16- 9 am and 11 am, “What We Want to Do”, *Matthew 22: 34-40*

January 23- 9 am and 11 am, “Where We Want to Go”, *John 15:1-5*

Find and Reach Your Biggest Dreams

Bob Goff, the New York Times bestselling author of *Love Does* and *Everybody, Always*, is on a mission to help people recapture the version of their lives they dreamed about before fear started calling the shots. He wants them to dream big.

In his revelatory yet utterly practical new book, Bob takes you on a life-proven journey to rediscover your dreams and turn them into reality. Based on his enormously popular Dream Big workshop, Bob draws on a lifetime of living and dreaming large to help you reach your larger-than-life dreams.

In *Dream Big* he shows how to

- learn to define clearly your dreams for yourself,
- identify the obstacles holding you back,
- come up with a specific plan for reaching goals, and
- develop the tools that will help you act on the plan.



Dream Big by Bob Goff

**New Small Group Study
on Sunday Mornings!**

**Starts January 23, 2022 5 Week
Study, In the Gathering Room
@ 10 am**

All Ages are Welcome!

**Led by Pastor Andy
(He's Bringing Cinnamon Rolls!)**



Sign Up to Receive Emails from the Church

Sign up to receive emails from the church including the weekly news, Devotionals, Sermon Notes, and Ministry and Mission Notes.

Go to: <http://www.fumcgadsden.org/sign-up-to-receive-emails>

Important Deadlines

Information for the weekly announcement sheet **is due each Wednesday by noon.**

Events for the church calendar **are needed one month prior to the event.**

Subscribe to the Weekly Church News

You can submit your email to the church office to receive the weekly announcements on Friday.

Honorariums and Memorials

General Budget Fund

In memory of Sandy Self, given by Gene & Dana Dean.
 In memory of Sam Norris, given by 21 Supper Club.
 In memory of Sam Norris, given by Joyce Pruett.
 In memory of Sandy Self, given by Dr. & Mrs. Elias Ghafary.
 In memory of Sandy Self, given by Batey & Sanders, Inc.
 In memory of Barry Loveman, George Langston, & John Robert McElroy, Jr. given by Taylor, Bobby, & Shelton McElroy Families.
 In memory of Tomilyn Isbell, given by Julia Nolen Knox.
 In memory of Sam Norris, given by Julia Nolen Knox.
 In memory of Sandy Self, given by Julia Nolen Knox.
 In memory of Stan Walker, given by Julia Nolen Knox.
 In memory of Stan Walker, given by Dr. & Mrs. Ted Jones.
 In memory of Barry Loveman, given by Dr. & Mrs. Ted Jones.
 In memory of Sam Norris, given by Dr. & Mrs. Ted Jones.
 In memory of Linda Powell, given by Dr. & Mrs. Ted Jones.
 In memory of Roy Frank Usry, given by Dr. & Mrs. Ted Jones.
 In memory of Tomilyn Isbell, given by Dr. & Mrs. Ted Jones.
 In memory of Leda Taylor, given by Dr. & Mrs. Ted Jones.

Ladle of Love Fund

In memory of Stan Walker, given by Joanie Leach.
 In memory of Sam Norris, given by Jane & Jim Hicks.

Music Fund

In memory of Marlyn Bugg, given by Alex Holtsford.
 In memory of Sam Norris, given by Alex Holtsford.
 In memory of Stan Walker, given by Alex Holtsford.

Children's Ministry

In memory of Mikey Tonagel and Carol Burch, given by Collins & Belinda Tackaberry.

Striplin School

In memory of Sandy Self, given by George & Lori Varner.

Honorariums & Memorials

Special donations may be made, in honor or memory of a loved one, to the General Budget Fund or other designated funds. You can send a check by mail, drop in the offering plate, or use e-giving. Be sure to include the name of the person you want to be remembered.

Altar Flower Fund

Gifts to this fund are used to place flowers on the altar for special worship days throughout the year. Flowers may also be placed on the altar in honor or in memory of a loved one by personal request. Contact Susan Swann in the church office for available dates and more information.

Calendar for January 16-January 22, 2022

January 16, Sunday

9:00 am, Celebration Service, in Sanctuary & live stream

10:00 am, Adult Sunday School Classes

11:00 am, Traditional Service, in Sanctuary & live stream

January 17, Monday

9:00-1:00 pm, ELC Winter Schedule

9:00 am-10:00 am, Exercise Group, Gym

January 18, Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, ELC Winter Schedule

9:00 am-11:00 am, Clothes Closet workday

5:00-6:00 pm, Yoga, Gym

January 19, Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, ELC Winter Schedule

9:00 am-11:00 am, Clothes Closet Open

11:00 am, Wednesday Bible Study, Room 208

5:15 pm, Wonderful Wednesday meal, Gathering Room

6:00 pm, Choir Practice, Choir Room

January 20, Wednesday, Cont'd

6:00 pm, Adult Bible Study, Room 208

6:00 pm, Children's Activities, Room 108

6:00 pm, Youth Activities, Gym & Room 211

January 21, Thursday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, ELC Winter Schedule

9:00 am-10:00 am, Exercise Group, Gym

5:30 pm, Thursday Worship

6:00 pm, Mosaic Worship, Back Forty Warehouse

January 22, Friday

11:00 am, Ladle of Love, Portico

In Memory of His Life
John Robert "Bob" McElroy

January 4, 2022



Marian Hughes Bahr

January 9, 2022

Ms. Bahr was a former member of First United Methodist Church and a descendant of the Hughes Family that helped to establish the church at this location. The family is bringing her home to be interred in Forrest Cemetery.

There will be a service in our church on Saturday, January 22 at 11:00 am.



Immediate Prayer Concerns

Bob Williams (father of Robin Wilson)

Ann Elizabeth Casey (great-granddaughter of Dotty Ivey)

Continued Prayer Concerns

Morgan Harrell (father of J.T. Harrell) Alyssa McNair

Drew McNair Lisa Dobbins Nancy Smith



Jan 16 Bill Haller III

Jan 17 Stephen Kirk,

Mary Claire Owen

Jan 18 Frank Dressman,

Jan Andrew

Jan 19 Janie Gray,

William Edwards

Jan 20 Sharon Morris

Jan 22 Ragan Godfrey,

Nathan Whitt

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

Week of January 9, 2022

*In Person Total *218 Overall Total 593

Online Viewer Total 375 Mosaic *11

Thursday *9 Children *15 Youth *15

Celebration *32/202 Traditions *52/144

Bible Study Groups **15/29

Adult Sunday School *26

Other *43

General Offering Budget \$15,200.00

General Offering Received \$19,570.00

YTD General Offering Budget \$30,400.00

YTD General Offering Rec'd \$34,438.00

2022 "Overflowing Hearts"

Estimate of Giving Cards Returned:

79 for \$416,064.85

2021 Pledges 72 for \$300,076.00

Text to Give: 256.344.8464

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

Offering Plates will be passed during Celebration and Traditions worship.