

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

1-2-22

Sermon Notes

"Who We Are"

A brand new year... How will we start out this new year? My prayer is that we will build this year on a foundation of integrity! The theme for January is "Integrity of Heart." We will look at: (1) Who We Are, (2) What We Want to Become, (3) What We Want to Do, and (4) Where We Want to Go. I hope you will join us each Sunday, and ponder all these things in your heart for yourself, and for our church.

What is integrity? My definition is: "being authentically who we say we are." Do you think having integrity of heart is important for us? I believe it is absolutely vital, because it is what God desires for us, the world is dying for us to be authentic, and because we will never thrive as a people or as a church without integrity of heart.

The Scripture for this Sunday will be Genesis 20: 1-7.

From there Abraham journeyed toward the region of the Negeb, and settled between Kadesh and Shur. While residing in Gerar as an alien, ²Abraham said of his wife Sarah, "She is my sister." And King Abimelech of Gerar sent and took Sarah. ³But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night, and said to him, "You are about to die because of the woman whom you have taken; for she is a married woman." ⁴Now Abimelech had not approached her; so he said, "Lord, will you destroy an innocent people? ⁵Did he not himself say to me, 'She is my sister'? And she herself said, 'He is my brother.' I did this in the integrity of my heart and the innocence of my hands." ⁶Then God said to him in the dream, "Yes, I know that you did this in the integrity of your heart; furthermore it was I who kept you from sinning against me. Therefore I did not let you touch her. ⁷Now then, return the man's wife; for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you shall live. But if you do not restore her, know that you shall surely die, you and all that are yours."

Here we have Abraham (who is known for his faith) not showing much faith at all. We also see a polytheistic Philistine king – Abimelech – showing more integrity than Abraham. This sounds a little strange... Maybe it deserves a closer look!

See you Sunday,
Pastor Sam

Worship Opportunities

- **Mosaic:** 6:00 pm, **Thursday**, (In person @ Back Forty Beer Company)
- **No Thursday Worship** on 12/30. Thursday Worship will resume on January 6.

Sunday Worship

**One Service at 11 am on
January 2**

***In-Person 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 2, 2022

Traditions:

Tammy Hayes, Carmen McKiven,
Jacob McKiven

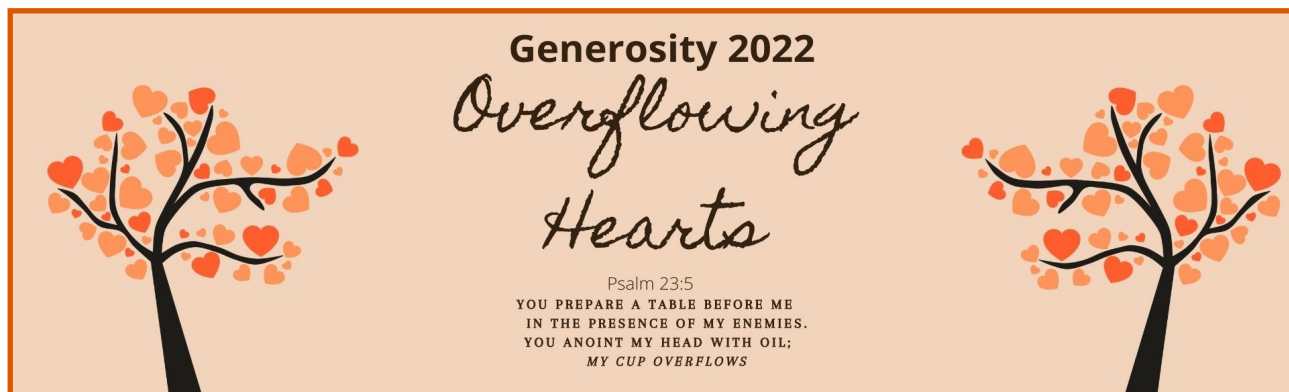
January 9, 2022

Celebration:

Eric Wright, Bill Haller, Zach Hilburn

Traditions:

Mark Condra, Sheila Freeman



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

Guidelines for End of Year Contributions

In order for contributions to be posted to your 2021 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 31st.
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 31st. (Find link at fumcgadsden.org/giving)
5. Gifts of stock should be transferred before the market closes on December 31st. 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 30th. **(Church office is closed 12/31)**

Monthly Income

Giving Percent	\$1,500	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$7,500	\$10,000	\$12,500
12%	180	300	600	900	1,200	1,500
10% The Tithe	150	250	500	750	1,000	1,250
8%	120	200	400	600	800	1,000
6%	90	150	300	450	600	750
4%	60	100	200	300	400	500
2%	30	50	100	150	200	250

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.

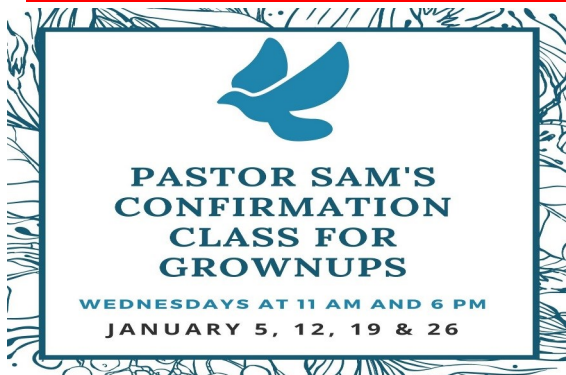
2022 Estimate of Giving Cards are available in the Chestnut Street lobby and at worship services, if you have not received one by mail.

- 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.



Life is a journey. The most important part of the journey is our relationship with God and with others. A Journey Group is a small gathering of individuals who help you grow in your loving relationship with both. We invite all people into a relationship with God and seek to create an outwardly focused community of Christ-followers. Journey Groups are a great way to stay connected to God and with your church family.

**Wonderful Wednesday fellowship meal January 5:
Chicken Fingers, Macaroni & Cheese, Green Beans
\$7 per person (\$3 11 & Under)**



Discover
Your
God-Given
Dreams



**Dream Big
Sundays
at 10 am
w/ Pastor Andy**
Starts
January 23
@ 10 am

All Ages!

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, no Sunday school on January 2. Please join us on January 9.
- Martin Fellowship Class, Please check with a class member for the class schedule for January 2.
- Pathfinders Class, No Sunday School on January 2. Please join us on January 9.

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

New Years Eve Party, December 31st

7:00 pm-12:15 am, Gym

Save the Date: Youth Super Bowl Party

February 13, 2022, 5:00-7:00 pm, Gym

Confirmation Classes will begin on January 9th. Time: 5:00-7:00 pm each Sunday night. *Please mark your calendars for the following dates: Jan 9th, Jan 23rd, Feb 6th, Feb 20th, March 6th, & March 13th. Confirmation Sunday will be March 20th.*

ELC News

- ◇ ELC's Christmas break will run from Friday, December 10th through Monday, January 3rd. Doors open Tuesday, January 4th for our Spring 2022 semester.

—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.
- ◆ **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

UMW Luncheon, January 10, 2022

10:30 am Executive Board will meet at 10:30 am in room 208.

12:00 Noon January 10th, 2022, in the Gathering Room. The Fisherman Restaurant will be serving our lunch.

The price is \$15 (increase in cost of food).

The topic will be: Current Covid Data for Etowah County Infection Preventions, Vaccines, and an update on the Omicron Variant.

Presenters will be Emily Welsh, BSN, MS, Nurse Coordinator with the NE District of the ADPH, Infectious Disease & Outbreak, and Deborah Gaither, Director of Gadsden-Etowah County EMA.

Please remember to make your reservations with your circle leaders or contact Delores Abney by Friday, January 6th, by phone or text/phone at 256-458-0376 or by email at deloresdda53@gmail.com. We hope to see



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.

**There will not be a lunch
on Friday, December 31.**

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

Church Phone

256-543-8200

fumc@fumcgadsden.org

#gfumcreconnect2021

What's New for 2022?

Bible Studies for You!

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



New Small Group Study on Sunday Mornings!

Starts January 23, 2022

**5 Week Study, In the Gathering Room
@ 10 am**

All Ages are Welcome!

Dream Big by Bob Goff

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



UMCNA Read Together

You are invited to join Bishop Wallace-Padgett and other North Alabama Conference United Methodist leaders in continuing this meaningful spiritual discipline. The 2022 plan will be based on writing genres. Each day of the week will include chapters from different types of Scripture. Sundays will be Gospel reading, Mondays will be law, Tuesdays history, Wednesdays we'll read Psalms, Thursdays poetry, Fridays prophets and Saturday will be epistles.

UMCNA will continue to maintain their [Facebook page](#) for comments and discussions on the daily reading and post weekly podcasts featuring meditations by North Alabama clergy and laity as they reflect on the readings for that week.

Please register your commitment to be a part of the Bishop's Bible Challenge. Through registration, UMCNA will be able to provide the materials you need. If you registered in a previous year, there is no need to register again.

The Read Together UMCNA podcast is listed on iTunes and will be posted weekly.

Go to <https://www.umcna.org/readtogether> to register and for links to the facebook page and UMCNA podcast.





“Integrity of the Heart” A 4 Week, January Sermon Series

January 2- 11 am, **One Worship Service**, “Who We Are”, *Genesis 20:1-7*,
Holy Communion

January 9- 9 am and 11 am, “What We Want to Become”, *Mark 1: 16-20, Matt 28:18-20*

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*

Honorariums and Memorials

General Budget Fund

In memory of Sandy Self, given by Brenda T. Davis & William C. Davis.
In memory of Sandy Self, given by Gadsden Fabrication.
In memory of Stan Walker, given by Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Hughes.
In memory of Sandy Self, given by Mals Jewelers.
In memory of Sandy Self, given by John & Sue Belsame.
In memory of Sam Norris, given by Greg & Alice Cusimano.
In memory of Sam Norris, given by James & Patricia Harlow.
In memory of Sam Norris, given by Shelby Hawkins & Larry Hawkins.
In memory of Sam Norris, given by Steve & Lynne Frederick.
In memory of Sandy Self, given by Steve & Lynne Frederick.
In memory of Sandy Self, given by Brooks Corr.
In memory of Sandy Self, given by James Corr.
In memory of Sandy Self, given by Norman & Peggy Lee.
In memory of Tomilyn Isbell, given by William Eagar.

Ladle of Love Fund

In memory of Stan Walker, given by Donna Campbell.
In memory of Sam Norris, given by Donna Campbell.
In memory of Sandy Self, given by Bob & Kathy Sisson.

Howell Erwin Fund

In memory of Sandy Self, given by LuVerna Waid Circle.

UMCOR

In memory of Sandy Self, given by Super Shoppers of Gadsden..

Children's Library Fund

In memory of Sandy Self, given by Mark & Barbara Condra.

LuVerna Waid Circle

A special thank you to the ladies of the LuVerna Waid UMW Circle and other special friends for bringing food, making monetary donations, and helping serve a meal for the family of Sandy Self. We all were honored to serve this family.

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.

Calendar for January 2-January 8, 2022

January 2, Sunday

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

January 3, Monday

ELC Christmas Break

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

January 4, Tuesday

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

January 5, Wednesday

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

5:15 pm, Wonderful Wednesday meal

6:00 pm, Choir Practice

6:00 pm, Adult Bible Study

6:00 pm, Children Activities, Room 108

Youth Activities, Gym & Room 211

January 6, 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 7, Friday

11:00 am, Ladle of Love, Portico

Happy New Year!



Embrace Alabama Kids ...Formerly "UMCH "White Christmas"

Embrace Alabama Kids began over 130 years ago as an orphanage. Today, as a ministry of the United Methodist Children's Home, they are one of the state's most comprehensive and vital resources serving babies, children, youth, teen mothers, college students, and families. Your donation will provide them with homes for the holidays—and every day—embracing them in the powerful and unconditional love of God. *Donations may be made payable to GFUMC and Marked "EmbraceALKids"*

In Memory of His Life

Barry Loveman

December 24, 2022



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.

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Family of Barry Loveman



Continued Prayer Concerns

Lisa Dobbins Nancy Smith
Ann Elizabeth Casey (great-granddaughter of Dotty Ivey)



Jan 2 Cathea Poland

Jan 3 Paula Wilson, Scott Adams,
Molly Page

Jan 4 Steven Williams, Shelly Hester,
Franklin Leach, Ethan Dennis,
Luke Barnes

Jan 5 Christie Knowles, David McCoy

Jan 6 Nancy Whitt, George Harrison,
Harry Hager, Robert Hager

Jan 7 Katie Grimes, Jenny Skelton,
Ross Hudak

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

Week of December 26, 2021

*In Person Total *405 Overall Total 643

Online Viewer Total 238 Mosaic *21

Thursday *2 Children *6 Youth *15

One Service @ 10:00am *87/222

Bible Study Groups *10/16

Christmas Eve Service 4pm *159

6pm *105

General Offering Budget \$15,200.00

General Offering Received \$10,173.00

YTD General Offering Budget \$790,400.00

YTD General Offering Rec'd \$674,565.00

2022 "Overflowing Hearts"

Estimate of Giving Cards Returned:

75 for \$313,521.00

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.