

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

1-23-22

Sermon Notes

"Where We Want to Go "

Vineyards played a major role in the culture of Israel (they still do). Vineyards in choice locations were highly prized. The owners spent a lot of time taking care of the vineyards. They would build walls around them - with guards and watchtowers. Sometimes, vineyards are utilized to teach spiritual truths in the Bible. For instance, Jesus used a vineyard to teach his final lesson to his disciples. His final lesson... So, how important must *that* lesson be?

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ² He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³ You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. (John 15: 1-5 NRSV)

This month we have been talking about integrity of the heart. We have looked at how important it is to be authentically who we claim to be: The People of GFUMC: Changing lives by sharing Christ, making disciples, serving and giving hope. On the second Sunday, we looked at what we want to become... followers and fishers - that is, followers of Jesus (disciples) who produce other followers of Jesus. This last Sunday, we looked at what we want to do. What's the main thing? "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength...and you shall love your neighbor as yourself." This is our business. It's why we are here.

This Sunday, we will look at where we want to go. If we don't know where we want to go, how will we know when we are making progress, or when we get off track?

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 23, 2022

Celebration: Sheila Freeman
Carmen McKiven, Jacob McKiven

Traditions: Mark Condra,
Sheila Freeman

January 30, 2022

Celebration: Eric Wright, Bill Haller,
Brad Barnes, Liz Barnes

Traditions: Tammy Hayes,
Sheila Freeman



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 19:
Barbecue 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. If you are interested please see the contact information below to join this discussion group. It meets each Thursday morning at 7 am. The current study is Stand Strong: 365, Devotions For Men.

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 is attending “Dream Big” in the Gathering Room beginning this Sunday, 1/23

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

Annual "Meet and Greet" for those currently enrolled will be hosted on Wednesday, January 26th. On Wednesday, February 2nd, we will have another visit from OPAC. Ms. Molly and friends will host Little Big House in the Gathering room. We will swap valentines on Monday, February 14th. Registration for the Summer 2022 and Fall 2022-2023 sessions will begin this month for those currently enrolled. Information letters are going home.

—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 Officers for 2022

President: Barbara Bennett	Parliamentarian: Eileen Graham
Vice President: Delores Abney	Historian: Susan Copeland
Treasurer: Jamie Payton	Howell Erwin Fund: Debbie Hiltz
Secretary: Dotty Ivey	Program Resources: Debbie Leach



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

Thank you to all our volunteers for their time and service to these missions!



Clients served in November

Ladle of Love 284

Clothes Closet 200

December

Ladle of Love 335

Clothes Closet 186

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

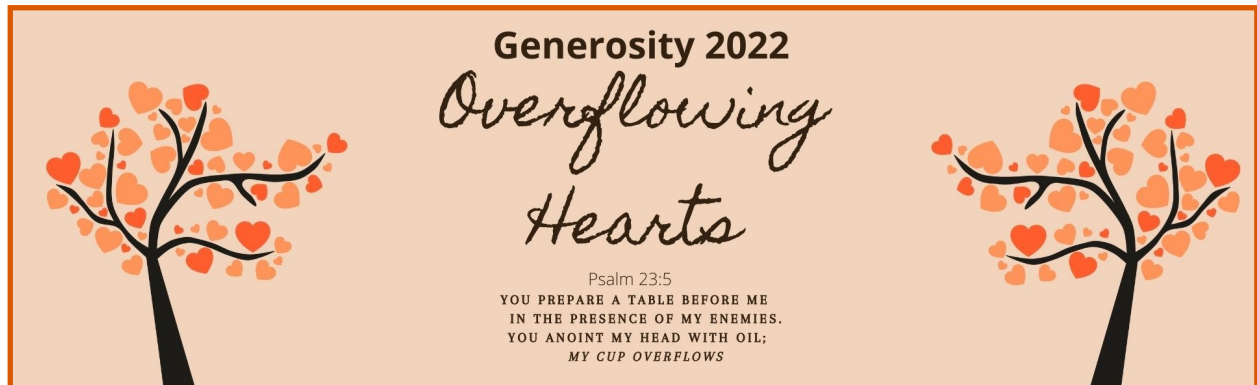
[#gfumcreconnect2021](#)



January 23- 9 am and 11 am
"Where We Want to Go"
John 15:1-5



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!)



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



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.



Calendar for January 23-29, 2022

January 23, 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 24, Monday

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

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

5:00 pm- Trustees Meeting, via gotomeeting.com

January 25, Tuesday

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

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

5:00 pm- Finance Team Meeting, via gotomeeting.com

6:00 pm- Board of Stewards, via gotomeeting.com

January 26, Wednesday

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

11:00 am, Wednesday Bible Study, Room 208

January 26, Wednesday, cont'd

5:15 pm, Wonderful Wednesday meal, Gathering Room

6:00 pm, Choir Practice, Choir Room

5:15 pm, Wonderful Wednesday meal, Gathering Room

6:00 pm, Choir Practice, Choir Room

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 27, 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 28, Friday

11:00 am, Ladle of Love, Portico

Honorariums and Memorials

General Budget Fund

In memory of Barry Loveman, given by Louis Loveman, Randy Loveman, & Maure Meyer.

In memory of Barry Loveman, given by Don & Debbie Hiltz. In Honor of Stan & Pat Walker, given by Scott Walker.

In memory of Sandy Self, given by Judy & Mandell Tillman. In memory of Sam Norris, given by Dr. & Mrs. Sam Brewer.

Ladle of Love Fund

*In memory of Stan Walker, given by Julia Nolan Knox. *Correction from last week.

In memory of Stan Walker, given by Judy & Mandell Tillman.

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Ruby Poland (granddaughter of Jeff & Cathea Poland)

Ann Elizabeth Casey (great-granddaughter of Dotty Ivey)

Glen Thompson (Father of Debbie Leach)

Paul DeJong Margie Freeman



Continued Prayer Concerns

Please remember our members and their families who are going through medical issues and losses who choose not to be listed on a prayer list or unknown to us.

Birthdays



Jan 23 Steve Frederick, Amie Kelley

Jan 24 Adam Carroll, Riley Epperson

Jan 25 Laura Bone, Richard Caldwell

Jan 26 June Longshore,

Charlotte Rutland

Jan 27 Matt Lovato, Brad Barnes

Jan 28 Marian Ford, Rob Lambert,

Bobby Ostendorf, Caroline Thornburg

Jan 29 Marie Lambert, Eldred Davis,

Michael Blevins,

Sara Katherine McCord

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

Week of January 16, 2022

*In Person Total *141 Overall Total 530

Online Viewer Total 389 Mosaic *6

Thursday *0 Children *15 Youth *15

Celebration *38/197 Traditions *42/151

Bible Study Groups **15/30

Adult Sunday School *10/11

General Offering Budget \$15,200.00

General Offering Received \$23,398.85

YTD General Offering Budget \$45,600.00

YTD General Offering Rec'd \$57,836.85

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.