



Freedom to Be

Luke 10: 38-42

Pastor Sam Hayes
Gadsden First UMC



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

7-25-21

Sermon Notes

"Freedom To Be"

During the month of July, we have been celebrating freedom! Last Sunday, we looked at our freedom to "DO." We've been given the Lord's authority, and a clearly-defined mission. Will we go? Will we DO what followers of Jesus Christ DO? That is a question for each of us.

This week, we are following up the freedom to DO with freedom to BE. So...which is it? Doing, or Being? Can we find a balance between our doing and our being? A famous cartoon dog was asked that question, and he replied, "Do-be-do-be-dooo!" But seriously...it's not *either* doing or being...it's *both*.

Mary and Martha of Bethany are many times used as examples of how followers of Jesus must make a choice of being a "doer" like Martha, or a "be-er" like Mary. Remember this story that took place at their house?

³⁸ Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. ³⁹ She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." ⁴¹ But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; ⁴² there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her." (Luke 10: 38-42 NRSV)

We all have different personalities and a variety of different gifts; however, that does not mean that the Christian life is either "doing" ("working") or "being" ("worshipping.") It is really being fully present while engaging in both. I think Charles Wesley captures this truth in one of his lesser-known hymns, *Lo, I Come With Joy to Do*, a line from which reads:

Faithful to my Lord's commands,
I still would choose the better part,
Serve with careful Martha's hands,
And loving Mary's heart.

What will you be DOING this Sunday? Will you BE in worship with us? I hope so!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Sam

Worship Opportunities

- **Mosaic:** 6:30 pm, Tuesday, (in person and online)
- **Thursday Worship:** 5:30 pm, Sanctuary

Sunday Worship

Celebration Service 9:00 am
(In person in the Sanctuary and online)

Traditions Service 11:00 am
(In person in the 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.)

July 25

Celebration: Davis Varner, Brad Barnes, Liz Barnes

Traditions: Matthew Vance, Sheila Freeman
August 1

Celebration: Eric Wright, Will Brookshire, Zach Hilburn

Traditions: Sheila Freeman, Tammy Hayes



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

Youth Summer 2021

Join us at Youth on Wednesdays, 6 pm

The Most Amazing Youth Event Ever

August 8th from 2 pm -10 pm

Bring \$10 and a fancy outfit to change into. The youth will be going to some surprise locations on the church bus!

Special guest speak for our devotional, amazing food, and lots of surprises! Invite friends!

ELC News

We have only two days left for the Summer 2021 session. We have had a great time exploring many summer themes. Our lunchbox revolt this past week was a blast. The Dog House came and served hot dogs and chips. Yummy Yummy! Next up for the ELC is Open House on Thursday, August 19th from 10:00 am to 11:30 am. First day for Fall 2021 is Monday, August 23rd.

Save the Date:

Returning Soon: Friends of the ELC Consignment Sale. September 16 through 18. More details to come. *Helene Haller*



Volunteer Meeting
 for all adults that work with children and youth
Sunday, August 1
12:00pm
Kid's Worship Room
 LUNCH AND NURSERY
 WILL BE PROVIDED

calling all volunteers!

"Celebrate Wonder"

Children's Church
In-Person,
Sundays
9 am and 11 am
during Worship

Children's
Worship Room
(Room 108)

August GFUMC Children's Calendar

- **Sunday, August 1** Parent Meeting 12:00pm, lunch provided
- **Wednesday, August 4** Water games! 6:00pm
- **Wednesday, August 11** no church
- **Sunday, August 15** Back to School BASH! 10:00am
- **Sunday, August 15** Acolyte Meeting 12:00pm, lunch provided
- **Wednesday, August 18** Wonderful Wednesday's Resume Ice Cream Social 6:00pm



Christmas Stockings will be available for everyone who wants to participate in this project from July 11th—July 31st. Stockings may be picked up in the Chestnut St Lobby or at any worship service.

Fill a stocking with joy, love, and prayers for children in our community. Stockings may be returned under the "Christmas in July" Tree in the Chestnut St Lobby!

—GFUMC Mission Team in partnership

UMW NEWS

July Calendar of Events

July 22-24, North Alabama Conference Virtual Mission U

This is a conference with guest speakers on the following topics:

___ *Finding Peace in an Anxious World*, edited by James Brown, taught by

Rev. Denise Mullaney

___ *Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools*, by Monique, taught by

Rev. Melissa Self Patrick

___ *Bearing Witness in the Kingdom: Living into the Church's Moral Witness through Radical Discipleship*, by Darryl W. Stephens, taught by Abi Carlise-Wilke.

___ *Responding to Violence: A Curriculum for Children's Facilitators*, by Sue Raymond, taught by Patricia Lane

Please mark X by the study you want to take

Opening Worship 6:30 PM

REGISTRATION INFO Deadline to register July 19, 2021

Name Address

Cellphone # Home phone

Email (Required)

District: Mountain Lakes Church Gadsden First UMC

Registration: \$20. Make check payable to NACUMC



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

Number of people served
from January-June 2021
1,111

Ladle of Love

Fridays, 11:00am-

12:00pm, at the

Portico entrance

Number of people served
from January-June 2021
2,055

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

Church Phone

256-543-8200

fumc@fumcgadsden.org

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.

Sunday Mornings @ 10:00 am in person

- ♦ Living Water Sunday School Class, "Mysteries of the Messiah" by Rabbi Jadon Sobel, Chapel, Room 118.
- ♦ Martin Fellowship Class, "International Sunday School Lessons", Room 116.
- ♦ Pathfinders Class, "Better Decisions, Fewer Regrets" by Andy Stanley, Room 208.
- ♦ Seekers, Discovery and The Middle Sunday School Classes are currently not meeting. *Members are welcome to meet with another classes return.*

In-person

Pastor Sam
Wednesday
Mornings @ 11 am
Gathering Room



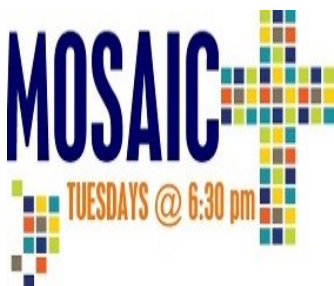
Online

Pastor Sam
Wednesdays @ 6 pm,
online, FACEBOOK Live
(Also, available on-demand on
the GFUMC website or church
app under the media tab.)

**In-Person: Wednesday Nights, 6:00 pm, w/Harriet Murray
will not meet during June and July, but will return in August.**

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

"The Miracles of Jesus" with Roger Thompson. *Contact the church office for more information on how to join this online study.*



Join Pastor Andy for Mosaic

—A unique worship experience that includes a homily, discussion, and prayer. This service is open to everyone, but is particularly designed for those who have felt hurt or rejected. Check out the Mosaic Facebook Page for weekly devotionals and for updates about in-person worship @ 6:30 pm on Tuesdays in the gym or portico/courtyard, depending on the weather.



Worship Services are available ON DEMAND in the media tab on the app or church website.

Have you downloaded the Church App?
*It is a great way to reconnect! Go to: **FUMCGadsden***
 (Available in the App Stores for Android or iPhone/)



Any questions about offerings, gifts or financial issues for the church should be directed to Sheila Witherspoon, Financial Secretary. **You can reach Sheila Witherspoon at the church office at 256-543-8200 or email at giving@fumcgadsden.org.**



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 are located at the entrances the sanctuary.

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Calendar for July 25-31, 2021

July 25, Sunday

9:00 am, **Celebration Service**, in Sanctuary & live streamed

10:00 am, **Martin Fellowship, Pathfinders, & Living Water**

Sunday School classes, in person

11:00 am, **Traditions Service**, in Sanctuary & live streamed

July 26, Monday

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

July 27, Tuesday

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

6:30 pm, **Mosaic**, In person/Livestream

No Board of Stewards meeting on July 27.

Next meeting will be August 24.

July 28, Wednesday

11:00 am, **Bible Study w/Pastor Sam**, in person

6:00 pm, **Bible Study w/Pastor Sam**, online

6:00 pm, **Youth, Gym & 211**

6:00 pm, **Choir Practice**, Choir Room

July 29, Thursday

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

7:00 am, **Men at the Well Journey Group**, Zoom

5:30 pm, **Thursday Worship**, Sanctuary

July 30, Friday

11:00-12:00 pm, **Ladle of Love**, Portico

Honorariums and Memorials

General Budget:

In memory of Ina Davis, given by Glen & Evelyn Pierson.

In memory of Marj Ross, given by Julia Knox.

In memory of Pandora McLeod, given by Julia Knox.

In memory of Dot Thompson, given by Julia Knox.

In memory of Virginia Yocum, given by Gadsden GadABouts.

In memory of Ina Davis, given by Gloria Rives.

In memory of Virginia Yocum, given by Gloria Rives.

Sara Rabun Johnson Scholarship Fund:

In memory of Rabun Johnson, given by Abbott Implementation Team.

Martin Sunday School Class:

In memory of Ina Davis, given by Samuel & Caroline Martin.

*The Rose on the Altar is in
honor of*

Atticus Flynn Selsor

7 lbs 6 oz

Born: July 15, 2021



*Parents: Kennedy Brooke Selsor
and Kendra Selsor*

*Given by the Children's Ministry
and ELC*

Immediate Prayer Concerns

William (Skip) Edwards

(Jennifer Jackson's father)

Mikey Tonagel

(Collins & Belinda Tackaberrys' son-in-law)



Continued Prayer Concerns

Jack Floyd Donny Gray Carma Rayburn

Dr. Ed Thompson

Ruby Christine Poland (granddaughter of Jeff & Cathea Poland)

Ann Elizabeth Casey (great-granddaughter of Dotty Ivey)

Yvonne Humphrey (Jan Humphrey's step-mother)

Mary Nichols (Patsy Blankenship's mother)

Birthdays.....

July 25 Zane Kimbrough, Audria Wood,
Lauren Penn, Jake Edwards

July 27 Greta Payne, Chandler Lindsey,
Mary Clare Bone

July 28 Billie Hackney, Linton Roberts

July 29 Wayne Payton, Will Brookshire

July 30 Phillip Johnson, Angela Hood

July 31 Jacob Kelley, Hunter Lowe



Week of July 18, 2021

*In Person Total *214 Overall Total 521

Online Viewer Total 307 Mosaic *17

Thursday *10 Sunday School *35

Celebration Service *49/132 Children *11

Traditional *77/159 Youth *8

Bible Study Groups *7/16

General Offering Budget \$15,200.00

General Offering Received \$13,811.00

YTD General Offering Budget \$440,800.00

YTD General Offering Rec'd \$386,046.00

Covid – Update

*We still have masks
and hand sanitizer
available at the
entrances and
encourage people to
use them as needed,
especially those who
are not fully
vaccinated.*

***Pastor Sam Hayes &
Pastor Andy Yarnell***