

Always Be Ready

Pastor Andy Yarnell

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

Sermon "Always Be Ready" 1 Peter 3:8-20 CEB

⁸ Finally, all of you be of one mind, sympathetic, lovers of your fellow believers, compassionate, and modest in your opinion of yourselves. ⁹ Don't pay back evil for evil or insult for insult. Instead, give blessing in return. You were called to do this so that you might inherit a blessing. ¹⁰ For those who want to love life and see good days should keep their tongue from evil speaking and their lips from speaking lies.

¹¹ They should shun evil and do good; seek peace and chase after it.

¹² The Lord's eyes are on the righteous and his ears are open to their prayers. But the Lord cannot tolerate those who do evil.^[a]

¹³ Who will harm you if you are zealous for good? ¹⁴ But happy are you, even if you suffer because of righteousness! Don't be terrified or upset by them. ¹⁵ Instead, regard Christ the Lord as holy in your hearts. Whenever anyone asks you to speak of your hope, be ready to defend it. ¹⁶ Yet do this with respectful humility, maintaining a good conscience. Act in this way so that those who malign your good lifestyle in Christ may be ashamed when they slander you. ¹⁷ It is better to suffer for doing good (if this could possibly be God's will) than for doing evil.

¹⁸ Christ himself suffered on account of sins, once for all, the righteous one on behalf of the unrighteous. He did this in order to bring you into the presence of God. Christ was put to death as a human, but made alive by the Spirit. ¹⁹ And it was by the Spirit that he went to preach to the spirits in prison. ²⁰ In the past, these spirits were disobedient—when God patiently waited during the time of Noah. Noah built an ark in which a few (that is, eight) lives were rescued through water.

This passage reminds us of John Wesley's three simple rules. Do no harm, do good, stay in love with God. This scripture tells us to love others, to be compassionate and humble. The scripture also advises us to do good even when doing good gets us into some hardships. Sometimes doing good will cause others to speak badly about us, and we go back to rule #1, do no harm. We can learn to still love even the ones who do not like us (wow, that is really hard to do). Even when things are difficult, stay in love with God. Maybe, that is the key to doing no harm, and doing good, focusing on loving God and seeing people through the lens of love and grace that Jesus shows us. Let's talk about this more on Sunday! I cannot wait to see you!

—Pastor, Andy

**This Sunday, visit the Sweet Treats Candy Bar in the Chestnut Foyer
Honoring Women in Our Lives Who
Mentor, Teach, Love, Care, & Share.**

Table of Contents:

Page 1—Sermon Notes; Tech Schedule; Acolyte Schedule

Page 2—Small Groups and Sunday School

Page 3—ELC News; Student Ministries; Children's Ministry; WW Dinner Menu

Page 4— ELC Graduation; Mother's Day Roses

Page 5—GFUMC Missions News; Clothes Closet; Ladle of Love; United Women in Faith

Page 6— Sweet Treats Candy Bar; Church Picnic Thank You

Page 7— HeBrews; Alleluia Offering 2023

Page 8— Calendar; Prayer Concerns; Save the Dates, Birthdays; Weekly Financial & Attendance Report

Worship Opportunities

Thursday Worship: 5:30 pm, Sanctuary

Sunday Morning:

Celebration 9 am* Traditions 11 am*

*In Person (Sanctuary) and Online

www.fumcgadsden.org/media/or

ACOLYTES

May 14: Brooks Bone & Quinn Darden

May 21: Anna Kate Casey

Tech Team Schedule

(Please arrive 45 minutes before the service.)

May 14

Celebration: Eric Wright, Bill Haller, Carmen McKiven, Jacob McKiven

Traditions: Davis Varner, Mark Casey, Parker Casey, Brad Barnes

May 21

Celebration: Will Brookshire, Bill Haller, Sheila Freeman

Traditions: Wayne Payton, Sheila Freeman, Neil Mullin

Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Meal will resume in August!

Enjoy your summer!

Out of Town on the Weekend?

Come to Thursday Worship!

5:30 to 6:00 pm each week

In the Sanctuary

Wednesday Mornings

Bible Study with Pastor Sam, Room 208

In Person Bible Study, A Study of the Book of Romans, will continue through 5/31.

Facebook Live @ 6 pm or on demand-via the FUMC APP or website

Small Groups @ Wonderful Wednesday will resume in the Fall! Summer Break!

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.

Study and discussion of Psalm 23

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, Beginning Guide to the Kingdom by Prof. Amy-Jill Levine **Room 112, In person and online. Contact a member of the class for the link to join online!**
- Martin Fellowship Class, International Bible Studies, **Room 116**
- Multi-Age Sunday School, with Eric Wright and Harriet Murray, Follow by Andy Stanley **Room 208**
- Pathfinders and Seekers Classes are currently meeting with the Multi-Age Sunday School Class, **Room 208** Current study of Follow by Andy Stanley



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>



Have you downloaded the Church APP?

Search: First UMC-Gadsden

Need Help? Contact Sheila Freeman @ 256-490-5018

ELC News

Thursday, May 11th was a wonderful day filled with singing, laughter and joy as we celebrated the end of the 2022-2023 school year.

The ELC will be closed until Tuesday, June 13th when we will open for our summer session.

—Helene Haller

See page 5 for more ELC News



Youth Ministry News

May 17 "The Alley" Bowling at 6:00 pm
June 5-8 Youth helping with VBS
June 12-16 Service Days/Fun Days

—Pastor Andy

Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Dinner will resume in August!

Children's Ministry

Children's Church

Sundays @ 9 am and 11 am

Calling All Heroes!



GFUMC invites you to
Hero Hotline:
Called Together to Serve God
Vacation Bible School 2023



So let's strive together
for the things that
bring peace and the
things that build each
other up.
Romans 14:19



4K Class of 2023

The Early Learning Center



King Cake Sale Update

Thank you all for supporting our spring fundraiser by purchasing a King Cake. Our laminator arrived in late April and we so excitedly used it for our end of year gifts. -Helene

SARA RABUN JOHNSON
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Mother's Day Roses Sale

*Thank you for your
donations.*



With your donation of \$20 or more, a rose is placed on the altar on Mother's Day, in honor or in memory of your loved one.

All donations provide direct support for ELC families whose children would not otherwise be able to afford the program.



**The Early Learning Center
First United Methodist
Church of Gadsden**

May Mission Focus

Striplin Elementary — Adopted School



As the end of another school year approaches, First UMC's Mission Team hosted the Teacher Appreciation Luncheon for the 2023 School Year. Sixty-three teachers and staff at W.E. Striplin Elementary School were treated to lunch from Chicken Salad Chick! This is made possible through your generous gifts that support the missions and ministry of First UMC Gadsden!

Watch for more exciting opportunities to serve with the First UMC Mission Team! Email fumc@fumcgadsden.org or go to www.fumcgadsden.org/outreach to find out more.

Clothes Closet News

We need clothes! It's time to clean out closets and bring your spring and summer clothes to the church. If you are unable to get them to the church, call the church office and leave a message.



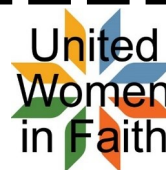
The "Men at the Well" will set up a time to pick them up for you.

*Thank you for remembering your Clothes Closet.
—Clothes Closet Team*

United Women in Faith

The LuVerna Waid Circle will meet on Tuesday, May 16, at 5:30 pm at Susan Copeland's home for "May Salad Supper". Bring your favorite salad to share and wear something cool. 2806 Scenic Hwy, Tuckahoe Heights.

The months of June, July, and August, there will not be a monthly luncheon. Stay tuned for dates to meet with everyone for a summertime supper!
—Barbara Bennett, President



GFUMC



"By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:35

Ladle of Love

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

Donations are needed and may be made to the Ladle of Love Fund in honor or in memory of a loved one.

Clothes Closet

Workdays

1st & 3rd Tuesdays

Open to Public

1st & 3rd Wednesdays

May open dates are

5/3 and 5/17

9:00 am to 11:00 am

516 Broad Street Gadsden

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

Phone: 256-543-8200

Email: fumc@fumcgadsden.org

Clients Served

	Mar
Ladle of Love	467
Clothes Closet	213
Thanks to our volunteers!	

#gfumcreconnect2023

CHESTNUT STREET LOBBY

Honoring Women in Our Lives Who
Mentor, Teach, Love, Care, and Share!

Sweet Treats Candy Bar Sunday, May 14

COME AND FILL A TREAT BAG WITH CANDY FROM THE CANDY BAR!

*"Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works
bring her praise at the city gate." Proverbs 31:31*



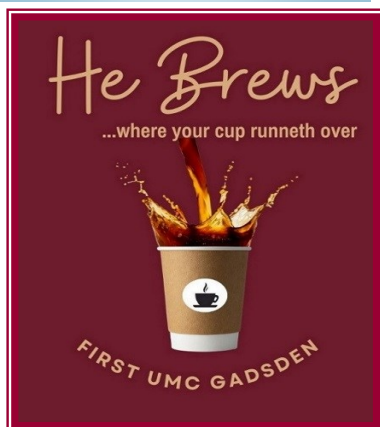
The Church Picnic was so much fun!
We hope you had a "super" time!

Fellowship
Team

THANK
YOU!

Men
at the
Well

*to everyone who served!
And everyone who came to
join the fellowship!*



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!!!



In Psalm 135, we read these powerful words:

Hallelujah! Praise the name of God, praise the works of God. All you priests on duty in God's temple, serving in the sacred halls of our God, shout "Hallelujah!" because God's so good, sing anthems to his beautiful name... (Ps. 135:1-3 MSG)

There is still time to give to the 2023 Alleluia Offering which will go toward our Music Ministry and Capital Improvements! Gifts so far to the 2023 Alleluia offering have totaled \$27,618.00.

Last year, we had the biggest Alleluia Offering our church has seen in a long time!

Thank you so much! With your generosity, we hope that gifts to our Alleluia Offering will exceed \$35,000 again this year. You can help us reach that goal by giving at least 10% (or more) of your weekly income as a special offering. Pray about it, and then present your offering through May 7. We will announce the total each week, and then celebrate the grand total for our 2023 Alleluia Offering on Mothers' Day, May 14.

Shout, "Hallelujah!" because God is so good.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Sam

Pastor Sam
Senior Pastor

Pastor Andy

Pastor Andy
Associate Pastor

Jay

Jay Hedgspeth
Generosity Team Chair



Giving



Generosity: Ways to Give

In-person, at the offering time during worship.

www.fumcgadsden.org/give

Text to Give: 256-344-8464

Mail your tithe or gift: 115 S. 5th Street, Gadsden, AL 35901

Have you downloaded the
Church App?

Search:

First UMC-Gadsden



Calendar for May 14-20, 2023

May 14 Sunday

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

May 15 Monday

ELC Closed, Summer Session begins June 13
9:00 am 10:00am Exercise Group, Gym
10:00 am Mission Team Meeting

May 16 Tuesday

9:00-11:00 am Clothes Closet workday
5:00 pm 6:00 pm Yoga, Gym
5:30 pm LuVerna Waid Circle, Copeland Home

May 17 Wednesday

9:00-11:00 am Clothes Closet open
11:00 am Wednesday Morning Bible Study, Room 208
6:00 pm Youth meeting at "The Alley"
6:00 pm Choir Practice, Choir Room

May 18 Thursday

9:00 am-10:00 am Exercise Group, Gym
No Thursday worship
6:00 pm Memorial Service for Jane Herb

May 19 Friday

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

May Dates

Sunday, May 21, 5:00 to 8:00 pm, All Church Leadership Meeting
Monday, May 22, 5 pm, Trustees
Tuesday, May 23, 5 pm, Finance and 6pm, Board of Stewards

Coming Soon!

June 5-8, 9:00 am to 11:30 am, Hero Hotline VBS
June 12-16, Youth Service Days/Fun Days
June 13, ELC Summer Session begins
July 24-27, Gift to Gadsden is Back!!

WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS

Ray Macon

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Dawn Rains Bibb Holland
John Jones (Dotty Rogers' Son)



Continued Prayer Concerns

Nancy Smith Janie Gray Donnie Gray
Rodney Thompson
Chris Gunnells (Gail McNair's nephew)

Honorariums & Memorials

Ladle of Love

In memory of Jane Herb, given by the Wednesday
Mahjongg Ladies.

Striplin School Fund

In memory of Jane Herb, given by Steve & Lynne
Frederick.

Birthdays

May 14 Lynne Frederick,
Greysen Robinson
May 15 Ann Martin,
Catherlyne Freeman, Matthew Skelton,
Margaret Walton
May 16 Bonnie Yarnell, Michael Hayes
May 17 Asher English
May 19 Amy Epperson
May 20 Rose Schmuck,
Carol Thrasher, Martha Gray,
Holt Page



Week of May 7, 2023

In Person Total *152 Worship Total 486
Online 334 Thursday Worship *5
Traditions Service *93/178
Celebration Service *53/156
Adult Sunday School *0
Bible Study Groups *25/38
Children *25 Youth *10 Nursery *3
Total Small Groups *73 *In Person

General Offering Budget \$12,777.00
General Offering Received \$13,613.00
YTD General Offering Budget \$242,763.00
YTD General Offering Rec'd \$229,732.00

Update Your Contact Information

**Please help us update the
membership records in the
church office with your
current mailing address,
phone number, email
address and birthdays for
all family members.**

**Updates may be sent to
susan@fumcgadsden.org or
call Susan in the church
office @ 256-543-8200.**