

5-15-22 Sermon Notes "Unexpected Places, Unexpected People"

Jerusalem church questions Peter Acts 11:1-18 Common English Bible 11 The apostles and the brothers and sisters throughout Judea heard that even the Gentiles had welcomed God's word. ² When Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him. ³ They accused him, "You went into the home of the uncircumcised and ate with them!" 4 Step-by-step, Peter explained what had happened. 5 "I was in the city of Joppa praying when I had a visionary experience. In my vision, I saw something like a large linen sheet being lowered from heaven by its four corners. It came all the way down to me. ⁶ As I stared at it, wondering what it was, I saw four-legged animals—including wild beasts—as well as reptiles and wild birds. 7 I heard a voice say, 'Get up, Peter! Kill and eat!' 8 I responded, 'Absolutely not, Lord! Nothing impure or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' 9 The voice from heaven spoke a second time, 'Never consider unclean what God has made pure.' 10 This happened three times, then everything was pulled back into heaven. 11 At that moment three men who had been sent to me from Caesarea arrived at the house where we were staying. 12 The Spirit told me to go with them even though they were Gentiles. These six brothers also went with me, and we entered that man's house. ¹³ He reported to us how he had seen an angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and summon Simon, who is known as Peter. 14 He will tell you how you and your entire household can be saved.' 15 When I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them, just as the Spirit fell on us in the beginning. ¹⁶ I remembered the Lord's words: 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' 17 If God gave them the same gift he gave us who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, then who am I? Could I stand in God's way?"

¹⁸ Once the apostles and other believers heard this, they calmed down. They praised God and concluded, "So then God has enabled Gentiles to change their hearts and lives so that they might have new life."

I noticed a theme in the past few chapters in Acts leading up to this one. The theme is people sharing God's love with people they never would have expected. In today's lectionary passage we see the same thing. Some of the people are mad about who Peter has been hanging out with. They get really upset that he shared a meal with someone who is different from them. Sounds familiar to the same type of things people got mad at Jesus for.

What does all of this have to do with Senior Sunday? Our seniors are about to be on journeys to unfamiliar places. May they be open to sharing God's love with all people, yes even the unexpected ones. For the rest of us, have you ever felt God has led you to unexpected places? Has God led you to share the love of God to unexpected people? Who is God leading you to share hope to today?

Pastor Andy

Save these Sunday Dates:

May 15, Senior High Graduation Recognition Sunday May 22, Bake Sale for Jr. High Campers, Chestnut Lobby May 29, One Service, Rev. Keith Elder, Preaching and Singing

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Memorials, Birthdays and Weekly

Financial & Attendance Report

Worship Opportunities

Thursday Worship: 5:30 pm, Sanctuary Mosaic, Thursdays, 6:00 pm, Back Forty

Sunday Mornings:

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.)

May 15

Celebration: Will Brookshire, Zach Hilburn,

Sheila Freeman

Traditions: Davis Varner. Sheila Freeman

May 22

Celebration: Eric Wright, Bill Haller, Carmen

McKiven, Jacob McKiven

Traditions: Tammy Hayes, Brad Barnes,

Mark Casey and Parker Casey



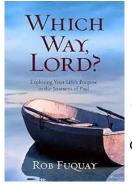


LOVE DOESBy Bob Goff

Small Group Study on Sunday Mornings!
Will meet in Room 208 @ 10 am
All Ages are Welcome! Led by Pastor Andy
(You will love the food!)

Bible Study with Pastor Sam

Wednesday, May 18th 11 am Bible Study



Wednesday Morning
Bible Study will resume
on May 18th at
11:00 am during the
summer months or you
may join Pastor Sam
online on Facebook Live
Wednesdays @ 6 pm.

Wonderful Wednesday is taking a break for Summer!
See you in August!
Check Out Youth and Children's Ministry this Summer!

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.

A new 10 week study based on Richard Stearns' book, "Lead Like It Matters to God" will begin on Thursday, May 5.

May 19—Excellence & Love, Mark Casey

May 26—Humility & Integrity, Eric Wright

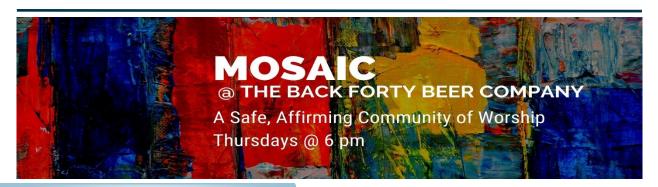
June 2—Vison & Courage, George Varner

June 9—Generosity & Forgiveness, Group Discussion

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, "Eternity is in Session", Parlor, In person and online. Meet in the Parlor or Contact a member of the class for the link to join online!
- Martin Fellowship Class, Room 116, International Bible Studies
- Pathfinders Class, "Love Does" by Bob Goff, Room 208
- Looking for a Sunday School Class? We can help. Contact one of the Pastor Sam Hayes, Pastor Andy Yarnell or Sheila Freeman, Director of Connectional Ministries for help! Email: sheila@fumcgadsden.org



ELC News

On Thursday, May 12th, we ended our 2021-2022 school year with our annual End of Year Program, Class Parties, 4K graduation and reception. We all had a fun time and looking forward to a little rest and relaxation.

Summer session will start Tuesday, June 14th and will be every Tuesday and Wednesday from 9 am to 1 pm through Wednesday, July 27th.

-Helene Haller



Youth Ministry News

May 15: Senior Sunday, Recognize High School Seniors
Brunch in the Gathering Room at 10am

May 18, Wednesday: Youth Hike at the Noccalula Falls.

May 22, Sunday: Youth Kayak Trip.

Leave after Celebration Service, Bus Trip

May 25, Wednesday: Youth are cooking dinner!

June 1, Wednesday: Youth Service Night

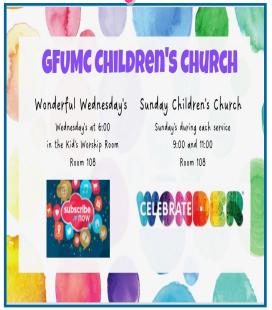
—Pastor Andy

2022 ELC 4K Graduating Class



Children's Ministry





May Mission Focus

350 UMC Missionaries in 60 Countries



The Rev. Krista Suzanne is a United Methodist missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries, serving as pastor for international ministry with La Siesta Evangelical Church in Alicante, Spain. Born in Pomona, California, Krista earned Doctor of Ministry and Master of Divinity degrees from Claremont School of Theology, Claremont, California, as well as

a Bachelor of Arts from Scripps.

Striplin Adopt-a-School Mission Project

Gadsden First UMC's Mission Team sponsored the A/B Honor Roll Party on May 5, 2022. Students who achieved A/B Honor Roll received a special bookmark and pencil and recognition from Mr. Ash, Principal. Thank you to all who helped serve refreshments at the A/B Honor Roll Party!

Next week, Gadsden First UMC's Mission Team will host the Teacher Appreciation Luncheon and Teacher of the Month and Teacher of the Year Recognition.



UMW NEWS

The next UMW Luncheon is September 12th.

However, Summer "Dutch Treat" outings will begin June 21st at 6 pm at the Downtown Chief restaurant. No reservations or "passwords" required. Frowns are tolerated but smiles are celebrated.

—Barbara Bennett







"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!

Ladle of Love

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

Clients served in April 2022

Ladle of Love 421 Clothes Closet 216



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

Church Phone 256-543-8200 fumc@fumcgadsden.org

#gfumcreconnect2021



Elizabeth Barnes



Lauren Penn

Congratulations Graduates



Class of 2022

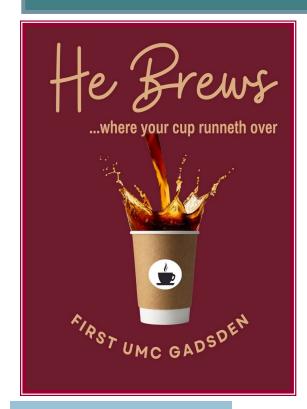
Not Pictured:
Grace Kelly Rhea



Jay Knowles



Anderson Roberts



Inviting Ministries welcomes you to our Coffee Café!

We have your Sunday Cup of Coffee waiting for you between 10 am 11 am on Sunday mornings.

Join us this Sunday!

Come visit with friends, old and new, in Christian Fellowship! After Celebration and before Traditions and on your way in or out of Sunday school!

We can't wait to see everyone back!



Bake Sale May 22

In the Chestnut Street
Lobby (near HeBrews Cafe)
Benefitting Jr. High
Youth who are going to
Camp Sumatanga for
Jr. High Week in June!



MEMORIAL DAY
WEEKEND

MUSIC & PREACHING

SUNDAY, MAY 29

Fírst Uníted Methodíst Church of Gadsden

ONE WORSHIP SERVICE 10 AM HOTDOGS & ICE CREAM ON THE PORTICO FOLLOWING WORSHIP



MONTHLY LUNCH/BRUNCH AT 12:30 FOLLOWING TRADITIONAL SERVICE.

Wednesday, May 11- 6:00 pm, Church Picnic Sunday, June 12- Current Market & Deli @ River Rocks Landing

All Young Adults and Families Welcome!

Gadsden First UMC Alleluia Offering for Easter.

Gifts to the Alleluia Offering so far this year, total

\$38,065.00

Thank you very much!!!!

Your gifts make growth for many new ministries and missions at Gadsden First UMC possible.

This year's Alleluia Offering will help fund special music and choir needs, as well as new outreach ministries for our online ministries and our inviting ministries team. Gifts may still be given to this special offering.

Thank you for your gifts to the Alleluia Offering.
—The Generosity Team



First UMC Gadsden



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





Calendar for May 15-May 21, 2022

May 15, Sunday

9:00 am, Celebration Service, in Sanctuary & livestream

10:00 am, Adult Sunday School Classes

10:00 am, Senior High Brunch, Gathering Room

10:00 am-11:00 am, "He Brews Coffee Ministry"

11:00 am, Traditional Service, in Sanctuary & livestream

May 16, Monday

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

May 17, Tuesday

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

May 18, Wednesday

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

11:00 am, Wednesday Bible Study, Gathering room

6:00 pm, Choir Practice

May 19, Thursday

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

5:30 pm, Thursday Worship, Sanctuary

6:00 pm, Mosaic Service, Back Forty Warehouse

May 20. Friday

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

Save the Date: Sunday, May 15- High School Senior Recognition Graduation Brunch in the Gathering Room at 10am

Thoughts and Prayers

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Family of Katie Grimes Winnie Mae Beasley Jeannie Cosper

Continued Prayer Concerns

Lisa Dobbins Alice Hayes (mother of Sam Hayes)

Anne Elizabeth Casey (great-granddaughter of Dotty Ivey)

In Memory of Her Life Mary Kathryn (Katie) Grimes May 8, 2022



Honorariums and Memorials

Howell Erwin Medical Fund

In memory of Mrs. Jack (Susan) Fuller, given by Sonya Nesbitt. In memory of Annette Howard, given by Sonya Nesbitt. In memory of Betty Echols, given by Nan MacFadyen. In memory of Betty Echols, given by Mr. & Mrs. Charles Watts, Jr. In memory of Betty Echols, given by GCHS Class of "73" Girls. In memory of Betty Echols, given by Mr. & Mrs. Shep Midgley.

Birthdays

May 15 Ann Martin, Cathy Freeman, Matt Skelton, Margaret Walton

May 16 Bonnie Yarnell

May 17 Scott Frederick

May 18 Alex Holtsford

May 19 Amy Epperson

May 20 Rose Schmuck, Carol Thrasher,

Martha Gray, Holt Page, Morgan Jones

May 21 Craig Ford



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

Thank you!

—Susan Swann

Week of May 8, 2022

*In Person Total *270 Overall Total 677

Online Viewer Total 407

Mosaic *16/10 Thursday *8

Bible Study Groups *21/33

Adult Sunday School *36/2

Children's Sunday School *7

Celebration *57/163 Traditions *92/200

UMW *0 Children *49 Youth *20

General Offering Budget \$13,175.00 General Offering Received \$16,393.00

YTD General Offering Budget \$250,325.00 YTD General Offering Rec'd \$278,037.00

2022 Pledges 82 for \$420,924.85 2022 Alleluia Offering \$38,065.00

Text to Give: 256.344.8464

Important Deadlines

Information for the weekly announcement sheet <u>is due</u> each Wednesday by noon.

Events for the church calendar <u>are needed one</u> 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.