



Reconnect

Prayers

Presence

Gifts

Service

Witness

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

5-16-21

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Sermon Notes**"Reconnecting through Witness"**

Have you ever heard of "famous last words?" I've always thought it was interesting to see the actual last words of famous people. For instance, Leonardo da Vinci's last words were, "I have offended God and mankind because my work did not reach the quality it should have." (Yikes! the Mona Lisa wasn't good enough?!) And Marie Antoinette's last words, after accidentally stepping on the foot of her executioner on the way to the guillotine, were "Pardonnez-moi, monsieur." (Those polite French folks...) Harriet Tubman, of Underground Railroad fame, had her family gather around her and her last words were as they all sang: "Swing low, sweet chariot." How perfect is that?

What about John Wesley? Maybe you have heard this before, but John Wesley's last words were, "The best of all is, God is with us." I agree wholeheartedly! There is something about a person's last words that lend them extra importance. That being said...do you remember Jesus' last words? We can see them in Acts chapter 1 –

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning² until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with⁶ the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven." (Acts 1: 1-11 NRSV)

Jesus' last words were about the promise of power to "be my witnesses" when the Holy Spirit comes...to take the good news from where they currently were (Jerusalem) all the way "to the ends of the earth."

Join us Sunday as we talk about how we reconnect through our witness.

Grace and peace, Pastor Sam

Worship Opportunities

- **Mosaic:** 6:30 pm, Tuesday, online and in person
- **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

May 16

Celebration: Mark Casey, Parker Casey, Brad Barnes, Sheila Freeman

Tradition: Matthew Vance, Sheila Freeman

May 23

Celebration: Mark Condra, Bill Haller, Tammy Hayes, Sheila Freeman

Tradition: Matthew Vance, Sheila Freeman

ELC News

Our 2020-2021 school year has come to an end. On Thursday, May 13, we hosted our annual end of year program and held 4K graduation. Class parties as well as the 4K class reception followed. We thank all our parents and faculty for a wonderful year. Summer 2021 session will begin Tuesday, June 1st.
—Helene Haller

*Watch the ELC end of the year program and graduation on demand on the church website:
www.fumcgadsden.org/media*

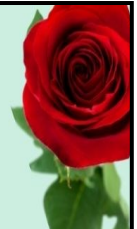


2020-2021 ELC 4K Graduates

SARA RABUN JOHNSON
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Mother's Day Roses Sale

THANK YOU TO ALL THE CONGREGATION AND THE EXTENDED JOHNSON FAMILY. WE RECEIVED \$6,670 THIS YEAR TOWARD THE SARA RABUN JOHNSON SCHOLARSHIP FUND. WHAT A BLESSING ALL OF YOU ARE. THE ELC BOARD AND FACULTY THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY AND SUPPORT OF THIS PROGRAM.—HELENE HALLER, ELC DIRECTOR



UMW NEWS

Our **UMW** May Luncheon was at the **Beautiful Rainbow Café** inside the Gadsden City Library. Chip Rowan and his great staff provided us with a wonderful lunch and delicious dessert. Make plans to have lunch at the Beautiful Rainbow Café, you will not be disappointed.

United Methodist Women will not be meeting during the months of June, July and August for a luncheon. We will try to get together for a dinner at one of our local restaurants each of these months.

*Watch the newsletter or from an email/text from your circle leader to keep up with **UMW** information for the summer months.*



UMW Quilting Circle

Our quilting circle is in desperate need of volunteers who would be able to make baby quilts for Success by Six.

If you would like to help please contact Susan Swann at the church office at 256-543-8200 or email her at susan@fumcgadsden.org



Youth Ministry News

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

Sunday School @ 10 am, in-person

Upcoming Events:

- May 23rd - Senior Recognition Sunday

Coming Summer 2021

Summer service day opportunities– more info coming soon!



Junior High Camp @ Camp Sumatanga

Dates: June 6-11

Age: 6th-8th Grades



Run to the "MAX" for Mental Health was a 5k trail run / fun walk at the Noccalula Falls Black Creek Trails in Gadsden, AL on May 8th, 2021. The run was held to support the nonprofit organization MAXimizing Mental Health, Inc. that is named after Max Cochran.



Children's Ministry News

Wednesday Night
Children's Church
Room 108 & Gym
6:00 pm (in person)

"Celebrate Wonder"
Children's Sunday School,
In-Person,
10:00 AM

GFUME Children's Ministry invites you to

Discovery on Adventure Island

REGISTER ON THE
CHURCH WEBSITE
OR FACEBOOK
PAGE!

Vacation
Bible School

June 7-June 10

MAY MISSIONS UPDATE



Fill a Bucket for the Disaster Relief Warehouse

Tornado season is upon us and many of our North Alabama communities have already been hit. *Please join us as we help UMCOR, United Methodist Committee on Relief, replenish the tornado buckets that help bring God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by these natural disasters.*

Buckets have all been picked up.

Please bring your filled bucket back by Sunday, May 30th. The buckets with the items purchased will be blessed during the services before they are sent to the warehouse.

Thank you for helping us get our Disaster Relief Warehouse ready to share God's love when disaster strikes.

—GFUMC Mission Team



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

Find out more about

mission and service

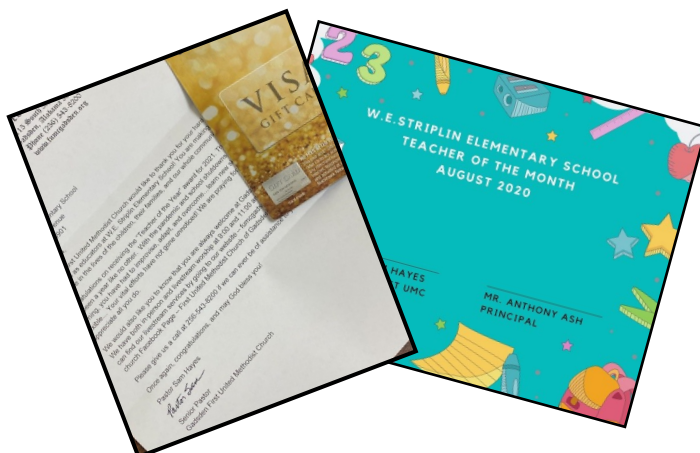
opportunities @

www.fumcgadsden.org/

serve

W.E. Striplin Elementary: Our Adopted School

Spring Teacher Appreciation Luncheon— A delicious boxed lunch was delivered to Striplin on May 11 by the GFUMC Mission Team!



GFUMC sent a Letter from the Pastor, Certificates and a Gift Cards honoring each of the 10 Teachers of the Month and the Teacher of the Year for 2020-2021.

Church Phone

256-543-8200

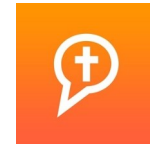
fumc@fumcgadsden.org

Please join us as we say farewell to Michael Fortenberry. Michael has been our custodian and door keeper for the past several years and is moving to Birmingham. If you would like to contribute to the love offering that will be given to Michael, please send your check by Friday, May 28. You can make your check payable to GFUMC, and notate that it is for Michael's gift.



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Online Worship Livestream



Sermon.net App
First United Methodist Church of
Gadsden (search ministries)



Church YouTube Channel: Gadsden First UMC

Worship On Demand

Church App:
FUMCGadsden
(Available in the
App Stores for
Android or iPhone/)



Worship Services are available on demand in the media tap on the app or church website.

Or Church website: www.fumcgadsden.org/media

Follow GFUMC on Instagram: [first_umcgadsden](https://www.instagram.com/first_umcgadsden)
Use our hashtag to Tag and Share your pictures of church activities: [#gfumcreconnect2020](https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/gfumcreconnect2020)



Any questions about offerings, gifts or financial issues for the church should be directed to Sheila Witherspoon. She is currently serving as our interim 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

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.

Contact the church office to find out how you can connect! **#GFUMCreconnect2021**

Sunday Mornings @ 10:00 am

- ◆ Living Water Sunday School Class **IN-PERSON** in the Chapel, room 118.
- ◆ Martin Fellowship Class meets **IN-PERSON** in room 116.
- ◆ Pathfinders Class meets **IN-PERSON** in room 208. Current study is "Never Alone" by Max Lucado.
- ◆ Seekers Sunday School Class— is currently not meeting. Members are welcome to meet with another class until Seekers 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.)

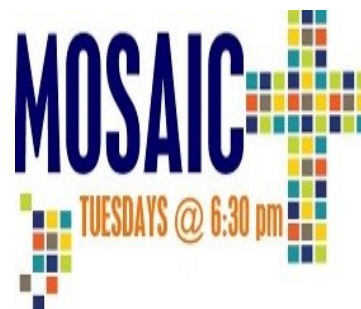
In-Person: Wednesday Nights, 6:00 pm, w/Harriet Murray
"Jesus: The God Who Knows Your Name" by Max Lucado Room 116

Thursdays, Men at the Well

7:00 am, Zoom, Three week study on Bible APP. Wisdom Series on Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Job.
Contact the church office for more information.

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.



**A Celebration of Life
for Joanne Hightower**
Sunday, May 23rd at 1:00 pm
Gadsden Country Club



**A Memorial Service
for Marj Ross**
Sunday, June 6th at 2:00 pm
Gadsden First Methodist Church.



Honorariums and Memorials

General Budget Fund:

In memory of Ronald Garry, given by BBVA Bank.
In memory of Marjorie Ross, given by Lee & Rex Pruett.
In memory of Marjorie Ross, given by Wayne & Karen Owen.
In memory of Marjorie Ross, given by Mark & Barbara Condra.
In memory of Marjorie Ross, given by Money Benders Investment Club.

There is still time to give to the Alleluia Offering during this Easter season! Your Alleluia Offering may be given in the offering plates in the sanctuary or returned to the church office or through eGiving* marked "**Alleluia Offering**".

Consider your gift to this special offering that will expand the missions and ministries of Gadsden First UMC in new and exciting ways in 2021.

- ♦ **New Children's Worship Space** created in room 108 and 106, including a stage, state of the art sound system, monitors and more *and named in memory of Joanne Hightower!*
- ♦ **Technology Upgrades**—Including Permanent Wiring for Our Online Worship Services
- ♦ **Missions**— "**Showing Love**" through our Clothes Closet and "Ladle of Love" Soup Kitchen and to Healthcare Workers, Our Adopted School, Striplin Elementary, as well as, Special Mission Projects like Ohatchee Tornado Relief
- ♦ **Capital Improvements** for the Building and Grounds

**eGiving is available through the GFUMC App: First UMC Gadsden,
or the website @ www.fumcgadsden.org/give or through Text to Give: 256-344-8464.*

Calendar for May 16-22, 2021

May 16, Sunday

9:00 am, Celebration Service, in Sanctuary and
live streamed

10:00 am, Sunday School, Children & Youth

10:00 am, Pathfinders, Martin Fellowship, and Living

Waters Sunday School Classes in person

11:00 am, Traditional Service, in Sanctuary and
live streamed

May 17, Monday

ELC Closed

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

May 18, Tuesday

ELC Closed

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

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

6:30 pm, Mosaic, In person/Livestream

May 19, Wednesday

ELC Closed

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

11:00 am, Bible Study w/Pastor Sam, Room 116

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

6:00 pm, Bible Study w/Harriet Murray, Room 116

6:00 pm, Children's Activities, Room 108/gym

6:00 pm, Youth, Room 211/gym

6:00 pm, Choir Practice, Choir Room

May 20, Thursday

ELC Closed

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

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

5:30 pm, Thursday Worship, Sanctuary

May 21, Friday

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

Sunday, May 23rd



Senior High
Recognition

9:00 am & 11:00 am

*The flowers on the altar today are given in memory
of Mark Swann and in honor of his family by
Ruth Kolker and Sid & Barbara Pactor.*

*The flower on the altar is
In honor of
Charles Harwell Hollingsworth
May 7, 2021*

Parents: Eric & Anna Katherine

Big Brother: John Owen

Grandparents: Phil & Becky Owen



*Given by the Children's
Ministry and the ELC*

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Virginia Yocum Glen Pierson Collins Tackaberry
Dr. Ed Thompson Dot Thompson Jan Humphrey
Julia Keenum (Peggy Casey's mother)
Meg (Ryan) Casey (granddaughter of Dotty Ivey)



Continued Prayer Concerns

Pat Martin George Fant Wanda Hemby Ina Davis
June Longshore B.J. Crow Jane Jones Donny Gray
Ruby Christine Poland (granddaughter of Jeff & Cathea Poland)
Yvonne Humphrey (Jan Humphrey's step-mother)
Mary Nichols (Patsy Blankenship's mother)

Birthdays.....

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



Week of May 9, 2021

*In Person Total *240 Overall Total 492

Online Viewer Total *252 Mosaic *8

Thursday *14 Sunday School *22

Celebration *53/208 Traditions *90/125

Bible Study Groups **14/19

Youth *15 Children *24

General Offering Budget \$15,200.00

General Offering Received \$16,511.00

YTD General Offering Budget \$288,800.00

YTD General Offering Rec'd \$274,446.00



2021 Alleluia Offering

\$15,588.00

Designated for
Children's Ministry

Room 6,650.00

Total \$22,238.00