



Pentecost and the Power of Commencement

Pastor Sam Hayes

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

5-28-23 Sermon Notes "Pentecost and the Power of Commencement"

Am I the only one who has noticed that May has been a very busy month? I have heard more than one person say, "May is the new December." That's the way it has seemed to me. Now we have reached a milestone Sunday - Pentecost. Let's remember what happened that day:

2 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. 5 Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. 6 And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. 7 Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? 9 Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, 11 Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." 12 All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" 13 But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine." 14 But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Fellow Jews and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. 15 Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. 16 No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: 17 'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. 18 Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.

19 And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. 20 The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. 21 Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' (Acts 2: 1-21 NRSV)

As I said, May has been a busy month. One of the things we have been busy with is graduations. ELC graduation, Striplin Kindergarten graduation, High Schools, Colleges... I love the word that is often used for graduation ceremonies: *commencement*. It comes from the word "commence" - from the Latin "com" (meaning "together") and "initiare" (meaning "begin"). Commencement, then, literally means to begin together. Beginning together is what the Day of Pentecost is all about! Join us this Sunday as we talk about the power of the Church's Commencement.

Blessings,
Pastor Sam

Charge Conference (GoToMeeting)

Wednesday, May 31, 2023

See page 7 for details.

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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 28: Jack & Sarah Kate Brookshire

June 4: Silas Hosey & Clementine Hilburn

Tech Team Schedule

(Please arrive 45 minutes before the service.)

May 28

Celebration: Eric Wright, Brad Barnes, Sheila Freeman

Traditions: Tammy Hayes, Sheila Freeman

June 4

Celebration: Eric Wright, Mark Casey, Parker Casey

Traditions: Sheila Freeman, Tammy Hayes, 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

The ELC is on a small break. Summer Session will start June 13th.

Roses Sale Update

Thank you to all who supported this fundraiser this year. We received \$7,760. After the cost of the flowers, we will have \$7,595 to go toward tuition assistance. Please remember you may donate to this special cause at any time of the year.

—Helene Haller



Youth Ministry News

May 24 Hiking at Noccalula Falls
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

JUNE 5-8
9:00-11:30

SCAN
HERE

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

Romans 14:19



Striplin Elementary School

Kindergarten Graduation, May 18, 2023



First UMC Gadsden's Mission Team hosted Kindergarten Graduation for Striplin Elementary School! Over 500 people attended. What an awesome day!



Teacher Appreciation Luncheon

First UMC Gadsden's Mission Team hosted the Teacher Appreciation Luncheon. Chicken Salad Chick boxed lunches were served for 63 Staff Members at Striplin Elementary!



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.

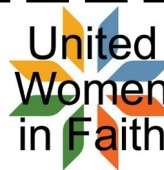
Thank you for remembering your Clothes Closet.

—Clothes Closet Team

United Women in Faith

The months of June, July, and August, there will not be a monthly luncheon. Stay tuned for dates to meet with everyone for Summer Suppers!

—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

APR

Ladle of Love 381

Clothes Closet 211

Thanks to our volunteers!

#gfumcreconnect2023



You are invited!

**Retirement and Farewell
Luncheon**

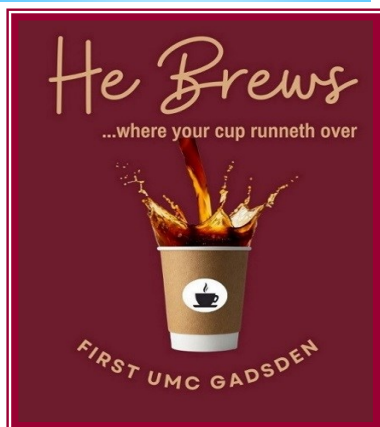
**Join us for a luncheon, immediately
following the Sunday, June 11,
Traditional Service in the gym. We
will be honoring Pastor Sam Hayes
on his retirement and saying farewell
to both Pastor Sam Hayes and Pastor
Andy Yarnell. This is our chance to
show them our appreciation and to
thank them for their years of service
at First UMC Gadsden!**

12 PM

In the Activity Center (gym)

Sunday, June 11, 2023

***Please contact the church for
reservations. RSVP: 256-543-8200 or
fumc@fumcgadsden.org by June 5.***



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 total \$29,618.00.

Last year, we had the biggest Alleluia Offering our church has seen in a long time! Thank you so much! With your generosity, we have had the second largest amount of giving to this offering. Thank you for caring and giving to this special offering.

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

Pastor Sam

Pastor Sam
Senior Pastor

Pastor Andy

Pastor Andy
Associate Pastor

Jay

Jay Hedgspeth
Generosity Team Chair



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

Charge Conference (GoToMeeting) Wednesday, May 31, 2023

The purpose of this meeting of the Charge Conference is to vote on the sale of real property that was donated to the church. Please contact the church office for the link if you would like to attend. All voting members of Board of Stewards will receive an email with the link.

Calendar for May 28-June 3, 2023

May 28 Sunday

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

May 29 Monday

Office Closed for Holiday

May 30 Tuesday

5:00 pm Yoga, Gym



May 31 Wednesday

11:00 am Wednesday Morning Bible Study, Room 208
6:00 pm Choir Practice, Choir Room
6:00 Charge Conference, via gotomeeting.com

June 1 Thursday

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

5:30 pm Thursday worship

June 2 Friday

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

Dates to Remember

May 31, 6:00 pm, Charge Conference,
Gotomeeting.com

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 5, Exceptional Persons' Party

July 24-27, Gift to Gadsden is Back!!

The ministers and congregation of First United Methodist Church of Gadsden extend Christian sympathy to Whitt and Kathy Torbert in the death of his brother n law, Bobby Jerome Wilburn on April 7, 2023.



Honorariums & Memorials

General Budget Fund

In memory of Jane Herb, given by James Henderson.
In memory of Jane Gardner, given by The Pearson Family.
In memory of Jane Gardner, given by David Miller.

Ladle of Love

In memory of Jane Herb, given by Julia Nolen Knox.
In memory of Jane Herb, given by Alice Cusimano.
In memory of Jane Herb, given by Bob & Kathy Sisson.
In memory of Jane Herb, given by Wynell Williams, Geneva Murphy, & Carolyn Woods.
In memory of Jane Herb, given by Cindy Duncan.
In memory of Jane Herb, given by Debbie Hiltz.

Music Fund

In memory of Jane Gardner, given by Karen Kirkpatrick.
In memory of Jane Gardner, given by Mary Samuels.

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Family of Larry Payne Family of Jane Gardner
Patsy Blankenship Asher Mae Collins
Ken Davis Dawn Rains Bibb Holland

Continued Prayer Concerns

Rodney Thompson
Chris Gunnells (Gail McNair's nephew)
John Jones (Dotty Rogers' Son)

Birthdays

May 28 Jennifer Swann,
Anna Morgan Harrell,
Kelsey Tankersley, Asher Mae Collins
May 29 Tamiah Hood, Torrance Hood
May 30 Jason Knowles,
Sheila Witherspoon, Kennedy Selsor,
Grace Anne Page
May 31 Alan Ross
Jun 1 Clate McGwier, Carter Thornberg
Jun 2 Sarah Garner, Carter Rains,
Rebecca Bibb Horst, Bailey Womack,
Carter Womack
Jun 3 Dick McCoy, Greg Griffin,
Jace Frickey, Amelia Hedgspeth

Week of May 21, 2023

In Person Total *136 Worship Total 486
Online 350 Thursday Worship *0
Traditions Service *82/183
Celebration Service *54/167
Adult Sunday School **27/11 UWF *11
Bible Study Groups *25/37 Misc. *8
Children *11 Youth *23 Nursery *1
Total Small Groups *121/45 *In Person

General Offering Budget \$12,777.00
General Offering Received \$14,476.00
YTD General Offering Budget \$268,317.00
YTD General Offering Rec'd \$252,587.00

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.