

Jesus' Last Will and Testament

Pastor Sam Hayes

LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT

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

Sermon Notes: "Jesus' Last Will and Testament"

Have you ever been really upset and had someone to say to you, "Just calm down!" Did that work? Probably not. It might have even served to ramp your stress level even higher. And yet... Isn't that the message Jesus is giving his disciples in John 14?

14 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going." ⁵ Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." ⁸ Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." ⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

²⁵ "I have said these things to you while I am still with you. ²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. (John 14: 1-14, 25-27 NRSV)

Did the disciples have reason to be troubled? You bet! Jesus had just told them that one in their group was a traitor, that all of them would deny Him, and that He would leave them that night. BUT - Jesus would not leave them empty-handed. They would inherit some things from Jesus. And we are "heirs," too!

See you Sunday,
Pastor Sam

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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
 on Facebook Live: @FUMCGadsden

ACOLYTES

May 7: Silas Hosey & Luke Barnes

May 14: Brooks Bone & Quinn Darden

Tech Team Schedule

(Please arrive 45 minutes before the service.)

May 7

Celebration: Eric Wright, Sheila Freeman, Bay Brown

Traditions: Sheila Freeman, Wayne Payton

May 14

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

Traditions: Davis Varner, Tammy Hayes, Brad Barnes

Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Meal will resume in August!

Join us on Wednesday, May 10 for the church picnic @ the Kiwanis Pavilion @ Noccalula Falls from 5-7 pm!

Grilled Hamburgers and Hotdogs!

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

Sunday, May 7th is the last day to order Mother's Day Roses and support the Sara Rabun Johnson Scholarship Fund. The ELC faculty and families thanks you for your love and support. This past week we celebrated our moms with donuts for divas. Thursday, May 11th will be our End of Year Program and parties along with 4K Graduation and reception. We kick off this fun day at 9:30 in the sanctuary and invite the congregation to attend. Our summer session will start Tuesday, June 13th.

—Helene Haller



Youth Ministry News

Wonderful Wednesdays are back!
Dinner at 5:15, please make a reservation!

Sunday School is back for Youth! Room 210
10 am on Sunday mornings.

May 17 "The Alley" Bowling at 6:00 pm

June 5-8 Youth helping with VBS

June 12-16 Service Days/Fun Days

Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Dinner will resume in August!
We will see you at the church picnic, this coming Wednesday,
May 10, 5-7 pm, Kiwanis Pavilion @ Noccalula Falls

Children's Ministry **Children will sing at the picnic!**

GFUMC Kids Spring Calendar



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HERE

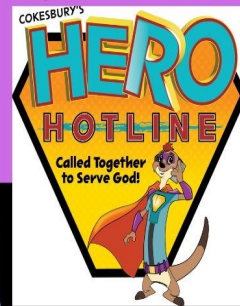
GFUMC Vacation Bible School

June 5-June 8

FAMILY!

FELLOWSHIP!

FUN!



Wonderful Wednesdays
Wednesday's
@ 6:00

www.fumcgadsden.org/children

Church
Picnic
May 10

Children's Church
Sunday's
@ 9:00 and 11:00
Proverbs 22:6

May Mission Focus

Striplin Elementary School

Teacher Appreciation Luncheon and end of the year A/B Honor Roll Parties will be our May Focus for Missions! Watch for details for how you can help with these opportunities to serve! Take a look at these pictures of the A/B Honor Roll Party for 200 students on April 20, 2023.

#amindsetofexcellence



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

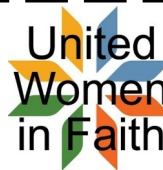
UWF Luncheon is May 8 at 12:00 noon.

The speaker is Laura Slezak, RN, Director of "The Etowah Free Community Clinic". The Executive Board will meet at 10:30 am in Room 208. Please call your reservation in to Delores Abney by noon on May 5. 256-458-0376

The months of June, July, and August, there will not be a meeting.

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

Wednesday, May 10

**Children
Are Singing!**

5 pm to 7 pm

**Grilled
Hamburgers
& Hotdogs**

**FIRST UMC
CHURCH
PICNIC**

**You'll Have a
"Super" Time!**

**Kiwanis Pavilion
Noccalula Falls Park
Everyone Welcome!**

**SARA RABUN JOHNSON
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

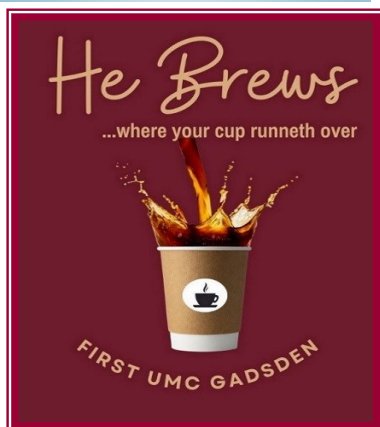
Mother's Day Roses Sale

With your donation of \$20 or more, a rose will be 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.

**MAKE YOUR DONATION PAYABLE TO GFUMC AND MARK IT
"SRJ SCHOLARSHIP FUND". ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY SUNDAY, MAY 7.**

**ADDITIONAL DONATIONS TO THE FUND MAY BE GIVEN THROUGHOUT THE
YEAR.**





Inviting Ministries

Please join us for HeBrews Coffee Café, this Sunday, April 30, following the 10 am, Sunday morning worship. There will be a light brunch served. 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 7-13, 2023

May 7 Sunday

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

May 8 Monday

9:00 am 1:00 pm ELC Spring Semester
9:00 am 10:00am Exercise Group, Gym

May 9 Tuesday

9:00 am 1:00 pm ELC Spring Semester
5:00 pm 6:00 pm Yoga, Gym

May 10 Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm ELC Spring Semester
11:00 am Wednesday Morning Bible Study, Room 208
5:00 pm Church Picnic, Noccalula Falls,
Kiwanis Pavillion

May 11 Thursday

9:00 am-1:00 pm ELC Spring Semester
9:00 am-10:00 am Exercise Group, Gym
9:30 am ELC Graduation Program, Sanctuary
Followed by Class Parties
5:30 pm Thursday worship, Sanctuary

May 12 Friday

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

Mother's Day Roses Sale orders are due by May 7. Don't forget to place your roses in honor or in memory of a loved one!

The rose on the altar is in celebration of the birth of

Jonathan Lane Echols



Born: April 29, 2023

Parents: Mark & Becca Rhea Echols

Grandparents: Richard & Debra Rhea

Given by the Children's Ministry and the ELC

The rose on the altar is in celebration of the birth of

Sava Robert Reeves



Born: April 21, 2023

Parents: Josh & Leslie Reeves

Grandparents: Benny & Gail McNair

Given by the Children's Ministry and the ELC



Save the Dates

Sunday, May 7

Celebration & Traditions

Second Grade Bibles

& Senior High Graduation Recognition & Brunch

May 10 5-7 pm

Church Picnic Grilled Hamburgers and Hotdogs

Kiwanis Pavilion Noccalula Falls

1500 Noccalula Rd, Gadsden, AL 35904

YOU ARE INVITED!

In Memory of Her Life

Jane Hartsook Herb

May 2, 2023



Birthdays

May 7 John Ryle,
Judge Shaun Malone,
David Whisenant,
Charles Harwell Hollingsworth
May 8 Roger Crawford, Lindy Newman,
Michael Freeman
May 9 Collins Tackaberry,
Logan McClendon
May 10 Dr. Ed Lindsey, Felix Russell
May 11 Anita Waid
May 12 George Hightower,
Jeanne Clare Leach
May 13 Dr. Bill Haller, Paul DeJong,
Conner Rice

Week of April 30, 2023

In Person Total *108 Online 212
Worship Total 320
One Service *108/212
Thursday Worship *5
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 \$19,917.00
YTD General Offering Budget \$229,986.00
YTD General Offering Rec'd \$216,119.00

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Family of Jane Herb
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)