

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



SUNDAY, MAY 9
**First United
Methodist Church
of Gadsden**
May 2021

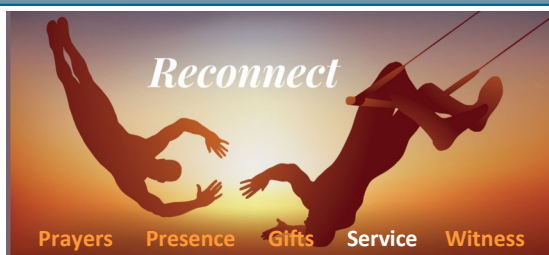
Changing Lives by Sharing Christ, Making Disciples, Serving and Giving Hope

5-9-21

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Sermon Notes

**"Reconnecting through
Service"**



In the book, *God's Little Devotional Book for Graduates*, the author tells an interesting story about (of all things) mother giraffes. When a baby giraffe is born, it falls about ten feet to the ground. Rude awakening! Within seconds, it will roll into an upright position with its legs tucked under its body. The mother giraffe will then lower her head just long enough to check over the baby giraffe...and then do something that seems unreasonable: she kicks her baby, sending it sprawling head over heels. If it doesn't get up, she kicks it again, until the calf finally stands on its wobbly legs. What does mother giraffe do next? She kicks it off its feet! Why in the world would she do that? She wants it to remember how it got up.

In the wild, baby giraffes have to be able to get up as quickly as possible in order to stay with the herd and avoid becoming lunch for lions and hyenas and such. The first lesson that a baby giraffe learns from its mother then is this: Get up, get over it, and get on with it.

Doesn't this sound like something your mom taught you? Doesn't it sound like something mothers do every day themselves? Take the story of Simon Peter's mother-in-law, for instance:

³⁸ After leaving the synagogue he entered Simon's house. Now Simon's mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked him about her. ³⁹ Then he stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. Immediately she got up and began to serve them. (Luke 4: 38-39 NRSV)

Serving is not just something we do. It is who we are. It is an honor and a blessing to serve others!

See you Sunday,
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 9

Celebration: Davis Varner, Liz Barnes,
Sheila Freeman, Brad Barnes

Traditions: Matthew Vance,
Carmen McKiven, Jacob McKiven

May 16

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

Tradition: Matthew Vance, Sheila Freeman

CHESTNUT STREET LOBBY

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

Sweet Treats Candy Bar Sunday, May 9

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*



Church Picnic

An afternoon of fun, food and fellowship!

May 12, 2021 | 5 pm

Noccalula Falls Kiwanis Pavilion

NOCCALULA FALLS PARK CLOSES AT 5 PM
SO COME EARLY TO RIDE THE TRAIN
OR HIKE!

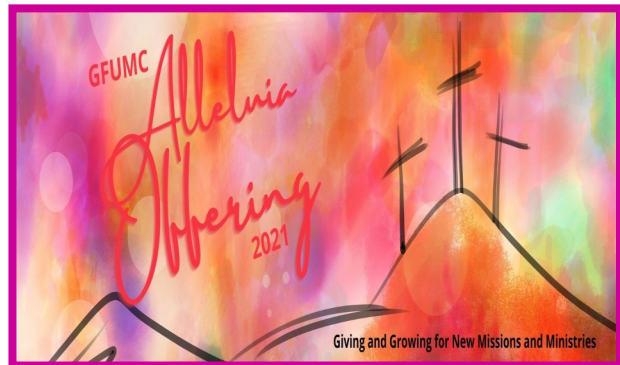


There is still time to give to the Alleluia Offering during this Easter season! Your Alleluia Offering may be given in the offering plates in the sanctuary or returned to the church office or through eGiving* marked **"Alleluia Offering"**.

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.**

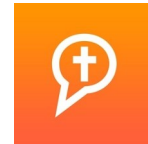


Please join us as we say farewell to Michael Fortenberry. Michael has been our custodian and door keeper for the past several years and is moving to Birmingham. If you would like to contribute to the love offering that will be given to Michael, please send your check by Friday, May 28. You can make your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



RECONNECT

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 will not meet Sunday, March 9 (Mother's Day).
- ◆ Martin Fellowship Class meets IN-PERSON on Sunday @ 10 am, in room 116.
- ◆ Pathfinders Class meets IN-PERSON on Sunday, @ 10 am in room 208. 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.)

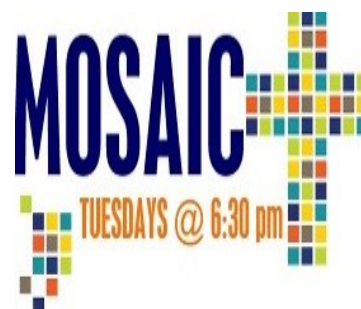
In-Person: Wednesday Nights, 6:00 pm, w/Harriet Murray
"Jesus: The God Who Knows Your Name" by Max Lucado Room 116

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.



ELC News

Thank you to all our wonderful families. We enjoyed our teacher appreciation breakfast and time of fellowship on Wednesday, April 28.

Our roses sale continues through May 2nd. Please consider supporting this great cause. On Wednesday, May 5th we will honor our Moms with Donuts for Divas. Then on Thursday, May 13th, we will finish strong with our annual End of Year Program, 4K graduation and class parties. Details regarding attendance to these functions will be sent home with students.

Helene Haller



Youth Ministry News

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

Sunday School
@ 10 am, in-person

Upcoming Events:

- May 8th - Max Cochran 5K Run @ Noccalula Falls
- 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

Ministers: Andy Yarnell & David Thompson



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



Minute to Win It Family Night



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 will be available beginning May 2nd at both services and then throughout the month of May. There will be a list inside with very specific items to be placed in your bucket.

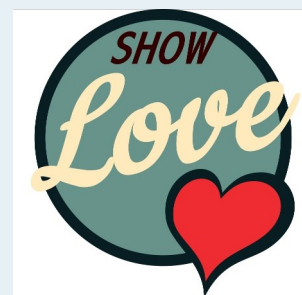
Please bring your filled bucket back by Sunday, May 30th.

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

Church Phone

256-543-8200

fumc@fumcgadsden.org

#gfumcreconnect2021

UMW NEWS

UMW Luncheon, Monday, May 10th at Noon

Join us at the Beautiful Rainbow Café at Gadsden Public Library. The Board Meeting will be at the Café at 10:30 am

Our guest speaker will be Chip Rowan from the Beautiful Rainbow Café

Board Meeting at 10:30 am at the Café.

Social distancing and wearing masks required!

"Beautiful Rainbow Catering Company" is a garden-to-table education program for adolescents and young adults with significant cognitive disabilities in the Gadsden City Schools. The program operates a kitchen laboratory, classroom, and organic garden growing vegetables year-round. The students learn academic and transition skills through instruction in the laboratory and garden. The program is implemented in the self-contained classroom at Litchfield Middle School and operates as an after-school and summer enrichment program for students with special needs from Gadsden City High School. Like us on Facebook or follow us on Instagram at beautiful_rainbo.

Remember to make your reservations for lunch with your circle leader or call/text Delores Abney at 256-458-0376 by Friday, May 7th. The cost of the luncheon is \$10.



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



Mother's Day, May 9, 2021
Sara Rabun Johnson Scholarship Fund



All Honorariums

In Honor of

Given by

Laura Condra

Laura Condra

Kimberly Fleming

Mary Fleming

Marian Ford

Helene Haller

Claire Hedgspeth

Wanda Hemby

Beth Vincent Kelley

Julia Nolen Knox

Mickey Langstaff

Carmen McKiven

Dorothy Moran

Harriet Murray

Jane Newman

Karen Owen

Diana Rampey

Diana Rampey, my mother

The ELC Faculty Past & Present

Mark & Barbara Condra

Her Great Grandchildren

Lisa, Kevin & Children

Lisa, Kevin & Children

Sonya Nesbitt

Bill, Megan & Allie

Mark & Barbara Condra

Jill & Rick Moran

Jill Lolley Vincent

Mark & Barbara Condra

Lynne & Steve Frederick

Jacob McKiven

Rick & Jill Moran

Mark & Barbara Condra

Sheila Witherspoon

Her Children

Rabun Hunziker & Children

Gage & Jeffrey Stoudenmire

The ELC Board



Mother's Day, May 9, 2021
Sara Rabun Johnson Scholarship Fund



All Memorials

In Memory of

Doris Copeland
Ruth M. Frederick
June Gray
Rhennetta Griffin & Ella Witherspoon
Clarice Haller
Suzanne Haller
Hazel Hicks
Jean Holtsford
Charlie Nell Johnson
Peggy Lovvorn Johnson
Sara Rabun Johnson
Sara Rabun Johnson
Sara Rabun Johnson
Sara Johnson, my mother
Sara Rabun Johnson, my grandmother
Angela Keck, my friend
Hanky MacFadyen
Marie Nesbitt
Audrey Owen
Faye B. Powell
Lois Siegmann
Joyce Strickland
Dorothy (Dot) Swann, my grandmother
Jewel Lovvorn Taylor
Lillie Nordman Vance
Hazel Worden

Given by

Keith & Susan Copeland
Steve & Lynne Frederick
David S. Gray
Mike & Sheila Witherspoon
Bill, Helene & Girls
Bill, Helene & Girls
Barbara Bennett
Ron, Lex & Laurie
Harriet, Keith & Hannah Murray
Juliette Johnson & Nick Crooks
Nick Crooks & Juliette Johnson
Rabun Hunziker & Children
Rabun & Peggy Johnson
Diana Rampey
Gage & Jeffrey Stoudenmire
Jennifer Swann
Nan MacFadyen
Sonya Nesbitt & Family
Her Children
Sonya Nesbitt & Family
Helene, Bill & Girls
Susan & Keith Copeland
Jennifer Swann
Rabun & Peggy Johnson
Kathye Vance
Bill, Helene & Girls

Calendar for May 9-15, 2021

May 9, 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 10, Monday

ELC, 9:00 am-1:00 pm

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

6:00-7:00 pm, Choir Practice

May 11, Tuesday

ELC, 9:00 am-1:00 pm

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

6:30 pm, Mosaic, In person/Livestream

May 12, Wednesday

ELC, 9:00 am-1:00 pm

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

5:00-7:00 pm, Church Picnic, Kiwanis Pavilion,
Noccalula Falls

May 13, Thursday

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

ELC 4K Graduation and Class Parties

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

5:30 pm, Thursday Worship, Sanctuary

May 14, Friday

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



Sunday, May 23rd
Senior High Recognition
9:00 am & 11:00 am Services

*The quilts on the altar today are made by ladies in our
UMW quilting circle. They are being dedicated to
young mothers and given to them by
"Success by Six" through United Way.*

*In Memory of Her Life
Marjorie (Marj) Ross*



May 2, 2021

Honorariums and Memorials

Children's Worship Center:

In memory of Marvin Meek given by
Bob & Trisha Blount.

In memory of Marvin Meek given by
Paula Wilson.

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Family of Marj Ross Virginia Yocum
Glen Pierson Collins Tackaberry
Dr. Ed Thompson Dot Thompson
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 9 Collins Tackaberry, Logan
McClendon

May 10 Ed Lindsey

May 11 Anita Waid, Charley Huguley

May 12 George Hightower

May 13 Paul DeJong, Dr. Bill Haller, Jr.,
Connor Rice

May 14 Lynne Frederick,
Greysen Robinson

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



Week of May 2, 2021

*In Person Total *252 Overall Total 508
Online Viewer Total *256 Mosaic *8
Thursday *16 Sunday School *38
Celebration *43/127 Traditions *84/112
Bible Study Groups **26/17
Youth *13 Children *24
General Offering Budget \$15,200.00
General Offering Received \$9,871.00
YTD General Offering Budget \$273,600.00
YTD General Offering Rec'd \$257,935.00



2021 Alleluia Offering
\$15,588.00

Designated for
Children's Ministry
Room 6,605.00

Total \$22,238.00