



SINGING THE LORD'S SONG IN A STRANGE LAND

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

10-2-22 Sermon Notes

"Singing the Lord's Song in a Strange Land"

"Toto, I have a feeling we're not in Kansas anymore." I'm picturing Dorothy, from The Wizard of Oz, holding her little dog, looking at the strange land that she found herself in. She knew that wherever they were...it wasn't home.

Multiply that feeling of strangeness and homesickness by many times over, and you might begin to understand how the exiles felt in Babylonian exile. You see, in 586 B.C. the Babylonians conquered Jerusalem, carrying off into exile all the most skilled and talented Jews into exile – away from their homes and into a strange land.

Psalm 137 is a poem about homesickness...but more than that. The exiles felt cut off from everything they had known – everything precious to them. They literally felt cut off from God, because they thought of God as dwelling in their holy city, Jerusalem. They were carried off to Babylon, where they gathered by the rivers (Tigris and Euphrates). There, they sat in the dust and cried. Can you hear the homesickness, anger, and grief in the Psalmist's words?

By the rivers of Babylon—

there we sat down, and there we wept
when we remembered Zion.

2 On the willows there
we hung up our harps.

3 For there our captors
asked us for songs,
and our tormentors asked for mirth, saying,
"Sing us one of the songs of Zion!"

4 How could we sing the Lord's song
in a foreign land?

5 If I forget you, O Jerusalem,
let my right hand wither!

6 Let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth,
if I do not remember you,

if I do not set Jerusalem
above my highest joy.

7 Remember, O Lord, against the Edomites
the day of Jerusalem's fall,
how they said, "Tear it down! Tear it down!
Down to its foundations!"

8 O daughter Babylon, you devastator!
Happy shall they be who pay you back
what you have done to us!

9 Happy shall they be who take your little ones
and dash them against the rock!

This Sunday we will talk about homesickness, anger and grief...the exiles, and our own; because to be honest, sometimes we all feel like we don't know what to do with all these changes! We will also share the Lord's Supper, and be reminded that we can indeed sing the Lord's song in a strange land!

See you Sunday,
Pastor Sam

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Worship Opportunities

Thursday Worship: 5:30 pm, Sanctuary

Sunday Mornings:

Celebration, 9 am* Traditions, 11 am*

*In Person (Sanctuary) and Online
www.fumcgadsden.org/media or
on Facebook Live: @FUMCGadsden

ACOLYTES

October 2:

Sara Kate Thornburg & Marit Norris

October 9:

Luke Barnes & Hadley Hedgspeth

Tech Team Schedule

(Please arrive 45 minutes
prior to the start of the service)

October 2

Celebration: Mark Casey, Parker Casey,
Will Brookshire

Traditions: Mark Condra, Carmen &
Jacob McKiven

October 9

Celebration: Eric Wright, Bill Haller, Brad Barnes
Traditions: Mike Self, Tammy Hayes

Pathways for Our Future

	Vote	%
Remain UMC	174	68.50
Disaffiliate from the UMC	80	31.50

Result: Gadsden First Will Remain a United Methodist Church

October 5 Wonderful Wednesday

5:15 pm– Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Dinner

6:00 pm- Bible Study and Activities for Adults, Youth and Children

Please make a reservation by Tuesday @ Noon! Call the church office @ 256-543-8200

Menu: Pizza, Salad, Dessert

\$7 per person/\$3 under 11/\$20 max per family

Small Group Study on Sunday Mornings!

Meets in Room 208 @ 10 am
All Ages are Welcome!
with Eric Wright & Harriet Murray
“Un-Distracted”
By Bob Goff

Bible Study with Pastor Sam

Wednesday Mornings

11 am In Person Bible Study

Gathering Room, 201 The Book of Acts

Facebook Live @ 6 pm or on demand-via the
FUMC APP or website

6:00 pm Small Groups

Pastor Sam –The Book of Acts, Room 208

Harriet Murray –Forgiveness, Room 110

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. Currently meeting at the Choice Restaurant. “A Guide to Prayer for All Who Seek God” by Norman Shawchuck & Rueben P. Job is the current study.
Contact Todd Rains, Mark Condra or Mark Casey or any of the Men at the Well for more information.

RECONNECT with the Sunday School Class of Your Choice!

- Living Waters Sunday School Class, “Everybody’s Normal Till You Get to Know Them”, by John Ortberg, **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**
- Muti-Age Sunday School, with Eric Wright and Harriet Murray, **Gathering Room 201 or 208**
- Pathfinders Class is currently meeting with the

ELC News

We enjoyed our first lunchbox revolt!!! The Dog House never disappoints. 4K had an awesome time showing off their treasures during Show and Tell.
On Tuesday, October 4th and Wednesday, October 5th, Professional Photography Group will be here to take Fall Pictures. Patrick Wright always does such a great job. The ELC will be closed Monday, October 10th for Fall Break.

Helene Haller



Youth Ministry News

Wonderful Wednesdays are back!
Dinner at 5:15, please make a reservation!
UMYF @ 6pm

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

September 28 @ 6pm, Biggest UMYF Party ever!
October 5, Wednesday, Haunted Ginger Bread House competition.

October 16 "Blessing of the Animals" @ 10:00 am
October 19, Falls Fest 5-7pm

Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Dinner, 5:15 pm Please Make a Reservation!

Wednesday, October 5, Menu: Pizza, Salad, Dessert \$7.00 ea/\$3.00 under 11 (Max 20.00 per family)

Children's Ministry



f GFUMC
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

FALL 2022

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES
6:00PM ROOM 108

AUG 17	WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES RESUME W/ ICE CREAM SOCIAL
OCT 19	FALL FESTIVAL AT GFUMC 
NOV 16	FRIENDSGIVING! 
DEC 4	 LUNCH WITH SANTA AT 12:00 
DEC 4	CHRISTMAS PLAY AT 3:00 
DEC 14	 UGLY SWEATER PARTY 

KATHARINE BARNES • 256-543-8200 • WWW.FUMCGADSDEN.ORG/CHILDREN • PROVERBS 22:6

September Mission Focus

Etowah Free Community Clinic

Gadsden First UMC Missions supports The Etowah Free Community

Clinic. This clinic provides uninsured patients of Etowah County with access to physicians, nurses, support staff, prescription medication and a variety of holistic care services, at no cost. The clinic has had a dramatic impact, not just in the lives of those they serve, but also in the community in which they live, work and play.



There is still time to make a donation! Look for the **red buckets** at the church entrances to receive your donation. Lets fill the **red buckets** and help EFCC! **Here is a list of needed items:**

Toilet Paper
Paper Towels
Copy Paper
Trash Bags (large black, for trash can on wheels)
Wide Ace Bandages
Band-Aids
Bandages
Rubbing Alcohol
Peroxide
Fungal Cream (tube)
Tylenol (large size)



Thank you for your gifts to GFUMC which makes support of this and other important service agencies in our community possible.

CLOTHES CLOSET

The season is changing, so we are ready for you to send us your fall and winter clothing. The racks are looking empty in all areas, but especially in the Men's Department!



Let's clean out our closets and get our clothes closet stocked again! Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

UMW NEWS

October 10: UMW Luncheon at 12:00 noon.

Our guests will be part of the Youth Symphony Orchestra who will play for us. We will meet in the gym and lunch will be catered. Please mark your calendar and come. Bring a friend. Call your reservation for lunch in to Delores Abney by Friday, October 7 at noon. 256-458-0376

UMW Circles

LuVerna Waid Circle, Susan Copeland, Leader
Stevens Circle, Regina Holloway, Leader
Peggy Casey Circle, Jenn Yarnell, Leader
Jean Holtsford Circle, Cherie Cornelius, Leader

If you wish to visit a circle meeting, contact the leader for time and place. Thank you.

—Barbara Bennett, President



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

October dates are:

10/5 and 10/19

9:00 am to 11:00 am

516 Broad Street Gadsden

Ladle of Love

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

Clients served in
August 2022

Ladle of Love 379

Clothes Closet 253

*Thank you to all our
volunteers for their time and
service to these missions!*

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

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

[#gfumcreconnect2022](https://www.facebook.com/gfumcreconnect2022)

Fall Fest donations

- Snack cakes for cake walk
- Individually wrapped candy
- **Volunteers** to serve food
- **Volunteers** for Trunk or treat (tables)
- **VOLUNTEERS**



Fall Festival will be at GFUMC on Oct 19



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!

There is nothing like being here!

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

**Sunday, October 9 –Back Forty
All Young Adults and Families Welcome!**

Save the Date:
Sunday, October 16
Blessing of the Animals



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 October 2-8, 2022

Oct 2, Sunday

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

Oct 3, Monday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, ELC Fall Schedule
 9:00 am-10:00 am, Exercise Group, Gym
 6:00 pm, Trustees meeting, Parlor

Oct 4, Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, ELC Fall Schedule
 9:00 am-11:00 am, Clothes Closet workday
 5:00 pm, Yoga, Gym
 5:00 pm, Finance Team meeting, Parlor
 6:00 pm, Board of Stewards, Gathering Room

Oct 5, Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, ELC Fall Schedule
 9:00 am-11:00 am, Clothes Closet open
 11:00am, Bible Study, Room 208 (Facebook Live @6pm)
 5:15 pm, Wednesday Night meal, Gathering Room
 6:00 pm, Adult Bible Study, Room 208 and 110
 6:00 pm, Children activities, Room 108
 6:00 pm, Youth activities, Gym & Room 211
 6:00 pm, Choir Practice, Choir Room

Oct 6, Thursday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, ELC Fall Schedule
 9:00 am-10:00 am, Exercise Group, Gym
 5:30 pm, Thursday Worship, Sanctuary

Oct 7, Friday 11:00 am-12:00 pm, Ladle of Love

In Memory of Her Life
Judy Dressman
September 28, 2022



The ministers and congregation of
First United Methodist Church of Gadsden,
extend Christian sympathy to
Robin Wilson
In the death of her father
Robert (Bob) Williams *September 23, 2022*



Honorariums and Memorials

General Budget Fund

In memory of Mike McCartney, given by Ruth Chandler.
 In memory of Winnie Mae Beasley, given by Ruth Chandler.
 In memory of Darrell Yarnell, given by Ruth Chandler.

Ladle of Love Fund

In memory of Barry Loveman, given by Don & Debbie Hiltz.

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Alex Holtsford Albert Gibson
 The Family of Judy Dressman

Continued Prayer Concerns

Jerry Casey Jane Gardner
 John Jones (Dottie Roger's son)
 Alice Hayes (Sam Hayes' mother)

Birthdays

Oct 2 Pam Newman, Kenneth Keelin
Oct 3 Julie Nolen Knox
Oct 4 Wilson Abel, Martha Smith,
 Alyssa Branch
Oct 5 Harding Leach, Hilary Jarecki,
 John Paul Wilson, Stephen Blackstock,
 Madison Walker
Oct 6 Susan Swann, Emily Kate Hayes
Oct 7 Miller Wigley



Please update your family's record in the
church office to include all dates of birth.
Thank you! —Susan Swann

Week of September 25, 2022

In Person Total *145 Online 347
 Worship Total 492 Thursday Worship *8
 Celebration Service *50/114
 Traditional Worship *87/233
 Adult Sunday School *22 Children *4
 Bible Study Groups *14/34 UMW 0
 Children *26 Youth *13 Nursery *4
 Total Small Group Attendance *94/34
 *In Person

General Offering Budget \$13,175.00
 General Offering Received \$6,261.00
 YTD General Offering Budget \$513,825.00
 YTD General Offering Rec'd \$512,593.00

2022 Pledges: 82 for \$420,924.85
Text to Give: 256.344.8464

WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS

Brad Norris
Cindy Norris
Mack Downs
Jana Downs
Doug Frickey
Sheri Frickey
Sam Bone
George Fant