

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

### Traditions Sermon Notes "Not Far From the Kingdom" 10.31.21

We read in Mark 12: 28-34 where a "challenger" came up to Jesus to test him. This guy was a scribe (who was also a Pharisee). This challenger liked the way that Jesus had handled the previous challenger – a Sadducee. Here was the challenge: "Hey, Jesus. Which is the greatest commandment?" This wouldn't have been a weird question to ask. The scribes had determined that the Jews were obligated to obey 613 precepts of the Law – 365 negative ("thou shalt nots") and 248 positive ("thou shalts"). One of the favorite hobbies of the scribes was to sit around and discuss which of the 613 precepts was the greatest one. So, not a strange question. And Jesus didn't give a strange response...at least at first. Jesus quoted Deuteronomy 6: 4-5, the great confession of faith that pious Jews (even today) recite each morning and evening. It is called, "The Shema." Shema is the first word of the confession. It means "hear." "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." Right on target, Jesus! But then...Jesus adds another quote – this one from Leviticus 19: 18. "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." The scribe agrees with Jesus. He says, "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that 'he is one, and besides him there is no other'; and 'to love him with all the hearts, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,' and 'to love one's neighbor as oneself,' - this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices."

Then Jesus said this: "You are not far from the kingdom of God." Hmmm. What does it mean to be *close* to the kingdom of God? Maybe it means that such a person is facing the truth honestly, and not just defending the "party line" or confirming their own previous biases. Maybe it means that such a person has the courage to stand up for what is right even if their friends disagree.

But is "close" to the kingdom of God good enough? This is what we will talk about Sunday in the Traditions service.

See you Sunday,  
Pastor Sam



### Worship Opportunities

- **Mosaic:** 6:00 pm, **Thursday**, (In person @ Back Forty Beer Company)
- **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

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

**October 31**

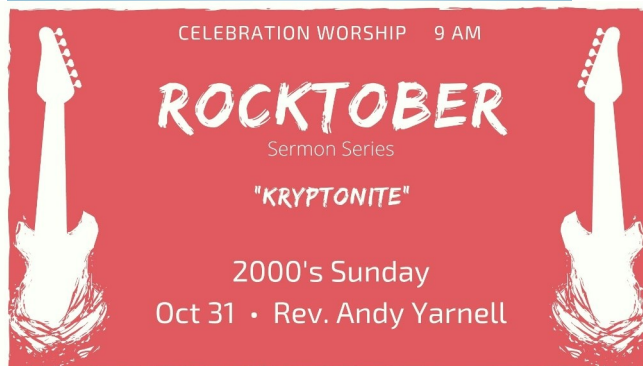
**Celebration** Mark Condra,  
Sheila Freeman, Carmen McKiven

**Traditions** Davis Varner,  
Sheila Freeman

**November 7**

**Celebration** Mark Casey,  
Parker Casey, Brynn Crain,  
Brad Barnes

**Traditions** Tammy Hayes,  
Carmen McKiven, Jacob McKiven



### 10.31.21 Celebration Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes, Kryptonite Sometimes we hear Bible stories at VBS or Sunday School but do not hear about them when we are adults. This is one of those stories that you remember but have not heard in a long time. Sunday we finish our Rocktober Series, and the Praise Band is playing the song Kryptonite. Delilah was Samson's kryptonite. Do you remember Samson? He couldn't have his hair cut or he would lose his strength. He was a mighty warrior but could not resist the temptation of letting Delilah trick him. Here are four points that we will talk about this Sunday. God uses imperfect people. Even before Samson was tricked by Delilah, he made some huge mistakes. God uses each one of us despite our past and future mistakes. Delilah was Samson's kryptonite. What is yours? Let us recognize what things cause us to stumble the most in life. How can we guard ourselves from letting kryptonite get the best of us? Obedience – Samson had a weird instruction to not cut his hair. It was a strange rule, but the story teaches us to trust and obey. Let us not forget where our strength, knowledge, abilities, etc come from. Samson does not have superpowers without God. He cannot win these battles on his own.

The scripture for Sunday is Judges 16:4-22 Samson and Delilah

Pastor Andy

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## Order Your GFUMC T-Shirt Today



You can order online on the church website @ [www.fumcgadsden.org](http://www.fumcgadsden.org) or by calling the church office to place an order. T-shirts will have a special Celebrate-175 front pocket design and our "Show Love" 13:35 logo on the back.

Sizes are Y-XS through Adult-4X.

The cost is \$15.00 for Short-Sleeve and \$25.00 for Long-Sleeve. Payment may be made by check or through GFUMC's secure E-Giving site, marked "T-Shirts".

Email [Sheila@fumcgadsden.org](mailto:Sheila@fumcgadsden.org) if you have any questions about your order.



**Deadling for orders is Monday, November 1.**



*All Saints' Day*

**All Saint's Day,  
Sunday, November 7**

Join us as we remember members of our church family and loved ones who have passed away during the past year. This remembrance will take place in both worship services.



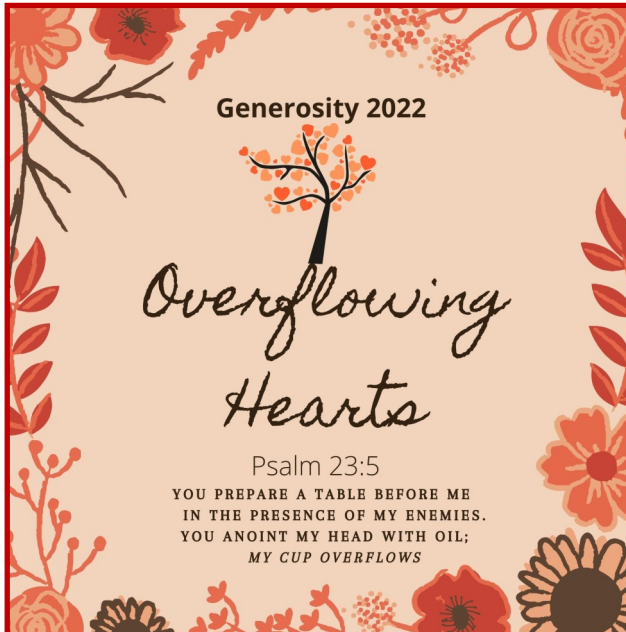
**Robbie's of Fayette**

10:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Tuesday, November 2

In the Gathering room

**Come and shop for great ladies' clothing styles!**

*A percentage of sales will go to our Happy Birthday, Jesus Party that follows the Children's Christmas Musical.*



Generosity 2022

*Overflowing Hearts*

Psalms 23:5  
YOU PREPARE A TABLE BEFORE ME  
IN THE PRESENCE OF MY ENEMIES.  
YOU ANOINT MY HEAD WITH OIL;  
MY CUP OVERFLOWS



**SHOWVEMBER**

Sunday, November 7  
"Could We Start Again, Please?"  
Music from the Broadway Show, "Jesus Christ, Superstar"

Sunday, November 14  
"God Help the Outcasts"  
Music from the Broadway Show, "The Hunchback of Notre Dame"

Sunday, November 21  
"All Good Gifts"  
Music from the Broadway Show, "Godspell"

**SERMON SERIES**  
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GADSDEN




Any questions about offerings, gifts or financial issues for the church should be directed to Sheila Witherspoon, Financial Secretary. **You can reach Sheila Witherspoon or Pam Deru in the church office at 256-543-8200 or email to [giving@fumcgadsden.org](mailto:giving@fumcgadsden.org).**

**Generosity-Ways to Give**

- [www.fumcgadsden.org/give](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/give)
- Text to Give:  
256-344-8464
- Mail your tithe or gift:  
115 S. 5th Street  
Gadsden, AL 35901
- Offering Plates are located at the entrances the sanctuary.





## Youth Ministry News

### Wednesday Nights Youth Group

6:00 pm Room 211/Gym

Youth are working at Trunk or Treat on October 31 from 2:00-4:00 pm.

Wednesday, October 27th, at 6:00 pm, be sure to wear a costume to youth group.

Other news: The youth made 50 dog treats for the "Blessing of the Animals" service on October 10.

They packed 100 bags for Ladle of Love this month.

*Confirmation Class information will be coming soon!*

## ELC News

We had a great time hosting our annual Halloween Parade. Visit the ELC Face Book page for pictures and more of this special day.

On Wednesday, November 3 and Thursday November 4, Patrick Wright with Professional Photography Group will be here for Fall Picture Review.

We are looking forward to watching "Mouse on the Move" on Thursday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, brought to us by our own Molly Page.

—Helene Haller

Dinner: Wednesday, Nov 3 • \$7 per person • \$3 for 11 & Under  
Menu: Taco Night —Please make a reservation!

## Children's Ministry

### "Celebrate Wonder" Children's Church

In-Person, Sundays 9 am and 11 am during Worship

Children's Worship Room (Room 108)



November 14 @ 6:00





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.

## Wednesday Night Supper

November 3, 5:15 pm

Taco Night

Dinner: \$7 per person

Children 11 and under: \$3

(Max \$20 per family.)

Make a reservation by

Monday, Sept 20 by calling the church office @ 256.543.8200 or email: sheila@fumcgadsden.org

## In-Person Bible Study on Wednesday Nights @ 6:00 pm "The Gospel of Luke" w/Pastor Sam

**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.)

## Thursdays, Men at the Well, 7:00 am via Zoom– A Study of Genesis

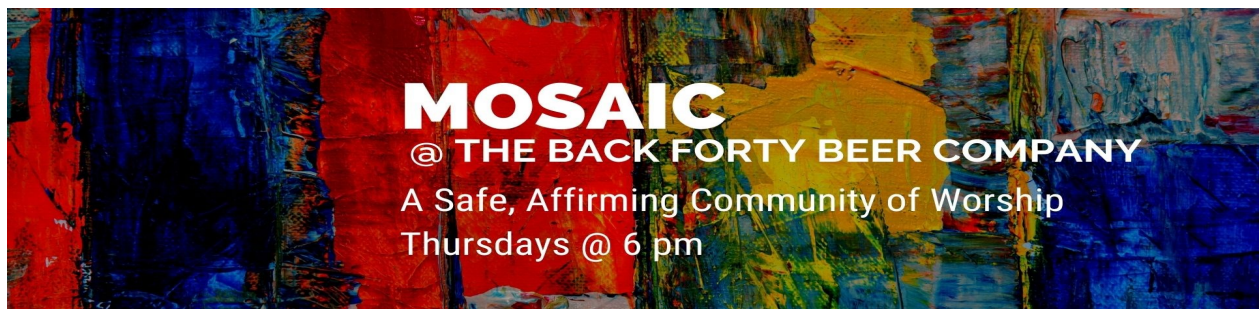
You are invited to join the weekly ZOOM bible study with the Men at the Well small group. Everyone is invited to join this discussion group. It meets each Thursday morning at 7 am. Tammy Jackson is leading the current study of Genesis 1-11, pre-history and what it means to us.

Go to [www.fumcgadsden.org/menatthewell](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/menatthewell) for more details.

Contact Todd Rains, Mark Condra or Mark Casey or any of the Men at the Well for more information and the Zoom link.

## Sunday School Classes

- Living Water Sunday School Class, "Simon Peter: Flawed But Faithful Disciple" by Adam Hamilton, Chapel, Room 118.
- Martin Fellowship Class, "International Sunday School Lessons", Room 116.
- Pathfinders Class, "The God We Can Know" by Rob Fuquay, Room 208
- Seekers, Discovery and The Middle Sunday School Classes are currently not meeting.



## Serving as Disciples through Missions

Your Mission Team will be taking Jack's Biscuits to our hospital workers at both GRMC and Riverview to say "Thank You!" for their tireless and unending CARE of our community. Our youth will be making giant cards for all of us to sign.

### Striplin Elementary School

This is a reminder that we are still collecting for the Striplin School Fund!. The A/B Honor Roll Bags will be prepared soon for our students and the \$50.00 Visa cards for the "Teacher's of the Month" will be given out soon. It takes \$600.00 to fulfill our commitment to all of the Teachers' cards. PLEASE give to support our adopted school so we can help make a difference in the lives of our children. Thank you for your continued generosity,

Your Mission Team



## CommUnity Thanksgiving Dinner

It is that time of year when we begin preparing for the **CommUnity Thanksgiving** event. It WILL go on this year with some changes due to Covid 19 guidelines. As in the past, our church will provide the money to purchase the desserts for the meal. They are planning on feeding 7,000 people this year. We are going to have individually wrapped Cakes (Little Debbie) instead of the usual pound cakes. If you would like to make a donation, please send a check or e-give and mark it for CommUnity Thanksgiving. Thanks, as always, for your unending generosity. —Your Mission Team

## UMW NEWS

**UMW Luncheon** will be Monday, November 8 at 12:00 noon in the gathering room. The Executive Board will meet at 10:30 am in room 208 (Seekers Classroom). The program will be "Maximizing Mental Health" presented by Kelly Waits Cochran. The luncheon will be catered by Chicken Salad Chick. Please call in your reservation by noon on Friday, Nov. 5 to Delores Abney at 256-458-0376 or email to [deloresdda53@gmail.com](mailto:deloresdda53@gmail.com).



### Upcoming for December 2021

The December UMW Luncheon will be the first Monday, December 6, beginning at noon in the Gathering Room.

We will have a catered lunch in the gathering room. The ELC children will be our special program. Watch the newsletter for who will be catering the luncheon. We will have poinsettias available to be taken to our homebound members.

## 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

Clients served in  
September

Ladle of Love 404  
Clothes Closet 200



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

## Ladle of Love

Fridays, 11:00am-12:00pm,

at the Portico entrance

Find out more about mission  
and service opportunities @  
[www.fumcgadsden.org/serve](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/serve)

Church Phone

256-543-8200

[fumc@fumcgadsden.org](mailto:fumc@fumcgadsden.org)

[#gfumcreconnect2021](https://www.facebook.com/gfumcreconnect2021)



## Calendar for October 31-November 6, 2021

### Oct 31, Sunday

9:00 am, **Celebration Service, in Sanctuary & live stream**  
 10:00 am, Adult Sunday School Classes  
 11:00 am, **Traditions Service, in Sanctuary & live stream**  
 2:00-4:00 pm, **Trunk or Treat, Casey Farm**

### Nov 1, Monday

9:00am-1:00pm, ELC Fall Schedule  
 9:00 am-10:00 am, **Exercise Group, Gym**

### Nov 2, Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, ELC Fall Schedule  
 9:00-11:00 am, **Clothes Closet workday**  
 5:00-6:00 pm, **Yoga, Gym**

### Nov 3, Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, ELC Fall Schedule  
 9:00 am-11:00 am, **Clothes Closet open**  
 11:00 am, **Wednesday Morning Bible Study, w/Pastor Sam**

### Nov 3, Wednesday

5:15 pm, **Wednesday Night Meal, Gathering Room**  
 6:00 pm, **Bible Study w/Pastor Sam, Rm 208/live stream**  
 6:00 pm, **Children's Activities, Room 108**  
 Youth Activities, Room 211 & Gym

6:00 pm, **Choir Practice, Choir Room**

### Nov 4, Thursday

7:00 am, **Men at the Well Journey Group, Zoom**  
 9:00 am-1:00 pm, ELC Fall Schedule  
 9:00 am-10:00 am, **Exercise Group, Gym**  
 5:30 pm, **Thursday Worship, Sanctuary**  
 6:00 pm, **Mosaic, @ Back Forty Warehouse**

### Nov 5, Friday

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

### **Honorariums and Memorials**

#### General Budget Fund:

In memory of Dr. Ed Thompson, given by Ruth Chandler.  
 In memory of Charles Huguley, given by Ruth Chandler.

#### Ladle of Love:

In memory of Bill Campbell given by Dottie Ivey.  
 In memory of Bill Campbell given by Myra Kingsbury.  
 In memory of Bill Campbell, given by Steve & Sissy Campbell.  
 In memory of Bill Campbell, given by Greg & Sherry Young.  
 In memory of Bill Campbell, given by Diana Rampey.  
 In memory of Bill Campbell, given by Barbara Bennett.  
 In memory of Bill Campbell, given by Ruth Chandler.  
 In memory of Bill Campbell, given by Beverly Sibert.  
 In memory of Bill Campbell, given by Mark Busby.  
 In memory of Bill Campbell given by Ronnie & Andrea Dutton.  
 In memory of Bill Campbell, given by Nancy Ford.

#### SRJ Scholarship Fund

In memory of Bill Campbell, given by LuVerna Waid Circle.

#### Children's Library

In memory of Wanda Hemby, given by George & Lori Varner.

### **Save the Date:**

### **The Amazing Chemistry Show**

Sunday, November 14, 6:00 pm  
 In the Gym  
 All Ages are invited!

### **Immediate Prayer Concerns**

Family of Tomilyn Isbell  
 Stan Walker  
 Lisa Dobbins



### **Continued Prayer Concerns**

Carma Rayburn Martha Bullock  
 Jan Humphrey  
 Ann Elizabeth Casey (great-granddaughter of Dotty Ivey)  
 Mikey Tonagel (Collins & Belinda Tackaberry's son-in-law)

### **October Birthdays.....**

**Oct 31** Harriet Murray  
**Nov 1** Martha Bullock, David Livingston  
**Nov 2** Bob McElroy, Jr., Dr. Stephen Blackstock, Tregg Johnson, Regina Holloway  
**Nov 3** Jeffrey Blackwood  
**Nov 4** Laney Claire Wigley  
**Nov 5** Darrell Yarnell, Becky Owen, Beth Day, Vicki Kirk  
**Nov 6** Sheila Ford



### **Prayer Concerns**

Are for our members and their families. Please notify the pastors or church office with any updates on Prayer Concerns... Ongoing or New.

**Information for the weekly announcement sheet is due each Wednesday by noon.**  
**Events for the church calendar are needed one month prior to the event.**

### **Week of October 24, 2021**

\*In Person Total \*169 Overall Total 501  
 Online Viewer Total 332 Mosaic \*5  
 Thursday \*6 Adult Sunday School \*28  
 Celebration \*36/148 Traditions \*46/163  
 Children \*15 Youth \*24 UMW 0  
 Bible Study Groups \*9/21  
 General Offering Budget \$15,200.00  
 General Offering Received \$11,873.92  
 YTD General Offering Budget \$653,600.00  
 YTD General Offering Rec'd \$567,972.08

**Text to Give: 256.344.8464**