



"LABOR"
SEPTEMBER
SERMON
SERIES

LABOR UNION

Sunday, September 12
Pastor Sam Hayes
Gadsden First UMC

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

September 12

Sermon Notes

"Labor Union"

We just celebrated Labor Day – a day when we pause to remember...work and workers! "Labor" is our theme for September. "Labor Union" is the title for the message this Sunday. Don't worry – I'm not going to try to sign you up for the AEA, or the IBEW, or any such. Instead, I'm going to ask you to consider what the Apostle Paul asked the church in Ephesus to "labor" at doing.

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. ⁷But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. (Eph. 4: 1-7 NRSV)

Focusing on v. 3 – "making every effort (laboring) to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." Labor for unity. "Is that all?" we think sarcastically, rolling our eyes. Unity? Is that even *possible*? I met a pastor named Jeff from the state of Washington who was in the Free Methodist denomination. Not being familiar with that denomination, I joked, "Just how FREE are the Free Methodists?" He replied, without missing a beat, "We are about as FREE as United Methodists are UNITED!" Touche, Jeff.

Does laboring for unity mean that our goal is to have everyone agree on everything? To see eye-to-eye on everything? That's not where we are going with this. We will talk about the sevenfold unity Paul describes in verses 4-6 of Ephesians 4. We will talk about John Wesley's famous quote on unity: "In the essentials, unity. In the non-essentials, tolerance. In all things, charity (or love)."

See you Sunday,

Pastor Sam

"IF" *If you don't like life, it's the way you're livin';
A little less takin', a bit more givin',
A little less hatin', a little more lovin',
A little more helpin', not so much shovin':
A little more smiling', and not so much strife,
And soon you will be in love with life.
(Copied from a 1959 Bulletin)*

Worship Opportunities

- **Mosaic:** 6:30 pm,
Tuesday,
(in person and online)
- **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.)

September 12

Celebration: Eric Wright, Bill Haller,
Zach Hilburn

Traditions: Mark Condra, Carmen McKiven,
Jacob McKiven

September 19

Celebration: Will Brookshire, Brad Barnes,
Liz Barnes

Traditions: Davis Varner, Sheila Freeman



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

September 8, 5:15 pm
Chick Filet-A, Chips, Fruit, Cookies

Dinner: \$7 per person

Children 11 and under: \$3
(Max \$20 per family.)

Make a reservation by
Tuesday, Sept 6 by calling the church
office @ 256.543.8200 or email:
sheila@fumcgadsden.org

In-Person Bible Study on Wednesday Nights @ 6:00 pm begins on Wednesday, August 18.

In-person
Pastor Sam
Wednesday
Mornings @ 11 am
Gathering Room



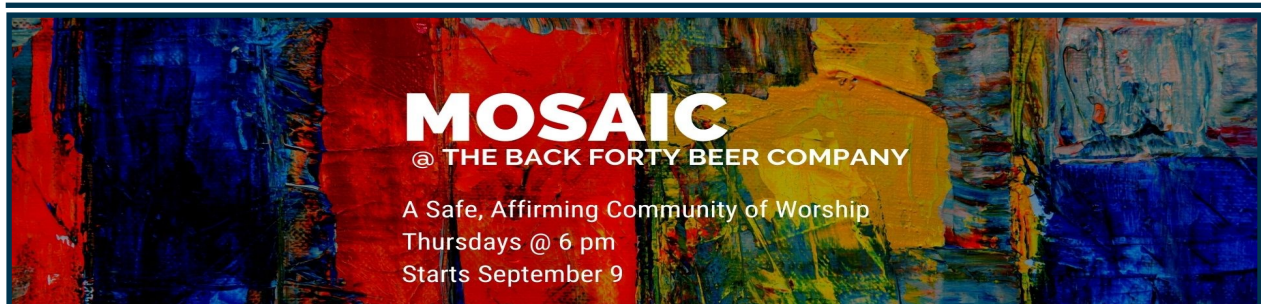
Online
Pastor Sam
Wednesdays @ 6 pm,
online, FACEBOOK Live
(Also, available on-demand on
the GFUMC website or church
app under the media tab.)

Thursdays, Men at the Well, 7:00 am via Zoom– New Study: Saints & Sinners

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. A different member of the small group will lead a discussion each week.. **Thursday, September 9, 2021:** Mark Casey will share stories of Barnabas and discuss his acts of generosity and honesty found in Acts 4 and 5 **Thursday, September 16, 2021:** Todd Rains will lead us in a discussion of Stephen, the Martyr and how his loyalty and willingness to sacrifice his own for his belief shaped Christianity. Go to 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 Mornings @ 10:00 am in person

- Living Water Sunday School Class, "Mysteries of the Messiah" by Rabbi Jadon Sobel, Chapel, Room 118.
- Martin Fellowship Class, "International Sunday School Lessons", Room 116.
- Pathfinders Class, "The God We Can Know" by Rob Fuquay, Room 208, Starts Sunday, September 12.
- Seekers, Discovery and The Middle Sunday School Classes are currently not meeting. *Members are welcome to meet with another classes return.*





Celebrate
175
Labor of Love
Worship Celebration
A Celebration of 175 Years of Ministries and Missions

BISHOP DEBRA WALLACE-PADGETT
REV. DR. SAM HAYES
REV. ANDY YARNELL

Sunday, September 26 @ 10 AM

First United Methodist Church
115 S. 5th Street, Gadsden, Alabama

Protocols are in place for the safety of our in-person guests.

- Seating Limited in the Sanctuary with Social Distancing.
- Additional Seating will be available in two overflow areas of the church where worship will be broadcast.
- Hand Sanitizer stations are located at all entrances and throughout the building.
- Masks are requested for those who have not been vaccinated and anyone who wishes to have added protection.
- We look forward to seeing you at the Celebration whether it is in-person or online!

RSVP: Return this card to the church office or go to www.fumcgadsden.org/celebrate-175 to respond.

Name(s): _____ ☐ I (We) will attend in-person. (____#)

Email: _____ ☐ I (We) will attend online via facebook live or the church website (____#)

Phone: _____ ☐ I am unable to attend.

Please share a memory or a note about what GFUMC means to you.

Blast Off! 2021-2022 ELC School



ELC News

Next week is the Consignment Sale, we would love to have all our parents and church family help with this endeavor. If you have time, even just an hour, please let Helene know. **Friends of the ELC Consignment Sale, Sept. 16-18, www.fumcgadsden.org/elc** Our first lunchbox revolt will be Tuesday, September 21st. Greg from The Dog House will be here serving hot dogs and chips. Information will be sent home soon.

—Helene Haller



Youth Ministry News
Wednesday Nights Youth Group
6:00 pm Room 211/Gym

Sunday School @ 10 am, in-person

Don't forget to make a reservation for Wonderful Wednesday

Children's Ministry News

"Celebrate Wonder"

Children's Church

In-Person, Sundays

9 am and 11 am during Worship

Children's Worship Room

FUMC Kid's Fall Calendar

EVERY WEDNESDAY NIGHT

6:00-7:00

CHILDREN SING IN SERVICE

SUNDAY 9/26

10:00

THE AMAZING CHEMISTRY SHOW

SUNDAY 11/14

6:00-7:00

TRUNK OR TREAT

SUNDAY 10/17

2:00-4:00

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

SUNDAY 12/12 TBD



August Missions

GFUMC is
"Roaring into Greatness"
 with Striplin Elementary!

Each year we have the opportunity to make a difference for our adopted school! We are kicking off the 2021-2022 school year by providing each teacher with a bag of supplies for their classroom. And once again this year, we will provide Teacher of the Month and Teacher of the Year Gift Cards and Certificates, A/B Honor Roll parties and the Teacher Appreciation Luncheon. **Please help us support our GREAT teachers and students by giving to the Striplin Fund.** Thank you in advance for your Generosity.
#amindsetofexcellence

North Alabama Conference Disaster Response and Recovery

In the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, on Saturday, August 14, Haiti was hit by a 7.2 magnitude earthquake that caused widespread destruction in the western region of the country. Please join others and extend prayers of comfort for those who died and those who are still missing.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is working with partners in Haiti in finding ways to meet the immediate needs of survivors.

Please join UMCOR by making donations through the work of the International Disaster Response and Recovery fund (Advance #982450).

Read more about the current response in Haiti @

<https://umcmmission.org/umcor/standing-with-haiti-amid-quake-and-storm/>.

UMW NEWS

Due to the increase of the Covid Virus, **We will not meet** on **September 13** for the **UMW Luncheon**. We will assess on a month to month basis. *Watch this newsletter for new updates throughout the next few months.*

Eileen Graham



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



As Fall is approaching, we will be collecting Fall and Winter Clothing. Clean out your closets and don't forget Your Clothes Closet! Women, Men, Youth, and Children's clothes are needed.

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

Receptionists

Past, Present, and Future

A big "Thank You" goes out to all receptionists that have volunteered to be the smiling face and cheery voice for Gadsden First UMC at our Reception Desk. Whether you have worked in the past or are now on the present schedule to begin August 30 or on a sub list your "shining Light" from that desk is greatly appreciated! You are greeting all who call or come to God's House with a servant's heart.



The rose on the altar is in honor of

Bexton Townsel

August 19, 2021

Parents: Dallas and Heather

Big Brother: Xander

Given by the ELC and GFUMC Children's Ministry



The rose on the altar is in honor of

Lucy Miller Hall

August 20, 2021

Parents: Philip and Kaci Hall

Big Brothers: Wes, Shep, and Banks

Given by the ELC and GFUMC Children's Ministry



Top 10 Things To Do on the Church APP

10. Meet the Pastors and Staff. (Home Tab-Meet the Pastors and Staff)
9. Fill out a Connect Card. (Home Tab-Connect)
8. Read the Church News. (Home Tab-News)
7. Check Out Upcoming Church Events (Events Tab)
6. Read the Bible in a Year (Bible Tab)
5. Look up Scripture. (Bible Tab)
4. Send a Prayer Request (Home Tab-Prayer Request)
3. Give (Home Tab-Give)
2. Watch the Pastor's Bible Study (Media Tab)
1. Watch or Listen to Worship Services and Sermons. (Media Tab)



Have you downloaded the Church App?

Search: FUMCGadsden
(Available in the App Stores for Android or iPhone/)



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 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
- **Offering Plates** are located at the entrances the sanctuary.



Calendar for September 12-18, 2121

Sept 12, Sunday

9:00 am, **Celebration Service, in Sanctuary & live stream**

10:00 am, Martin Fellowship, Pathfinders, & Living Water

Sunday School classes, in person

11:00 am, **Traditions Service, in Sanctuary & live stream**

Sept 13, Monday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, ELC Fall Schedule

Sept 14, Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, ELC Fall Schedule

9:00 am-11:00 am, Clothes Closet workday

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

Sept 15, Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, ELC Fall Schedule

9:00 am-11:00 am, Clothes Closet open

11:00 am, **Wednesday Bible Study, Room 208**

Sept 15, Wednesday, cont'd

5:15 pm, Wednesday night meal, Gathering Room

6:00 pm, **Bible Study w/Pastor Sam, Room 208 / livestream**

6:00 pm, **Children's Activities, Room 108**

Youth Activities, Room 211 & Gym

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

Sept 16, Thursday

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

9:00 am-1:00 pm, ELC Fall Schedule

4:00 pm-8:00 pm, ELC Consignment Pre-Sale, Gym

5:30 pm, **Thursday Worship, Sanctuary**

6:00 pm, **Mosaic, Back Forty Warehouse**

Sept 17, Friday

9:00 am-5:00 pm, ELC Consignment Sale, Gym

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

Sept 18, Saturday, ELC Consignment 1/2 Price Sale, Gym

Celebrate 175, Labor of Love, Sunday, September 26, 2021

Don't forget to share what you love about GFUMC or a special memory!

Honorariums and Memorials

General Budget Fund:

In memory of Jack Floyd, given by Dr. Steve & Lynne Frederick.

In memory of Will Downs given by Dr. Steve & Lynne Frederick.

In honor of FUMC Office Staff, given by Dr. Steve & Lynne Frederick.

In memory of Jack Floyd, given by Keith and Harriet Murray.

In memory of Jack Floyd, given by Alex Holtsford.

Benevolence Fund:

In memory of Mary Gregerson Sewell, given by Sonya Nesbitt.

In memory of Jack & Jane Floyd, given by Sonya Nesbitt.



R & R

The meeting for
**September 27 has been
cancelled due to Covid numbers.
We have postponed meeting in
person until January 2022.**

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Marian Ford Sonya Nesbitt Jan Humphries

Lisa Dobbins

Wanda Hemby (Jill Moran's mother)

Pam James (Jan Humphries sister)



Continued Prayer Concerns

Joyce Singleton June Styles Terry & Sheila Bishop

Gage Stoudenmire (Diana Rampey's daughter)

William (Skip) Edwards (Jennifer Jackson's father)

Mikey Tonagel (Collins & Belinda Tackaberrys' son-in-law)

Ann Elizabeth Casey (great-granddaughter of Dotty Ivey)

Birthdays.....

Sept 12 Chris Hill, Makenzie Staton

Sept 13 Betty Ballard, Linda Marble

Sept 14 Tommy Bone, Marihugh Leach

Sept 15 Alicia Dowling, Anna Dobbins,

Danielle Wilson

Sept 16 Bibb Holland

Sept 17 Joseph Calahan

Sept 18 Hunter Grimes



Week of September 5, 2021

*In Person Total *158 Overall Total 470

Online Viewer Total 312 Mosaic *7

Thursday *6 Sunday School *15

Celebration Service *39/138 Children *16

Traditional *47/156 Youth *16

Bible Study Groups *12/18

General Offering Budget \$15,200.00

General Offering Received \$16,811.66

YTD General Offering Budget \$547,200.00

YTD General Offering Rec'd \$472,333.00

Covid - Update

*We have masks and hand
sanitizer available at the
entrances and every
other pew has been
marked off. Please
observe social distancing
and wear a mask if you
have not been fully
vaccinated or as needed.*