



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

September 5

Sermon Notes

"Labor Day"

Labor Day is a holiday to celebrate "workers." Is that really a big deal? We might think of Labor Day as just a long weekend, or as the official end of the summer season ("Don't wear white after Labor Day, Honey!"), but we all need to remember the fact that "labor" and "laborers" have not always been celebrated. Nobody celebrated slave labor, which was a big part of our country's early history, and which robbed the lives and dignity of so many families of African ancestry. Nobody celebrated child labor during the Industrial Revolution in the US. We sometimes forget that in many states, children as young as 5 or 6 labored in mills, factories and mines across our country.

Labor Day came only after a long and bloody Civil War...only after violent riots by workers, and the organizing efforts of many American laborers. So, I guess I'm saying that Labor Day IS a big deal! On the other hand...should we be talking about Labor Day in church? I say, "Yes!" This Sunday, we will look at the story of Jesus healing a man who was born blind.

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³ Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶ When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷ saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. (John 9: 1-7 NRSV)

I will give you three reasons this Sunday why Labor Day should be a big deal for Christians. We will also be celebrating Holy Communion.

See you Sunday,

Pastor Sam

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 5

Celebration: Mark Casey, Parker Casey, Brynn Crain

Traditions: Tammy Hayes, Sheila Freeman
September 12

Celebration: Eric Wright, Bill Haller, Zach Hilburn

Traditions: Mark Condra, Carmen McKiven, Jacob McKiven



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

Pizza, Salad, Chips, Fruit

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

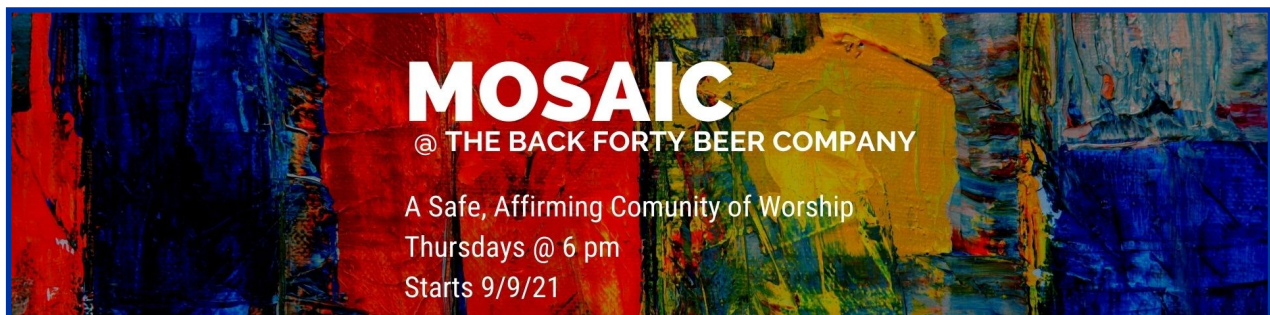
(Also, available on-demand on the GFUMC website or church app under the media tab.)

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, "Better Decisions, Fewer Regrets" by Andy Stanley, Room 208.
- 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

We are so excited to "Blast Off" into the new school year!

We had a great first full week of school. Thank you to all our families for following our safety guidelines. The ELC will be closed on Monday, September 6th in observance of Labor Day. Also, please support our fundraiser. Be a consignor or volunteer for the Consignment Sale. See Helene or the ELC website page for more details.

Save the Date: Sept 16-18

Friends of the ELC

Consignment Sale



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

GFUMC Kid's Fall Calendar

EVERY WEDNESDAY NIGHT

6:00-7:00

**CHILDREN SING IN ONE
SERVICE**

SUNDAY 9/26 10:00

**THE AMAZING CHEMISTRY
SHOW**

SUNDAY 11/14 6:00-7:00

**FALL FESTIVAL
WEDNESDAY 10/20
5:00-7:00**

**CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
SUNDAY 12/12 TBD**

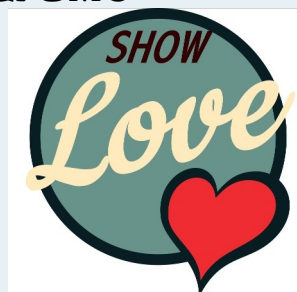


August Missions

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

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

"Ladle of Love" Team Leader Needed

A volunteer is needed to serve as the **Ladle of Love Team Leader** for Team IV for the fourth Friday of each month. Duties include coordinating volunteers, menu planning and purchasing of the food, as well as overseeing the preparation and serving of the food. Currently, Ladle of Love is serving a "to go" bag lunch at the portico of the church.



Thank you to Mandell and Judy Tillman for their years of service as the team leaders for Team IV. They have been faithful volunteers since the Ladle of Love began. Their service is very much appreciated!

UMW NEWS

Due to the increase of the Covid Virus, **UMW** will not have a Summertime dinner in August. Be safe and continue to prayer for an end to this pandemic. Stay tuned in and keep your fingers crossed and say a prayer that we will be able to have our **September UMW Luncheon.**

Watch this newsletter for new updates throughout the remainder of August and the beginning of September.

Eileen



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/>.

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.



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.

**G
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Calendar for September 5-11, 2121

Sept 5, 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 6, Monday

Church Office closed for Holiday

Sept 7, Tuesday

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

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

Sept 8, Wednesday

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

11:00 am, **Bible Study w/Pastor Sam, Room 208**

Sept 8, 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 9, Thursday

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

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

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

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

Sept 10, Friday

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

*The ministers and congregation of
First United Methodist Church of Gadsden
extend Christian sympathy to
Richard & Ciara Caldwell
in the death of his father,
Kermit Caldwell August 27, 2021*

*The ministers and congregation of
First United Methodist Church of Gadsden
extend Christian sympathy to
Ben Reed
in the death of his wife,
Barbara Reed August 29, 2021*

*The ministers and congregation of
First United Methodist Church of Gadsden
extend Christian sympathy to
Libby Turnipseed
in the death of her brother,
William Randall Anderson August 29, 2021*

*The ministers and congregation of
First United Methodist Church of Gadsden
extend Christian sympathy to
Mac & Janna Downs
in the death of their son,
Will Downs August 18, 2021*

Immediate Prayer Concerns

The family of Jack Floyd The family of Will Downs
The family of Barbara Reed
The family of William Randall Anderson
The family of Kermit Caldwell
Samuel Parker (Laura Condra's great-grandson)

Continued Prayer Concerns

Joyce Singleton June Styles
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 5 Makayla Walker
Sept 6 Jonathan Blount
Sept 7 Carmen McKiven
Sept 8 Mark Condra,
Michael McKiven
Sept 9 Roberta Clonts,
Mallory White,
Anderson Roberts

Week of August 29, 2021

*In Person Total *226 Overall Total 530
Online Viewer Total 304 Mosaic *14
Thursday *9 Sunday School *26
Celebration Service *56/127 Children *19
Traditional *74/159 Youth *15
Bible Study Groups *13/18
General Offering Budget \$15,200.00
General Offering Received \$3,719.00
YTD General Offering Budget \$532,000.00
YTD General Offering Rec'd \$455,522.00

Honorariums and Memorials

Striplin School Fund:

In memory of Joanne Hightower,
given by Dr. & Mrs. William Haller, III

C.L.I.C.K:

In memory of Joanne Hightower,
given by Dr. & Mrs. William Haller, III