



# Reconnect

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

4-11-21

Sermon Notes

“Feeling Disconnected”

“We are sorry, but the number you have dialed has been disconnected,” said the robotic voice. Have you ever got that message? I have gotten it many times – especially since the proliferation of cell phones. Phone lines are not the only things disconnected. I would dare say that over the last year, we have all felt disconnected at

times. It’s like we have left one thing behind, and we haven’t reached the “new normal” yet, and we are hung there...in limbo...not knowing whether to laugh or cry. That is the way the Israelites felt when they laid the foundation of the new Temple. The old was gone. The new was not yet here. They were in between. We read about this liminal time in the Book of Ezra:

<sup>10</sup> When the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the Lord, the priests in their vestments were stationed to praise the Lord with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, according to the directions of King David of Israel; <sup>11</sup> and they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the Lord,

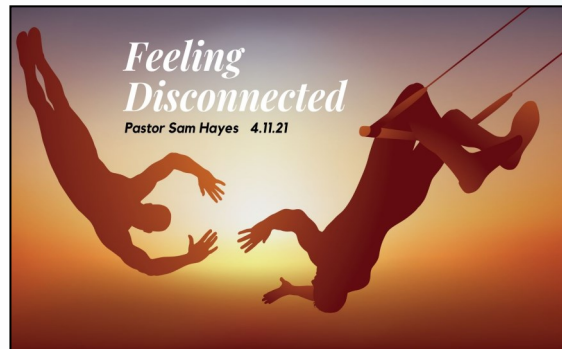
“For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever toward Israel.”

And all the people responded with a great shout when they praised the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid. <sup>12</sup> But many of the priests and Levites and heads of families, old people who had seen the first house on its foundations, wept with a loud voice when they saw this house, though many shouted aloud for joy, <sup>13</sup> so that the people could not distinguish the sound of the joyful shout from the sound of the people’s weeping, for the people shouted so loudly that the sound was heard far away. (Ezra 3: 10-13 NRSV)

The new series we will start this Sunday is called, “Reconnect.” That will be our focus for the next six weeks, and it will really set the tone for the whole year - #Reconnect2021.

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](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/media) or on facebook live: @fumcgadsden

## Tech Team Schedule

**April 11**

**Celebration:** Davis Varner, Tammy Hayes, Jacob Kelley, Sheila Freeman

**Traditions:** Matthew Vance, Tammy Hayes

**April 18**

**Celebration:** Mark Condra, Brad Barnes, Liz Barnes, Sheila Freeman

**Traditions:** Matthew Vance, Sheila Freeman

## MARCH MISSIONS UPDATE



### GFUMC "Show Love" to the Love Center Kitchen Shower

*Thank you to all who donated items or monetary donations for The Love Center to stock their new kitchen!*

The Love Center is a nonprofit shelter for homeless women and families. The Love Center provides food, clothing and necessities for residents as well as assistance with securing employment and housing. Counseling is provided by qualified volunteers. #gfumcreconnect2021



## GFUMC



*"By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:35*



*"Show Love"- The Mission Team served lunch for over 150 Tornado Relief Volunteers in Ohatchee on Monday, March 29. #gfumcreconnet2021*

### Clothes Closet

Workdays

1st & 3rd Tuesdays

Open to Public

1st & 3rd Wednesdays

9:00 am to 11:00 am

516 Broad Street Gadsden

**565 clients served  
January thru March**

### Ladle of Love

Fridays, 11:00am-

12:00pm, at the portico  
entrance

**960 clients served  
January thru March  
(Average 80 per week)**

TORNADO

Online Worship:

[www.fumcgadsden.org/media](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/media)



or on facebook live:

@fumcGadsden

Church App:  
FUMCGadsden  
(Available in the  
App Stores for  
Android or iPhone!)



#### 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

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



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 Ochatsee 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](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/give) or through Text to Give: 256-344-8464.**



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](#)

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## Sunday Mornings @ 10:00 am

### Online

GoToMeeting with Ken Casey, George Varner & Grover Kitchens (will not meet on Sunday, April 4) Will continue to be ONLINE for April 11, 18, and 25. Contact Ken Casey or Martha Gray on how to join!

### In-Person

- ◆ Martin Fellowship Class meets IN-PERSON on Sunday @ 10 am, in room 116
- ◆ Pathfinders Class meets IN-PERSON on Sunday, @ 9:55 am in room 208  
Max Lucado: The God Who Knows your Name continues on April 4, April 11, and April 18.

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### *In-person*

Pastor Sam

Wednesdays Mornings

@ 11 am,

Starts April 7

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  
“Why Easter Matters” by Andy Stanley, Room 116**

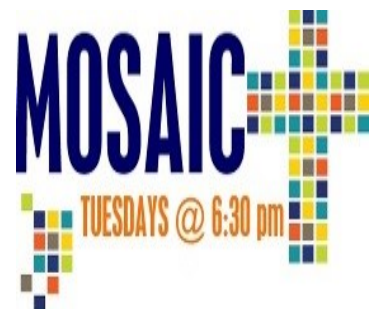
## Thursdays, Men at the Well

7:00 am, Zoom, God’s Word of Life, Daily Bible Readings. Contact the church office for more information.

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## 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.



SARA RABUN JOHNSON  
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND



**Mother's Day Roses Sale**

With your donation of \$20.00, a rose will be placed on the altar in honor or in memory of your loved one.

All donations provide direct support for ELC families whose children would not otherwise be able to afford the program.

**MAKE YOUR \$20 DONATION\* BY MAY 3, 2021, PAYABLE TO GFUMC AND MARK IT "SRJ SCHOLARSHIP FUND".**



This program was established to honor Sara Rabun Johnson who began what is now known as the Early Learning Center (ELC) at First United Methodist Church –Gadsden. Sara's love for children and her desire to show them Christ's love and instill the love of learning is the reason we honor her.

Monies collected are used to cover tuition expenses for qualified students of the ELC. All students will be required to pay registration fees when enrolling and supply fees at designated times. Students may qualify for full or partial monthly tuition assistance based on need, availability of funds and enrollment space. Each family will go through an application review. A three (3) member panel, selected by the ELC Board, oversees the application process and makes recommendations of qualified candidates and award levels back to the ELC board for review and approval. The Early Learning Center Director coordinates the applications and notifications to the candidates.

For the 2020-21 school year, three students receiving full scholarships. Their involvement with our program would not have happened without the congregation's support. To date, this program has serviced 7 families covering 9 children. Every family has expressed gratitude for this program and prays that it will continue.

Donations are solicited through the Annual Mother's Day Roses Sale. The sale takes place each spring with donations covering a rose placed on the altar in honor or memory of loved ones. Monies collected are administered through a separate designated fund overseen by the Finance Committee and the ELC Director.

**Mother's Day Roses Sale  
Benefiting the  
Sara Rabun Johnson Memorial Scholarship Fund**

Purchase a \$20 rose in honor or memory of your mother, mother-in-law, grandmother or just that special lady in your life. Please make checks payable to: First United Methodist Church and designate Mother's Day Roses Sale or Sarah Rabun Johnson Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Service (Bouquets at both):       Celebration       Traditions

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Given By: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Given By: \_\_\_\_\_

**Deadline for Orders: Monday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Other giving levels available:

Full Year Sponsorship: \$2,000

Half Year Sponsorship: \$1,000

Summer Sponsorship: \$350

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

*Additional donations to the fund may be given throughout the year.*

## ELC News

Well, we are all back from spring break and know the next 6 weeks will fly by. Open enrollment continues. We are fortunate to have very few openings for fall and know they will fill quickly. We thank all our Easter party moms for a wonderful day and loved the visit from the Easter Bunny. This month, the Dog House will be our lunchbox revolt and we will celebrate our dads with "Donuts for Dads". Specific dates and details coming soon on these fun activities.

—Helene Haller



### Upcoming Events:

- April 17th-Kayaking @ Big Wills Creek
- May 8th-Max Cochran 5K Run @ Noccalula Falls

## Youth Ministry News

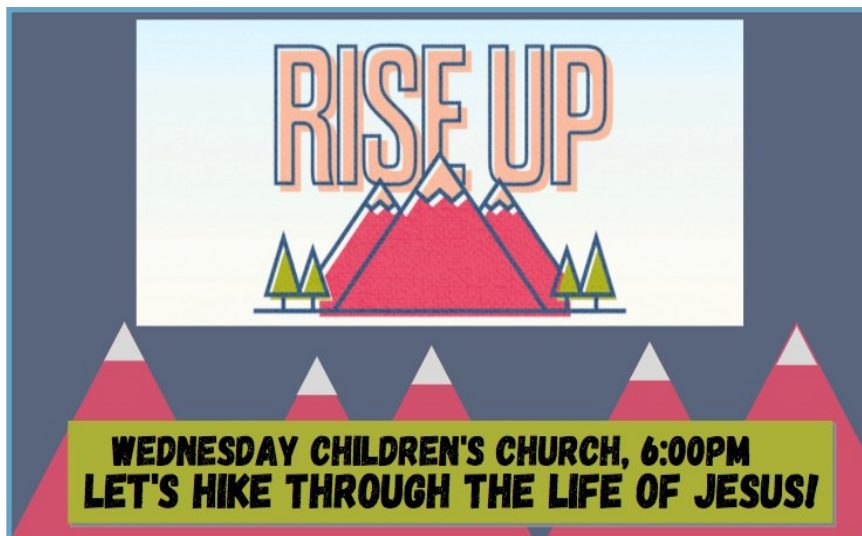
Wednesday Night Youth Group  
6:00 pm Room 211/Gym

Sunday School at 10 am, in-person

Join Andy on Facebook Live  
or Instagram.

Sunday & Wednesdays, 6pm

## 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

**April 10, 2021-10 am-12 pm**  
**Virtual Event-Refresh & Retreat**  
**Featuring Artist: Krel Buckelew**

Join us as he creates art while he speaks with us Theme: Joy of Easter  
Celebrate our Risen Savior, Matthew 28: 1,2,5,6a, 7a, 8

If you plan on attending the Virtual Refresh & Retreat Event, please send in your reservation by mail or email to the address below. We will have the Virtual Meeting in the Gathering Room. We will social distance with masks. **If you are interested in coming:** Call or text me 256-399-1932 or email me at [eileen@fumcgadsden.org](mailto:eileen@fumcgadsden.org) Thanks, Eileen

**North Alabama Conference**

**Virtual**

Refresh & Retreat  
April 10 at 10:00am

**Registration Form**

**Deadline for registration is April 8 ,2021**

To register for the Retreat, please notify by mail or email: Theresa Richerson  
9023 Brookline Lane, Helena, AL 35080  
Phone: (205) 637-4760 or (205) 441-3467 or  
email: [theresaricherson@gmail.com](mailto:theresaricherson@gmail.com)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Cellphone # \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_ Church \_\_\_\_\_  
District: Mountain Lakes District

**WELCOME BACK!**

**UMW Luncheon, April 12<sup>th</sup>, at 12:00 noon, Gym**  
**Board Meeting at 10:30am, Gathering Room**

The UMW Luncheon will be at noon in the gym. Guest speaker will be our own **Dr. Grover Kitchens**. His topic will be "Women and the Formation of Snead Seminary and Snead Junior College".

Our Catered lunch is from Chicken Salad Chick for \$10.00.

Make reservations with your circle leader or call or text:

**Delores Abney at 256-458-0376 by Friday noon, April 9th**

**Deco/Clean-up is LuVerna Waid circle.**



United  
Methodist  
Women

***We are here for you! We are still taking precautions by keeping the church office closed to the public.***

***We ask that all business be conducted by email, phone or text whenever possible. In-person visits are by appointment only. You may call for an appointment. Please wear a mask for all in-person visits to the office. If you or someone you know has a need that we can help with, please call us or email us between 8:00 am--4:00 pm, Monday thru Friday. If no answer, please leave a message and a staff member will return your call as soon as possible.***

**—Stay Well, Stay Safe, Your Church Staff!**

**Subscribe to the  
Weekly Church News**

*You can submit your email to the church office to receive the weekly announcements on Friday.*

**Important Deadlines**

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.



## Calendar for April 11-17, 2021

### April 11, Sunday

9:00 am, Celebration Service, in Sanctuary and live streamed

10:00 am, Sunday School, Children & Youth

10:00 am, Pathfinders & Martin Sunday School Classes in person

10:00 am, online Bible Study, with Ken Casey, George Varner, and Grover Kitchens

11:00 am, Traditional Service, in Sanctuary and live streamed

### April 12, Monday

ELC, 9:00 am-1:00 pm

10:30 am, UMW Board meeting, Gathering Room

12:00 pm, UMW Luncheon meeting, Gym

6:00-7:00 pm, Choir Practice

### April 13, Tuesday

ELC, 9:00 am-1:00 pm

6:30 pm, Mosaic, In person/Livestream

### April 14, Wednesday

ELC, 9:00 am-1:00 pm

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

6:00 pm, Bible Study w/Pastor Sam, online

6:00 pm, Bible Study w/Harriet Murray, Room 116

6:00 pm, Children's Activities, Room 108/gym

6:00 pm, Youth, Room 211/gym

### April 15, Thursday

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

ELC, 9:00 am-1:00 pm

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

5:30 pm, Thursday Worship, Sanctuary

### April 16, Friday

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

*The flower on the altar is  
In honor of  
Rosemary "Romy" Kathryn Megois  
March 29, 2021  
Parents: Zac & Brittany  
Big Brother: Briggs  
Given by the Children's Ministry  
and the ELC*



*The ministers and congregation of First  
United Methodist Church of Gadsden  
extend Christian sympathy to  
Herbert & Martha Gray  
in the death of her brother,  
Marvin Meek  
March 27, 2021*



### Birthdays.....

**Apr 11** Sherri DeJong, B.J. Crow,  
Pat McLeod, Sherry Hall, B.J. Miller

**Apr 14** Jan Humphrey, Blake New,  
Alexander Long

**Apr 15** Evans Sizemore, James Kelley

**Apr 16** Kathie Ferguson,  
Jeannie Cospers, Gary Atkins

**Apr 17** Kent Haney, Denise Floyd



### Honorariums and Memorials

#### General Budget Fund:

In memory of Ronald Garry, given by Ruth Chandler.

#### Benevolence Fund:

In memory of Johnny Dawson, given by Sonya Nesbitt.

In memory of Ronald Garry, given by Sonya Nesbitt.

#### The Love Center:

In Honor of Nancy Smith, given by Sam and Leone Norris.

#### Caring Angels, Altar Flower Fund, & Children's Ministry Room:

In memory of Ronald Garry, given by his family, Joan, Adria & Jerry.

### Immediate Prayer Concerns

Dr. Ed Thompson      Dot Thompson      Jane Jones

Ruby Christine Poland (granddaughter of Jeff & Cathea Poland)

Meg (Ryan) Casey (granddaughter of Dotty Ivey)



### Continued Prayer Concerns

Pat Martin      George Fant      Wanda Hemby      Ina Davis      June Longshore

Yvonne Humphrey (Jan Humphrey's step-mother)

Mary Nichols (Patsy Blankenship's mother)

### Week of April 4, 2021

\*In Person Total \*481      Overall Total 860

Online Viewer Total 379      Mosaic 5

Maundy Thursday \*31      Sunrise Service 96

Holy Week Noon Day Services \*152

Bible Study Groups 18

Sunday School \*14

Youth \*21      Children \*19

General Offering Budget \$15,200.00

General Offering Received \$30,947.00

YTD General Offering Budget \$212,800.00

YTD General Offering Rec'd \$190,200.00

**2021 Estimate of  
Giving Cards:  
72 for \$300,076.00**

**2021  
Alleluia Offering  
\$13,008.00**