



Reconnect

Prayers

Presence

Gifts

Service

Witness

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

4-18-21

Sermon Notes "Reconnect Through Prayer"

One day a newspaper reporter went to interview a successful business owner. "How did you do it?" the reporter asked. "How did you make all this money?" "I'm glad you asked," the businessman said. "It's a wonderful story! You see, when my wife and I married, we started out with a roof over our heads, some food in our pantry, and five cents between us. I took that nickel, went down to the grocery store, bought an apple and shined it up. Then I sold it for ten cents." "What did you do then?" the reporter asked. "Well, then I bought two more apples, shined them up, and sold them for twenty cents." The reporter really started getting into the story now. He was thinking what a great article it was going to make for his newspaper column. "Then what?" the reporter asked excitedly. "Then my father-in-law died and left us \$20 million," the businessman said. The man was fruitful, not because of his own brilliance...but because he was "connected." If you and I are to have fruitful lives, it will not be because of our own brilliance. It will be because we are connected to The Vine. Here is the story in John 15...

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. ² He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³ You have already been cleansed^[b] by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. (John 15: 1-8 NRSV)

Prayer is one of the ways we stay connected, and being connected is the only way to a fruitful life. "Apart from me," Jesus said, "you can do nothing."

Let's Re-Connect 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 or
on facebook live: @fumcgadsden

Tech Team Schedule

April 18

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

Traditions: Matthew Vance, Sheila Freeman

April 25

Celebration: Will Brookshire, Bill Haller, Brynn Crain, Carmen McKiven

Traditions: Matthew Vance, Tammy Hayes



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 or through Text to Give: 256-344-8464.**

Jane Newman has retired from her job as our Financial Secretary after 22 years of service. She has been helping lately in a consultant's role, but all that will end on April 30. While we will not be able to have a formal farewell reception for her, we do want to show our love and appreciation for her years of service. If you would like to contribute to the love offering that will be given to Jane on May 1, then please send your check by Monday, April 26. You can make your check payable to GFUMC, and notate that it is for Jane's gift.



Any questions about financial issues should be directed to Sheila Witherspoon. She is currently serving as our interim Financial Secretary. You can reach her at the church office, or email at giving@fumcgadsden.org.

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Church website:
www.fumcgadsden.org/media

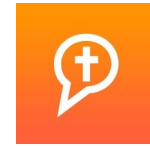


or on facebook live:
[@fumcGadsden](https://www.facebook.com/fumcGadsden)



Church YouTube Channel: Gadsden First UMC

Online Worship Livestream



Sermon.net App
First United Methodist Church of
Gadsden (search ministries)

Worship On Demand

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



Worship Services are available on demand in the media
tap on the app or church website.

Or Church website: www.fumcgadsden.org/media

Follow GFUMC on Instagram: [first_umcgadsden](https://www.instagram.com/first_umcgadsden)
Use our hashtag to Tag and Share your pictures of
church activities: [#gfumcconnect2020](https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/#gfumcconnect2020)



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

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](#)

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.

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.)

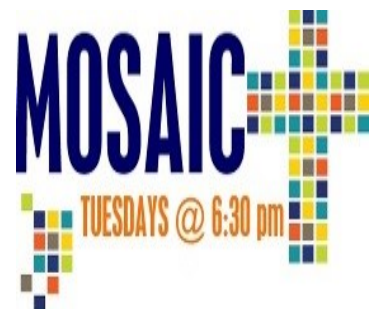
**In-Person: Wednesday Nights, 6:00 pm, w/Harriet Murray
“Why Easter Matters” by Andy Stanley, Room 116**

Thursdays, Men at the Well

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

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.



ELC News

In ELC News, Patrick Wright of Professional Photography Group will be here Monday, April 19th and Tuesday, April 20th for spring picture review and purchase. He will be here both days from 8:00 to 9:30 and then again from 12:30 to 1:30. The Dog House will make a visit on Tuesday, April 20th for our last lunchbox revolt of the year. Then on Thursday, April 22nd we will celebrate our dads with our annual Donuts for Dads. Our year is quickly coming to an end and we appreciate all the love and support we have received from our church family.

-Helene Haller



Upcoming Events:

- April 17th-Kayaking @ Big Wills Creek
- May 8th-Max Cochran 5K Run @ Noccalula Falls
- May 23rd-Senior Sunday

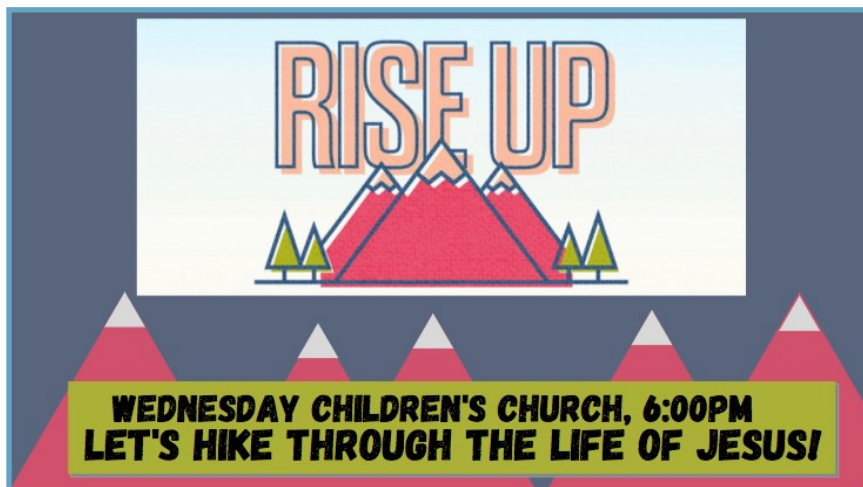
Youth Ministry News

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

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

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)

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



"Show Love"- The Mission Team served lunch for over 150 Tornado Relief Volunteers in Ohatchee on Monday, March 29. #gfumcreconnect2021

UMW NEWS

The UMW Luncheon on Monday, April 12th was a great success! Our guest speaker was our own Dr. Grover Kitchens. His topic was "Women and the Formation of Snead Seminary and Snead Junior College". A very informative and interesting topic. There was much conversation and wonderful fellowship.

Our catered lunch was from Chicken Salad Chick. Thanks to Debbie Hiltz for making the arrangements and bringing the food to the church.

The LuVerna Waid circle decorated with adorable bird cages and chocolate Easter eggs. Thanks to the circle for their decorating talents.

Thanks to everyone who attended.

Watch the newsletter and information from your circle leaders for the May UMW Luncheon information.



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 are 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 3rd

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.

Calendar for April 18-24, 2021

April 18, 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

5:00 pm, Children's Team meeting, Zoom

April 19, Monday

ELC, 9:00 am-1:00 pm

6:00-7:00 pm, Choir Practice

April 20, Tuesday

ELC, 9:00 am-1:00 pm

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

6:30 pm, Mosaic, In person/Livestream

April 21, Wednesday

ELC, 9:00 am-1:00 pm

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

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 22, 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 23, Friday

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



April 26 Monday Trustees 5:00 pm
April 27 Tuesday Finance Team 5:00 pm;
Board of Stewards 6:00 pm

*The ministers and congregation of
First United Methodist
Church of Gadsden
extend Christian sympathy to
Gary & Beth Dial
in the death of her mother,
and Mary Elizabeth & Jay
in the death of their grandmother.
Bobbie Williams Busby
April 12, 2021*



Honorariums and Memorials

General Budget Fund:

In memory of Ronald Garry, given by Hugh & Ann Johnson.

In memory of Marvin Meek, given by Living Waters Class.

In Honor of Men at the Well, by Dr. and Mrs. Steve Frederick.

Music Fund:

In memory of John Greer, given by Pat & Stan Walker.

Immediate Prayer Concerns

The Family of Bobbie Busby Glen Pierson

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)

Birthdays.....

Apr 18 Lance, Watkins, Dave Handy, Alyssa McNair

Apr 19 Dorothy Robinson, Jared Gladden

Apr 20 Lauren Cain

Apr 21 Brooke Vallejo, Marit Norris, Savannah Beth Phillips

Apr 22 Shep Midgley, Tom Dawson II

Apr 23 Martha White, Lenn Rainwater

Apr 24 Walter Waid, Daniel Sherrouse, John Rollins McCord



Week of April 11, 2021

*In Person Total *242 Overall Total 502

Online Viewer Total 260 Mosaic *8

Thursday *9 Sunday School *23/9

Bible Study Groups *3/18

Youth *12 Children *28

General Offering Budget \$15,200.00

General Offering Received \$14,808.00

YTD General Offering Budget \$228,000.00

YTD General Offering Rec'd \$205,008.00

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

2021
Alleluia Offering
\$13,838.00