



Let Freedom Ring

One United Worship Service
Sunday, July 4, 11:00 am

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

7-4-21 Let Freedom Ring

These are my “non-sermon” notes for Sunday, July 4! We will have a fabulous musical presentation this coming Sunday called, “Let Freedom Ring.” We will have One United Service at 11:00 am, so make sure you join us and invite a friend!

Since neither Pastor Andy nor I will be preaching Sunday, I wanted to just share some thoughts with you about freedom. Galatians 5: 1 reads, “It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.” Christ died in order to set us free from two heavy “yokes:” the yoke of sin; and the yoke of legalism. We may not be as familiar these days with the concept of a “yoke,” but it is not hard to grasp. A yoke represents slavery, service, and control...by someone or some “thing” in our lives. When God delivered the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, it was described as the breaking of a yoke (Lev. 26: 13). Farmers use the yoke to control and guide their oxen, because they would not naturally go and do their work if they weren’t yoked.

Before we come to Christ, we wear a yoke of sin. Paul describes it as being “slaves” to sin in Romans 6. John 8:36 says, “So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.” Great! But freedom doesn’t mean we are not “yoked.” Jesus invites us to come to him, and put on his yoke in Matt. 11: 28-30. The yoke of sin is deadly. Christ’s yoke gives life. The yoke of legalistic religion is heavy. Christ’s yoke is “easy,” and his burden “light.” The word “easy” in the Greek means “kind, gracious.” So, we trade the deadly, heavy yoke of sin or religious legalism for the life-giving, easy, kind and gracious yoke of Christ – not freedom FROM service, but freedom TO serve a different master...not sin or the law...but Christ! By grace, Christ sets us free to fulfill his will.

Speaking of grace – just because the Lord’s grace sets us free from sin and legalism doesn’t mean that we are free to just go on doing whatever the heck we want to. Galatians 5: 13-14 reads, “You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. The entire law is summed up in a single command: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

We are free to choose, but not free from the consequences of our choices. We are free from legalism, but not free from serving one another, and not free from the law of LOVE.

As we celebrate our national freedom this July 4, let’s also take the occasion to be thankful for the freedom Christ gives us. It is for freedom Christ has set us free! Let’s not let ourselves become tangled up again in the yoke of sin or legalistic religion.

Let Freedom Ring! —Pastor Sam

Worship Opportunities

- **Mosaic:** 6:30 pm, Tuesday, (in person and online)
- **Thursday Worship:** 5:30 pm, Sanctuary

Sunday Worship

“Let Freedom Ring”

One United Worship Service

July 4 @ 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.)

July 4

One Worship Service, 11 am

Matthew Vance, Mark Casey,
Parker Casey, Brynn Crain,
Carmen McKiven, Jacob McKiven

July 11

Celebration: Eric Wright, Will Brookshire,
Zach Hilburn

Traditions: Matthew Vance,
Tammy Hayes



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

Youth Summer 2021

Junior High Camp was a success. We had three from GFUMC to join in with a total of 78 kids for the week!

Upcoming: *Sunday, August 8th, from 3 pm-11 pm, we will have a youth event. Fun stops in Gadsden, Worship Service with a special guest youth pastor, and much more!*

Thanks to everyone who came and worked on Friday, June 18th at the Humane Society, for the United Way "Day of Action".



ELC News

This week at the ELC we enjoyed Papa Johns Pizza. The staff and children continue to adjust to the new playground turf. There is no modification for our summer schedule for July 4th. We will finish summer session on July 28th. Activities have been exploring many summer themes including sea life, the beach, 4th of July and camping.

Helene Haller

Children's Ministry News

GFUMC SUMMER EVENTS 2021

<p>WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23 TYE-DYE T-SHIRTS MEET AT 6:00 IN THE PORTICO *BRING YOUR OWN WHITE SHIRT</p> <p>WEDNESDAY, JULY 7 MOVIE IN OUR NEW KIDS WORSHIP ROOM MEET AT 6:00. WEAR PAJAMAS, BRING PILLOWS, BLANKETS, AND A SNACK TO SHARE!</p> <p>SUNDAY, JULY 11 SKATING MEET AT MERRY-GO-ROUND SKATING RINK FROM 3:00-5:00</p> <p>WEDNESDAY, JULY 21 CHRISTMAS IN JULY MEET AT 6:00 IN THE PORTICO. WE'LL PUT TOGETHER SHOEBOXES FOR "OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD"</p>	<p>IMPORTANT REMINDERS! WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4 WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES START BACK! MEET IN OUR NEW KID'S WORSHIP ROOM 6:00-7:00</p> <p>SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS SUNDAY, AUGUST 15, PROMOTION SUNDAY MEET IN THE KID'S WORSHIP ROOM TO CELEBRATE AND GET PROMOTED TO THE NEXT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS!</p>
--	--

"Celebrate Wonder"
Children's Church
In-Person, Sundays
9 am and 11 am Worship

Thanks for a Great VBS!



June: Missionary Month

Please continue to pray for our missionaries. Go to www.umcmision.org

Sunday, June 27

Bishop Gabriel Yemba Unda cuts the ribbon at the new Amani United Methodist Church.

Thousands of United Methodist faithful in eastern Congo have a new place to worship with the completion of a large, modern church in Amani. The church is the 33rd new church to be built since 2012 as part of Bishop Gabriel Yemba Unda's "Rise and Build" campaign to strengthen evangelism. "I invited everyone to rise and build, because we still had local churches that needed reconstruction given different events like natural disasters," he said. **The church was built with contributions from United Methodists in the region and support from the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries and First United Methodist Church in Martin, Tennessee.** "Today, it is the largest church — (called) the Cathedral — and this is now the pride of East Congo."



Sunday, June 20, Campomanes Ramirez, Edwin

Advance # 3022594

Country: Guatemala

Serving at: National Evangelical Primitive Methodist Church of Guatemala

Home Country: Mexico

Edwin Campomanes Ramirez is a United Methodist missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries serving as the assistant to the president for institutional development at the National Evangelical Primitive Methodist Church of Guatemala. He is based in Quetzaltenango.



Sunday June 13, Camarce, Helen de Leon

Advance # 13953Z

Country: Cambodia

Serving at: Methodist Mission in Cambodia

Home Country: Philippines, Asia and Pacific

Helen de Leon Camarce is a missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church currently serving as treasurer of the agency's Cambodia and Southeast Asia Missions.

Sunday, June 6, Rev. John Calhoun

Serving At: Pastor of the English Speaking UMC in Vienna, Austria.

Home Country: United States of America, North America

The Rev. John Calhoun is a missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church serving as the Multicultural Ministries Leader. John has served in several missionary placements since he was commissioned in 2000.



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

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](https://twitter.com/gfumcreconnect2021)

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.

Sunday Mornings @ 10:00 am – No Sunday School, July 4th

- ◆ 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, “Which Way, Lord”, by Rob Fuquay, Room 208.
- ◆ Seekers Sunday School Class– is currently not meeting. *Members are welcome to meet with another class until Seekers returns.*

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

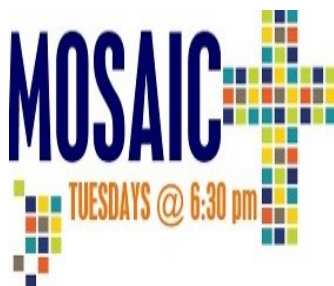


Online
Pastor Sam
Wednesdays @ 6 pm,
online, FACEBOOK Live
(Also, available on-demand on
the GFUMC website or church
app under the media tab.)

**In-Person: Wednesday Nights, 6:00 pm, w/Harriet Murray
will not meet during June and July. Return in August.**

Thursdays, Men at the Well, 7:00 am via Zoom

“The Miracles of Jesus” with Roger Thompson. *Contact the church office for more information on how to join this online study.*



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.

Celebration of Freedom

Sermon Series

July 4 - Let Freedom Ring - One Service
 July 11 - Freedom from Sin
 July 18 - Freedom to Do
 July 25 - Freedom to Be

Pastor Sam Hayes Gadsden First UMC

UMW NEWS

A group of 20 ladies gathered Tuesday, June 29th at "The Downtown Chief" for dinner. We had a good time in fellowship and great food. Our next Summertime Dinner will be at The Rail, on July 20th. Mark your calendar and plan to attend. You will not be disappointed.



July Calendar of Events

July 20th, Tuesday at 6:00 pm, Summertime Dinner at "The Rail House"

July 22-24, North Alabama Conference Virtual Mission U (more info to come)

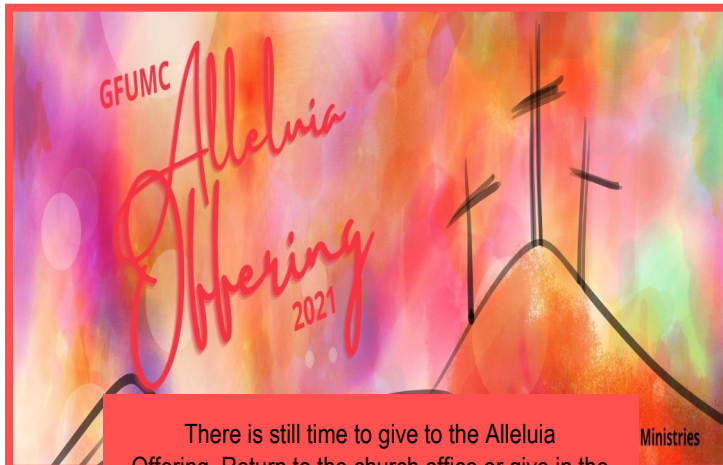
Have you downloaded the Church App?

It is a great way to reconnect! Go to: **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. She is currently serving as our interim Financial Secretary. **You can reach Sheila Witherspoon at the church office at 256-543-8200 or email at giving@fumcgadsden.org.**

**G
i
v
i
n
g**



There is still time to give to the Alleluia Offering. Return to the church office or give in the offering plates in the sanctuary.

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

