



# Reconnect

Prayers

Presence

Gifts

Service

Witness

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

5-2-21

Fifth Sunday of Easter

## Sermon Notes

## “Reconnect Through Gifts ”

Once upon a time, the hands, mouth and teeth of a person started talking among themselves. They had a sort of “committee meeting.” They came to the conclusion that they were doing all the work, but the stomach was getting all the food. They voted unanimously to go on strike. The hands refused to pick up a fork. The mouth and the teeth refused to chew. Pretty soon, the stomach started protesting by growling and cramping. Eventually, all the parts became too weak to function. By trying to hurt one part – the stomach – the other parts hurt themselves.

Does that sound like a strange fairy tale? It should sound familiar. It’s what Paul says the church is like. We are the Body of Christ. The body has lots of parts, and they are all needed! Here’s what Paul writes in 1 Cor. 12:

**12** For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. **13** For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. **14** Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. **15** If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. **16** And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. **17** If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? **18** But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. **19** If all were a single member, where would the body be? **20** As it is, there are many members, yet one body. **21** The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” **22** On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, **23** and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; **24** whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, **25** that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. **26** If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. **27** Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. (1 Cor. 12: 12-27 NRSV)

You are part of the Body! I hope you know how important you are!

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

**May 2**

**Celebration:** Mark Condra, Tammy Hayes, Carmen McKiven, Jacob McKiven  
**Traditions:** Matthew Vance, Tammy Hayes

**May 9**

**Celebration:** Davis Varner, Liz Barnes, Sheila Freeman, Brad Barnes  
**Traditions:** Matthew Vance, Carmen McKiven, Jacob McKiven

CHESTNUT STREET LOBBY

Honoring Women in Our Lives Who Mentor, Teach, Love, Care and Share!

Sweet Treats Candy Bar  
Sunday, May 9

COME AND FILL A TREAT BAG WITH CANDY FROM THE CANDY BAR!

"Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate." Proverbs 31:31



Church Picnic

An afternoon of fun, food and fellowship!

May 12, 2021 | 5 pm

Noccalula Falls Kiwanis Pavilion

NOCCALULA FALLS PARK CLOSSES AT 5 PM  
SO COME EARLY TO RIDE THE TRAIN  
OR HIKE!



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 Ohatchee 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.**



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 17, then please send your check by Friday, May 14. You can make your check payable to GFUMC, and notate that it is for Jane's gift.



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](mailto:giving@fumcgadsden.org).

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

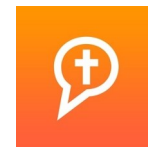


or on facebook live:  
[@fumcGadsden](https://www.facebook.com/fumcGadsden)



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](http://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: [#gfumcreconnect2020](https://www.instagram.com/hashtag/gfumcreconnect2020)



Instagram



**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



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

### In-Person

- ◆ Living Waters and Seekers Sunday School Class will meet IN-PERSON in the Chapel (Room 118) on Sunday, May 2. They will discuss plans to meet together or separate for different studies.
- ◆ Martin Fellowship Class meets IN-PERSON on Sunday @ 10 am, in room 116.
- ◆ Pathfinders Class meets IN-PERSON on Sunday, @ 10 am in room 208. "Never Alone" by Max Lucado study starts April 25.

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### *In-person*

**Pastor Sam**  
Wednesdays  
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**  
**"Jesus: The God Who Knows Your Name" by Max Lucado Room 116**

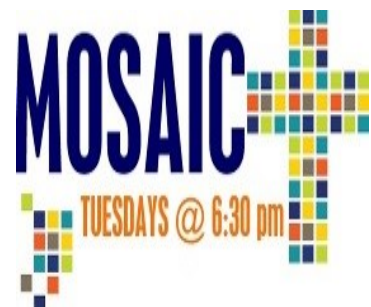
### Thursdays, Men at the Well

7:00 am, Zoom, Three week study on Bible APP. Wisdom Series on Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Job.  
*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.



## ELC News

Thank you to all our wonderful families. We enjoyed our teacher appreciation breakfast and time of fellowship on Wednesday, April 28.

Our roses sale continues through May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please consider supporting this great cause. On Wednesday, May 5<sup>th</sup> we will honor our Moms with Donuts for Divas. Then on Thursday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, we will finish strong with our annual End of Year Program, 4K graduation and class parties. Details regarding attendance to these functions will be sent home with students.

Helene Haller



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

**Sunday School**  
@ 10 am, in-person

## Upcoming Events:

- May 8th - Max Cochran 5K Run @ Noccalula Falls
- May 23rd - Senior Recognition Sunday

## Coming Summer 2021

Summer service day opportunities— more info coming soon!

**Junior High Camp @ Camp Sumatanga**

Dates: June 6-11

Age: 6th-8th Grades

Ministers: Andy Yarnell & David Thompson



## Children's Ministry News

CFUMC Children's Ministry invites you to

# Discovery on Adventure Island

REGISTER ON THE CHURCH WEBSITE OR FACEBOOK PAGE!

A colorful logo for Adventure Island featuring a penguin, a lighthouse, and a treasure chest.

Vacation Bible School

June 7-June 10

**Wednesday Night Children's Church**

Room 108 & Gym

6:00 pm (in person)

**"Celebrate Wonder"**

Children's Sunday School, In-Person,

10:00 AM



**Minute to Win It**  
**Family Night**

## MAY MISSIONS UPDATE



### Fill a Bucket for the Disaster Relief Warehouse

Tornado season is upon us and many of our North Alabama communities have already been hit. *Please join us as we help UMCOR, United Methodist Committee on Relief, replenish the tornado buckets that help bring God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by these natural disasters.*

Buckets will be available beginning May 2nd at both services and then throughout the month of May. There will be a list inside with very specific items to be placed in your bucket.

***Please bring your filled bucket back by Sunday, May 30th.***

Thank you for helping us get our Disaster Relief Warehouse ready to share God's love when disaster strikes. —GFUMC Mission Team



**The UM Disaster Relief Warehouse of the North Alabama Conference is located at 3220 Highway 31 South, Building F, Decatur, AL 35603**

**Volunteer To Serve:** *If you or your Journey Group/Sunday School Class would like to volunteer at the U.M. Disaster Warehouse please visit the Volunteer Page to find out more and sign up: <https://umdisasterwarehouse.com/volunteering/> Or you can call for more information: 256-341-9961*

***You are my servant, I have chosen you... do not fear. Isaiah 41:9b***

## 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](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/serve)

## UMW NEWS

**What:** UMW Luncheon, Monday, May 10<sup>th</sup>

**When:** Noon 12 pm.

**Where:** Beautiful Rainbow Café at Gadsden Public Library

The Board Meeting will be at the Café at 10:30 am.

We still are social distancing and wearing masks!

Our guest speaker will be Chip Rowan from the Beautiful Rainbow Café. "Beautiful Rainbow Catering Company" is a garden-to-table education program for adolescents and young adults with significant cognitive disabilities in the Gadsden City Schools. The program operates a kitchen laboratory, classroom, and organic garden growing vegetables year-round. The students learn academic and transition skills through instruction in the laboratory and garden. The program is implemented in the self-contained classroom at Litchfield Middle School and operates as an after-school and summer enrichment program for students with special needs from Gadsden City High School. Like us on Facebook or follow us on Instagram at beautiful\_rainbo. **Remember to make your reservations for lunch with your circle leader or call/text Delores Abney at 256-458-0376 by Friday, May 7<sup>th</sup>. The cost of the luncheon is \$10.**





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 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.*

## Calendar for May 2-8, 2021

### May 2, 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

### May 3, Monday

ELC, 9:00 am-1:00 pm

6:00-7:00 pm, Choir Practice

### May 4, Tuesday

ELC, 9:00 am-1:00 pm

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

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

### May 5, 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

### May 6, 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

### May 7, Friday

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



2021 Alleluia Offering	\$15,238.00
Designated for Children's Ministry Room	6,495.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$21,733.00</b>




### Church Picnic

May 12  
5:00 pm to 7:00 pm  
Noccalula Falls  
Kiwanis Pavilion

### Immediate Prayer Concerns

Glen Pierson	B.J. Crow	Jane Jones
Donny Gray	Virginia Yocum	
Dr. Ed Thompson	Dot Thompson	
Collins Tackaberry		
Meg (Ryan) Casey (granddaughter of Dotty Ivey)		



### Birthdays.....

**May 2** Rev. Roger Thompson, Alvin Ferguson, Lindsey Muratta, John Owen Hollingsworth

**May 3** Sissie Jensen, Carol Rice

**May 4** Mike Self, Ralls Pennington, Allie Rabon Pennington-Wilson, Trevor Martin

**May 5** Jennifer Boyd

**May 6** Donna Campbell, Bethany Phillips, Michael Hayes, Ava Ray Kelley

**May 7** John Ryle, Shaun Malone, David Whisenant

**May 8** Roger Crawford, Linden Newman, Michael Freeman



### Continued Prayer Concerns

Pat Martin	George Fant	Wanda Hemby	Ina Davis
June Longshore			
Ruby Christine Poland (granddaughter of Jeff & Cathea Poland)			
Yvonne Humphrey (Jan Humphrey's step-mother)			
Mary Nichols (Patsy Blankenship's mother)			

### Week of April 25, 2021

*In Person Total *212	Overall Total 486
Online Viewer Total 274	Mosaic *11
Thursday *7	Sunday School *23/8
Bible Study Groups *6/21	
Youth *12	Children *26
General Offering Budget \$15,200.00	
General Offering Received \$11,787.00	
YTD General Offering Budget \$258,400.00	
YTD General Offering Rec'd \$247,714.00	

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

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**It's not too late to send in your pledge for 2021**