

Six Word Summary

PASTOR SAM HAYES

First United Methodist Church of Gadsden

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

9-11-22 Sermon Notes "Six Word Summary"

Preachers have a tendency to go on and on... Can I get an "Amen?" The challenge for those of us who preach on a regular basis is often just to "get to the point." It is not, "How am I going to fill up this time?" Instead, it is "Can I boil this down to its essence?" Jesus was a master at getting to the point. When asked, "*Which is the greatest commandment?*" *Jesus didn't quote all 613 Old Testament laws. He said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and with all your mind...you shall love your neighbor as yourself....on these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."* (Matt. 22: 37-40) All us preachers need to follow Jesus' lead on this (and everything else).

All of Luke chapter 15 – the chapter from which this Sunday's gospel lesson comes – is about being lost and found. The sheep, the coin, the prodigal... It is a truly beautiful chapter, and it says so much about who we are, and about who God is. But could we boil the message down to its essence? On Sunday, we are going to look at these two parables:

15 Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. 2 And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." 3 So he told them this parable: 4 "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? 5 And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. 6 And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.' 7 Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. 8 "Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? 9 And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' 10 Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." (Luke 15: 1-12 NRSV)

I will do my best to summarize the essence of chapter 15 of Luke in six words. It won't be a six-word sermon, but it will be a summary of the six key words that form the heart of the message. Let me close this devotional with the following six words:

I hope you will join us!
Pastor Sam

Church Conference, Tuesday, September 27, 2022

6:00 to 6:30 pm Vote, Chestnut St Lobby, followed by worship in the Sanctuary

Only FULL members of GFUMC present on the day/time of the church conference will be eligible to vote - no proxy votes or mail-in votes are allowed. (This is a requirement by the UMC Book of Discipline Par. 248). Please bring a Photo ID in order to check-in to vote.

Verify your church membership by 9/26/22 by contacting Susan Swann, 256-543-8200.

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Worship Opportunities

Thursday Worship: 5:30 pm, Sanctuary

Sunday Mornings:

Celebration, 9 am* Traditions, 11 am*

*In Person (Sanctuary) and Online
www.fumcgadsden.org/media or
 on Facebook Live: @FUMCGadsden

ACOLYTES

September 11:

Anna Kate Casey & Quinn Darden

September 18:

Liam Humphreys & Clementine Hilburn

Tech Team Schedule

(Please arrive 45 minutes
prior to the start of the service)

Sept 11

Celebration: Joe Pritchard, Bill Haller
Will Brookshire

Traditions: Mark Casey, Parker Casey,
Tammy Hayes

Sept 18

Celebration: Eric Wright, Jacob McKiven,
Carmen McKiven

Traditions: Mark Condra, Brad Barnes

September 14 Wonderful Wednesday

5:15 pm- Wonderful Wednesday Fellowship Dinner

6:00 pm- Bible Study and Activities for Adults, Youth and Children

Please make a reservation by Tuesday @ Noon! Call the church office @ 256-543-8200

Menu 9/14: Lasagna, Spaghetti, Salad, Dessert & Tea

\$7 per person/\$3 under 11/\$20 max per family

Unshakeable Hope

by Max Lucado

Small Group Study on Sunday Mornings!

Will meet in Room 208 @ 10 am

All Ages are Welcome!

with Eric Wright & Harriet Murray

Bible Study with Pastor Sam

Wednesday Mornings

11 am In Person Bible Study

Gathering Room, 201 The Book of Acts

Facebook Live @ 6 pm or on demand-via the

FUMC APP or website

6:00 pm Small Groups

Pastor Sam -Based on the book United Methodist

Divided, Room 208

Harriet Murray -Forgiveness, Room 110

Men at the Well

Thursday Mornings

7:00 am

You are invited to join the weekly Bible study with the Men at the Well small group.

Currently meeting at the Choice Restaurant. "A Guide to Prayer for All Who Seek God" by Norman Shawchuck & Rueben P. Job is the current study.

Contact Todd Rains, Mark Condra or

Mark Casey or any of the Men at the Well for more information.

RECONNECT with the Sunday School Class of Your Choice!

- Living Waters Sunday School Class, "Everybody's Normal Till You Get to Know Them", by John Ortberg, Room 112, In person and online. Contact a member of the class for the link to join online!
- Martin Fellowship Class, International Bible Studies, Room 116
- Multi-Age Sunday School, Unshakeable Hope, by Max Lucado, with Eric Wright and Harriet Murray, Gathering Room 201 or 208
- Pathfinders Class is currently meeting with the Multi-Age Sunday School Class, Gathering Room, 201 or 208



Sign Up to Receive Emails from the Church

Sign up to receive emails from the church including the Weekly News, Devotionals, Sermon Notes, and Ministry and Mission Notes.

Go to: <http://www.fumcgadsden.org/sign-up-to-receive-emails>

Need Help: Contact Sheila Freeman @ 256-490-5018

ELC News

Everyone enjoyed a long holiday weekend. September is moving right along. Our first lunchbox revolt of the year will be Tuesday, September 20th. The Dog House will be here. Oh how we love to see Greg and the hot dog stand.

Helene Haller



Youth Ministry News

Wonderful Wednesdays are back!
Dinner at 5:15, please make a reservation!
UMYF @ 6pm

**Sunday School is back for Youth! Room 210
10 am on Sunday mornings.**

September 17-18-Youth Retreat to Camp Lee!
—Pastor Andy

Children's Ministry

GFUMC CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Wonderful Wednesday's
Wednesdays at 6:00
in the Kid's Worship Room
Room 108

Sunday Children's Church
Sunday's during each service
9:00 and 11:00
Room 108

subscribe now

CELEBRATE

**Wonderful Wednesday
Please Make a Reservation!**

**5:15 pm, Wednesday,
September 14**

Menu:

Lasagna, Salad
Tea, Dessert

\$7.00 ea/\$3.00 under 11
Max 20.00 per family

f GFUMC
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

FALL 2022

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES
6:00PM ROOM 108

AUG 17	WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES RESUME W/ ICE CREAM SOCIAL
OCT 19	FALL FESTIVAL AT GFUMC
NOV 16	FRIENDSGIVING!
DEC 4	LUNCH WITH SANTA AT 12:00
DEC 4	CHRISTMAS PLAY AT 3:00
DEC 14	UGLY SWEATER PARTY

KATHARINE BARNES • 256-543-8200 • WWW.FUMCGADSDEN.ORG/CHILDREN • PROVERBS 22:6

September Mission Focus

Etowah Free Clinic

Gadsden First UMC Missions supports The Etowah Free Clinic. This clinic provides uninsured patients of Etowah County with access to physicians, nurses, support staff, prescription medication and a variety of holistic care services, at no cost. The clinic has had a dramatic impact, not just in the lives of those they serve, but also in the community in which they live, work and play.

Local physicians volunteer their time to treat patients at the clinic, and make necessary referrals to participating specialists who treat patients in their offices. They treat people for diabetes, hypertension, thyroid disorders, high cholesterol and other chronic conditions which, when left untreated, can lead to life-threatening complications and lengthy stays in the hospital.

Acute conditions are also treated, often requiring nothing more than a simple antibiotic. The clinic is able to provide treatment to patients who would otherwise arrive at the emergency room with no means of payment or go without treatment.

The Etowah Free Clinic is proud to serve Etowah County and improve the lives of people who would not have access to medical care.

Thank you for your gifts to GFUMC which makes support of this and other important service agencies in our community possible.



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

Please hold your fall and winter donations of clothing until the first of September.

Thank you!

Ladle of Love

Fridays, 11:00am-12:00pm, at the Portico entrance.

Clients served in July 2022

Ladle of Love 465
Clothes Closet 303

Thank you to all our volunteers for their time and service to these missions!

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

Church Phone 256-543-8200
fumc@fumcgadsden.org



August Missions Wrap Up

Thank you for donating to the "Striplin Funds" at First UMC Gadsden! Principal Ash, the teachers, and the students' families appreciate our church for adopting their school many years ago. In order to continue providing support and encouragement for the students and teachers through

- A/B Honor Roll parties
- "Welcome Back" Teacher Breakfast
- Teacher of the Month and Teacher of the Year Recognition and Gift Cards
- Teacher Appreciation Luncheon

UMW NEWS

UMW Luncheon

Monday, September 12 at noon

Program: CommUnity Thanksgiving

Guest Speakers: Craig Scott and Darlene Harcrow

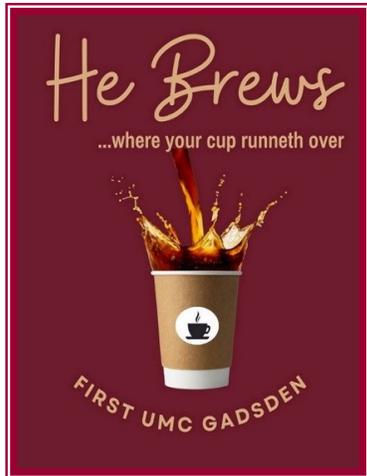
Executive Board meeting @10:30 am

Lunch catered by "Downtown Chief"

Reservations need to be called in by noon on Friday, September 9, to Delores Abney or your circle leader.

—Barbara Bennett, President





**Inviting Ministries
welcomes you to our Coffee Café!**

**We have your Sunday Cup of Coffee waiting for you
between 10 am 11 am on Sunday mornings.**

Join us this Sunday!

***Come visit with friends, old and new, in Christian
Fellowship! After Celebration and before Traditions and
on your way in or out of Sunday school!***

There is nothing like being here!

**G FUMC
Brunch
Club**

**MONTHLY LUNCH/BRUNCH
AT 12:30 FOLLOWING
TRADITIONAL SERVICE.**

**Sunday, September 18– Jefferson's
All Young Adults and Families Welcome!**



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**



First UMC Gadsden

Pathways for Our Future

Awareness

August 28, 9 & 11 am
Monica Harbarger, Directory of United
Counseling

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August 28*

Speakers: Rev. Dee Dowdy
& Rev. Tammy Jackson

September 11*

Speakers- Rev. Belinda Rives
& Rev. Eddie Gooch

*Sanctuary, 3-6 pm

NEW DATE & TIME

Monday, September 26

Speakers- Rev. Harvey Beck
& Rev. Kevin Thomas
6 pm to 8 pm

All sessions available via livestream
and on demand @
www.fumcgadsden.org/media

Assessment

August 17- September 11

Wednesdays @ 6 pm, Learning
Session based on the book, United
Methodist Divided with Pastor Sam

August 31, 6 pm

Bishop Wallace-Padgett, Christ
Central UMC

September 11
through September 27

*Daily Prayer &
Weekly Fasting*

Listening Sessions

Action

NEW DATE

6 pm

Tuesday, September 27
Church Conference**

*A Called Church Conference led
by District Superintendent
Jeff Davis*

**Vote, 6 pm to 6:30 pm, Chestnut
Street Lobby, followed by worship
in the sanctuary.**

**Only full members present at the
time of the vote will be eligible to
vote - no proxy votes or absentee
ballots. If 2/3 of those present and
voting vote to disaffiliate, then we
will proceed in the disaffiliation
process. If the 2/3 majority is not
reached, we will remain UMC.

Additional information and answers to frequently asked questions are available at
www.fumcgadsden.org/pathways4future password: Pathways2022

Awareness— Prayer, Listening, Learning

Pathways for Our Future Awareness Session 2 , Sept. 11 - 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Rev. Belinda Rives from Discovery UMC will speak from 3:00 - 3:30 on what led her to want to stay UMC
3:30 - 4:00 - Q and A

15 minute break

Rev. Eddie Gooch from Hokes Bluff FUMC will speak from 4:15 - 4: 45 on what led him to want to disaffiliate from
UMC 4: 45 - 5: 15 - Q and A

Learning Session with Pastor Sam, 6 PM, Wednesday nights from Aug. 17 - Sept. 21 - A series based on the book "United Methodists Divided" led by Pastor Sam Hayes. This class will discuss how we got to where we are currently in our denomination, differences over Scripture, Tradition, Experience, and Reason, etc.. (Some of you may have attended a similar class in 2019 with Pastor Sam.)

GFUMC Member Survey —We value your opinion!

The purpose of this survey is to determine what members want to know about the differences in our denomination and the vote that will take place in the fall of 2022 about whether we will stay UMC or disaffiliate from the denomination.

Printed survey forms are available in the church office or you can fill out the online survey form @ <https://forms.gle/itKvoHZAMsA5kV8S7>



Calendar for September 11-17, 2022

Sept 11, Sunday

9:00 am, Celebration Service, Sanctuary
 10:00 am, Sunday School; HeBrews Coffee Ministry
 11:00 am, Traditional Service, Sanctuary
 3:00 pm-6:00 pm, Pathways Awareness, Sanctuary

Sept 12, Monday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, ELC Fall Schedule
 9:00 am-10:00 am, Exercise Group, Gym
 10:30 am, UMW Executive Board
 12:00 pm, UMW Luncheon,
 Gathering Room

Sept 13, Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, ELC Fall Schedule
 5:00 pm, Yoga, Gym

Sept 14, Wednesday

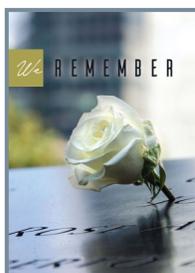
9:00 am-1:00 pm, ELC Fall Schedule
 11:00am, Bible Study, Room 208 (Facebook Live @6pm)
 5:15 pm, Wednesday Night meal, Gathering Room
 6:00 pm, Adult Bible Study, Room 208 and 110
 6:00 pm, Children activities, Room 108
 6:00 pm, Youth activities, Gym & Room 211
 6:00 pm, Choir Practice, Choir Room

Sept 15, Thursday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, ELC Fall Schedule
 9:00 am-10:00 am, Exercise Group, Gym
 5:30 pm, Thursday Worship, Sanctuary

Sept 16, Friday

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



*The Altar Flowers on this day of
 "9/11" are reminders of God's
 powerful love and comfort.*

Honorariums and Memorials

General Budget Fund

In memory of Darrell Yarnell, given by Mr. & Mrs. Bob Sisson.
 In memory of Darrell Yarnell, given by Marian Ford.

Howell Erwin Fund

In memory of Darrell Yarnell, given by Nan MacFadyen.

ELC General Budget

In memory of Mrs. Amy Sanner, given by Ms. Nan MacFadyen

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Unspoken Prayer Requests



Continued Prayer Concerns

Jerry Casey Jane Gardner
 John Jones (Dottie Roger's son)
 Alice Hayes (mother of Sam Hayes)

The war in Ukraine

***Disaster areas from floods & fire
 Illnesses from disease and viruses***

Birthdays

Sept 12 Chris Hill, Makenzie Staton
Sept 13 Betty Ballard, Linda Marble
Sept 14 Tommy Bone,
 Marihugh Leach
Sept 15 Alicia Dowling,
 Kendra Selsor, Anna Dobbins,
 Danielle Wilson
Sept 16 Bibb Holland
Sept 17 Joseph Calahan



*Please update your family's record in the
 church office to include all dates of birth.
 Thank you! —Susan Swann*

Week of September 4, 2022

In Person Total *101 Online 250
 Worship Total 351 Thursday Worship *7
 Celebration Service *41/121
 Traditional Worship *53/129
 Adult Sunday School *28/1 Children *1
 Bible Study Groups *22/25
 Children *18 Youth *17 Nursery *2
 Total Small Group Attendance *88/25
 *In Person

General Offering Budget \$13,175.00
 General Offering Received \$14,895.00
 YTD General Offering Budget \$474,300.00
 YTD General Offering Rec'd \$476,650.00

2022 Pledges: 82 for \$420,924.85
Text to Give: 256.344.8464

Update Your Contact Information

*Please help us update the
 membership records in the
 church office with your
 current mailing address,
 phone number, email address
 and birthdays for all family
 members.*

*Updates may be sent to
susan@fumcgadsden.org or
 call Susan @ 256-543-8200.*

***Verify your church
 membership with Susan
 Swann by 9/30/22.***