

January 2022

Integrity of the Heart

SERMON SERIES

PASTOR SAM HAYES

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GADSDEN

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

1-9-22

Sermon Notes

"What We Want to Become"

The word "authority" can be defined as "the power or right to give orders, make decisions, and enforce obedience." I was thinking about "authority" as I read about Jesus calling people from their regular occupations to follow him as his disciples. What kind of authority would Jesus have to have in order to interrupt four fishermen at their work, challenge them to leave behind their nets (their livelihood) and follow after him? Here's the scene as Mark records it:

¹⁶ As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." ¹⁸ And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹ As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰ Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.
(Mark 1: 16-20)

We have to remember that several months before, Jesus had already met Peter, Andrew, James and John – and they had come to trust him (John 1: 35-49). So, this was not an "out of the blue" invitation to discipleship. Still back to my question... what kind of *authority* would Jesus have to have in order to ask for – and receive – their total commitment? The short answer is... ALL of it.

Jesus "called" his disciples at the beginning of his ministry on earth. Jesus "sent" them right before he ascended to the Father. Remember the Great Commission? Before he sent his disciples to go to the ends of the earth making disciples, he reminded them that "all authority in heaven and on earth" had been given to him." (Matt. 28: 18) Jesus taught with authority, exercised authority in healing, forgiving sins, and authority over Satan. Through his death and resurrection, Jesus showed that he even has authority over death and the grave.

When someone with that kind of authority speaks, we do well to listen! Jesus *still* owns all authority. Jesus *still* calls us to follow and be disciples. Jesus *still* sends us to go and make disciples. Last week we talked about integrity – being who we say we are. This week we will focus on what we want to become: disciples making disciples.

See you Sunday,
Pastor Sam

Worship Opportunities

- **Thursday Worship:** 5:30 pm
In the Sanctuary
- **Mosaic:** 6:00 pm, **Thursday**,
(In person @ Back Forty Beer Company)

• Sunday Worship

Celebration: 9 am*

Traditions 11 am*

*In-Person (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.)

January 9, 2022

Celebration:

Eric Wright, Bill Haller, Zach Hilburn

Traditions:

Mark Condra, Sheila Freeman

January 16, 2022

Celebration:

Will Brookshire, Brad Barnes,
Elizabeth Barnes

Traditions:

Davis Varner, Tammy Hayes

Top 10 Things To Do on the Church APP

10. Meet the Pastors and Staff. (Home Tab-Meet the Pastors and Staff)

9. Fill out a Connect Card. (Home Tab-Connect)

8. Read the Church News. (Home Tab-News)

7. Check Out Upcoming Church Events (Events Tab)

6. Read the Bible in a Year (Bible Tab)



5. Look up Scripture. (Bible Tab)

4. Send a Prayer Request (Home Tab-Prayer Request)

3. Give (Home Tab-Give)

2. Watch the Pastor's Bible Study (Media Tab)

1. Watch or Listen to Worship Services and Sermons. (Media Tab)

**Have you
downloaded
the Church App?**

**Search:
FUMCGadsden**

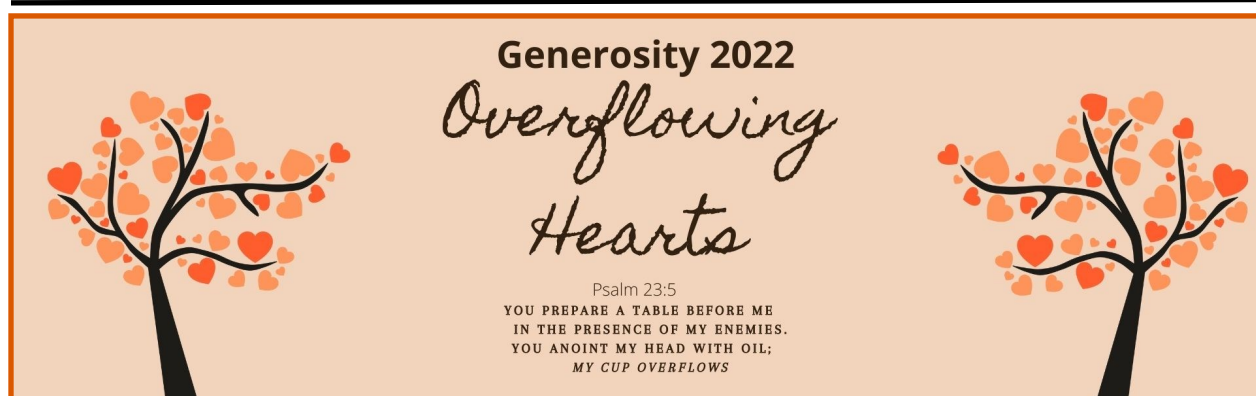


Any questions about tithes, offerings, or gifts for the church should be directed to Sheila Witherspoon, Financial Secretary.

You can reach Sheila Witherspoon or Pam Deru in the church office at 256-543-8200 or email

giving@fumcgadsden.org.

www.fumcgadsden.org/give



Thank you for your gifts that make possible, the ministries and missions of First UMC Gadsden.

2022 Estimate of Giving Cards are available in the Chestnut Street lobby and at worship services, if you have not received one by mail.

- You can also fill out a 2022 Estimate of Giving Card online @ www.fumcgadsden.org.
- Your estimate of giving card is confidential and is not a legally binding contract. It is your personal commitment to the Lord.
- Please call the financial secretary anytime to discuss your giving plan.
- Please return your completed card to the church as soon as possible.



Bible Study: Confirmation for Grownups
This class is for anyone & everyone who wants to grow spiritually in 2022!

January 5- Knowing & Loving God: Father, Son & Holy Spirit

January 12- Knowing & Loving Self: Unwrapping Our Spiritual Gifts

January 19- Knowing & Loving Others: Who is My Neighbor?

January 26- Celebrating the Christian Year— Methodist Style

**Wonderful Wednesday fellowship meal January 5:
Chicken Fingers, Macaroni & Cheese, Green Beans
\$7 per person (\$3 11 & Under)**

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

You are invited to join the weekly ZOOM bible study with the Men at the Well small group. Everyone is invited to join this discussion group. It meets each Thursday morning at 7 am. Tammy Jackson is leading the current study of Genesis 1-11, pre-history and what it means to us.

Go to www.fumcgadsden.org/menatthewell for more details.

Contact Todd Rains, Mark Condra or Mark Casey or any of the Men at the Well for more information and the Zoom link.

RECONNECT with the Sunday School Class of Your Choice!

- Living Water Sunday School Class, Chapel
- Martin Fellowship Class, Room 116
- Pathfinders Class, Room 208

Seekers, Discovery and The Middle Sunday School Classes are currently not meeting.
Members are welcome to meet with another group until their class returns.





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

Save the Date: Youth Super Bowl Party
February 13, 2022, 5:00-7:00 pm, Gym

Confirmation Classes will begin on January 9th. Time: 5:00-7:00 pm each Sunday night. *Please mark your calendars for the following dates: Jan 9th, Jan 23rd, Feb 6th, Feb 20th, March 6th, & March 13th. Confirmation Sunday will be March 20th.*

ELC News

The ELC has returned for its 2022 spring semester. We welcome some new faces this year and are all excited to be back.

Tuesday, January 11th our 3k and 4k classes will visit the Snow Exhibit at the Mary G Hardin Cultural Arts Center.

Our first lunchbox revolt of the year will be Wednesday, January 12th and we will have yummy Chick Fil A.

Many exciting adventures are to come, stay tuned.

◇

—Helene Haller



COAT DRIVE

GFUMC Children's
Ministry

Donate
your gently
used items to
our Clothes
Closet!

January
Service Project

coats

clothing

blankets

toboggans

gloves

socks

girls and boys

all ages

GFUMC CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Wonderful Wednesday's

Wednesday's 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





Children's Ministry

Missions

Mission Looking Back @ 2021...But, Looking Forward to 2022 and Continuing our Focus on *Changing Lives in and around Our Community!*

- ◆ 440 Students @ Striplin Elementary School received A/B Honor Roll Packets.
- ◆ 40 Teachers received "Back to School Supply Bags" in the fall of 2021.
- ◆ Teachers of the Month and Year were awarded certificates and gift cards and GFUMC provided a box lunch for Teacher Appreciation Week!
- ◆ All First Responders received Firehouse Sub Sandwiches in appreciation of all their hard work.
- ◆ 80 Healthcare Workers at GRMC and 65 Healthcare Workers at Riverview received Firehouse Sub Sandwiches in appreciation of their hard work.
- ◆ 110 Workers at GRMC and 170 Workers at Riverview received Jack's Biscuits for breakfast as the shifts changed.
- ◆ The Love Center, Manna, & Camp Sumatanga are among the community agencies that depend on GFUMC to give regular recurring monthly gifts that keep them afloat and assist with electricity, mortgages and other utilities.
- ◆ C.L.I.C.K. After School Program receives monthly funding that feeds the children every afternoon after school!
- ◆ 35 Tornado Buckets were filled and sent to the UMCOR Warehouse in Decatur.
- ◆ 50 Thanksgiving Bags were donated to the Salvation Army to feed families.
- ◆ 70 Christmas Stockings were packed during "Christmas in July" to provide Christmas for families through the Salvation Army.
- ◆ 25 Angels received gifts from their "Lists for Santa" due to the caring generosity of so many of You!

These are only some examples of the mission work done in 2021!

Just think what we can do in the coming year, 2022!

UMCOR and U.S. Disaster Relief

Give to UMCOR's [U.S. Disaster Response and Recovery through Advance #901670](#).

Donations may be made through GFUMC, simply mark your check for UMCOR in the memo line.

UMW NEWS

UMW Luncheon, January 10, 2022

Due to the rising numbers of Covid and Flu outbreaks, The decision was made to cancel the luncheon for January. Please watch for information on the possible Luncheon in February.



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](#)



Pathways 2022

For I am about to do something new.
See, I have already begun! Do you not see it?
I will make a pathway through the wilderness.
I will create rivers in the dry wasteland. (Is. 43: 19)

Dear GFUMC Leadership Team:

Thank you for your willingness to use your God-given gifts and graces in service to the Lord through your church! Each one of you is important, and the ministries and mission of Gadsden First UMC would not be possible without strong, committed lay leadership.

We would like to go into 2022 with everyone as informed as possible about the mission and vision of the church, and about what their particular committee or ministry team does and what his or her role will be. We also would like everybody to have a general idea of how all the teams fit together. To this end, we are planning an “onboarding” event on Sunday evening, January 9th from 5:00 – 7:00 pm in the gym at GFUMC. A nursery will be provided, as well as dinner. We just need everyone to RSVP so that we know how much food to provide. We hope that everyone on the Board of Stewards and everyone who serves on any of our ministry teams will be able to participate! Please RSVP by January 6, by calling Sheila Freeman at 256-490-5018. You can also call Sheila, Pastor Sam, or Mark Condra if you have any questions.

Thanks again, and God bless you! Pastor Sam



“Integrity of the Heart”

A 4 Week, January Sermon Series

January 9- 9 am and 11 am,
“What We Want to Become”,
Mark 1: 16-20, Matt 28:18-20

January 16- 9 am and 11 am,
“What We Want to Do”,
Matthew 22: 34-40

January 23- 9 am and 11 am,
“Where We Want to Go”, *John 15:1-5*

New Small Group Study on Sunday Mornings!

Starts January 23, 2022
5 Week Study, In the Gathering Room
@ 10 am

All Ages are Welcome!

Dream Big by Bob Goff

Led by Pastor Andy
(He’s Bringing Cinnamon Rolls!)





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>

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.**

Subscribe to the Weekly Church News

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

Honorariums and Memorials

General Budget Fund

In memory of Tomilyn Isbell, given by Timothy & Laine O'Neal.
 In memory of Sam Norris, given by Dr. & Mrs. Calvin Sanders, Jr.
 In memory of Sandy Self, given by Larry & Jane Hughes.
 In memory of Barry Loveman, given by Larry & Jane Hughes.
 In memory of Sandy Self, given by Friends at Peoples Bank.
 In memory of Stan Walker, given by E.C. Frantz
 In memory of Sam Norris, given by E.C. Frantz.
 In memory of Sandy Self, given by E.C. Frantz.
 In memory of Sam Norris, given by Ruth Chandler.
 In memory of Sandy Self, given by Ruth Chandler.
 In memory of Marlyn Bugg, given by Ruth Chandler.
 In memory of Sandy Self, given by Osborn Food Service.
 In memory of Mikey Tonagel, given by Gloria Rives.
 In memory of Sam Norris, given by Diana Rampey.
 In memory of Stan Walker, given by Diana Rampey.
 In memory of Sandy Self, given by Diana Rampey.
 In memory of Sandy Self, given by Bromley Place Neighbors.
 In memory of Sam Norris, given by Brian Cash.
 In memory of Sam Norris, given by Randa Hall.
 In memory of Tomilyn Isbell, given by Margaret & Thomas Pope, Jr.
 In memory of James Rayburn, given by Joseph Rayburn & Angela Rayburn.

Ladle of Love Fund

In memory of Stan Walker, given by Barbara Bennett.
 In memory of Stan Walker, given by Mark & Barbara Condra.
 In memory of Stan Walker, given by Larry & Jane Hughes.
 In memory of Sam Norris, given by Jerry & Sherre McGinnis.
 In memory of Stan Walker, given by the Windemere Home Owner's Assoc.

Howell Erwin Fund

In memory of Barry Loveman, given by Judi Loveman & Family.

Honorariums & Memorials

Special donations may be made, in honor or memory of a loved one, to the General Budget Fund or other designated funds. You can send a check by mail, drop in the offering plate, or use e-giving. Be sure to include the name of the person you want to be remembered.

Altar Flower Fund

Gifts to this fund are used to place flowers on the altar for special worship days throughout the year. Flowers may also be placed on the altar in honor or in memory of a loved one by personal request. Contact Susan Swann in the church office for available dates and more information.

Calendar for January 9-January 16, 2022

January 9, Sunday

9:00 am, **Celebration Service, in Sanctuary & live stream**

10:00 am, **Adult Sunday School Classes**

11:00 am, **Traditional Service, in Sanctuary & live stream**

5:00-7:00 pm, **Pathways 2022, Gathering Room**

January 10, Monday

9:00-1:00 pm, **ELC Winter Schedule**

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

10:30 am, **UMW Executive Board Meeting, Room 208**

12:00 pm, **UMW Luncheon, Gathering Room**

January 11, Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, **ELC Winter Schedule**

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

January 12, Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, **ELC Winter Schedule**

11:00 am, **Wednesday Bible Study, Room 208**

5:15 pm, **Wonderful Wednesday meal, Gathering Room**

6:00 pm, **Choir Practice, Choir Room**

January 12, Wednesday, Cont'd

6:00 pm, **Adult Bible Study, Room 208**

6:00 pm, **Children's Activities, Room 108**

6:00 pm, **Youth Activities, Gym & Room 211**

January 13, Thursday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, **ELC Winter Schedule**

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

5:30 pm, **Thursday Worship**

6:00 pm, **Mosaic Worship, Back Forty Warehouse**

January 14, Friday

11:00 am, **Ladle of Love, Portico**

*The ministers and congregation of
First United Methodist Church of Gadsden,
extend Christian sympathy
to Steve & Lynne Frederick,
in the death of her father,
George Langstaff January 3, 2022*



The rose on the altar is in celebration of the birth of



Owen Patrick Thrasher

Big Brother: Liam

Parents: Brandon & Laura

Given by the Children's Ministry and the ELC

The rose on the altar is in celebration of the birth of



Clara Lynn Gibbs

Big Brother: Grant

Parents: Matt & Allison

Given by the Children's Ministry and the ELC

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Family of George Langstaff

Family of John Robert McElroy, Jr.

Bob Williams (father of Robin Wilson) Morgan Harrell (father of J.T. Harrell)

Ann Elizabeth Casey (great-granddaughter of Dotty Ivey) Drew McNair

Continued Prayer Concerns

Lisa Dobbins Nancy Smith



Jan 9 Anna Mullin, Sue Roberts,

Timothy Isbell, Bob Oltman

Jan 10 Heather Staton

Jan 12 Wynell Welsh

Jan 13 Craig Marble, Heather New

Jan 14 Alexis McCollum

Jan 15 Joan Bigelow

Jan 16 Bill Haller

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

Week of January 2, 2022

*In Person Total *117 Overall Total 377

Online Viewer Total 260 Mosaic *10

Thursday * Children *8 Youth *18

One Service @ 11:00am *81/260

Bible Study Groups *0

12/31/21 Offerings Report

General Offering Budget \$15,200.00

General Offering Received \$26,119.34

YTD General Offering Budget \$790,400.00

YTD General Offering Rec'd \$700,684.34

1/2/22 Offerings Report

General Offering Budget \$15,200.00

General Offering Received \$14,918.00

2022 "Overflowing Hearts"

Estimate of Giving Cards Returned:

75 for \$314,264.85

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

**Offering Plates will be
passed during Celebration
and Traditions worship.**