



Christ Emmanuel

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

12-13-20

Sermon Notes

“Christ Emmanuel”

The story is told of a little boy who was afraid of the dark. Every night, he would wake up at some point and cry, “Mom! Help!” His mother would get up and go in and sit on his bed and hug him, and sit there with him until he went back to sleep. One night, the mother decided to try something different. Her son’s cry came in the middle of the night as usual, and she went to him as usual, but this time as she hugged him...she said, “Now, son, do you remember when your father and I told you that God is always with you, no matter what?” “Yes,” the little boy said. “So,” his mom continued, “I’m not going to sit on your bed tonight until you go back to sleep. If you get scared, just remember...God is always with you.” “OK, Mom,” the boy said bravely. An hour or so later, the mom heard her son cry again. “Mom! Help!” The mother stood outside her son’s room and called from the hallway, “Don’t you remember that I told you that God is always with you?” He said, “Yes, ma’am, but I need somebody with skin on!”

“Somebody with skin on” is a pretty good explanation of our theme for Advent... *Incarnation*. The word, “incarnation,” has the Latin root *carne*, which means “meat” or “flesh.” *Incarnation* means something like to “become flesh.” When Jesus was born, God became flesh and dwelt among us. Remember the angel’s message to Joseph?

²² *All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³ “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us” . ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus. (Matt. 1: 22-25 NRSV)*

Matthew opens his gospel with the promise that Jesus will be Emmanuel, “God with us.” He ends his gospel with Jesus saying, “And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matt. 28: 20) Like the mother told her son who was afraid of the dark... “God is always with you, no matter what!”

Celebrate God’s presence with us this Sunday online or in-person. I’ll be preaching in the 9:00 service but not in the 11:00, since the Chancel Choir will be presenting “The Thrill of Hope” Christmas musical.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Sam

Remember to return your 2021 “Estimate of Giving”
Card in either service or to the church office.

Worship Opportunities

- **Mosaic:** 6:30 pm, Tuesday, Church Courtyard*
- **Thursday Worship:** 5:30 pm, Thursday, Sanctuary*
- **Sunday Celebration Worship,** 9:00 am, Sanctuary* (In person & online)
- **Sunday Traditions Worship,** 11:00 am, Sanctuary* (In person & online)
***All in person worship requires social distancing & masks.**

Christmas Eve Worship

4:00 pm & 6:00 pm

Reservations* are required for Christmas Eve Worship.

(*limited to 100 per worship service.)

Sign up at

www.fumcgadsden.org/worship

- ♦ Select worship time.
- ♦ Make a reservation for each person in your family.
- ♦ Social distancing and masks required.
- ♦ For sign-up assistance, call the church office: 256-543-8200.



United
Methodist
Women

UMW News

The 2020 UMW Christmas cards are ready for purchase. The cost is \$12.00 per package of 10. If you would like to purchase Christmas cards, please call the church office at 256-543-8200 to make arrangements to pick them up.

Reminder: Don't forget to turn in your UMW pledge or World Thank Offering!

—Eileen Graham.

Missions for December

White Christmas

Each year during the Christmas season, we are reminded there is no greater joy for us than giving to others. Since 1930, the White Christmas Offering has enabled Methodists to share their blessings with those whose circumstances in life just haven't been fair. These children and young adults certainly didn't sign up to be in the situation they're in, and with your support, they have the hope of a much brighter tomorrow. Mark your special offering for "UMCH White Christmas" and give comfort and joy this Christmas!



Angel Tree

Thank you to all who have chosen an angel from the Angel Tree! Label all gift items with code at bottom or list and return to the church no later than this Sunday, December 13! (No need to wrap the gifts!)

Guidelines for End of Year Contributions

In order for contributions to be posted to your **2020** giving record, they must meet one of these requirements:

1. The gift is received and posted to your account before December 31st.
2. The contribution is put into the offering plate on December 27th or delivered to the office on or before December 30th.
3. The envelope in which the gift is mailed is postmarked on or before December 31st.
4. An online E-Giving transaction is dated on or before December 31st.
5. Gifts of stock should be transferred before the market closes on December 31st. Please inform Jane at the office about a stock transfer.

For questions or more info, please contact Jane at the church office at 543-8200 or Jane@fumcgadsden.org no later than December 30th.

Clothes Closet

Workday

1st & 3rd Tuesdays

Open

1st & 3rd Wednesdays

9:00 am to 11:00 am

516 Broad Street

Gadsden, AL

*Clothes Closet Winter

Needs: Gloves, Scarves, and Coats. Please check your closets and bring any items that you are no longer wearing.

Ladle of Love

Fridays, 11:00 am to 12:00 pm, under the portico

Big Brothers Big Sisters Christmas Party

Thank you! Thank you! All of the donations, volunteers and support for the Big Brothers and Big Sister were wonderful! Blessings come from being able to reach out and help others in times like these! It was a joy to share a little Christmas Cheer with these children!

Church Phone

256-543-8200

www.fumcgadsden.org

fumc@fumcgadsden.org

[#fumcconnect2020](https://www.instagram.com/fumcconnect2020)



New Zoom Study for Advent

Beginning Monday November 30th @ 6:00 pm for four (4) sessions, we will be studying, Who Needs Christmas? by Andy Stanley. It will be a video/discussion group. The video will last around 20 minutes and we will try to keep sessions to 1 hour total. Please order your study guide. I got mine from Amazon, but you can google the title and it will give you several options. I am very excited about this in depth look at God’s amazing plan! Text me (256) 328-3679 to find out how to join the study! —Barbara Condra

- ♦ **Wednesday Nights 6:00 pm**
(No Bible Study on November 25)
NEW STUDIES for Advent Begin on Dec. 2

Incarnation, Harriet Murray, Room 116, Week 2

Incarnation, Pastor Sam, Sanctuary & Online, Week 1

- ♦ **Thursdays, Men at the Well, 7:00 am**, Zoom
Contact the church office for more information.

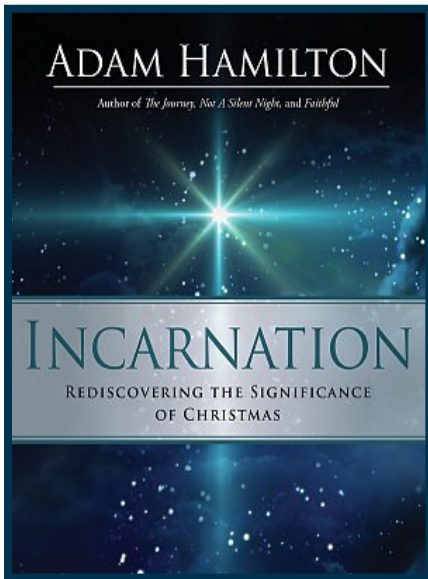
- ♦ **Sunday Mornings, 10:00 am**, GoToMeeting
Because of Bethlehem, Love is Born, Hope is Here
by Max Lucado **Begins November 29**

11/29 God Has a Face – George Varner

12/6 Worship Works Wonders — Jeff Poland

12/13 God Guides the Wise — Grover Kitchens

12/20 Every Heart a Manger — Nancy Smith



Advent Study: Incarnation by Adam Hamilton “Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas”

Wednesday, December 2– 23 @ 6 pm

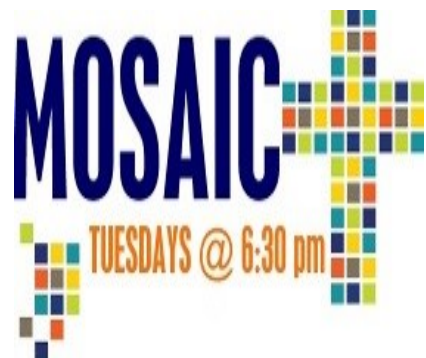
Adam Hamilton’s book, Incarnation is available in the church office for \$15.00. If you would like to purchase a book and are unable to come by the church to make the purchase, please call the office @ 256-543-8200 or email: fumc@fumcgadsden.org for assistance.

You may participate In person (with social distancing and masks in the sanctuary) or you may participate virtually in this Advent study on FacebookLive or the church website or YouTube Channel.

Wednesdays @ 6 pm, Sanctuary or Online

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. Come meet with us outside the church in the Courtyard facing 5th Street near the sanctuary on Tuesdays @ 6:30 pm! Social distancing is required. (In case of rain or cold weather, Mosaic will meet in the gym.)



ELC News

Thursday, December 10th will be our annual Christmas Program at 9:30 am followed by class parties. The program will be live streamed for everyone to watch. Christmas Break is **December 11th thru January 3rd**. First day back is **January 4th**.

Helene Haller

Youth Ministry News

December 16th

*Christmas Party
"Youth Live Nativity Set Up"*

Youth will be meeting at 6 pm on Wednesday nights in the gym, youth room, & room 108 during December.

Virtual Sunday School

Sundays at 10:00 am

Former Youth- check out our college and career Instagram page to stay up to date with future social distancing gatherings.



Join Andy on Facebook Live
or Instagram

Sunday & Wednesdays, 6pm

Safe Sanctuary Policy: All children and youth volunteers must have Safe Sanctuary Training prior to beginning to work with children or youth and annually thereafter. A background check is required. In addition, volunteers must have been members of the church for 6 months or more, be 5 years older than the group they are working with and there must always be at least 2 unrelated adults present for all activities and events. Other rules apply for field trips or overnight trips. Contact the church office Sheila@fumcgadsden.org for more information.

DRIVE-THRU Santa

Sunday, December 13

12:30-2:00

GFUMC Portico

Drive thru the portico for a photo
with Santa and a North Pole treat bag!



Children's Church December Events

★ Sunday, December 13
Drive-thru Santa Visit, 12:00-1:30

★ Wednesday, December 16
Children's Christmas Party, 6:00

Children's Ministry News

Children will meet in the gym or room 108 during December on Wednesday nights at 6:00 pm. The nursery is open during this time. Children's Break continues on Facebook on Sundays and Wednesdays! Children's Church meets Sundays during worship at 9 am or 11 am!

**Christmas Eve Worship
4:00 pm or 6:00 pm
Make a reservation for
Christmas Eve Worship
Now! Go to:
www.fumcgadsden.org**

Poinsettias, December 13, 2020



In Memory of

*Harry and Lillie Vance
Mr. & Mrs. Buford Copeland
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Strickland*

Given by

*Kathye Vance
Keith and Susan Copeland
Keith and Susan Copeland*



The Thrill of Hope

PRESENTED BY
THE CHANCEL CHOIR
FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF GADSDEN

11:00 AM December 13, 2020

**Celebrate the season
on Sunday, December
13 in Traditions
Worship at 11 am!
The Chancel Choir
will present a special
program of Christmas
Music!**



MAKE A RESERVATION
@ WWW.FUMCGADSDEN.ORG

**4:00 PM
OR
6:00 PM
12.24.20**

**Reservations Required.
Social Distancing
& Masks Required.**

FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF GADSDEN

**Don't forget to make
a reservation @
www.fumcgadsden.org
for you and your
family on Christmas
Eve for one of our in-
person worship
services. Reservations
are required and
limited to 100 guests!**

"Counting Our Blessings" Estimate of Giving 2021

As of 12/10/20 we have received 66 Cards with a total of \$259,816.00. If you haven't turned your card in, please return it to the church office. Additional cards are available in the church office or in the worship services. Budget planning for 2021 has begun.

Generosity

- **Give online:**
www.fumcgadsden.org/give
- **Text to Give:**
256-344-8464
- **Mail your tithe or gift to the church:**
115 S. 5th Street
Gadsden, AL 35901

**Text to Give: 256-344-8464
Online Giving:
www.fumcgadsden.org/give**

giving
powered by
NCS SERVICES

Calendar for week of December 13-19, 2020

Dec 13, Sunday

9:00 am, Celebration Worship; Sanctuary

10:00 am, Sunday School, Ken Casey &

George Varner, GoToMeeting

10:00 am, Children's Bible Study, Facebook

10:00 am, Youth Sunday School, Online

11:00 am, Traditional Worship; Sanctuary

"The Thrill of Hope" Music by Choir

12:00-1:30 pm, Drive thru Santa Visit, Portico

6:00 pm, Youth, via Zoom or Instagram

Dec 14, Monday

ELC Closed until January 4, 2021

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

6:00 pm-Advent Study, Barbara Condra, via Zoom

Dec 15, Tuesday

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

6:30 pm, Mosaic, Gym

Dec 16, Wednesday

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

6:00 pm, Children's Christmas Party, Gym

6:00 pm, Youth Activities

6:00 pm, Advent Study, Harriet Murray, Room 116

6:00 pm, Advent Study, Pastor Sam, Sanctuary

Dec 17, Thursday

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

5:30 pm, Thursday Worship

Dec 18, Friday,

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



Welcome
David Gray

Poinsettias in the service today are given in memory of family members.

Honorariums and Memorials

General Budget Fund: In memory of Doug Martin, given by Pudden McArthur.

Music Fund:

In memory of Carolyn Humphrey and DeLeath Rives, given by Janice Humphrey.

Benevolence Fund:

In memory of Sonya Cantrell, given by Sonya Nesbitt.

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Wanda Hemby

Marian Ford

Joanne Hightower

The family of Melba Amberson



Continued Prayer Concerns

Bill Hale Albert Gibson

Ron Garry Charles Cantrell

Herman Humphrey (Jan Humphrey's father)

Mary Nichols (Patsy Blankenship's mother)

Week of December 6, 2020

Online Viewer Total 326

*In Person Total *165 Total overall 491

Celebration *33/129 Traditions *52/143

Mosaic *23/18 Thursday *8

Youth *11 Children *18

Bible Study Groups *20/36

General Offering Budget \$15,440.00

General Offering Received \$15,328.00

YTD General Offering Budget \$756,560.00

YTD General Offering Rec'd \$697,812.00

In Memory of
Her Life
Melba Amberson
December 6, 2020



Birthdays.....

Dec 13 Dick Abel, Danny Jackson, Jon Ford

Dec 14 Neil Mullin, Gloria Rives, Michael Haney, Tommy Hiltz

Dec 15 Danna Dean, Helene Haller

Dec 16 Cindy Norris, Jen Hester

Dec 17 Dr. Ed Thompson, Leone Norris, Lenora Arnold, Genevieve Corley

Dec 18 Mary Ann Watkins, Jim Moss, Delores Abney, Brandy Berry, Dylan Skipper **Dec 19** Grover Kitchens, Nancy Beane, Jesse Norris, Drew McNair



Poinsettias

Select the Worship Service and Date / Cost \$20.00 each

Service: Celebration Tradition

Date: December 20

Donated by _____

_____ In Honor of _____ In Memory of

Name _____