

Christ, Light of the World Word of God, Lord

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

12-20-20

Sermon Notes

“Christ, Light of the World, Word of God, Lord”

What we have in the first chapter of John is a different way of looking at the Christmas Story. We don't see anything about Caesar Augustus making a decree that all the world should be taxed. We don't see anything about Mary and Joseph travelling to Bethlehem. There is no mention of the “Inn” and there being no room for them there. You won't find a stable or a manger or a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes. You won't find angels or shepherds. There is no star – no wise men. Here's what you get instead:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁹ *The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.*

¹⁰ *He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.*

¹⁴ *And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.*

(John 1: 1-5, 9-14 NRSV)

We have to admit...it would be hard to do a Christmas play based on John's Gospel! But – the Christmas Story is about more than just what is happening in a manger in Bethlehem. It is about what is happening for the whole world! Into a world of darkness, Christ the *Light* has come. The very *Word* of God takes on human flesh and lived among us! And finally, Christ alone can claim the title, “*Lord!*”

Join us online or in-person as we worship Christ the Lord, Light of the World, Word of God this Sunday!

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!



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.

We are here for you!

We are still taking precautions by keeping the church office closed to the public.

We ask that all business be conducted by email, phone or text whenever possible.

In-person visits are by appointment only. You may call for an appointment or if you or someone you know has a need that we can help with, please call us or email us between 8:00 am--4:00 pm, Monday thru Friday. If no answer, please leave a message and a staff member will return your call as soon as possible.

A MASK is required If you are coming to the office for an appointment or attending any service or activity at the church. If you do not have one, we have masks available for you. **Stay Well. Stay Safe** —Your Church Staff!

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

There will be no

Ladle of Love on

Friday, December 25 and January 1.

We will resume on January 8 at our usual time.

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

Church Phone

256-543-8200

www.fumcgadsden.org

fumc@fumcgadsden.org

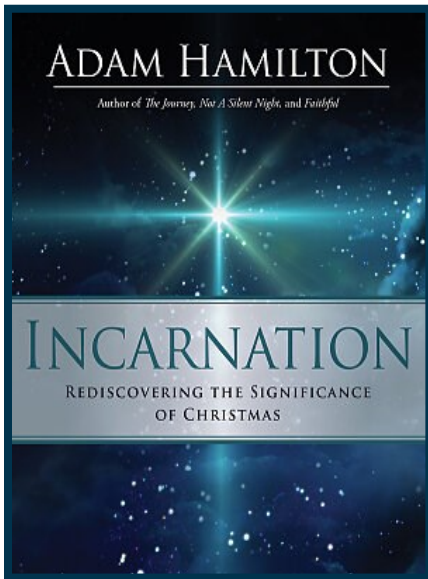
#gfumconnect2020



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**
- ◆ **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– 30 @ 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.

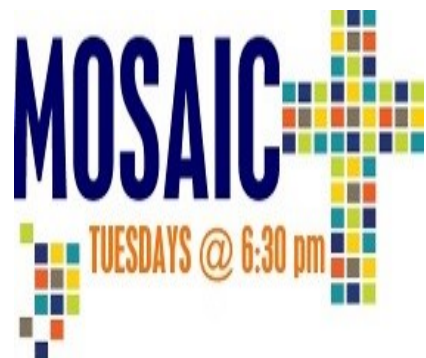
You may participate In person (with social distancing and masks in the sanctuary) or you may participate virtually in this Advent study on FacebookLive or the church website or YouTube Channel.

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.

December 22 through January 5 the worship service will be *Live stream only.*



ELC News

Christmas Break is **December 11th thru January 3rd**. First day back is **January 4th**.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Helene Haller

Youth Ministry News

December

Youth will not meet Wednesday, December 23 and 30. We are making plans for an awesome 2021!

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.

Children's Ministry News

Children will not meet Wednesday, December 23 and December 30.

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

Drive-Through Santa and Christmas



Poinsettias, December 20, 2020

In Memory of

*C.T. and Teresa Holdridge
Wayne Nesbitt & Our Parents*

In Honor of

*Reverend Sam Hayes
Reverend Andy Yarnell
Benny McNair
J. T. Harrell*

Given by

*Bill Clark and Family
Sonya Nesbitt and Family*

Given by

*Church Staff
Church Staff
Church Staff
Church Staff*



Christmas Eve

Worship

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

"Counting Our Blessings" Estimate of Giving 2021

As of 12/17/20 we have received 67 Cards with a total of \$264,016.00. 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 20-26, 2020

Dec 20, 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

Dec 21, Monday

ELC Closed until January 4, 2021

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

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

Dec 22, Tuesday

6:30 pm, Mosaic, Online



Dec 23, Wednesday

Office Closed

6:00 pm, Advent Study, Pastor Sam, Sanctuary and Live Streaming

Dec 24, Thursday

Christmas Eve

Office Closed

4:00 pm, Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

6:00 pm, Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Dec 25, Friday

Christmas Day

Office Closed

No Ladle of Love

The flowers today are in honor of Laura Condra in celebration of her birthday today. They are given by her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

*In Memory of
His Life
Bill Hale*

December 14, 2020



Birthdays.....

Dec 20 Laura Condra, Cheryl Midgley, Sara Kate Thornburg

Dec 21 Robert Branch, Mikeal Martin, Matt Ross, Davis Varner

Dec 22 Jane Herb, Jane Gargus, Caroline Long

Dec 23 Rodney Thompson

Dec 24 Claire Wigley, Ross Isbell, Mary Ragan Whisenant, Matthew Stewart

Dec 25 Larry Hughes, Karen Crawford, Dawn Rains, Leah Livingston

Dec 26 Kaity Dorset, Victoria Mills, Morris Gladden



Honorariums and Memorials

Benevolence Fund:

In memory of Gene Branning Hunter, given by Sonya Nesbitt.

UMC Children's Home:

In HONOR of Bill and Mary Tom Hale.

Immediate Prayer Concerns

| Redia Brooks Wanda Hemby Marian Ford Joanne Hightower

| Sandy Self The Family of Bill Hale

| Mikey Tonagel (Collins & Belinda Tackaberry's son-in-law)

Continued Prayer Concerns

| Albert Gibson Ina Davis Ron Garry

| Charles Cantrell

| Herman Humphrey (Jan Humphrey's father)

| Mary Nichols (Patsy Blankenship's mother)



Week of December 13, 2020

Online Viewer Total 340

*In Person Total *253 Total overall 593

Celebration *22/122 Traditions *68/144

Mosaic 26 Thursday *8

Youth *13 Children *18

Bible Study Groups *7/48

General Offering Budget \$15,440.00

General Offering Received \$13,585.00

YTD General Offering Budget \$772,000.00

YTD General Offering Rec'd \$711,397.00

Subscribe to the Weekly Church News

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

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.**