



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

12-27-20 Sermon Notes

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Common English Bible

10 I surely rejoice in the Lord;

my heart is joyful because of my God,
because he has clothed me with

clothes of victory,

wrapped me in a robe of righteousness
like a bridegroom in a priestly crown,
and like a bride adorned in jewelry.

11 As the earth puts out its growth,

and as a garden grows its seeds,

so the Lord God will grow righteousness and praise before all the nations.

Jerusalem redeemed

62 For Zion's sake I won't keep silent,

and for Jerusalem's sake I won't sit still
until her righteousness shines out like a light,
and her salvation blazes like a torch.

2 Nations will see your righteousness,

all kings your glory.

You will be called by a new name,

which the Lord's own mouth will determine.

3 You will be a splendid garland in the Lord's hand,

a royal turban in the palm of God's hand.

When this Sunday rolls around, Christmas day will have passed. We often think of the celebration being over, but in reality the party is just beginning! Isaiah reminds in this passage to not be silent about our joy. Share the hope and love that Emmanuel brings. In the chaos of 2020, we have the joy of Christ that we can celebrate. It's a party and celebration this Sunday, we hope you can join us.

Pastor Andy

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.



UMW News

Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year!
From the UMW
Board Members and
Circle Leaders

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, outside in the portico.

Church Phone

256-543-8200

www.fumcgadsden.org

fumc@fumcgadsden.org

#gfumcconnect2020

JOURNEY GROUPS

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

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

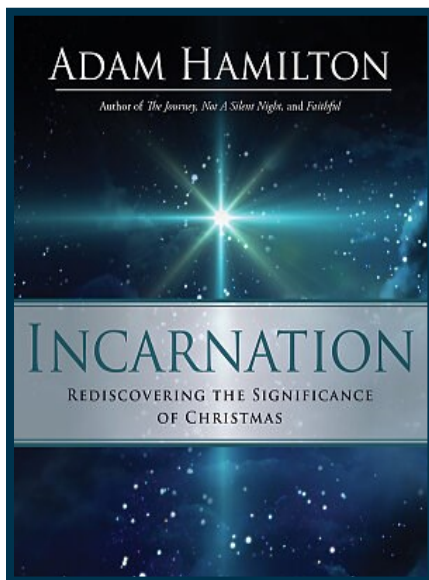
♦ **Sunday Mornings**, 10:00 am, GoToMeeting
Because of Bethlehem, Love is Born, Hope is Here
by Max Lucado **Begins November 29**

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”

Will resume on January 6, 2021

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.

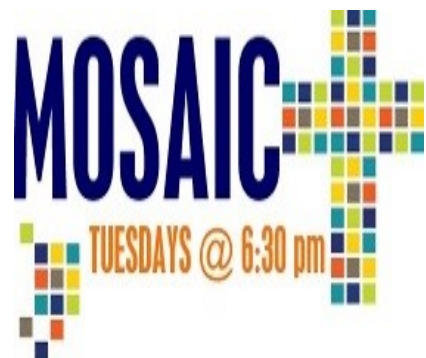
You may participate In person (with social distancing and masks in the sanctuary) or you may participate virtually in this Advent study on FacebookLive or the church website or YouTube Channel.

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 December
23 and 30. We are making
plans for an awesome 2021!*

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.

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!***



Hello everyone! I have a few important things to mention:

1. There will not be Wednesday activities on Wednesday, December 23 or December 30.
2. There is still time to make Christmas Eve reservations for the 4:00 and 6:00, I'll attach the link. Please make a reservation if you plan to attend.
3. Regarding the Christmas Eve service, there will not be a children's church lesson during the service, as we generally have during the Sunday service. The nursery is available.
4. Starting Sunday, December 27, Gadsden First will return to virtual services. Each Sunday, I will post our children's church lesson at 10:00 on our children's facebook page.
5. We will continue in-person Wednesday night activities for the children and the youth. Depending on the weather and the youth schedule, the children's activities will either be in Room 108 or in the gym.

I hope everyone has a safe and wonderful holiday! My phone number is 245-393-3051 if you need anything or have questions.

—Katharine



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



follow GFUMC on Instagram:
first_umcgadsden

Use our hashtag to Tag and Share your pictures of church activities:
#gfumcconnect2020

Worship with GFUMC on Sunday mornings online Live:

9:00 am Celebration and 11:00 am Traditions

Where to connect:

Church Website: www.fumcgadsden.org/media

Facebook Live: @FUMCGadsden

Church YouTube Channel: Gadsden First UMC

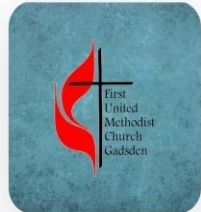
Sermon.net:

First United Methodist Church of Gadsden (search ministries)

Watch on demand:

Church App: **FUMCGadsden**

Church Website: www.fumcgadsden.org/media



**“Counting Our Blessings”
Estimate of Giving 2021**

As of 12/21/20 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



Calendar for week of December 27-January 2, 2021

Dec 27, Sunday

9:00 am, Celebration Worship; Online

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; Online

Dec 28, Monday

ELC Closed until January 4, 2021

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

Dec 29, Tuesday

6:30 pm, Mosaic, Online

Dec 30, Wednesday

Office Closed

6:00 pm, Advent Study, Pastor Sam, Live Streaming only

Dec 31, Thursday

New Year's Eve

No Thursday Worship

Jan 1, Friday

New Year's Day

Office Closed

No Ladle of Love



*We wish you a Merry Christmas
And a Happy New Year!*

Honorariums and Memorials

General Budget: In memory of James Rayburn, given by Scott & Angela Rayburn.

In memory of Bill Hale, given by Johnny and Belle Hamiter. In memory of Bill Hale, given by Ruth Chandler.

In memory of Bill Hale, given by Dave and Sissie Jensen. In memory of Gina Lynn Atkins, given by Gary Atkins.

Ladle of Love Fund: In memory of Bill Hale, given by Bill and Donna Campbell.

Howell Erwin Medical Fund: In memory of Bill Hale, given by Steve and Lynne Frederick.

Altar Flowers Fund: In memory of Jim Bennett and DeLeath Rives, given by Louise Ferguson.

Clothes Closet Fund: In memory of Adrian Chandler and Sid Gardner, given by Louise Ferguson.

UMCOR:

In memory of Bill Hale, given by Dotty Ivey.

UMC Children's Home:

In HONOR of Mary Tom Hale and in memory of Bill Hale, given by Kathy Vance and Matthew Vance..

Immediate Prayer Concerns

- | Redia Brooks Wanda Hemby
- | Marian Ford Joanne Hightower
- | Mikey Tonagel
- | (Collins & Belinda Tackaberry's son-in-law)
- | The family of Bill Hale

Continued Prayer Concerns

- Albert Gibson Ina Davis
- Ron Garry Charles Cantrell
- Herman Humphrey (Jan Humphrey's father)
- Mary Nichols (Patsy Blankenship's mother)



Birthdays.....

Dec 27 Jon Hand, Belinda Tackaberry

Dec 28 Will Edwards, Franklin Leach

Dec 29 Shannon Waits, Ellen Cummans

Dec 30 Sheila Freeman

Dec 31 Kristen Willoughby, Bill Leach

Jan 2 Cathea Poland



Week of December 20, 2020

Online Viewer Total 327

*In Person Total *104 Total overall 431

Celebration *22/120 Traditions *35/145

Mosaic 15 Thursday *12

Youth *16 Children *12

Bible Study Groups *7/47

General Offering Budget \$15,440.00

General Offering Received \$17,613.00

YTD General Offering Budget \$787,440.00

YTD General Offering Rec'd \$729,010.00

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.**