



Transformed by Love

PASTOR SAM HAYES
FEBRUARY 14, 2021

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

2-14-21 Sermon Notes "Transformed by Love"

Years ago, I knew a couple that you would have called "the odd couple." They were so different. She was always smiling, happy, and positive. He was always frowning, grumpy and negative. Honestly, I always thought he was just...mean. I witnessed him on several occasions being rude to his sweet wife. I wanted to smack him upside the head. (I didn't actually DO that, but I wanted to).

Instead of me smacking him, a brain tumor did the smacking. He started having severe headaches, went in for some tests, and was told he had a tumor on his brain that would have to be removed. I went to see him in the hospital before his surgery. I said a prayer for "Mr. Grumpy" and stayed with his wife during the surgery. When the surgery was over, the doctor came out and told us the good news that he was able to get all of the tumor removed! His wife wept tears of joy!

A remarkable thing happened after that surgery. This mean, grumpy, negative man was transformed. He was happy, positive...he was the sweetest thing to his wife. Honest-to-goodness 180 degree turnaround! I know there is a medical explanation for what happened to him, and that any time someone has brain surgery that all sorts of things can happen (not all of them good). But I believe that this man was transformed by more than surgery. I believe he was transformed by love...

transformed TO love. I don't really have the words to explain it. Sort of like Peter didn't really know how to explain what he saw on the Mount of Transfiguration.

² Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³ and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴ And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵ Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁶ He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷ Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" ⁸ Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. ⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. (Mark 9: 2-9 NRSV)

On this Valentine's Day, you are invited to be transformed by love...and transformed to love. We will have both in-person and livestream worship, and will serve Holy Communion at 9:00 and 11:00. There will also be drive-through communion from 5:00 to 6:00 pm @ the Portico.

Grace and peace, Pastor Sam

Worship Opportunities

- **Mosaic:** 6:30 pm, Tuesday, online and in person
- **Thursday Worship:** Will resume February 18 at 5:30 pm
- **Sunday Celebration Worship,** 9:00 am, Sanctuary* online and in person
- **Sunday Traditions Worship,** 11:00 am, Sanctuary* online and in person

www.fumcgadsden.org/media
or on facebook live:
[@fumcGadsden](https://www.facebook.com/fumcGadsden)

***In person worship will resume Sunday, February 14**

February 14, 5:00-6:00 pm
Drive thru communion



Worship in-Person in the Sanctuary
or online via Facebook Live or
[@ www.fumcgadsden.org/media](http://www.fumcgadsden.org/media)



UMW News

The UMW Board Members will meet sometime in February to decide when to start back safely having luncheons and circle meetings.

Meanwhile, we will be working on our new directories for 2021. If you have any changes in your contact info, please let your Circle Leader know. *Eileen Graham*

MISSIONS UPDATE

Your Mission Team is at work with much thanks to all of you. Without your pledges to our budget none of these wonderful ministries could happen. Because of your giving, this is what has already happened in 2021:



- Lunch from Fire House
Subs was taken to all 8 Gadsden City Fire Stations and the Dispatch center to say "Thank you" to our First Responders.
- 200 bags filled with pencils, bookmarks, goodies, and a bumper sticker, were packed and delivered to the A/B Honor Roll students at Striplin Elementary, saying "Bravo, you're on the road to Success!".
- Next week Fire House Subs Box lunches will be taken to both hospitals to say, "Thank You" to our Front Line Workers in Health Care.

This Sunday February 14th, we will come back for in person worship and you will have the opportunity to write notes to these Health Care Workers to share love and support to them for being in harm's way for this community.

There is much work for us to do in this time of great need. So again, we say "Thank you" for giving and helping your Mission Team make a difference by being the Hands and Feet of Christ!
—Mission Team

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

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

Missions for February

Thank you to Front Line Workers in Health Care

A/B Honor Roll Students At Striplin School

Church Phone

256-543-8200

www.fumcgadsden.org

fumc@fumcgadsden.org

#gfumccconnect2020

Have you thought about what you are “giving up” for Lent? Not everyone does this, but it is an ancient practice of self-denial for 40 days, helping us to remember Jesus’ journey through the wilderness and the testing that came with it. It is meant to help prepare us for Good Friday and for Easter!

Have you thought about what you are “picking up” for Lent? In addition to giving up something, why not also pick up something? Pick up a few minutes of prayer during your lunch hour every day. Pick up your support of a charity that means a lot to you. Or... pick up an extra devotional for the 40 Days of Lent. Need help with that last one? Pastor Sam will be posting a devotional blog from Fat Tuesday (Feb. 16) and the 40 days following. The Lenten Devotional is entitled, **“Weird Is The New Normal,”** and will focus on 40 questions from the Book of Genesis.

The devotional blog will be posted on the **“Home” tab of the GFUMC Church APP** and on the **church website blog page: www.fumgadsden.org/blog** We pray that picking up this spiritual practice for 40 days will help you on your Lenten Journey! --Pastor Sam



Thursdays, Men at the Well

7:00 am, Zoom, God’s Word of Life, Daily Bible Readings
Contact the church office for more information.



Sunday Mornings, 10:00 am, GoToMeeting with Ken Casey, George Varner & Grover Kitchens
The Wesley Prayer Challenge by Chris Folmbee is now being discussed.

Zoom Study for January: One in a Million

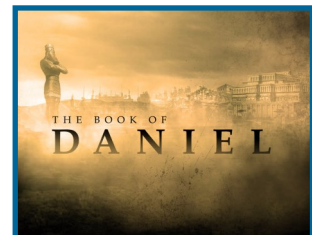
Mondays at 6:00 pm: Priscilla Shirer- One in a Million—A study of the two Israelites who made it into the promised land out of the approximate 2 million that left Egypt. They were brave enough to put abundant life to work no matter where they were or what outside influences tried to change them. Call or text Barbara Condra for codes 256-328-3679. Please join us!

**NEW! Wednesdays, 6:00 pm, Beginning March 3 w/ Harriet Murray:
“Why Easter Matters” by Andy Stanley, Room 116.**

The Book of Daniel

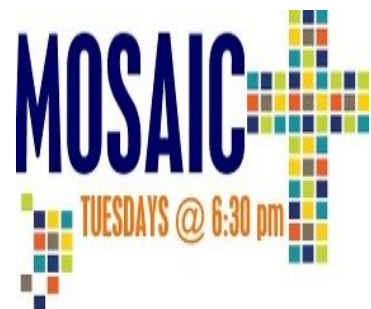
Bible Study with Pastor Sam

Wednesdays @ 6 pm, online, FACEBOOK Live
(Also, available on-demand on the GFUMC church app under the media tab.)



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. Check out the Mosaic Facebook Page for weekly devotionals and for updates about in-person worship @ 6:30 pm on Tuesdays in the gym or courtyard, depending on the weather.



ELC News

Students and faculty enjoyed exchanging Valentines on Thursday, February 11th. On Monday, February 15th, the ELC will be closed in observance of President's Day. Teacher Meet and Greet for the 2021 school year will be hosted on Wednesday, February 17th; invitations have been sent home. Our next Lunchbox Revolt will be Thursday, February 18 and we will be having Burger King.

Helene Haller

Youth Ministry News

Wednesday Night

February 17th, Youth will meet at 5:30 pm in Senior High room prior to the Ash Wednesday Service

Ash Wednesday Worship 6 PM, In the Sanctuary

Virtual Sunday School

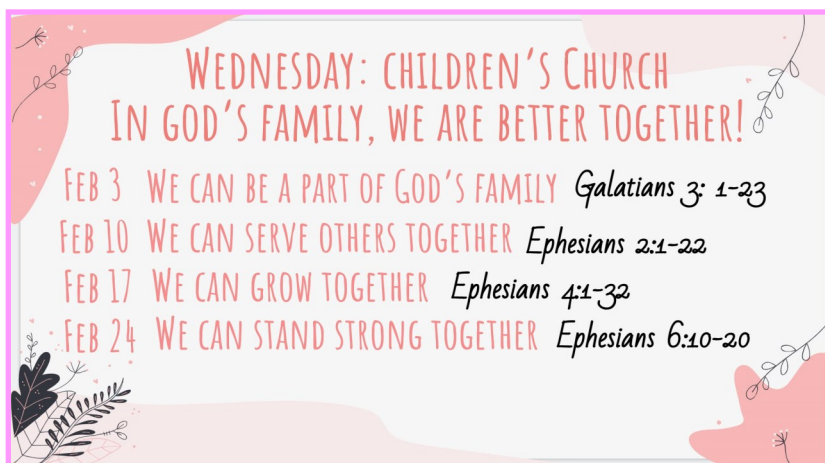
Sundays at 10:00 am



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



"Celebrate Wonder"

Facebook Live in the
Children's Ministry Group

@ 10:00 am

Sunday mornings!

May be viewed live or
watched later.

Wednesday Night Children's Church

(in person)

6:00 pm

Room 108 & gym

Children's Church Family Night: Cupcake Wars

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24 @ 6:00 PM, IN THE GYM

WE WILL EAT DINNER, PLAY GAMES, AND HAVE A
FRIENDLY "CUPCAKE WARS" COMPETITION

Show Love to Sumatanga

Who: All Ages

What: GFUMC Camp Sumatanga Service Day

Camp Sumatanga Rd, Gallant, AL 35972

When: Saturday, February 13

9 am to 12 pm and 12 pm to 3 pm

There will be a variety of projects including outdoor and indoor tasks.

Lunch Provided @ 12 Noon

(Let us know you are coming so we can get a count for lunch!)

Sign up on the church website and let us know that you, your family and friends are coming! You will receive a follow-up email with additional information and a list of what to bring.

Thank you for your generosity for Camp Sumatanga: \$1985.00 has been donated so far!



"This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples, when you love each other." John 13:35

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



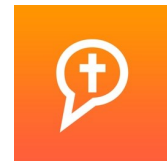
Sermon.net:

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 1/24/21 we have received 69 "Estimate of Giving" Cards with a total of \$276,116.00.

It's not too late to turn your card in. *Additional cards are available in the church office.* Budget planning for 2021 has begun.



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

Calendar for February 14-20, 2021

Feb 14, Sunday

9:00 am, Celebration Worship; In person/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; In person/Online
 5:00-6:00 pm, Communion, Drive Thru, Portico

Feb 15, Monday

ELC closed
 9:00 am-10:00 am, Exercise Group, Gym
 6:00 pm, "One in a Million", Zoom Study with Barbara Condra

Feb 16, Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, ELC Winter Schedule
 6:30 pm, Mosaic, Livestream

Feb 17, Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, ELC Winter Schedule
 5:30 pm, Youth, Room 211
 6:00 pm, Ash Wednesday Worship, Sanctuary
 6:00 pm, Children's activities, Room 108/gym

Feb 18, Thursday

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

Feb 19, Friday

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

Ash Wednesday Worship: 6:00 PM
 Sanctuary, In Person Worship
 The Service will also be broadcast live on the church website and Facebook Live.

*The flower on the altar is
 In honor of
 Elisa Arlette Garcia
 January 5, 2021*

*Parents: Javier and Ely Garcia
 Big Sisters:
 Ariana and Valentina*

*Given by the Children's Ministry
 and the ELC*

Honorariums and Memorials

General Budget:
 In memory of Bill Hale, Joanne Hightower, and Leda Taylor, given by Kim & Cynthia Whitt.

Clothes Closet Fund:
 In memory of Leda Taylor, given by Barry and Judi Loveman.

Immediate Prayer Concerns


Pat Martin Ron Garry George Fant
 Allan Jones (Allison Casey's brother)
 Ruby Christine Poland
 (granddaughter of Jeff & Cathea Poland)
 Meg (Ryan) Casey (granddaughter of Dotty Ivey)

Continued Prayer Concerns

Wanda Hemby Ina Davis
 Susan Keady (Debbie Hiltz's sister)
 Herman Humphrey (Jan Humphrey's father)
 Yvonne Humphrey (Jan Humphrey's step-mother)
 Mary Nichols (Patsy Blankenship's mother)

Birthdays.....

Feb 14 Herman Cowart,
 Sara McClendon, Carol Vice,
 Elizabeth Haney, Katie Darden
Feb 15 Carol Calahan, Jace McDill
Feb 16 Sandra Hunter,
 Barbara Condra, Ann Carter Sasser
Feb 18 Kelly Cox
Feb 19 Byron Hall, Courtney McEwen
Feb 20 Chris Dorsett, Jeremy Wilson



Week of February 7, 2021

*In Person Total *62 Overall Total 369
 Online Viewer Total 327
 Celebration *11/129 Traditions *9/143
 Mosaic *8/7 Thursday 0
 Bible Study Groups 48
 Youth *10 Children *4
 General Offering Budget \$15,440.00
 General Offering Received \$10,271.00
 YTD General Offering Budget \$91,440.00
 YTD General Offering Rec'd \$58,073.00
2021 Pledges: 69 for \$276,116.00
Camp Sumatanga offerings: \$1,985.00

**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.