

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Ready, Aim, Fire!

PASTOR SAM HAYES

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

2-21-21

Sermon Notes "Ready, Aim, Fire!"

This Sunday is the First Sunday of Lent. If you didn't grow up observing Lent, you might wonder about what it is, and why we observe this season for the forty days leading up to Easter. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, and ends on Holy Saturday (the Saturday before Easter). The word, "Lent," comes from the Anglo Saxon word, *lenchten*, and means "lengthen" – as in the lengthening days of spring. The forty days part represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan, and preparing to begin his ministry.

The Gospel of Mark (in its usual quick-paced fashion) just moves right through Jesus' baptism and temptation in the wilderness without wasting words.

[9] In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

[10] And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him.

[11] And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

[12] And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness.

[13] He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

[14] Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God,

[15] and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

(Mark 1: 9-15 NRSV)

Lent is a time of getting ready, of repentance (changing our aim), and then reflecting on our own ministry of telling the good news. It is a time to grow through self-examination and reflection. Some people use this as a period of fasting (giving something up), or even adding a spiritual practice for these forty days. If we approach this season wisely, it can be a very fruitful time for us! That's my prayer.

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)

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.

UMW News

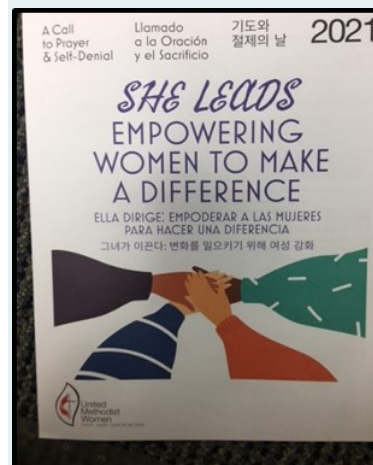
The UMW board met on February 15, to discuss continuing our suspension or moving forward with a UMW luncheon. The board as a group, decided they would tentatively set April 12th as the next luncheon. Our Covid-19 numbers are trending down and the number of individuals getting the vaccine are rising. With this in mind we believe we can safely have a program and luncheon on April 12th. We will meet in the gym with social distancing, wearing of masks and having a catered lunch. Also, please continue to watch the newsletter and information from your circle leaders for all new information.

UMW Board

A CALL TO PRAYER AND SELF DENIAL

February is the month that the UMW invites each of us to help our low income communities with prayers and self-denial. We pray and give so that others may gain control over their lives and futures. Year after year UMW has faithfully answered the call to prayer and sacrificial giving by raising funds to help women's lives by sowing seeds of hope while nurturing women to make a difference. We deny ourselves in order to provide a monetary donation to UMW. Perhaps foregoing a lunch and giving that donation to the church for missions. If you would like to give a donation, please make a check out to UMW and write on the memo line for "Prayer and Self-denial. Your donation can be put in the offering plate, drop it by the church or mailed to the church.

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 eight 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.

We will take message boards with 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



Clothes Closet

Workdays

1st & 3rd Tuesdays

Open to Public

1st & 3rd Wednesdays

9:00 am to 11:00 am

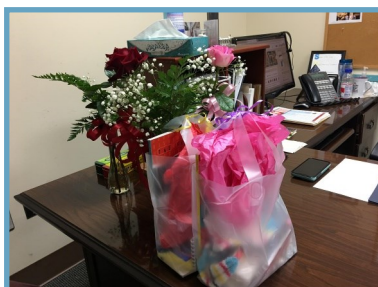
516 Broad Street Gadsden

Ladle of Love

Fridays, 11:00am-

12:00pm, at the portico

entrance



Caring Angels



Roses and Valentine cookies from the Caring Angels team and goody bags from Children's Ministry were delivered to our "members at home" for Valentines Day.

Church Phone

256-543-8200

www.fumcgadsden.org

fumc@fumcgadsden.org

[#gfumconnect2020](https://twitter.com/gfumconnect2020)

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

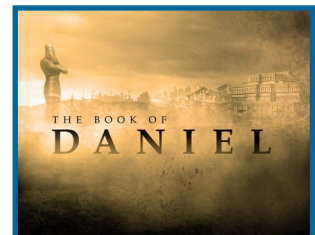
Mondays at 6:00 pm: Priscilla Shirer- One in a Million—A study of the two Israelites who made it into the promised land out of the approximate 2 million that left Egypt. They were brave enough to put abundant life to work no matter where they were or what outside influences tried to change them. Call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

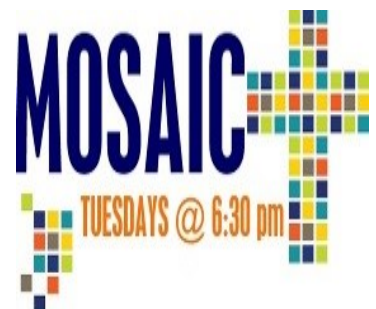
Bible Study with Pastor Sam

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

“Meet and Greets” were a success. Lunch revolt with Burger King was a hit. Registration for the 2021-2022 and Summer 2021 are as follows: Currently enrolled church members February 22nd through February 25th. Registration for currently enrolled non church member students will be March 1st through March 4th. Spring Pictures will be March 9th and 10th.

Helene Haller

Youth Ministry News

Wednesday Night

Join us on Wednesday nights at 6 pm! We are currently going through a Lent series. We would love for you to come and grow in your faith with us! We have pizza, games, and lots of fun!

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

WEDNESDAY: CHILDREN'S CHURCH
IN GOD'S FAMILY, WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER!

FEB 3 WE CAN BE A PART OF GOD'S FAMILY Galatians 3: 1-23
FEB 10 WE CAN SERVE OTHERS TOGETHER Ephesians 2:1-22
FEB 17 WE CAN GROW TOGETHER Ephesians 4:1-32
FEB 24 WE CAN STAND STRONG TOGETHER Ephesians 6:10-20

“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: TBD

A new date for the "Show Love to Sumatanga" Day of Service will be announced soon!

A Second GFUMC "Show Love" T-Shirt Order will be placed soon! These are great Canvas Bella T-shirts that can be worn on future GFUMC Service Days.

The cost of these shirts will be \$20 per shirt, with all proceeds going to Camp Sumatanga. Sizes YXS through Adult 4XL. Order by 3.5.21. Please text or email your order: 256.490.5018 or Sheila@fumcgadsden.org

Thank you for your generosity for Camp Sumatanga: \$4,045.00 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



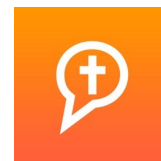
Sermon.net:

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 2/14/21 we have received 70 "Estimate of Giving" Cards with a total of \$279,716.00.

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 21-27, 2021

Feb 21, 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

Feb 22, Monday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, ELC Winter Schedule
 9:00 am-10:00 am, Exercise Group, Gym
 6:00 pm, "One in a Million", Zoom Study with Barbara Condra

Feb 23, Tuesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, ELC Winter Schedule
 4:00 pm, Trustees meeting, gotomeeting
 5:00 pm, Finance meeting, gotomeeting

Feb 23, Tuesday

6:00 pm, Board of Stewards, gotomeeting
 6:30 pm, Mosaic, Livestream

Feb 24, Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, ELC Winter Schedule
 6:00 pm, Youth, Room 211/gym
 6:00 pm, Children's Family Night, gym
 6:00 pm, Bible Study, Sam, online, Facebook live

Feb 25, 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 26, Friday

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

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. —Stay Well, Stay Safe, Your Church Staff!

Honorariums and Memorials

General Budget:

In memory of Anne Byram, given by Evelyn Pierson.



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 Ann Green, Vickie Handy, Beau Crain
Feb 22 Jack Pierce, Eileen Graham, Haley Freeman
Feb 24 Terry Bishop, Cindy Isbell
Feb 26 John Turnipseed, George White, Stanley Taylor, Susan Copeland
Feb 27 Inez McDonald, Andy Yarnell, Leigh Phillips, Donald Edwards, Leah Rhodes



Week of February 14, 2021

*In Person Total *113 Overall Total 440
 Online Viewer Total 327
 Celebration *33/123 Traditions *45/146
 Mosaic *8/7 Thursday 0
 Bible Study Groups 51
 Youth *11 Children *16
 General Offering Budget \$15,200.00
 General Offering Received \$9,885.00
 YTD General Offering Budget \$106,400.00
 YTD General Offering Rec'd \$67,958.00
2021 Pledges: 70 for \$279,716.00
Camp Sumatanga offerings: \$4,045.00

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.