



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

1-10-21

Sermon Notes

“Remember Your Baptism”

I asked someone the other day how they were doing, and they said, “I’m surviving.” And I thought, “Wow! Is that all we can say these days? I’m surviving?” But then again – with so much going on around us, sometimes it’s a victory to say, “I’m surviving.”

What do we need for survival? I think about Abraham Maslow’s hierarchy of needs. If you have ever taken a sociology or psychology class, you might remember Dr. Maslow’s little pyramid. In this pyramid, the most basic, fundamental needs for survival are on the bottom. These are the physical needs like air, water, food, clothing, shelter, etc... Next up are the safety needs. After the physical needs are met, then a person can start to think about not being harmed by war, natural disaster, or the bully in the schoolyard. Of course there is also financial safety, job security, etc...

Right after physical and safety needs are fulfilled, the third level of human needs for survival is the need for belonging. In order to survive – apart from the basic physical needs, and the need for safety – the most fundamental need is the need for belonging...the need to feel a sense of acceptance. Just how powerful is the need for acceptance? I believe that it is so powerful, that it will sometimes trump the needs on the first two levels.

People do some crazy things sometimes in order to “belong.” Maybe they are listening to the voices around them who are telling them that in order to belong, they have to wear their hair a certain way, wear this kind of clothing, live in this neighborhood, belong to this club, get this tattoo... Maybe it’s time to listen to a different voice...the voice of the Heavenly Father...the voice Jesus heard when he was baptized. “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” Here’s how Mark’s gospel tells the story:

⁴ John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸ I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

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.” (Mark 1: 4-11 NRSV)

This Sunday we will remember Jesus’ baptism, and we will remember our own baptism – and what that means for us. Baptism is so important because it meets that deep longing that we have for belonging. We are accepted into the family of God! We belong to the church family! But even more important, we can hear the voice of our Heavenly Father say to us, “You are my much-loved child. In you I am well pleased!”

Join us this Sunday by livestream at 9:00 or at 11:00. Grace and peace, Pastor Sam

Worship Opportunities

- **Mosaic:** 6:30 pm, Tuesday,
Online only 12/29 & 1/5/21
- **Thursday Worship:**
will not meet 12/31 &
1/7/2021
- **Sunday Celebration Worship,**
9:00 am, Sanctuary*
Online only 1/3 & 1/10/2021
- **Sunday Traditions Worship,**
11:00 am, Sanctuary*
Online only 1/3 & 1/10/2021
- **Prayer Service: 5:00 pm,**
Sunday, January 10:00 am
online @
www.fumcgadsden.org/media
or on facebook live:
[@fumcGadsden](https://www.facebook.com/fumcGadsden)

Remember to return
your 2021 “Estimate of
Giving” Card to the
church office.

UMW News



The UMW Board Members will not meet until later 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 for December

White Christmas

Thank you for your special offerings for the United Methodist Children's Home.



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

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](https://twitter.com/gfumcconnect2020)



Life is a journey. The most important part of the journey is our relationship with God and with others. A Journey Group is a small gathering of individuals who help you grow in your loving relationship with both. We invite all people into a relationship with God and seek to create an outwardly focused community of Christ-followers.

Journey Groups are a great way to stay connected to God and with your church family. All Journey Groups are currently meeting virtually. #GFUMCConnect2020

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

Sunday Mornings, 10:00 am, GoToMeeting with Ken Casey, George Varner and Grover Kitchens

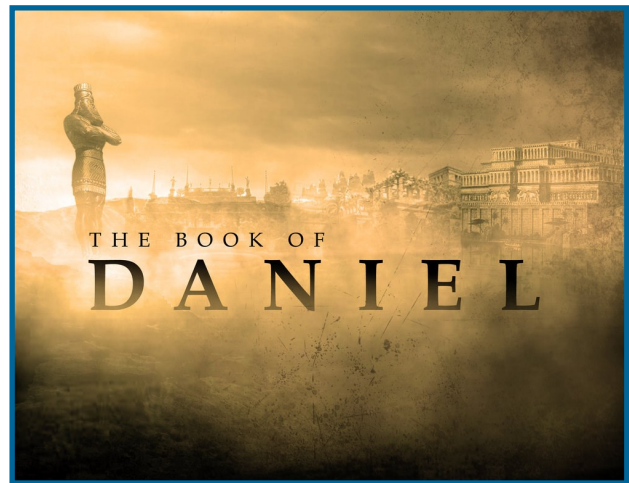
New Zoom Study for January: One in a Million
More information will be coming soon!

Text me (256) 328-3679 to find out how to join the study! —*Barbara Condra*

The Book of Daniel Bible Study with Pastor Sam

Starts January 6, 2021

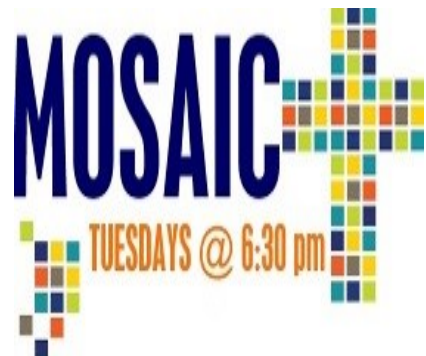
Wednesdays @ 6 pm, Online



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

ELC News:

We are excited to back in school for our Spring 2021 session. We continue with our Covid safety and health protocols and pray for everyone to stay healthy. We have Burger King on Wednesday, January 13th for this month's lunchbox revolt. We will be closed on Monday, January 18th in observance of Martin Luther King Jr's birthday.

Helene Haller

Youth Ministry News

Wednesday Nights

6:00 pm, Courtyard or Gym
(Please wear a mask)

Youth have been busy helping others. At the end of December the youth delivered cookies to the ICU and ER nurses at the hospitals.

We are making some care packets for the homeless in honor of Joanne Hightower.

Coming soon, the youth and the missions team will be teaming up to deliver catered meals to our fire stations.



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

Children will meet

Wednesday, January 6 at 6:00 pm

Children's Break continues on Facebook on Sundays and Wednesdays!

Children's Ministry Mission: Care Packages for Caring Angels

For the month of January, the children and the Children's Ministry team are taking donations for our at home members. Please consider donating these items for our care packages. Bring items on Sunday's or Wednesday's, please leave donations in the arts and crafts room. ✨



- Hand soap
- Chapstick
- Fuzzy socks
- Large print crossword puzzles
- Wrapped milk chocolate candies
- Small notepads
- Black or blue pens
- Small lotions

Prayer Service for Healthcare Workers



5:00 pm
Sunday, January 10
2021

First United Methodist
Church of Gadsden

Join us online
www.fumcgadsden.org/media

or facebook live:
@FUMCGadsden

Prayer Service for Healthcare Professionals (Online)

Sunday, January 10, 2021 @ 5:00 pm

- Help us thank our friends and neighbors who are providing critical care during this global pandemic by placing a yard sign at your home or place of business!

- *Yard Signs will be available beginning, January 4 at the church office. (Donations of \$5 per sign are appreciated but not required.)*

- Join us online (church website and facebook live) at 5:00 pm on January 10, as we thank the healthcare professionals in our communities!

Thank You!

♥ We love our ♥
Healthcare Workers

**First United Methodist
Church of Gadsden**

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

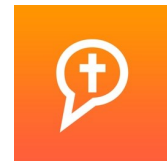
Sermon.net:

First United Methodist Church of Gadsden (search ministries)

Watch on demand:

Church App: [FUMCGadsden](https://www.fumcgadsden.org/media)

Church Website: www.fumcgadsden.org/media



“Counting Our Blessings” Estimate of Giving 2021

As of 12/31/20 we have received 68 “Estimate of Giving” Cards with a total of \$271,016.00.

If you haven't turned your card in, please return it to the church office. Additional cards are available in the church office. 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 January 10-16, 2021

Jan 10, 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
 5:00 pm, Online Prayer Service for Healthcare Professionals

Jan 11, Monday

9:00-1:00 pm, ELC Winter Schedule
 9:00 am-10:00 am, Exercise Group, Gym

Jan 12, Tuesday

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

Jan 13, Wednesday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, ELC Winter Schedule
 6:00 pm, Bible Study, Pastor Sam, Online
 6:00 pm, Children's activities, Room 108/gym
 6:00 pm, Youth activities, Courtyard/gym

Jan 14, 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

Jan 15, Friday

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

Honorariums and Memorials

General Budget:

In memory of Bill Hale, given by David & Rose Schmuck.
 In memory of Bill Hale, given by Meg Hamiter Jackson, Drew & Sissy Jackson & Boys.
 In memory of Bill Hale, given by Ben & Barbara Reed.
 In memory of Anne Byram given by, the Alan Peeples family.
 In memory of Redia Brooks, given by Sonya Nesbitt.
 In memory of Anne Byram, given by Mr. & Mrs. John W. Collett.
 In memory of Bill Hale, given by Diana Rampey.
 In memory of Bill Hale, given by Carma Rayburn.
 In memory of Joanne Hightower, given by Dave & Sissie Jensen.

UMCOR:

In memory of Leda Taylor, given by Dotty Ivey.

Clothes Closet:

In memory of Leda Taylor, given by Sonya Nesbitt & family.

*In Memory of Her Life
 Joanne Carol Hightower*

January 2, 2021



*In Memory of Her Life
 Carma Leda Taylor*

January 3, 2021



Birthdays.....

Jan 11 Bill Campbell
Jan 12 Wynell Welsh
Jan 13 Craig Marble,
 Heather New
Jan 15 Joan Bigelow
Jan 16 Dr. Bill Haller, III



Week of January 3, 2021

Online Viewer Total	307	
*In Person Total	17	Overall Total 324
Celebration *10/131		Traditions *7/138
Mosaic 13		Thursday 0
Bible Study Groups	14	
Youth	6	Children 5
General Offering Budget	\$15,440.00	
General Offering Received	\$3,055.00	
YTD General Offering Budget	\$15,440.00	
YTD General Offering Rec'd	\$3,055.00	

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Pat Martin
 Susan Keady (Debbie Hiltz' sister)
 Mikey Tonagel
 (Collins & Belinda Tackaberry's son-in-law)
 The Family of Joanne Hightower
 The Family of Leda Taylor

Continued Prayer Concerns

Ron Garry Wanda Hemby
 Ina Davis
 Herman Humphrey (Jan Humphrey's father)
 Mary Nichols (Patsy Blankenship's mother)