

What Book Will You Author?

Pastor Tony Jones

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

1-24-21

Sermon Notes

“What Book Will You Author?”

Have you ever asked someone, “How’s it going?” And then they told you... And maybe you were sorry you had asked... I can imagine Nehemiah feeling that way when he asked how things were going in Jerusalem. Nehemiah had been living in exile and serving in the court of the Persian king. When he saw some fellow Jews, he inquired about Jerusalem. And the news was bad. Although some exiles had been returned to Jerusalem, the walls of the city were in disrepair. The gates had been “burned with fire.” And Nehemiah sat down, wept, and prayed.

The story didn’t end there (or it would have been a really sad one). Nehemiah asked King Artaxerxes for permission to go to Jerusalem to rebuild the fallen-down walls. And the king not only gave permission, but also royal letters of passage and all the supplies Nehemiah would need. After going to Jerusalem and inspecting the damage for himself, Nehemiah made an appeal, and got both support and opposition.

¹⁷ Then I said to them, “You see the trouble we are in, how Jerusalem lies in ruins with its gates burned. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, so that we may no longer suffer disgrace.” ¹⁸ I told them that the hand of my God had been gracious upon me, and also the words that the king had spoken to me. Then they said, “Let us start building!” So they committed themselves to the common good. ¹⁹ But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official, and Geshem the Arab heard of it, they mocked and ridiculed us, saying, “What is this that you are doing? Are you rebelling against the king?” ²⁰ Then I replied to them, “The God of heaven is the one who will give us success, and we his servants are going to start building; but you have no share or claim or historic right in Jerusalem.” (Neh. 2: 17-20 NRSV)

Nehemiah and those who worked to rebuild what was broken down were going to leave a legacy. Those who were indifferent or who opposed and mocked and ridiculed the good work of God were also going to leave a legacy...just not one to be proud of.

What kind of story will we write with our lives? That’s what Pastor Tony Jones will ask us this coming Sunday – Sumatanga Sunday.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Sam

Worship Opportunities

- **Mosaic:** 6:30 pm, Tuesday
Online only
- **Thursday Worship:**
Not meeting at this time
- **Sunday Celebration Worship,**
9:00 am, Sanctuary*
Online only
- **Sunday Traditions Worship,**
11:00 am, Sanctuary*
Online only
- **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 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 for January



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

Fridays, 11:00 am to 12:00 pm, outside in the portico.

Missions for January

The **Missions Team** along with help from the youth distributed Firehouse Subs to all eight of the Fire Stations in the city of Gadsden on **Sunday, January 17th and Monday, January 18th.**

Church Phone

256-543-8200

www.fumcgadsden.org

fumc@fumcgadsden.org

#gfumconnect2020

JOURNEY GROUPS

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

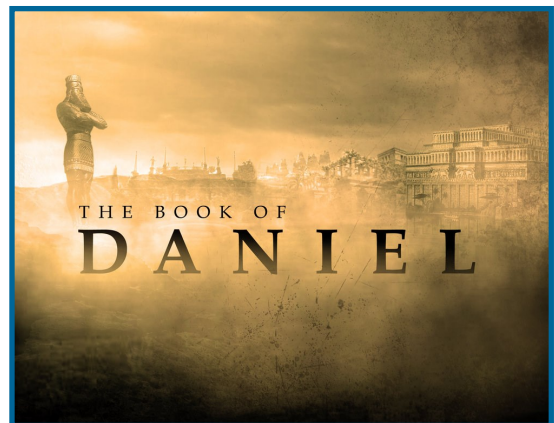
Thursdays, Men at the Well, 7:00 am, Zoom
God's Word of Life, Daily Bible Readings
Contact the church office for more information.

Sunday Mornings, 10:00 am, GoToMeeting with
Ken Casey, George Varner & Grover Kitchens
The Wesley Prayer Challenge by Chris Folmbee
will begin this Sunday, 1.17.21

New Zoom Study for January: One in a Million
Zoom study 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!

The Book of Daniel Bible Study with Pastor Sam

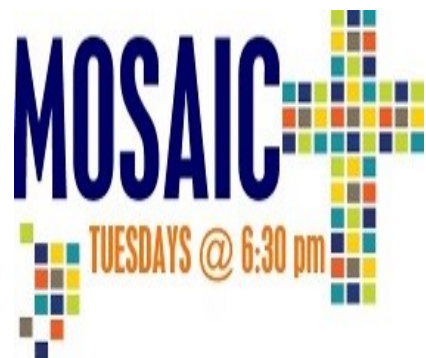
Wednesdays @ 6 pm, Online



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.

Services are *live stream only at this time.*



ELC News

The ELC has been closed due to staffing issues and Covid 19. We look forward to returning to full time hours on Monday, January 25th. Please note that our annual Teacher "Meet and Greets" have been re-scheduled for Wednesday, February 17th. Invitations coming home soon. Thursday, February 18th will be our next lunchbox revolt. Registration for Summer 2021 and the 2021-2022 school year will begin with currently enrolled church members on Monday, February 22nd.
—Helene Haller

Wednesday Nights

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

Thank you to all the youth who helped the Missions Team distribute Firehouse Subs to all eight of the fire stations in the city of Gadsden!!

Camp Sumatanga workday
Saturday, February 13
Sign up if you want to help!



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

It's official! Welcome Katharine Barnes!

Katharine is the new Children's Ministry Director at Gadsden First!

**Wednesdays at 6:00 pm,
Room 108 or gym
(in person)**

**Sunday mornings at
10:00 am "Celebrate
Wonder" can be viewed
or watched later.**

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

BLAST OFF with Spiritual Habits! Wednesday Children's Church

January 6: WE CAN SPEND TIME WITH GOD! LUKE 10:38-42

January 13: PEOPLE CAN HELP OUR FAITH GROW! MARK 2:1-12

January 20: WE CAN SHARE GOD'S STORY! ACTS 4:1-20

January 27: WE CAN SERVE OTHERS! JOHN 13:1-17



For more information about Wednesday activities, check us out on Facebook at Gadsden First United Methodist Children's Ministry.

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.

GFUMC "Show Love" T-Shirts are available if you sign up online @ www.fumcgadsden.org by February 5.

Please be sure to include the size for each t-shirt ordered.

GFUMC



"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



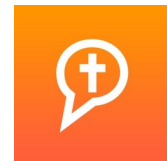
Sermon.net:

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 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 24-30, 2021

Jan 24, 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

Jan 25, 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

Jan 26, Tuesday

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

Tuesday, continued

5:00 pm, Finance Team, gotomeeting
 6:00 pm, Board of Stewards, gotomeeting
 6:30 pm, Mosaic, Livestream

Jan 27, 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 28, Thursday

9:00 am-1:00 pm, ELC Winter Schedule
 9:00 am-10:00 am, Exercise Group, Gym
No Thursday Worship

Jan 29, Friday

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

Honorariums and Memorials

General Budget: In memory of Joanne Hightower and Leda Taylor, given by Cleve and Bess Estis.

In memory of Joanne Hightower and Bill Hale given by Juanita Hammons.

In memory of Joanne Hightower given by Paige Whitt.

In memory of Joanne Hightower and Leda Taylor given by Evelyn Pierson.

In memory of Joanne Hightower given by Darden Rehab Foundation.

Ladle of Love: In memory of Joanne Hightower, given by Susan Whitt.

Howell Erwin Medical Fund: In memory of Joanne Hightower and Anne Byram, given by Don and Debbie Hiltz.

Music Fund: In Honor of Benny McNair, given by Lenn Rainwater.

Immediate Prayer Concerns

Pat Martin Ron Garry
 Susan Keady (Debbie Hiltz' sister)
 Mikey Tonagel
 (Collins & Belinda Tackaberry's son-in-law)
 Sara Beth (Paul) Poland & unborn baby
 (daughter-in-law of Jeff & Cathea Poland)



Continued Prayer Concerns

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

Birthdays.....

Jan 24 Gavin Sipes, Adam Carroll, Riley Epperson
Jan 25 Laura Bone, Richard Caldwell
Jan 26 June Longshore, Charlotte Rutland
Jan 27 Matthew Lovato, Brad Barnes
Jan 28 Marian Ford, Rob Lambert, Bobby Ostendorf, Caroline Thornburg
Jan 29 Marie Lambert, Eldred Davis, Michael Blevins, Sara Katherine McCord
Jan 30 Joyce Sington, Roger Bittinger



Week of January 17, 2021

*In Person Total *23 Overall Total 350
 Online Viewer Total 327
 Celebration *13/129 Traditions *10/149
 Mosaic 10 Thursday 0
 Bible Study Groups 33
 Youth 6 Children 0

General Offering Budget \$15,440.00
 General Offering Received \$3,250.00
 YTD General Offering Budget \$46,320.00
 YTD General Offering Rec'd \$17,360.00
2021 Pledges: 68 for \$271,016.00
White Christmas Offering: \$8,821.00

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.**